M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 4.

(2) Date of repair 16. 2. 40.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 122 Press / ~~Mis.~~

156-157.

Dated 24-1- 18 72.

5/6

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

No. 156. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th January 1873, No. 58:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1872, No. 50:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings, Madras Government, Financial Department, and Proceedings, Board of Revenue, 12th November 1872, No. 2,190, informing that "the manner in which the Budget allotments for sanitary purposes are to be expended should be determined in detail, and a report on the subject submitted to the Board;" and with reference to the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner, who points out that the three chief conservancy works are to be—first, making masonry wells for caste people and out-castes, and cleaning out once a year; second, enlarging or improving village sites by keeping down prickly-pear which is to be kept down by responsibility of the headman; and third, establishment to be provided for scavenging villages; I have the honour to state that a certain Taluqwar allotment is made for sanitary purposes for improvement of water supply, or for drainage and consequent cleanliness and health.

2. The available amount at command of the Local Fund Board for sanction out of the one-third Anna levied for all purposes, except roads, from the agricultural population, will not admit of providing masonry wells, which, moreover, in rocky soils, are unnecessary, of maintaining scavenging establishments, or of annual clearance of prickly-pear, which whenever cleared off and not supplanted by cultivation, grows with greater luxuriance next year—neither can an ill-paid village officer be made responsible for the expense of clearing such vegetation. A masonry well would in most cases cost Rupees 500, and swallow up the whole of the taluq allotment, which is Rupees 500. The expense of a scavenger at 3 Rupees a month for each of, say, 150 villages in a taluq, $36 \times 150 = 5{,}400$; one would not suffice except for small villages. The eradication of prickly-pear is a costly operation, probably Rupees 50 an acre, and the amount (Rupees 500 per taluq) would not, besides being ineffectual, suffice for five villages.

3. The proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner are therefore unsuited to the accomplishment of the objects in view. In paragraph 6 he does not appear to be aware of what is being done in reference to the clearance of excessive village site over-grown by prickly-pear. In this district large tracts formerly over-grown with prickly-pear are now covered with flourishing crops, a process now going on for years.

4. When village sites become too small for the convenience of the people, applications are made and granted for the occupation of fresh land; in some few cases ryots have lived on their putta lands, but in general they prefer to live in a village, and this cannot be interfered with. I would therefore suggest that the Local Boards be not hampered in their disposal of sanitary questions by having to make estimates of impossible requirements. It is by grants-in-aid and not by estimates that they can hope to aid local exertions.

5. The local officials are directed to inspect villages, get their inhabitants to clean them up, and when necessary an application is submitted to the Local Fund Board, who when satisfied of its propriety at once sanction it.

6. To delay a budget till an impossible estimate of making wells, clearing prickly-pear, or scavenging establishment for every village, were made, would not tend to any good, and it is to be hoped that the Local Board will be allowed to use its own experience in disposing of the sanitary improvements, possible and practicable, with the funds at its command.

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MR. WEDDERBURN has completely misunderstood the object of the letters and orders which he quotes.

2. The Local Fund Board has full scope for the exercise of its discretion, and no delay of budgets until impossible estimates have been prepared has been ordered.

3. The explanations in paragraphs 4 and 5 are satisfactory.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
for *Secretary.*

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No. 157. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1873, No. 122.

To be recorded.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of Madras.

FINANCIAL.

*Dated January, 24th.*

*Recd.* *Encl.*

*G. O., 24th January 1873, No. 122.*

**JANUARY.**
**Nos. 156-157.**

Recording Proceedings, Board of Revenue, informing the President, Local Fund Board, Coimbatore District, with reference to his remarks on suggestions of Sanitary Commissioner in regard to works of a sanitary character to be carried out by Local Boards, that it is not intended to restrict such Boards in the exercise of their discretion in this matter.

**No. 58.**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th January 1873.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th December 1872, No. 50:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings, Madras Government, Financial Department, and Proceedings, Board of Revenue, 12th November 1872, No. 2,190, informing that "the manner in which the Budget allotments for sanitary purposes are to be expended should be determined in detail, and a report on the subject submitted to the Board;" and with reference to the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner, who points out that the three chief conservancy works are to be—first, making masonry wells for caste people and out-castes, and cleaning out once a year; second, enlarging or improving village sites by keeping down prickly-pear which is to be kept down by responsibility of the headman; and third, establishment to be provided for scavenging villages; I have the honour to state that a certain Taluqwar allotment is made for sanitary purposes for improvement of water-supply, or for drainage and consequent cleanliness and health.

2. The available amount at command of the Local Fund Board for sanction out of the one-third Anna levied for all purposes, except roads, from the agricultural population, will not admit of providing masonry wells, which, moreover, in rocky soils, are unnecessary, of maintaining scavenging establishments, or of annual clearance of prickly-pear, which whenever cleared off and not supplanted by cultivation, grows with greater luxuriance next year—neither can an ill-paid village officer be made responsible for the expense of clearing such vegetation. A masonry well would in most cases cost Rupees 500, and swallow up the whole of the taluq allotment, which is Rupees 500. The expense of a scavenger at 3 Rupees a month for each of, say, 150 villages in a taluq, $36 \times 150 = 5{,}400$; one would not suffice except for small villages. The eradication of prickly-pear is a costly operation, probably Rupees 50 an acre, and the amount (Rupees 500 per taluq) would not, besides being ineffectual, suffice for five villages.

3. The proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner are therefore unsuited to the accomplishment of the objects in view. In paragraph 6 he does not appear to be aware of what is being done in reference to the clearance of excessive village site over-grown by prickly-pear. In this district large tracts formerly over-grown with prickly-pear are now covered with flourishing crops, a process now going on for years.

4. When village sites become too small for the convenience of the people, applications are made and granted for the occupation of fresh land; in some few cases ryots have lived on their putta lands, but in general they prefer to live in a village, and this cannot be interfered with. I would therefore suggest that the Local Boards be not hampered in their disposal of sanitary questions by having to make estimates of impossible requirements. It is by grants-in-aid and not by estimates that they can hope to aid local exertions.

5. The local officials are directed to inspect villages, get their inhabitants to clean them up, and when necessary an application is submitted to the Local Fund Board, who when satisfied of its propriety at once sanction it.

6. To delay a budget till an impossible estimate of making wells, clearing prickly-pear, or scavenging establishment for every village, were made, would not tend to any good, and it is to be hoped that the Local Board will be allowed to use its own experience in disposing of the sanitary improvements, possible and practicable, with the funds at its command.

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Mr. Wedderburn has completely misunderstood the object of the letters and orders which he quotes.

2. The Local Fund Board has full scope for the exercise of its discretion, and no delay of budgets until impossible estimates have been prepared has been ordered.

3. The explanations in paragraphs 4 and 5 are satisfactory.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H. Stokes
for Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department.

Copy to the President of the Local Fund Boards, Coimbatore.

" to the Sanitary Commissioner.

Rsd. T. Cartledge.

C 21/1-
B 26

Fin. 1873. Sept.

# Board of Revenue,

## MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH JANUARY 1873, No. 58,

Dup. 20 Janr 1873
Encl.
No 127

Received 21st January 1873

JANUARY.

No. 58.

*Sanitation.*—President of Local Fund Boards, Coimbatore District, informed, with reference to his remarks on suggestions of Sanitary Commissioner in regard to works of a sanitary character to be carried out by local Boards, that it is not intended to restrict such Boards in the exercise of their discretion in this matter.

24 January 1873 K.12
Recorded
16 Pro 20

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

Dated Jan.y 24
Recd.
Encl.

G. O. 24 Jan.y, 1873, No. 122.

Nos. 156-157.

Recording Proc. Bd. of Revenue informing the Presidt. S.I. Bd. Coimbatore Dt., with reference to his remarks on suggestions of Sanitary Commr. in regard to works of a Sanitary character to be carried out by Local Boards. that it is not intended to restrict such Boards in the exercise of their discretion in this matter.