Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th September 1872.

No. 77. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cocanada, 28th August 1872, No. 7 :—

With reference to the Order of Government, dated 18th ultimo, No. 902, Financial Department, paragraph 5, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Vice-President of the Rajahmundry Municipal Commission regarding the nuisances in the town of Rajahmundry.

From A. J. STUART, Esq., Vice-President of the Rajahmundry Municipal Commission, to the President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District, dated Cocanada, 12th August 1872, No. 72.

I have the honour, in reply to your endorsement on Government Order, No. 902, dated 18th July last, to enclose a resolution of the Rajahmundry Commissioners passed as soon as Dr. Blacklock's report reached them. The Commissioners deny that the very strong expressions referred to by Dr. Balfour and made use of by Dr. Blacklock in paragraph 2 of his letter are correct so far as public streets or lanes are concerned.

2. As regards the private latrines, Dr. Blacklock has applied to all what I hope I may be excused for saying I consider an exaggerated description of one block. It is no more than what must be expected if an Inspecting Officer going round a town in the early morning, the time that latrines are in use, and inspecting them one after another, finds the task unpleasant. There can obviously be no escape from such a condition of things until the people generally adopt the dry-earth system. Only then can the direct inspection of private latrines, during the hours in which they are in use, be otherwise than disgusting. The subject is one of considerable difficulty, and requires careful and cautious action. The Commissioners, on consideration of the recommendation of the Inspecting Officer, appointed a Sanitary Inspector on Rupees 32 for the special work, first, of looking after the state of the private latrines and on insisting on their being kept clean ; and, secondly, of collecting information about them with a view to the whole matter being dealt with in a comprehensive manner. He has now completed a list of these places, and the fact comes out that there are in Rajahmundry no less than 948 private latrines served by toties paid by the owners. It is, therefore, evident in what an embarrassing position the Commissioners would have found themselves had they attempted, without reflection or inquiry, to carry out Dr. Blacklock's suggestions contained in paragraph 3 for these 948 latrines. The measures he recommends would have been exceedingly unpopular, so much so that I doubt if they could have been carried out at all, involving as they do the knocking down of private walls all over the town and the forcing of respectable people to abandon the habits of generations in a day, and to adopt at once new habits which they have at present a strong prejudice against.

3. The Commissioners instructed the Inspector (who was specially chosen for the purpose) to endeavour to ascertain what the feelings of the people were, and how the Municipality could best effect the end in view with least annoyance to the people. The result of their inquiries is the resolution to employ a certain number of scavengers to be paid by the Municipality. Each scavenger to have charge and be responsible for twenty private latrines, for which a charge of Annas 4 per month will be made. The system to be extended by degrees ; after a few months it is probable that nearly all the private latrines will be provided for in this way, and after this has been done, any few that remain may be closed by the authority of the Commissioners without raising a general outcry. The introduction of the dry-earth system and the reconstruction of these latrines upon improved principles must follow by degrees. Both the expense of constructing 948 latrines, and the impossibility of carrying out such a measure against the will of the towns people, prevent anything more than gradual improvement in this respect.

4. As regards intramural burials, on receipt of the reports referred to, I sent for the heads of the Mahommedan community, and after some discussion they agreed to make use of a burial ground to be set apart for them outside the town in all cases except those of fifty families who highly value the privilege of burying their dead in mosques and gardens, public and private, who have family burying places there, where their forefathers for a number of generations have been buried, and alongside of whom it is naturally their wish to be buried. Every one knows how much importance the higher classes of Mahommedans attach to their family burying places. The finest building in the world (the Taj at Agra is a Mahommedan tomb), and nearly every Mahommedan private building of any pretensions is a tomb. The tombs and gardens round them are usually kept up with a care and a feeling of religious veneration, which it would be unwise to shock without a stronger reason than the injury likely to result from burying the members of about fifty families, at the rate of a few individuals a year within the limits of the town. I think we shall have gone far enough for the present if the mass of the Mahommedan population are induced or obliged to bury outside the town. Time will enable the Government to complete the measure hereafter without giving offence when the importance of sanitary precautions is better understood and appreciated, as there can be no doubt they will hereafter be some day. The Mahommedan population of Rajahmundry was by the last census 1163.

5. Two sites have been chosen outside the town for burial grounds for the mass of the Mahommedan population, but I have not been able to complete the arrangements yet owing to various causes. But the matter has not been forgotten or neglected, as the Government will see, and will no doubt shortly be amicably settled on the basis of the arrangements described, if the Government approve of the views above expressed, and do not insist upon more stringent measures.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Rajahmundry, dated 9th April 1872.

* * * *

5. Resolved that the President be informed that the Commissioners consider that the statement made by the Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals in paragraph 2 of his letter is incorrect.

No. 78. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1872, No. 1214.

The Government appreciate the consideration and good judgment with which Mr. Stuart's letter shows that the operations of the Rajahmundry Municipality are conducted.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Rajahmundry.
" Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Rajahmundry,
&c.,

&c.,

Dated September, 17th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 17th September 1872, *No.* 1214.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 77-78.

Appreciating the consideration and good judgment with which the operations of the Rajahmundry Municipality are conducted.

God anery District.
Vice President's office
of the Rajahmundry
Municipality.
Camp Coconada,
12th August 1872.

No: 72

From

A J Stuart Esqre
Vice President.

To

W S Foster Esqre
President.

Sir,

I have the honor in reply to your indorsement on Government Order No: 902 dated 18th July last to enclose a resolution of the Rajahmundry Commissioners passed as soon as Doctor Blacklock's report reached them. The Commissioners deny that the very strong expressions referred to by Doctor Balfour and made use of by Doctor Blacklock in para 2 of his letter are correct so far as public streets or lanes are concerned.

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block. It is no more than what must be expected if an inspecting officer going round a town in the early morning, the time that latrines are in use, and inspecting them one after another finds the task unpleasant. There can obviously be no escape from such a condition of things until the people generally adopt the dry earth System. Only then can the direct inspection of private latrines during the hours in which they are in use be otherwise than disgusting. The subject is one of considerable difficulty and requires careful and cautious action. The Commissioners on consideration of the recommendation of the Inspecting Officer appointed a Sanitary Inspector on Rs30. for the special work, 1st of looking after the state of the private latrines and insisting on their being kept clean, and 2ndly of

collecting information about them with a view to the whole matter being dealt with in a comprehensive manner. He has now completed a list of these places, and the fact comes out that there are in Rajahmundry no less than 948 private latrines served by cotiers paid by the owners. It is therefore evident in what an embarassing position the Commissioners would have found themselves had they attempted without reflection or inquiry to carry out Doctor Blacklock's suggestions contained in para 3 for these 948 latrines. The measures he recommends would have been exceedingly unpopular so much so that I doubt if they could have been carried out at all. involving as they do the knocking down of private walls all over the town and the forcing of respectable people to abandon the habits of generations in

in a day and to adopt at once new habits which they have at present a strong prejudice against.

3 The Commissioners instructed the inspector (who was specially chosen for the purpose) to endeavour to ascertain what the feelings of the people were and how the Municipality could best effect the end in view with least annoyance to the people. The result of their enquiries is the resolution to employ a certain number of Scavengers to be paid by the Municipality. Each Scavenger to have charge and be responsible for 20 private latrines, for which a charge of annas 4 per month will be made. The System to be extended by degrees; after a few months it is probable that nearly all the private latrines will be provided for in this way, and after

this has been done, any few that may remain may be cleared by the Authority of the Commissioners without raising a general outcry. The introduction of the dry earth System and the reconstruction of these latrines upon improved principles must follow by degrees. Both the Expense of Constructing 948 latrines and the impossibility of carrying out such a measure against the will of the town people prevent anything more than gradual improvement in this respect.

4 As regards interamural burials, on receipt of the reports referred to, I met for the heads of the Mahammadan Community and after some discussion they agreed to make use of a burial ground to be set apart for them Outside the town in all cases except those of 50 families who highly value the privilege of burying

their dead in Groves and gardens public and private, who have family burying places there, where their forefathers for a number of generations have been buried. and along side of whom it is naturally their wish to be buried. Every one knows how much importance the higher Classes of Mahommedans attach to their family burying places. The finest building in the world (the Taj — at Agra is a Mahammedan (tomb) and nearly every Mahommedan private building of any pretensions is a tomb. The tombs and gardens round them, are usually kept up with a care and a feeling of religious Veneration which it would be unwise to shock without a stronger reason, than the Enquiry likely to result from burying the members of about fifty families at the rate of a few individuals a year within the limit

of the town. I think we shall have gone far enough for the present if the Grave of the Mahommedan population are induced or obliged to bury outside the town.

Time will enable the Government to Complete the measure hereafter without giving offence when the importance of Sanitary precautions is better understood and appreciated as there can be no doubt they will hereafter be some day. The Mahommedan population of Rajahmundry was by the last Census 1163.

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amicably settled on the basis of the Arrangements described if the Government approve of the views above expressed and do not insist upon more stringent measures.

I have the honor &c &c

(signed) A J Stuart
Vice President

(True Copy)

W Foster
President

Encl 17th Sept 1878

Comp'd D K P/

13 6

Extract from the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners for the town of Rajahmundry dated 9th April 1872

× × ×

V. Resolved that the President be informed that the Commissioners consider that the Statement made by the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals in Para 2 of his letter is incorrect.

True Extract
(signed) A Stuart
Vice President

True Copy
W Foster
President

1872 Sept

Enclosing Petition addressed
Resolution of the
Municipal Commissioners
Godmanchester
To the Chief Secretary
to Government

Dated 28 Aug 1872

Recd
No 7.
Do

Copy of a Resolution

R 1696/72

No 7. 17

Goevanery District
Office of the President
Municipal Commissioners
Cocanada
28th August 1872

From

W. S. Foster Esqre
President, Municipal Commrs.

To

The Honorable R. S. Ellis C.S.
Chief Secretary to Government
of Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to the order of Government dated 18th Ultimo No 902 Financial Department Para 5, I have the honor to forward Copy of a letter from the Vice President of the Rajahmundry Municipal Commission regarding the nuisances in the town of Rajahmundry.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

W. Foster
President

Encl. Rajahmundry
P.C. Clerk

1872 August
Sir with the Letter from the President of the Municipal Commission Rajahmundry to the Chief Secretary to Government
No 1028 August 72
Recd
No 7.
Go
Copy of Proceedings
Letter.

No 1028 28 August 72

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

Financial

To

The Secd. Irrigl. Commr.
Rajahmundry.

Dated Sept. 17.

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 17 Sept. , 1872, No. 1214

Nos. 77-78.

Appreciating the consider-
-ation & good judgment
with which the operations
of the Rajahmundry Mu-
-nicipality are conducted.

M.R.O. 1—77,001—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages 1-20

(2) Date of repair 3-1-46

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1214	Press Mis.
77 78		
Dated	17-9-1872.	

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77-78.

Not to be folded or roughly handled