M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 22.

(2) Date of repair 1. 11. 40.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2036	Press / Mis.
137-138	137-138
Dated 15-10-	1875.

12/13

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Local Funds—Sanitary.

No. 137. Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting President of the Local Fund Boards, Malabar, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 10th September 1875, No. 467 :—

With reference to G.O., Financial Department, No. 1065, dated 17th May 1875, I have the honor to submit copy of a report from the Acting Head Assistant Collector who has charge of the division in which Ponani town is situated, and under whose direction the money voted by the Local Fund Board for sanitary purposes in it, and in some other towns in that taluq, is being spent.

2. You will observe that the Acting Head Assistant Collector admits the truth of the Deputy Surgeon-General's statements, and adds that the same remarks true as regards Ponani would apply to Tanur and the other fishing villages of that part of the coast.

3. Ponani is unfortunately one of the few places in the district of which I have as yet no personal knowledge, but I gather that it is situated on a sandbank and therefore that the soil is porous.

4. Under such circumstances, the steps which commend themselves to my judgment for improving the place are :—

I.—To fill up all wells and, as far as possible, all latrines in places where the houses cluster closely together, and to open fresh wells and select suitable sites for common latrines ; the former, as much as possible, in spots as far removed as convenience will permit from the dwelling-houses and filth accumulations, and the latter in places where a considerable space would be available.

II.—In places less densely settled, a house-to-house inspection should be made, and any wells situated injuriously close to filth accumulations should be filled up, and the people should be shown how to make their latrines after a more rational plan than that usually followed on this coast.

5. For my own part I consider that the benefit derived from masonry drains, of which the Deputy Surgeon-General approves, does not bear any proper proportion to the expense of constructing them, except where houses are so close as to touch each other. In less densely populated places where there is, as at Ponani, a sandy soil and a sandy subsoil, it is far better, in my opinion, to trust to the salutary action of plants in removing organic matters from the soil.

6. Finally, as to the best form of latrine, I lately inspected just such a building as the Acting Head Assistant Collector describes in paragraph 4 as " a substantial building of masonry," and I have no hesitation in saying that *where a sufficiently large space is available* it is far better to enclose for latrine purposes a piece of ground and plant it with rows of cacoanut and plantain trees, between which trenches should be dug and periodically filled in and fresh ones opened. Cocoanut and plantain trees grow readily in most places on this coast without being irrigated, and such plants remove from the soil in immense quantities the very organic matter of which we wish to get rid.

7. If these remarks commend themselves to Government, I will take steps to have Ponani and the other towns and villages in that neighbourhood dealt with on the plan above sketched.

From H. T. KNOX, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting President of the Local Fund Board, Calicut, dated Betutpudiangady, 28th August 1875, No. 614.

With reference to your foot-note to G.O., dated 17th May last, No. 1065, Financial Department, I have the honor to report that the remarks of the Deputy Surgeon-General regarding the insanitary condition of Ponani are still applicable to it, and I fear that they must in greater part remain so.

2. If Ponani could be chucked into the sea and a new sandbank thrown up, there would be a chance of keeping the ground sweet. The sands are filled with the filth of years, and all that we can do is to keep the top as clean as may be.

3. The dirty tanks can be cleaned from time to time and made fit for bathing according to Mopla notions; but we cannot prevent the people from drinking the sewage in their wells unless we fill in the wells. That we cannot do until we provide a sufficient supply of pure drinking water. The only way to do this would be to dig wells in the sand at a good distance beyond the polluted area of the town and carry the water in pipes to fountains. The cost of making wells and laying down pumps and pipes would be very heavy and so would the cost of maintenance.

4. To keep people from fouling the soil in future we should build latrines which would have to be numerous to allow every person ready access. If we now drive them off the open sands, they must betake themselves to the patches of backyards and places round their wells. Latrines to be serviceable in the monsoon must be substantial buildings of masonry. The cost of building and keeping up an adequate supply would be very heavy.

5. I do not think that the Local Fund Boards' revenues will bear so heavy a burden as would be put on them by the measures which are desirable. For what is true of Ponani is equally true of Tanur, and I think of every fishing village on the coast. Only Deputy Surgeons-General don't visit places where there are not dispensaries.

6. All that we can do is to try to remove the water as it falls and prevent it from stagnating in pools, to keep the places round the tanks clean, and to sweep the streets and lanes as often as we can to prevent accumulations of filth. Whatever I can do in this direction with the funds allotted to Ponani, Tanur, Pudiangady, and Edapal, I will do.

7. For the current year a sum of Rupees 2,400 has been allotted by the Local Fund Board for the four towns. With this I can only keep streets and lanes clean, clean a tank here and there, and continue the work of making masonry drains to carry off the water. The latter is a necessity in these sandy tracts.

No. 138. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1875, No. 2036.

Every attempt should be made to improve the sites of wells in Ponani where feasible; wells known to be polluted should be stopped up, new wells being previously opened. If however, as appears probable, practical difficulties arise to prevent this being done to any considerable extent, it will be necessary to have resort to a project for introducing a new supply of water into the town. The President of the Local Fund Board should report, in consultation with the District Engineer, whether a supply of water can be taken off from the river above tidal influence, and introduced into the town; and if so, at what cost.

2. Latrines at present existing in unsuitable places should be closed, and new latrines substantially built should be erected. Plantations and dry cultivation should be encouraged in the neighbourhood of latrines. If the new latrines are not built of masonry, the use of corrugated iron may be attempted. The latter has the advantage of giving a moveable structure.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
15*th October* 1875.

3. The Governor in Council is of opinion that all the drains in towns of this description should be built of masonry. The President will report how the cesspool system of domestic scavenging can be superseded by a better one.

4. Efforts to bring into a sanitary condition a fishing town like Ponani will necessarily require a considerable length of time to produce results. Much may be done however by a course of small measures systematically pursued. In addition to the points above mentioned, the closing of grave-yards, the filling up of foul-pits, and other matters of general sanitation, may be attended to with advantage.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" President of the Local Fund Boards, Malabar.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Sanitary Commissioner, Madras.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Govt. of {1875} Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c.,

&c.,

Dated October, 15th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 15th October 1875, No. 2036.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 137-138.

Local Funds — Sanitary. — Orders passed respecting the measures to be taken for improving the sanitary condition of the town of Ponani, Malabar District.

5/48

№ 467

President Office
Calicut 10th Septr 1875.

From,

W. Logan, Esqr.,
Actg. President of the Local Fund Board,
Malabar.

To,

The Honorable D. F. Carmichael,
Offg. Chief Secretary to Government,
Ootacammund.

Sir,

With reference to G. O. Financial Department № 1065 dated 17th May 1875 I have the honor to submit Copy of a report from the Acting Head Assistant Collector who has charge of the Division in which Ponani Town is situated, and under whose direction the money voted by the Local Fund Board for sanitary purposes in it, and in some other Towns in that Taluk is being spent.

2. You will observe that the Acting Head Assistant Collector admits the truth of the Deputy

Surgeon

Surgeon General's statements, and adds that the same remarks true as regards Ponani would apply to Tanur and the other fishing villages of that part of the Coast.—

3. Ponani is unfortunately one of the few places in the District of which I have as yet no personal knowledge, but I gather that it is situated on a Sandbank and therefore that the soil is porous.

4. Under such circumstances the steps which Commend themselves to my judgement for improving the place are.—

I. to fill up all wells and as far as possible all latrines in places where the houses cluster closely together, and to open fresh wells and select suitable sites for Common latrines, the former as much as possible in spots as far removed as Convenience will permit from the dwelling houses

and

2P 7

and filth accumulations, and the latter in places where a Considerable Space would be available.

II in places less densely settled, a house to house inspection should be made and any wells situated injuriously close to filth accumulations should be filled up, and the people should be shown how to make their latrines after a more rational plan than that usually followed on this Coast.

5. For my own part I Consider that the benefit derived from masonry drains of which the Deputy Surgeon General approves does not bear any proper proportion to the Expense of Constructing them except where houses are so close as to touch each other. In less densely populated places where there is as at Ponany a Sandy soil and a Sandy Subsoil it is far better in my opinion to trust to the Salutary action of

plants

plants in removing organic matters from the soil.

6. Finally as to the best form of latrine I lately inspected just such a building as the acting Head Assistant Collector describes in para 4 as "a substantial building of masonry" and I have no hesitation in saying that where a sufficiently large space is available it is far better to enclose for latrine purposes a piece of ground and plant it with rows of Cocoanut and plantain trees between which trenches should be dug and periodically filled in and fresh ones opened. Cocoa-nut and plantain trees grow readily in most places on this Coast without being irrigated, and such plants remove from the soil in immense quantities the very organic matter of which we wish to get rid.

7. If these remarks Commend themselves to Government I will take steps to have Ponani and the other towns and villages in that neighbourhood dealt with on the plan above sketched.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obe. Servant

W. Logan.

Ag. President.

No. 614

Malabar & Canara Collr's Office
on Circuit
Betul Pudiangady 28th August 1875

From,

The Asst. Head Assistant Collector,

To

The Asst. President
Local Fund Board
Calicut.

Sir,

With reference to your footnote to G.O. dated 17th May last No. 1065, Financial Department, I have the honor to report that the remarks of the Deputy Surgeon General regarding the insanitary Condition of Sonani are still applicable to it, and I fear that they must in greater part remain so.

2. If Sonani could be Checked into the sea and a new Sandbank thrown up, there would be a chance of keeping the ground sweet. The Sands are filled with the filth of years, and all that we can do is to keep the lots as clean as may be.

3. The dirty tanks can be cleaned from

Assistant Collector's Office
Received 30 AUG 1875
Calicut

S.O. 2036.

From
The Asst. Head Assistant Collector
Malabar & Canara
Calicut

To
The Asst. President
Local Fund Board
Calicut.

Sir,

With reference to your footnote to G.O. dated 17th May last No. 1065, Financial Department, I have the honor to report that the remarks of the Deputy Surgeon General regarding the insanitary Condition of Sonani are still applicable to it, and I fear that they must in greater part remain so.

2. If Sonani could be Checked into the sea and a new Sandbank thrown up, there would be a chance of keeping the ground sweet. The Sands are filled with the filth of years, and all that we can do is to keep the lots as clean as may be.

3. The dirty tanks can be cleaned

Assistant Collector's Office
Received 30 AUG 1875
Calicut

Copy of G.O. No. 2108
Dated 15th May 1875
regarding the insanitary Condition of Sonani
Calicut

from time to time and made fit for bathing according to Mopla notions. But we cannot prevent the people from drinking the sewage in their wells unless we fill in the wells. That we cannot do until we provide a sufficient supply of pure drinking water. The only way to do this would be to dig wells in the sand at a good distance beyond the polluted area of the town and carry the water in pipes to fountains. The Cost of making wells and laying down pumps and pipes would be very heavy and so would the Cost of maintenance

4. To keep people from fouling the soil in future we should build latrines which would have to be numerous to allow every person ready access. If we now drive them off the open sands, they must betake themselves to the patches of back yards and places round their wells. Latrines to be serviceable in the monsoon must be substantial building of masonry. The cost of building and keeping up an adequate supply would be very heavy.

5. I do not think that the Local Fund Board's Revenues will bear so heavy a burden as would be put on them by the measures which are desirable - For what is true of Ponany is equally true of Tanur and I think of every fishing village on the Coast. Only Deputy Surgeons General don't visit places where there are no Dispensaries.

6. All that we can do, is to try to remove the water as it falls and prevent it from Stagnating in pools, to keep the places round the Coolies clean and to sweep the Streets and lanes as often as we can to prevent accumulations of filth. Whatever I can do in this direction with the funds allotted to Ponani, Tanur, Pudiangady and Edapal, I will do.

7

7 For the Current year a sum of Rupees 2400 has been allotted by the Local Fund Board for the four towns. With this I can only keep Streets and Lanes clean, clean a tank here and there, and Continue the work of making masonry drains to Carry off the water. The latter is a necessity in these Sandy tracts.

I have the honor &c.
(Sd) A. T. Knox.
Offg. Head Assistant Collector.

True Copy
W. Logan
President.

Dft
Engd.

Revd 11th Oct 1875

Circular Letter from the President L.F. Board to the D.P.I. Civil Secretary &c &c Dated 10th September 1875 - Rec'd 4th Oct.

15

Financial Department.

No. 2109.

From The President Local Fund Board Malabar.

Dated 10 September 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

There is much sense in Knox's letter - much fancy in Logan's - the former knows the place, the latter does not.

Ponany will become a town under our recent Educational resolution.

The town stands on an alluvial sand; the sea on one side, the river or backwater on another (North) and rice flats bound it on the East side (West). It is thickly peopled by the poorest of people, interspersed with unclean grave-yards and stinky holes & tidal creeks.

There

W. Logans proposal to fill up existing polluted wells - opening new wells previously - to close Latrines badly situated & erect others in more suitable places - should I think be approved - Wherever streets are densly populated masonry

There is no outfall for Sewage &c and Everyhouse has its Cesspool. The wells, such as they are, are superficial, tap the Subsoil water and are sinks of foul percolation

What it wants – besides closing all grave yards – are water and removal of filth & Excreta. It is nonsence to talk of filling up all wells and digging others beyond the influence of foul percolation. People will not tolerate the first proposal or resort to distant wells if dug; especially when there is an affectation of Goshen. A new supply of water must be looked to & will be costly. We might ask the Collector whether an supply could not be taken off from the rivers above tidal influence (how far up?) and the District Engineer might report on the probable cost and a loan might be got on hypothecation of all taxes.

As to the removal of night soil – Latrines should be established as proposed by Mr Knox and the Collector should report how the Cesspool System can be superseded by a better System of domestic Scavenging. Tank pits to might be pitted up. But years of costly & systematic sanitation will be required to produce Sanitary results in such a place

I accept the opinion of Dr Mr Robinson who knows the place. Trees may be good. But

rains are the only efficient means of drainage

I do not recommend Mr Logans proposal for open Latrines in Cocoanut groves. The action of the plants is slow and in the mean time the nuisance exists. Wherever the matter is taken in hand by the local Bds substantial Latrines shd be built. Plantations in the close neighbourhood of Latrines – and dry earth or ashes should be encouraged but the Latrines themselves should be permanent structures – ~~earth~~ It may be found convenient to introduce – the compacted Iron Latrines in use on the hills which are moveable – but this depends on the cost of this material

17

Local Fund - Sanitary

688/19

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following letter from the President of the Local Fund Boards in Malabar dy 10th September 1875. No 467.

Order thereon Ord 15th Oct 1875. No 2036.

Every attempt should be made to improve the sites of wells in Ponani where feasible; wells known to be polluted should be stopped up, new wells being previously opened. If however, as appears probable, practical difficulties arise to prevent this being done to any considerable extent, it will be necessary

Sanitary condition of Ponany in Malabar

FOR ORDERS.

I do not know Mr Lockhart through the unhealthy season average -

I confess I incline to the truck system of planting with intermediate rows of plantain trees

I know no other effectual experiment

[illegible]

necessary to have resort to a project for introducing a new supply of water into the town. The President of the Local Fund Board should report, in consultation with the District Engineer, whether a supply of water can be taken off from the river above tidal influence, and introduced into the town, and if so, at what cost.

2. Latrines at present existing in unsuitable places should be closed, and new latrines substantially built should be erected. Plantations and dry cultivation should be encouraged in the neighbourhood of latrines. If the new latrines are not built of masonry, the use of corrugated iron may

may be attempted. The latter has the advantage of giving a moveable structure.

3. The Governor in Council is of opinion that all the drains in towns of this description should be built of masonry. The President will report how the cesspool system of domestic scavenging can be superseded by a better one.

4. Efforts to bring into a sanitary condition a fishing town like Chetput will necessarily require a considerable length of time to produce results. Much may be done, however, by a course of small measures systematically pursued. In addition to the points above mentioned, the closing of grave-yards, the filling up of foul pits, and other matters of general sanitation, may be attended to with advantage.

To the Board of Revenue
The Presd[t] L. F. Board
Malabar.
Surg Genl I.M. Depart
Sanitary Com[r] Madras
P.W. Department.

11
6
6
6
11

Despd 26/10

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

Genl

To

Dated 15th Oct 1875, No.
Recd. 2036.

Nos. 137—138.

Local Hinde. Sanitary

Orders passed respecting the measures to be taken for improving the Sanitary Condition of the Town of Ponani, Malabar Distt.