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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1554 Press / Mis.

122-125

Dated 14 — 9 — 1874.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 122. From Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 22nd August 1874, No. 380.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council will remember that in the correspondence printed in the marginal Order I brought to the notice of Government the very unsatisfactory sanitary condition of the parcherry in John Pereira's and furnished the correspondence with the Madras Municipality on this subject, after which the hovels there were removed.

Proceedings of Government, Financial Department, 16th July 1873, No. 986.

2. I have the honor to mention that it had for some time past been rumoured that the Municipality contemplated the granting permission to build over that cleared spot; but the rumour did not take a definite shape until the end of the past month, when it became publicly known that the Madras Tramway Company was to be allowed to erect stabling there for their horses. And, on learning this, I addressed the President of the Municipal Commission a letter urging on sanitary grounds that such permission should not be granted. I append copy of my letter and of the reply which the President gave to my communication, and, as it was not possible from the answer to apprehend what course the President of the Municipality would follow, I have since visited the locality to find a quantity of bricks and timber laid ready for use, and there may not now be any doubt but that the President of the Municipality has already granted, or has resolved to grant, permission to erect stabling there.

3. The number of horses for which accommodation is to be provided has been mentioned to me as fifty, and I therefore beg to report to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that a body of fifty horses cannot be placed in that densely-crowded locality without a certainty of the occurrence of severe outbreaks of disease amongst the neighbors, no matter what care may be taken to ensure cleanliness. It may not be to-day or to-morrow, but sickness of an epidemic character surely will occur. The General Hospital is also quite close to this locality and cannot be moved away from it; any change in the condition of the neighborhood, therefore, requires continuous care, and I would also mention that there is at the present moment a recommendation before Government to occupy that neighborhood with the proposed new Lying-in Hospital, and it is very undesirable that any new insanitary conditions should be created there.

4. I would submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the subjoined correspondence is, in my opinion, suggestive of the importance of having a Medical Officer as the Health Officer of this Municipality. I have since the year 1840 paid much attention to all the means available for preventing sickness amongst bodies of men, and I feel that, had such a letter as I addressed to the President been disposed of by a Sanitary Medical Officer, the reply and the action taken would have been different.

From Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to J. C. LOCH, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, dated Fort St. George, 31st July 1874, No. 4838.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your reply to my demi-official note of yesterday.

2. I beg to mention that the cause of my addressing you was the information communicated to me that the Tramway Manager had been in treaty to rent or purchase the site in John Pereira's from which, at my suggestion, you recently, on sanitary grounds, removed a parcherry.

3. As your demi-official note in reply gives me information of a similar character I hasten to mention that the location there of horses is not advisable on sanitary grounds, and, if many horses be stabled there, the sanitary condition of the locality would be even worse than when it was occupied as a parcherry.

From J. C. LOCH, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 3rd August 1874, No. 205-1326.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, No. 4838, on the subject of the stables which you state you have reason to suppose—and, I believe, correctly, though I have as yet had no official intimation that such is to be the case—are to be built on the site of the parcherry in John Pereira's lately removed.

2. I think it well to take this opportunity of mentioning, with a view to prevent future misconception in similar matters, that the Municipal Commissioners did not call on the owner of the parcherry in question to remove all the buildings but merely to abate the overcrowding which, in the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, was attended with risk to the health of those inhabiting the parcherry itself and the neighboring houses. Its entire removal was the spontaneous act of the owner, who took advantage of the order to pull down the whole of the houses.

3. With regard to the remarks in paragraph 3 of your letter under reply, I would observe that I cannot believe the location of horses on the spot could be objectionable on sanitary grounds provided the stables were properly built and cared for, which it would, of course, be the duty of the Municipal Officers to see to, nor do I think that there would be any justification for refusing to sanction their erection under the powers conferred on the President and Commissioners by Section 120 of Act IX. of 1867 as amended by Act V. of 1871.

Referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for his opinion.

OOTACAMUND,
25th August 1874.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 123. TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,
Fort St. George.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of John Pereira's.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,—That in the year 1865 your petitioners brought to the notice of Government the imperfect arrangements which existed for the proper ventilation of the densely-populated suburb of the city and the imminent danger to which the residents were exposed in consequence.

2. That your Honorable Government upon such representation was pleased to communicate the same to the Municipal Commissioners in view to their taking the necessary steps for the sanitary improvement of "John Pereira's."

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th September 1874.

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3. That in deference to such order the Municipal Commissioners proceeded to widen the chief thoroughfare in the east face leading into Black Town, thereby improving the ventilation of the town, and otherwise providing for the comforts of its inhabitants.

4. That your petitioners subsequently represented to the Municipal Authorities a great nuisance which existed from the circumstance of a range of huts occupied by bearers being allowed to exist in the heart of the town thereby impeding free circulation of air and otherwise inconveniencing the residents of the town.

5. That the Municipal Authorities were pleased to cause the removal of these huts and by such act rendered immense benefit to the inhabitants, inasmuch that a large space of ground was cleared, and, by the uninterrupted circulation of pure air, your petitioners have enjoyed comparative immunity from epidemics and disease.

6. That your petitioners cannot sufficiently thank your Honorable Government for the interest evinced in the inhabitants of the densely-populated town which, in consequence of its central position, is selected as a place of residence by Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Ordnance Department and Warrant Officers of the Medical Department, and now by a large number of Railway employés.

7. That your petitioners are now threatened with a nuisance of far greater magnitude than they have hitherto had cause to complain of, the Madras Tramway Company having taken up the ground alluded to in paragraph 5 for the erection of stables for fifty horses.

8. Your memorialists represented the matter to the President of the Municipal Commission praying that he will take measures to prevent their erection considering that the stalls if erected will be contiguous to the houses of several of the inhabitants and that the effluvia arising therefrom will be a standing nuisance to the neighborhood and expose this hitherto-comparatively healthy suburb to the dangers of an epidemic.

9. In answer to your memorialists' request the President of the Municipal Commission replied that he is not aware of any powers under the Municipal Act to prevent the erection of these stables and that it is his intention to grant permission for their erection.

10. Your memorialists further requested that the President would defer the necessary permission, in case it was not in his power to prevent the erection of the stables, until the subject has been submitted for the orders of your Honorable Government, in reply to which the President states that, if there is no power under the Municipal Act to prevent the building of the stables, it would not be competent to Government to interfere with them so long as they did not become objectionable under some of the sections of the Act, or under the Penal Code.

11. Your memorialists humbly submit that apart from any provisions of these Acts there are weightier objections to the erection of these stalls, *viz.*, the safety of the public health and the probabilities of an epidemic, seeing that the addition of these stalls to the already-limited space will materially tend to engender disease of a malignant type which is likely to spread through the neighborhood at a cost probably of many valuable lives.

12. Your memorialists further beg to bring to your notice that not very far away from the site where these stalls are to be erected there are two schools where there are 130 children of Europeans and their descendants in daily attendance.

13. Your memorialists, therefore, humbly beg the interference of your Honorable Government against the erection of these stalls and thereby help to maintain the health and comfort of the town of John Pereira's, for which your memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

MADRAS,
24th August 1874.

(Signed) J. T. MORTON,
and others.

Referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for his opinion in continuation of endorsement on letter from the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, dated 22nd August 1874, No. 380.

OOTACAMUND,
28th August 1874.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 124. From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 1st September 1874, No. 1030.

Letter from Surgeon-General to Chief Secretary, No. 380, of 22nd August 1874.
Petition of inhabitants of John Pereira's.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of papers as per margin with your endorsements.

2. The piece of ground in question was not long ago the site of a pariah settlement, and, as there appeared to me, after inspection, to be a dangerous amount of overcrowding of human beings upon the area, I advised the President of the Municipal Commission to apply the provisions of the Act and call upon the owner of the land to abate the overcrowding. The proprietor of the land not only responded to this call but he at the same time took advantage of the Municipal notice to evict every one of his tenants and to clear the land of every hut existing upon it. A large number of families of the poorer classes were thus forced to quit their homes (such as they were) and find new ones.

3. The piece of land thus vacated was at the disposal of the proprietor either to sell for building-sites or to utilize in any manner not inconsistent with the Municipal bye-laws, and the petitioners in paragraph 5 of their letter are altogether in error in supposing that the Municipal Commissioners or myself had any power to direct the site to be cleared of all huts. All that we could do was done, *viz.*, to call upon the proprietor to diminish the number of huts and inhabitants to the proportion thought necessary for the safety of the public health. The proprietor of his own accord went beyond the requirements of the law and cleared the whole area.

4. After careful inspection of the cleared grounds and surrounding area I have come to the conclusion that there are no special objections to be urged against the construction upon them of a substantial stable, provided that the building plans, number of, and size of, stalls, arrangements for paving, drainage, &c., are such as to meet with the approval of the Municipal and Sanitary Authorities.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th September 1874.

5. That the residents would prefer the ground to be left as an open space or to be used for building houses of a superior class is very natural, but it is not likely that mere sentimental objections are likely to be entertained by the proprietor of the land, who is, I suppose, anxious to make the most he can of it. If intending house-builders offered more for the site than stable proprietors they would probably have the choice of it; but, under any circumstances, the neighbors have no cause to complain of the proprietor attempting to lease his land to the best advantage.

6. It seems to be implied in the letter of the petitioners as well as in the correspondence between the Surgeon-General and President of the Municipal Commission that a stable for horses must *necessarily* be attended with unusual risk to health to those residing in the neighborhood. I need scarcely remark that there is no foundation for such a theory in the present state of our knowledge of the laws of health (however strongly some persons may assert to the contrary). Four-footed animals, like human beings, require ample breathing space, pure air, water, food, and cleanly management; and, while they have all these things, there is no evidence to show that the location of horses or cattle within a town is in any way hurtful to the animals themselves or to their human neighbors. Anyoneconversant with the public stables existing in Madras, or with good stable management anywhere, must be perfectly aware that the fear expressed by the petitioners in paragraph 11 of the petition as to possible results of the erection of stables in their midst are groundless. Were stables of this class so noxious to the public health the neighbors of Messrs. Waller and Taylor and Co. would before this have found it out.

7. There is no town in the world with which I am acquainted the Authorities of which have not to make provision for the accommodation of horses and cattle necessary for the use of man. In London, as is well known, the stabling adjoins the mansions to which it belongs, and in a crowded place like Black Town the residents are obliged to make provision for their horses and cattle quite close to, or most frequently *within*, their own dwellings. I have no doubt that many of the petitioners are in this predicament themselves, and, if they are not, it is notorious that they are living close by a class of people who herd buffaloes and cattle within their house enclosures, and who, by their defective sanitary arrangements for their cattle, imperil the health, not only of their beasts, but of the human population. Yet they have left unnoticed this grave sanitary evil, long existing in their midst, to complain of an imaginary grievance respecting the possible nuisance of a new stable.

8. In dealing with this reference I am obliged to apply the broad principles of sanitation. No town can get on without due provision for its population of horses and cattle. It is quite impracticable to urge that man and the inferior animals shall not inhabit the same or adjoining areas. The presence of animals is essential to the convenience and comfort of the human population, and all that Municipal and Sanitary officials can do is to prevent overcrowding, to insist on cleanliness, drainage, shelter, &c., being adequate, and to frame regulations for the general

welfare, comfort, and convenience of man and beast. Applying these general principles to the case in point there seems to be no reason for Government interference with the right of the proprietor to utilize his land in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Act.

9. But the utterly inadequate accommodation for cattle in private houses, the absence of paving drainage, and ordinary cleanliness in these private cattle-stalls and stables, are subjects of very grave and pressing importance in relation to the health of the town. The locality of Yeddayapolliem, close by John Pereira's, is occupied by herdsmen, and, as a rule, the cattle-sheds are overcrowded and abominably offensive and disgusting. In the revision of the Municipal Act now under consideration I trust it may be practicable to introduce clauses dealing more effectively with the nuisances arising from the defective arrangements for stabling cattle and horses within the town, and any support the Government can afford the Municipality in dealing with these most common nuisances will be of great value.

10. I am informed by Mr. Loch that it has now been determined that the Tramway stables shall not be erected on the site in question. But, as another site will probably be wanted near the same locality, all that seems necessary in the way of Municipal interference is that the selected site shall be one admitting of proper drainage and conservancy, and that the building plans (to be approved of by the Municipality) make adequate provision for the accommodation of the number of animals specified.

11. I have the honor to return the referred papers herewith.

No. 125. ORDER THEREON, 14th September 1874, No. 1554.

The report of the Sanitary Commissioner will be furnished to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, and to the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.

2. The inhabitants of John Pereira's will be informed that the Government see no reason for their interference in the matter.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.
,, Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ papers.

Letter from the Surgn: Genl. Ind.a Med.l Dept.t } d.d 22nd Sept.r /74, No. 380.
Petition from the Inhabitants of John Pereira's, Madras. } d.d 24 ——— to

Letter from the Sanry: Commissioner,— 1st Septr. 1874, No. 1030

Order thereon & Notice 14 Sept.r 1874 No. 1554

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2. The inhabitants of John Pereira's will be informed that the Govt. see no reason for their interference

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Govt. of Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 14th.

Read.

Endt.

G.O., 14th September 1874, No. 1554.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 122—125.

Erection of Stablings on a Site at John Pereira's for the Horses of the Tramway Company.—The opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner in regard to the erection of these stablings, furnished to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, and to the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras; and the inhabitants of John Pereira's informed, in reply to their petition, that the Government see no reason for their interference in the matter.

interference in the matter.

3. The Tramway Company, it is observed, have abandoned their intention to erect stables in John Pereira's.

I would omit 104

To

The Surgn. Genl. I. M. D.
Presdt. of the Commn.
Sanry. Commissioners.

Endorsement to the ~~Petitioners~~ ~~Petitioners~~ ~~Petitioners~~ ~~Petitioners~~ of John Pereira, Madras.

WRA 4/5/76

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Genl

To

The Surgeon Genl
Inon Genl & Dept
&ca

Dated 16th Septr
Read. 1874, No 1551.

Nos. 122-125-

Erection of Stallings on a site at John Pereira's for the horses of the Tramway Company. The opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner in regard to the erection of these stallings furnished to the Surgeon Genl & I. M. Dept & to the President of the Imprt Commr Madras and the inhabitants of

John Pereira informed, in reply to their petition, that the Govt see no reason for their interference in the matter.

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