

No. 12. Read the following letter from H. A. BRETT, Esq., Magistrate of Salem; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Salem, 26th May 1857, No. 193.

SIR,

1. With reference to an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated the 27th Ultimo, No. 480, and to my report to Government of 15th April 1856, No. 130, relating to the Drainage of the town of Salem; I have the honor to submit copy of a Memorandum, prepared by the District Engineer of Salem, on the measures necessary for the formation of a complete and efficient system of drainage for the town.

2. In this Memorandum, Lieutenant Gahagan points out that before any scheme for drainage can be formed, it is necessary to take levels, and to make an accurate survey of the whole town and suburbs, on a scale of about 4 feet to the mile.

3. He further states that he employed one of his Overseers for 3 months last year, to make a survey and a Plan which might be fully completed and thoroughly revised in the course of another 3 weeks, by any competent person who could give his whole time and attention to that duty; and secondly, that his Draughtsman, Mr. Duedney, has already taken some levels through several parts of the town. He believes that a complete set of levels might be finished in the course of another month, and that to prepare a new plan on the scale of 4 feet to the mile would occupy a fortnight.

4. Lieutenant Gahagan offers to place the services of Mr. Duedney at the disposal of the Committee for two months, if the Government should sanction his doing so; and he estimates

* Draughtman's salary for 2 months at 60 Rupees per month.	120	the cost of making a complete survey of the town with plan and levels at Rupees 180.*
Sundries at 30 Rupees per month.	60	
Total Rupees..	180	

5. Under the circumstances stated by Lieutenant Gahagan, I request that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to sanction my paying to Lieutenant Gahagan from the surplus Pagoda Funds the sum of Rupees 180, for the purpose above mentioned, and that he may be allowed to employ his Draughtsman, Mr. Duedney, for two months on the proposed work.

6. I also beg to explain that the Committee will not be able to submit the report required by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated the 10th May 1856, and 27th April 1857, (now under reference) till the survey, which according to Lieutenant Gahagan's Memorandum, will occupy two months longer, has been completed.

(Signed) H. A. BRETT,
Magistrate.

Memo. with reference to the formation of a "complete and efficient system of Drainage" for the town of Salem.

1. Before we can properly discuss the details of any system of Drainage, a careful and accurate survey of the whole town and suburbs must be made, and plotted on a scale of about 4 feet to the mile; levels must also be taken, that we may know the exact elevation of any part of the town in relative to some fixed point.

2. One of my Subordinates (Assistant Overseer Barringer) was employed for about 3 months last year in making a survey and plan of Salem, which he almost completed. His plan though not plotted on a sufficiently large scale, is tolerably correct, and could be completed and thoroughly revised in the course of another 3 weeks by any competent person who could give his whole time and undivided attention to the task.

3. In December, and January last, I employed my Draftsman, Mr. A. Duedney in taking levels through several parts of the town. The complete set of levels could be finished and put on paper in the course of another month.

4. The task of preparing a new plan on the scale of 4 feet to the mile would occupy a fortnight.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th June 1857.

5. I know no one more fit for the work than Mr. Duedney, (who is moreover on the spot and well acquainted with the locality) and I shall be very happy to place his services at the disposal of the Committee for 2 months, stipulating only that his salary (Rupees 60 per mensem) be paid during that time by the Committee, and that all orders be issued to him through me.

6. The total cost of completing the survey, plan, and levels, would be Rupees 180.

Draftsman's salary for two months at 60 Rupees.....Rs. 120 0 0
Sundries at 30 Rupees per mensem..... 60 0 0

Total Rupees .. 180 0 0

7. I will now proceed to give a rough Estimate of the expense of constructing a complete system of covered drainage. My estimate will include the cost of a set of scavengers' carts, which is indispensable in any system of town-cleansing in India. Carts being required to remove the daily accumulations of dry filth and rubbish which are to be found in almost every street, while the covered drains will carry off all liquid sewage and street surface drainage.

8. The Committee may feel thankful that basement drainage (for under-ground kitchens and cellars) has not to be taken into consideration, and that one fruitful source of trouble and expense to sanatory reformers in England does not come into play here.

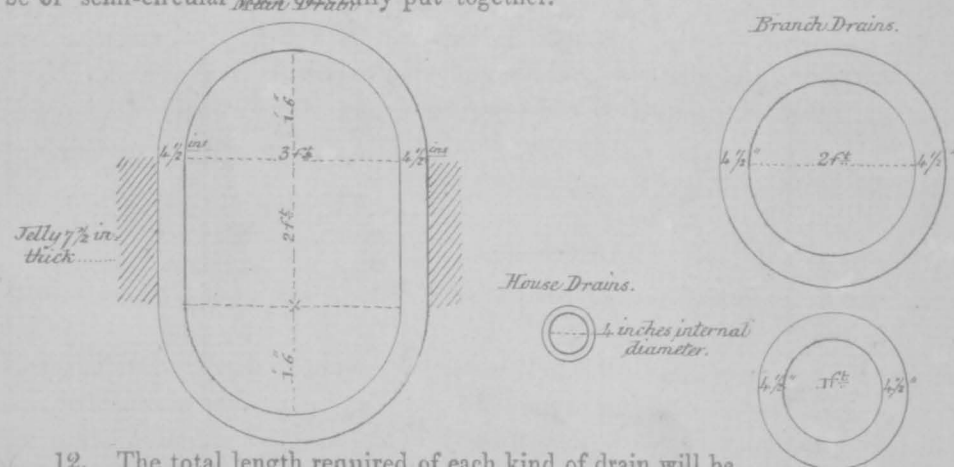
9. As carts and coolies can act independently of plans and levels, I think that the Government should at once be requested to grant for one year the amount* (as estimated by the M. S. A.) required for working 12 scavengers' carts.

When the people have had positive proof of the beneficial results of the scavenger's daily visit, they will in all probability be more inclined to exhibit that public spirit which has been alluded to by Government than they appear to be at present.

10. 3 classes of drains will be required :

1. Main Drains.
2. Branch do.
3. House do.

11. The main and branch drains must be built of brick in chunam, the house drains may be of semi-circular tiles carefully put together.



12. The total length required of each kind of drain will be,

Main Drain 4 miles (about)
Branch do. 12 „ „
House do. 30 „ „

13. The cost of constructing these (excavation included) will be :

Main Drains Rupees 16,000
Branch do. „ 18,000
House do. „ 20,000
Rupees 54,000

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th June 1857.

14. To this sum of 54,000 Rupees must be added 2,000 Rupees for constructing gutter gratings and pipes to carry off the street surface drainage. Rupees 1,500 for making 2 sets of wells (one for Salem and one for Shevapett, each set to consist of (say 4 wells) from which a constant stream of water can be sent down the main drains through the greater part of the year; and Rupees 3,500 for sundries.

15. The grand total will therefore be Rupees 60,000

16. The Salem river will always remain an abomination and a source of sickness, as long as the inhabitants of the town are allowed to use it as a common sink and privy, and as long as the water, which might be used from time to time most beneficially to scour out the bed, is almost entirely drawn off for cultivation. There are, to the best of my knowledge, 3 anicuts across the river within the limits of the town. Were all three provided with efficient sluices, and these sluices raised at stated intervals of time (say twice in the year, once in November, just before the cholera season, and once in June, when the first freshes come down) the accumulations of filth in the beds on the banks of the river would be regularly removed, and never have time to become the crying nuisance of which under existing circumstances we have to complain.

17. In conclusion, I may observe that the town is divided by the river into 2 distinct and nearly equal portions, which must be drained quite independently of each other.

(Signed) T. E. GAHAGAN, Engineers,

Yercaud, 19th May 1857.

District Engineer of Salem.

N. B.—I have purposely abstained from entering into any details of the scheme of drainage; because in the first, I must have a plan and levels to be able to speak with any certainty, and, in the second, unless we can get the necessary funds for carrying out the undertaking, my labour would be in vain.

(Signed) T. E. GAHAGAN,

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. A. BRETT,

Magistrate.

No. 13. ORDER THEREON, No. 654; dated 4th June 1857.

Resolved that the Collector of Salem be authorized to disburse Rupees (180) one hundred and eighty, from the Surplus Pagoda Funds, for making a survey of the town of Salem, with plans and levels to aid the sanitary measures in contemplation.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,

Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

N^o 654

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For G. S. George,
14 June, 1857

W

the Magistrate of Salem }
Revenue Depart. } Disp. 8th
Accountant General }

Dr. J. C. Sumner
March 1857

654

Dr. H. C. St. John

Lalene

Dr. J. C. Sumner
to General Sumner
Fort Atkinson

March 28th 1857

March 1st 1857

March 1st 1857

Forwarding a few more
of the same on the 1st of
March and requesting
that you forward by return
of the same.

March 28th 1857

March 20th 1857

March 26th 1857

March 2nd 1857

March 2nd 1857

March 12th 1857

March 12th 1857

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Juriceil DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 6574

Press
~~Mis.~~

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Dated

4 — 6 — 10 / 857

Not to be folded or roughly handled