M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 759 Press Mis.

9-10

Dated 11—5— 1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 9. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th August 1859, No. 3,198 :—

Read letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 23rd June 1859, No. 103.
(In Con. 28th June 1859, No. 3,091.)

In the above letter the Collector of Coimbatore, reports on the various points noticed in Extract Minutes Consultation, 11th December last, Revenue Department, No. 1,652, and in Lord Harris' Minute of the 13th November last, on the improvement of Utakamand.

In Con. 15th Decr. 1858, *No.* 5,621.

2. Mr. Cherry, who acted as Collector during Mr. Thomas' absence, consulted several of the residents at Utakamand on the subject, and their views are contained in the enclosure of the Collector's letter.

11th Dec. 1858, *R. D., No.* 1,652, *in Con.*
15th Dec. 1858, *No.* 5,621.

3. The matters referred to the Board in the Extract Minutes Consultation already quoted are :—

1st. The erection, &c., of Bázárs and Native Villages.
2nd. Rules for the working of Peat Mosses.
3rd. The grant of Leases for land on the Hills.

4. As regards the first subject, complaint is general. Narrow streets, defective drainage, accumulations of filth, and the other nuisances inseparable from an over-crowded and ill-regulated bázár, are all alleged by the different gentlemen who replied to Mr. Cherry's requisition.

5. The extension of these evils may be prevented without difficulty, but an immediate remedy for the existing state of affairs is less easy of application.

6. For the former object the rules prepared and approved for Railway towns might advantageously be adopted, with any modifications which local peculiarities may render necessary. In fact, the evils being manifest, it will be easy to frame regulations to prevent them hereafter. With this view various suggestions have been made by the gentlemen consulted by Mr. Cherry, and their proposed measures are certainly not wanting in stringency.

7. The real difficulty, however, lies in securing the persistent observance of the rules adopted, and for this purpose a local administrative body seems essential.

8. The Board are not aware whether there is sufficient unanimity of opinion among the residents to admit of the Municipal Act being brought into operation. If this be the case, the residents have at their command a remedy for some of the evils of which theycomplain, for the Act (XXVI of 1850), will enable them to provide for cleaning, lighting, or watching the oads, for drainage, for the prevention of nuisances and generally for improving the station, and will also vest them with power to raise the necessary funds.

9. If, however, the Act cannot be introduced, much might still be done, as in Vizagapatam by a voluntary association of the residents, for Municipal purposes.

10. The only powers the Magistracy can at present exercise are those conferred by Act XXI of 1841, which are certainly wanting in facility and promptness of application.

11. The present bázárs are evidently over-crowded and four eligible sites are mentioned for new bázárs and villages. Here, at least until the Municipal Act comes into operation, the Board would recommend that the Railway Pettah Rules should be adopted, the sites being regularly laid out by the authorities in the first instance, and observance of the regulations strictly enforced. The Board have instructed the Collector to submit the Estimates he proposes for these and other improvements.

12. One subject of complaint is the unrestricted power allowed to Native settlers building huts in their gardens in any part of the Cantonment. The Board do not see how one section of the community can alone be debarred from this right; the proper remedy in their view is to take the position of the land itself as the guide, and if this renders the erection of huts, &c., undesirable, to make it a condition of the grant that such structures shall not be erected.

13. The Board think it would be an improvement if a local Committee were appointed to superintend the sale or grant of Government lands within the limits of the Cantonment; for it is impossible that all the various details, which are of material importance to the residents, can be properly looked after by the Collector, who, for many months, is necessarily absent from the station. The Collector might act as President when on the Hills, while the Officer Commanding,

the Judge and the Medical Officer might form a standing Committee. Under the recent Orders of Government, all land on the Hills is to be sold outright without any reservation of quit-rent or land tax; the Committee might arrange periodically for these sales, but their services would be particularly valuable in deciding whether the sites applied for should be sold or retained for public reasons; if the former, whether any, and what, conditions in regard to water privileges, buildings, &c., should be attached to the sale, &c., &c. These matters none but residents can efficiently supervise, and the Board think a Committee, such as they have suggested, would manage them to the satisfaction of Government and the community. The Board do not propose that this duty should be assigned to the Municipal Association, if one should be formed, because the land belongs to Government, and its disposal with just regard to the rights of all classes should be vested in persons directly answerable to Government, for the due exercise of the powers vested in them.

5th Augt. 1859, *R. D., No.* 1,053, *in Con. 9th August* 1859, *No.* 3,998.

14. There are various other matters connected with this part of the subject mooted in the papers forwarded by the Collector, but they all come within the category of details, which a local managing body can alone effectually deal with.

15. The general measures which the Board would now advocate are:—

1st. To press on the residents the expendiency of their endeavoring to bring the Municipal Act XXVI of 1850, into early operation, or failing this, to form a voluntary association for Municipal purposes.

2nd. To appoint a local Committee to arrange for the sales of Government land, &c., &c. within the Cantonment.

3rd. The formation of additional bázárs, &c., as proposed by the Collector.

16. On the second point, viz. the Peat Mosses, the Board will address Government hereafter when in possession of fuller information than the Collector affords. The "slipping away" of the moss referred to in paragraph 5 of Lord Harris' Minute, is ascribed to natural causes.

Dated 13th November 1858.

17. The third subject requires no remark at present, as the recent Order of Government for the sale of lands on the Hills will shortly come into operation. The remarks of some of the residents, on the system heitherto pursued show that the rules have not hitherto been generally known. Land is always sold by auction and the rules were, in January 1858, cleared of various objectionable restrictions. The Government did not, however, see fit, on that occasion, to grant lands in perpetuity, as recommended by the Board.

5th August 1859, *R. D. No.* 1,053, *in Con. 9th Augt.* 1859, *No,* 3,998.

E. M. C. 20th November 1857, *R. D., No.* 1,187, *in Con. 29th January* 1858, *No.* 4,594. *Board's Circular, 29th Jany.* 1858. *From Coimbatore, 3rd, in Con. 8th February* 1859, *No.* 498. *No.* 1,152, *Proceedings to Collr. 1st April* 1859.

18. The grant of land to Mr. Scott referred to in paragraph 9 of the Extract Minutes Consultation under reply was duly enquired into by the Board, and a strict adherence to the Manual prescribed in all future cases.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 10.

ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1860, No. 759.

The subject of these Proceedings, viz. the improvement of the station of Utakamand received the attention of the Honorable the Governor on the occasion of his recent visit to the Nílgiris, and Orders have been issued by the Government in both the Public Works* and Revenue† Departments, with the view of giving effect to His Excellency's suggestions‡ on the subject. No detailed orders are, therefore, necessary on the present papers.

4th April 1860, *No.* 689, *paragraph* 6.
† *do. do. No.* 517, *paragraph* 8.
‡ *Minute No.* 4, *dated* 23*d February* 1860, *paragraphs* 23 *and* 24.

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

IN CON. 28TH JUNE 1859, No. 3091.

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of COIMBATORE,
dated Coimbatore, 23d June 1859, No. 103.

I regret to have been unable earlier to reply to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 11th December 1858,* communicated by the Board on the 15th idem, but on my resuming office after a year's absence, I found several large questions undisposed of, the Jamabundy of four talooks still to be completed, (within the Fusly,) and have been consequently much pressed—I was also anxious to make *local* enquiry and observation (which I have now done,) before I replied.

* Revenue Department, No. 1652.

2. The subject under review is a large one. I can only now report on it briefly, but shall be happy to elucidate, more fully, any points the Board may hereafter desire—I also was led to believe Mr. Cherry had himself reported on the subject since giving over charge.

3. The Acting Collector, Mr. Cherry, called on the Hill visitors and residents for views and opinions (forwarded herewith) on various points connected with the Hills. I find in them many conflicting, and some impracticable views. Some recommend the cutting of *all* shrubs and jungle within or near the place—others the careful preservation of the same, to protect the springs. Some require "the law of supply and demand to be better regulated," (to *reduce prices,* being the meaning and evident aim)—they suggest no definite measures, and it is obviously a law which *can* only, and *must,* best regulate *itself:* all interference with it, is, of course, unadvisable—and would only add to the evil deprecated, high price—the natural and unavoidable result, every where, just now, of dry seasons, added to great local enhanced demand on the Hills. *Some* of the other suggestions are useful, and will be duly attended to.

4. While *adverting* fairly to the above opinions, I think I had better address myself chiefly to the views and observations in Lord Harris' Minute, briefly and in order, (13th November 1858 of 7 paras.)

1st. The "Roads," are solely under the District Engineer—they are nearly all now metalled, and have I believe his careful attention. I would only suggest, as I have before, that instead of metalling the *whole* breadth, (which the little *wheel* traffic on the Hills, takes a long time to work in,) a margin of two or three feet, on either side, should be left for (unshod) natives, and pack bullocks, as well as all European equestrians, who now ride in danger, to their horses and themselves.

2nd. "Water," there is sufficient, when properly and publicly regulated, to supply nearly all the present houses, and probably more—the subject is before the District Engineer; with careful levels, and at a moderate cost, all that is needed can I think be effected—it does not rest with my Department. I have long ago pressed the subject on the notice of Government, in my letters noted in the margin, to which I beg to refer; and in which I advocated nearly similar measures to those now suggested by the European Residents—the project* I then proposed, has been delayed, by the "Elk Hill Ghaut" cutting, preventing an arrangement, (on *that*† side,) of the Doddabet water—and for want of Engineer's skill and time to lay out the *levels* and the course, on the *Snowdon*‡ side—the expense will be moderate, and the project feasible; and a light water rate, as I before recommended, and to which the Residents *agreed;* I still think, the best mode of meeting the *annual* expense. I shall be happy to consult with the District Engineer in carrying it out, *at once,* if ordered.

To Board 22nd May 1859, No. 49.
To do. 14th January 1850, No. 7.
To do. 18th February 1850, No. 15.
To do. 23rd April 1850, No. 45.
To do. 9th January 1851, No. 3.
To do. 3rd February 1851, No. 18.
To do. 5th do. No. 19.

* To which the Hill residents assented—the matter was long before the Board, and submitted to Government in 1851, and Rs. 800 sanctioned—a Map, by Captain Ouchterlony was also sent to the Board in 1850 or 51.

† The S. E. side.

‡ The North East.

The fair proportion to each house will be best decided, by a local official committee, as before proposed by me—the District Engineer, the officer in command, and the Collector, or any others Government think fit: and best *regulated,* by a small Teak Board with a certain opening, of 1, 2, or 3 square inches, according to the size of the *house*—there will not be enough for *gardens.* I also proposed Rules, in my letter of 18th February 1850, No. 15.

3rd. The "bazaars and native huts," are, I think, on the whole, not more dirty, insalubrious, or irregular, than most others in similar crowded localities—they have grown *with* the European wants and community—no complaints have been made till now—the

evil has grown insensibly and unavoidably—the streets were no doubt left too narrow, at the *outset*, 20 years ago, when the present state of things was not foreseen or provided for—all that *could* be done, of late years, has been attempted, gradually. I may, without egotism, instance a few improvements in my own time. Two fountains for drinking water, near the bazaar, have been erected ; an English *pump*, procured by me from Ceylon, with a well of spring water, close to the market ; a large and commodious market house built ; a tank of water, for people and cattle for general use on market and other days, opened ; three large "Pykhanas,"* (two for males, and one for females,) each about 50 feet long by 10 wide, thatched over, (and not *known* or observed by many,) have been built ; all effluvia obviated by discharging into water ; three varying and dubious measures for grain, &c., in the market, have been converted into *one*, the Madras—several hundreds of such measures being kept always *ready*, for sale, (tested and sealed,) to all Residents and shop-keepers, in the Tahsildar's and Cutwall's cutcherry ; a public Bungalow at Ootacamund has been established ; bridle* paths, in nearly all directions have been made, year by year; several choultries built on each Ghaut, to facilitate the transit of supplies ; a public garden established ; the above, and other local improvements, have been, I may safely and truly say, nearly all *originated* by myself—that other improvements are practicable and desirable, I freely admit. I only wish to show that *something has* been done—the remainder I shall be most happy and anxious to co-operate in effecting, so far as they are *practicable* : but making provisions cheap, enlarging crowded bazaars where no space exists, and changing native habits, are clearly *not* practicable.

* Public necessaries.

* First by subscriptions, afterwards by Government aid.

4th. The law regarding "master and servant," is under the consideration of Government. Some amelioration *is* much needed, and doubtless will be conceded, so far as is legal and practicable. Government will best judge *how*.

5th. The "Peat Mosses," I may also claim as having originated, (in working,) and always encouraged the working of—by giving some of the first free—advocating its use at Jackatallah (see letters to Captain Campbell and others noted in the margin) ; the *manner* of working them, may be best left, I think, to private skill and judgment ; there are several European pensioners and others, on the Hills, both Scotch and Irish, who understand it, and concur in the present mode of working them—in the instance mentioned, Lord Harris has been mis-informed. I am well aware of the occurrence noted—it slipped from *natural*, not *artificial*, causes—from an extra, sudden, *rush of water*, (as noticed by Mr. Lascelles' 5th para, to the correctness of which I can testify.)

To Captain Campbell 18th August 1856.
To the Commissary General at Madras, 27th March 1856, No. 76.
To the Chief Engineer D. P. W., 18th September 1856, No. 427.

6th. I am not aware what greater "facilities," for procuring land, than now exist, could be, (consistent with Government rights,) conceded—there is no opening for "official partiality," if such existed, as alleged by *some*—the Board's Manual is strictly adhered to ; all applications are attended to at once, and in regular *turn*, as they come in. I beg to refer distinctly to the records of my office in proof of both points—due enquiry, and survey *must* be made, before giving up Government lands permanently, especially as some applicants do *not* scruple to apply for lands quite ignoring their neighbours, and native settlers of long standing upon the tracts they desire at once to appropriate. The single surveyor* has as much as he can possibly do—the system is sufficiently simple—*all* lands *on* the Hills, for houses and compounds, are let, by the Board's Manual, at R. 1, A. 2, P. 4,† for each cawny, and all below the Hills, on the average and usual *assessment* of the neighbouring lands—some complain, from not *knowing* these facts—others, because they wish to get lands almost for nothing. As regards the cutting of *forests*, my position has been invidious and difficult—the orders of Government have always been, "*carefully* to *preserve* the woods and forests of the Neilgherries"—with what continued effort and care, I have *endeavoured* to do so, my own records and Dr. Cleghorn, can testify. On the other hand, the coffee planters, whose capital and speculations I would desire to encourage, are for *felling every tree* they can—*none* but *forest* land is sought by them, and every tree is to be felled—and if I strive to preserve the remaining woods, I am accused of "obstructing enterprize, and European

* Mr. Williams.

† Had better be one Rupee without fractions.

outlay." In the particular case alluded to by Lord Harris, in which a *gentleman* used (in my absence in England) my *private* notes, I desire nothing but publicity and enquiry, which would fully exonerate me, and show, how Mr. Scott, after obtaining land under the usual restrictions, *importuned* me to "allow the cutting of a *few* trees, entirely obstructing his project, and promising to do as little damage as possible." I only regret I did not keep that gentleman's private notes as he did mine.

7th. On "General Dowker's complaint," I have only to remark, that it is a just one—his usual stream has long been cut off—he has waited with much patience ; but the matter has long rested on the District Engineer, and the practicability of carrying the (cut off) Doddabet stream, across the Elk Hill cutting.

5. Having noticed all points alluded to by Lord Harris, I would add, that the points which I think *are* still deficient, and on which the Hill residents, *reasonably*, desire improvement, are, 1st, a municipal committee, 2ndly, an amended law of master and servant, and 3rdly, the extension of villages and bazaars—the two first are for the consideration of Government—to the last I shall give immediate and careful attention, and will submit, if permitted, a moderate estimate, for forming lines for two new bazaars—two additional fountains and four wells—lines for native huts at the four localities indicated by Mr. Lascelles, which are the best I know. The erection of a permanent slaughter house, and any other local improvements which appear necessary and practicable. Jungle and brushwood has been cut at Dr. Mackay's request, and the drains, I have again begged the Engineer immediately to attend to ; for these and other works a resident Engineer, as hitherto allowed, is most desirable. I request early orders for the small estimates I propose to submit, and I can only assure the Board and Government, that I shall give, as I believe I may safely say I have always done, my earnest and immediate attention to apply all *practicable* remedies, to real and eradicable evils ; though, as Lord Harris himself remarks, it is sometimes difficult to apply such to "irregularities which have gradually and insensibly become prescriptive."

Mr. Williams now under me, and of 25 years' experience on the Hills, will be very useful in all these matters.

For the present, a *temporary* slaughter house is already built.

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Enc. 1.—Printed Abstract of correspondence on the improvements of the Neilgherry Hills.

In Con. 8th February 1859, No. 498.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Collector of COIMBATORE,
dated Ootacamund, 3rd February 1859. No. 21.

1. I have the honor to submit copies of correspondence as noted in the margin between Mr. Scott, of Ootacamund, and myself with reference to his land situated at Coonoor, and to request the orders of the Board of Revenue on the subject.

Letter from Mr. W. Scott, dated 17th January 1859.
Do. from Acting Collector to Mr. Scott, dated 22nd January No. 19.
Do. from Mr. Scott, dated 22nd January.
Do. from Acting Collector to Mr. Scott, dated 24th January No. 20.
Do. from Mr. Scott, dated 31st January.

2. The summary of the correspondence is as follows:

Mr. Scott in his letter dated 17th January 1859 requests "Title Deeds" for his ground at Coonoor may be granted to him.

My reply to Mr. Scott dated 22nd January was to the effect, that I had given orders, to furnish him with the usual Puttah, subject to the restriction to "cut no trees" and to "confining" his operations to the "Coorumber *clearing*", and to which he agreed as marginally noted, and further stated that I would consider it my duty to enter these stipulations in the Puttah, and directed his particular attention to these conditions.

Mr. Thomas' letter to Mr. Scott dated 26th September 1857.
Mr. Scott's letter to Mr. Thomas dated 30th September 1857.

Mr. Scott in his reply to the above communication dated 22nd January requested to be furnished with copies of the correspondence which took place between himself and Mr. Thomas as noted in the margin of the preceding Para.

On this requisition of Mr. Scott's I forwarded those copies to him in my letter dated the 24th January, and Mr. Scott's last letter of the 31st January basing his privilege to cut any Timber on his ground at Coonoor on a private note to him from Mr. Thomas dated the 18th November 1857 (which however is not to be found on the records of this office); or, in the event of the Government prohibiting him to fell any more Trees on the said land, requests an allotment of 200 Cawnies in any other locality as an equivalent.

3. The Board of Revenue in their Extract Proceedings No. 4640 dated the 15th December 1858, communicating Extracts Minutes Consultation No. 1652 dated 11th December 1858 and the Minute by the Right Honorable the President dated Ootacamund 13th November 1858, have called on me for an early and detailed report on Paras: 7 and 9 of the Government order, and to which special duty, as also to the other points prominently noticed by Lord Harris, I am at present giving my best consideration; as especial notice is taken of the "correspondence that has passed between Mr. Thomas and Mr. Scott" on the granting of leases for lands on the Neilgherries, it behooves me however, ere that Report can be submitted to the Board to have the present subject disposed of, Mr. Scott having called upon me either to grant him a Puttah, conceding to him the privilege to cut any Timber he thinks proper on the ground given him on the Coonoor Ghât, and permitted to him, as is stated by Mr. Thomas in his private note to Mr. Scott, copy of which has been furnished to me by Mr. Scott, or, its equivalent in 200 Cawnies of ground in some other locality where there can be no such objection, the ground on the Coonoor Ghât now in his possession being suited to Coffee Planting purposes.

4. Under these circumstances I am compelled to lay thus prematurely one of the points to have been hereafter noticed by me, for the decision of the Board of Revenue.

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Enc. 1.

From W. SCOTT, Esq.,
To J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Collector of COIMBATORE.
dated Ootacamund, 17th January 1859,

I have the honor to request, that you will grant me "Title-deeds" for my ground at Coonoor.

—

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Collector of COIMBATORE,
To W. SCOTT, Esq.,
dated Ootacamund, 22nd January 1859,

1. I beg to acknowledge the receipt this day of your letter of the 17th instant which came to me bearing Postage.

2. As therein requested the orders have been given by me to furnish you with the usual Puttah or Government grant for the land.

3. From the correspondence in this Office I observe that the condition attached to Mr. Thomas' grant to you of the land consists in your "confining" your operations to the "Coorumber *clearing*" and to "cut no trees"—to which terms you agreed as marginally noted.

Mr. Thomas' letter to Mr. Scott dated 26th September 1857
Mr. Scotts' letter to Mr. Thomas dated 30th September 1857

4. It will be my duty to enter these conditions in the Puttah and I have now to call your particular attention to them.

—

From W. SCOTT, Esq.,
To J. W. CHERRY, Esq. Acting Collector of COIMBATORE
dated Ootacamund, 22d January 1859

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Official letter dated 22nd instant.

May I request, that you will do me the favour to furnish me with copies of Mr. Thomas' letter to me dated 26th September 1857, as also, a copy of my letter to Mr. Thomas dated 30th September 1857.

As regards my letter of the 17th instant to you bearing postage, I beg to say that it was a mistake as it was my intention to have sent it by cooly. I beg to enclose the amount of the Postage one anna.

—

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq. Acting Collector of COIMBATORE
To W. SCOTT, Esq.,
dated Ootacamund, 24th January 1859, No. 20.

1. With reference to your letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honor to forward copies of the correspondence noted in the margin as requested by you.

Mr. Thomas' letter to Mr. Scott, dated 26th September 1857.
Mr. Scott' letter to Mr. Thomas dated 30th September 1857.

2. I have further to acknowledge and thank you for the receipt of the one anna being the Postage of your bearing letter of the 17th instant.

—

From W. SCOTT, Esq.,
To J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Collector of COIMBATORE
dated Ootacamund, 31st January 1859.

With reference to your letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honor to submit copy of a letter from Mr. Thomas.

You will perceive that he has granted me full permission to cut any Timber I think proper, on the ground given me on the Coonoor Ghaut.

As however Government do not wish to have any more Trees cut down on the Ghaut, I shall be glad to take an equivalent piece of ground in some other locality where there can be no such objection.

The amount of my Grant on the Coonoor Ghaut is one hundred Cawnies, and I submit that considering the valuable position of the ground, so convenient to Coonoor, and its suitableness for planting Coffee that in soliciting two hundred Cawnies of ground as an equivalent I would not be asking too much.

—

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq.,
To Mr. SCOTT,
dated Coimbatore, 18th November 1857.

On riding down the Ghaut, I found your new locality *is* well secluded, and not visible from the road. You *must*, I know, fell *some* for your coffee planting. I can and only will beg you, to *spare* as many really fine trees, as you possibly *can*.

—

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq, Collector of COIMBATORE,
To W. SCOTT, Esq., Ootacamund.
dated Coonoor, 26th September 1857, No. 277.

In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, I beg to inform you I have inspected the locality you ask for. It is rather too near the Coonoor Ghaut, where more land is forbidden by a Minute of Consultation to be given, but if you really will confine yourself as you say to the "*Coorumber clearing*" and cut no trees; and will distinctly mark the limit you wish to cultivate, I shall be better able to say, on hearing from you again, whether I am able to comply with your request.

I dont think there can be near one 100 Cawnies, and the Corumber claims (if any) must also be purchased off.

—

From W. SCOTT, Esq.,
To E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Principal Collector of COIMBATORE,
dated Ootacamund, 30th September 1857.

I have the honor to reply to your communication of the 26th instant, and beg to inform you that I will confine myself to the cleared ground and will cut no timber on the land.

With your permission I will have the ground surveyed as soon as possible.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. W. CHERRY,
Acting Collector.

No. 1152.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 1st April 1859.

Read letter from Acting Collector of Coimbatore, dated 3d February 1859, No. 21.
(In Con. 8th March 1859, No. 498.)

The Board observe that Mr. Scott's original application for the land in question is not among the papers forwarded.

2. Mr. Thomas however in reply (26th September 1857) informed him that the land was too near the Coonoor Ghaut, where further grants had been forbidden, but that if he would really confine himself to the "Coorumber clearing," would cut no trees, and would distinctly mark the limits he wished to cultivate, his application would be considered.

Enclosure in above letter.

3. Mr. Scott replied on the 30th idem—"*I will confine myself to the cleared ground and will cut no timber on the land.*"

4. Subsequently on the 18th November 1857, Mr. Thomas in what is manifestly a private note, left it to Mr. Scott to fell "some" trees for his Coffee planting and begged him to "spare as many really fine trees" as he possibly could.

5. The Board must regard this as an unwarranted concession, and they are not prepared to admit that Government are bound to recognise it.

6. Having no personal knowledge of the locality they have abstained from issuing instructions in the matter until they could confer with Dr. Cleghorn on the subject. They remark moreover that the Right Honorable the Governor Lord Harris referred to this case mainly as evidencing Mr. Thomas' loose method of transacting business.

Minute dated 13th Nov. 1858, para. 6. In from Govt. 11th in Con. 15th Dec. 1858, No. 1852, R. D.

7. Dr. Cleghorn informs the Board that as matters stand he would not advise the grant of 200 Acres elsewhere in consideration of Mr. Scott giving up his present holding. The Acting Collector should have given his opinion on this point: but the Board concur with Dr. Cleghorn that as the spot in question is secluded and the mischief already effected, it would be undesirable to give double the extent of the land in some other locality.

8. They are therefore willing to recognize Mr. Scott's claims, but on the understanding that his holding is limited, in the terms of his own application, to the original Coorumber clearing, and that he acts in good faith and spares as many really fine trees as he possibly can.

9. It only remains for the Board to prohibit the future transaction of public business in this unsatisfactory and embarrassing manner. They also desire that the rules contained in the Manual be strictly adhered to, and that with the exception of the grants allowed to particular classes for the purposes specified in Rule V, no grants whether on Puttah or otherwise be made by the Collector on any part of the Hills without their previous sanction.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To

J. M. WALHOUSE, Esq., Sub Collector in charge of Coimbatore.

R. Cons. 14th Decr 158 as 23-25.
— 5th augt 159 as 47.
— 24th Novr 157 as 23-24.

Revenue 1859, Departt
Rec'd from Govt 20th May 1563.

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 16th Augt 1859.
Desp'd 26th do
Rec'd 27
C 3
4 Encls.

No 3198.

Submitting with the Bd's remarks a letter from the Coll'r of Coim-batore reporting on the various points noticed in G. O. C. 11th Dec'r 1858 P. D. No 4652 regarding the improvement of Dotacamund.

No 759. 11th May
With an Order

No 759

The subject of these Proceedings - viz the improvement of the station of Ootacamund received the attention of the Honorable the Governor on the occasion of his recent visit to the Nilgiris, and orders have been issued by the Govt in both the Pub Works and Rev. Departments, with the view of giving effect to His Excellency's suggestions on the subject. No detailed orders are, therefore, necessary on the present papers

× 4 Appx to No 689 para 6.
⊛ " do. No 517 Para 8.
* Minute No 4 dated 23 Feb 1860 paras 23 & 24

Fort St. Geo. 11 May 1860.
Board of Rev. with an Encl.

Disp. 13

No 9 & 10.

C 5 4 Sep. 68 4