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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	283-W	Press.
B.P. No:		Mis.
Dated	6-2-1885	198.

2/2/17

Not to be folded or roughly handled

283
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following letter from Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 31st January 1885, No. 37 E.W.:—

I have the honor to forward, herewith, a letter from the Executive Engineer, Nilgiris, regarding the lowering of water in the lake at Ootacamund, and to request permission to commence doing so at once, so that the water may be lowered gradually with the least risk of inconvenience to the public.

ENCLOSURES.

From Major A. C. SMITH, R.E., Executive Engineer, Nilgiri division, to the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated Ootacamund, 29th January 1885, No. 558.

I have the honor to report that I have sent the accompanying letter to the Collector, Nilgiris, regarding the lowering of the water in the Ootacamund lake for the carrying out of the lake sewer work.

2. This morning, however, I met Mr. Burrows, and he informed me that he could not decide the question without reference to Government.

3. As the lowering of the water at once is very necessary, I bring this to your notice, in order that you may address the Chief Engineer and request him to urge this necessity on the Government.

4. The contractor assures me that the pipes will be received from England by the end of February or beginning of March, and when once commenced, the work of laying the pipes should proceed rapidly. In order that it may do so, not only should the lake margin be fairly dry, but the arrangement for crossing the bay below the convent should be completed early, and this cannot be commenced until the lake water is lowered.

5. Another question to be considered is the advisability of lowering the water by degrees and not suddenly, on sanitary grounds; so that unless the lowering is commenced *at once*, the line will not be ready for the laying of the pipes when the latter arrive.

6. I did not anticipate the necessity for referring the matter to Government, or I would have addressed the Collector earlier on the subject. The work must be done and it must take at least four months, and undoubtedly the proper season for the work is now, in the dry weather; it is unfortunate that the working season will clash with the station season, but the sooner the work is commenced the better, so that it may be completed before the south-west monsoon, and the lake ready to receive the rainfall as soon as it commences.

7. Requesting orders at your very earliest convenience.

From Major A. C. SMITH, R.E., Executive Engineer, Nilgiri division, to the Collector of Nilgiris, dated Ootacamund, 29th January 1885, No. 1027.

I have the honor to inform you that, in order to complete the lake sewer works, it will be necessary to lower the lake water level as much as possible.

2. I wish to commence this at once, in order that the lowering may be done as gradually as time will permit.

3. I request therefore you will be good enough to inform me whether I can open the sluice at once.

ORDER—dated 6th February 1885, No. 283 W., Public Works.

The Executive Engineer will be authorised to lower the water of the Ootacamund lake in the manner proposed by the Superintending Engineer. Action should be taken at once.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.
„ Public Department.

End. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies.

283
2

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated February, 6th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 6th Feb. 1885, No. 283 W.

FEBRUARY.

Ootacamund Lake

Instructions for lowering the water of
the —

22ND MARCH 1883, No. 931 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

283
A

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 171.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O., dated 17th March 1883, No. 580, Public.

171-A.

From Surgeon-General M. C. FURNELL, M.D., F.R.S., Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, dated Madras, 10th March 1883, No. 361.

I have the honor, in continuation of my memorandum accompanying letter, No. 234, of 5th March 1883, to report to Government that, hearing cholera had made its appearance in the town, I deemed it advisable to visit Ootacamund.

2. I inspected the lake several times with the Local Sanitary Officer and Engineer. I also visited the Mariamund reservoir.

3. The attempt to drain the eastern or upper part of the lake has resulted in a large spit of land on the western side close to the Willow bund. A good deal of the margin of the lake all round the spit is now in a very low state. Down, Audry House, &c.

4. The inhabitants complain a good deal of the smells emanating from these places, more especially the dry land near the Willow bund. This is said to be more especially noticeable after a shower of rain followed by a hot sun.

5. During my stay no rain fell in Ootacamund, but standing on the Willow bund a fish-like sickening odour was perceptible, and on walking over the land which has been laid bare this was still more apparent. On a part of the land west of the bund, where a large drain from the Butcher's hill empties itself, the smell is very pronounced, and also in several parts of the eastern side where drains from the bazaar run down.

6. I am decidedly of opinion that the present state of things is dangerous to the community in a sanitary point of view, and likely to become more so when rain shall have fallen followed by a hot sun.

7. The people, deprived of ready access to water for domestic purposes, complain bitterly, the more so that a diminished supply is now allowed from the Mariamund reservoir, owing to its being far from full; the drains also, not being flushed on account of the short water supply, are in the bazaar more offensive than usual.

8. My opinion is it would be better to stop at once the running off of the water, and that some other plan should be adopted to reclaim the upper or east end of the lake.

No. 172.

ORDER—dated 22nd March 1883, No. 931 W., Public Works.

In the present state of the question connected with the lowering of the level of the water in the lake at Ootacamund, it is not, in the opinion of Government, necessary at present to do more than direct—

- (1) the cessation of any further lowering of the level;
- (2) the early completion of the existing sluices in front of the waste weir;
- (3) the immediate sowing of all the exposed portions of the lake bed with either grass or kharai seed;
- (4) the removal, desiccation and burning of all rank vegetation and aquatic plants exposed in the lowering process; and
- (5) the effective flushing and scavenging of the bazaar drains.

2. The needful orders under heads (1), (2), (3) and (4) above will at once be issued by the Chief Engineer and under (5) by the President, Municipal Commission.

3. From all the reports which have reached the Government it is clear that the scavenging of the bazaar drains has been greatly neglected of late, and that this is in some measure due to a misapprehension as to the level at which the water in the Marhamand reservoir should be maintained, which has led to the drains being insufficiently flushed.

4. Whatever the cause, the condition of the bazaar drains is and has been most unsatisfactory, and His Excellency the Governor in Council must look to a sufficient and early remedy being resorted to by the President of the Municipal Commission in consultation with Dr. Naaney.

(True Extract.)

J. H. SANKER, Secy. P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle
 " President, Municipal Commission, Ootacamund.
 " Sanitary Commissioner.
 " Public Department.

Handwritten: *Sanitary Dept.*

Ed. C. Howarth,
 Spate Officer

BUILDINGS AND ROADS
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobi. of 1883 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 22nd.

Recd.

G.O., 22nd March 1883. No. 931

MARCH.

Nos. 171-172.

Ootacamund Lake.

Ordering the cessation of any further
lowering of the level of the lake, &c.

C. W. ^{CP-952} ^{with the} ^{by} ^{the} ^{order} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Engineers office} ^{circle} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Madras} ¹⁸⁸⁵
Do you see any reason why
this function should not be disposed
of by W. instead of being transferred
to Public Dept? Similar cases
seem to have been disposed of in
P.W.D.

That the matter affects the
sanitation of Ooty & that the
municipality should have a voice
therein, may be a reason - but the
order in P.W.D. would go to Chief
Secty for continuance.

CP

4-2

To S.W.

If possible
The seems to be
a sanitary one. The
Collection has moreover
promised to write
to Jot., and his letter
will be addressed to
the Chief Secretary,
who may perhaps
claim to have the
matter disposed of in
the Public Dept. Except
for this, there is no
reason why the order
should not issue
in the P.W. Dept.

C.S.

28/3/83

To D.W.

Why is it proposed to
transfer this paper to the
Public Dept. Previous
action seems to have been
taken in the P.W. Dept.

W.
4.2.85

To W.

Please see notes overleaf.
I think we might dispose of
the matter, forwarding draft order
to Chief Secy. for his consideration.

Cd.
4.2.85

I think order may be
drafted in P.W. Dept.
authorising proposals
of S.E. -

Draft to go to Chief
Secretary for initials

W.
4.2.85

Engineers Office Circle
11th March 1885

No. 311 Supg. Engineer's Office IV Circle
Cimbalae, 31st Jan'y 1885
From,

The Superintending Engineer
IV Circle

To,
The Chief Engineer
P.W. Department.

Sir,
I have the honor to forward
herewith a letter from the Executive

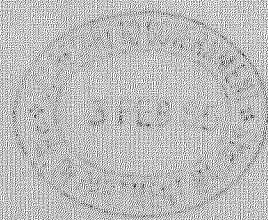
Enclosures Engineer. Nilgiris regarding the
Letter No. 558 dated
29th January 1885
lowering of water in the Lake
at Cotacamund and to request

permission to commence doing so
at once so that the water may be
lowered gradually with the
least risk of inconvenience to
the public.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. servant

Respectfully,
Supg. Engineer IV Circle

From
The Supg. Engineer
Fourth Circle.



Dated 31st Jan. 1885
Sl. No. 2nd Feb. 1885.

N^o 34
M.

Enc: 1

Ootacamund Lake.

Requesting per-
mission to commence
at once the lowering
of the —

N^o 931 W. of 3. 83
" 1241 W. of 16. 83
" 1556 W. of 6. 83
" 1588 W. of 6. 83
" 3059 W. of 29. 10. 83
" 344 W. of 29. 1. 83
" 45 W. of 10. 1. 84
" 682 W. of 13. 3. 84
" 1112 W. of 5. 5. 84
" 1497 W. of 16. 6. 84

C. Brown

N^o 558 Nilgiri Division Office
Ootacamund 27th Jan. 85

From
The Resident Engineer,
Nilgiri Division.

To
The Superintending Engineer,
Fourth Circle.

Sir,

Enclosed
1 copy of letter

I have the honor to report that
I have sent the accompanying letter
to the Collector Nilgiris regarding the
lowering of the water in the Ootaca-
mund Lake for the carrying out of the
Lake sewer works.

2. This morning however I met
Mr. Burrows. He informed me that he
could not decide the question with-
out reference to Government.

3. As the lowering of the water at
once is very necessary, I bring this
to your notice in order that you may
address the Chief Engineer and request
him

him to urge this necessity on the Government.

4. The Contractor assures me that the pipes will be received from England by the end of February or beginning of March, and when once commenced the work of laying the pipes should proceed rapidly. In order that it may do so not only should the Lake margin be fairly dry but the arrangement for crossing the Bay below the Convent should be completed as early and this cannot be commenced until the Lake water is lowered.

5. On the question to be considered is the advisability of lowering the water by degrees and not suddenly on sanitary grounds, so that unless the lowering is commenced at once the time will not be ready for the laying of the pipes when the latter arrive.

6. I did not anticipate the

the necessity for referring the matter to Government or I should have addressed the following to the Subj. The work must be done and it must take at least four months and undoubtedly the proper season for the work is now in the dry weather. It is unfortunate that the working season will clash with the Station season but as soon as the work is commenced the better so that it may be completed before the S.W. Monsoon and the Lake ready to receive the rainfall as soon as it commences.

7. Requesting orders at your very earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obed^t servant

A. Smith Majr R.E.

Executive Engineer

MS/29/1

Ther

From

The Executive Engineer
Nilgiri Dist.

N^o 558

Dated 29th July/85
Recd
Recd

Encl^{os} 1.

Potacamund Lake
Sewer work

Requests to add^{up}
the Chief Engineer P.W.
Dept^o. as to lowering of
level of Lake water for
carrying out the

N^o 1027

Nilgiri Dist. Office
Potacamund 29 July/85

From

The Executive Engineer
Nilgiri Division

To

The Collector of Nilgiris
Potacamund

Sir

I have the honor to inform you
that in order to complete the Lake
Sewer works it will be necessary
to lower the Lake water level as much
as possible.

1. I wish to commence this at once
in order that the lowering may be done
as gradually as time will permit.

3. I request that you will be
good enough to inform me whether I can
open the sluice at once.

I have &c &c

Sd/- A. C. Smith Majr R.E.
Executive Engineer Nilgiris

(True copy)

A. C. Smith Majr R.E.
Executive Engineer

47022

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 6 February 1908

Read the following:—

283
11

Letter from the S.E. IV. Circle (M.L.S. 37) dated 27 Jan'y 1908

The Executive Engineer
will be authorised to
lower the water of the
Ootacamund lake in
the manner proposed
by the Supty. Engineer.
Action should be taken
at once.

S.E. IV. Circle

Public Dept.

The Chief Secretary for
Government

Ed

11

283
12



952

COM. OF 1885

PUBLIC WORKS

Vol. 1
1/10/15

66
13

1/10/15