M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1437 Press / Mis.

214-215.

Dated 22-10- 1872.

5/6

214-215

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
22nd October 1872.

No. 214. Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 14th October 1872, No. 1410 :—

I must regret that the subject of Order of Government, No. 406, dated 4th April 1872, has been so long lost sight of.

2. With reference thereto I have the honour to remark that the chief works of a sanitary character that can be carried out by Local Boards are—

(1.) Works undertaken for the improvement of water-supply.
(2.) The enlargement or improvement of village sites.
(3.) The scavenging of large villages and small towns.

3. In regard to water-supply, the first thing to be ascertained by Local Boards is whether there are any villages unprovided with wells or tanks, and, if so, whether the defect is one that can be remedied. As a rule all villages should have masonry wells for caste people and out-castes, protected by parapet walls and paved foot-ways.

4. These wells should be cleaned out at the least once a year by the village officials. In the villages, &c., in which water supply may be defective or insufficient, a certain proportion of the most urgent works should be taken up year after year and the estimated amount for each particular work should be entered in Form IV.-B, and, in regard to cleaning and repair of public tanks of water for domestic use, the estimates should be submitted a little more in detail.

5. In estimating for the improvement of village sites, the villages proposed to be improved should be specified with the population of each. I may remark on this point that the crowding of agricultural communities into small village enclosures does not appear to be a wise or politic measure, looking to the health of the people. In olden times the several members of the village community built their houses close together for mutual safety, and often enclosed the village site in a rude fortification for protection from free-booters and wild beasts. The necessity for this close packing of the population has, in a great measure, passed away, and now, instead of encouraging the enlargement of village sites, it seems to me that it would be a good thing if the agriculturists could be induced to move their home-steads on to their lands. This is practically done by the people of Malabar and Canara, though on the eastern side of the ghauts the habits of the people still lead them to crowd in upon small and often unwholesome village sites.

6. The great difficulty with many village sites is in keeping down noxious vegetation like the prickly-pear. I fear this plant will be a great source of annoyance and loss to the Government, and as regards all village sites, without exception, measures should be taken, not only for up-rooting and destroying it, but for preventing its springing up again. I do not know how this is to be done by any ordinary sanitary or conservancy establishment; but each village headman might be held responsible that the surface of the village site was kept free of prickly-pear. If from any particular cause a village site is now too large for the existing number of houses, it would, I think, be good policy to diminish the unoccupied area by giving the land over for cultivation.

7. The estimates of proposed expenditure for scavenging large villages or small towns should exhibit the name and population of each place with details of proposed establishment.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 22nd October 1872, No. 1437.

The Governor in Council approves of the suggestions made by the Sanitary Commissioner and resolves to communicate the letter above recorded to the Board of Revenue. For the annual cleaning of wells and keeping down the prickly-pear grants should be made by the Local Fund Boards either to the Heads of villages or such persons as they think fit.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.

No 1410.

Offices of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 14th October 1872.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
of Madras Public Department.

Sir,

I must regret that the subject of Order of Government No 4, of dated 4th March 1872 has been so long lost sight of.

2. With reference thereto, I have the honor to remark, that the chief works of a sanitary character, that can be carried out by Local Boards are:-

1/ Works undertaken for the improvement of water supply.

2/ The enlargement or improvement of village sites.

3/ The deepening of large village ponds and small tanks.

4. In regards to water supply, the first thing to be considered by Local Boards is, whether there are any villages with wells or tanks; and if so, whether the defect is one that can be remedied. As to rules about village ponds, I have many wells for cattle, protected, and not used for, protected by parapets

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Govt. of {1872} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated October, 22nd.

Recd. *End.*

G. O., 22nd October 1872, No. 1437.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 214-215.

Approving of the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner in regard to the chief works of a sanitary character that should be carried out by Local Boards, and directing that his letter be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

walls and paved foot-ways.

4. These wells should be cleaned out, at the least once a year, by the village officials. In the villages (as in which water supply may be defective or insufficient, a certain proportion of the most urgent works should be taken up year after year, and the estimated amount for each particular work should be entered in form II B; and in regard to cleaning and repair of public tanks of water for domestic use, the estimates should be submitted a little more in detail.

5. In estimating for the improvement of village sites, the villages proposed to be improved should be specified, with the population of each. I may remark on this point, that the crowding of agricultural communities into small village enclosures, does not appear to be a wise or politic measure, looking to the health of the people. In olden times the several members of the village community built their houses close together for mutual safety, and often enclosed the village site in a rude fortification for protection from freebooters and wild beasts. The necessity for this close packing of the population has, in a great measure, passed away; and now, instead of encouraging the enlargement of village sites, it seems to me that it would be a good thing if the agriculturists could be induced to move their homes out on to their lands. This is practically done by the people of Malabar and Canara, though on the eastern side of the ghauts, the habits of the people still lead them to crowd in, upon small and often unwholesome village sites.

6. The great difficulty with many village sites is, in keeping down noxious vegetation like the prickly-pear. I fear this plant will be a great source of annoyance and loss to the Government; and as regards all village sites, without exception, measures should be taken not only for uprooting and destroying it, but for preventing its springing up again. I do not know how this is to be done by any ordinary sanitary or conservancy establishment; but each village headman might be held responsible that the surface of the village site was kept free of prickly pear. If, from any particular cause, a village site is now too large for the existing number of houses, it would, I think, be good policy to diminish the unoccupied area, by giving the lands over for cultivation.

7. The estimates of proposed expenditure

for scavenging large villages or small towns, should exhibit the name and population of each place with details of proposed establishment.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obed^t. Serv^t.
W. Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

1437 1872
Financial Depart^t.
From
The Sanitary Commissioner
Dated 14^th
Recd 18^th October /72
No. 410.

No 2089

Submits a few simple sanitary rules to the approved of Local Fund Boards.

Recorded 22^d Oct 1872 No. 1437

The Govt in Council approves of the suggestions made by the Sanitary Commr. & resolves to communicate the letter above recorded to the Board of Rev^e. R.S. Ellis

I would add.
For the annual cleaning of wells & tanks [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] should be made by the L. F. Bds. in those [illegible] to the heads of villages or [illegible] [illegible] as they think fit.

To the Board of Revenue. 101
dept. 3/72 — Sanitary Commr. 76

14 Oct. 1440

No. 3
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