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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1214.
B.P. No.

Press.
Mis.

Dated 1 7. 1881. ~~197~~ .

19/20

Not to be folded or roughly handled

~~20~~ 19

Sanitation Ootacamund – proposing Sanitary [illegible]

1214

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Sanitary.

No. 1214.

From

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
FORT ST. GEORGE,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME, REVENUE, AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

The insanitary condition of Ootacamund has for some time engaged the serious attention of this Government, and with a view to remedying, as far as possible, the more glaring defects of this important Sanitarium, the Honorable the Governor in Council has resolved to appoint, as a temporary measure, one of the two Medical Officers of the station to be Special Sanitary Inspector, in addition to his ordinary duties, for the period of one year. To remunerate him for this additional work, which will doubtless further entail loss of private practice, it is proposed to grant him an allowance of Rs. 200 monthly; and as the Municipal income is utterly inadequate to meet, in addition to ordinary requirements, the demands on it for water-supply and drainage, a very complete scheme for the improvement of which is now under consideration, and will it is expected be shortly commenced, I am to request the sanction of the Government of India to debit the charge to *Provincial*.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
C. G. MASTER,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

OOTACAMUND,
1st July 1881.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Regr. No.

HOME 1881 DEPT.

From the Government of
Fort St. George.

Dated 1st July 1881.
Issued
Recd.

No.
Enclosures
Spare copies

D. No.
L. No. 1214.

Progs.
No.

Sanitary.—Requesting sanction for the debit to *Provincial* of the monthly charge of Rs. 200, being the allowance proposed to be granted to one of the two Medical Officers stationed at Ootacamund who has been appointed, as a temporary measure, to be Special Sanitary Inspector in addition to his ordinary duties.

Confidential

1214/2

23d June 81.

My dear Cornish,

Referring to a note which you wrote to Davidson on the 20th May relative to placing one of the Ooty Medical officers in sanitary charge of the Station on a special allowance, I am to ask you confidentially what in your opinion is the smallest amount Govt. could ask the Govt. of India sanction to attach to the Special

Regr. No.

HOME 1881 DEPT.

From the Government of
Fort St. George

Sanitary Inspection duty at Ooty "without seeming mean": I am to explain that with reference to the state of their Finances the Municipality cannot be required to accept the exceptional charge though the Act enables the Govt. to charge such expenditure to the Municipal Fund.

Yrs sincerely
Sd/ C.G. Master.

Private.

Office of Surgeon-General
with the Government of Madras.
~~Fort St. George,~~ Ooty.

June 24th 1881.

1214
#3

My dear Master.

With reference to your note of the 23rd. I have to consider what a Sanitary Officer would have to do in Ootacamund.

The place as you know covers an extensive area, and although the bazaar & localities inhabited by natives would require the most attention, yet it would be necessary for the San. Officer to have his eye on the better class of property as well, as experience shows that they want looking after nearly as much as the bazaars. He would have to keep a horse in connection with this work.

There is another point also

Regr. No.

HOME 1881 DEPT.

that may be considered. A Sanitary officer, doing his duty in a thorough way, might make himself obnoxious to owners of property, and it is very possible might prejudice his chances of sharing in the private medical practice to be had in the station. The salary or allowance sh^{d} be considered also from this point of view.

The Med^{c} officers at Ootacamund draw merely the consolidated salary of their rank for 2^{d} class civil stations. One receives 50 Rs a month for med^{c} attendance on the Lawrence Asylum.

1214/5

I think that Rs 200 per mensem would be a fair allowance for the officer appointed to supervise the sanitary wants of the stations, and that the least salary ~~he~~ asked for sh^{d} be Rs 150. I assume that the duties will necessitate much moving about, and ~~it~~ that they may occasion~~ally~~ collision with owners of property, to the disadvantage of the Sanitary officer in his capacity as med^{c} attendant. Rs 200 a month, would make him tolerably independent of such contingencies, and be a fair remuneration for the

1881 DEPT

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work to be done

Believe me

My dear Master.

Yours very truly.

W M Cornish.

C. G. Master Esq.
Act Chief Secy
to Govt.

1214/P/5

Government House,

I presume it will be understood that Dr Varney will discharge the duties of Sanitary Officer to the Municipality of Ootacamund — I think he should receive some additional pay for performing the duties.

WPA

I believe that under the Med. Code* it is part of the orig. duty of a Station Med. O. to

72/112

6

Inspecting the Sanit. arrangements of the Station & whether this is often done being specified without specifying — for which there is no machinery or means that I know of.

WPA

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* Sect. III. 3. "Sanitary Officers. Civil Surgeons are ex officio Sanitary officers of their districts and

(3)

and are responsible for bringing
to the notice of Government an[d]
judicial officers all circumsta[nces]
which are prejudicial to the
health of [illegible]
prisoners in jail or the civ[il]
population generally."

13/5/81

Council?

13/5/81

Read in Council 16/5/81

R.D. 15 MAY 81

Ootacamund. May 13th 18

From
Surgeon Major L. C. Ranney
Civil Medical Officer
Ootacamund.

To
The Chief Secretary to
Government. Ootacamund.

1214 / 1214 / 7

Sir

With reference to the Sanitary Commissioner's Report for last year with the order of Government thereon No 465 dated 18th March 1881 & the conversation I had with you on the subject I have the honor to lay before you the following facts for your kind consideration

2. Dr Furnell's Report has plainly & in detail brought to the notice of Government the exceedingly insanitary condition of Ootacamund which from being the most important Sanitarium of Southern India resorted to by persons from all three presidencies for its extreme healthiness & salubrity is now threatened

with a condition so unsanitary as to render the visitation of epidemic disease only too probable which Dr Gordon predicted as far back as 1877 would become in a few more years "beyond the power of being remedied."

3. To alter the existing unsatisfactory state of affairs, decisive & stringent measures will have to be adopted & the proposed appointment of one of the Medical Officers, as Special Sanitary Officer will carry with it a considerable amount of labor, thought & supervision, the effectual performance of which will necessarily occupy considerable time. This will interfere with private practice by which Medical Officers have always made up for the exceedingly small pay of the appointment, as in spite of its size & importance, it only ranks as a 2nd Class Station.

4. Under these circumstances I trust you will kindly recommend for the very favorable consideration of Government that a suitable allowance may be attached to the appointment as has been done with that of Health Officer in Madras which I believe is Rs 500/- a month in addition to the district pay of a 1st Class Station. Altho' Madras is larger than Ootacamund it can scarcely be considered more important in point of health than this principal Sanitarium to which all those requiring a change naturally resort which is the Chief Seat of Government for nearly 8 months of the year. It is also probable with the present prospects of the gold fields & projected railway that the size & importance of Ootacamund will greatly increase.

1214
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5. I might mention that I have had considerable experience

in Sanitary work in the Madras Lunatic Asylum where from the condition of the inmates the preservation of cleanliness & effective Conservancy had peculiar difficulties where the Annual Reports bear testifying my success.

I have also recently had experience of the requirements of a Hill Station during a year spent at Coonoor.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedt. Servant
L. C. Ranney Surg. Major
Junr Medical Officer
Ootacamund.

Ootacamund
18 May 1881.

1214/10/9

My dear Cornish

I am to write and ask you how far you think it would be free from objection (in the face of Section III para 3, of the Medical Code, which makes Civil Surgeons ex-officio sanitary officers of their districts) to recommend to the Govt of India that a special allowance be granted to one of the Ootacamund medical officers in view to remedying the

the very insanitary condition and supervising the sanitary arrangements of this important station—

The work would be carried on without prejudice to the medical officer's ordinary duties, & the special allowance is proposed in consideration of the very exceptional circumstances of the station, rendering the duties in excess of those contemplated by

the

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the Medical Code

1214/11/10

To Surgn. ~~Major~~ Genl.
W. R. Cornish—
F.R.C.S. C.I.E.

Despd: 18/5/87

16/5/87

D.O. to
Dr. Cornish

[illegible]
Consult [illegible]

R.D.
23 MAY 81

Office of Surgeon-General
with the Government of Madras,
Fort St. George,

May 20th 1881.

My dear Davidson

1214

In reply to your note of the 20th inst., I think it is competent to all municipalities to entertain a Sanitary officer. The Calcutta, Bombay, and old Madras M. Acts provided for this and at present Bombay, Calcutta, and, if I am not misinformed, some of the large towns in Northern India pay for a Sanitary officer.

I am quite certain that a Sanitary officer, with special powers, is needed at Ootacamund, and considering that the place is something more than a Municipality - viz a health

D.O. to
Dr Cornish

resort, and seat of Govt for a portion of the year, I think it might be recommended to the Govt of India, as a special case, that one of the med officers sh'd be specially placed in executive Sanitary charge of the station on a special allowance -

I am pleased to think that the Madras Govt will take up this matter. When the Committee of which Dr Gordon, myself & Mr Allen Webber were members reported on the station early in 1878, neither of the med officers were on the Municipal Board - I subsequently brought this specially to notice, in my capacity as Sanitary Commissioner and one was put upon the Board.

What is wanted in Ooty are clear sanitary rules, in regard to food, water, conservancy, nuisances &c. and a sufficient Sanitary staff under a competent head to see the rules enforced.

Believe me
My dear Davidson
Yours very truly
W R Cornish

1214
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12

Hon R. Davidson CSI.
Chief Secy.

D.O. to
Dr. Cornish

D.O. from Surgeon General
W. R. Cornish.

Regd.
d/ 22 May/81

D.O.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

No. 1214/44/13

From

Surgeon General, W. R. Cornish F.R.C.S., C.I.E.
d/ 20th May 1881, replying to reference regarding the grant of a special allowance to one of the Ootacamund Medical Officers for the sanitary charge of the station.

FOR ORDERS.

Dr. Ramsay's Office of the Health Officer for Madras is beside the mark rather I think. — I forget how the appt. originated (unless it was in connection with the Famine) but I think it is chiefly operative

23/5/81

in connection with the C. D. Act. And the pay is provided for I do not remember or what its exact amt. but it is not a Municipal charge. & the Health Officer is not a Municip. Officer.

All these points w^d. be cleared speedily

Dr. Ranney mentions Rs. 500 as the pay of the Madras appt. & unless I anticipate that something abt. this amt. wd. be given at Ootacd

and by the Municip.

I perceive that the Municip. have avoided of making any pay. & that in fact they have not means for doing so. & I think the amt. named by Dr. R. is far in excess of the requirts. of the case. But this is one of the points abt. I hope to have Dr. Cornish's opinion.

What is needed at Ootacd. is constant & close inspection & enforcement of Municipal sanitary regulations by the means provided by the law.

2. The duty wd. be very troublesome & unpleasant & wd. necessarily & unavoidably interfere seriously with the private medical practice. At the same time one of the Medical Officers is probably the best qualified man for the duty.

3. The question is
- what wd. be suitable remuneration.
- how can this be provided.

The papers put up do not show the financial position of the Ooty Municipy. & in fact afford but slight info. bearing on the question under

M 28/5
R 8/6

FOR ORDERS.

Discussion -

7/6/81

No. Finl. DEPARTMENT.

From

Ltr of the Hon'ble the Governor on the appt. of a Health Offr. at Ooty.

1214
16
13

FOR ORDERS.

The Ch. Sec. had better see Dr. Cornish & ascertain whether he considers it the Sanitary Commr. Govt. &c. ask G.O. sanction to attach to the Special Sanitary Inspn. duty at Ootacd. "without straining means" Expl. to him ~~that~~ the Municipy. cannot be

The Health Offr. in Madras is not apptd. under the Mun. Act, which only provides for the appt. of a "Special Sanitary Officer" by Govt. in the event of Epidemics, unusual mortality &c (Sec 41 Act V of 78)

Dr Roberts draws R400 (not R500) as Health Offr. & Supt. of the Lock Hospital

The Mcty of Ooty by G.O. 3 Sept /75 No 1761 obtained a loan from Govt. of R 12,420 for the completion of certain roads & Water supply channels. — to be paid off in 20 yrs. — the liability at end of 1880 was about R 10,700 — but the annual instalments do not much exceed R 400.

The balance at credit of Mcty at close of 29/1880 was R 16,000 * which included the amt. budgetted for portions of the Drainage scheme not expended during the year, owing to estimates & plans not having been matured.

The Drainage schemes now in contemplation will absorb all this & doubtless necessitate recourse to the loan market.

Required I accept the exceptional charge in the position of their finances. although the Bd. enable the Govt. to charge the cost to the M. Fund. It is by no means clear that the M. Bd. themselves could make such an appt.

L.K. 20/6/8

1214/17
16

from Provincial
& one of the Med. O.s of
the Station for say
one year. as Sanitary
Inspector. in view to
remedying as far as
possible the more
glaring defects
at this important
Sanitarium of Rs.
the Municipal income
is utterly inadequate
to meet the demands
on it for water supply
& drainage works in
add.n to ord.y requir.ts

25/6/81.

I ~~concur~~

R. 24.6.81

R. 20.6.81

Health Dept

FOR ORDERS.

Resubmitted with
note from Dr Cornish

G.M.
24/6

I think that the utmost
we can ask G.I. to
sanction is a temp.
allow.ce of Rs. 200 monthly

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

1214/18 17

READ the following letter

Ordered that the
Govt. of India be
addressed.

18

A.L.

No. 1214

Desp.d 1/7/81.
& Cert.
9/7

Note
Connected papers
in Conf. almirah.
& Sketches with the orignl

To the Secretary to
the Govt. of India,
H.R. & A. Dep.t

Sir
The insanitary
condition of Ootacamund
has for some time
engaged the serious
attention of this Govt.
and with a view to

remedying as far as possible the more glaring defects of this important Sanitarium, the Honorable the Governor in Council has resolved to appoint as a temporary measure one of the two Medical officers of the Station to be Special Sanitary Inspector in addition to his ordinary ~~own~~ duties, for the period of one year. To remunerate him for this additional work which will doubtless further entail loss of private practice, it is proposed to grant him an allowance of Rs. 200 monthly, and as the Municipal income is utterly inadequate to meet in addition to ordinary requirements, the demands on it for water supply & drainage, ~~in addition to ordinary requirements~~, I am to request the Sanction of the Govt. of India to ~~make~~ debit the charge to Provincial.

P.R.

3/7

1214
~~19~~
18

A.W. 30/6/81

a very complete scheme for the improvement of which is now under consideration & will it is expected be shortly commenced,

9th July 1881

1214
~~19~~
18

Govt. of {188 } Madras.

To __________

Dated }
Recd. } 188 , No.

Nos.

1214/19

1214/~~20~~/19

Recd 4/7

4-11-89

Simplify

Govt. of 1881 Madras.

a Teml

Case

DISPOSED OF

1 JUL 81

BY. G. O. No. 1214.

-19

Sanitary. ~~Re~~ Requests sanction for the debit to Provl of the monthly charge of Rs 200, being the allowance proposed to be granted to one of the two medl offrs stationed at Ootacd who has been appted as a tempy. measure to be Spl Sany. Inspr in addn to his ordinary duties.