MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1954	Press Mis.
124 126	
	18 61.
Dated 9—10—18 61.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th October 1861.

Read the following letters :—

No. 124. From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 12th July 1861, No. 36.

SIR,

1. In reference to a remark* of the Improvement Committee sent to me as "Collector," regarding funds at my disposal collected from the bazar for cleaning it, I beg to report for the information of Government in case, they require it, that the tax had its origin in the time and under the authority of Colonel Crewe, the first Military Commandant of Ootacamund, approved by the Board as will appear from the correspondence† marginally indicated, the contribution is voluntary and amounts only to Rupees 70, and barely suffices to maintain two carts with cattle, and eight toties, who are thus employed (without expense to Government) in cleaning the bazars and streets daily, they have done their best with limited means to keep clean the rapidly increasing station of Ootacamund.

* In their late Proceedings dated 6th May 1861.

† To Board from the Collr. of Malabar dated 6th May 1842, No. 17.
From do. dated 26th do.
To do. dated 10th June 1842, No. 26.
Proceedings of Board dated 17th October 1842.

2. I fully concur in the necessity of draining the bazar by permanent brick or stone drains, to be laid out and built by the Department Public Works, and I have on several occasions requested and advocated the same in my letters noted in the margin.‡ I would again suggest that the Hill Engineer, Captain Farewell, be directed by Government to estimate for, and complete the same.

‡ 19th October 1853, No. 384.
23th May 1359, No. 102.
21st June 1859.
10th August 1859, No. 170.

3. I beg leave to enclose copy of one of my letters only, simply to show the Government I did my best (long before the Improvement Committee existed) to remedy any evils I saw or heard of. I had no funds at my disposal, whatever I did accomplish was by voluntary contributions; that the Engineer did not attend to the drainage, was not for want of my asking. I would also beg to refer to my letter to Board, dated 23rd June 1859, No. 103. I have, in fact, formerly attended to all points now mooted by the Improvement Committee, though I had not funds or sanction to carry out all I wished or asked.

4. Until the proposed new arrangement of *boats* for necessaries be sanctioned and completed (if Government think it best) for Rupees 3,000, it is absolutely necessary that the present Pykhanas (over running water into the lake) be maintained, as the only alternative; *they* also were built by me on voluntary contributions, without any cost to Government eight years ago, and are much dilapidated. I request sanction for 350 Rupees§ to rebuild the three (of 60 feet each in length), whenever the new boat system may come into operation; the materials of these Pykhanas will sell for half or one-third their present cost, and will be no great expense to Government.

§ As small a sum as is possible.

No. 125. From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 15th August 1861, No. 43.

SIR,

1. With reference to my letter of the 12th July, No. 36, to Secretary to Government, I would beg early sanction for the 350 Rupees to erect new latrines over the main channel of running water, by which all effluvia or nuisance is obviated.

2. The present latrines are eight years old and much dilapidated. The native inhabitants‖ (near the lake and in the bazar) have now offered to me, if the present system of latrines (a convenience and comfort to them) is allowed to remain, to bear one-third of the cost, or Rupees 117.

‖ Not rich, but of the lower orders.

3. Having as I believe acquired, in twelve years official connection, the confidence and good will of the native community, I have little doubt of being able to secure their aid (in any reasonable degree) in the present object, and for any improvements Government may see fit to order me to carry out.

4. I think all the works suggested in my letter to Chief Secretary, 11th May, No. 23, could be carried out for the sums named. The lower road could also be raised 6 inches (all that seems really necessary), and metalled throughout for 1,000 Rupees, and a fair though not *perfect* system of drainage of the bazar, could be effected, I think, for 500 more. The *latrines* are urgent, other improvements can wait the pleasure of Government.

5. A few other minor works in the place are desirable, if Government would entrust me with funds (out of the 7,000 already sanctioned) I would guarantee to complete all I now ask within two months from date of sanction.

	RS.
For some additional planting about the place, and round the lake. ...	100
(Viz., purchase of plants 30	
Cooly hire. ... ... 70)	
For levelling, and increasing the area of the market place, now insufficient.	100
Total...	200

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS,
Collector.

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to W. FRASER, Esq., District Engineer of Coimbatore, dated Coimbatore, 10th August 1859, No. 170.

SIR,

1. In endeavouring to carry out some sanatory and local measures here, desired by the senior Medical Officer, Dr. Mackay, and adverted to in Lord Harris' Minute of the 13th November 1858 and my report* thereon, I would avail myself of your advice and local observation, and will briefly state what I have done, and what appears to be still desired, if practicable.

* 18th July 1859, No. 34.

2. No new *huts* have been allowed *in* Ootacamund for several years, nor are any such to be found; all new comers have been obliged to build out at Candul or beyond upper "North Downs" or near the cut at Elk Hill, the old huts and lines have consequently become very full of people. I have lined out small holdings (of which any new comer can buy one or two as he requires) at "Candul" for about 100 new houses, and there is space for as many at two other localities. The present main bazar cannot be widened, there is not space, and if there were, the destruction of property and consequent compensation due to the house-holders (who have built and lived there 20 and 30 years) would be heavy, but it is on a good slope and *can* be well drained, which *should*, I think, be done efficiently and permanently by your Department at the expense of Government. I have only done what I could temporarily in opening drains, filling pools, &c. Dr. Mackay *wishes* the *lower* line of houses next to the lake all to be removed, it would perhaps be desirable, but costly, and if good drainage among them be made, perhaps unnecessary. Dr. Mackay also wishes the two corners N. E. and N. W. of the Willow Bund to be filled in to give the water a better flow through the Willow Bund bridge; it would *perhaps* have that effect, but I fear this would cost *great* labour and expense, and I hardly see where the soil is to come from.

3. About six years ago to stop a growing and unavoidable public nuisance, I constructed three public necessaries (two for men, one for females) to prevent the unavoidable exposure and offence consequent on a crowded bazar of several thousand persons, having no place to resort to (surrounded by European houses) but the open ground; the "Pykhanas" are over water, effluvia is prevented, they clear into the lake by a small water channel turned into them, and have been for the last six years a great public convenience and act well, but they are roughly built and might be improved and perhaps be better placed *over the main channel*, when you have leisure to inspect them. I have ordered three other similar Pykhanas in three other localities requiring them.

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4. There are two swampy hollows objected to by the Medical Officer, and perhaps which require either draining or filling up (near Mr. Lowry's, and at Charing Cross bridge). The Medical Officer also wishes *all* the swamps in Ootacamund to be drained, practicable I have no doubt to your skill, but I fear an expensive work.

5. Another and a very important point is the present level of the lake, whether it should be raised, lowered, or kept as at present? Dr. Mackay would, I believe, have it lowered; your own view would be I believe to keep it as at present, defining its edges where practicable. I should concur in your view, to lower it would expose many accumulations of mud, &c.; to raise it might endanger the bund, and also would swamp many houses and much valuable land in a crowded locality, where space is already *scarce*; but this matter needs your skilful and careful consideration. I think these are the main points noticed by the Medical Officer, within your Department; on any or all of which I shall be happy to consult with you, joining my own local experience of these hills, to your scientific judgment and skill—our present meeting here on duty, affords a good opportunity for such conference, of which I gladly avail myself. The question of water supply to all or most houses, mooted by me many years ago, is already I believe under your consideration.

N. B.—Nothing was replied or done on this letter by the District Engineer.

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS,
Collector.

No. 126. ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1861, No. 1,954.

Referred to the Chief Engineer for early report.

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

Rev Dept 3

No-1954

Proceedings of the Madras Govt,
Under date 9th October 1861

Read the following
letters

From the Collr of Coimbatore
Proposing certain im-
provements at Dotacamund. / Rec'd under 12 July/61, No 36/-

From - do - do.
On the same subject. / Rec'd under 15 Aug/61, No 43/.

Referred to the
Chief Engr for early report.

I D S

13 Copies
To the Chief Engr - Rec'd 9

191-192.

15-7-61

Cobs proposal for certain improvements at Pota-
: camund -

Revenue 1861 Dep.t
Pro: of Gov.t for October -
No 1954 -
Pro: of the Madras Gov.t
of 9th October 1861 -

Referring to the
Chief Engr. letter from the
Coll.r of Coimbatore regarding
certain improvements at
Potacamund -

From the Chief Engineer
19 December /61 C. No. 2900 in

No 124 at 126.