M.R.O. 1—33,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1639	Press Mis.
97-99	
Dated 12-10-1923	

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 97. From Major General J. C. COFFIN, Commanding Southern Division; to the Quarter Master General, Bangalore, dated Trichinopoly, 19th September 1863, No. 187.

As the Sanitary Officers consider the health of the Military Cantonment of Trichinopoly very materially affected by the luxuriant growth of the prickly pear, in and about the town and Cantonment, and as the season when the Pootoor lines are periodically visited by an outbreak of Cholera is fast approaching, (November and December) I consider it my duty to request you will bring the subject to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief, in the hope that Government may be moved to do something.

On the 17th June last, Government issued an Order, No. 949, for the Magistrate to take immediate steps, in communication with the Officer Commanding the Division, for having the prickly pear rooted up, &c.

2. Mr. Walhouse the Acting Collector addressed Government on the 18th July last on the subject, a copy of whose letter is enclosed, but up to this time I am informed by that gentleman, no answer has been received to his representation.

3. This noxious plant within Military limits has been in course of eradication for months past; but the great evil is outside, beyond my control, and without the aid of Government cannot be removed.

No. 7,747.

MEMORANDUM.

Forwarded to Government for consideration and orders. His Excellency begs that the representation of the Civil and Military authorities at Trichinopoly may meet with early attention.

2. The Fort is situated without Military limits. The lines of the two Regiments of Native Infantry are at a distance of 1 mile and 3,720 feet, and 1 mile and 720 feet from the old Main Guard in the Fort.

By order,

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
HEAD QUARTERS, BANGALORE,
2nd October 1863.

(Signed) F. H. SCOTT, Lieut.-Colonel,
Quarter Master General.

To the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Transferred to the Judicial Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
10th October 1863.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Dy. Secy. to Government.

No. 98. From M. J. WALHOUSE, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trichinopoly, 18th July 1863, No. 9.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the Order of Government, dated 17th ultimo, No. 949, with reference to the sanitary condition of Trichinopoly in which I am directed to take immediate steps, in communication with the Officer Commanding the Division, for rooting up the prickly pear, and to select sites for public necessaries. With respect to destroying the prickly pear, I beg to say that its immense and injurious prevalence here has engaged much of my attention. No other town is so beset and hemmed in by this most noxious plant; and I perceive a marked increase in its spread and growth, since I was temporarily in Trichinopoly in 1858. The town is still bounded on the east, north and west by the ditch and wall of the old fortifications: the wall is every where ruinous, and for two-thirds of its extent half crumbled down, leaving an irregular earthen mound which, as well as the slope to the ditch, is on its outer face downwards full of excavations, hollows and projecting masses. All these, together with the bank and glacis opposite, are covered with dense impenetrable masses of prickly pear, in many places forming long banks several yards broad on both sides of the Fort. It is to the inequalities of the ruined wall and the clumps of prickly pear that the population of the adjoining crowded streets resort, and the sickening stench that continually arises cannot be exaggerated.

2. The exhalations whether carried towards Pootoor and the Cantonment by the North-east monsoon, or driven over the whole Fort, by the South-west must, throughout the year, be most injurious to the public health; and I may add, that the inhabitants complain much of the increasing danger from snakes, to which the holes and crevices of the mouldering wall, rendered doubly secure by the overgrowth of prickly pear afford impenetrable shelter, insomuch so that the people are afraid to venture in the streets near the wall after dark.

3. Sir C. Trevelyan in his Minute, dated 28th January 1860, desired to level the fortifications round the rock and convert them into a circular road and boulevard with other improvements, for which an estimate as per margin was drawn out by the District Engineer and approved in the Order of Government, dated 22nd May 1862, No. 1,119, but sanction withheld till it could be known what local funds were available for the work, the Order observing that though "very desirable on sanitary grounds it was purely a municipal improvement and as such should be paid for from local funds and not out of general revenue."

Taking down the wall with the old stones..	Rupees 17,766
Gravelling for the road.....	" 2,250
Removing prickly pear.....	" 1,850
Three public Latrines on the standard plan..	" 3,810
Extra charges, blasting rocks, drainage and tunnels.....	" 834
	Rupees 27,600

4. I beg with deference to observe that, in Dr. Shaw's words, it is not purely a municipal question, but one directly and materially affecting the health of the Cantonment and populous suburbs; and next, I wish to state decidedly my opinion that the evil to be removed has reached dimensions, that no municipal movement is at all likely to grapple with; keeping up the Civil Dispensary and providing for a projected Zillah School, will, I feel assured, exhaust all the public spirit existent now, should it be judged expedient to call upon the Native community to contribute.

5. In the Order of Government now under reply, I am directed to take immediate steps, in communication with the Officer Commanding the Division, for having the prickly pear rooted up and burnt. The Officer Commanding is now absent from Trichinopoly, and the places to be cleared are almost wholly within the Civil limits. It will be obvious that a considerable sum will be required for the work. Rupees 1,850 was the estimate made for it three years ago, which seems to me a low figure, and I especially beg to point out that without the levelling of the old wall, the removal of the prickly pear would be of little avail. So long as the dismantled rampart with its shattered bastions and furrowed outer declivity remains, so long will the prickly pear reappear in sites so favorable for its growth and spread, and the people in spite of precautions resort there and poison the atmosphere. Its removal would of course incalculably improve the ventilation of the narrow streets immediately under it, and will be further necessitated for the construction of Latrines which will be best placed near the four corners of the Fort and on the sites of the old bastions, all the rest of the ground within the town being claimed as private property.

6. The Engineer's estimate for taking down the old wall was Rupees 17,766, and a further sum of Rupees 1,850 for up-rooting the prickly pear; probably the whole cost would not be under Rupees 20,000. It is a work that has been described as "urgently required" by the highest Medical and Engineering authority and "considered necessary" by Government. Reasons have been already stated for its being undertaken by Government, rather than looking to municipal exertions. Respecting the circular road and boulevard, on the site of the ditch and rampart, that formed part of Sir C. Trevelyan's plan and of the estimate already quoted, I think that might fairly be looked upon as belonging to municipal enterprise, should public spirit ever reach so high. It would necessitate the filling in of the entire ditch for which the District Engineer has reported that the earth from the fortification would only half suffice, not so much in some places, whilst the actual bed of the ditch is a green and clean level, the grass of which is rented out annually. It is the slope down to it that is the stronghold of the prickly pear and all impurity, and this slope, full of furrows, holes and excavations, might have a smooth surface given it from the earth of the old wall pushed down, and could then be easily watched and kept clear from prickly pear and other nuisances.

7. Should the Government think proper to authorize the removal of the old fortification as well as of the prickly pear, the one per cent. income tax fund would appear to me the most obvious source for meeting the expense. Should it, however, be decided that the prickly pear alone is to be removed, I beg instructions as to how the cost, which certainly will not be less than Rupees 2,000, is to be defrayed. Whatever course may be ordered, the Government may be assured of my interest in co-operating and seeing the work well carried out. It may not be out of place to observe that with respect to meeting the expense, the District Engineer reported that not much will be gained from the debris and stones of the old wall. I may here also add that a supply of the Cochineal insect was obtained by me from Chingleput and carefully deposited under my personal superintendence in about 20 places on the prickly pear on the 24th ultimo, but the experiment has proved unsuccessful.

8. I am of opinion that at least 10 public necessaries will be required for the town, which might, with advantage, be placed near the 4 corners of the Fort, on the sites of the old bastions, and on spots now occupied by the old walls; till the latter are cleared away, at least at the points required, it would be difficult to indicate the exact sites—all the ground towards the interior of the town being claimed as private property; when necessaries are once established the use of them will of course be strictly enforced.

9. I have to report that nothing has been done at Trichinopoly with regard to the Proceedings of Government, under date the 27th May 1862, No. 639, Public Department.

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1863, No. 1,639.

His Excellency the Governor in Council directs that the Collector of Trichinopoly will arrange for the eradication of the prickly pear at Trichinopoly with as little delay as possible; disbursing, as an advance, such sum not exceeding Rupees (2,000) two thousand as may be necessary for the purpose, and submitting a Bill for the amount when the work is done. The charge will be debited to the head "Unforeseen Contingencies" in F IX of the Budget.

2. The project of dismantling the walls of the fortification and converting the site into a circular road at an estimated cost of Rupees 27,600, will be entered in the Public Works Budget for 1864-65, there not being sufficient funds available for the purpose from the Reserve fund for the present year.

3. The erection of Latrines, however, is a matter which should not be any longer delayed. The Superintending Engineer will be instructed through the Public Works Department to have an estimate prepared of the cost of erecting the number proposed by the Collector, viz., ten, and destroying the walls at the points where it is proposed to erect them; and if sufficient funds can be spared for this purpose, orders will be issued for the execution of the work as an emergent one.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

Memo. from the 2d Master General of the Army — } Rec'd inter 2d Octr 1863 No 1747

Letter from the Collector Asst Collector of Trichinopoly } Rec'd inter 18 July 1863 No

Order thereon 12 October 1863 No 1539.

His Excellency the Governor in Council directs that the Collector of Trichinopoly will arrange for the graduation of the prickly pear at Trichinopoly with as little delay as possible, disbursing, as an advance, such sum not exceeding Rupees (2000) Two thousand as may be necessary for the purpose, and submitting

a

a bill for the Amount when the work is done. The charge will be debited to the head of "Unforeseen Contingencies" in F. IX of the Budget.

2. The project of dismantling the walls of the fortification and converting the site into a circular road at an estimated Cost of Rupees 27,600, will be entered in the Public Works Budget for 1864-65; there being, not, if not provided, sufficient funds available for the purpose from the Reserve Fund for the present Year.

3. The erection of Latrines, however, is a matter which should not be any longer delayed. The Superintending Engineer will be instructed through the Public Works Dept to have an Estimate prepared of the Cost of erecting the number proposed by the Collector, viz. ten, and destroying the walls at the points where it is proposed to erect them; and if sufficient funds can be spared for this purpose, orders will be issued for the Execution of the work as an Emergent one.

/R.

To
The Collr & Magte of Trichinopoly — dispd 12 in Mss
The Public Works Dept
The Military Department — dispd 16
The Civil Paymaster
The Dy Jud. & Accts General

Jud.e 1863. Department.

No. 1639

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 12th October 1863.

Ft. 2360.
393/64

Passing Orders for the eradication of the Prickly pear at Trichinopoly, for the dismantling the Walls of the fortification — and requesting the erection of Lanterns.—

97@99