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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1297	Press ~~Mis.~~
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Dated 4- 8-	18 69.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th August 1860.

No. 38. Read the following letter from W. S. NESBITT, Esq., Secretary Ootacamund Improvement Committee, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 21st July 1860, No. 10:—

1. Agreeably to the Orders of Government, dated 4th May 1860, No. 715, Revenue Department, I have the honor to submit herewith the Report of the Proceedings of the Ootacamund Improvement Committee, for the Quarter ending 30th June last, together with copy of a Memorandum of the President, which is forwarded by his desire, on a Resolution passed by the Committee relatively to referring questions for the opinion of absent members, with remarks also thereon by the other members of the Committee.

2. I had the honor to receive on the 3rd instant, the Proceedings of Government dated 27th ultimo, No. 939, referring for the consideration of the Committee two letters from the Superintending Surgeon, Southern Division, regarding the draining of the Lake; and one, remarking thereon from the Collector of Coimbatore. As the Superintending Surgeon's letter appeared some time ago in the public papers, and extensive interest may thereby have been created, to know what the Committee decide on the matter, I am desired to state, that they are unanimous in considering the proposed measure wholly *needless* and very undesirable. They would rather, were it in their power, *increase* than diminish the Lake. Mr. Dawson specially expresses his entire concurrence in all that Mr. Thomas has written on the subject.

3. I shall feel obliged by your furnishing me in future with six copies of all Proceedings of Government which you may send me, so that *each* member of the Committee may be supplied with a copy.

REPORT *of the Ootacamund Improvement Committee for the Quarter ending 30th June* 1860.

1. Besides meeting on the 17th April last (copy of the Proceedings held on which occasion have been already sent to Government). The Committee met on the 15th, 18th, 19th and 28th May and on the 30th June.

2. On the 15th May, they resolved to mark out allotments for building sites in Lovedale Valley, and in correspondence with the Collector, to define the limits of the station, with a view to determine the sphere of their operations. Two Sub-Committees were also appointed; one consisting of Messrs. Rohde, Dawson and Dr. Mackay, to attend to the ornamental planting of the land around the lake; and the other of Messrs. Rohde, Dawson and the Secretary, to enquire into the titles by which the houses and land along the margin of the lake, from the Willow bund to the east end of the Bázár were held, and upon what terms the owners would be willing to part with the same. This investigation was deemed necessary, as it was probable that the land in question might be required to enable an efficient drainage of the Bázár to be made. Two papers from the President were also placed on the records, one regarding the Páikhánás or Public Necessaries and their cleansing; the other submitting for the consideration of the Committee, whether they were competent or not to decide pathway and water disputes, the settlement of which had hitherto devolved on him an invidious duty. The first paper being on the subject of the general sewerage, its consideration was deferred till the arrival of Mr. Fraser. Regarding the latter, the Committee considered they were not competent at present to decide such disputes, but would be (at least as to the water) after a proper supply had been provided for the station by Government.

3. On the 18th May, the Committee met, as previously agreed, in Lovedale Valley. Starting from the north east end, west side, and proceeding south west, to where the high road enters the Bishop's valley, they marked off 14 allotments, the ground of the same being *above* and on the *north* side of the road. The allotments measured each along their base line from 250 to 400 feet, with the exception of the last which was 700 feet. All the points of division were chosen so as to give each allotment a good building site, and they will all have a pleasing prospect across the valley below to the wooded slopes opposite. An application for land to the south of Fern Hill having been received, Messrs. Rohde and Dawson marked out on the 19th May, five allotments on the vacant ground in that vicinity. This land is to the extreme west of the Bishop's valley.

4. Another application having been received for land on the Hill immediately behind the Church, it was inspected on the 28th May by Mr. Rohde, and the Secretary. Mr. Dawson was also to have been present, but was prevented from attending. A part of the land applied for had already become private property; and with regard to the rest, it was found necessary that before any allotments could be marked off, a roadway taken from proper levels should be traced out.

5. The Committee lastly met on the 30th ultimo, fully expecting Mr. Fraser would have arrived in Ootacamund, and have submitted his plans on the questions of Sewerage and Water Supply, which had been referred for his special consideration. He, however, had not arrived, Mr. Rohde, (on the planting Sub-Committee) reported that he had commenced operations of planting at the west end of the Lake. The Committee were making a judicious selection of trees, and would have advanced much further in their work had it not been for the extreme difficulty they had experienced in procuring laborers. The Secretary furnished a tabular Statement, embodying the result of the enquiry which he had had made into the titles of the owners of the houses and land of the lower street, along the margin of the Lake. The sanitary purpose for which the said land is likely to be required, having been explained to the occupants of the street, no opposition is expected from them as to the change of location; and all which they evidently require is only that a fair equivalent either in money, or land elsewhere, be given to them for their property.

6. Sanitary improvements being also considered necessary in the hamlet of Mótuchéri (within the station) the Secretary was desired to have a similar enquiry made into the titles of the owners of houses and land therein situated.

7. Much delay and impediment to business having been experienced by referring for the opinion of absent members, questions upon which the other members at Ootacamund had already agreed, it was resolved, that *if* in future the members who agreed upon any question should form a *majority* of the *whole* Committee, such questions should not be referred for the *sanction* of absent members, but information merely of the decision arrived at be communicated to them.

8. The attention of the Committee has been directed to four subjects. 1. The alloting land for building sites. 2. The ornamental planting of the land around the Lake. 3. Sewerage. 4. Water Supply. The last two have been referred to the more special consideration of Mr. Fraser. The Committee much regret that they are not able to report the actual execution of more work under either of these heads, but this has arisen from the absence of Mr. Fraser; the surveying even of any allotments not having been possible until it had been ascertained whether he might have any plans of future improvement which would render objectionable the disposal of such lands. Mr. Fraser's absence has been occasioned partly by his duties in the plains, but principally because he considered it unnecessary for him to come up until Mr. Brosnahan, by whom the preliminary Surveys and Sections should be made, had arrived. Mr. Brosnahan, who was detained by illness, is now here, he has received the requisite instructions from Mr. Fraser, and the Surveys are being proceeded with. The Committee, therefore, hope to be able to report satisfactory progress at the end of the current Quarter.

9. No disbursements have been made during the present Quarter.

W. S. NESBITT,
Secretary, Ootacamund Improvement Committee.

OOTACAMUND,
5th July 1860.

MEMORANDUM *by E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector and President of the Local Improvement Committee, on Resolutions sent "for information" (only) by the Secretary to the Ootacamund Improvement Committee of 30th June, and following, dated Coimbatore, 10th July* 1860.

I must demur to the Resolution in my absence named in paragraph 7, it is directly contrary to Resolution 8 of 17th April, deciding* that "the vote of absent members should be taken by proxy," or by writing I think, and the papers have hitherto been so sent round, and I think should so continue. No delay is *specified*, not a days detention occurred in *my* office, when papers were last sent round; the present Resolution virtually excludes me, though President, from voting at all, when absent on duty, or from recording any dissent or protest, as I *may*

* *And so reported to Government.*

have occasion to do, having longer knowledge of the Hills by far, than any of the Committee, except Mr. Dawson only. I also desire to know if I can, when absent on duty, leave a permanent proxy, (if I should happen to be so far away that there would be real and inconvenient delay), though I should conceive a few days can seldom signify in the matters involved. I also wish to know, if I name a proxy, whether it must be one of the Committee? I should prefer *not*. In forwarding your Report to Government, I request copy of this may also go up, for Government Orders, I must also object to any more land being given, or buildings allowed near the market place, the station of Ootacamund and consequently the market is increasing yearly, the space is already much crowded on a market day. As Collector, I have always steadily refused encroachment on the small open space still left. I think it would be most unadvisable, these are important points* on which it is especially advisable the whole Committee should vote. I would again object on public grounds, to *Church Hill* being occupied, it is in the heart of the station, and should, I think, be left open and unoccupied.

* *And others, such as the new Burial Ground, Sewerage, moving the lower Bázár, &c.*
With reference to paragrah 1 *of Resolutions of 3rd July.*

REMARKS *by the other Members on the above.*

1. I am likely to be as much away as Mr. Thomas, but I would not object to the Resolution, as I feel sure that any question that would affect anything in which I was concerned as District Engineer, would be left undecided until my opinion was obtained; a similar courtesy would no doubt be exercised towards the Collector and to other members, no one for instance would think of deciding on a sanitary measure without consulting Dr. Mackay.

2. To avoid delay, I have given my proxy to a member, who I believe, will use it for the public good. It is to be regretted that the President has not sufficient confidence in any member of the Committee, to do likewise. At all events the Committee will not, of course, consent to any one, not a member, holding a proxy.

3. I am disposed to agree with the President's remarks about the market place, but we shall know more about it when the Survey is made.

4. As regards notice of sale, I think the present merely local notice is not sufficient, I would advise our advertising in Madras and Bangalore, in any way the Committee might think best.

(Signed) WILLIAM FRASER,
District Engineer.

13*th July* 1860.

As one likely to be long absent, I feel the justice of the above remarks in which I concur, I would not restrict the available ground round the market, but think it may be extended by drainage beyond the necessity of the market, this, however, cannot be *now* determined.

(Signed) J. ROHDE.

I agree with Mr. Fraser. Mr. Thomas seems to have overlooked the fact that it is only when a *majority* are present and agree, that the Resolution applies, his vote under such circumstances could not alter the decision of the Committee, and he still has the power of recording his dissent or protest

His proxy must be a member.

(Signed) GEORGE MACKAY.

I concur in the remarks made by the other members, and would suggest a nearly meeting, anent the contemplated improvements in the neighbourhood of the market place, after the Survey is made.

(Signed) H. R. DAWSON.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. S. NESBITT,
Secretary Ootacamund Improvement Committee.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th August 1860.

No. 39. ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1860, No. 1,297.

1. The Proceedings of the Committee as set forth in the report are approved. It appears to have been steadily engaged on the duties for which it was formed; and Mr. Brosnahan having now reached the Hills, the Government hope that rapid progress will be made.

2. The Government approve and confirm the decision respecting the admission of the votes of absent members. The course advocated by Mr. Thomas would involve very inconvenient delay. Proxies can only be held by members of the Committee.

3. The Government consider it necessary that full publicity should be given to intended sales of land, not only on the Hills, but at Madras, Bangalore, and Bombay.

4. The second paragraph of Mr. Nesbitt's letter will be communicated to the Public Department.

5. The request in the third paragraph will be attended to, and will be made known to the Public Department.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 1297

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 4th August 1860.

Read the following letter
from the Secretary Octacamund Improvement
Committee.

Submitting the Report
of the Committee for the quarter ending 30th June 1860 (Here enter 21st July 1860 No. 10

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approve and confirm t
decision respecting the
admission

H.S.D

A.F.B

I should like to see the Orders, under which the Improvement Committee was formed. It appears to be a little Municipality & to be doing its work well. H.S.D

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To Copy to Mr. Secy. Octacamund Improvement Committee
" Public Dept.
12 " Board of Revenue
10 " Chief Engineer

Report of the Cotacammund Improvement Committee

Letter to Govt dated 25th January 1861 No 38

5-9-60

10-5-60

300-301

26-6-60

34-35

4-7-60

No 38 & 39.

Revenue 1860 Dept.

Pro: of Govt for August

No. 1297.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

Dy 4th August 1860.

Reviewing the Report of the Proceedings of the Cotacammund Improvement Committee for the quarter ending 30th June 1860.