

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1223	Press
	195-196	Mis.
Dated	2 nd June 1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th June 1861.*

No. 195. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th May 1861,
No. 2,560 :—

Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. SIM,
Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Ootacamund, 23rd April
1861, No. 84.

SIR,

1. In reply to Board's order, No. 1,793, dated 6th instant, I beg to inform the Board that with but one (peculiar) exception, no *new* Pattas have been given in Ootacamund station; not only since April 1860, but none for several years; and nearly all, if not *all*, the land held by natives within the station (designated by the Improvement Committee "authorized obstructions, alleged tenures, trivial and pretended Pattas," which the Committee appear to think have been very carelessly given in ignorance, or wanton disregard of public interests) have been *held* and *occupied* for 15, 20, and more years, either by regular and proper Patta, or by the strong prescriptive right of long unquestioned occupation on verbal or other leave given by the former European local authorities, sometimes the Collector, sometimes the Commandant of the place; but not *one* has been given by myself, except a few small sales by auction, to European Pensioners or East Indians, under Board rules, of spots out of the way of all improvements, and on the Board's Manual, paragraph 5, half cawny.

2. I beg also to add for the Board's information, copy of my Minute as President of the Committee, on proceedings passed in my absence. The single exception referred to was a *temporary* and conditional one, at the express request of Dr. Cleghorn and Mr. Rohde; to enable the wood contractor to store wood for the convenience of the Jail and the community; no Patta was ever given; the purchase money has been refunded to the contractor, and the land reverted to Government. Had the Committee made inquiry of me, or of others, as I think was due, these facts would have been known to them before they wrote.

1. Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to paragraph 4 of their Order in the Revenue Department, No. 737, dated 4th April 1861, directing the Collector of Coimbatore to report whether any new Pattas have been given within the Ootacamund station since their Order of the 4th April 1860 abolishing such grants, and that if so, they may be cancelled.

2. The Government will observe that no infringement of the Government Order prohibiting the issue of fresh Pattas has taken place.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 196.

ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1861, No. 1,223.

Ordered to be recorded.

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

2^d April 1861

Minutes

1 I only received towards the end of March, the Proceedings of the Committee of the 18th, with copy of their letter to Revenue Secretary to Government, in which they complain of "authorized obstructions" to improvement, from alleged and "trivial" Pullahs, near the market place, and again of "allegations" and "pretensions" near the lower part of the Bazar. and that if such Pullahs have been given, "it must have been from ignorance, or wanton disregard to the public interests." As the Committee are well aware that all Pullahs are given by the Collector for the time being (now the President of the Committee), and as these strong terms were adopted in my absence, I think the Committee might and should have done me the honor of seeking some explanation from me before

condemning without due enquiry, any
own or my predecessor's Acts.

2. I beg now to state for their
information that one piece of ground
alluded to below the market place was
sold on the express request of Dr. Cleghorn,
and Mr. Mohide, to Muddana former
Contractor, (then holding contract under
Dr. Cleghorn's and Mr. Mohide's orders)
to enable him to have a store of wood in
a safe place near water and away from
the Bazar. Muddana has since lost his
Contract, and never used the ground. It
can, I have no doubt, be bought back
again if necessary.

3. The other small pieces of land
below the market place and the general
Bazar have none of them been given
within the last 20 years. but were held
and occupied many years ago, some as
far as 30 years. by Pottah, or verbal
lease by the then Collector when the
present wants of the place and proposed

alterations were not dreamt of. They have
many of them documents, and all a
strong prescriptive unquestionable
rights and if their tenements are now
wanted by the Improvement Committee
there is no question but that they
should be fairly bought out.

4. As to the strong language used
regarding the Latrines, I beg to say I
visit them, on duty, every time I come
to Ootacamund. I doubt if one of the
Committee except myself can say he
has ever been close to, or looked into them,
and the "intolerable stench" complained
of by "some of the Members," has never
struck me; and if it exists, it proceeds
from the Members themselves. being
caused solely by the Committee, in my
absence, having turned off the water
that always was allowed to run thro' and
cleanse the Latrines, and obviate all
effluvia. a Latrine over running water,
cannot be very offensive. and I still

mountain, that except for an idea,
Latimer over running water, into the
Lake, is the simplest, best, and most
practicable arrangement, and that in
all the other expedients proposed, of
carting, boating, &c, the remedy will
just be worse than the disease. Truly,
publicly offensive, and needless. I shall
be happy to give the Committee, whether
as President or as collector, any sugges-
-tion in my power, if they will do
me the honor to ask me for it.

Yours truly,
Signed J. B. Thomas
President of the
Committee and Collector

(True Copy)
J. B. Thomas
Collector

Recd of J. B. Thomas
Jan 10 1841

note.

The Ostacumund Sen.
proceeds Committee com-
plained of ~~obstacles~~ their
plans being impeded by
grants of land on puttaks
by the Colr.

The Jt. decided that
land bona fide held on
old puttaks must be fairly
bought up - and that puttaks
granted by the Colr. after
the Com^{ee} were appointed
were invalid - The Colr. was
called upon to state whether
he had granted any puttaks
after the Com^{ee}'s appointment
& he now replies in the
negative - The matter may
therefore be dropped. J.D.

In a letter from the
Collector of Bangalore
dated 23rd April 1874. J.D.

1874/25/14

27th March 1874

File 2635 of 1874
See from 29 April

No. 2,560.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th May 1861.

Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Ootacamund, 23rd April 1861, No. 84:—

In reply to Board's order, No. 1,796, dated 5th instant, I beg to inform the Board that with but one (peculiar) exception, no *new* Puttahs have been given in Ootacamund station; not only since April 1860, but none for several years; and nearly all, if not *all*, the land held by natives within the station (designated by the Improvement Committee "authorized obstructions, alleged tenures, trivial and pretended Puttahs" (which the Committee appear to think have been very carelessly given in ignorance, or wanton disregard of public interests) have been *held* and

and conditional one, at the express request of Dr. Cleghorn and Mr. Rohde; to enable the wood contractor to store wood for the convenience of the Jail and the community; no Puttah was ever given; the purchase money has been refunded to the contractor, and the land reverted to Government. Had the Committee made inquiry of me, or of others, as I think was due, these facts would have been known to them before they wrote.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Minute.

1. Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to paragraph 4 of their Order in the Revenue Department, No. 737, dated 4th April 1861, directing the Collector of Coimbatore to report whether any new Puttahs have been given within the Ootacamund station since their Order of the 4th April 1860 abolishing such grants, and that if so, they may be cancelled.

2. The Government will observe that no infringement of the Government Order prohibiting the issue of fresh Puttahs has taken place.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

To J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to E. B. Thomas, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. J. Wright.

Secretary.

Pro: 25. April 1861. N° 30-31
" 5. July 1861. 20-29

(2)
Revenue 1861 Department
Pro: of Govt. for June.
No. 1328

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE

Dated 18th May 1861.

Despatched. 3 June

Received. 11

End. 1 ch. end.

No. 2,560.

Submitting a letter from the Collector of
Coimbatore, reporting that with but one ex-
ception no new puttahs have been given in
the Ootacamund Station.

N. 195 + 196.

MD No 1223.

C 8 June 1861

W. H.
For the Recorder
20 June 1861