M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	914	Press ~~Mis.~~
384-385		
Dated	23-4-1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd April 1861.

No. 384. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 4th April 1861, No. 11 :—

SIR,

I only saw the Proceedings and letter of the Improvement Committee of 18th March, passed in my absence, on my coming to Ootacamund. As I think the letter of the Committee is calculated (no doubt unintentionally) somewhat to mislead the Government, and as *some* of the other members agree with me, on the sewerage and other points, I deem it right to submit for the information of Government copy of my Minute on the above.

MINUTE.

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" Pattas near the market place; and again, of "allegations" and "pretensions" near the lower part of the bazar, and "that "if such Pattas have been given," it must have been so in "ignorance or *wanton disregard* to "the public interests." As the Committee are well aware that *all* Pattas 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 inquiry my 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. Rohde, to "Maddana," firewood contractor (then holding contract under Dr. Cleghorn's and Mr. Rohde's orders), to enable him to have a *store* of wood in a safe place, near water and away from the bazar. Maddana 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 Patta or on *verbal* leave 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 right, 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;* 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 through and cleanse the Latrines and obviate all effluvia. A Latrine over running water *cannot* be very offensive; and I still maintain that except for an *idea*, Latrines 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, costly, publicly offensive, and needless. I shall be happy to give the Committee, whether as President or as Collector, any information in my power if they will do me the honor to ask me for it.

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS,
President of the Committee and Collector.

2nd April 1861.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd April 1861.

No. 385. ORDER THEREON, 23rd April 1861, No. 914.

1. The Minute received with this letter does not call for much remark.

2. Adverting to paragraph 3 the Government have to remark that even where there is no Patta, fair compensation must be paid to parties ousted from their land when held for a length of time.

3. Paragraph 4 of the Minute appears to relate to matters which have not come before Government.

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

Minute

1 I only received towards the end of March, the Proceedings of the Committee of the 18th. with Copy of Rev. their letter to Secretary to Government in which they Complain of "authorized obstructions" to improvements, from "alleged" and "trivial" Puttahs, near the market place, and again, of "allegations" and "pretensions" near the lower part of the Bazar - and "that if such Puttahs have been "given, "it must have been so in "ignorance, or wanton disregard to the "public interests". As the Committee are well aware that all Puttahs are given by the Collector for the time being, (now the Presidents 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
receiving some explanation from me,
before Condemning without due enquiry
my own or my predecessor's acts.

2 I beg now to state for their
information, that one piece of ground
alluded to below the Bazaar place
was sold on the express Request of
Dr. Cleghorn and Mr. Rohde, to —
" Maddana " the firewood Contractor,
(then holding Contract under —
Dr. Cleghorn's and Mr. Rohde's orders),
to enable him to have a store of
wood in a safe place, near water,
and away from the Bazar. Maddana
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 Bazaar, have none
of them been given within the
last 20 years. but were held &
occupied many years ago, some as
far as 30. by Pattah or on verbal
lease by the then Collector. when
the present wants and proposed —
alterations, were not dreamt of.
they have many of them documents,
and all a strong prescriptive —
unquestionable right. 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 wish them, or duty, every time I come to Coloccamund- I doubt if one of the Committee except myself can say he has ever been close to, or looked in to them, and the "intolerable stench" complained of by "some of the Members" has never struck me; 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 maintain, that except for

11

for an idea, Latrines 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- costly, publicly offensive, & needless. I shall be happy to give the Committee, whether as President or as Collector any information in my power, if they will do me the honor to ask me for it-

L. D. Thomas.

2d April 1861

President of the Committee and Collector-

No. 11

Coimbatore Collector's Office
Dotacamund 4th April 1861.

From

E. B. Thomas Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore

To

J. D. Bourdillon Esquire
Secretary to Government

Sir,

I only saw the Proceedings and letter of the Improvement Committee of 18th March, passed in my absence, on my coming to Dotacamund. As I think the letter of the Committee is calculated (no doubt unintentionally) somewhat to mislead the Government, and as some of the other members agree with me on the Sewerage and other points, I deem it right to submit for the information of Government, Copy of my Minute on the above.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

E. B. Thomas

Collector.

Read 8 Oct 1861

Minute on the Proceedings and Letter of the Improvement Committee of Coimbatore dated 18th March 1861.

4th April 1861.

No 914

The Minute received with this letter does not call for much remark.

2.— On Para 2 the Govt have to observe that as noticed in Para 4 of their order of 4th instant, Govt land within the station of Cotacamund ought to have been disposed of, after the Foundee was constituted only under its orders.—

3.— Adverting to Para 3 the Govt have to remark that even where there is no right, fair compensation must be paid to parties ousted from their lands when held for a length of time.—

4.— Para 4 of the Minute appears to relate to matters which have not come before Govt.—

Fort St George
23d April 1861

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore. Qui Para 24
13 Copies. Boards of Revenue. Para 23
7 do Improvement Committee Para 22

Pro. 4th April 1861 No 28-29
" 30th " " " 490-491

No 384 & 385

Read 13 April 1861

Revenue
1861
From The Collector of Coimbatore
To The Secretary to Government Fort St George
Pro. of Govt Department No 865 April.

Dated 4th April
Rect 10th " 1861
Encl. No. 11.

With one enclosure
Forwards Copy of his Minute on the proceedings and letter of the Improvement Committee of 18th March 1861.

No. 914 - 23d April.
Written Order.—