M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 18

(2) Date of repair 31-5-40.

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 723 Press Mis.

301-304.

Dated 28-4- 1824.

19/20

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th April 1874.

Read the following papers :—

No. 301. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th February 1874, No. 998 (Miscellaneous) :—

Read the following Extracts from the Annual Inspection Report on the Dispensary at Erode by the Deputy Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Service, Southern District and Malabar and Canara, dated 6th January 1874 :—

Paragraph 8. Erode, the principal town of a taluq of the same name, in the Coimbatore Zillah, is 86 miles distant from, and to the north of, Trichinopoly, at the junction of the two most southern of the Presidency railways. With a population of a little under 10,000 souls, the town is under municipal control, and has been for nearly two years. Although sufficient time has scarcely been given to the Municipality to effect much, still its action is manifest where most it was needed in cleansing the streets, lanes, and narrow places, through the agency of a conservancy, consisting of four scavengers, having seven carts for the transfer of surface impurities beyond municipal limits. Four latrines have already been constructed, though more are needed, judging from the offensive fœtor of human ordure which pollutes the fields and the air. An irrigating channel, taking its point of departure from the Cauvery, about eight miles to the west of the town, skirts its south-eastern aspect, and from this source the inhabitants derive their water supply when the river is in flood, or from wells excavated in the bed of the channel during the dry season. Well-water is also used, but its quality is indifferent from saline and other impurities. Erode is notoriously an unhealthy town, and paroxysmal fever may be said to be at all times endemic amongst its inhabitants. Not to multiply proofs, one example will suffice; that of the military rest-house, in the close vicinage of the two railway junctions, and built for the temporary accommodation of troops on their route to their stations. The charge of this rest-house is in the hands usually of a pensioned Non-commissioned Officer, for whose accommodation and that of his family a comfortable bungalow is provided; but so concentrated is the malarious influence here, that soon the occupants are smitten with fever, which, sooner or later, compels them to quit the station with shattered health. Under instructions from Army Head-quarters, I have twice reported on this subject, and, in the absence of any more tangible reason to account for the extreme unhealthiness of this rest-house and railway station (for the railway employés located there suffer to an almost equal extent), have advanced the opinion that, in the high, thick, and almost impervious aloe fences which, in their intersections, shut in this rest-house equally with the railway station itself, and in the resulting stagnation of air and comparative arrest of its free perflation, a determining, and, it may be added, a removable source of disease may certainly be asserted. Clearly, the remedy lies in the extirpation of these aloe hedges (some of them are ten or even twelve feet high) and replacing them by means of wire fencing. The result may, of course, be nugatory; but even then it will be satisfactory to the Non-commissioned Officer doomed to live in such a region to feel that Government still interests itself in his welfare, even after he has ceased to serve it.

Paragraph 11. Of furniture none has yet been provided, not even an almirah, so necessary for the safe custody of the medicines, nor yet a compounding table.

The Medical Officer has been instructed at once to bring these wants to the notice of the President of the Municipality, in order that these articles may be supplied.

Paragraph 13. No hospital servant has been allowed. This is another need to be met as soon as possible.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) G. BIDIE, M.B., Surgeon-Major,
Secretary to the Surgeon General, Indian Medical Service.

Communicated to the Collector of Coimbatore.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

True copy to the Chief Secretary to Government Fort St. George.

No. 302.

No. 21.

MEMORANDUM.

True copy* forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government in support of the Collector's recommendation, dated 7th January 1874, No. 1, in the capacity of President, Erode Municipal Commission, to have the station aloe removed.

[*Of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th February 1874, No. 998 (Miscellaneous) printed above.]

COIMBATORE,
25th Febrnary 1874.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

No. 303. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 18th March 1874, No. 164.

In reply to the Order of Government, dated the 12th instant, No. 113, I have the honour to report that I have personally inspected the whole of the fence which surrounds the station compound at Erode. I found the Resident Engineer's Department engaged at the time of my visit in thinning and trimming the aloes ; but it is clear that the very cause which makes an aloe hedge so efficient as a railway fence must to some extent render it an obstacle to ventilation, and a shelter to those who wish to commit nuisances. The most that can be done is to reduce the aloes to the smallest dimensions compatible with efficiency, so as to afford the least possible ground for complaint. I have again drawn the Agent's attention to the views expressed by Government in their Order, Financial Department, No. 1397, dated the 11th October 1872.

2. The President of the Municipal Commission, Erode, is very anxious that the aloes should be entirely removed from the station compound, and replaced by a wire fence, as has already been done to a considerable extent on the east and south sides of the compound near the soldiers' rest-house. Looking at the matter merely from a municipal point of view, there can be no doubt that the change would be

an improvement; but, from a railway point of view, the change would not only entail great expense, but would substitute for an efficient fence one far less so.

3. Experience has shown that for general purposes the most efficient railway fence in this Presidency is a stone wall ; next to that, a well-grown aloe hedge; and, lastly, an iron wire fence. In the case of a station compound, where the object of a fence is perhaps rather to prevent trespassers than to exclude cattle, the aloe hedge is probably the most efficient of all available fences.

4. As an obstacle to ventilation and a shelter to nuisances, the aloe hedge offers perhaps as much room for complaint as a stone wall would do ; but I cannot recommend that, upon this ground, the Railway Company should be induced to enclose the whole of their compound at Erode with a wire fence, which, while less efficient than the existing hedge, would be far more expensive.

Transferred to the Financial Department, with reference to paragraph 3 of the orders in that Department, No. 349, dated 4th March 1874.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
21st March 1874.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 304. ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1874, No. 723.

The Government are satisfied from the additional information now before them that the aloe hedge should be removed and a wire fence provided in its place.

2. The necessary instructions will be issued in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Revenue Department

1/3N

Miscellaneous No. 998.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 14th February 1874
Read the following:—

Extracts from Annual
Inspection Report on
the Dispensary at Erode
by the Deputy Surgeon
General I.M.S. Southern
District, Madras. dated 6th
January 1874.

Para 8. "Erode, the prin-
-cipal Town of a Taluq
of the same name, in the
Coimbatore Zillah, is 86
miles distant from
and to the north of Tri-
-Chinopoly, at the junction
of

Govt. of [1874] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 28th.

Recd.

Read.

G.O., 28th April 1874, No. 723.

APRIL.
Nos. 301—304.

Erode Railway Station.—The necessary instructions directed to be issued in the Public Works Department for the removal of the aloe hedge which surrounds the station compound, and for a wire fence being provided in its stead.

of the two most Southern
of the Presidency Rail=
=ways. With a population
of a little under 10,000
souls, the town is under
municipal control, and
has been for nearly two
years. Although Suffi=
=cient time has scarcely
been given to the Muni=
=cipality to effect much,
still its action is mani=
=fest, where most
it was needed, in
cleansing the streets, lanes
and narrow places, through
the agency of a conservancy
consisting of four
Scavengers, having 7 Carts
for

for the transfer of Sur=
=face impurities beyond
municipal limits. Four
Latrines have already
been constructed, al=
though more are needed,
judging from the
offensive foetor of
human ordure which
pollutes the fields and
the air. An irrigating
channel taking its
point of departure
from the Cauvery a
about 8 miles to the
West of the Town, skirts
its South eastern aspect,
and from this source
the inhabitants derive
their water supply, when
the

the river is in flood,
or from wells, excavated
in the bed of the chan=
=nel, during the dry
season. Well water
is also used, but its
quality is indifferent
from saline and other
impurities. Grade is
notoriously an unhealthy,
town and paroxysmal
Fever may be said to
be, at all times, endemic
amongst its inhabi=
=tants. Not to mult=
=iply proofs, one
example will suffice,
that of the Milit ary
Rest House, in the close
vicinage

vicinage of the two Rail=
=way junctions, and
built for the temporary
accommodation of
Troops on their route
to their Stations. The
charge of this Rest House
is on the hands, usu=
ally, of a Pensioned
Non Commissioned Offi=
=cer, for whose accom=
=modation, and that
of his family, a comfort=
=able Bungalow is pro=
=vided, but so concentrated
is the malarious influence
here, that soon the occu=
=pants are smitten with
Fever, which, sooner or
later, compels them to
quit

quit the Station with
shattered health. Under
instructions from the
Army Head Quarters
I have twice reported
on this subject, and,
in the absence of any
more tangible reason
to account for the ex=
=treme unhealthiness
of this Rest House and
Railway Station, (for
the Railway employés
located there suffer to
an almost equal extent)
have advanced the
opinion, that, in the
high thick and almost
impervious aloe fences,
which

which, in their intersections,
shut in this Rest House
equally with the Railway
Station itself, and in
the resulting stagnation
of air and compa=
=rative arrest of its
free perflation, a
determining, and it may
be added, a remove=
=able source of dis=
=ease may certainly
be asserted. Clearly
the remedy lies in the
extirpation of these
aloe hedges, (some of
them are ten or even
twelve feet high) re=
=placing them by means
of wire fencing. The
result

result may, of course,
be negatory, but even
then it will be satis-
factory to the Non-
Commissioned Officer,
doomed to live in such
a region, to feel that
Government still interests
itself in his welfare
even after he has ceased
to serve it"

Para 11. "Of furniture
none has, as yet, been
provided, not even an
Almirah, so necessary
for the safe custody
of the medicines, nor yet
a Compounding Table.
The medical officer has
been

been instructed above to bring these wants to the notice of the President of the Municipality in order that these articles may be supplied".

Para 13. "No Hospital Servant has been allowed. This is another need to be met as soon as possible".

I have &c &c

Sig'd/ G. Bidie Surgeon Major
Secretary Surgeon
General Indian
Medical Service

No. 425.

To The Secretary Board
of Revenue

Communicated

Ans: 7 June/74 20-21

Fort 10th August 1874

Copy of letter from the Board of Revenue
No. 990
dated 20th March 1874.

Communicating for the information of Government the Board's proceedings on the accompanying Report of Surgeon Major G. Bidie, Secretary Medical Service, regarding the supply of certain articles to Hospitals.

Read the Letter from the Board of Revenue No. 990 dated 20th March 1874 forwarding for the information of Government the Proceedings of the Board on the accompanying Report of Surgeon Major G. Bidie, Secretary Medical Service, regarding the supply of certain articles to Hospitals.

Ordered, that the Letter from the Board of Revenue No. 990 dated 20th March 1874 with the Proceedings of the Board thereon and the accompanying Report of Surgeon Major G. Bidie, Secretary Medical Service, regarding the supply of certain articles to Hospitals, be communicated to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Read the Letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue No. 425 dated 10th August 1874 forwarding for the information of Government the Proceedings of the Board on the accompanying Report of Surgeon Major G. Bidie, Secretary Medical Service, regarding the supply of certain articles to Hospitals.

Ordered, that the Letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue No. 425 dated 10th August 1874 with the Proceedings of the Board thereon and the accompanying Report of Surgeon Major G. Bidie, Secretary Medical Service, regarding the supply of certain articles to Hospitals, be communicated to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Municipal Expenses
24/5 received.

Copy of letter from the Board of Revenue No. 990 dated 20th March 1874.

Communicating for the information of Government the Proceedings of the Board on the accompanying Report of Surgeon Major G. Bidie, Secretary Medical Service, regarding the supply of certain articles to Hospitals.

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Municipal Expenses
24/5

Communicated to the
Collector of Coimbatore

/True Copy & Extract/

/Sgd/ J. Grose
Secretary.

To
The Collector of
Coimbatore

/True Copy/

J Grose
Secretary

To
The Chief Secretary to
Government
Financial Department

Revenue Department.

6 9½

Miscellaneous No. 998.

302

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 14th February 1874.

Read the following:-

Extracts from Annual Inspection Report on the Dispensary at Erode by the Deputy Surgeon General I. M. S. Southern District Mdv 6, dated 6th January 1874.

Para 8. "Erode, the principal Town of a Taluq of the same name, in the Coimbatore zillah, is 86 miles distant from, and to the North of Pichinopoly at the junction of the two most southern of the Presidency Railways. With a population of a little under 10,000 souls the town is under Municipal control and has been for nearly two years. Although sufficient time has scarcely been given to the Municipality to effect much, still its action is manifest

where most it was needed, in cleansing the streets, lanes, and narrow places, through the agency of a Conservancy, consisting of four Scavengers, having 7 carts, for the transfer of surface impurities beyond Municipal limits. Four Latrines have already been constructed, though more are needed, judging from the offensive foetor of human ordure which pollutes the fields and the air. An irrigating channel, taking its point of departure from the Causeway, about 8 miles to the west of the Town, skirts its south-eastern aspect and from this source the inhabitants derive their water supply, when the river is in flood, or from wells excavated in the bed of the channel during the dry season. Well water is also used, but its quality is indifferent from saline and other impurities. Erode is notoriously an unhealthy town, and paroxysmel Fever may

be said to be, at all times, endemic amongst its inhabitants. Not to multiply proofs, one example will suffice, that of the Military Rest House, in the close vicinage of the two Railway junctions, and built for the temporary accommodation of Troops on their route to their stations. The charge of this Rest House is in the hands, usually of a Pensioned Non-Commissioned officer, for whose accommodation and that of his family a comfortable Bungalow is provided, but so concentrated is the Malarious influence here, that soon the occupants are smitten with Fever, which sooner or later, compels them to quit the station with shattered health. Under instructions from Army Head Quarters I have twice reported on this subject, and in the absence of any more tangible reason to account for the extreme unhealthiness of this Rest House, and Railway Station (Go

the Railway employés located there suffer to an almost equal extent) have advanced the opinion, that, in the high thick and almost impervious aloe fences, which in their intersections, shut in this Rest House, equally with the Railway Station itself and in the resulting stagnation of air and comparative arrest of its free perflation, a determining, and it may be added, a removeable source of disease may certainly be asserted.— Clearly the remedy lies in the extirpation of these aloe hedges (some of them are ten or even twelve feet high) replacing them by means of wire fencing. The result may, of course, be nugatory, but even then it will be satisfactory to the Non. Commissioned Officer, doomed to live in such a region, to feel that Government still interests itself in his welfare, even after he has ceased to serve it."—

8 11N

Para 11— "of furniture none has, as yet, been provided, not even an almirah, so necessary for the safe custody of the Medicines, nor yet a compounding Table. The Medical officer has been instructed at once to bring these wants to the notice of the President of the Municipality, in order that these articles may be supplied"—

Para 13— "to Hospital dervant has been allowed. This is another need to be met as soon as possible"—

/True Extract/.

/Signed/ G. Bidie M.B. Surgeon Major.

Secretary Surgeon General

Indian Medical Service.

No. 425.

To, The Secretary, Board of Revenue—

Communicated to the Collector of Coimbatore.

/True copy & Extract/

/Signed/ J. Grose.

Secretary—

No 21

True Copy - Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government, in support of the Collector's recommendation dated 7th Jan'y 1874 No 1 in the capacity of President Erode Municipal Commission, to have the Station aloe removed -

Coimbatore Collector's Office
25th February 1874

A Mackenzie
Collector -

Railway Department. CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

No. 164

From

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, R.E.,

Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To

COLONEL G. W. WALKER, R.E.,

Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

In reply to the Order of Government dated the 12th instant No 113, I have the honour to report that I have personally inspected the whole of the fence which surrounds the station compound at Erode. I found the Resident Engineer's department engaged at the time of my visit in thinning and

and trimming the aloes; but it is clear that the very cause — which makes an aloe hedge so efficient as a railway fence — must to some extent render it an obstacle to ventilation and a shelter to those who wish to — commit nuisances. The most that can be done is to reduce the aloes to the smallest dimensions compatible with efficiency, so as to afford the least possible — ground for complaint. I have again drawn the Agent's — attention to the views expressed by Government in their Order[x]

[x] Financial Department

No

10 148

No 1397, dated the 11th October 1872.

2. The President of the Municipal Commission, Erode, is very anxious that the aloes — should be entirely removed from the station compound, and replaced by a wire fence; as has already been done to a considerable extent on the east and south sides of the compound, — near the Soldiers' rest-house. Looking at the matter merely from a Municipal point of view, there can be no doubt that the change would be an improvement; but, from a railway

point.

point of view, the change would not only entail great expense, but would substitute for an efficient fence one far less so.

3. Experience has shown that for general purposes the most efficient railway fence in this Presidency is a stone wall; next to that, a well-grown aloe hedge; and lastly, an iron wire fence. In the case of a station compound, where the object of a fence is perhaps rather to prevent trespassers than to exclude cattle, the aloe hedge is probably the

the most efficient of all available fences.

4. As an obstacle to ventilation, and a shelter to nuisances, the aloe hedge offers perhaps as much room for complaint as a stone wall would do; but I cannot recommend that, upon this ground, the Railway Company should be induced to enclose the whole of their compound at Erode with a wire fence, which, while less efficient than the existing hedge, would be far more expensive.

I

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedt. Servt.

Madras
18 March
1874

Lt. Col. R.E.
Cons. Engineer for
Railways

Recd 18th March 74.

No. 307 @ 305

Public Works Department

Railway Department.

No. 1617

From
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways,

To
The Secretary to Government,
P. W. Department,
Fort Saint George.

Dated 18th March 1874
Recd. 19
" 21

No. 164

I have the honour to forward herewith for the information of Government a copy of a letter No. 723 of the 28th April 1874 from the Collector of Trichinopoly with enclosures on the subject of the Government Order No. 349 dated 4th March 1874 directing me to report whether the aloe hedge at Erode had been kept within such dimensions as would give no cause for complaint against it as an obstacle to evacuation and a shelter to those committing nuisance.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedt. Servt.

Lt. Col. R.E.
Cons. Engineer for
Railways

Madras
18 March
1874

Recd 18th March 74.

No. 307 @ 305

Financial Department

16 N

For Orders.

Proga. Board of Revenue 4th Feby: 74.
From the Consulting Engineer for
Railways 18th March 1874.

In G. O. dated 4th March 1874 No 349 the Government called on the Consulting Engineer for Railways to report whether the aloe hedge at Erode had been kept within such dimensions as would give no cause for complaint against it as an obstacle to evacuation and a shelter to those committing nuisance.†

The Consulting Engineer's reply is now put up from this it appears that so long as the hedge is kept efficient for the purpose for

† In G. O. dated 2/11th Oct. 1872 No 1397 it had been decided that there was not sufficient reason to order the hedge to be removed.

for which it is intended there will always be more or less ground for complaint from a Municipal point of view; but Colonel Shaw Steward cannot recommend that the railway authorities should be induced to substitute a wire fence. In the meantime the Board of Revenue have forwarded copy of the Dy. Surgeon Generals report on the Erode Dispensary in which occurs the following remark: "Under instructions from Army Headquarters I have twice reported on the subject, and, in the absence of any more tangible reason to account for the extreme unhealthiness of the Rest House and Railway Station (for the Railway employés located there suffer to an almost equal extent) have advanced the opinion that in the high, thick, and almost impervious aloe fences which, in their intersections, shut in this Rest House equally with the Railway Station itself, and in the resulting stagnation of air, and comparative arrest of its free perflation, a determining, and, it may be added, a removable source of disease may certainly be asserted. Clearly the remedy lies in the extirpation of these aloe hedges (some of them are ten or even twelve feet high) replacing them by means of wire fencing.

The previous draft Order communicating the papers

× Unhealthiness of Erode Rest House.

unhealthiness

17N

Papers to the Consulting
Engineer has been withheld
as his report was received
before issue.

2/14/

723.

Abstract pending at the Whole Railway Station –

Index for orders

Read the following.

Proc: of the Board of Revenue - dated 11th Feby /74 No 998.

Collector of Coimbatore - dated 25th " - No 21

Consulting Engineer for Railways - " - 18th March 1874 No 164.

13

Board 28 April 1874 No 723.

Order

The Govt are satisfied from the additional information now before them that the above hedge should be removed and a wire fence provided in its place.

The necessary instructions will be issued in this Public Works Department

The Board of Rev - 11
P.W. Depart
Collector of Coimbatore } 6 } 13/5

70.3820