M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2025	Press / ~~Mis.~~
268 - 269	
Dated 22 — 10 — 18 61	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd October 1861.

Read the following papers :—

No. 268. *Proceedings of the Meeting of the inhabitants of Ootacamund, dated 21st September* 1861.

At a numerous meeting of the inhabitants of Ootacamund assembled subsequent to a conference held with the Right Honorable the Governor, at His Excellency's desire, relative to the formation of a Municipal Council for the affairs of the station.

James Ouchterlony, Esq., is called to the Chair. Lieutenant-Colonel Hadfield proposes, seconded by A. C. Campbell, Esq.,

That the following gentlemen be requested to form a Committee for framing a Local Municipal act applicable to the circumstances and wants of Ootacamund.

Mr. Ouchterlony.
Major Wapshare.
Mr. Dawson.
Revd. G. U. Pope, and
Pestonjee Nurserwanjee ;

and that the said Committee is requested to report on its labors to a public meeting of the inhabitants to be duly summoned by it, on or before the 28th October.

Carried unanimously.

The Revd. G. U. Pope, proposes, seconded by Captain Begbie,

That a copy of these Proceedings be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor with an expression of the earnest desire of the inhabitants that until a Municipal Council can be organized the Governor will continue the present Local Improvement Committee in all their functions, and especially in respect of their carrying out improvements in the sanitary condition of the bazar which has been represented by the Medical gentlemen of the station to be at present seriously prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants.

Carried unanimously.

Thanks are voted to the Chairman for his services in the Chair.

(Signed) J. OUCHTERLONY, *Chairman.*

No. 269. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT.

OOTACAMUND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.

1. The gentlemen composing this body were appointed early in 1860 at the suggestion of Sir Charles Trevelyan, who, on a visit to the place in February 1860, remarked upon certain evils which were brought under his notice, and proposed to work out arrangements which he specified in a Minute, by means of a local Committee consisting of the Collector, the Magistrate and four other Members. Sir Charles thought it practicable at no distant date to hand over the management of local affairs to a Municipal Council, but he was of opinion that the preliminary improvements might be made by Government, acting through the above official machinery. If, however, the work was to be done by the Government, the machinery was too complicated, and the result has been that, while much correspondence has passed between the Government and the Committee and many suggestions made, but little has been done to remedy any of the evils complained of.

2. Since my arrival at Ootacamund I have looked carefully into the principal matters which have any action upon the sanitary condition of the place, and the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants, which may be briefly stated to be as follows :—

(1.) The drainage of the bazar, that is, of a few streets on the side of the lake. This, as the slope towards the lake is very rapid, can easily be done ; all that is required, is the formation of the drains in the streets which run parallel to the shore of the lake.

(2.) The levelling of the ground in the neighbourhood of the market place. This can easily be done ; a few convicts from the gaol, whose services are no longer required, will, in the course of a couple of months, level the whole of this space.

(3.) Supply of water. This could be easily arranged, as from the height of the hills surrounding the station, the springs upon them can be brought to all parts of the town at a trifling expense.

(4.) The position of the latrines for the use of the bazar. These it appears to me should be upon the main stream, which falls into the lake ; there is always water sufficient to sweep away all offensive matter.

(5.) The lake :—this has been objected to by some medical men, but it appears to me without any good cause. I believe that the retention of the water by the lower bund and the dilution of the drainage which flows into the lake has been most beneficial to the community ; it might, however, be desirable to retain the power of lowering the water of the lake to the extent of a couple of feet, in order to provide for the drainage of some swampy land towards the upper end ; this could easily be done by lowering the waste channel under the bridge to that extent.

3. After thinking over the mode in which these works could best be carried out, I felt convinced that a body constituted like the Improvement Committee could not properly be entrusted with the expenditure of public money. The members are altogether irresponsible for anything which they may do as such, and the plans which they have submitted, while they are costly, are, in my opinion, not at all likely to produce the beneficial effects which are anticipated. It appeared to me then that there are only two alternatives open to the Government : first, to carry out the ulterior view of Sir C. Trevelyan, and to establish a local municipality ; second, to revert to the former system, and to carry out any improvements which might be wanted through the proper Officers of the Government. Having therefore called the inhabitants together, I explained to them my views with reference to the constitution of the Improvement Committee, and then recommended them to consider whether the time had not arrived when all local arrangements might be entrusted to a Municipal body. After a good deal of conversation, the opinion of the meeting was taken, and was unanimous in favor of a Municipality. I then pointed out that there was an Act in force which enabled the Government to appoint at once Municipal Commissioners ; and the question which I wished them to consider was, whether they would prefer being constituted a Municipal body at once under the provisions of the general Act, or would apply to the Legislature for a special Act ; the latter alternative was adopted by the meeting. I then left them to make their own arrangements for preparing the Bill constituting them a Municipality. Since then I have received the accompanying account of what took place after I left the meeting. The only paragraph which at present requires notice is that which requests that the present Local Improvement Committee may be continued in all their functions. I have before stated that I do not consider an irresponsible body like this ought to be entrusted with the expenditure of public money, and I have also great doubts whether, under the present arrangements, by which every item of public expenditure ought to be inserted in the Budget, it is competent for the Government to appropriate the money arising from the sale of land in the neighbourhood of Ootacamund, to local purposes ; whether I am right in this, or wrong, it is evident that the Improvement Committee must come to the Government for money to carry out any of their schemes for sanitary improvement, for their chance of obtaining the amount required by the sale of land is very trifling.

4. In my opinion, therefore, the course which it would be advisable for the Government to take with reference to the Improvement Committee would be to thank the Members in courteous language for the assistance which they have given to the Government, and to inform them that their services will no longer be required, as it is the wish of the inhabitants of Ootacamund that a Municipal system should be established therein ; that the Government will carefully consider any provisions which may be submitted with a view to the constitution of a Municipality ; and, in the meantime, instructions will be given to the District Engineer to prepare the necessary estimates for the works which may be required for the drainage of the bazar, the

supply of water, and other arrangements connected with the sanitary state of the town, which will be inserted in the Budget for 1862-63. The questions connected with the Establishment of a Municipal body in Ootacamund can be considered when the plan of the Committee is submitted.

28th September 1861. (Signed) W. T. DENISON.

No. 270. ORDER THEREON, 22nd October 1681, No. 2,025.

1. The first of the papers recorded above contains a resolution of the inhabitants of Ootacamund, appointing a Committee for framing a local Municipal Act, applicable to the circumstances and wants of that station, and suggesting that, until a Municipal Committee can be organized, the present Improvement Committee be permitted to continue their functions.

2. The Ootacamund Improvement Committee was formed in the early part of 1860, to carry out various local improvements which had suggested themselves to His Excellency Sir Charles Trevelyan when he visited the station in the early part of 1860. His Excellency thought it would be practicable at no distant date to hand over the management of local affairs to a Municipal Council, but was of opinion that in the meantime the preliminary improvements would be best effected by means of a Committee of official and unofficial members nominated by the Government. This expectation, however, has not been fulfilled. Many schemes of improvement have been suggested and much correspondence followed, but the practical results have been unimportant.

3. The present head of the Government has taken advantage of his visit to Ootacamund to consider the principal matters bearing on the sanitary condition of the place, and the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants. These may be briefly stated as follows :—

I. The drainage of the bazar, *i.e.*, of a few streets on the side of the lake.
II. The levelling of the ground in the neighbourhood of the market place.
III. The supply of water.
IV. The position of the latrines for the use of the bazar.
V. The improvement of the lake.

As to the first of these, His Excellency considers that the drainage of the bazar can be easily effected, as the slope towards the lake is very rapid. All that is required is the formation of drains in the street, which run parallel with the shore of the lake. The second work, *i. e.*, the levelling of the ground in the neighbourhood of the market place, can also be easily done. A few convicts from the jail, whose services are no longer required on the work on which they have been hitherto engaged, will in the course of two months level the whole of the space in question. Thirdly, the supply of water could be easily arranged, as from the heights of the surrounding hills, the springs upon them may be brought to all parts of the town at a trifling expense Fourthly, the latrines for the use of the bazar should, in the opinion of His Excellency, be upon the main stream which falls into the lake, and has always water sufficient to carry away all offensive matter. Fifthly, as to the improvement of the lake, the circumstance of the main stream discharging itself into the lake has been objected to by some medical men, but it appears, so far from this being the case, it is more likely that the retention of the water by the lower bund, and the dilution of the drainage which flows into the lake, has been beneficial to the community. It may, however, be desirable to retain the power of lowering the water of the lake about two feet, in order to provide for the drainage of some swampy land towards the upper end ; this may be easily done by lowering the waste channel under the bridge to that extent.

4. In these views the Government concur, and they also are satisfied that a body like the present Improvement Committee does not form a suitable or efficient agency for the expenditure of public money. The Committee in fact is not responsible either to Government or the community, its plans of improvement while extremely costly are not at all likely to produce the beneficial effects anticipated. There are now only two alternatives open to Government ; first, to carry out the ulterior view of Sir Charles Trevelyan, and establish a local municipality ; second, to revert to the former system, and to carry out all requisite improvements through the proper Officers of

Government. From the proceedings of the inhabitants recorded above, it is observed that they have declared in favor of a Municipal Council, and that they prefer to have a special Legislative Act instead of the existing one, which empowers the Government to appoint Municipal Committees in towns, the inhabitants of which are willing to avail themselves of its provisions.

5. The only portion of the proceedings of the inhabitants which requires notice at present, is the request that the present local Improvement Committee may be continued in all their functions. The Government regret that they are unable to comply with the request, partly for the reason above stated, and partly because they doubt whether, under the present arrangement of inserting in the financial Budget every item of public expenditure, it is competent for the Government to appropriate funds raised by the sale of land in the neighbourhood of Ootacamund, to local purposes. Such being the case, and until matters are ripe for the formation of a Municipal Council, the Government deem it advisable to dissolve the Improvement Committee of Ootacamund, and re-invest the Public Works Department with the care and execution of all works of improvement connected with the station. In thus dissolving the Committee, the Government must record their obligations to its members for the aid which they have always so readily afforded.

6. As to the wish of the inhabitants for the establishment of a municipal system, the Government have only to signify their full approval of the proposed arrangement, and to assure the community of their cordial co-operation in carrying it into effect. In the meantime the Chief Engineer, to whom these Proceedings will be communicated, will instruct the District Engineer to prepare the necessary estimates for the works which may be required for the drainage of the bazar, the supply of water, and other arrangements connected with the sanitary state of the town, which will be inserted in the Budget for 1862-63.

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

September 24th 1861.

At a numerous meeting of the inhabitants of Ootacamund assembled subsequent to a Conference held with the Right Honorable the Governor at His Excellency's desire relative to the formation of a Municipal Council for the affairs of the station.

James Auchterlony Esqre is called to the chair.

Lieutenant Colonel Radfield proposes, seconded by A. C. Campbell Esqre

That the following Gentlemen be requested to form a Committee for framing a local Municipal act applicable to the circumstances and wants of Ootacamund.

Mr. Auchterlony
Major Wapshare
Mr. Dawson
Revd. T. W. Pope
and Pestonjee Nusserwanjee

and that the said Committee is requested to report on its labors to a public meeting of the inhabitants to be duly summoned by it, on or before the 28th October.—

Carried unanimously.—

The Revd. T. W. Pope proposes, seconded by Captain Begbie

That a copy of these Proceedings be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor with an expression of the earnest desire of the inhabitants that until a Municipal Council can be organized the Governor will continue the present local Improvement Committee in all their functions, and especially in respect of their carrying out improvements in the sanitary condition

of

of the Bazar which has been represented by the Medical Gentlemen of the station to be at present seriously prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants.

Carried unanimously

Thanks are voted to the Chairman for his services in the Chair.

Secretary

Chairman

Rec'd 18th Sept.
Prot. of Govt. Dec.
No 2538

Proceedings of a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Ootacamund

Date 21st Sept.
Received

(30 Enclosures)

Relative to the formation & settlement of Ootacamund

No 268

No 1025. 22nd Octr

Sums granted on loan by the Committee from date of their formation until 30th June 1864 — Rs. a. P

For improvements — + 3000 .. 0 .. 0

For purchase of Lower Street — ⊗ 7000 .. 0 .. 0

+ of this 2000 Rs has been drawn from Collector

⊗ of this none has been drawn.

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account from and to the same date with Govt.

Received advances from Collector — Rs 2000 .. 0 .. 0

Repaid to Collector by sales of land — 857 .. 0 .. 0

Balance due to Government — Rs. 1143 .. 0 .. 0

Mr A sum of about 500 Rs is still due to the Committee for Land purchased which when realized will be placed to credit of the Government.

Memo of all monies received by the Committee up to said date and the manner in which it has been expended. Sales of Land excepted.

advance from Collector as above Rs	2000	P for repair of Office Rs	107 . 0 . 0
Fees p.d by applicants for Land	172	for some houses in Lower St	905 . 0 . 0
Sale of Materials of houses	143	for Mamoe	25 .. 11 . 0
Rs.	2315	For advertising sales	65 .. 0 .. 0
	2007 .. 11	Workmen	867 . 0 .. 0
Balance in hand Rs	307 . 5	Writing & Peons for Secretary	38 .. 0 .. 0
			2007 .. 11 .. 0

Work done

Embankments have been made, and some rose hedges and trees planted on the road round the Lake, the Central Steam which supplies the Lake has been

cleaned out, drains have been dug in the low ground near the Market place, Surveys have been made of several lots of land which have been sold, The upper Lake has been surveyed with all the details of the tenements on its borders. The drains of the Bazar have been thoroughly put in working order. Several houses at the end of the lower street of the Bazar have been purchased and the ground levelled. The hedges and many trees have been watered during the dry season, and watched to prevent injury from cattle. Plans have been made and topics framed to guide the purchase of lots of land, and the general Survey of the Station has been commenced.

Plans & Estimates for a general System of drainage of the place and for a proposed scheme for removing the night soil have been prepared and submitted to Government.

W. H. Wapshare

Rev 2322/61

Rec'd 13/8/61.
Supt. Cantts.

Memorandum shewing the number of Acres of private Property registered, and that held on Puttah in the Cantonment of Cotacamund-

	Acres-	
Private property registered according to the Quit Rent Register	2810	
Lands held on Puttah	347-	
Total	3157	

The boundary Office can do nothing further in the matter.

E. D. T.

10. 9. 61

Rev 2553/61

	Acres.
	2810
	317
	3167

Memorandum.

1. The Cantonment of Oberammergau extends to a radius of 3 miles from the Station Office.
Its circumference is 18.84 miles. and its area is = 28.27 Square miles or 18095.61 acres. Of which according to the Thomas' Census only 3157 acres are held as private property and portion land, This amount however Station can only include land within a radius of one and a half mile which appears to have always been considered the Extent of the Cantonment — The radius however having been extended to 3 miles, the after deducting the private property above stated there remains a balance of 14938. as such property also after deducting the land occupied by roads towns lake and public buildings Bazaars &c. which amounts to about 5600 acres. leaving a balance of 9338 - acres which includes a quantity of portion land belonging Badeyhuts × portion above recorded to amount-

2. Plan which attached -

3 Do. Do.

Oberammergau
14 August 1861

Thuerk

× and a quantity of land in addition to the Grounds which it is only Kept over the Tenants cannot be compelled to part with.

Can 2523 8/61

Information as to Landslips at Ootacamund and accounts of Same

Committee

Ootacamund Improvement Committee.

No. 4.

This Committee was formed at the suggestion of the late Governor, Sir Charles Trevelyan. He visited the Nilgherries in February 1860, and found that certain evils which Lord Harris* had observed at Ootacamund in 1858 were still unremedied; and looking to the great influx of capital and population consequent on the opening of the Railroad, he said these evils would soon become irremediable if they were not vigorously and promptly dealt with. The land tenures, he pointed out, were still various and complex, the water supply and sewage very imperfect, and while much care and expense had been bestowed upon the improvement of private estates, the public property was in a very neglected condition. The forests were still undergoing rapid dilapidation; while the upper lake, with the stream discharging into it, forming the heart and capable of being easily made the chief ornament of the place, were fast becoming a pestilential swamp. Sir Charles Trevelyan recommended the following arrangements

Paras 21 to 24 of Sir Chas: Trevelyan's Minute, dated 23d February 1860.

* His Lordship's Minute is dated 11th December 1858.

to remedy the evils.

1st. The station and adjoining lands to be carefully surveyed, and mapped on a sufficiently large scale to allow of the smallest allotments being measured off on the map with a pair of compasses.

2d. After reserving sufficients for public purposes, the whole of the Fort land within the station, and a sufficient extent adjoining, to be formed into allotments, carefully adjusted with reference to roads, water supply, & the requirements of the different classes of European and native settlers.

3d. These allotments to be sold by public auction, as demands arise, in full freehold property, to the highest bidder, at an upset price of *10 Rs an acre.

4th. The proceeds to be available for required improvements, and for compensating the holders of land.

5th. The sewage of the Central Bazaar to be provided for, in connection with the embankment of the Upper Lake, & the laying out of the strand road and adjoining building allotments.

6th. The supply of water to the station from the adjoining hills to be separately considered and reported on.

* afterwards on Mr. Dickinson's suggestion made to depend on the relative position & value of the land, in respect to frontage, position, & other advantages.

7th. The woods in the neighbourhood of the station to be placed under the immediate charge of the Conservator of Forests; and the privilege of cutting wood and turf in the more distant woods and in the peat bogs, to be periodically put up by him to public auction, subject to proper conditions.

To carry out these arrangements, he suggested the appointment of a local Committee consisting of the Col, the Magistrate, Mr. Rhode, the Inspector of Prisons, Dr. Mackay, Mr. Dawson, and Mr. Kaiser the District Engr. Sir Charles Trevelyan thought it practicable at no distant date to hand over the management of the local affairs of the station to a Municipal Council; but he was of opinion that the preliminary improvements should be made, by Fort Establishment acting thro' the above official machinery.

Pro: of Govt (Pol. Dep.) 4 April 1860, no 689, para 6.

2. The Govt entirely approved of the appointment of the proposed Committee, as a temporary arrangement, to carry the contemplated improvements into effect, with the Col as its President; and vested the practical execution of the Engineering arrangements in the District Engr.

3. Pursuant to this resolution, the Committee met and formed themselves, appointing Mr. Nisbett, Apt Magistrate, as their first Secretary.[a] Major Napshaw was afterwards nominated by Fort as a member, and the Committee appointed him as their Secretary;[b] and subsequently Mr. J. Druchtenberg,[c] Apt Surgeon Rogers vice Mackay, and the District Surveyor[d] were appointed to the Committee

(a) Pro: of Fort: 4 May/60, no 715.

(b) Pro: 24th Nov/60, no 2223.

(c) Pro: 15 May/60, no 1361.

(d) 8 Feb/61, no 307.

I. Powers

4. Three members to form a quorum, and absent members to vote by proxy, each proxy being one of the Committee

Pro: 4th May/60, no 715; & 4th Aug/60, no 1297.

Sphere of Action. Fort declared that the whole of the unoccupied land within the station was to be dealt with by the Committee. Mr Thomas raised the question as to defining the limits of the station: the Fort at first said the Committee themselves were to determine the proper limits of their sphere of action; but afterwards, as the Committee appeared desirous of knowing it for their own guidance, the Fort fixed the limits of the station coextensive with the

Pro: 26 June/60, no 1056.

idem.

Pro: 6th Sept/60, no 1537.

2/

take Military Cantonment, i.e. a circuit of 3 miles from the Post Office.

Pro: 4 May/60, no 715.

Power to sell Land. Pending the completion of the Survey proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and in order that as little delay as possible might be occasioned in giving dispatch, the Committee resolved that all applications for land be submitted to them, & that they would cause a survey to be made on the scale proposed for the general survey, defining the boundaries with reference to adjoining lots, roads, future improvements &c.; and upon their application, the Fort authorized them to sell allotments of land within and adjoining Victoria, under the rules laid down for their guidance, without reference to the Board of Revenue, or to Fort. This led to the Fort wishing some limits to be assigned to the Committee's sphere of action as above described.

From England, 15 Dec/60 no 83.

The Secretary of State, however, thought that the limits within which

the Committee could sell lands without reference to the Board of Revenue, or Govt, should be clearly defined, & that their powers should be restricted to land for building purposes or gardens, and not extended to lands required for agriculture, which were to be dealt with in the usual way by the Collr.

Survey. Very little progress appears to have been made with the survey. Mr. Asst Engr Williams was placed under the Committee for this purpose, at first to carry out the work himself; but afterwards, apparently, owing to incompetency, under Mr Brodribb the Asst Engr, and subsequently, under Capt Farewell.

Pro: 26 June/60, No 1056.

14 March/60, No 593.

Building Allotments. Mr Thomas, the Collr, proposed to fix the size of building allotments at about 5 cawnies each. At first Govt thought that no limit could be fixed, as it must often depend on the conformation of the ground; and they therefore left it to the judgment and taste of the Committee; but afterwards,

Pro: 26 June/60, No 1056.

on reconsideration, they approved the limit of 5 cawnies as a maximum size, leaving it open however to exceed this slightly, wherever a larger size would better suit the nature of the ground, but in all other cases where larger sizes were required, special application was to be made to Govt.

Pro: 6 Sept/60, No 1537.

Price of Land. Ten Rupees an acre was the upset price adopted as proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan; but on the suggestion of Mr Ouchterlony, this Govt approved the upset price being fixed according to the relative value of the land, in respect to position, landscape, or other advantages.

Fixed the 20 Rs as the upset price of Building Land on the Lake as per Govt Order from Home - as the upset price of Land on the Circular Road is Rs 10 per Cawnee at present

Pro: 14 March/60, No 593

Power to investigate titles. The Committee themselves appointed Majrs Rhode, Dawson, & Mr Nisbett (the Secretary), a Sub Committee to enquire into the titles by which the houses and land, along the margin of the Lake from the Willow Bund to the end of the Bazaar, were held, and on what terms owners would be willing to part with the same. Sub

vide their Report for the Quarter ending 30 June/60.
Pro: of Govt: 4 Aug/60, No 1297.

sequently, on the Committee reporting that their plans for draining and improving the Bazar at Ootacamund were greatly impeded by claims to land founded on alleged Pattas, Govt. gave them the power to investigate the validity of pattas, aided by the Collr, Tahsildar, and other Revenue officers, where the claims to land interfered with the operations of the Committee. — 20 March /61. — Ro: 4 April /61, No 737.

On Mr. Thomas moving the question, the Committee decided that they were not competent to settle path. way and waterway disputes. — Report of Comtee for Qr. ending 30 June /60 in Ro: of Govt 4 Aug / No 1293

Act VI of 1847. In answer to an enquiry of the Committee, they were informed that it was competent to the Govt to empower their Secretary, or some other of their number, to act under the provisions of Act VI of 1847; the Govt being previously fully informed as to the nature of the case in which it was intended to apply the Act, and the object for which the land was wanted. — Ro: 4 Sept /60, No 1571.

II. Plans

Ro: of Govt. 4 May /60, No 715.

5. It may be generally stated that the consideration of the Sewerage of the station, including the cleansing and location of the Public Privies; the Water Supply* of the station, the Planting of the land between the high road and circuit of the Lake, with useful trees Obtained from the Conservator of Forests; and the Ornamental planting× of the Lake, with such as Rose cuttings; were matters which fall under the cognizance of the Improvement Committee, besides their principal one of allotting and selling sites for building purposes.

* Specially confided to Mr. Fraser, for consideration and report.

× Vide Report of the Improvement Committee for the Quarter ending 30th June /60. Ro: of Govt: 4 Aug /60, No 1297.

Report ending 30th Sept /60 Ro: of Govt: 24 Nov /60, No 3223.

Sewerage. The removal of the ordure of the Bazaar caused much discussion, different members having different plans. The Committee ultimately resolved to try the plan suggested by Mr. Rhode and Mr. Fraser, of removing the solid ordure by carts or boats, and the surface drainage by open drains discharging into the Lake; and for that purpose they placed 300 Rs at the disposal of the District Surgn.

Drainage. Difficulty was felt by the Committee from insufficiency of funds, the lower street of the Bazaar on the margin of the Lake greatly requiring drainage, for which purpose it was necessary to purchase properties along the street. At last the Committee resolved to purchase 13 holdings nearest the Willow Bund for 800 Rs; and requested the Asst Engr to ascertain the nature of foundation, and to prepare an estimate for a drain and timber bridge on the north side, to afford a discharge for the surface drainage into the lower lake, and passage for boats.

Ornamental Improvements. For fencing and such purposes trees &c. were at first purchased from the Govt. Gardens; but upon representation, they were afterwards ordered to be supplied gratis for public avenues &c.

Surveying and Advertising. To cover the expenses of such work, fees of 2 or 3 Rs an acre were ordered to be levied from purchasers of land.

Tracing Roads. Tracing the road on Fern Hill from the brick opposite Church was also undertaken by the Committee.

idem.

Pro: 11th April 60, No 811.

idem

idem

idem

Supply of Firewood. It may be added that the Col. proposed the appropriation of 1000 Rs from the funds at the disposal of the Committee, to open roads to the firewood Sholas; but the Committee rejected the proposal, and the Govt approved their decision, because the money was proposed to be spent on roads which lay outside the station.

III. Funds.

6. The 4th of Sir Charles Trevelyan's ~~suggestions~~ suggestions proposed that the proceeds of the sales of land were to be available for improvements and for compensating holders of land required to yield possession. Under this the Committee have received advances from the Govt, on the understanding that they were to be repaid from the receipts of land sold; Quarterly Reports of their Proceedings and Statements of Accounts being furnished for the information of Govt. The first advance authorized was for 3000 Rs, for planting the land lying between the high road and the circuit of

Pro: 4 May 60, No 705.

the Lake, and to protect the same by enclosing it with a fence, and placing it under proper watchers, as well as for other improvements not specified.

A second advance of 7000 Rs was made for enlarged operations, to be returned in like manner from receipts on sales of land. The immediate object of the application was for the drainage of the lower street, the state of which was supposed to be the cause of the very great mortality, brought to notice by Dr. Mackay. Of the advances thus authorized (3000 + 7000 = 10,000), only 414 Rs was returned to the Govt at the date of the Committee's report ending 31st Dec.r 60. By the report for the quarter ending 31st March 61, it appears however that 80 more lots of land were sold for 1896 Rs, but only 150 Rs of this had been actually realized and paid over to the Govt.

Pro: 11 April 61, no 811.

It may be here noticed that the Govt disallowed 107 Rs in the Committee's accounts, charged for repairing and fitting an Office for themselves.

W.S.
22/7/61.

Pro: 24th Nov.r 60, no 2223.

Memo:

Cotacamund Improvement Committee - their formation, powers, plans, & funds.

22/7/61.

28/7/61

Cotacamund Improvement Committee 16

The Gentlemen composing this body were appointed early in Feb at the suggestion of Sir Charles Trevelyan who on a visit to the place in Feb 1860 remarked upon certain evils which were brought under his notice, and proposed the work and arrangements should be specified in a minute, by means of a local Committee consisting of the Collector, the Magistrate & four other Members. Sir Charles thought it practicable at no distant date to hand over the management of local affairs to a municipal Council but he was of opinion that the preliminary improvements might be made by Govt acting through the above official machinery. If however the work was to be done by the Govt the machinery was too complicated. and the result has been that, while much correspondence has passed between the Govt & the Committee, & many suggestions made, but little has been done to remedy any of the evils complained of.

Since my arrival at Ootacamund I have looked carefully into the principal matters

which have any action upon the sanitary condition of the place and the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants which may be briefly stated as follows.

1st The drainage of the Bazaar. That is of a few streets on the side of the Lake - the ground on this slope towards the Lake is very rapid can easily be done - all that is required is the formation of the drains in the streets which run parallel to the shore of the Lake.

2nd The levelling of the ground in the neighbourhood of the Market place - this can easily be done - a few cartloads from the Fort - whose services are no longer required, will in the course of a couple of months level the whole of this space

3rd Supply of water this could be easily arranged as from the height of the hills surrounding the station the springs upon these can be brought to all parts of the Town at a trifling expense.

4th The position of the latrines in the vicinity the Bazaar - This Shakspeare tank should perhaps be made a stream which falls into the Lake there is always water sufficient to sweep away all offensive matter -

5th The Lake - This has been objected by some medical men but Shakspeare tank has come to me without any good cause - I believe that this retention of the water by the lower Bund and the dilution of the drainage which flows into the Lake has been most beneficial to the Community brought however to demand to retain the power of lowering the water of the Lake to the extent of a couple of feet in order to provide for the drainage of some swampy land towards the upper end this could easily be done by this could easily be done by lowering the waste Channel under the bridge to that extent - after thinking over the matter in which there seems could best be carried out I felt convinced that a body consisting of the Superintendent of Public Works. the members of the Committee could not properly be entrusted with the Expenditure of public money. the members are all of them irresponsible for any thing which they may do as such and the Plans which they have submitted while they are costly, are in my opinion not at all likely to produce the beneficial effects which are anticipated. It appeared to me that there were only two alternatives open to the Govt. first to carry

Municipal views of Sir C. Trevelyan and to establish a local municipality - Lord D. reverted to the former system and to carry out any improvements which might be wanted through the proper offices of the Govt having thereupon called the Inhabitants together, I explained to them my views with reference to the constitution of the Improvement Committee and Sir recommended them to consider whether the time had not arrived when all local arrangements might be entrusted to a municipal body. After a good deal of conversation the opinion of the meeting was taken & was unanimously in favour of a Municipality - I then pointed out that there was an act in force which enabled the Govt to appoint at once Municipal Commrs and the question which I wished them to consider was whether they would prefer being constituted a Municipal Body at once under the provisions of this Act or would apply to the Legislature for a special act: the latter alternative was adopted by the meeting - I then left them to make their own arrangements for preparing the Bill constituting them a municipality - Since then I have received the accompanying account of what took place after I left the meeting - the only paragraph which at present requires notice is that which regards the present local improvement committee may be continued until their functions - I have before stated that I do not consider an irresponsible body like this ought to be entrusted with the expenditure of public money - and I have also great doubts whether under the present arrangements by which every item of public expenditure ought to be inserted in the budget, this is competent for the Govt to appropriate the money arising from the sale of land in the neighbourhood of Colaba and to local purposes - whether it can be done by reappropriation or by supplementary estimate it is evident that the

Improvement Committee
must consult the Govt in
order to carry out any of
their schemes for Sanitary
improvements, for their
chance of obtaining the amount
required by the rate of Land
is very trifling.
In my opinion therefore the
course which would be
advisable for the Govt to
take with reference to the
improvement Committee
would be to thank the
members in courteous
language for the application
which they have given to
the Govt, and to inform
them that as it is the desire
of the Inhabitants of Bota:
=cumund that a Mu:
=nicipal system should
be established therein
the Govt will carefully
consider any provisions
which may be submitted
with a view to the constr:
=uction of a municipality
and in the mean time
instructions will be
given to the district Engineer
to prepare the necessary
Estimates for the works
that may be required for
the drainage of the Bazaar
the supply of water, and
other arrangements con:
=nected with the Sanitary
state of the Town: which will
result in the budget for
1862-63 — The questions
connected with the Establishment
of a municipal body in Bota:
=cumund can be considered
when the Plan of the Committee
is submitted

Mercier

I concur with the President in it being inexpedient that the Corporation of Edinburgh should form themselves into a regular Municipal body for local purposes. Meantime it seems best that works of improvement which the Govt may sanction & supply money for shall be executed by the Parlt Works Dept. in the usual manner. I have felt bound to express to the President regarding the course proposed by him which has been adopted in making over for local purposes the sums obtained by the sale of Govt lands.

7 Oct/61

Laissez les lettres
suivantes pour mettre à la
Cour de Cristal — Et les
faire remettre aux Princes
et aux Princesses.

Le Maréchal Pelissier, le Duc
de Malakoff & la

Rec'd 10th Oct.
Registered
Printed by the Queen
Secretary for Scotland
Scotland
Appointment Chamberlain
Dated 28th September
Recommended Oct 5/61

(By Address that the Office
= cannot Chamberlain
Commission should be
re-continued and the
Secretary consider if the
Revenue should be
the Revenue Commissioners
Commissioners of
Answered Oct 10

No 2025 22d October

C5 Victoria R. 8c

1269.

N° 2025

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 28 October 1861
Read the following papers

Proc.s of the meeting of the
Inhabitants of Colaccamund
Relative to the for- (Here enter 21st Sept.r/61)
-mation of a Municipal
Council

Minute by the Hon.ble the
President, on the above. (Here enter 28th " — ")

The first of the
papers recorded above
contains a resolution
of the inhabitants of
Colaccamund appointing
a Committee for framing
a local Municipal Act
applicable to the circum-
stances and wants of that
station, and suggesting
that until a Municipal
Committee can be orga-
-nized, the prevent
Improvement

Improvement Committee
be permitted to continue
their functions.

2 The Octacamund
Improvement Committee
was formed in the early
part of 1860 to carry out
various local improve-
-ments which had sug-
-gested themselves to His
Excellency Sir Charles Trevelyan
when he visited
the station in the early
part of 1860. His Excellency
thought it would be prac-
-ticable at no distant
date to hand over the
management of local
affairs to a Municipal
Council, but was of opi-
-nion that in the mean-
-time the preliminary
improvements would be
best effected by means
of a Committee of of-
-ficial and unofficial
members

members nominated
by the Govt. This expec-
-tation however has not
been fulfilled. Many
schemes of improvement
have been suggested
and much correspond-
-ence was followed but
the practical results have
been unimportant.

The present Head
of the Govt has taken advan-
-tage of his visit to
Octacamund to consider
the principal matters
bearing on the sanitary
condition of the place,
and the comfort and
convenience of the inha-
-bitants. These may be
briefly stated as follows.

I The drainage of
the Bazár, & of a few
streets on the side of
the lake.

The

II The levelling of the ground in the neighbourhood of the market place.

III The supply of water.

IV The position of the latrines for the use of the Bazar.

V The improvement of the Lake.

As to the first of these His Excellency considers that the drainage of the bazár can be easily effected, as the slope towards the lake is very rapid. All that is required is the formation of drains in the street, which run parallel with the shore of the lake. The second work, ie. the levelling of the ground in the neighbourhood of the market place, can also be easily done. A few convicts from the jail, whose services

are no longer required on the work on which they have been hitherto engaged, will in the course of two months level the whole of the space in question. Thirdly, the supply of water could be easily arranged, as from the heights of the surrounding hills, the springs upon them may be ~~easily~~ brought to all parts of the town at a trifling expense. Fourthly, the latrines for the use of the bazár should, in the opinion of His Excellency, be upon the main stream which ~~flows~~ has its source in the lake, ~~& which therefore~~ is always ~~in~~ water sufficient to ~~carry~~ away all offensive matter. Fifthly, as to the improvement of the lake, the circumstance of the main stream discharging itself into the lake has been objected to by

some medical men, ~~but~~ it appears so far from ~~they~~ being the ~~effect without any good~~ case it is more likely ~~that this is the case~~ that the retention of the water by the lower bund, and the dilution of the drainage which flows into the lake, has been ~~more~~ beneficial to the community. It may ~~might~~ however be desirable to retain the power of lowering the water of the lake about two feet, in order to provide for the drainage of some swampy land towards the upper end; this maybe easily done by lowering the waste channel under the bridge to that extent.

4 In these views the Committee ~~Government~~ concur, and they ~~have used the words in which~~ also are satisfied that ~~they~~ ~~could not be entrusted to~~ a body like the present Improvement Committee, this petitioning ~~improvement~~ Committee does ~~cannot be considered~~ not form a suitable or ~~a body constituted like the~~ efficient

~~Improvement~~ agency for the expenditure of public money ~~could not be entrusted with the expenditure of~~ public money. The committee in fact is not responsible either to ~~an irresponsible~~ Government or the community ~~they~~ its plans ~~and the plans which they~~ for improvement while ~~pursue are not to, while they~~ extremely costly ~~are~~ ~~on the question~~ ~~of this petition~~ ~~to be~~ not at all likely to produce the beneficial effects anticipated. There are now only two alternatives open to you; first, to carry out the ulterior view of Sir Charles Brodrick, and establish a local municipality; second, to revert to the former system, and to carry out all requisite improvements thro' the proper officers of Govt. From the Proceedings of the inhabitants recorded above, it is observed that they

have declared in favour of
a Municipal Council, and
that they prefer to have a Special
Legislative Act instead
of the existing one, which em-
powers the Govt to appoint
Municipal Committees in
towns, the inhabitants of which
are willing to avail themselves
of its provisions.

5. The only portion of
the proceedings of the inhabi-
tants which requires notice
at present, is the request
that the present local Govern-
ment Committee may be
continued in all their func-
tions. The Government
regret that they are unable
to comply with this request, partly for the
reason above stated and
partly because they doubt
whether

[illegible] public money. The

have in addition [illegible] doubt
whether, under the present
arrangements of meeting in
the financial budget every
item of public expenditure,
it is competent for the Govt
to appropriate funds
raised by [illegible] the sale of land
in the neighbourhood of Roba-
canning, to local purposes.
Such being the case, and while
matters are ripe for the forma-
tion of a Municipal Council,
the Govt deem it advisable to
dissolve the Improvement
Committee of Robacanning,
and reinvest the Public Works
Dept with the care & execution
of all works of improvement
connected with the Station.
In thus disposing the Com-tee,
the Govt must record their
[illegible] obligations
[illegible] to its successors
for the [illegible] existence
for

which they have always ~~been~~
readily ~~supplied, & may~~ afforded.

6. As to the wish of the in-
habitants for the establishment
of a Municipal system, the
Govt have only to signify their
~~are prepared cordially~~
full approval of the proposed
~~to conduct any further~~
arrangement, and to assure
~~such may be conducted~~
the Community of their
~~entire~~ cordial cooperation in carry-
~~of a municipality~~. ing
ing it into effect.
~~be executed~~ ~~In~~ In the mean-
time the Chief Engr, to whom
these Proceedings will be com-
municated, will be instructed
the District Engr to prepare
the necessary Estimates for
the works which may be
required for the drainage
of the Bazar, the supply
of water, and other arrange-
ments connected with the
sanitary state of the

- town, which will be provided
in the Budget for 1862/63.

7 Copies To
The Ootacamund Improvement Committee
13 " Chief Engineer
14 " Board of Revenue for information
4 " Judicial Department

Cotacammund Im-
provement Committee.

Revenue 1861 Department.
Pro: of Govt for October

N: 2025.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 22d. October

Dissolving the Cota-
cammd Improvement Com-
mittee and requiring the Chief
Engineer to do the necessary
works for the sanitary Im-
provement of the place.

No 268 at 270.

C. 10th Oct. 817

12/5/2018