R.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 208 Press Mis.

120-21
Dated 14-2-1870 N .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

9-3

Read again Proceedings of Government, under date 25th August 1869, No. 2,414.

No. 120. Read also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd November 1869, No. 8,145:—

Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 25th September 1869, No. 135.

In reply to Government Order of 25th August 1869, No. 2,414, I have the honour to state that the Coonoor branch of the Neilgherry Agri-Horticultural Society requested my attendance at a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Society on Monday the 13th instant, and I went accordingly.

2. The Honorary Secretary showed me the Society's subscription book, in which were entered the names of thirty members, who had each paid 10 rupees entrance donation, and promised 12 rupees per annum subscription.

	Rs.
Entrance donation...	300
Annual subscriptions	360
	660

3. They also informed me that they had every reason to believe that the Coonoor Municipality would be willing, on sanitary grounds, to give Rupees 300 towards the expense of converting the land applied for into a public garden or People's Park, and Rupees 20 per mensem towards up-keep.

4. These circumstances, I think, afford the Society a fair guarantee of stability, and as the object in view is to convert a very dirty bit of waste in the heart of the town into a public garden, I hope the Government will see reason to give substantial aid. The Society requests as follows:—

(1.) That the Government will give the Society the land originally applied for.

(2.) That the Government will give a grant-in-aid of Rupees 1,500 to clear the site and lay out the garden.

(3.) That the Government will allot Rupees 100 a-month to aid in the up-keep.

(4.) That Government will allow Mr. Jamieson (the Deputy-Superintendent of Cinchona) to give four days a-month to aid the Society in laying out the gardens and maintaining them afterwards in good order, for which aid the Society are willing to pay Mr. Jamieson Rupees 40 per mensem.

5. I have been in communication with Mr. Jamieson and Mr. McIvor, his immediate superior, and I have no reason to apprehend any difficulty as far as they are concerned. If Government accede to the request of the Society, they calculate their present fixed income and expenditure per mensem as follows:—

Income.	Rs.	*Expenditure.*	Rs.
Government allowance	100	Mr. Jamieson	40
Municipal do.	20	Head Gardener	40
Society's do.	30	And Native Gardeners	70
Total ...	150	Total	150

6. The Committee are very sanguine that the number of subscribers to the Society will steadily increase, and I think this is probable. But if the Government grant Rupees 100 per mensem towards the up-keep, the Government contribution will always represent the lion's share, and it seems to me therefore desirable to take the opportunity of closing the Government Nurseries upon Commercial Road, removing the few fruit-trees therein to the Society's Garden, of which a small part might be expressly set aside for the use of the Ootacamund Botanical Garden. By this arrangement the Ootacamund Garden would be saved an expenditure of Rupees 12 a-month, which it can ill-afford.

* Ordered to be sent to Government Garden Officer, Revenue Department, of 25th August 1869, No. 372.

As regards the four requests made by the Society, I may perhaps be excused if I strongly urge upon the Government the desirability of aiding the Society to the extent proposed, except perhaps with regard to the grant-in-aid which I think might be fixed at Rupees 1,000. It seems to me only fair that the Society should raise the remaining Rupees 500 by a special subscription from the residents, who will be especially benefited by the garden, and from casual visitors who are more or less interested in the attractions of the place.

8. It would, I think, be desirable to give the grant-in-aid on condition that the Commissioner was fixed President of the Society.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board observe that Government have already (in paragraph 4 of their Order of 25th August 1869) expressed their readiness to give an amount equal to the subscriptions and donations received by the Society, should the Commissioner report as he has now done.

3. The Board would recommend that the land originally applied for be given, and also a yearly grant-in-aid equal to the joint contributions of the Municipality and the *permanent* residents and visitors.

4. The Board cannot support the other requests of the Society, as they consider that they involve a needless outlay. Neither the services of Mr. Jamieson nor the Head Gardeners on Rupees 40 appear necessary, as a Head Maistry on Rupees 15 a-month with a well-chosen member of the Committee to direct him would be quite sufficient. The abolition of the present garden, costing 12 rupees a-month, might, as proposed by the Commissioner, be effected, and the sum saved.

No. 113 ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1870, No. 208.

Miscellaneous

On re-consideration of the question referred to in the foregoing papers, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council regrets that, in the present condition of the Imperial finances, he does not feel at liberty to recommend that a grant-in-aid of the funds of the Coonoor Agri-Horticultural Society should be sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Secy to Government.

To the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the Nov: 1869.

Read the following

Pro: of the Board of Revenue.

R. 3: Nov: 1869. No. 8145.

Subng. letter from the Neilgherry Comm:, forwarding, for favorable consideration, certain requests made by Society regarding the land applied for by the Coonoor branch of Neilgherry Agri-Horticultural Society - with recommendation that land, & an yearly grant in aid, be granted -

We cannot make these grants without the sanction of the Govt of India & reference should be made in the first instance to the Auditor General as to the source from which funds are available for this purpose during 1870-71. If he can find the money application may be made to Govt of India

Dis: no: 1869 Dated 26 Nov: 1869

The Comm: of the Neilgherry Hills in his letter dated 25th Sept: 1869, No 135, reports with reference to G. O. dated 25th Augt 1869, No: 2414, that the Coonoor branch of the Neilgherry Agri-Horticultural Society have collected the sum of Rs 300

is requested to inform the Govt on this point as soon as the Municipality have arrived at a formal decision. With reference to the monthly allowance applied for by the Commrs, the Govt do not consider that the extent of the aid afforded by them should exceed the sum raised by local contributions. They are, however, prepared to sanction the allotment of an equal sum upon learning the determination of the Municipality.

5. Regarding paras 4 and 5 of the Commrs letter, the

the Govt do not concur in the opinion expressed by the Board. They believe that Mr Jamieson's Co-operation especially at the outset, would prove of material advantage to the Institution, and they have no objection to his devoting four days a month to the service of the Society at Coonoor, if the funds available permit of his remuneration. This is a question upon which the Society itself is competent to decide.

6. The Government approve of the proposal relating

relating to the Coroner
Govt Gardens which is
embodied in para 6 of
the Commissioner's letter.
&c

Read again Proceedings of Govt under
date. 25 Aug 1864 No 2414.

Read also 14th July 1870.

In re. consideration of the
question referred to in the
foregoing paper the Rt Hon'ble the
Gov. in Council regrets
that in the present
condition of the Imperial
finances, he does not
feel at liberty to recom-
mend that a grant
in aid of the funds
of the Conon Agri
-Horticultural Society
should be sanctioned

Asst Secy
under in Council

3 Fifth Commission of the Neilgherries
14 — Sept Cuttack

C. 8° Dec 69. 200 Rec 8-Jan 70 RS