Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd September 1873.

No. 191. Read the following letter from J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 10th September 1873, No. 41 :—

GOVERNMENT Order, No. 24, dated 9th January 1873, Revenue Department, passing the budget for the Horticultural Gardens on the Nilgiri Hills for 1873-74, granted Rs. 3,500 " towards the cost of a new conservatory."

2. The subject of this conservatory was mooted in a letter, from my predecessor, to Government, printed in G. O., 13th June 1872, Revenue Department, No. 936, in which the late Commissioner described the present conservatory as " a melancholy structure built askew to the main promenade and gate-way, and unsuited to the purpose for which a conservatory is required."

Mr. Breeks intimated that the present conservatory was placed too low down in the gardens which made it cold for plants in the frosty season, and suggested it should be removed, and a new building of a " more modern and useful design" built higher up on the site of the present fernery.

3. With reference to this proposition from Mr. Breeks, I consulted Captain Morant, the District Engineer, and the Superintendent of the Gardens, and we came to the conclusion that to purchase a new building of a suitable size and design in glass and iron in England, and erect it, would involve an outlay of £2,000.

4. I then addressed Mr. Chisholm, the Government Architect, and he was so good as to furnish a design of a new conservatory. This design I enclose. Mr. Chisholm states the cost of the building suggested would be £1,250; but it is questionable whether his rough estimate has taken into consideration the cost of labour and material on the Hills which is higher than in the low country.

5. In my report on the Botanical Gardens for the past official year, I intimated to the Government that the outlay on a new conservatory would be excessive, and requested to be informed whether I was to carry out Mr. Chisholm's or any other design. A reply to this communication has not yet reached me.

6. With reference to the communication, I have now the honour to suggest what, in my opinion, is a more suitable mode of disposing of the £350 granted in the Government Order quoted above than in commencing an expensive building which will take years to complete, and when finished will still leave the Ootacamund Garden without suitable buildings for propagating and forcing.

7. With the exception of the Cinchona-houses at the top of the garden, there are no proper houses for propagating, and there are no fruit-houses at all. There is a propagating house half way up the garden, but it is in bad condition, and unless repaired will probably fall next monsoon.

8. I would solicit permission to spend the £350—

1*stly*,—In putting a glass-roof on this house in lieu of the present roof which is half-tiled and half in glass, in re-modelling the interior, and in converting the present entrance into a wing with glass;

2*ndly*,—In converting a ruined building adjoining the house of the Superintendent into a forcing-house for fruit, by making additions to the walls, putting on a glass-roof and glass-doors; and,

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3rdly,—In putting the present conservatory into repair so far as funds will permit.

9. If Government sanction this scheme, the gardens will be provided by next year with the means which are quite insufficient at present of making a show of flowers, and the means of progress in the growing of English fruit,—a branch of gardening which has never yet received any express attention.

No. 192. ORDER THEREON, 22nd September 1873, No. 1,025.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council sanctions the diversion of funds proposed by the Commissioner in the foregoing letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2792

Govt. Kilpiris Dated 10 September 1934 to 41 ~~187~~

FOR ORDERS.

This application is made
by my brother in the Cu-
stoms Mr Cockerill & Mrs Ja-
mieson. such a step by ad-
vice it being sanctioned. When
the sum of Rs 350 was entered
in the Budget, it was thought
that 9 or 10 thousand Rupees
would be likely for a new Custom-

gallery - there is the chance
of one being erected under
20 000. Even if we had this
money to spare, it would be
premature to build the
Conservatory - as the pardens
require the
necessary Rich Rays to thrive
to a large Stem Cucumber alley.
Therefore we must retain the
central beds at once - it looks
like a sheer waste to turn
him the Soil.

I recommend therefore
to let the present be established
in the manner proposed.

J. D. S.

Spencer
18/9 1867

16. E. 73

Paper to lie
for present

FOR ORDERS.

c. 16 Sept-93 K. 17 Sept. H.C. 18/9 R.224

Your Most Obedient Servant

A. McCockerell
Commissioner

No. 1025

The G. in C. sanctions the diversion of funds proposed by the Com. in the foregoing letter.

Dept. pay orders

22 Feb 78