M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1356	Press ~~Mis.~~
355-56. Dated	14-5-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th May 1868.

No. 355. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Sanctioning estimate of Rupees 23,000 for the reclamation of the swamp at the head of the Ootacamund lake. } (Here enter 12th May 1868, No. 1,500.)

No. 356. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1868, No. 1,356.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 1,500.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 306. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 20th April 1868, No. 17:—

4 Surveys and Sections.
1 Estimate No. — Rupees 23,000.
1 Report No. 3 of 7th April 1868.

I have the honor to submit, for the sanction of Government, the survey and estimate for reclaiming the swamp at Ootacamund, called for in paragraph 5 of G. O., No. 2,940, of 21st September 1867. They are not, however, based on the plan sketched out by Captain Tulloch for reasons detailed by Major Farewell in the accompanying report, and in which I fully concur. The quantity of earth required to fill in the portion to be reclaimed to a height of at least 18 inches above the highest water-level, would not be obtainable from the bed of the lake by dredging under a very long period of time, if obtainable at all, without emptying the lake, and such stuff as might be obtained by dredging would be of a very improper kind to expose to the action of sun and wind in the centre of the station. I never liked the idea of using boats, and am rejoiced to find that Major Farewell has hit upon a plan by which a two-fold public improvement will be carried out much more cheaply and quickly than if they were to be employed, and with the best of material. As convict labor will be largely used in the work, it may suffice to allot only Rupees 13,000 of the entire estimate for preliminary expenses and purchase of ground in the current season.

From Major W. FAREWELL, Executive Engineer, to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, dated Ootacamund, 7th April 1868, No. 3.

1. With reference to paragraph 5, of G. O., No. 2,940, dated 21st September 1867, I have the honor to submit a plan and estimate for the reclamation of the swamp at the head of the Ootacamund lake, as also for raising the lower road of the Ootacamund bazaars, and the ground between the road and the margin of the lake above the usual flood levels.

2. Captain Tulloch proposes, in the scheme submitted to Government, that a channel wide enough for two boats to pass each other be made from the lake to the head of the swamp, that the earth required for the reclamation of the swamps should thus be excavated from the upper portion of the lake, and then taken by boats and deposited at the head of the swamp; this portion of his scheme is incomprehensible, inasmuch as the whole of the upper portion of the lake being under water, and the margin all swampy ground, no earth for the purpose required can be obtained from this locality.

3. In the reclamation scheme of the upper portion of the lake, proposed by me in 1860, in connection with the construction of a new waste weir to the end of the lake, it was proposed to lower the water in the lake four feet, and thus afford the means of getting at the earth and deepening the margin of the lake and using boats as [illegible] suggested by Captain Tulloch; for the purpose [illegible] noted, as the earth required for the reclamation of the swamp is not to be obtained [illegible] by Captain Tulloch, after [illegible] consideration of the whole project, I have come to the conclusion that the earth required can, while making a great and useful improvement to the high road in the vicinity of the lake, be had from a much more accessible position, and the work done quicker, easier, and cheaper, without the use of boats at all or the extra work of excavating a channel for them and having to re-fill the same again.

4. The high road from the drain on the southern side of the Bombay House Hill to the [illegible] Abdool Khader's shop, on the northern side of Bombay House Hill, ascends and descends

abruptly at a heavy gradient, making the approach to the Brahmins' or market bridge difficult and dangerous ; I have had a series of levels taken of this road, and find from the sections that if the high road is made level from the points named, sufficient earth for the reclamation scheme can be obtained from this locality, which runs close along the swamps to be reclaimed. The whole scheme will be easily understood on reference to the plan, this portion is marked yellow on the plan, the reclaimed swamp marked in brown. The only expense necessary will be that of constructing a tramway for the easy and speedy removal of the earth to the points required ; rails, waggons, &c., are already on hand, and have simply to be utilized in the project, the cost being simply that of the carriage of the plant to the locality, and Carpenters required for laying the rails.

5. To allow of the swamp being thoroughly reclaimed, and the margin of the lake supply channel properly defined, raised above flood levels, and so forth, it will be necessary that the properties marked on the plan abutting on the Brahmins' bridge, on the eastern side of the lake stream, half of which are swamps, be purchased and handed over to me ; while the whole of the land, which is private property, as shown in the plan to the western side of the lake stream, should also be purchased to allow of its being raised like the eastern bank above flood levels ; the ground on the eastern side of the lake stream being reserved as a park, while that to the west, when once raised and properly consolidated, might be marked out into streets and holdings, and eventually sold by auction for bazaars, to be built on some orderly plan of the design forwarded for approval, each holding having a bazaar, verandah, store, living and cook-rooms, and back-yard ; the streets and houses are so arranged as to allow of their easy drainage to the main sewer, the line of which is shown as proposed by Captain Tulloch, while in each of the back streets a latrine for males and females might be provided at a convenient distance.

6. The area that will be made available for the construction of these bazaars in one of the most central and convenient localities of the station, after deducting the roads, equals 8,190 square-yards, which, at what is considered a moderate rate for so eligible a trade site, viz., 100 Rupees per holding of 65 square-yards, as arranged in the plan, will produce a return of Rupees 12,600, and this might, as a further inducement to persons willing to occupy this locality, be collected from them in four annual equal instalments.

7. If sanction is accorded to the work, it may be commenced at once ; the preparation of the plans and estimates called for with reference to the subsidiary house and street drainage are under preparation, but will, from the number of details necessary to be gone into in regard to drainage of each holding, &c., take some time before it can be submitted in a complete form.

8. The value of the land and houses which must be purchased before anything is done towards the reclamation scheme amounts, according to the Tahsildar's estimate, to somewhere below 15,000 Rupees ; but I dare say this amount will, when closely examined by the Collector, be reduced, and still further reduced by giving the parties concerned other sites for building upon as part of their compensation.

9. The estimate submitted allows of the work being performed by coolies ; if done by convicts the only cost will be that for plant, tools, and Carpenters necessary for laying the rails, &c., &c.

No. 207. Order [illegible] 1868.

CIVIL WORKS, &c.

1. [illegible] scheme for the drainage of Ootacamund Captain Tulloch, brought under the consideration of Government [illegible] proposal for the reclamation of the swamp at the head of the Ootacamund lake, and the project being admitted on all hands to be most

desirable, the Superintending Engineer was requested to obtain and submit a detailed plan and estimate of the work.

2. In compliance with this requisition Colonel Walker submits a scheme prepared by Major Farewell, which differs, however, from that proposed by Captain Tulloch. The latter Officer recommended that a channel should be cut, wide enough for two boats to pass each other, from the lake to the head of the swamp, and that the earth required for reclaiming the swamp should be excavated from the upper portion of the lake and taken by boats and deposited at the head of the swamp. Major Farewell does not consider this portion of the scheme to be feasible as, the whole of the upper portion of the lake being under water, and the margin all swampy ground, no earth can be obtained from that locality. He accordingly proposes to cut down part of the road which runs along the eastern side of the lake to a dead level, and to deposit the earth thus obtained along the shores of the lake up to the margin of the supply channel, and over the morass, so as to close up the lake and keep the edges of the stream well defined above high-water mark, thus forming a level plain on each side of the channel. The ground on the eastern side of that channel would then be available for conversion into a cricket ground and public gardens, and that on the western side near the market for buildings systematically laid out with all proper sanitary provisions.

3. The Government have given their careful consideration to the alternative schemes thus laid before them, and are in favor of that proposed by Major Farewell, which will improve the high road in the vicinity of the lake, and, without disturbing the mud and silt, will cover in all the swampy ground at the head of the lake with good wholesome earth. His Excellency in Council accordingly resolves to sanction the estimate of Rupees 23,000 submitted by the Superintending Engineer, and to direct that measures be at once adopted for the purchase of the private property referred to by Major Farewell. The convicts might at once be employed upon the road-cutting.

4. In carrying out the scheme, it is of great importance that no houses should be allowed to remain between the lower bazaar road and the margin of the lake ; that that margin should be the first part to be cleared and covered with earth, and kept quite sweet and dry ; that a strict prohibition should be issued against throwing rubbish there, and that the natives should be absolutely debarred from repairing there for the purposes of nature. The edge of the lake along that side should be filled in to some distance, and care should be taken to lay gravel and stones along the margin so as to protect the earth from the abrasion of the water or waves. The supply channel to the upper end of the lake should be cut quite straight and deepened, and the drainage of the market should be cut off from the supply channel and lake at once, and removed artificially.

5. No details are furnished of the compensation to be paid for the land and houses which will have to be purchased ; but as the Superintending Engineer reports that convict labor will be largely used, it is believed that the estimate of Rupees 23,000 will be found sufficient to meet all charges.

6. The Government desire that the whole work should be put in hand without delay, and they resolve to place a sum of Rupees 13,000 at the disposal of the Superintending Engineer for the purpose from the reserve under " Miscellaneous

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th May 1868.

Public Improvement," to which head a sum of Rupees 9,000 will be transferred from the reserve under " Communications."

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, with 1 Estimate, 4 Surveys, and 1 Report.
" Public Department.
" Revenue do.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.

12: Rs 9000/-

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev = 1868. Dept.
Pro: of Govt Sunday
Rs. 1663.

Proceedings of the
Govt. Dept. Dept.

Further Cl. 2507/68

Dated 12th May 1868
Received 12th May 1868
Rs. 1500.

No. 1356 - 14 May
Sanctioning Estimate
of Rs. 23,000 for the
Reclamation of the
Swamp at the head
of the Ootacamund
Lake

Write order

No. 1356

Comm. to the
Board of Rev.

14 May/68

14 Copies Letter Bd of Revenue with Cir. Ord. No. 1500 Dated 15th

A. 355 & 356