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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1536 Press
58-59. Mis.

Dated 19-11- 1872.

58-57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
19th November 1872.

No. 58. Read the following letter from the Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 26th October 1872, No. 338 :—

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Governor in Council, a letter from the two Medical Officers now serving at Vellore.

2. In this they represent, as the consequence of the late breaches in the tank bunds, that numerous stagnant pools have formed from which very offensive exhalations arise.

3. These officers also mention that the subject has been submitted by the Vellore Municipality ; but, as Government may wish to be in possession of a medical opinion, and these officers consider it advisable on sanitary grounds that immediate steps should be taken to carry out the necessary works, I beg to enclose the letter which has been sent to me.

4. As Vellore has a population of 38,000, has a Regiment of Native Infantry with a considerable number of European and Native Pensioned Soldiers, is much liked as a sanitarium by Native Soldiers who have been serving abroad, and is a town which has a considerable amount of traffic, after writing the above I thought it advisable to proceed there and see how far the sanitary condition of the place would be affected by the recent floods. I found that the parts flooded on 14th October were chiefly—

(1.) The northern portion of the officers' lines.
(2.) The lands near the new cemetery.
(3.) The sloping plain on which the 28th Lines are built.
(4.) A considerable portion of the low-lying parts of the native town.

5. From all accounts there was a considerable rush of water, and, though the water soon subsided, injury resulted to private houses, to roads, and to public buildings. The flood of the early part of the year swept away the north-east part of the new cemetery, and it was re-built at an expense of Rupees 400. The rush of water in the October rains again threw down the same north-east portion, and disturbed some new-made graves within.

6. The road in the neighbourhood of the cemetery is cut into, and of the boundary walls separating the bungalows many are thrown down. But, happily, unlike the flood of the early part of the year from that of the 14th instant, there was no loss of life, nor indeed was there any danger; but, following so rapidly a calamitous flood and occurring in the night, it caused alarm at the moment, and has shown that similar rushes of water may recur with every rainfall. In the compound of a house to the west of the cantonment, lately occupied by Major Bowen, the water is reported to have been a foot deep, and yesterday water was still lying in the compounds of the Officers' houses, though the winds in the interval have been so dry that a fine white dust was blowing about on all the roads. Also the rush of water brought down a quantity of silt, from which emanated an odour as of putrefying animal matter. So penetrating was this bad smell that one resident on the western outskirts of the cantonment made a search by lamplight, expecting to find some animal substance in a state of decay.

7. I was informed that already a grant of 200 Rupees had been sanctioned for improving the drainage of the Regimental Lines ; and, doubtless, when sanction

has been given for all needed re-arrangements, the Public Works Department would be able, in a very short time, to prevent the recurrence of floods. But my visit of yesterday has shown to me the necessity for the adoption of early drainage measures, because a very extensive surface has been built over with houses now occupied by people in every grade of life, and it may be feared that fever and other ailments will follow the floodings of such an area. I submit this for the favourable consideration of the Honourable the Governor in Council.

8. The attention of the Public Works Department will, no doubt, be given to the channels and water-courses running from the valley, and I will, therefore, only note here that, in the western and south-western parts of the cantonment, all the outlets of water seem to me to require widening. The width of the water-course in the house outside the cantonment, lately vacated by Major Bowen, should be doubled. The drains in the lines of the 28th Regiment, N. I., need to be much broader, and their culverts enlarged and much widened.

9. To the south and south-west of the 28th Regiment's Lines is the site on which was the cusbah hamlet, which, with the exception of one house, was, in May last, entirely swept away. It was mentioned as possible that the locality would be permitted to be again built over, but I do not think that this would be advisable; the site lies low; it was formerly occupied by pensioners and Waddara people, and if cholera occurred near Vellore it was sure to appear in that hamlet. I think that the villagers should rather be induced to erect new houses in the direction of the railway.

10. In the Native Infantry Lines that have been abandoned there are still standing a great number of roofless huts, all of which might, with many advantages, be now thrown down and the ground levelled.

From Surgeon J. WILKINS, M.D., 28th Regiment, M. N. I., and Assistant-Surgeon W. S. FOX, Vellore, to the Deputy Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, Presidency Division, Madras, dated Vellore, 19th October 1872, No. 103.

We have the honour to bring to notice that, in consequence of the breaches in the tanks, Viroopatchee, Agraveerum, and Allapooram, which in May last caused such disastrous consequences by the flooding of Vellore, not having been repaired, nor the drainage of their watershed diverted from the town, and the nullah of the cusbah being still unrepaired, the greater portion of the cantonment and low-lying parts of the town, as well as the maidan on which the Sepoys' Lines are built, have been flooded during the rain of the last few days.

2. Several of the compounds of the Officers' Lines were under water, and had the rain (which was not unusually heavy for the season) lasted a little longer much damage must have been done; even as it was in one compound at least the water was three feet deep. This matter has been represented to Government by the Municipality; but, as the exhalations from the numerous stagnant pools are very offensive, and cannot but be highly injurious to the health of the Civil and Military community, more especially as a large number are still suffering from the depressing effects of the late epidemic of dengue, and, as the flooding under existing circumstances must recur after every downpour of the rain which is to be expected at this season of the year, we deem it our duty to request that you would be good enough to bring the matter prominently to the notice of the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, with a view that Government may be moved to take immediate steps to have the necessary works carried out to divert the drainage of the country around from the town and cantonment of Vellore.

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1872, No. 1536.

Communicated to the Vice-President of the Vellore Municipality, who is requested to state, without delay, what steps have been taken, or are contemplated, by the Municipality, for the improvement of the drainage of the town of Vellore.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Vellore.
,, Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Military Department.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of India
1872
FINANCIAL.
THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
&c., &c., &c.
2nd November, 1872.
Sir,
G. O., 18th November 1872, No. 1396.
NOVEMBER,
Nos. 58-59.
communicating letter, and its enclosure, to
Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department
requesting the Vice-President to state wh
is now been taken, or may contemplated, by t
Municipality, for the improvement of the drain
the town of Vellore.

No. 103

Vellore 19th October 1872

From,

Surgeon J. Wilkins, M.D.,
28th Regiment N. I.
and Assistant Surgeon W. L. Fox
Vellore

To,

The Deputy Inspector General
Indian Medical Department
Presidency Division
Madras

Sir,

We have the honor to bring to notice that in consequence of the breaches in the Ennis Perapatchee Agraharam and Allapuram which in May last caused such disastrous consequences by the flooding of Vellore not having been repaired and the drainage of that watershed diverted from the town and the outlet of the bund being still contained the greater portion of the Cantonment and low lying parts of the town, as well as the ~~Maydan~~ on which the bazaar lines are built have been flooded during the rains of the last four days.

Several of the compounds of the Officers lines were under water and had the rain (which was not unusually heavy for the season) lasted a little longer much damage must have been done; even as it was in one compound at least the water was three feet deep. This matter has been represented to Government by the Municipality, but as the exhalations from the numerous stagnant pools are very offensive and cannot but be highly injurious to the health of the Civil and Military community; more especially as a large number, are still suffering from the depressing effects of the late

Epidemic

and

Epidemic of Dengue or the flooding under existing circumstances must occur after every downpour of the heavy which is to be expected at this season of the year we deem it our duty to suggest that a report would be good enough to bring the matter prominently to the notice of the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, with a view that Government may be moved to take immediate steps to have the necessary works carried out to divert the drainage of the country around from the town and cantonment of Vellore.

We have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servants

Surgeon
2nd Regiment Lt. Inf.

Civil Surgeon Vellore

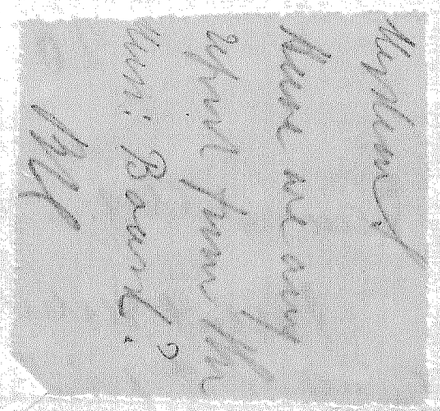
Deputy Inspector General
Indian Med Dept
Presy Chennai

26

My Dear Ellis

I went yesterday to
& returned to-day from Vellore
And in my absence,
yesterday, from Office
my half finished
letter was dispatched.
Kindly destroy it
And replace it by
the attached letter.

Yrs ever
Sincerely



No 338.

Office of Inspector General Hos.
Fort Saint George 26th October 1872.

From

The Inspector General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, a letter from the two Medical Officers now serving at Vellore.

2. In this, they represent, as the consequence of the late breaches in the tank bunds, that numerous stagnant pools have formed from which very offensive exhalations arise.

3. These Officers also mention that the subject has been submitted by the Vellore Municipality, but as Government may wish to be in possession of a Medical opinion and these officers consider it advisable on sanitary grounds that immediate steps should be

taken to carry out the necessary works, I beg to enclose the letter which has been sent to me.

4. As Vellore has a population of 38,000, has a regiment of Native Infantry with a considerable number of European and Native pensioned Soldiers, is much liked as a Sanitarium by Native Soldiers who have been serving abroad, and is a town which has a considerable amount of traffic, after visiting the above, I thought it advisable to proceed there and see how far the Sanitary condition of the place would be affected by the recent floods. I found that the parts flooded, on 14th October were chiefly;

(1.) The northern portion of the Officer's lines;-

(2). The lands near the new Cemetry;

(3). The sloping plain on which the 28th Lines are built; and

(4) A Considerable portion of the low lying parts of the Native town.

5. From all accounts, there was a considerable rush of water and though the water soon subsided, injury resulted to private houses, to roads and to public buildings. The flood of the early part of the year swept away the North East part of the new Cemetry and it was rebuilt at an expense of Rs 400. The rush of water in the October rains, again threw down the same North East portion and disturbed some new made graves within.

6. The road in the neighbourhood of the Cemetry is eat into, and, of the boundary walls separating the bungalows, many are thrown down. But, happily, unlike the flood of the early part of the year, from that of the 14th instant there was no loss of life, nor indeed was there any danger; but, following so rapidly a calamitous flood and occurring in the night it caused alarm at the moment and has shewn that similar rushes of water may recur with every rainfall. In the Compound of a house to the West of the Cantonment, lately occupied by Major Bowen, the water is reported to have been a foot deep and yesterday

water was still lying in the Compounds of the Officer's houses, though the winds in the interval have been so dry that a fine white dust was blowing about on all the roads. Also the push of water brought down a quantity of silt, from which emanated an odour as of putrifying animal matter. So penetrating was this bad smell that one resident on the Western outskirts of the Cantonment made a search by lamp light, expecting to find some animal substance in a state of decay.

7. I was informed that already a grant of two hundred rupees had been sanctioned for improving the drainage of the regimental lines and, doubtless, when sanction has been given for all needed re-arrangements, the Public Works Department would be able, in a very short time, to prevent the recurrence of floods. But my visit of yesterday has shown to me the necessity for the adoption of early drainage measures, because a very extensive surface has been built over with houses now occupied by people in every grade of life, and it may be feared that fever and other ailments will follow the floodings of such an area. I submit this for the favourable consideration of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

8. The attention of the Public Works Department will no doubt be given to the Channels and water Courses running from the valley, and I will therefore only note here that in the Western and South Western parts of the Cantonment all the outlets of water seem to me to require widening. The width of the water course in the house outside the Cantonment lately vacated by Major Bowen should be doubled. The drains in the lines of the 28th Regiment N.I. need to be much broader and their culverts enlarged and much widened.

9. In the South and South West of the 28th Regiment's Lines is the site on which was the Ambala hamlet, which, with the exception

of one house was in May last, entirely swept away. It was mentioned as possible that the locality would be permitted to be again built over, but I do not think that this would be advisable: the site lies low: it was formerly occupied by Pensioners and Waddara people, and if Cholera occurred near Vellore, it was sure to appear in that hamlet. I think that the villagers should rather be induced to erect new houses in the direction of the railway.

10. In the Native Infantry Lines that have been abandoned, there are still standing a great number of woffles huts all of which might with many advantages be now thrown down and the ground levelled.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

Edwd Balfour Insp.r General

Insp.r Genl of Hosp.ls Ind.n Med.l Deptt

Fmn 1872. Department
From
The Insp.r Genl of Hospls.
Insp.r Genl Medl Deptt
Fort Saint George.

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Department.

Dated 2nd October
Rec.d 3rd —— 1872
No. 338 Rs 2175
Subject.

Submits a letter from the Medical Officers at Vellore, and also his own opinion on the insanitary condition of that Town after the recent floods.

Forth with orders

C
2-1-11

19th November 1872 No. 1536.

Communicated to the Vice President of the Vellore Municipality, who is requested to state what steps have been taken or are contemplated by the Municipality, for the improvement of the drainage of the town of Vellore.

J.

The Vice Pres.t Mn.C. Vellore
Insp Genl. Med Dept

P.W.
Ind. D.
Sanitary Comm.

Chief Engr

Municipal

To

The Vice Pres.t Municl. Commr.s

Vellore.

Madras Nov.r 19

Read Ans.

G. O. 19 Nov.r 1872, No. 1536

Nos. 58-59.

Commr. letter & its enclosure
Genl. Engr. Fred. Orpl and Re-
questing the Vice Pres.t to
State what steps have been
taken or are contemplated
by the Municipality for the
superintendence of the drain-
age of the town Vellore.