M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 26

(2) Date of repair 20-3-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 589. Press ~~Mis.~~

63-65.

Dated 7-5-1873.

14/15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
7th May 1873.

Read the following papers :—

No. 63. From Inspector-General E. G. BALFOUR, Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 5th March 1873, No. 78.

I have the honour to submit to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council that when, in September 1871, I was at Trichinopoly waiting until the insanes there could be got ready for me to bring them to Madras, I went to Tanjore and examined its sanitary condition.

2. I found in that town two points greatly needing attention. One of these was the state of the Fort-ditch, and the subsequent reports from the Deputy Inspector-General of the Southern District at his annual inspections of 1871-72 and 1872-73 indicate that Fort-ditch as the sanitary defect in the town. In the 1871-72 Report, Deputy Inspector-General Johnston says: "The Fort-ditch continues to be the opprobrium of the place and to receive the sewage of innumerable drains, thus forming, in half of its circuit, a gigantic cesspool replete with a seething mass of sewerage, in the midst of which a rank low jungle grows and derives life from sources which deal disease and death amongst the people of the town."

In the current year's Annual Inspection, Deputy Inspector-General Johnston reports that: "In respect to drainage, matters remain in *statu quo;* and the Fort-moat still remains as it was—a cesspool into which the contents of the Fort-sewers are emptied. Standing on the margin of this moat, one sees beneath him a black, seething, bubbling slough, meandering through a labyrinth of rank sedgy vegetation, emitting mephitic exhalations, whose abominable stench is one of the least of the evils, so fertile a source of human suffering, so surely evolves. In the presence of this, all other sanitary defects sink into insignificance, and every effort on the part of the Municipality, entrusted with the health-interests of the inhabitants of this town, should be concentrated on its removal."

3. I have the honour to add that I saw the town of Tanjore and the ditch at their very best, as all had been put in order in expectation of a visit from the Honourable the Governor, but the diseases occasioned by the immorality of the people and the state of the moat were points urgently needing attention. A venerable Hindoo gentleman there urged on me the importance of publishing a brief tract inculcating propriety of conduct, but there are already in Tamil available works of this kind; and he mentioned that it was the intention of the Municipality to plant the glacis with trees. I was of opinion that the planting of trees would be of value, but to level the glacis and fill up the ditch seemed to me the proper course to adopt.

4. The question that arises in submitting this point, is whether the fortress be of military importance, and whether there be any military objections to the filling up of its ditch, but as to the advantages, by levelling all round the Fort, to the community there cannot be any doubts.

Referred to the Collector of Tanjore for early report.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
6th March 1873. (Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 64. From the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Acting Collector of Tanjore, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vallum, 24th April 1873, No. 394.

With reference to your docket, dated 6th March 1873, on a letter from the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, dated 5th idem, No. 78, drawing attention to the insalutary condition of the Fort-ditch at Tanjore, and the immorality of the people, and suggesting that speedy measures should be adopted for remedying these evils, I have the honour to forward copy of a communication from the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore, on the subject.

2. There can be no doubt that the collection of sewage in the ditch at Tanjore should be got rid of if possible, but the evil has been greatly mitigated by the measures adopted by the Commissioners since the introduction of the Municipal Act. The construction of a new system of drainage and the levelling of the ramparts and the filling of the ditch would involve an enormous outlay which the funds at present at the disposal of the Commissioners do not permit of being incurred; the Commissioners are nevertheless keenly alive to the wants of the town in this respect and are prepared to give every attention to the subject.

3. As to the immorality of the town's-people complained of by Dr. Balfour as affecting the public health of the town, I am of opinion that there is nothing to show that there is more immorality in Tanjore than in any other large town in Southern India to necessitate the adoption of special measures for its suppression.

4. The letter of the Inspector-General forwarded with your docket is herewith returned.

From A. STREENIVASA ROW, Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore, to the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore, dated Tanjore, 9th April 1873, No. 13.

With reference to your letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 43, forwarding, for the consideration of the Commissioners, a communication addressed to the Government by the Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, bringing to notice the insanitary condition of the Fort-ditch, and the immorality of the town's-people, I have the honour to submit the following report.

2. The Commissioners have given their careful attention to the two points commented on by the Inspector-General, and are constrained to observe that the assertions of Dr. Balfour are not borne out by actual facts.

3. The subject of the Fort-ditch has not escaped the notice of the Commissioners. The Fort-drains empty themselves into the Fort-ditch in the northern half of its circuit in four different parts of the town. No stench is perceptible throughout the year, except two or three days in the hot season at the north gate, when care is taken to bale the water by means of special agency, and the evil checked at once. The mischievous property of the sewage-water is so highly dissolved in the ditch-water

that it ceases to exercise its influence on the health of the inhabitants to any serious extent.

4. Dr. Houston, who has watched the sanitary condition of the town for about four years, remarks, as follows, in his note of the 20th June 1872:—

"The drainage is good in the Fort, but there are few drains in the suburbs. The slope of the ground is such, however, that water does not lie much on the surface, but is carried off by the streets and lanes into the numerous nullahs and irrigation-channels. The arrangement by which the Fort system of drains is allowed to terminate in the moat is so obviously bad that I cannot doubt it has attracted the attention of the Commissioners. What effect the effluvium from the ditch has on the health of the native population, I cannot say; there is, however, little doubt that fevers are prevalent among them." But it must be observed that fevers are not now so prevalent among the native population as in previous years.

5. It is a notable fact that cholera has disappeared from the town as an epidemic, and that the hideous disease of elephantiasis has been eradicated from the town. The Commissioners, however, fully agree with Dr. Houston in condemning the arrangement by which the Fort system of drains is allowed to terminate in the moat.

6. To remove this defect, the Commissioners once thought of pulling down the rampart-walls, levelling the glacis and filling up the ditch. But the cost of the work, which was roughly estimated at a lakh-and-a-half of Rupees, was so enormous that the Commissioners had no alternative but to abandon the plan. It has been decided by the Commissioners that fresh drains should be constructed to carry off the Fort-sewage-water to the east of the town. With this view they have ordered their Overseer to take surveys and levels and prepare a plan showing the course and the dimensions of the drains. This work is roughly estimated at about 30,000 Rupees. The plans, &c., when completed, will be submitted to the District Engineer for his approval. A portion of the ditch near the east gate has been filled up at a cost of Rupees 2,951-15-2 by throwing down the Fort-walls. The new drain is intended to take its course through the centre of this part of the rampart side.

7. The sweeping assertion of Dr. Balfour regarding the immorality of the town's-people is without foundation. Upon what grounds the Inspector-General of Hospitals has based his conclusion, the Commissioners cannot conceive. The Commissioners would be glad to learn from Dr. Balfour the name of the venerable Hindoo gentleman "who seems to have urged on him the importance of publishing a brief tract inculcating propriety of conduct." The Commissioners feel no hesitation in declaring that the morality of Tanjore is as good as any other town in India, and they are certain that it is not looser than that of other towns not only in India but in Europe. But there is one point in connexion with this subject which requires to be specially noticed. It appears to have escaped the notice of Dr. Balfour.

The late Rajah of Tanjore having encouraged English medicine and English treatment by the establishment of a hospital in the heart of the town, the inhabitants have so much appreciated the efficacy of English treatment, in regard to diseases in general and secondary diseases in particular, that they resort at once to the Rajah's Hospital for treatment, instead of submitting themselves to the crude native treat-

ment as in other towns. The number of diseases thus presented in the Hospital appears to have induced the Inspector-General of Hospitals to comment on the immorality of the inhabitants of Tanjore, but the conclusion arrived at by him is as uncharitable as it is unfounded.

8. I beg to re-transmit Dr. Balfour's letter containing the docket order of the Government.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1873, No. 589.

The Governor in Council is glad to learn that the Commissioners have taken steps to prevent the Tanjore Fort-ditch from continuing to be a vast cesspool, and trust that they will press their plan to completion as speedily as possible. Dr. Johnston's picture of the existing state of things is apparently too highly coloured, but from the description of the existing system of drainage the evils cannot but be of some magnitude.

2. The Government had no intention of calling for any explanation on the alleged excessive immorality of the residents, but do not doubt that the reason assigned for the assumed unusual prevalence of venereal disease is the correct one.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secretary,
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Tanjore.
" Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Collector of Tanjore.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

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

Dated May, 7th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 7th *May* 1873, *No.* 589.

MAY.
Nos. 63—65.

Passing orders on the report of the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, on the insanitary condition of the Port-ditch at Tanjore.

Tanjore Municipal Office
9th April 1873.

No 13.

64

From

A Sreenivasa Rao
Vice President
Municipal Commission
Tanjore

To

The Honorable D. Arbuthnott
President
Municipal Commission
Tanjore

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 12th ultimo No 43 forwarding for the consideration of the Commissioners a Communication addressed to the Government by the Inspector General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, bringing to notice the unsanitary condition of the Port Ditch, and the immorality of the Towns people, I have the honor to submit the following reports.

2. The Commissioners have given their

Careful

Careful attention to the two points Commented on by the Inspector General and are Constrained to observe that the assertions of Doctor Balfour are not borne out by actual facts.

3. The subject of the Fort Ditch has not escaped the notice of the Commissioners. The Fort Drains Empty themselves into the Fort Ditch in the northern half of its Circuit in 4 different parts of the Town. No stench is perceptible throughout the year, except 2 or 3 days in the hot season at the north gate, where care is taken to bale the water by means of special agency, and the evil checked at once. The mischievous property of the sewage water is so highly dissolved in the ditch water that it ceases to exercise its influence on the health of the inhabitants to any serious extent.

4. Doctor Houston who has watched the Sanitary Condition of the Town for about 4 years remarks as follows in his note of the 20th June 1872.

The

"

The drainage is good in the Fort, but there are few drains in the suburbs. The slope of the ground is such, however, that water does not lie much on the surface, but is Carried off by the streets and lanes into the numerous nullahs and irrigation channels. The arrangement by which the Fort system of Drains is allowed to terminate in the moat is so obviously bad that I Cannot doubt it has attracted the attention of the Commissioners. What effect the efflurium from the ditch has on the health of the native population I Cannot say, there is however little doubt that fevers are prevalent among them. But it must be observed that fevers are not now so prevalent among the native population as in previous years.

5. It is a notable fact that Cholera has disappeared from the Town as an epidemic and that the hideous diseases of Elephantiasis has been eradicated from the Town. The Commissioners, however, fully agree with Doctor

Houston

Hewetson in Condemning the arrangement by which the Fort system of Drains is allowed to terminate in the moat.

6. To remove this defect the Commissioners once thought of pulling down the rampart walls, levelling the glacis and filling up the ditch. But the cost of the work which was roughly estimated at a lac and a half of Rs which was so enormous that the Commissioners had no alternative but to abandon the plan. It has been decided by the Commissioners that fresh drains should be constructed to carry off the Fort sewage water to the east of the Town. With this view they have ordered their Overseer to take surveys and levels and prepare a plan showing the course and the dimensions of the Drains. This work is roughly estimated at about 30,000 Rs. The plans &c. when completed will be submitted to the District Engineer for his approval. A portion of the ditch near the east gate has been filled up at a cost of Rs. 295-10-2.

by

by throwing down the Fort walls. The new Drain is intended to take its course through the centre of this part of the rampart side

7. The sweeping assertion of Doctor Balfour regarding the immorality of the Towns people is without foundation. Upon what grounds the Inspector General of Hospitals has based his conclusion, the Commissioners cannot conceive. The Commissioners would be glad to learn from Doctor Balfour the name of the venerable Hindu Gentleman who deems to have urged on him the importance of publishing a brief tract inculcating propriety of conduct. The Commissioners feel no hesitation in declaring that the morality of Trincomalee is as good as any other Town in India and they are certain that it is not lower than that of other Towns not only in India but in Europe. But there is one point in connection with this subject which requires to be specially noticed. It appears to have escaped the notice of Doctor Balfour.

The

The late Rajah of Tanjore having encouraged English medicine and English treatment by the establishment of a Hospital in the heart of the Town, the inhabitants have so much appreciated the efficacy of English treatment in regard to diseases in general and secondary diseases in particular, that they resort at once to the Rajah's hospital for treatment, instead of submitting themselves to the crude native treatment as in other Towns. The number of diseases thus presented in the Hospital appears to have induced the Inspector General of Hospitals to comment on the immorality of the inhabitants of Tanjore but the conclusion arived at by him is as un charitable as it is unfounded.

I beg to retransmit Doctor Balfour's letter containing the Docket Order of the Government.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt Servt
(Signed) A. Sreenevasa Rao
Vice President

(True Copy) A. Rutherfoord
A.D. President

1873

Despatch

from Collector

Trangore

To Chief Secretary

Madras

Rec'd 28th April 1873

No 394

Copy of a letter from the Vice President Municipal Commissioners Trangore on the subject of drainage

Filed 7 Oct 73

No 394.

Trangore Collectors office
Tallund 24th April 1873.

15

From

The Honorable D. Arbuthnott
Acting Collector

To

The Honorable W. Hudleston
Chief Secretary to Government
Madras

Sir,

With reference to your docket dated 6th March 1873 on a letter from the Inspector General Indian Medical Department dated 5th idem No 98, drawing attention to the insalutary condition of the Fort Ditch at Trangore and the immorality of the people and suggesting that speedy measures should be adopted for remedying the evils I have the honor to forward copy of a communication from the Vice President of the Municipal Commission Trangore on the subject.

2. There can be no doubt that the Collection of sewage in the ditch at Trangore should be

906

got rid of if possible, but the evil has been greatly mitigated by the measures adopted by the Commissioners since the introduction of the Municipal Act. The Construction of a new System of drainage and the levelling of the pumpauks and the filling of the ditch would involve an enormous outlay which the funds at present at the disposal of the Commissioners do not permit of being incurred; the Commissioners are nevertheless keenly alive to the wants of the town in this respect and are prepared to give every attention to the subject.

3. As to the immorality of the town people complained of by Dr. Balfour as affecting the public health of the town, I am of opinion that there is nothing to show that there is more immorality in Trichinopoly than in any other large town in Southern India, to necessitate the adoption of special measures for its suppression.

4. The letter of the Inspector General forwarded

forwarded with your docket is herewith returned.

17

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

A. B. Thuillier
Acting Collector

Read the following paper.

No. 78

Office of Inspector General I.M.D.
Fort Saint George 5th March 1873.

197

From

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

63

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Public Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that when, in September 1871, I was at Trichinopoly waiting until the Insanes there could be got ready for me to bring them to Madras, I went to Tanjore and examined its sanitary condition.

2. I found in that town two points greatly needing attention. One of these was the state of the Fort Ditch, and the subsequent reports from the Deputy Inspector General of the Southern District at his annual inspections of 1871-72 and 1872-73 indicate that Fort Ditch as the sanitary defect in the town. In the 1871-72 Report, Deputy Inspector General Johnston says, "the Fort Ditch continues to be the op pro-
"brium of the place and to receive the sewage

Financial 1873 Feby
Sanitary
Tanjore
From
Inspector General
of Hospitals
To
The Collector of
Tanjore
No. 889
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras
S.O. No. 889
Dated 24th April 1873
Received 28th April 1873
No. 324.
Issue Slip dated the 28th
Acknowledged the receipt of
the above-mentioned paper and
handed it to Mr. Nicholl for
communication to the Records.

"of innumerable drains, thus forming, in one
"half of its circuit, a gigantic cesspool replete
"with a seething mass of sewerage, in the midst
"of which a rank low jungle grows and derives
"life from sources which deal disease and
"death amongst the people of the town."

In the current year's Annual Inspection, Deputy Inspector General Johnston reports that, "in
"respect to drainage matters remain in Statu quo;
"and the Fort moat still remains as it was — a
"cess pool into which the contents of the Fort
"Sewers are emptied - Standing on the margin
"of this moat, one sees beneath him a black,
"seething, bubbling slough, meandering
"through a labyrinth of rank sedgy vegetation,
"emitting mephitic exhalations, whose abomin-
"able stench is one of the least of the evils, so
"fertile a source of human suffering, so surely
"evolves. In the presence of this, all other sanitary
"defects sink into insignificance, and every
"effort on the part of the Municipality, entrusted
"with the health interests of the inhabitants
"of this Town, should be concentrated on its
"removal."

3. I have the honour to add that I saw the Town of Tanjore and the ditch at their very best, as all had been put in order in expectation of a visit from the Honorable the Governor, but the diseases occasioned by the immorality of the people and the state of the moat were points urgently needing attention. A venerable hindoo gentleman there urged on me the importance of publishing a brief tract inculcating propriety of conduct, but there are already in Tamil available works of this kind; and he mentioned that it was the intention of the Municipality to plant the glacis with trees. I was of opinion that the planting of trees would be of value, but to level the glacis and fill up the Ditch seemed to me the proper course to adopt.

4. The question that arises in Submitting this point, is whether the fortress be of military importance, and whether there be any military objections to the filling up of its ditch, but as to the advantages, by levelling all round the fort, to the Community there cannot be any doubts.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant

Insp^r General

Edwd Balfour

Insp^r Genl of Hosp^ls Ind: Med^l Deptt.

Financial Department.

8
23

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters from the Inspector Genl. S. M. Dept. dated 5th March 1873, No. 78 Collector of Tanjore, dated 24th April 1873, No. 394.

Order thereon - Octacamund. 7 May 1873. No. 589.

The Governor-in-Council is glad to learn that the Commissioners have taken steps to prevent the Tanjore Fort ditch from continuing to be a vast cesspool and trust that they will press their plan to completion as speedily as possible. Dr. Johnson's picture of the Existing state of things is happily too highly colored, but from the description

L. D. L.

From Surgn. Genl. C. Balfour, Inspr. Genl. of Hospitals, Indian Medl. Dept. to Saml. Jepson Esqr. Secy. to Govt. Public Department.

Dated 5th March 1873.

Rec'd 8th ditto.

No. 78.

Subject.

Reporting on the Sanitary condition of the Fort Ditch at Tanjore.

Referred

10. No. 589

Read 1873. 8th April

Collector's Office, Tanjore, 24th April 1873.

From Lieut. Col. A. Jepson, Collector of Tanjore.

To The Secretary to Government, Public Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith a Report from the Sanitary Commissioner for the Town of Tanjore, on the Fort Ditch, and to request that the Government will be pleased to order the Commissioners to take steps to prevent the Ditch from continuing to be a vast cesspool.

2. The Commissioners have been addressed on the subject, and I trust that they will press their plan to completion as speedily as possible.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. Jepson.
Collector.

description of the Existing System of drainage the Evils cannot but be of some magnitude.

2. The Govt had no intention of calling for any Explanation on the alleged Excessive immorality of the residents but do not doubt that the reason assigned for the assumed annual prevalence of General disease is the correct one

To President Mr C. Tanjore
The Inspector Genl. I. M. D.
The Collector of Tanjore
Sanitary Comm

50 2 2 20

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Presdt. Municl. Commrs.
Tanjore
&c.

Dated May 7 } 1873, No. 589.
Recd.

Nos. 63. 65.

Passing orders on the report of the Suspg. Genl. Indn. Medl. Dept. on the insanitary condition of the Fort-Ditch at Tanjore.

C30/4 A7/5