

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>949</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
<i>165-167</i>	
Dated <i>17. 6. 1863</i>	<i>17</i>

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

107

Read the following papers:—

No. 165. From R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated 30th March 1863, No. 62.

The sanitary condition of the town of Trichinopoly, and the effects thereof on the health of Troops stationed in the Cantonment, has recently formed the subject of a communication from Acting Inspector General of Hospitals J Shaw, F. R. C. S.

2. As the remedy for many of the evils complained of, lies more with the Civil than the Military authorities, I have the honor to subjoin such Extracts from the report of Mr. Shaw, as appear to relate to matters within the province of the Civil authorities, and to urge the introduction of measures, necessary for the health and cleanliness of this important Native town. At the same time I beg to refer to Orders of Government, Public Department, No. 639, 27th May 1862, and accompanying Memorandum, attention to which would have probably obviated the necessity of the present reference.

3. The evils complained of by Mr. Shaw with regard to Trichinopoly, exist, I fear, in an equal degree of offensiveness in every large Native town in the Presidency; the effects on public health are most lamentable, and until some effectual improvement can be insisted upon by Regulation for promoting cleanliness and decency amongst the inhabitants, I fear no check will be put to the prevalence of epidemic diseases.

4. I am unable to suggest a remedy, unless the Government are prepared to compel the inhabitants of all large towns above a certain defined population, to adopt the sanitary precautions which a good Municipal or Health of Towns Act would enforce. I am of opinion that the enactment of a law to regulate the conservancy of all large towns and villages would be the first step towards bringing about the desired improvements.

EXTRACT.

"The prickly pear trees grow with a luxuriance unknown in any other station occupied by Europeans. The places sheltered by it, the Fort ditch, and the remains of the walls of the Fort are used by the people as a public necessary; the stench, even in this dry season, is intolerable, and must be worse in the wet weather, the whole of the surface soil being saturated with urine and faeces, and if we assure that each adult passes daily 30 ounces of urine and 5 of feculent matter, we can form some slight idea of the amount of pollution with which the atmosphere which so many thousands breathe is contaminated. This I regret to say applies to a certain extent to the Sepoy's Lines as well as to the town."

"With the exception of a temporary public necessary in the Bazaar near the European Barracks, which was put up at the suggestion of the Major General, *there is not such a thing in the whole of Trichinopoly*, either in the town or in the Cantonment, and no doubt this has contributed greatly to the Fever and Cholera which has lately prevailed."

"The usual wind at this season is the north-east, and it is during its prevalence that some parts of the Cantonment annually suffers severely from outbreaks of Cholera. In the plan of Trichinopoly which I send, the Hospital and Lines of the 23rd Regiment at Pootoor are marked E, it will be observed that the Fort lies due north-east to them, and in the return marked A which I attach, it will be observed that the 23rd lost in December, January and February last, 15 Sepoys and a large number of followers; whilst the mortality, from the same cause, was only 4 in the 13th and 3 in the 15th Regiments."

"This is by no means an exceptional year, it is to the old inhabitants a matter well known that Pootoor at certain seasons, is always more unhealthy than any other part of the Cantonment."

Is it assuming too much to assert that the health of the inhabitants of Pootoor materially suffers from inhaling the polluted air which has passed over the mass of abominations in the Fort and its neighbourhood? And must not the health of the inhabitants in the Cantonment be more or less affected by the same cause?"

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
17th June 1863.

"By referring to the plan of Trichinopoly it will be seen that the Lines and Hospitals of the 13th and 15th Regiment N. I., which are contiguous, are situated so as to receive but little of the wind which passes over the Fort whilst it blows in the north-east direction. I attach a Memorandum marked A, received from the Medical Officer of the 23rd Regiment N. I., which shows that when the wind changed its direction that the Cholera ceased for a time appearing again when the wind returned to its old quarter."

"I do not wish to exaggerate the unsatisfactory sanitary state of Trichinopoly, but it is a matter which urgently demands the attention of Government as not being "purely" a municipal question" but one very materially affecting the health of the inhabitants of the Military Cantonment no less than of those of the town."

"Captain Palmer, the District Engineer, informs me that in Trichinopoly generally there are but few natural obstructions to drainage, the fall of the ground being towards the Wyacandah and Cauvery. The most common sanitary measures appear for long to have been neglected in the town of Trichinopoly."

"I have already pointed out the extraordinary luxuriance of the prickly pear in the neighbourhood of the Fort, the growth evidently of many years. In other parts it also abounds but to a less extent. Were the prickly pear extirpated and public necessities built in the town and Cantonment, and proper attention given to the ordinary rules of sanitary science, there is no reason, humanly speaking, why Trichinopoly should remain a hot bed for Cholera."

"I beg to recommend that public necessities be erected in the Fort and town, and that as in Madras, fines be levied on persons committing nuisances."

"The prickly pear be rooted up and burnt, not buried in pits from whence it so frequently springs up again."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH,

Secretary Principal Inspector General
Medical Department.

A.

Observations relating to the epidemic of Cholera which occurred in the Lines of the 23rd Regiment W. L. I., during the months of December 1862 and January and February 1863, Trichinopoly.

For about a week before the outbreak the weather was observed to be cloudy, atmosphere oppressive, temperature ranging from 72 to 85 F. The wind blowing from the north-east. Occasionally the weather cleared up, and the wind veered round to the east; it was observed that when this change took place, there were no admissions into Hospital during its continuance, although there were occasional cases among the families of the men.

The admissions succeeding this cessation, were observed to be the most fatal.

This cessation occurred in two occasions, the wind blowing from the north-east would pass over (commencing at the Cauvery Bridge) the Chinthamony Bazaar, the large tank, some new mowed paddy fields, and the north-west angle of the Parcherry to the west of the Lines.

The greater number of cases occurred among the Gentoo caste, who eat less animal diet and use less condiment in their food.

(Signed) J. A. COX, M. D.,

Assistant Surgeon, 23rd Regt. W. L. I.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SHAW, F. R. C. S.,

Acting Inspector General of Hospitals.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH,

Secy. to the Prinl. Insp. Genl. Medl. Dept.

TRICHINOPOLY, 10th March 1863.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
17th June 1863.

No. 166. Proceedings of Government in the Military Department.

Forwarding for consideration the question of
the removal of the prickly pear found in
large quantities in the immediate vicinity of
the Native Lines at Trichinopoly, the plant
being stated to be beyond the Military bound-
ary of the Cantonment. (Dated 2nd June 1863, No. 1,806.)

No. 167.

ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1863, No. 949.

The foregoing papers have reference to the sanitary condition of the town of Trichinopoly which has been recently visited by the Acting Inspector General of Hospitals.

2. It appears that a part of the town in the immediate neighbourhood of the Fort is over-run by prickly pear, and that the places sheltered by it, viz., the Fort ditch, and the remains of the walls of the Fort are used by the people as a public necessary. The Fort lies to the north-east of Pootoor, a suburb in which one of the Native Regiments is quartered, and it has been observed that whenever the north-east wind prevails Cholera is prevalent in the town in question, this Mr. Shaw considers to be in a great measure attributable to the utter neglect of conservancy in the quarter above referred to. He recommends that the prickly pear should be rooted up and burnt, and that public necessities should be erected in the Fort and in the town, and that fines should be levied on persons committing nuisances.

3. The Governor in Council directs that the Magistrate will take immediate steps in communication with the Officer Commanding the Division for having the prickly pear rooted up and burnt, and that he will also select sites for public necessities, estimates for the construction of which will be prepared in the Department of Public Works, and submitted by the Magistrate with statements of the annual charge for keeping them clean. When such necessities are constructed it will be the duty of the Magistrate to punish the commission of public nuisances, under Chapter XIV of the Penal Code.

4. The Collector will also report whether any thing has been done at Trichinopoly in pursuance of the instructions conveyed in the Proceedings of Government, under date 27th May 1862, No. 639, Public Department.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. McMootry.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 28th March 1863, No. 2507; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

With reference to Order of Government, No. 614, dated 17th February 1862, I have the honor, by desire of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward for submission to Government, the accompanying letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hitchins, and its enclosure.

2. From these papers Government will observe, that practically nothing has been done towards eradicating the Prickly Pear at Palaveram since the orders of Government were issued, now more than a year ago.

3. The Officer Commanding Palaveram has again represented that the plant has increased enormously within the last eighteen months. He suggests for consideration whether it would not be advisable to have all the plant effectually removed at once; and this having been done, to have the Cantonment looked over periodically, and all the young plants destroyed before they have grown to any size. His Excellency would beg the consideration of Government to this suggestion. Half measures appear to be both useless and expensive.

4. Major Kempster points out that funds to some extent might be obtained by cutting down and selling some of the trees in the Cantonment, and thinning and lopping the trees generally, and especially in a Tope which would bear thinning with advantage.

5. Whether Government entertain this suggestion or not, His Excellency trusts that some stringent orders may be issued for the speedy eradication of this noxious plant.

From the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, Chopaluk, 16th March 1863, No. 389; to the Deputy Quarter Master General.

In reply to your Memorandum, No. 1852, of the 5th instant, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter received from the Acting District Engineer, Madras, reporting on the unsuccessful attempt made to burn the Prickly Plant after the manner recommended by Lieutenant Colonel Ouchtertony, and suggesting another mode of drying the same and reducing it into a combustible form, which I approved of and requested Captain Moberly to carry on the experiment with vigour, so as to come to a speedy conclusion, as the best means of eradicating this most obnoxious plant.

From the Acting District Engineer of Madras, Camp Trivellore, 9th March 1863, No. 1854; to the Deputy Chief Engineer Central Circle.

Referring to my No. 1515, of 15th December 1862, I have the honor to report that, it has cost Rupees 5-10, to pile 36 square yards of Prickly Pear, four feet high (on a platform of stone carried 100 yards average) it was allowed to lie from 28th August till 26th February, the rains of course delaying the process of drying. For two days efforts have been made to burn it, but it is only on the surface that any good was effected a little below the surface it would not light.

2. It is possible that we may dry it better by turning the heap over during the hot weather, and if we can desiccate a large quantity, it might be worth while to start the consumption by putting it on a good fire and feeding it with the dried leaves.

I shall be obliged by your informing me if I shall try the experiment.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have received your No. 376, the enclosures of which I return—without funds it is impossible for me to do more than try the above experiment.

ORDER, No. 1403, 29th April 1863.

The Governor in Council concurs in the view expressed by the Commander-in-Chief in the foregoing correspondence, regarding the destruction of the Prickly Pear in the Cantonment of Palaveram that "half measures are both useless and expensive." His Excellency is further of opinion that the best mode to effect its complete eradication is to dig up and destroy every plant—measures being taken as proposed in paragraph 5 of the Quarter Master General's letter recorded in Proceedings of Government marginally noted, to provide against its re-appearance.

2. The Governor in Council accordingly resolves to renew the sanction conveyed in paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of Government above referred to, in view to a Contract being entered into, under the orders of the Quarter Master General, for the object in question.

3. The Quarter Master General will report, for communication to the Department Public Works, the probable expenditure to be incurred, in view to its being ascertained from what source the necessary funds can be provided by that Department.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

- „ Department Public Works.
- „ Controller of Military Finance.
- „ Military Accountant.
- „ Examiner Pay Department.
- „ Principal Inspector General Medl. Dept., } for information.
- „ Adjutant General, }

Exd. B. Stephenson

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter:—

From the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 27th May 1863, No. 4327; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

The Officer Commanding the Southern Division having represented, that while, in the Cantonment of Trichinopoly, there remains but an inconsiderable growth of Prickly Pear, it is to be found in great quantities without the Military boundary, and in the immediate vicinity of the Native Lines, and forms a receptacle for filth

of all kinds, I am directed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to recommend, with special reference to the recent expenditure to improve the sanitary condition of the Barracks at Trichinopoly, that Government may be pleased to sanction, as in the case of Palaveram, the eradication of the plant, and that Tenders be invited with that object.

2. The Officer Commanding Trichinopoly estimates the cost at Rupees 800.

ORDER, No. 1806, 2nd June 1861.

The Prickly Pear adverted to in the foregoing letter, being stated to be beyond the Military boundary, the question of its removal will be considered in the Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

- „ Judicial Department.
- „ Adjutant General, for information.

Exd. R. Stephenson.

ral of Hospital.

2 It appears that a part of the tower in the immediate neighbourhood of the Fort is overgrown by Prickly Pear, and that the places sheltered by it

166.

SECRETARY GENERAL
AND CHIEF CLERK
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Remarking for
consideration the question
of the removal of the brick
pave found in large quan-
tities in the immediate
vicinity of the station
at Trichinopoly - the place
being stated to be beyond the
military boundary of the Ca-
mpania.

10 Sept 1863
15th June 1863
10th June 1863

Part of the ground in
the line of the road

June 1863
Pro. Secy

Order

Resolved that the Magistrate of
Trichinopoly be requested to take measures
for the clearance of the Brickly Pear ground
lying without the Military boundary and
in the immediate vicinity of the Native
Line.

To Magr. of Trichinopoly
Military Dept
10th June

Exd. B. Stephenson

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Papers

Letter from the Principal Inspector
General Medical Department (Received 30th March 1863. N. 62.)
Proceedings of Government in the
Military Department (" 2nd June 1863. N. 1806.)

Order thereon 17th June 1863. N. 949.

The foregoing papers
have reference to the Sanitary
condition of the town of
Trichinopoly which has
been recently visited by
the Acting Inspector Gene-
ral of Hospitals.

2 It appears that a part
of the town in the imme-
diate neighbourhood of
the Fort is overrun
by Brickly Pear, and that
the places sheltered by it

See memo. inside

WD
MS

JF

viz. the Fort ditch and the remains of the walls of the Fort are used by the people as a public necessary. The Fort lies to the North East of Pootoor a suburb in which one of the Native Regiments is quartered, and it has been observed that whenever the North East wind prevails Cholera is prevalent in the town in question. This Mr. Shaw considers to be in a great measure attributable to the utter neglect of conservancy in the quarter above referred to.

He recommends that the Prickly Pear should be rooted up and burnt and that public necessities should be erected in the Fort and in the town, and that fines should be levied on persons committing nuisances.

3. The Governor in Council directs that the ^{Public} ^{immediate} ~~authorities~~ will take steps in communication with the Officer Commanding the Division for having the Prickly Pear rooted up and burnt and that he will also select sites for ~~the construction of~~ public necessities.

I should very much doubt the fact that people resorted to the Prickly Pear hedges as necessary in fact no banfooted natives would go near them.

As to public drains they will become public nuisances unless arrangements are made to clean them out regularly & remove the soil as - how often to be done and from what source it to be paid for - *MR*

the construction of which ^{necessaries, estimated for which} will be prepared in the Department of Public Works ^{submitted by the Magistrate} When such necessities are constructed it will be the duty of the ~~Collector in~~ ^{Magistrate} under the provisions of Sections 62 and 63 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to prohibit the commission of nuisances of the nature ~~adverted to~~ ^{adverted to}.

to punish the Commission of public Nuisances, under Chap. XIV of the Penal Code.

4. The Collector will also report whether any thing has been done at Trichinopoly in pursuance of the instructions conveyed in the proceedings of Government under date 27th May 1862. P. 639. Public Department.

J. S.

To The Collector and Magistrate of Trichinopoly
Principal Inspector General of Police
Military Department
P. B. Department
} desd 22

Per Bull

Indicia 1863. Department.

No. 414

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 12th June 1863.

7713/1005.

1834/66.

Adding above on the
existing condition of
the County of Wickhampton.

Passing
a. altered
in Council
[Signature]