M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1397 Press Mis.
145-146

Dated 11-10- 1872.

145-146 29/21

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(1) 1-10

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
11th October 1872.

No. 145. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department:—

Read the following papers:—

From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 10th September 1872, No. 139.

I have the honour to bring to your notice that, in consequence of the continued insalubrity of the Rest House Serjeant's quarters and the Range Office at Erode, with the view, if possible, of removing every apparent cause of such continuing, I addressed the Consulting Engineer for Railways, suggesting the removal of the tall and thick aloe hedge immediately in front of, or adjacent to, the buildings in question, which now surrounds the Railway station at Erode, which, besides impeding ventilation, standing, as it does, in the line of the prevailing winds, affords shelter for nuisance of all kinds being committed and for snakes and vermin, let alone the offensive smell arising from the decay of its own gigantic leaves. At the time of my addressing the Consulting Engineer for Railways I was not aware that the question of the removal of this hedge had been mooted before, but in reply that officer noted such was the case; and that, in consequence of the reasons urged by the Agent, Chief Engineer, and Consulting Physician of the Railway, "he was not prepared to urge the Railway authorities to destroy an efficient fence, which has been provided with great care and trouble, and to substitute for it an iron wire fence, which would be more expensive and less efficient." As, however, I do not at all agree with the opinions expressed in defence of maintaining this hedge, and believe that its removal will prove most beneficial to the inhabitants of the Government buildings above mentioned, I beg respectfully that Government will direct the Railway authorities to re-consider the question and arrange to substitute a light open iron fencing for the hedge complained of. G. O.,* No. 1083, dated the 14th August 1872, in the Financial Department, refers to an exactly similar hedge to the north of Erode Railway Station. The hedge noticed in this letter is that to the south of the Railway station and rail road.

* Public Works G. O., No. 270, of 30th August 1872.

From R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 3rd September 1872, No. 638.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, No. 701, of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to request that before I give effect to the orders of Government as contained in G. O., No. 1083, dated the 14th ultimo, my letter to you, No. 259, of the 27th of April last and its enclosures may be submitted to Government.

2. With that letter I forwarded a report made by the Sanitary Commissioner upon the subject, in which Dr. Cornish expressed an opinion which appears to show that the Municipality of Erode are mistaken in their idea that sanitation would be in any way improved by the removal of the aloe fence in question.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, Coimbatore, 27th January 1872, No. 2.

With reference to the enclosed correspondence, as per margin, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to move the Railway authorities to have the station aloe hedge at Erode re-placed, if necessary, by some other fence.

1. Letter No. 155, of 25th April 1871, from Officer Commanding to the Quartermaster-General, with three enclosures.
2. Letter No. 175, of 16th May 1871, from Officer Commanding to the Quartermaster-General.
3. Letter No. 386, of 18th December 1871, from Officer Commanding to the Quartermaster-General, with one enclosure.
4. Letter No. 10, of 18th December 1872, from Deputy Collector, Erode, to Collector.

Vide also letter to Consulting Engineer, No. 16, of 3rd June 1871, and reply, No. 526, of 7th July 1871.

2. I am aware the line mustbe fenced; but whether the station requires an aloe hedge round it is another matter; every non-transparent fence will be, as is usual, resorted to as a latrine. A fence to keep people out must be a certain height, and, to that extent, will interfere with what the medical authority calls "perflation;" so perhaps a wire fence would, if required at all, be the best for the station compound. Mr. MacGregor, it will be seen, protests against wire fencing; but his remarks seem applicable to the line and not to the station compound.

From the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Madras, 31st January 1872, No. 72.

I have the honour to forward original letters from the Collector of Coimbatore and the Deputy Inspector-General, Medical Department, and to request your attention to the serious complaint made against the existence of the aloe hedges at Erode. It appears to be imperatively necessary that some other fence should be substituted, and I will thank you to let me know at an early date what will be done. Mr. MacGregor's remarks, to which the Collector refers, are—

No. 2, 27th January 1872.
„ 5345, 13th December 1871.

"I would strongly beg to object to Dr. Johnston's proposal to have a wire fencing for the rail road carried out.

"This fencing is as expensive as it is useless. It only prevents bullocks, buffaloes, or large animals from crossing the line; to goats, sheep, &c., it is no obstruction. This is proved by the large number of trespass cases on Great Southern of India Railway."

From R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 25th April 1872, No. 259.

With reference to your office letter, No. 72, dated the 31st of January 1872, I have the honour to enclose you the copy of a report* made to me by the Chief Engineer upon the subject of the aloe fence at the Erode station, which it has been alleged is conducive to the unhealthy state of the rest-house there.

* No. 182, 26th April.

2. I also forward you a copy of the opinion expressed by the Sanitary Commissioner upon the subject to which Mr. Anderson alludes.

3. Dr. vanSomeren, the Company's Consulting Physician, entirely concurs in all that Mr. Cornish urges upon the subject, and after a perusal of Mr. Anderson's report I trust you will agree with me in thinking that it would be unreasonable to call upon the Company to destroy a fence that has been provided with great care and trouble.

From B. ANDERSON, Esq., Chief Engineer, to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Madras, 26th April 1872, No. 182.

Your endorsement, dated 2nd February, on Consulting Engineer's letter No. 72, of the 31st January 1872, forwarding original letters from the Collector of Coimbatore and the Deputy Inspector-General, Medical Department, on the subject of the aloe fence surrounding the station compound at Erode.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
11*th October* 1872.

I have inquired personally into the circumstances in connexion with the erection of the rest-house at Erode and have to-day been furnished with an extract of a letter from the Sanitary Commissioner on the subject of the alleged unhealthiness of aloe hedges, and have no hesitation in saying that it is most unreasonable to call upon the Railway Company to destroy a fence that has been provided with great care and trouble.

The Railway Apothecary at Erode informed me that the rest-house was built long after the aloe fence had obtained to a considerable growth, and that he warned the Government authorities at the time that the site selected was unhealthy, both on account of its lowness and its proximity to a large tract of irrigated land.

After a careful examination of the locality I am quite convinced that our aloe fence has nothing whatever to do with the unhealthiness of the rest-house, and my opinion is (I believe) supported by our own Consulting Physician and by the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner.

EXTRACT of a letter from Dr. W. R. CORNISH, Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Consulting Physician of the Madras Railway Company, dated Madras, 22nd February 1872.

2. In reply thereto I have to state that no facts have come before me showing that aloe hedges are in any way injurious to health.

3. The Chief Engineer, Madras Railway, has been good enough to forward for my perusal certain official documents in which the aloe fence around the Railway station of Erode has been complained of as causing unhealthiness; but, so far as the circumstances are stated therein, I can discover no grounds for the assertion that the aloe fence interferes with the healthiness of the locality, or that it produces any unwholesome effluvia. That the native population of the Municipality may utilize the shelter afforded by the hedge for latrine purposes is highly probable; but this is a matter of Police regulation, and the hedge in such a case would only act as a wall or any other screen would do.

4. As a matter of fact I know that the bitter juice of the aloe leaf is repugnant to most animals. Vermin will not touch anything constructed of aloe fibre, even white-ants refuse to prey on it; but aloe vegetation, according to my experience, is in itself destitute of any bad odour or volatile principle noxious to man, and I do not agree in the view that an ordinary aloe hedge is impervious to the prevailing winds.

5. I have observed in some places along the railway that the aloe plant spreads very thickly by suckers. Too great luxuriance of the plant, however, can always be restrained, and I need hardly point out that the aloe leaf ought to become a valuable product in this country on account of the excellent fibre it contains.

6. I am not aware of any plant that is so well suited for railway fencing as the aloe, and so long as its growth is kept within due bounds I can conceive no sanitary objections to its use.

From the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Madras, 1st May 1872, No. 436.

Upon receipt of your letter as per margin a reference was made to the Agent of the Madras Railway with reference to the aloe fence at the Erode station, which was alleged to be the cause of fever among the inhabitants of the rest-house adjoining the station.

No. 2, 27th January 1872, with enclosures.

2. In reply Mr. Elwin has sent me a copy of a report made by the Chief Engineer on the subject, also a copy of an opinion expressed by the Sanitary Commissioner, in which Dr. Cornish states that no fact has ever come before him showing that aloe hedges are in any way injurious to health; that the bitter juice of the leaf is repugnant to most animals, but that aloe vegetation according to his experience is in itself destitute of any bad odour or volatile principle noxious to man; and that he does not agree in the view that an ordinary aloe hedge is impervious to the prevailing winds. With regard to the special case of Erode Dr. Cornish says that he can discover no

grounds for the assertion that the aloe fence interferes with the healthiness of that locality, or that it produces any unwholesome effluvia.

3. So far from aloes being considered unsuitable for fencing the lines and stations of railways in this Presidency, the cultivation of the plant for this purpose has been repeatedly approved by Government, and the Railway Officers have been urged to substitute it for the prickly-pear in places where the latter plant had been allowed to grow.

4. Under the circumstances, I am not prepared now to urge the Railway authorities to destroy an efficient fence which, as the Chief Engineer justly remarks, has been provided with great care and trouble, and to substitute for it an iron wire fence, which would be more expensive and less efficient.

5. I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of the Agent's letter, and to return the enclosure which accompanied yours under reply.

No. 486.

Submitted to Government with reference to their Order dated the 30th ultimo, No. 270.

2. The letter to which the Agent alludes formed part of a correspondence between this office and the Collector of Coimbatore on the subject of the aloe fence at Erode, and to enable the Government to decide upon the point at issue I have the honour to enclose the whole of that correspondence, as follows:—

(1.) Letter from Collector of Coimbatore, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, No. 2, 27th January 1872.

(2.) Letter from Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Agent, Madras Railway, No. 72, 31st January 1872.

(3.) Letter from Agent, Madras Railway, to Consulting Engineer for Railways, No. 259, 27th April 1872, with enclosures.

(4.) Letter from Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Collector of Coimbatore, No. 436, 1st May 1872.

MADRAS, 12*th September* 1872.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Lieut.-Col., R. E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort St. George.

Order, 16*th September* 1872.

Referred to the Financial Department with reference to the Orders in that Department, No. 1083, dated 14th August 1872, with the remark that the objection to the aloe hedge round the Railway compound at Erode, as affording shelter to nuisances, does not appear to have been sufficiently noticed by the Railway authorities.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 146. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1872, No. 1397.

From the papers submitted the Governor in Council does not see sufficient reason to call on the Railway authorities to remove the aloe hedge surrounding

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
11*th October* 1872.

the Erode Station, but it is very possible that its unchecked growth, while in excess of the requirements for a fence, may tend to prove a nuisance, and he resolves to request the Agent, through the Consulting Engineer, to cause it to be reduced to and kept within such dimensions as, while sufficing for all the purposes for which it was provided, will give no cause for complaint against it as an obstacle to ventilation and a shelter for those committing nuisances.

2. The Government do not doubt that Mr. Elwin is fully alive to the importance of maintaining the Erode Junction Station in a proper sanitary condition, and that he will be prepared to take action with the Municipal Commissioners in order to remove and prevent all nuisances in the neighbourhood. His attention will be requested by the Consulting Engineer to paragraph 8 of the letter of 31st July 1872 from the President of the Municipal Commission, and the Governor in Council will be glad to learn that steps have been taken to regulate the occupation, by the native servants of the Company's employés, of the land in the close neighbourhood of the station, with which object the Government will be prepared, if necessary, to sanction the acquisition of the surrounding land under the Act as required on public grounds.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Erode.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Public Works Department

145

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

letters -

From the Superintending Engr 7th Dn - T. C.
No. 139 dt 10th Sepr 1872.

" Consulting Engineer
Railways — T. C No. 4867 dt 12th
Sepr 1872.

Order thereon 16th September 1872.

Referred to the Financial Department with reference to the orders in that Department No. 1083 dated 14th August 1872; and with the remark that the objection to the Aloe Hedge round the Railway compound at Erode, as affording shelter to nuisances, does not appear

1/N

Govt. of Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

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

Dated October, 11th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 11th October 1872, No. 1897.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 145-146.

Passing orders regarding the complaint made against the aloe hedge surrounding the Erode Railway Station as an obstacle to ventilation and a shelter for those committing nuisances.

to have been sufficiently noticed by the Railway authorities.

(True Extract)

W. Wedderburn Coll.r R.E.

Secy to Govt. P.W.D.

The Financial Department.

1872
Financial Department
Public Works
Railways
Dated 16th September
Rec.d 17th "
1872
No. 1880

Consulting Engineer
Madras
Collector of Coimbatore
Forwarding Station
Erode Railway Station
Collector's Letter No. 145

2076
30/7/72

No. 2.

DATE { Coimbatore Collector's office 27th January 1872.

From

A. Wedderburn Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore.

To

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.
Madras.

SIR,

With reference to the enclosed correspondence as per margin, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to move the Railway authorities to have their station aloe hedge at Erode, replaced, if necessary, by some other fence.

2. I am aware the Line must be fenced, but whether the station requires an aloe hedge, round it, is another matter. every non-transparent fence

1. Letter No. 155 of 25th April 1871 from Offg. Comr. to the 2nd Dvn. Engr. with 3 enclosures.
2. Letter No. 175 of 16/5/71 from Dy. to Dy. with no enclosure
3. Dy. 386 of 18/12/71 from Dy. Dy. with 1 enclosure
4. Letter No. 10 of 18/12/72 from Dy. Collector Erode to Collector

vide also, letter to Consulting Engr. No. 16 of 3rd June 1871 and reply No. 526 of 7th July 1871.

fence, will be, as is usual, resorted to as a latrine - a fence to keep people out, must be a certain height, and to that extent, will interfere with what the Medical authority calls "perflation"; so, perhaps, a wire fence, would, if required at all, be the best for the Station Com-pound - Mr. Macgregor, it will be seen, protests against wire fencing - but his remarks seem applicable to the Line, and not to the Station Compound

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.

A Mackenzie
Collector

H.

Railway Department. 2076 30/11/72 Consulting Engineer's Office

5

13 V

No. 72.

To,

The Agent and Manager,
Madras Railway Company.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward original letters from the Collector of Coimbatore and the Deputy Inspector General Medical Department; and to request your attention to the serious complaint made against the existence of the aloe hedges at Erode. It appears to be imperatively necessary, that some other fence should be substituted, and I will thank you to let me know at an early date what will be done. Mr. Mc Gregor's remarks, to which the Collector refers are,

No. 2, 27 Jany/72, —5345, 13 Dec/71. (to be returned).

" I would strongly beg to object to Dr. Colmaton's proposal to have a wire fencing for the rail road carried out.

" This fencing is as expensive as it is useless. It only prevents bullocks buffaloes or large animals from crossing the line. To goats sheep &c. it is no obstruction. This is

pressed

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

1872
No. 2

Dated 25 January 1872

From

The Collector of Coimbatore.

To

The Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Received. 31 Jan 1872

Enclosures. 4

Subject.

Requests that the Railway authorities may remove certain aloe hedges which are dangerous to passengers.

1,381

Answered 2/2/72

with a/c 1872

"proved by large number of trespass cases
"on Great Southern of India Railway".

Shaw Wcw

Madras
31 January 1872

Lieut/Col. R. B. Prendergast, Major, R.E.,
Ag. Cons. Engineer for Railways

/True Copy/

Thos. Addison

Asstt to Cons. Engineer for Railways.

No. 259

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE.

Madras, 27th April 1872.

From

Robert B. Shaw Esqr

Agent and Manager of the M. & C.

To

Lieut. Col. J. Holl. Shaw Stewart C. R. E.

Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir,

With reference to your office letter
No 72 dated the 31st of January 1872, I have
the honour to enclose for your information a copy of a Report
made to me by the Chief Engineer upon the subject
of the Post Fence at the Erode station which
it has been alleged is conducive to the un-
healthy state of the Rest House there.

2. I also forwarded you a copy of the
opinion expressed by the Sanitary Commissioner
upon the subject to which Mr Anderson alludes.

3. Dr. Cornish the Company's
Consulting Physician entirely concurs in all
that Mr Cornish urges upon the subject
and after a perusal of Mr Anderson's report
I trust you will agree with me in thinking
that it would be unreasonable to call
upon the Company to destroy a fence that
has been provided with great care and
trouble.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servt.

for Agent & Manager of

Copy to Collector of Coimbatore Lr No 4356 7 May 72

222574

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

P.R. 4484/72

Dated 24 April 18 72.

Rec'd. 26-4-72.

No. 203.

Forwarding Copy of Return from the Chief Engineer regarding the Aloe Fence at the Erode Station -

20-76
30/7/72
No 182

Madras Railway Company
Chief Engineer's Office
Madras 26 April 1872

174

The Agent and Manager

Dear Sir

Your endorsement dated 2nd February on Consulting Engineer's letter No 72 of the 31st January 1872 forwarding original letters from the Collector of Coimbatore and the Deputy Inspector General Medical Department on the subject of the Aloe fence surrounding the Station Compound at Erode.

I have enquired personally into the circumstances in connection with the erection of the Rest house at Erode, and have to-day been furnished with an extract of a letter from the Sanitary Commissioner on the subject of the alleged unhealthiness of Aloe hedges, and have no hesitation in saying that it is most unreasonable to call upon the Railway Company to destroy a fence that has been provided with great care and trouble

The Railway Apothecary at Erode informed me that the Rest house was built long after the Aloe fence had obtained to a considerable growth and that he warned the Government Authorities at the time that the site selected was unhealthy, both on account of its

lowness and its proximity to a large tract of irrigated land.

After a careful examination of the locality I am quite convinced that our Aloe fence has nothing whatever to do with the unhealthiness of the Rest house and my opinion is (I believe) supported by our own Consulting Physician and by the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner.

Yours faithfully
(Signed) Beresford Anderson
Chief Engineer

(True Copy)

W. H. Smith
Agent & Manager

W.H. 11/8/12

WHS

2076
30/7/12 Extract of letter. 8 191

From

The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras

To

The Consulting Physician
Madras Railway Company
Royapooram

2. "In reply thereto I have to state that no facts have come before me showing that aloe hedges are in any way injurious to health.

3. The Chief Engineer Madras Railway has been good enough to forward for my perusal certain official documents, in which the aloe fence around the Railway station of Erode has been complained of, as causing unhealthiness, but so far as the circumstances are stated therein I can discover no grounds for the assertion that the aloe fence interferes with the healthiness of the locality, or that it produces any unwholesome effluvia. That the native population of the Municipality may utilise the shelter afforded by the hedge for latrine purposes is highly probable, but this is a matter of Police regulation and the hedge in such a case would only act as a wall or any other screen would do.

4. As a matter of fact, I know that the bitter juice of the aloe leaf is repugnant to most animals. Vermin will not touch any thing constructed of aloe fibre, even white ants refuse to prey on it, but aloe vegetation according to my experience is in itself destitute of any bad odor or volatile principle noxious to man

and I do not agree in the view that an ordinary aloe hedge, is impervious to the prevailing winds.

5. I have observed in some places along the Railway that the aloe plant spreads very thickly by suckers. Too great luxuriance of the plant however can always be restrained and I need hardly point out that the aloe leaf ought to become a valuable product in this country, on account of the excellent fibre it contains.

6. I am not aware of any plant that is so well suited for Railway fencing as the aloe, and so long, as its growth is kept within due bounds. I can conceive no sanitary objections to its use".

/True Copy/
/Sd/ W. J. Van Someren, M. D.
Consulting Physician
M. R. Co.

Madras
22d February 1872

/True Copy/

Agent & Manager

D.W. 44/3/72

WJvS

Railway Department. 2076 / 30/7/72 Consulting Engineer's Office

No 436.

To, The Collector of Cuddalore.

Sir, Upon receipt of your letter

No 2, 27 Jany/72 with enclosures. as per margin a reference was made to the Agent of the Madras Railway with reference to the aloe fence at the Erode station, which was alleged to be the cause of fever among the inhabitants of the rest-house adjoining the station.

2. In reply, Mr. Elwin has sent me a copy of a report made by the Chief Engineer on the subject, also a copy of an opinion expressed by the Sanitary Commissioner, in which Dr. Cornish states that no fact has ever come before him shewing that aloe hedges are in any way injurious to health, - that the bitter juice of the leaf is repugnant to most animals, - but that aloe vegetation according to his experience is in itself devoid of any bad odour, or volatile principle noxious to man, - and that he does not agree in the view that an ordinary aloe hedge is impervious to the prevailing winds. With regard

regard to the special case of Erode. V. Cornish says that he can discover no grounds for the assertion that the aloe fence interferes with the healthiness of that locality, or that it produces any unwholesome effluvia.

3. So far from aloes being considered unsuitable for fencing the lines and stations of railways in this Presidency, the cultivation of the plant for this purpose has been repeatedly approved by Government, and the Railway Officers have been urged to substitute it for the prickly pear, in places where the latter plant had been allowed to grow.

4. Under the circumstances, I am not prepared now to urge the Railway Authorities to destroy an efficient fence which, as the Chief Engineer justly remarks, has been provided with great care and trouble, and to substitute for it an iron wire fence, which would be more expensive and less efficient.

5. I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of the Agent's letter, and to return the enclosure which accompanied yours under reply.

I have &c.

Madras
1st May 1872

/sd/ A. P. M. Shaw Stewart, Lt. Col., R.E.,
Cons. Engineer for Railways

/True Copy/

Thos. Addison

Asst. to Cons. Engineer for Railways.

No. 638

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE.

Madras, 30th September 1872.

From

R. B. Elwin Esqre,

Agent and Manager, of the M R Co.

To

Lieutt Col J. H. Lloyd. Thos Stewart Esqre

Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No 701 of the 31st ultimo I have the honour to request that before I give effect to the orders of Government as contained in G. O. No 1083 dated the 14th ultimo, my letter to you No 259 of the 27th of April last and its enclosures may be submitted to Government.

2. With that letter I forwarded a Report made by the Sanitary Commissioner upon the subject, in which Dr Cornish expressed an opinion which appears to shew that the Municipality of Erode are mistaken in their idea that sanitation would

25/9/72

Dn 4/10/72

28/9/72

be in any way improved by the removal of the Aloe Fence in question -

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant
[signature]
Agent and Manager.

MADRAS RAILWAY

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

P. W. 4484/72

Dated 8 Feb 1872.

Rec'd. 4-3 Feb 1872.

No. 638

Replying with regret to the request of the Collector of Erode.

Extracts from Annual Inspection Report on the Dispensary at Erode by the Deputy Surgeon General I.M.S. Southern District, M.M.
dated 6th January 1874.

Para: 8. "Erode, the principal Town of a Taluq of the same name, in the Coimbatore Zillah, is 86 miles distant from, and to the north of, Trichinopoly, at the junction of the two most Southern of the Presidency Railways. With a population of a little under 10,000 souls, the town is under Municipal Control, and has been for nearly two years. Although sufficient time has, scarcely, been given to the Municipality to effect much, still its action is manifest, where most it was needed, in cleansing the streets, lanes, and narrow places, through the agency of a conservancy, consisting of four scavengers, having 7 carts, for the transfer of surface impurities beyond Municipal limits.

Para

Four Latrines have already been constructed, though more are needed, judging from the offensive fator of human orduse which pollutes the fields and the air. An irrigating channel, taking its point of departure from the Cauvery, about 8 Miles to the West of the Town, skirts its south eastern aspect, and from this source the inhabitants derive their water supply, when the river is in flood, or from wells, excavated in the bed of the channel, during the Dry season. Well water is also used, but its quality is indifferent from saline and other impurities. Erode is notoriously an unhealthy town, and paroxysmal Fever may be said to be, at all times, endemic amongst its inhabitants. Not to multiply proofs, one example will suffice, that of the Military Rest House, in the close vicinage of the two Railway Junctions, and built for the temporary accommodation

accommodation of Troops on their route to their stations. The charge of this Rest House is in the hands, usually, of a Pensioned Non Commissioned Officer, for whose accommodation and that of his family a comfortable Bungalow is provided, but so concentrated is the malarious influence here, that soon the occupants are smitten with Fever, which, sooner or later, compels them to quit the station with shattered health. Under instructions from Army Head Quarters, I have twice reported on this subject, and, in the absence of any more tangible reason to account for the extreme unhealthiness of this Rest House and Railway station, (for the Railway employés located there suffer to an almost equal extent) have advanced the opinion, that, in the high thick and almost impervious aloe fences, which, in their intersections, shut in this Rest House, equally with the

the

the Railway station itself, and in the resulting stagnation of air and comparative arrest of its free perflation, a determining, and it may be added, a removeable source of disease may certainly be asserted. Clearly the remedy lies in the extirpation of these aloe hedges, (some of them are ten or even twelve feet high) replacing them by means of wire fencing. The result may, of course, be negatory, but even then it will be satisfactory to the Non Commissioned Officer, doomed to live in such a region, to feel that Government still interests itself in his welfare, even after he has ceased to serve it."

Para: 11. "Of furniture none has, as yet, been provided, not even an Almirah, so necessary for the safe custody of the medicines, nor yet a compounding Table. The Medical Officer has been instructed at once to bring these wants to the notice of the President of the Municipality, in order that these articles may be supplied." 33

Para: 13. "No Hospital servant has been allowed. This is another need to be met as soon as possible."

(True Extracts)

Surgeon Major
Secretary Surgeon General
Indian Medical Service

No. 425

To

The Secretary Board of Revenue

Financial Department.

35

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ Proc: of Govt. Public Works Dept, dated 16th September 1872.

Order thereon of Govt dated 11th Oct 1872 No. 1397.

From the papers submitted, the Governor in Council does not see sufficient reason to call on the Railway authorities to remove the aloe hedge surrounding the Erode station, but it is very possible that its unchecked growth, while in excess of the requirements for a fence, may tend to prove a nuisance, and he resolves to

B/A.

1102 Ex Consl 20 Feby 74

Read Letter from the Secy Govt Public Works Dept dated 11th Decr 1873. No. 1397.

Forwarded to the Secy Board of Revenue

No. 1425

Dated 26th January 1874

Submitted for Instructions

From Assistant Inspector Postal Circles regarding the existing condition of the Aloe hedge at Erode.

To the Collector of Coimbatore
" Superintendent of Police
" Executive Engineer
" Surgeon General

14th Feby 1874

Recd 25-2-74

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore for information & return of Aloe hedge

Recd 28th

Comd'r & the Collector of Coimbatore

1998.

Recd 5-3-74

to request the Agent, through the Consulting Engineer, to cause it to be reduced to and kept within such dimensions, as, while sufficing for all the purposes for which it was provided will give no cause for complaint against it as an obstacle to ventilation, and a shelter for those committing nuisances.

2. The Government do not doubt that Mr. Elwin is fully alive to the importance of maintaining the Erode Junction Station in a proper Sanitary condition, and that he will be prepared to take action with the Municipal Commissioners in order to

remove and prevent all nuisances in the neighbourhood. His attention will be requested by the Consulting Engineer to para: 8 of the letter of 31st July 1872, from the President of the Municipal Commission, and the Governor in Council will be glad to learn that steps have been taken to regulate the vaccination, by the native servants of the Company's employés, of the land in the close neighbourhood of the station, with which object the Govt will be prepared, if necessary, to sanction the acquisition of the surrounding land, under the Act, ~~as applied on public grounds~~.

To
The Secretary of the Board Comrs Erode.
— Public Works Dept.
— Board of Revenue.

dated 28/10.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

Financial

To

The Secretary of the
Board of Commrs.
Erode.
&c.

Dated 11th October 1872.

Recd. 1872, No. 1397.

Nos. 145-146.

Passing orders regarding the complaint made against the able Ledge surrounding the Erode Railway Station as an obstacle to ventilation & a shelter for those committing nuisances.