M.R.O. 1—77,008—8-6-37.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 884 Press / Mis.

Dated 8-7- 18 72

54-55 16/17

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 54. Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Combaconum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vallam, 7th May 1872, No. 87:—

It is with much regret and reluctance that I find myself obliged to forward to Government, for their decision, the accompanying somewhat bulky correspondence which has taken place relative to a drain proposed to be constructed in the Town of Combaconum, and as to which a difference of opinion has arisen between the Vice-President and Mr. O'Shaughnessy. I was in great hopes I would have at one time had the matter settled amicably as between these gentlemen, and partly with this object in view I proceeded to Combaconum where I remained three days. I then took occasion not only to visit the disputed drain, but went over the whole of the Thepermanullur Channel from its old head in the Cavery to its present one—a distance of about 2½ or 3 miles. The re-opening of this channel and the keeping it free from accumulations and rubbish has, I may observe, long since been determined, and by competent professional authority, to be the only effective means of draining the town, and, in accordance with this opinion, the drain was in the year 1857 fully dug out, cleared, and for some years afterwards there were no complaints of the want of drainage. Latterly, however, the channel has been encroached on and planted, and in some places and for long distances entirely obliterated. The consequence has been that the drainage of the town has again been greatly impeded, and, after the heavy rains in November last, I am assured by the Tahsildar and other respectable persons who live in the street on the east side of Reddy Rayar Agraharam, that the water did not subside for two months.

2. To come now, however, to the matter of the present dispute. The facts of the case may thus be briefly stated. K. Raghunatha Row, the present Vice-President, lives on the south bank of the Cavery, and between that river and the north street of the Reddy Rayar Agraharam, to the east of his house, there is a piece of low-lying ground which formerly belonged to the family of the Rajah's priest; and into this land used to drain the sewage of the four or five houses on the north of the Reddy Rayar Agraharam. Subsequently, however, after K. Raghunatha Row purchased the land, he raised it and improved it at a very considerable cost; the sewage of the houses thus alluded to was necessarily impeded, and for some time past each house has had its own sewage oozing through the wall by a small aperture to the street leading to Sholappa Moodelly Agraharam, which lies to the west.

3. No doubt the discharge of these separate sewages nearly opposite K. Raghunatha Row's was and is a great and intolerable nuisance, and it is, therefore, not to be wondered at that, for some years past and previous to his nomination as Vice-President, he has strenuously exerted himself to get rid of what must necessarily be most obnoxious and prejudicial to health. Various plans were devised, and amongst these a line of drainage to the west terminating in a cesspool was recommended by Mr. Walch; this plan, however, does not seem to have commended itself to the Commissioners, and, indeed, both the author of it and the then Vice-President, Mr. Arundel, appear to have considered that the measure was in itself one of very doubtful expediency.

4. The matter was thus kept in abeyance, but since his succession to the office as Vice-President, K. Raghunatha Row has himself devised the present plan, to which exception has been taken not only by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, but by many respectable inhabitants of the town. In the absence of an accurate professional plan, it is difficult to place before the Government an exact idea of what these projects were, but the plan A. submitted by K. Raghunatha Row himself (and to which I have taken the liberty to add a few hand-notes in red-ink) will suffice to show that the plans of K. Raghunatha Row and Mr. Walch are totally and diametrically opposite; one drain was to be taken out towards the west through paddy fields ending in a cesspool, while the other is a deep masonry channel running in front of two thickly-populated streets skirting on its very edge a tank and a pagoda, and finally to be discharged through private property into a channel, which at present exists only in name, but where there is a small pit about two yards in diameter; this, however, being once filled up, the filthy sewage must of necessity be thrown back whence it came; and, it is almost needless to say, must prove an intolerable nuisance to the inhabitants of the streets through which the channel passes.

5. After personally inspecting the spot in company with the Tahsildar (Commissioner) and the late and present Deputy Tahsildars (all of whom are intimately acquainted with the town), I spoke for a long time personally to K. Raghunatha Row, and pointed out to him what the inevitable effects of his project must, under existing circumstances, necessarily be. All, however, he would say was that I should stop the work; this I declined to do, knowing I had no power legally so to do, and after another meeting of the Commissioners, at which I was not present, it was, on the suggestion of one of the Commissioners, agreed to "*postpone the admission of the sewage till the Thepermanullur Channel had been opened and cleared.*" (*Vide* enclosure marked 10.)

6. Such, then, are the facts of the present dispute, which, I fear, is not yet at an end. I cannot but express my very great regret and disappointment at the part the Vice-President has taken in the matter; I do not wish to attribute in the remotest degree improper motives to him or to any man, but public men must of course be judged by their public acts, and it is, I say again, with regret that I cannot approve of the Vice-President's conduct in this matter. I would only further here add that, to avoid swelling this correspondence to an undue length, I have ventured to add a few hand-notes in red-ink on the margin of some of the papers, for which I beg to be excused.

7. But, apart from this individual case, I think it is but right I should bring to the notice of Government the state of affairs in the Combaconum Commission, which came to my own knowledge when lately there.

8. There is a diglott newspaper published at Combaconum called the *Combaconum Athenæum*, of which K. Raghunatha Row is one of the principal proprietors and supporters, and the editorials of which, it is understood, are contributed by two of the Assistant Masters in the College. I beg to submit, for the information of Government, a copy of this paper of the 23rd March last, from which it will at once be seen that the information used in the article could only have emanated from the Municipal Office. Ever since the parapets of the Cavery Bridge were

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
8th July 1872.

knocked down by the Vice-President in July last, there has been a considerable amount of animosity between the Vice-President and the Executive Engineer; and since that time this paper has been made use of to foment this feeling and to exalt the Vice-President and his party at the expense of Mr. O'Shaughnessy and others. I beg to assure Government that, personally, I would not even have noticed this publication, but I am assured both by European and Native gentlemen residing at Combaconum, for whose opinion I entertain respect, that the paper has a most mischievous effect, and that its aim and tendency is to throw ridicule and contempt on those who entertain other opinions than those of its supporters.

9. But it seems to me, whether this be the case or not, that such a state of things is not likely to contribute either to the future harmony or the efficient working of the Commission; at present it is extremely difficult to get any of the most respectable and independent Native gentlemen to serve as members of this Commission, and of the nine members, of whom it is at present constituted, two of the most able and useful members have given up attending its meetings, simply feeling that their presence was useless, as the majority of the members, with the aid of the local organ, carried everything before them.

List of Enclosures.

1. Mr. O'Shaughnessy's first letter addressed to the President, dated 13th February 1872.
2. ,, O'Shaughnessy's second letter to the President, dated 16th March 1872.
3. ,, Arundel's Minute, dated 17th November 1869.
4. ,, Walch's letter to the Vice-President of Combaconum Municipality, dated 31st May 1870.
5. Proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 2nd June 1870.
6. Do. do. 13th June 1870.
7. Vice-President's letter to the President on Mr. O'Shaughnessy's letter, dated 16th February 1872.
8. The President's letter, dated 7th March 1872.
9. Proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 14th March 1872.
10. Vice-President's letter to the President in answer to letter, enclosure No. 8.
11. Proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 15th April 1872.
12. Vice-President's letter to the President in explanation of the petitions and mazarnamas.
5. Plans, from A. to E. both inclusive.

17 Total number of enclosures.
1 *Combaconum Athenæum* of 23rd March 1872.

18

(Signed) K. RAGHUNATHA ROW,
Vice-President.

20th April 1872.

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1872, No. 884.

The Government consider it advisable that the Superintending Engineer should visit Combaconum in company with Mr. Cadell, and give his opinion on the drain proposed and begun by the Municipal Commissioners.

2. In the event of the Superintending Engineer's opinion being adverse to its construction and the Commissioners refusing to yield, it will be open to the

Magistrate of the District to issue an injunction under the Code of Criminal Procedure to stop the work as a public nuisance, which an inefficient drain in the middle of a town necessarily must be.

3. The Government, however, are confident that the Commissioners will be guided by the advice of the Superintending Engineer, and that this extreme measure will not be necessary.

4. The Superintending Engineer should avail himself of the opportunity to devise the best means for the removal of the nuisance complained of in case he is opposed to the construction of the drain.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Officiating President of the Combaconum Municipal Commission, Tanjore.
,, Public Works Department, with 18 enclosures.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE OFFICIATING PRESIDENT
OF THE COMBACONUM MUNICIPAL
COMMISSION,
Tanjore,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July, 8th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 8th July 1872, *No.* 884.

JULY.
Nos. 54-55.

Passing orders on a letter from the Officiating President of the Combaconum Municipality, forwarding certain correspondence regarding a drain proposed to be constructed in the Town of Combaconum.

was in great hopes I would have at one time had the matter settled amicably as between these gentlemen, and partly with this object in view, I proceeded to Combaconum and there I remained 3 days. I then took occasion, not only to visit the disputed drain, but went over the whole of the Thepermanullei channel from its old head in the Cavery to its present one, a distance of about 2½ or 3 miles. The re-opening of this channel and the keeping it free from accumulations and rubbish, has, I may observe, long since been determined and by competent professional authority to be the only effective means of draining

the town, and in accordance with this opinion, the drain was in the year 1857 fully dug out, cleared and for some years afterwards there were no complaints of the want of drainage. Latterly, however, the channel has been encroached on and planted, & in some places & for long distances entirely obliterated. The consequence has been that the drainage of the town has again been greatly impeded and after the heavy rains in November last, I am assured by the Tahsildar and other respectable persons who live in the street on the east side of Reddy Rayar Agraharam, that the water did not subside for 2 months.

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family of the Rajah's Priest;
and into this land used to drain
the sewage of the 4 or 5 houses on
the north of the Reddy Rayar
Agraharam. Subsequently how-
ever, after K Raghunada Row
purchased the land, he raised
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recommended by Mr. Walch; this plan, however, does not seem to have Commended itself to the Commissioners, and, indeed, both the author of it and the then Vice President, Mr. Arnold, appear to have Considered that the measure was in itself one of very doubtful Expediency.

4. The matter was thus kept in abeyance, but since his succession to the office as Vice President, K. Raghunada Row has himself devised the present plan and to which exception has been taken not only by Mr. Oshaughnessy but by many respectable inhabitants of the Town. In the absence of an accurate professional

plan, it is difficult to place before the Government an exact idea of what these projects were, but the Plan A submitted by K. Raghunada Row himself (and to which I have taken the liberty to add a few hand notes in red ink) will suffice to show that the plans of K. Raghunada Row and Mr. Walch are totally and diametrically opposite: one drain was to be taken out towards the westward through paddy fields ending in a cess pool; while the other is a deep masonry channel running in front of 2 thickly populated streets skirting on its very edge a tank and a Pagoda and finally to be discharged through private property into a

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All, however, he would say was
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8. There is a daily news paper published at Combaconum called the Combaconum Athenæum of which K. Raghunada Row is one of the principal Proprietors and supporters, and the editorials of which, it is understood, are contributed by 2 of the Assistant masters in the College. I beg to submit for the information of Government a copy of this paper of the 23d march last, and from which it will at once be seen, that the information used in the article could only have emanated from the Municipal office. Ever since the

the Parapets of the Savery bridge were knocked down by the Vice President in July last, there has been a Considerable amount of animosity between the Vice President and the Executive Engineer, since that time, this paper has been made use of to foment this feeling and to exact the Vice President and his party at the Expense of Mr. O'shaughnessy and others. I beg to assure Government that personally I would not even have noticed this publication, but I am assured both by European and Native Gentlemen residing at Combaconum and for whose opinion I entertain respect, that the Paper has a most mischievous effect, and that its aim and tendency is

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on those who entertain other
opinions than those of its supporters.
9. But it seems to me whether
this be the case or not, that
such a state of things is not
likely to contribute either to the
future harmony or the efficient
working of the Commission: at
present it is Extremely difficult
to get any of the most respectable
and independent native Gentle-
men to serve as Members of this
Commission, and of the 9 Members
of whom it is at present constitu-
ted, 2 of the most able and useful
Members have given up attending
its meetings, simply feeling that their
presence was useless, as the ma-
jority of the Members with the
aid of the Local organ carried

carried every thing before them.

I have the honorable
Sir
Your most obedt Servt

W. M. Fullerton

Off. President

8

List of Enclosures.

Enclosure No 1. Mr. O'shaughnessy's 1st Letter addressed to the President dated 13th February 1872

Enclosure No 2. Mr. O'shaughnessy's 2nd Letter to the President dated 16th March 1872.

3 Mr. Saunder's minute dated 17th November 69

4 Mr. Walch's Letter to the Vice President of Combaconum Municipality dated 31st May 70

5 Proceedings of the Commissioners dated 2nd June 70

6 do do 13 June 70

7 Vice Presidents Letter to the President on Mr. O'shaughnessy's Letter dated 16th February 72

8 The President's Letter dated 7th March 72

9 Proceedings of the Commissioners dated 14 March 72

10 Vice President's Letter to the President in answer to letter enclosure no 8

11 Proceedings of the Commissioners dated 15 April 1872

12 Vice President's letter to the President in explanation of the petitions of Mazumdars.

5. Plans from A to E both inclusive.

17. Total number of Enclosures

1 Combaconum 23rd June 1872

18 15th April 1872.

K. Raghunatha Row.
Vice President

Financial Department.

No. 925

From The Offg. President Municipal Commission
Conservancy

Dated 7th May 1872.

FOR ORDERS.

I think that the best way of settling this
dispute would be to refer the Superintending
Engineer & direct Contractors to employ
with the Cartell and give his opinion
as the proposed drain. If it is adverse
the Municipal Commissioners will
probably yield, and if they do not
it will be open to the Cartell to
publish the employ of the drain
as a public nuisance. The Supt.
Engineer should at the same time
advise, if he disapproves of the drain
proposed & agree by the Municipal Commrs.
what should be done to remove the

No. 66.]

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

TELEGRAPH MESSAGE

From _____ To _____

From _____ To _____

Words _____ P.R.P.

Signature.

Date _____ 18

Financial Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Offg. President of the Municipal Commissioners, Combaconum dated 7th May 1872.

No. 87.

Order thereon of Co[illegible] dated 8th July 1872 No. 884.

The Government consider it advisable that the Superintending Engineer should visit Combaconum, in company with Mr. Cadell, and give his opinion on the drain proposed and begun by the Municipal Commissioners.

2. In the event of the Superintending Engineer's opinion

I should not like to see any interference with expenses of this nature. If it is thought that the more wealthy sections of the community, as the Cadell thinks, they should pay a certain expense -

14th June 72

I agree to agree as to sending the Sub. Engr and leaving the details in practically in his hands - but I would suggest that the draft be drawn rather less distinctly.

opinion being adverse to its construction and the Commissioners refuse to yield, it will be open to the Magistrate of the District to issue an injunction under the Code of Criminal Procedure to stop the work as a public nuisance. Such an inefficient drain in the middle of a row as appears must be one.

3. The Government, however, are confident that the Commissioners will be guided by the advice of the Superintending Engineer, and that this extreme measure will not be necessary.

4. The Superintending Engineer should avail himself of the opportunity

WR

seems to have set the example of simply unworthy motives, he should, I think, be rebuked. The Comrs seem merely unanimous - but if they do not really represent the Commissioners body, they should not be called upon to come to decisions. The Vice President is independent & determined as I do not. but I do not think he could officially abstain & which role can demand of him.

JS

I hardly think the Draft ~~remains~~ can be considered more dictatorial than the circumstances of the case require, and the matter is urgent, and should firmly & promptly be treated.

JS

And devise the best means for the removal of the nuisance complained of in case he is opposed to the construction of the drain.

Yours

W.S.G.

To.

The Offg. Secretary of the Commissioners 6
Municipal Commissioners Office
Public Works Dept. 11
with 18 enclosures.

38 - 2 Lett to -

3-1-14
B 11

Conservancy

Govt. of {18-2} Madras.

Financial

To

The Offg. Presidt. of the Combaconum Municl. Commrs.
Tanjore

Dated July. 8.
Recd. } 18-2, No. 884

Nos. 54. 55.

Passing orders on a letter from the Offg. Presidt. of the Combaconum Municipality forwarding certain Correspondence regarding a drain proposed to be constructed in the Town of Combaconum.

Chairman

C. 21/6.
21-7