

May 12th October 87

Communicated to the
Supp. Engineer W. Circle
for information

W.C.M.
29.9.87

John
31/10/87

No 298c. 14.2.83-
" 212c. 4.2.83-
" 109d. 16-1.83-

W.C.M.
12/10

Supp. Engr. W. Circle ✓
Enr. P.W. Accts. ✓

D
12/10

Off Rob. Ex
11.8.1087

M. J. J. J.
11/5/87

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P.W.C. 7629

Govt. of 1887 Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

(4)

7.5.C

Issued

Recd. 29.9.87

Encl.

G.O., 7th Sept. 1887, No. 892 M.

No 268 May 12th October 87

SEPTEMBER.

Hobart Park.

Remarking that the action of the Municipal Council, Ootacamund, in expending on the race-course project a portion of the Government contribution made for the improvement of the —, is improper, and stating that no further grant will be made for any of the projects.

2 copies to C.O. by

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., dated 18th May 1887, Mis. No. 464 M., Local and Municipal.

Read—the following letter from W. E. SCHMIDT, Esq., Chairman, Ootacamund Municipal Council, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Collector, Nilgiris), dated Ootacamund, 26th April 1887:—

With reference to G.O., No. 24, dated 9th January 1885, I have the honor, by desire of the municipal council, to request the sanction of Government to certain modifications and alterations in the proposed improvements to the Hobart Park. Since the President of the Municipal Commission addressed Government on the 17th December 1884, the level of the cross road and the bridge has been lowered. But a few months ago and before further alterations were begun in the park, several of the leading residents of Ootacamund resolved to make a race-course across a portion of it.

2. As the proposed race-course will, in the opinion of the council, add materially to the prosperity of the station, besides affording amusement and recreation to all classes of the community, and will also in many respects improve a large area of the Hobart Park, the council have allotted Rs. 1,000 from last year's budget to the course, and have promised the Race-course Committee a further grant of Rs. 1,000 from this year's budget, provided Government sanction the same.

3. It is now further resolved not to interfere with the road below "Bombay House" property as proposed in the plan submitted to Government on the 17th December 1884, but to divert the water-course to the extreme limit of the Lower Bazaar Road, thereby throwing in a large area of land into the Hobart Park, and widening it just where it is wanted for the proper sweep of the proposed race-course, as well as for the purposes of polo, cricket, &c.

4. The proposed alterations are estimated to cost Rs. 2,700. The council have budgeted Rs. 2,500 this year for the improvement of the Hobart Park, out of which, as already stated, they have promised the Race-course Committee Rs. 1,000, thus leaving Rs. 1,500 available for further improvements to the park. The council request the sanction of Government to the proposed alterations, and beg that Government will be pleased to give a special grant of Rs. 1,200, to enable the work to be completed. The work on the race-course is progressing very rapidly.

5. It is unnecessary for the council to point out to Government the many and great advantages that will accrue to the station from the institution of a proper race-course so conveniently situated as the proposed one will be; and as it is desirable that the work should be taken in hand and completed, if possible, before the setting in of the approaching monsoons, I solicit the early orders of Government in the matter.

No. 23.

Submitted to Government.

OOTACAMUND,
26th April 1887.

(Signed) L. R. BURROWS,
Collector.

Order—dated 18th May 1887, Mis. No. 464 M., Local and Municipal.

The Chairman's letter leaves much to be desired in point of information. He should submit—

- (a) copies of the council's resolutions on the subject;
 - (b) a plan showing clearly the alterations it is proposed to make in the scheme sanctioned in G.Os., dated 9th January 1885, No. 24, Financial, and 6th March 1885, No. 477 (Mis.);
 - (c) a statement showing the actual expenditure on this scheme up to date, and the progress made towards its completion.
2. It is not clear whether the stated cost of the proposed alterations is based on estimates, or is merely a rough calculation.
 3. It should be explained whether the Rs. 1,000 said to have been allotted to the race-course project in 1886-87 was the Rs. 1,000 sanctioned for the Hobart Park improvement scheme in the budget of that year, or an additional sum, and, if so, why the sanction of Government was not obtained for the grant.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund,
through the Collector of Nilgiris.

READ—also the following papers:—

From W. E. SCHMIDT, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Collector, Nilgiris), dated Ootacamund, 13th June 1887, No. 476.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 18th May 1887, Mis. No. 464 M., I have the honor to enclose copies of the resolutions of the municipal council on the subject of the proposed improvements to the "Hobart Park" in connection with the race-course.

2. Since the meeting of the 17th March, it was, after due consideration and examination of the ground, considered advisable that the stream should be diverted. This will give a better and safer sweep to the race-course, besides a larger area of ground for cricket and polo.

3. The plan of the proposed improvements is herewith forwarded. I beg you will be pleased to return it when done with. A statement, showing the actual expenditure on the "Hobart Park" scheme up to date, is herewith submitted.

4. The cost of the proposed alteration is based on an estimate framed by the Municipal Engineer.

5. The Rs. 1,000 allotted to the race-course project in 1886-87 was the amount sanctioned for the Hobart Park improvement scheme in the budget of that year.

6. I solicit the early orders of Government in this matter.

No. 32.

Submitted to Government.

(Signed) L. R. BURROWS,
Collector.

22nd June 1887.

From the Chairman, Ootacamund Municipal Council, dated 21st July 1887,
No. 564.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding the plan of the original Hobart Park improvement scheme.

ORDER—dated 7th September 1887, No. 892 M., Local and Municipal.

The Government observe that the Rs. 1,000 allotted for the improvement of the Hobart Park in the municipal budget for 1886-87 was part of the Rs. 3,500 contributed by Government towards the scheme approved in G.O., dated 9th January 1885, No. 24, Financial. The main object of this scheme was to incorporate the land known as Toppa Mudaly's lines, which had been acquired by Government, with the old park: the bulk of Government's contribution (2,500) has been expended on lowering the bridge and roadway which separate them: the contribution was sanctioned on the understanding that the municipal council would spend a like sum, Rs. 3,500, on the same scheme. The present project is altogether different, and the action of the council in diverting to it a portion of the contribution made by Government was opposed to their undertaking and altogether improper. The Collector, who was present at the meeting at which this step was decided on, should have insisted that the matter should be laid before Government for orders.

2. The Government would be perfectly justified in requiring a refund from the council of the Rs. 1,000 in question, and they have hesitated whether they should not do so. But the present project may also be said to tend to the improvement of the Hobart Park, and in view of the decision of the council giving it the preference, the Government will not insist on a refund of their own 1,000 rupees, nor object to the allotment of a similar sum from municipal funds out of the 3,500 which were to have been paid by the council. No further contribution will, however, be made from Provincial funds, either towards the race-course or for any other scheme of park improvement.

3. The municipality will be permitted to spend the Rs. 2,500 allotted for the Hobart Park in their current year's budget on the diversion of the water-course in connection with the new scheme, if they see fit to do so. The race-course project should never have been put in hand without the sanction of Government, but, as the work has been already commenced and even made some progress, His Excellency in Council will not now interfere.

4. The Chairman will call the attention of the Gymkhana Committee to the fact that the Hobart Park and the waste land adjoining it, including all the ground on which work has as yet been done, is the absolute property of Government, who have reserved to themselves the right of resuming it at any time without compensation (G.O., 1st September 1884, No. 1458). The municipality themselves are only tenants-at-will, and are responsible to Government for the use made of the land.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund,
with plans returned.

" Collector of Nilgiris.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

No 2681 W of 12th Oct/87

Communicated to the
Supg. Engr. IV. Civil. for
information.

Shd, J. O. H.

Gobt. of (1887) Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

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Es. The S. E. IV. Civil.
" Engr. P. W. Aches

With Order

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J. S. Hughes
for Ag. Chief Secretary.

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" Collector of Nilgiris.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.