M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1537 **Press** ~~Mis.~~

104-105

Dated 6-9- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 104. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 25th July 1860, No. 38:—

SIR,

1. In reply to the Government Order of the 14th June 1860, No. 1,247, I beg to explain, that though I may have attached my usual signature as "Collector," I wrote as "President of "the Committee," and deemed I was only making a proper application, in asking leave, on public grounds, to engage the aid and information of one of the best qualified on the Hills to give it; Mr. Lascelles.

See Sir Charles Trevelyan's Minute of 23rd February, paragraph 24.

See No. 21, 4th June.

2. The Committee as *now* constituted, can seldom be efficient as a working Committee, nor does it fairly represent the *community* which it is supposed to benefit. As I have already explained, my own duties must often call me from Ootacamund, the District Engineer the same. Mr. Rohde, as Inspector General of Jails, it is to be supposed, the same. Dr. Mackay is *much* engaged, often attends with difficulty, and is sometimes absent, there remain only Mr. Nesbitt certain, and Mr. Dawson, a probable, attendant. I think with all deference that some more should be added (if the present Official Committee is to continue,) so that at least 5, should be the *minimum*, to decide on points, many of them important. Such might be chosen, if Government deem right, by suffrage, from among the community: the Committee as now constituted, is too official, and too small, to give general satisfaction.

On two important occasions only two Members were present, to decide on land.

3. In reference to Proceedings of Government and Order of 26th June, No. 1,056, paragraph 3, I beg to observe that the *limits* of the station were long ago laid down in paragraph 4 of the Board's Manual, as three miles on all sides; and this was also the recognized limit in the time when Ootacamund was a Military Cantonment.

See Board's Order, 10th November 1836.

Some limit is obviously desirable, on many accounts. I asked it only at the *instance* of the Committee, as will be seen by the Committee's own reference since.

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of same Order of Government (1,056), in Extract 13th August 1851, Government itself fixed five cawnies, (about), as the usual limit of a building lot, as being a convenient size. I asked this also for the guidance of the *Committee*, and at their request. It was also necessary to ask the station limit, for my *own* guidance. If applications for land should come, on a doubtful limit and distance, as they are very likely; should the Collector or the Committee then deal with them? If it was an unofficial Municipal Committee, composed of independent members of the Resident Hill community, with power to *them, if* they *wish*, to call for aid or information from the Collector and District Engineer, it would be more likely to command the good-will and co-operation of the public.

5. If Government see fit to allow the proceeds of all land sold on the Hills, to be devoted locally *to* the Hills, I would with all deference submit, that it should be spent on needed *improvements*, of which there are many, (such as roads, sewerage, water supply, fuel, &c.,) and not on *ornamental* works; which can be safely postponed till the more useful and needful requirements are first carried out.

And I would suggest, that all three stations, in due proportion, Coonoor, Kotagherry and Ootacamund should benefit.

No. 105. ORDER THEREON, 6th September 1860, No. 1,537.

1. In this letter the Collector of Coimbatore offers explanations with reference to two Orders recently passed by Government on letters from him, in connection with the Ootacamund Improvement Committee.

2. With reference to the Order of June 14th, No. 1,247, (Public Works Department) Mr. Thomas explains that his letter of the 4th idem, though signed with his official designation of Collector, was written by him as President of the Committee. Mr. Thomas did not say, however, nor does he say now, that he was authorized by the Committee to make the request contained in that letter, or to write in their name; and without such authority his Post as President does not empower him to write or act for the Committee. The letter also, it is to be noticed, was written from Coimbatore, and was probably not entered on the Committee's records. The Government must observe also that the proper organ of the Committee is their Secretary.

3. With reference to the second paragraph of the letter and the latter part of paragraph 4, the Government do not consider that any change of the nature proposed, in the constitution of the Committee, is at present expedient. The Government have recently added Mr. Ouchterlony to it on the recommendation of the Committee itself.

4. In the third and fourth paragraphs, Mr. Thomas remarks on the Order in the Revenue Department, dated June 26th, No. 1,056. The Government have failed to discover in the Manual of the Board of Revenue the rule which Mr. Thomas quotes as fixing the limit of the Station of Ootacamund. But as it appears that the Committee wish a boundary to be fixed, the Government resolve that the recognized boundary of the late Military Cantonment, viz., a circuit of three miles from the Post Office, shall be that of the Station.

5. With reference to paragraph 4 the general limit of five cawnies may be adopted as the maximum size of building lots; but where a somewhat larger size would better suit the ground, that limit may be slightly exceeded. In all other cases where larger sites are required a special application must be preferred to Government.

6. The closing paragraph does not appear to call for any Order.

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

Rev. Dept.

№ 1537

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 6th September 1860

Read the following letter
from the Collector of Coim-
-batore.

Submits explanation on
the points alluded to in the Go-
-vernment orders of the 4th and
26th June 1860 with regard to the
association of the Improvement
Committee at Ootacammund, and
the limits of their operation &c.

(Here enter 25th July 1860 № 38)

1. In this letter the Col-
-lector of Coimbatore offers
explanations with reference
to two orders recently passed
by Government on letters
from him, in connection
with the Ootacammund
Improvement Committee

2. With reference to
the order of June 14th № 1247 (Public Works De-
-partment) Mr. Thomas
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that the proper organ of the Committee is their Secretary.

3. With reference to the second paragraph of the letter and the latter part of Para 4, the Government do not consider that any change of the nature proposed, in the constitution of the Committee, is at present expedient. The Government have recently added Mr Ouchterlony to it on the recommendation of the Committee itself.

4. In the third and fourth paragraphs, Mr. Thomas remarks on the order in the Revenue Department dated June 26th No. 1056. The Government have failed to discover

discover in the Manual of the Board of Revenue the Rule which Mr. Thomas quotes as fixing the limit of the Station of Cotacamund. They continue of opinion that an arbitrary limit such as that proposed would be inexpedient, and that at present it is not necessary to fix any limit. If, however, the Committee should think otherwise, the Governor in Council will be prepared to give full consideration to any recommendation on the subject from them.

5. With reference to Para 4, the Government refer the Collector to Para 4 of the order of 26th June.

The I should prefer to see the limit of Cotacamund fixed by the limits which the Inspectors of Hill Stations may from time to time prescribe. The limits adopted for the Station where it has a Military Cantonment to be the limits which the Inspectors of Hill Stations may from time to time prescribe.

I advocated a limit as a guide but I should also limit as had before been fixed by Govt to all Gardens for 4

But as it appears that the Committee wish a boundary to be fixed, the Government resolve that the recognized boundary of the late Military cantonment, viz a circuit of three miles from the Post office, shall be that of the Station.

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6. The closing paragraph does not appear to call for any order.

+ In all other cases where larger lots are required a special application must be preferred to Govt

2 Encl

1 Copy to the Collr of Coimbatore Dis. 7
7 — Secy. O.C. Commr. 7
12 — Offg Secy of Govt

In building
if more is needed
from any source
Special allotment
when shown to be
made -
Where out-turn
fails in the case
of cities - & locally
the out-turn only may
under certain limits
should be taken

6. The closing paragraph does not appear to call for any order.

to do as they please

Collector of Coimbatore
Sec^y to Cotacamund Imp^t Com^{tee}
Board of Rev: for information.

I concur above - the 5 Centres

(19)

Association of the Impt. Comtee at Coleacamund & the limits of their operation

I

Revenue 1860 Department.
Pro: of Govt for September.

No 1537.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dated 6th September 1860.

On certain points relating to the Association of the Improvement Committee at Ootacamund and the limits of their operation &c.

No 104 & 105.

Q 20 August - D 624