

M.R.O. 1-20,000-10-10-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	828	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	12-7-	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

[Handwritten signature]

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th July 1867.*

No. 129. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commissions in Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 24th June 1867, No. 53.

At the request of the Coonoor Municipal Commissioners, I have the honor to forward copies of correspondence that has passed between them and this office, regarding certain pieces of Government waste land within the limits of the Municipality, and the condition of the bridge over the Coonoor stream.

2. Government will observe that the Sub-Magistrate of Coonoor has been directed to punish parties committing nuisance on the land, and I do not see what further steps can be taken in the matter. Until the construction of latrines, the people will have recourse to those localities which afford protection from public observation, as well as shelter from sun and rain. The bridge is in the same condition, as it has been since it was constructed. No doubt, in the event of an exceptional flood, the water way is insufficient, and the bandies and people in its vicinity are in danger of being carried away, as was the case in 1865, when about seven bandies, with people sleeping in some of them, were carried down the Coonoor Gorge by the stream.

From the Vice-President of the Coonoor Municipal Commission, to the Collector of Coimbatore; dated Coonoor, 15th May 1867, No. 83.

With reference to the Government orders, wherein they "accept the responsibilities of owners of any Government waste land kept at their disposal within municipal limits, and that they look to Collectors to bring to their notice whatever is requisite to be done," the Municipal Commissioners of Coonoor request you will bring to the notice of Government the dirty state of their land, especially on both sides of the two Ghaut roads, close to the Coonoor bridge, leading down the ghauts, from which jungle the smell is always most offensive, and must be injurious to health, being so close to the town.

2. The Commissioners, at the same time, would beg to bring to the notice of Government the state of the old Coonoor bridge. Never a flood takes place without loss of life or property, owing to there not being sufficient span to enable an unusual flow of water to escape, and, by thus throwing the water back, swamping the houses and dwellings of the poor, which would be perfectly safe and dry were it not for the defect of the Government bridge.

From the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Vice-President, Coonoor Municipal Commission; dated Ootacamund, 27th May 1867, No. 30.

In reply to your letter of the 15th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I have directed the Coonoor Sub-Magistrate to punish all parties found committing nuisances in the vicinity of the localities mentioned. I would, however, observe that, until latrines are constructed, I hardly expect that the evil complained of will be thoroughly remedied, as people naturally seek some retired spot in which to relieve the wants of nature, and the locality above adverted to is one of the only spots in Coonoor to which a person can go for this coveted retirement.

2. With regard to the defects of the existing bridge, they have been long known to the Engineer, but want of funds has been a bar to its improvement. This impecuniosity still exists, I am aware; and, under these circumstances, I will not now address Government, unless the Committee are still anxious that I should do so.

From the Vice-President, Coonoor Municipal Commission, to the Collector of Coimbatore; dated Coonoor, 17th June 1867.

In reply to your letter of the 27th May 1867, the Municipal Commissioners request you will forward their letter of the 15th May 1867 to Government, and, at the same time, point out to

them that the inhabitants of the town keep their premises tolerably clean; but there are a few dirty spots here and there, all of which are the property of Government as waste land, and over which the Municipal Commissioners have no control.

2. We, therefore, request you will either apply to Government to make arrangements for keeping the said land clean, or make those spots over to the Municipal Commissioners for their disposal.

3. With reference to the Coonoor bridge, the Commissioners drew the attention of Government to its dangerous state, with a view to freeing themselves from any responsibility, in case any loss of life or property should again occur.

No. 130. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1867, No. 828.

It appears from the foregoing letter and its enclosures that the Native inhabitants of Coonoor are in the habit of resorting, for the purposes of nature, to certain pieces of waste land, the property of Government, within the municipal limits, near the Coonoor bridge, and that there are few, if any, other places to which the people can resort for such purposes.

2. It is evident that such a nuisance must be as unseemly as it is injurious to the health of the town, and that it is the duty of the Commissioners to provide public latrines. The Government will be prepared to make over the sites in question, wholly or in part, to the Commissioners, on the condition that they provide suitable latrines, and undertake to keep the lands in order, if it appears that there is no objection to such a measure.

3. The Collector will report on this point, and state what other measures can be adopted, if objections exist to transferring the land in question on the conditions specified.

4. The question as to the dangerous condition of the Coonoor bridge, and the liability of the adjacent lands and houses to inundation in consequence of the insufficiency of the water way, will be considered in the Department of Public Works. The Government desire to be informed whether funds are available to meet the charge of remedying the evil, and whether estimates for altering the present bridge, or building a new one, have been framed.

(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commissions in Coimbatore.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter
from the President of the Municipal Commissions, Coimbatore.

Here under 24 June 1867. N. 53

Order No 828 of 12 July 67

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FB

To the President of the Local Commission
in consultation
Public Works Dept.

Public Domain

Public
1864 Department.

No. 822

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated, 12 July 1867.

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25 July
1891