

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th June 1871.*

No. 343. Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 19th June 1871, No. 49 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit Mr. McIvor's report on the Ootacamund Botanical Gardens for 1870-71.

2. The report is meagre, and nothing in the shape of a statement of receipt and expenditure for the year is given; what the average monthly receipts have been, whether they are capable of increase in any direction, or how the money has been laid out. On these points the report is silent.

3. Under orders of Government, 27th February 1871, No. 343, Mr. McIvor was relieved of the charge of the Botanical Gardens on the 1st of April, since when Mr. Jamieson has been in charge. It is too early at present to say whether the change has been beneficial to the gardens or otherwise. It was an awkward time for Mr. Jamieson to take over charge. The works connected with the improvements, sanctioned by Government in G. O., 5th December 1870, No. 1,942, were in progress, and the spring of the year is the time when gardeners return to their villages in the plains for a while. The works are now being pushed on, and will soon be finished.

4. I would again beg leave to refer to paragraph 7 of my letter, 25th January 1871, No. 7,* asking for an increase to the Government allowance for the gardens. Since writing the letter, I am more and more convinced that Mr. Jamieson should have an Overseer under him—a European, if possible, or at any rate a Eurasian; and I do not see how this can be managed without further aid from Government.

5. I venture to point out that the Oudh Government† give Rs. 345 per mensem to the Lucknow Gardens; and I believe other gardens in other parts of India are in like manner liberally supported by Government.

6. Looking at the natural capabilities of the Ootacamund Gardens, I cannot see why they should not be made really attractive and useful to residents and visitors from a scientific as well as an ornamental point of view. Visitors for longer or shorter periods will continue to come here for health and recreation from all parts of India, and I am satisfied that a small Herbarium of native plants in connection with the gardens would be a great source of pleasure and service to them. I am occasionally asked about our Nilgiri ferns, orchids, and wild flowers, and Mr. Jamieson has had numerous applications about them. It would be easy to make a complete collection of dried specimens of these, and, with the help of Major Beddome, to classify and name them, if we had a suitable building to keep them in.

7. In paragraph 5 of Government Order, 27th February 1871, No. 343, the Government alluded to the seed-house near the garden-gates. The building is in such a tumble-down state that I have had it examined by the Executive Engineer, who condemns it "as in a most dangerous condition." "The repair of it," he adds, "is quite out of the question."

* Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, 27th February 1871.

† Supplement, Oudh Gazette, June 5th, 1869.

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Under these circumstances I would suggest that I be permitted to call upon the Executive Engineer for a plan and estimate of a building suitable for a seed-house and office below and a Herbarium and study above.

No. 344.

ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1871, No. 1,135.

Miscellaneous.

THE Commissioner will request Mr. McIvor to furnish a statement of receipts and disbursements, and to afford such further information as he desires.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Returned through the Commissioner
of the Neelgherries to Mr. McSor who will
comply immediately with all the instructions
conveyed in para 11, G. O. dated 27th Decr
1870. No 2082. The Govt are surprised
at Mr. McSor's neglect of their orders.

Should say Rs 1135
The Commr will
request Mr. McSor
to furnish a statement

to submit such
as he desires.

1871

3 To the Commr for the Neelgherries
Dated 21st Decr 1870

22-6-17

G.O. of 118713 30th Decr 1870.

REVENUE.

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE

NEELGIRIS.

Dated 30th June.

Recd.

G. O., 30th June 1871, No. 1,135.

JUNE.

NO. 343-344.

Botanical Gardens at Ootacamund.—Com-
missioner of the Nilgiris to request Mr. McSor
to furnish a statement of receipts and disburse-
ments for 1870-71, and to afford such further
information as may be needed in connection with
the gardens.

No 1983.

Recd 1871 Sept
No. 49

Date 19th June 71.

Recd 21st

Commissioner's Office,
Ootacamund.

To,

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Madras

Enclosures. ✓ one

Report

SUBJECT.

Botanical Gardens

Submitting

Mr. McIvor — on the
Ootacamund Botanical
Gardens for 1870/71.

N^o 1135. 20 June

5 June 71 = 109-110
21 — — — 407-408
27 July 71 — — 279-280.

Returned through
the Commissioner
of the Nilgiris
to Mr. McIvor who
will comply im-
mediately with all
the instructions con-
veyed in para 11
S.O. dated 27 Dec 70
N^o 2502. The fact
we surprised at
Mr. McIvor's neglect
of their orders.

Intd. J. J. J.
23 June 71
O. H. J. J.
J. J. J. J. J. J.
24 June 1871