Revenue Department

G. G Inv 1272 dt 17-9-1888

Back no 35-6

Diary 21-9-1888

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 21st September 1858.

No. 35. Read the following Extract from Minutes of Consultation in the Public Department; dated 6th September 1858, No. 1100.

Are very willing to give to the Provincial Committee formed for the establishment of a Public library at Ootacamund a site free of quit rent for the building proposed to be erected for the purpose, and would also authorize the transfer thither of the Ootacamund Local Museum together with the monthly grant of 100 *Rupees for the purpose of the united institutions. But would not beyond this sanction a grant from the public funds.*

(Vide Public Consultation 7th September 1858, Nos. 22-23.)

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, No. 1272; dated 17th September 1858.

Ordered to be communicated through the Board of Revenue to the Acting Collector of Coimbatore.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 1100.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 6th September 1858.

Read the following letter from A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq.; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, with the Right Honorable the Governor, dated Coonoor, 12th August 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to acquaint you that the gentlemen whose names follow have formed themselves into a Provisional Committee with a view to the establishment of a Public Library for Ootacamund and the Neilgherries.

Mr. A. J. Arbuthnot—Chairman,

Major General Watson,	Mr. J. Ouchterlony,
Lieutenant Colonel Bayley,	Lieutenant Colonel Pears,
Mr. E. W. Bird,	Reverend G. U. Pope,
Mr. J. W. Cherry,	Reverend A. J. Rogers,
Dr. Cleghorn,	Mr. J. Rohde,
Mr. Dawson,	Mr. Ross,
Lieutenant Colonel Denison,	Mr. Schimdt,
Captain Gerrard,	Mr. Stanes,
Reverend Laseron,	Major Strange,
Dr. McKay,	Lieutenant Colonel Talbot,
Mr. McIvor,	Mr. Ward.
Mr. F. Nash,	

2. As Chairman of the Provisional Committee, and by their desire, I request that you will submit this project for the approval and, as we hope, the assistance of Government.

3. It cannot be necessary that I should say any thing to prove the expediency of supplying a want which has been so long and greatly felt. There can be no doubt that this, one of the most important Sanataria in India, ought to be provided with a Public Library.

4. And we trust that we are not unreasonable in depending upon Government to aid us in our undertaking. Large and increasing in importance as this place is, by far the greater part of its inhabitants are visitors, from whom it would be vain to expect assistance at all adequate to the attainment of the end we have in view. And nearly all of these are Civil or Military Servants of the Government. To these, who generally visit the Hills for a short time only, and who cannot without great inconvenience bring their books with them, the Institution we project would be the greatest benefit.

5. We propose, first, to form a collection of the best standard works in the various departments of literature; to which we should hope to make constant additions year by year, and, secondly, to erect a suitable building for the reception of the Library.

6. In addition to these, our primary objects, we hope that arrangements may be made for opening a reading room to be furnished with periodicals and newspapers. This however we consider a secondary and additional part of our plan.

7. It appears to us that it would be neither practicable nor desirable to open the Library to the public, free of charge; but (while the reading room might be supported by a higher and separate subscription), we should wish to fix the rate of subscription to the Library so low as to open it (as far as possible) to all classes. And this we fear cannot be done without the aid of Government.

8. The Committee are aware that it has been in contemplation to add a Library to the Government Museum at Ootacamund; and they can hardly expect that the Institution they contemplate will be thought necessary in addition. But if they should be so fortunate as to obtain the concurrence of Government in their scheme, they hope that arrangements may be made for the Museum being handed over to them (under such conditions as may be imposed) and lodged in the Library building, forming one Institution.

9. We roughly estimate the cost of a building such as would contain both Museum and Library, and of a stock of standard works at Rupees 15,000, and we venture to hope that Go-

vernment will grant us (upon such conditions as they may be pleased to lay down) a site for the projected building and such sum not exceeding Rupees 7,500 as may be equal to the amount raised by private contributions, for the double purpose of providing a stock of standard works and a building.

10. It may be thought that we should have done all in our power towards raising the requisite funds by private contributions, before applying for the help of Government. But we have been led to follow a different course by considering that the sanction of Government and the prospect of a grant proportioned to the amount of private contributions may induce many to join in the undertaking, who would otherwise be deterred from doing so by doubts as to the feasibility of carrying it out.

Order.—1. Mr. A. J. Arbuthnot as Chairman of a Provisional Committee formed with a view to the establishment of a Public Library at Ootacamund states that it is proposed to make a collection of the best standard works in the various departments of Literature, and to open a Reading room, to be furnished with periodicals and newspapers. It is suggested that arrangements may be made for the present Museum at Ootacamund being lodged in the Library building, forming one Institution. It is calculated roughly that the cost of a building such as would contain both Museum and Library and of a stock of standard works would be 15,000 Rupees, and Government are applied to for a site for the projected building and such sum not exceeding Rupees 7,500 as may be equal to the amount raised by private contributions, for the double purpose of providing a stock of standard works and a building.

2. The Government would be very willing to give to the Committee a site free of quit rent and in an eligible locality for the proposed building, and on its completion would, if sufficient accommodation were provided, authorize the transfer thither of the Ootacamund Local Museum and the payment to the Committee of the present monthly grant of Rupees 100 for the general purposes of the united Institutions. The Governor in Council would likewise readily admit the Ootacamund Library to the same advantages as are enjoyed by similar Establishments at Madras as respects the supply to it gratuitously of copies of works published by or on account of Government, or received by them for distribution.

3. The Government regret that they do not feel themselves at liberty to go beyond this. Looking to the character of European society at Ootacamund generally, viz., that there are few fixed residents and that the greater part of those resorting to the Hills are casual visitors whose stay is limited to a few weeks or months, the Governor in Council cannot but entertain some doubts as to the stability or good management of the Institution. And even were these more assured, the circumstances of those who frequent the Neilgherries, being for the most part in the Queen's or Honorable Company's Services, are such that they might fairly be expected to provide for the establishment and support of such an Institution as a Library from their own resources, and the Government would not feel warranted in assisting them, with a grant from the public funds nor to a greater extent than has been above indicated.

(True Extract and Copy.)

Chief Secretary.

To A. J. Arbuthnot, Esq., Chairman of the Committee for the establishment of a Public Library at Ootacamund.

To the Revenue Department.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

20 spare copies

Revenue 1858 Sept
Dy. to Cons. 25th Sept.

No. 11461.

Extract from the Minutes
of Cons. in the Public
Department -

Dated 6th
Rec'd 10th } September
1858.

No. 1272. 17th September 1858.

Be very willing to
give to the Provisional Committee
formed for the Establishment
of a Public Library at Coimbatore
the site free of quit rent for the
building proposed to be erected
for the purpose and would also
authorize the transfer thither
of the Coimbatore Local
Museum together with the
monthly grant of 100 Rupees
for the purpose of the united
Institutions. But would not
beyond this sanction a grant
from the Public Funds.

With an order to

No. 1272.

Ordered to be commu-
nicated through the Board
of Revenue to the Acting
Collector of Coimbatore.

For the Secy to Govt.
17th September 1858.

3 Copies to the Bd of Revenue Dated 18th
with E. In. C. R. 100 -

No. 85486.