

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
2nd September 1872.

No. 7. Read the following letter from Mr. C. POWELL, (late Madras Police,) Neilgherry Carrying Agency, Coonoor, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund, dated Coonoor, 20th August 1872. —

I beg thankfully to acknowledge receipt of the Madras Government Order, No. 1,013, dated 25th July 1872, which enables me to obtain one more month's pay, and I shall be grateful if you will kindly tender my sincere thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the same.

2. I have yet one more favour to ask, and I will not trouble the Government with any other similar request.

3. The Right Honourable the late Governor of Madras kindly gave me some hope of future employment under Government. Instead of this I humbly beg the boon I am about to ask may be granted.

4. I ask this favour not that I am at all worthy, but as some compensation for past service in the mutiny and since.

5. I believe my papers (which have often been before Government) fully testify to the nature of the service I have undergone in the Bengal Yeomanry Cavalry, Indian Navy, Punjab and Madras Police. It will be found from them that I have never spared myself, and now I often feel severely the effects.

6. I find it impossible to obtain a bit of waste land, at Coonoor, suitable for conducting my business on. If I make application for it in the usual way it will be sold (after advertising) by public auction; opposition will run it up far above my means. It is only a small piece, situated near the Coonoor Bridge, within municipal limits, about a quarter of an acre in extent.

7. There are cliques, European and Native, about Coonoor, Ootacamund, and Mettapollium who force the price of land up merely to prevent new comers of small means buying and setting up in business; not absolutely requiring the land themselves, they buy it to sell again at a profit to the party who has applied for it. Whenever an auction of such land takes place they attend and run the price up above what they would be prepared to give themselves, if they wanted the land for building or other like purpose, and far above its comparative value.

8. Should I apply for this bit of land in the usual way some of these people would buy it. I can afford to give a moderate price for it, and I should be very glad to give Rs. 50.

9. I beg to enclose one of my notices. I ask the favour of an inspection of the prices. It will be seen from them that I am striving to gain a livelihood by a fair and honest return, and not striving to extort all I can. If a comparison is made it will be found that my charges are some items less than half those of other carriers.

10. As soon as the rail opens, should fortune favour my efforts, and if the Hon. Major Bourke will give me a contract to carry the mail, I purpose running a daily passenger carriage to meet trains between Mettapollium and Ootacamund. I have already conversed with the Postmaster-General on the subject, and intend preparing the required vehicles, etc.

11. Other carriers do not believe in this, but I have seen in Wales, Ireland, and Australia, and know that on the Continent, in Spain, America, and California, much worse roads, with stiffer gradients and sharper turns, are travelled over at a fair speed by horsed passenger conveyances. All required is the right kind of

vehicle and proper stamp of horse supplemented, of course, by good driving and management. The latter part, to induce confidence, I hope to undertake myself.

12. I believe it will be conceded that regular, direct, and moderately priced carriage from the rail to Ootacamund must be a great public benefit. It will not only be a great advantage to residents on the Hills, but equally so to those on the plains. I think it will also be of advantage to Government, and the Postal Department, for many more people will come and go. It is not too much to say that the want of such communication makes these Hills comparatively unknown to a very large proportion of the European community, not only of this Presidency, but of the whole country south of the Punjab and North-West Provinces.

13. With reference to my petition, Mr. Allamby *I believe* was allowed to buy a piece of Government land and a Government building at Coonoor without competition. If I have to compete for the bit I ask for, I shall have to give it up, for my means are *very* circumscribed. There is none other suitable to be had. The Madras Carrying Company, though they have acres of land lying waste in the vicinity, would be sure to oppose me though they have no need of the land. I am struggling successfully for a livelihood, though it be from hand-to-mouth. I am obliged to do my business at my house some distance off, and loose *much* more than I make in consequence, because there is not a bit of suitable land to be had. It is the same at Mettapollium. The land has been bought up or obtained from Government, simply to sell at a profit, by those who have no use for it themselves, and who make a livelihood by watching for such opportunities to the exclusion of *bona fide* traders and others.

14. I believe I have some small claim to the kind consideration of Government. If so I shall be satisfied and very grateful for the grant of this favour.

15. I am about to apply to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris on the subject, and I believe, if sanction for the sale to me be given by the Government, that the Commissioner will not withhold his consent.

16. Trusting you will do me the favour to bring my petition favourably to the notice of His Excellency the Governor.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, 2nd September 1872, No. 1,275.

Miscellaneous.

THE Commissioner of the Nilgiris is authorized to make over the site in question to Mr. Powell, on terms similar to those on which Mr. Allamby was granted a site for his establishment at Coonoor, on the understanding that its occupation is not objected to by the Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

.. Mr. C. Powell.

.. the Board of Revenue.

Ld. J. Wright.

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NEILGHERRY CARRYING AGENCY.

Some Extracts from Travellers' Letters.

"Your carriage is really a very easy conveyance, and last time I came here in less than 3½ hours (14 miles)—very quickly for bullocks."

(Signed) L. A. HUBBARD.

"So that we reached here really within three hours"—(15 miles from Coonoor to Kullar.)

(Signed) W. G. MAWLEY.

"The ponies came up the ghaut capitally, and the bullock bandy was most comfortable, and did the journey in an hour," (Kullar to Mettapollium 7 miles.)

(Signed) J. KNATCHBULL, Major.

"With much pleasure I testify to the ease and comfort of the Neilgherry Carrying Agency Conveyances. The most confirmed invalid would find perfect ease in the Transit I had from Mettapollium to Pothanore, and everything was ready at a moment's notice."

(Signed) E. L. GORDON,
London Mission.

"Your Carriages were strong, bullocks good, Agent attentive, and all persons employed did what they had to do without giving trouble, and we had no detentions or accidents."

(Signed) F. MADRAS.
(True Extracts.)

C. POWELL,
Neilgherry Carrying Agency, Coonoor.

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NEILGHERRY CARRYING AGENCY.

Some Extracts from Travellers' Letters.

to "Your carriage is really a very easy conveyance, and *from* last time I came here in less than 3½ hours (14 miles)—*to* *very* very quickly for bullocks." *to*

(Signed) L. A. HUBBARD.

"So that we reached here really within three hours"—
(15 miles from Coonoor to Kullar.)

(Signed) W. G. MAWLEY.

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(Signed) F. MADRAS.
(True Extract)

NEILGHERRY CARRYING AGENCY.

Safe and commodious means of Travelling to, from, or on the Neilgherry Hills, at Moderate Rates.

American Four-Wheeled Carriages, specially constructed for Travelling on the Hills.

RATES.

UP.					DOWN.				
Bullock Transits with Relays.	One Passenger with Servant.	Two Passengers and one Servant.	Three Passengers and one Servant.	Outside Travel- ling Time.	Bullock Transits with Relays.	One Passenger with Servant.	Two Passengers and one Servant.	Three Passengers and one Servant.	Outside Travel- ling Time.
From Pothanore to Ooty ...	Ra. 36	Ra. 43	Ra. 53	About 14 hours	From Ooty to Pothanore.....	Ra. 32	Ra. 40	Ra. 45	About 13 hours
" " to Coonoor.	28	35	40	" 11 "	" " to Mettapollium.	21	25	30	" 7 "
" " to Kullar...	14	16	20	" 6 "	" " to Kullar... ..	18	24	23	" 6 "
" Kullar to Ooty... ..	22	30	35	" 8 "	" Coonoor to Pothanore .	26	30	35	" 10 "
" " to Coonoor... ..	15	20	25	" 4½ "	" " to Mettapollium.	13	16	19	" 4 "
" Mettapollium to Ooty .	24	30	35	" 9 "	" " to Kullar.....	12	15	18	" 3 "
" " to Coonoor.	16	21	26	" 6 "	" Kullar to Pothanore ...	14	19	23	" 7 "

PONIES.

Between Ootacamund and Mettapollium.....	Rupees 12 0 0
Do. do. and Kullar.....	" 11 0 0
Do. Coonoor and Mettapollium.....	" 7 0 0
Do. do. and Kullar.....	" 6 0 0

NOTES.

- 3.—Light baggage, not exceeding 35 lbs., allowed, when convenient.
- 4.—Maximum weight of baggage allowed in each Transit, between Pothanore and Kullar, 82 lbs.
- 5.—Heavy baggage should be sent two or three days in advance (see Rates.)
- 6.—Tolls are paid by Passengers.
- 7.—Not less than three clear days' notice required for Transits; but all Orders, if possible, will be attended to.
- 8.—The full amount of fare should be sent with each Order.

Specimen Baggage Rates per Maund of 82 lbs.

UP.			DOWN.		
From Pothanore to Ootacamund*	Rs. 1 6 0	From Ootacamund to Pothanore*.....	Rs. 1 2 0		
Do. do. to Coonoor*.....	" 1 0 0	Do. Coonoor to Pothanore*.....	" 10 0		

Proportionate Rates for other and intermediate distances.
* Time in Transit two or three days.

PASSENGER RATES,

On the Neilgherries, from Coonoor to Ootacamund, &c., &c.

4 Wheeled American Carriages, with Relays.	One Passenger.	Two Passengers.	Three Passengers.	Remarks.
From Coonoor to Ootacamund ...	Rs. 8	Rs. 10	Rs. 14	
" " and back same day...	10	14	18	
" " Kaity... ..	5	8	11	
" " and back same day... ..	7	10	13	
" " Kotergherry	9	11	14	
" " and back same day... ..	11	15	20	
" " Wellington.	2	3	4	
" " and back	3	4	5	

In Coonoor Municipal limits, a Carriage for two Passengers, per day Rs. 4; per half-day Rs. 2-8. Outside Municipal limits, per day Rs. 5. Night hire double.
Ponies.—In Coonoor, per day Rs. 3; half-day Rs. 2. Out of Coonoor, Rs. 4.
Country Carts, with bullocks, supplied with or without relays. Coolies, Munchiels, covered and uncovered Chairs, at moderate charges. Agents can generally supply travellers passing with carriage at a short notice.
Special Arrangements made for Families, or large parties of Children. Arrangements made for travellers without relays.
Agents at Pothanore and Mettapollium. Refreshment Room at Mettapollium at Agent's opposite Hotel.
All Orders to be made payable, and all correspondence to be addressed to the undersigned, at Coonoor.

C. POWELL.

L.O. No 1275-8

Rev: 2805/72

Revenue 1872 h/11
No 2805

from Mr. E. Powell
(Colonel)

Recd 20th August 1872

Enc. 1

Civil

transferred to

the Revenue

MS

Saying that he was
shown a piece of writ
land of Comers' with
conducting his business
92.175-235467

Sept. 1872
to Com. Pelgiam
1. W. Powell.
2. 1872/72

The Council of the Pelgians is
authorised to transfer the writ
in question to Mr. Powell. on 18th June
& there on Dr. W. A. Hamby has printed
a writ for his estate at Comers' - on 20th
understanding that its objection is
objected to by the Council. 1872/72

Revenue Council. 30.8.72 2. 1872/72

Govt. of 18723 3110715.

70
REVENUE.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE
NIGERIS,
dc, dc, dc.

Dated September 2nd.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 2nd September 1872, No. 1,275.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 7-8.

Land applied for by Mr. Powell at
Conoor.—Commissioner of the Nigeris author-
ized to make over the site on terms similar to
those on which Mr. Allamby was granted a site, on
the understanding that its occupation is not
objected to by the Commissioner.

L.O. No 1275-8