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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 209. Press / Mis.

66-67.

Dated 9—2— 1874.

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 66. Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Madura, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madura, 29th January 1874, No. 7:—

With reference to paragraph 3 of my letter, No. 1, dated 16th January, and paragraph 8 of the Budget Report of the Madura Municipal Commissioners which accompanied it, I have the honour to submit, for the favourable consideration of Government, a letter from the Vice-President of the Madura Municipality, dated 27th January 1874.

2. The Commissioners say that they cannot improve their drainage and water-supply without professional assistance, and that they cannot obtain such assistance for themselves. It appears to me that several Municipalities might easily join in paying the cost of such professional assistance as is necessary, and I see no difficulty in carrying out the proposal of the Madura Commissioners if it meets with the approval of Government.

From F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Madura, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Madura, dated Madura, 27th January 1874, No. 18.

I have the honour to bring to your notice the fact of a sum of Rupees 5,000 having been set apart in the budget of 1874-75 for the purpose of obtaining professional advice on the subject of the water-supply and drainage of the town of Madura.

Water-supply and drainage of Madura.

2. By Resolution II. of 1874, a copy of which is herewith sent, the Commissioners have requested me to forward this letter to you with a view to obtaining the aid of Government on the matter.

Aid of Government requested.

3. You are aware that this large town is supplied with water from wells, tanks, and the river-bed. The wells are simply surface wells dug in the upper soil of an ancient town, which by the accumulation of rubbish of centuries has been raised considerably above its original level. There are few wells where the water is not saltish, and these are in the suburbs by the edges of tanks and channels. The other wells of the town are within two or three feet of the town drains which are notoriously imperfect. Private wells are usually still worse situated, being in backyards often within a few feet of a cesspool privy, of which there are thousands in the town.

Present water-supply.

Wells are surface wells and foul; close to public drains and private privies; water bad.

4. The tanks within the town are simply large wells, the water of which is never renewed except by the rain water which washes out the streets, and which is used for bathing, washing clothes, &c.

Tanks are large wells.

5. The river-bed water would be good if there were more of it, and if the bed were not habitually defiled by being used as a latrine, and if the water-channels were not also used for washing, dyeing clothes, &c.

River water scanty in quantity and defiled by cloth washing and dyeing, and by excrementitious matters.

6. The water-supply of the town is, therefore, deficient in quality, while its quantity is scanty, good water being brought round in barrels (and in some instances from distances of several miles) (Thiruparangundram, &c.); nor is there any surplus water for flushing drains, watering streets

7. *Drains.*—The (so called) drains are mostly ancient, rectangular, ill-made, and worse levelled masonry cesspools which employ 72 drain cleaners (at Rupees 6 each per mensem) to look after them and ill repay the labour. They are simply a nuisance productive of horrible smells and swarms of insects, and are doubtless most destructive to health since they run at the foot of the pyals where people habitually sleep, and alongside the doors and windows which are the chief means of house ventilation. If putrid sewer exhalations are injurious to life, it follows that our drains call for immediate examination. The Commissioners have long been alive to the importance of these matters, and have accumulated a sum of about Rupees 30,000 for beginning the work. Government have also repeatedly urged upon the Commissioners the absolute necessity of doing something, and the Sanitary Commissioner has also expressed himself strongly on the matter. In 1872 the Commissioners engaged an Overseer, who had passed the Civil Engineering College of Madras, and who prepared what was called a drainage scheme. That experience shows that to such a work only a skilled Engineer would do justice, and the Commissioners have, therefore, set apart Rupees 5,000 for obtaining the advice of such an officer. With the funds at the Commissioner's disposal it is clearly impossible for them to get out from England a Sanitary Engineer whose opinion would be thoroughly reliable, let alone the fact that special knowledge of natives and their customs is required for a completely successful scheme. The Commissioners have in this matter no precedent for their guidance and at present no cöoperation from other Municipalities who might join in obtaining the services of a skilled Engineer who would proceed from one town to another elaborating for each a system suited to its circumstances. They, therefore, seek the aid of Government, and request that if it be possible the services of a skilled and experienced Engineer may be placed at their disposal for the preparation of the scheme. The Commissioners are of course prepared to pay for his services, and they conceive that the sum set apart (Rupees 5,000) will be amply sufficient, the problem being in this town by no means a complicated one. The scheme when prepared would be submitted for the consideration of Government, and would, when approved, be carried out by an executive officer to be appointed for the purpose.

Drains imperfect, badly levelled, and without outfall.

Productive of unwholesome effluvia which penetrate the houses.

Government, the Sanitary Commissioner, &c., have urged the Commissioners to remedy the present evils.

The problem demands the attention of an officer versed in the latest Sanitary science, and of an experience, if possible, both European and Indian.

Government requested to aid the Commissioners in obtaining such an officer to be paid from municipal funds for devising a scheme.

8. Although the Commissioners have at present no cöoperation from other Municipalities, it is respectfully suggested that were several large towns to join in obtaining the services of an Engineer, they could not only afford to obtain a really skilled and experienced Engineer thoroughly versed in the theory and practice of modern Sanitary science, but the cost would be such as could well be afforded by even poor Municipalities. Six large towns joining in this way might very well make it worth while for an Engineer to visit this country for, say three years, during which period he would elaborate systems for all the six towns which would pay a share proportionate to the time occupied by them respectively. The Commissioners would be glad to have the opinion of Government as to whether this suggestion is of any value. The chief difficulty appears to the Commissioners to be the fact that no Engineer of experience and at the same time versed in native habits and customs might be obtainable.

Suggesting that other Municipalities might be invited to join in hiring a competent Engineer.

9. The Commissioners have submitted this whole matter to Government in the confidence that, not only will the Government be pleased to aid them in the way above mentioned, but that aid in the shape of a loan for a term of years on the security of, say, the Municipal house-tax, will also be afforded them.

The aid of Government requested in the way of advice and of a loan for years.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Madura Municipal Meeting held on the 7th January 1874.

* *

II. Read letter prepared by the Vice-President for submission to Government as to obtaining the paid services of an Engineer for elaborating a system for the water-supply and drainage of the town.

Resolved that the Commissioners approve of the letter submitted to them, and desire that it be forwarded to the President for transmission to Government.

* * * *

No. 67. ORDER THEREON, 9th February 1874, No. 209.

The Governor in Council desires to know why the services of the District Engineer cannot be obtained.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Madura.
,, Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Madura Municipal Meeting held on the 7th January 1874.

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II. Read letter prepared by the Vice President for submission to Government as to obtaining the paid services of an Engineer for elaborating a system for the water supply and drainage of the Town.

Resolved that the Commissioners approve of the letter submitted to them and desire that it be forwarded to the President for transmission to Government.

× ×

(True Copy)

E. Nicholson

Vice President

Govt. of Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

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

Dated February, 9th.

Read.

Encl.

G.O., 9th *February* 1874, *No.* 209.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 66-67.

Madura Municipality.—Inquiry made as to why the services of the District Engineer cannot be obtained for elaborating a system for the water-supply and drainage of the town of Madura.

No 27

President's office
Madura
29th January 1870

From,

W. McLuhae Esquire
President
Municipal Commission
Madura.

To

The Honble W. Hudleston
Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George.

Sir,

With reference to para 3 of my letter No 1 dated 16th January and para 3 of the Budget Report of the Madura Municipal Commissioners which accompanied it, I have the honor to submit for the favorable consideration of Government a letter from the Vice President of the Madura Municipality dated 27th January 1870.

2. The Commissioners say that they cannot improve their drainage and water supply without professional assistance and that they cannot obtain such assistance for themselves. It appears to me that several Municipalities might easily join in paying the cost of such professional assistance as is necessary and I see no difficulty in carrying out the proposal

of

the Madura Commissioners if it meet
with the approval of Government.

I have the honorable
Sir
Your most Obed. Servant

1874 Finl. Dept

From
The President
Municipal Commission
Madras

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

Dated 29th January } 1874
Recd 2nd Feby. }

No 7 No. 223

Enclosure 1

Submits for consideration of Govt. a letter from Vice President of the Madras Municipality asking the aid of Govt. in the water supply and drainage of the Madras Town.

9th Feby/74. No 209.

To Genl. dains ? Ch. Engineer ? with the views of the Sr. Engineer ? obtained.

The P.W.D. Madras 6 Depart 12/2 1874

C 4/2
R 6/2

C No. 131. Sent to ? Secy.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Rid

To

The President
Muni.l Commr. Madura.
&c.

Dated 9th Feby.
Read.

Encl.

G. O. 9th Feby. 1874, No. 209.

Nos. 66-69.

Madura Municipality-

Enquiry made as to why the services of the D.t Engineer cannot be obtained for elaborating a system for the water supply & drainage of the town of Madura.