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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 981	Press / Mis.
	22-23
Dated 3-5-	1875.

12/13

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Municipal—Sanitary.

No. 22. Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District, to the Honorable W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Amalapur, 9th April 1875, No. 27 :—

16th February 1875, No. 208, Public Department.

With reference to the Order of Government noted in the margin, relating to the Deputy Surgeon-General's letter on the sanitary state of Rajahmundry, I have the honor to inform you that I have looked at the places mentioned in the letter.

2. I enclose a minute sent me by the Vice-President.

3. The statements made by the Deputy Surgeon-General on the actual condition of the town are to some extent correct, but they are all exaggerated.

4. The Deputy Surgeon-General's letter is scarcely that of a good adviser ; he finds fault, but the remedies he proposes it would be impossible to carry out. To carry them out would require lakhs of Rupees, while the whole yearly income has been about Rupees 16,000.

5. Just as a beginning, it is proposed to widen the main road, and then widen its several tributaries. Widening the main road only would involve an outlay of more than Rupees 50,000. I do not attempt to deny that the latrines are dirty, but I do not know how to keep them clean. It is all very well to say that the scavengers must be " compelled to cover each deposit with a sufficient quantity of earth immediately after the soiled compartment is vacated ;" but how are they to be compelled to do this? The class of people who take service as scavengers are not to be trusted to do more work than they can possibly help doing, and the Commissioners cannot be expected to inspect these places very often ; we cannot get respectable people to look after them, and a man of the same class as the scavengers would not do his work more conscientiously than they do, even if he did have a higher salary to look after them, so that it would be necessary still to have some one to look after him.

6. There is another difficulty about cleaning out latrines : when caste people are using them, the scavengers cannot well go inside to clean out the other compartments ; to compel them to go in would amount to driving the people away from using them, and this we do not want to do.

7. I do not think we can expect to keep them so clean that they will not offend the sense of smell in Europeans. In London and Paris, even places only used as urinals, with all the appliances for keeping them clean, can be perceived by passers-by.

8. When I inspected the town, the latrines and the streets were infinitely more clean than the Deputy Surgeon-General's letter would have led me to believe. Doubtless, the people knew I was going, for it would be very difficult for me to keep my intended movements entirely unknown ; but I am quite sure that, if the state of the place had been as bad as the Deputy Surgeon-General's letter, taken literally, would show, it would have been impossible to have improved it so much in so short a time.

9. I cannot see how we can work the Police Act more vigorously. Rajahmundry is a large town with a great number of narrow irregular streets; it would require a very large number of Police and Municipal servants to keep a strict watch on all these places. We may pass down the lanes and see that people have thought it too much trouble to go out of the town for the purposes of nature; but it would require more detective ability than we can hope to possess to discover the man who had really committed the nuisance if there was no one near to see him.

10. It should be remembered that, in attempting to carry out conservancy arrangements, we do not carry the native inhabitants with us; they see no more indecency in a man's sitting down in a public place for calls of nature than we do in seeing a man using his pocket-handkerchief, and we cannot, therefore, expect them to take the trouble to find a Policeman to take the offender into custody. We must expect no great assistance from the people generally; and, if we hope to do much without their assistance, we require a very large increase in the number of our servants.

11. It was only on account of the smallness of our funds that we proposed reducing the conservancy establishment; I suppose we cannot well keep servants in our employ if we have no money to pay them with.

12. I will admit that Rajahmundry and its latrines are not as clean as I should like to see them; but a great improvement in cleanliness has taken place in late years, and the place will continue to improve. But with limited funds we cannot do all we want at once; we shall not be likely to work with more energy from reading sensational paragraphs on the dirtiness of the place; we rather want sober language and sound advice.

13. I cannot help remarking on the opinion of the Deputy Surgeon-General that "the population breathing so vitiated an atmosphere are well prepared for becoming the prey for any formidable and fatal epidemic disorder, and only the poison of cholera is wanting to decimate the inhabitants of the town." I do not believe that cleanliness and dirtiness in themselves have so much to do with causing cholera or making it spread as is generally supposed. I will not discuss this, as I do not doubt that it is better for the town to be clean than dirty; but I most certainly deny that the inhabitants of Rajahmundry are well prepared to become the prey of cholera.

14. The following gives the number of deaths from cholera for the last few years:—

Year.	No.	Year.	No.
1868	21	1872	43
1869	...	1873	...
1870	105	1874	...
1871	1		

In 1872 the Pushkaram festival took place at Rajahmundry; large numbers of people came from all sides; cholera was travelling southwards, and had come into the district before the festival commenced, and it was prevalent during the time of the festival; but only forty-three deaths from cholera occurred in Rajahmundry, and these occurred in July and August, while the festival began in September.

The people coming in did bring some cholera poison with them, but it failed to do the harm that the Deputy Surgeon-General thinks it must do.

15. In conclusion, I can assure Government that the Municipal Commission is anxious to do its best for the conservancy of the town, but to do much without getting into debt has been impossible. The re-imposition of the profession-tax will enable us to do more, and more will be done; but, even now, many years must elapse before Rajahmundry can take its place amongst the models of cleanliness.

No. 23. ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1875, No. 981.

The President's letter will be communicated to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District.
,, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Govt. of 1875] Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONS,
Godavery Distr

&c., &c.,

Dated May 3rd.

Issued

Read.

Book

G.O., 3rd May 1875, No. 981.

MAY.

Nos. 22.23.

Municipal—*Sanitary*.—Report of the President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District, on the sanitary state of Rajahmundry, communicated to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

5D

Minute by the Vice President on Dr. Van Someren's report on Rajahmundry contained in Govt. Order of February 5, 1875 No 255.

If the Dr. Surgeon General had consulted the Vice President, the Civil Surgeon, or indeed any of the Commissioners, he would have found reason to modify these remarks. Charges of so grave and alarming a nature should not have been made without more enquiry.

Conservancy of the neighbourhood.- The main road is to be widened, then its tributaries, and finally the Fort ditch is to be filled up and levelled. All this will no doubt be done in time, but it requires time and money. It would be as reasonable to find fault with the Madras Municipality because Popham's Broadway is still narrow, and because the houses along the sea face are irregular. If we were going to build a new Town, it would be easy to arrange for wide, airy streets, as it is we must do the best we can. First Open places of ground have been acquired on the outskirts of the Town, properly laid out and sites

sites &c are free to all who were willing to move out of the more crowded parts of the town. To fill up the Fort ditch would cost, I estimate Rs 4000, while to widen the main Road, we should have to pull down and compensate for a mile of houses close together.

Conservancy of the neighbourhood,- The "Moorgoo-doo Caloo" are connected with the Municipality, and indeed Rajahmundry is the only place that I know of where a system of private Latrines is in working order. Besides the public Latrines, 842 persons pay Rs 652 per quarter and for this, have their private Latrines cleared out twice daily by Municipal Scavengers. These ~~These~~ Latrines have been built by money advanced by the Municipality and repaid by the owners. The respectable families like this plan and are willing to pay for the Convenience. The dry earth system is in force in all Latrines public and private.

Civil Dispensary,- I can only say that the very day that Dr Hitchcock

Dr Hitchcock brought to notice the insufficiency of the bedding &c., an additional supply was ordered from the Central Jail.

Estimates have been framed and sanctioned for the works named by the Dy Surgeon General, and the repairs and buildings will be finished in a few weeks.

Burial of the Dead,- The right to bury their dead with their ancestors inside the Town was conceded by Mr Stuart to a very few of the leading families, and Government specially approved of Mr Stuarts' kind feeling and tact. (see G.O. sept 17, 1872 No 1214.)

How supported,- By the Municipality to a small extent says Dr Van Someren. I will only say that the total Municipal Income is Rs 16092 and that of this we have spent

	Budget	Actual
Establishment	1428	1002
Medicines	410	341,5,0
Diet	476	774,5,6
Sundries	382	
Repairs	563,7,8	589,12,5
	3259,7,8	2707,6,11

spent this year 16 per cent on the Dispensary. This cannot fairly be called "support to a small extent."

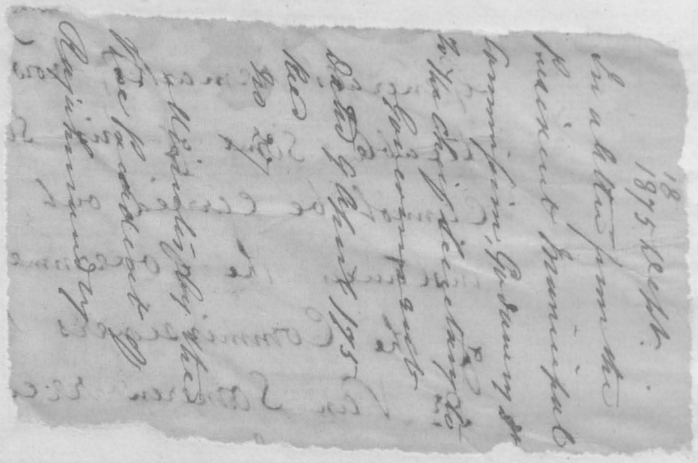
I have no wish to embark on a controversy. I have merely pointed out how incorrect are many of the Dr. Surgeon Generals' remarks, how crude and inapplicable some of his suggestions. Some cannot be carried out, and in other instances the Government have approved of the Commissioners refusing to do what Dr Van Someren recommends.

I deprecate extremely flying inspections and hasty generalizations from insufficient data.

Sgd/ Nelsall
Vice President

True copy

H. Stitchell
Commissioner



No 27

Godavery District
Municipal Office
Camp Amalapur
Amalapur Taluk
9th April 1875

From
W.S. Foster Esquire
President

To
The Honorable H. Stuebreton
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

With reference to the order of Government noted in the margin, relating to the Deputy Surgeon General's letter on the Sanitary State of Rajahmundry, I have the honor to inform you that I have looked at the places mentioned in the letter.

16th Febry/75 No 208 Public Dept.

2. I enclose a minute sent me by the Vice President.

3. The statements made by the Deputy Surgeon General on the actual condition of the town are to some extent correct, but they are all exaggerated.

4. The Deputy Surgeon General's letter is scarcely that of a good adviser: he finds fault, but the remedies he proposes, it would be impossible to carry out. To carry them out, would require lakhs of Rupees, while the whole yearly income has been about Rupees 16000.

5. Just as a beginning, it is proposed to widen the main road, and then widen its several tributaries. Widening the

main road only would involve an outlay of more than Rupees 50,000. I do not attempt to deny that the latrines are dirty, but I do not know how to keep them clean: it is all very well to say that the Scavengers must be "compelled to cover "each deposit with a sufficient quantity of "earth immediately after the soiled Compart "-ment is Vacated": but how are they to be Compelled to do this? The class of people who take service as Scavengers are not to be trusted to do more work than they can possibly help doing, and the Commis -sioners cannot be expected to inspect these places very often: we cannot get respectable people to look after them, and a man of the same class as the Scavengers, would not do his work more conscientiously than they do, even if he did have a higher salary to look after them, so that it would be necessary still to have some one look after him -

6. There is another difficulty about cleaning out latrines: when caste people are using them, the Scavengers cannot well go inside to clean out the other Compartments: to compel them to go in, would amount to driving the people away from using them, and this we do not want to do.

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8. When I inspected the town, the latrines and the streets were infinitely more clean than the Deputy Surgeon Generals' letter would have led me to believe: doubtless the people knew I was going, for it would be very difficult for me to keep my intended movements entirely unknown; but I am quite sure that, if the state of the place had been as bad as the Deputy Surgeon General's letter, taken literally, would shew, it would have been impossible to have improved it so much in so short a time -

9. I cannot see how we can work the Police Act more vigorously: Rajahmundry is a large town, with a great number of narrow irregular streets: it would require a very large number of Police and Municipal servants to keep a street watch on all these places. We may pass down the lanes and see that people have thought it too much trouble to go out of the town for the purposes of Nature: but it would require more detective ability than we can hope to possess to discover the man who had really committed

the nuisance, if there was no one near to see him -

10. It should be remembered that in attempting to carry out Conservancy arrangements, we do not carry the native inhabitants with us: they see no more indecency in a man's sitting down in a public place for calls of nature than we do in seeing a man using his pocket-handkerchief, and we cannot therefore expect them to take the trouble to find a Policeman to take the offender into custody: we must expect no great assistance from the people generally: and if we hope to do much without their assistance, we require a very large increase in the number of our servants.

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13. I cannot help remarking on the opinion of the Deputy Surgeon General that "the population

"breathing so vitiated an atmosphere, are "well prepared for becoming the prey for any "formidable and fatal epidemic disorder, and "only the poison of Cholera is wanting to decimate "the inhabitants of the town." I do not believe that cleanliness and dirtiness in themselves have so much to do with causing cholera or making it spread, as is generally supposed. I will not discuss this, as I do not doubt that it is better for the town to be clean than dirty. But I most certainly deny that the inhabitants of Rajahmundry are well prepared to become the prey of cholera.

14. The following gives the number of deaths from Cholera for the last few years

	no		no
1868 -	21.	1871 -	1.
1869	"	1872	43.
1870 -	105.	1873	"
		1874	"

In 1872 the Pushkaram festival took place at Rajahmundry: large numbers of people came from all sides: cholera was travelling southwards, and had come into the District before the festival commenced, and it was prevalent during the time of the festival, but only 43 deaths from Cholera occurred in Rajahmundry and these occurred in July and August while the festival began in September. The people coming in did bring some cholera poison with them, but it failed to do the harm that the Deputy Surgeon General thinks it must do. -

15. In conclusion I can assure Government that the Municipal Commission is anxious to do its best for the conservancy of the town, but to do much without getting into debt has been impossible: the re-imposition of the Profession Tax will enable us to do more, and more will be done, but even now, many years must elapse before Rajahmundry can take its place amongst the models of cleanliness.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servt.
W S Foote
President.

To Secretary-Municipal Commissioners
Rajahmundry
Surgeon Genl's Office
Madras 1915

E. D. Rammohunmoo
Asst Clerk

16 January 75 — Nos 43-44.
5th Feby 75 — " 88-89.

No 22.

Home with Despatch
1875 Dept.
Municipal-Sanity
From the President
Municipal Commissioner
Godavery District
To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Dated 9 April 1875
Rec'd 14. — " —
No 27
Encls 1
No 923

Submitting report on the Sanitary state of Rajahmundry.

With order
Despatched

Municipal - Sanitary

3rd May 1875. No 981

The President's letter will be Communicated to the Surgeon-General Indian Medical Department.

The Sanitary Commissioner will report whether in his opinion the Municipal Commissioners are making the best use of the funds at their disposal.

16/5

I should be disposed to quote Mr. Foster's remarkable letter shewing what they are doing & their best Public Health

Before it is corrected. There is now both Assistant Surgeon & other Public Health Officer

Would there be any objection to telling Dr. Bassett that all sanitary reports shall be submitted to the Sanitary Commissioner for remarks either by him or his subordinate, before he decides what Action should be addressed on the matter - Dr. Van Someren's letter is practically evidently impracticable and probably a result of his being over worked. Then seems a great deal in Mr. Foster's remarks that will be useful to Municipalities in guiding them to sober language and sound advice. Experience proves that this cannot be got from the recognized Sanitary Advisers of

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

Mr Henderson

Encl

G.O. 3rd May 1875 No. 981

Nos. 22-23

Mun.l — Sanitary. Report of President, Municipal Commissioners, Godavery District, on the Sanitary state of Rajahmundry, communicated to the Surgeon General Indian Medical Department