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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	223	Press
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Read the following papers :—

No. 85. From J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 4th June 1874, No. 37.

I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of the Government, a resolution passed by the Municipal Commissioners of Ootacamund, at a meeting held on the 23rd May 1874 :—

“ Read G.O., dated the 25th April 1874, No. 694, aid to be rendered to Municipalities by Public Works Officers. The G.O. in the Public Works Department of the 31st August 1866, showing that the advice and assistance of District Engineers are available to Municipalities, communicated to Presidents of all Municipalities. Under the particular circumstances of Ootacamund, the Commissioners resolve to make application to Government with the view of the District Engineer being authorized to execute works for the Municipality on sanctioned estimate, the amount to be adjusted within the year in which the work is executed.”

2. The request of the Commissioners no doubt militates against the instructions of the Government of India contained in G.O., Financial Department, 7th May 1874, No. 788, which are that Municipalities shall pay in advance for Municipal works undertaken by the Public Works Department, and this is a matter for consideration; but unless the Ootacamund Municipality is exceptionally treated, with its small income, it will be necessary to postpone current works; in other words, to accumulate a year's income before undertaking any work at all through the Public Works Department.

3. The difficulty might be met by the District Engineer being permitted expressly to charge for all work done for the Municipality in his “ Deposit Account.”

No. 86. From J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 8th June 1874, No. 41.

With reference to G.O., Financial Department, dated the 1st May 1874, No. 752, I have the honor to submit the Revised Budget of the Ootacamund Municipality.

From H. B. GRIGG, Esq., Honorary Secretary, to J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, dated Ootacamund, 1st June 1874, No. 72.

In accordance with G.O., 1st May 1874, No. 752, I have the honor to submit the budget for 1874-75 amended.

2. Certain figures have been altered both under Receipts and Expenditure.

3. Two months in the year now budgeted for have passed, and actuals to some extent take the place of probables.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th July 1874.*

Under Receipts, the alterations are as follow :—

	RS.	RS.
Municipal Fund	60	against 600
House-tax	11,540	.. 11,000
Vehicles, &c.	2,000	.. 3,300
Carts	500	...
Fees	1,000	1,500
Miscellaneous—		
Markets	3,000	3,500
Slaughter-house	2,400	2,000
Sale of Materials	320	200

The balance at the close of the year was less than anticipated. This deficiency has been made up by probable additional receipts for the Land-tax. The Commissioners are now carefully revising the Land and House Registers, and anticipate an appreciable increase to their revenues under this head.

4. The difference in the probable receipts for Tax on Vehicles, &c., viz., Rupees 1,300, is the consequence of the recent judgment of the High Court in appeal, *Snaith, vs. Dindigul Municipality*. As already pointed out in a separate letter, visitors are virtually exempted from payment of this tax.

5. In consequence of this loss, the Commissioners have been compelled most reluctantly to abandon their expressed intention of abolishing the tax for registration of carts, and for the same reason deem it advisable to raise the rate to the maximum allowed under Section 75 of the Act, viz., 2 Rupees the half-year. The increase under Fees and Slaughter-houses is due to the sales having proved more favorable than was anticipated in February. The receipts from the market fees, however, will probably fall short of the figure estimated by Rupees 500.

After making the above alterations the estimated receipts are Rupees 25,600 against Rupees 26,280 in the budget as first submitted, but still Rupees 1,900 in excess of the budget for 1873-74.

6. EXPENDITURE.—The proposed expenditure, as compared with the budget as first submitted, stands thus—

	Amended.	As first submitted.
	RS.	RS.
Grant No. I. { New Works	6,500	15,100
Works, &c. { Repairs	2,700	9,320
{ Establishment	600	240
{ Plant and Tool	700	700
	10,500	25,360
Grant II.—Education	1,310	1,310
Grant III.—Conservancy	8,050	8,100
	1,451	1,100
Grant IV.—Lighting	200	200
Markets	30	30
Choultry	450	300
Avenues	800	800
Watercourse	400	400
Poudrette	10	10
Measures	300	300
Grass Farm		
	3,644	3,140

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th July 1874.*

	Amended.	As first submitted.
	RS.	RS.
Grant V.—Establishment	1,616	1,760
Office	400	400
	2,016	2,160
Advances recoverable	30	30
	25,550	
Balance	50	
Total	25,600	40,100

7. Grant I.—The expenditure now proposed is 9,860 less than previously budgeted for.

The objects of expenditure under New Works remain unaltered, the amounts only have been reduced as shown in Statement II.-A, Part I.

8. It will be observed that the roads near the lower Bazaar Road, the water supply, and the new latrine, being matters of first importance, have each received an allotment of 1,000 Rupees.

9. For repairs of roads the Commissioners allot Rupees 2,200, of which 1,200 Rupees is for outstandings at the close of year 1873-74. The allotment for Repairs, Sanitary, &c., is unchanged.

10. Grants II., III., IV., and V.—In allotments for Grant II. no change has been made; but under Grant III. the charges for Conservancy Carts have been reduced by Rupees 50. In Grant IV. the allotments for Lighting and for Avenues have been raised by Rupees 354 and Rupees 150, respectively; but the allotments for Office Establishment under Grant V. has been reduced in consequence of the Commissioners having dispensed with one bill-collector, or rather transferred him to the Works Establishment as a Maistry.

11. I would draw attention to the fact that the charges for Establishment, Office, and Works have been reduced from Rupees 3,292 in 1873-74 to Rupees 2,016, or from 13.89 per cent. on the estimated charges to 7.87 per cent. The percentage in 1872-73 was Rupees 15.34 on estimated charges of Rupees 22,740.

12. The alterations in Grant I., both for New Works and Repairs, are in accordance with the expressed intention of Government, first, not to make a grant-in-aid this year to the Municipality; and, secondly, to resume the charge of certain lines of road, referred to in paragraph 5 of their Order of 2nd March.

13. I have now the honor to submit a list of roads within municipal limits, which the Commissioners propose to hand over to Government. The total length is thirty-one miles six-and-a-half furlongs, in accordance with measurements made by the District Engineer—*vide* Statement No. I. The length of road which the Government express their intention of resuming in the paragraph above quoted is miles 315 approximately—*vide* Statement No. 2.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th July 1874.

14. This result is arrived at thus—

(1.) "The Road from Elk Hill Cutting by Charing Cross to the Church and Whitmore Cottage and that from Charing Cross by Zion Chapel and the Willow Bund to Lock End, altogether four miles in length." Actual length as per District Engineer's measurements	5 3½
"The upper and lower roads south of the west portion of the Lake and also Hadfield's Road aggregating three miles in length." Actual length as per District Engineer's measurements	4 6½
	<u>10 14</u>

Thus the sections referred to measure not seven, but more than ten miles.

"Fifteen miles of Cantonment Roads other than Municipal for which a Provincial allotment of Rupees 137-8-0 a-mile is entered in the Local Fund Budget"	15 0
"Besides these portions of the high roads leading from Ootacamund to Coonoor, Seegoor, and Goodooloor Ghauts, respectively, already maintained from Provincial Funds." Approximate length	3 2½
The order omits to mention the Devasholah and the Avalanche, or Fairlawn's Roads which also appear in the Local Fund Budget. Approximate length	3 4
	<u>6 3</u>
	<u>31 4½</u>

With regard to the fifteen miles of station roads, for which the Department of Public Works have always drawn a lump grant, I have the honor to state that the exact sections on which it should be expended have never, so far as I can learn, been defined. I understand, however, from Captain Morant that the road from Charing Cross by the Willow Bund to Lock End, and certain roads traversing Lovedale and the neighbourhood of the Lawrence Asylum, have been kept in order out of this grant. Probably two miles or so are out of municipal limits. There can be little question that, under the old system, the grant was intended for keeping in repair *all* the station roads of Ootacamund then existing, not being Imperial. The Coonoor Municipality has reaped the full benefit of the action of Government in contributing to it a similar grant. Ootacamund has done so only partially.

15. For the repair of the roads which, the Commissioners presume, Government will take out of their control by notification comparing the Order of the 2nd March with the Local Fund Budget for 1874-75, the amount which Government are contributing for the up-keep of 31½ miles of road independently of 15,840 Rupees granted for reconstruction of certain sections; and the 1,500 allotted in this Budget is roughly 6,400 Rupees, or about 206 Rupees a-mile on the average. This mileage the Commissioners consider ample, considering that the mileage for the Coonoor Road, with its great traffic, heretofore was only 247½. Independently of these thirty-two miles of driving road, there are about thirty-two miles of road, chiefly bridle-paths (*vide* Statement III.), which it is important for the comfort and convenience of the public to keep in order. For this purpose the Commissioners will be prepared to pay annually Rupees 1,000 to the District Engineer, provided

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th July 1874.

he be instructed to undertake the repairs, and the same are carried out to their satisfaction.

16. In addition to this sum the Commissioners desire to pay to the District Engineer the sums allotted under New Works for the Marlimund Road and the cross roads near the market, in all Rupees 1,500, as a contribution to Government. The District Engineer has kindly forwarded estimates, which have been approved by the Commissioners.

These roads are included in the list now submitted for exclusion from direct Municipal control, but I am desired to state that the Commissioners will always be prepared to contribute towards the reconstruction of old lines, or the making of new, should they approve the proposed works.

17. It is thus their purpose in the course of two or three years to reconstruct the road to Marlimund, estimated at Rupees 7,100.

18. The Commissioners trust that Government will conclude from their action that they are most anxious to place the roads and paths of the station in good order, even those for which Government by their orders now under reply have made themselves solely responsible.

No. 87.

No. 88.

ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1874, No. 1131.

Estimates of the Ootacamund Municipality for 1874-75 are compared with those for 1873-74:—

RECEIPTS.	1873-74. 1874-75.		EXPENDITURE.	1873-74. 1874-75.	
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance	1,400	60	Grant I.—		
Assignment by Government	...	300	New Works—		
House-tax	10,000	11,540	Communications	3,000	1,500
Trades-tax	2,600	...	Education	...	2,000
Tax on Vehicles, &c.	2,600	2,000	Sanitary, &c.	...	3,000
Registration of Carts	200	500	Repairs—		
Fees	860	1,600	Communications	3,800	2,200
Fines	500	200	Sanitary, &c.	...	500
Miscellaneous	5,540	9,370	Other items	1,000	1,300
Advances recoverable	...	30	Grant II.—		
			Salary Grants	312	1,160
			Result Grants	40	100
			Inspection	50	50
			Municipal Schools	600	...
			Grant III.—		
			Dispensary	500	500
			Vaccination	230	220
			Registration of Births, &c.	120	170
			Conservancy	6,028	7,160
			Grant IV.—		
			Lighting	650	1,454
			Poudrette	...	400
			Miscellaneous	4,590	1,790
			Grant V.—		
			Office	2,392	1,616
			Miscellaneous	388	400
			Advances recoverable	...	30
			Balance	...	50
Total	<u>23,700</u>	<u>25,600</u>	Total	<u>23,700</u>	<u>25,600</u>

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th July 1874.*

2. Notwithstanding the loss of the Profession-tax it is estimated that the receipts of the Ootacamund Municipality for 1874-75 will exceed those for 1873-74 by Rupees 1,900, and as the Government have agreed to take over a number of the roads, and to remit the repayment of the balance of the loan, the Commissioners will have ample funds at their disposal in the current year. The distribution of these among the various objects of Municipal expenditure, as shown in the above abstract, is fully approved by Government, and the necessary sanction is accorded for the proposed increase to the rate of the fees for the registration of carts. It is also observed with satisfaction that an appreciable increase is expected to result from the revision of the Land and House Register now in progress.

3. With reference to the Commissioners' proposal to pay over as a contribution to Government the sum of Rupees 1,000 for bridle-paths, and Rupees 1,500 for the Marlimund Road and the crossroads near the market, the Government are of opinion that no sufficient reason exists in the instances specified for making an exception to the rule laid down in G.O., dated the 31st August 1866, Public Works Department, that the duty of the District Engineer in regard to Municipal works generally, should be restricted to affording advice and assistance—the accounts, &c., being left entirely in the hands of the Commissioners. The above decision renders it unnecessary to pass separate orders on the President's letter, dated the 4th June 1873, No. 37.

4. With reference to paragraph 13 of the President's letter, the Government consider that the list submitted is somewhat too extensive, and have adopted another in the following Notification which should be published in the *Nilgiri District Gazette*. The Budget allotment for Public Works must be modified so as to provide for the repair of the roads excluded:—

NOTIFICATION.

Under the provisions of Section 13, Act III. of 1871 (The Towns Improvement Act), His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to exempt from the operation of the Act, the following roads and streets situated within the limits of the Ootacamund Municipality:—

ROADS.	Mileage.
1. From Craigmere Cutting on Coonoor Road to Municipal limits on Seagrove Road	4 3½
2. „ Triangle on No. 1 across the Willow Bund by Lock End to Municipal limits on the Goodocloor Ghaut Road	3 5½
3. „ Willow Bund by the south side of the Lake to Lock End	2 1½
4. „ below Burton Cottage by Audry Saddle to junction with No. 3.	1 4
5. „ Lock End by Hadfield's Road to junction with No. 1	1 2½
6. „ No. 1 through Kandal Bazaar to No. 2	0 6
7. „ Audry Saddle to Municipal limits on the Koondah Road	2 3½
8. „ junction of road near Burnfoot to Audry Embankment	2 2
9. „ Lovedale Road to junction where four roads meet, i.e. Mun-jenacoray Road and Elk Hill Road	2 6½

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th July 1874.*

	Mileage.
10. From Burnfoot Lake to Municipal limits towards Lovedale	1 ½
11. „ Stonehouse Roads	0 7
Miles	23 1½

(By order of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund.
 „ Public Works Department.
 „ Revenue Department.
 „ Board of Revenue.
 „ Accountant-General.
 „ Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
 „ Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
 „ Director of Public Instruction.
 „ President of the Local Fund Board, Nilgiris.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Revenue Department.
Bdkt. of 1874. *3110713.*

FINANCIAL.

To
THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Colonial,
&c.,
&c.,

Dated July, 1874.
Recd. *224*
G.O., 6th July 1874, No. 1131.

JULY.
Nos. 85-88.

53, 1/2
Colonial Municipality—Orders passed on
the Revised Estimates of this Municipality for
1874-75.

N. 223.

2072

27 July 1874
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