M.R.O. 1—23,000—16-10-52.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1190 Press
Mis.

222-226

Dated 29 - 8 - 19 65

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
29th August 1865.

Read the following papers :—

No. 222. From R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 25th February 1864, No. 54.

I have the honor to transmit, for submission to His Excellency the Governor in Council, an extract from the Annual Report of the Civil Surgeon of Coimbatore on the health and sanitary condition of that place.

2. Looking to the situation of Coimbatore, as a centre where travellers, European and Native, assemble from all quarters, and are detained for a night, consequent on the railway arrangements, I beg most earnestly to solicit the attention of Government to the recommendations of Dr. Ogg to avert the out-break and propagation of epidemic disease.

EXTRACT.

"The only epidemic of importance during the past year has been cholera. The first case occurred in October; but for months previously the disease had been prevalent in an epidemic form in many parts of the District, and in the villages surrounding Coimbatore. Many cases had also occurred at the Coimbatore Railway station, and it is probably from that quarter that the disease spread to Coimbatore; several patients suffering from cholera having been sent from Pothanoor to the Civil Dispensary here for treatment. It is impossible, however, to give a decided opinion on this subject, because, as I have already stated, cholera had been for some time prevalent in the District before it appeared at Coimbatore. Situated as Coimbatore is on the high road to the Hills, both from the eastern and the western Coast, it is certain, sooner or later, to have the germs of the cholera poison conveyed to it, if the disease be prevalent on either Coast. The only prospect, therefore, of escape from constantly recurring out-breaks of this terrible scourge lies in the most vigorous measures being adopted for improving the sanitary state of the town, so that when the germs of the disease are introduced, they may find no fitting soil for their development. Though in some respects well built for a Native town, the sanitary state of Coimbatore is far from satisfactory. The streets are wide and at right angles to each other, thereby affording every facility for ventilation. The drainage, however, is very defective. The street drains are neither bricked nor tiled, but consist, for the most part, of trenches cut in the soil, and generally without the slightest regard to drainage level. Into these drains the filth from each house is allowed to find its way, and there it stagnates, poisoning the surrounding atmosphere. Another great evil, which can be dealt with only by a Municipal Act, exists in the fact that many of the houses are provided with cess-pools, for the accumulation of filth within, in the house enclosures. The Civil authorities are anxious to do their utmost to improve the sanitary state of the town, but their hands are tied partly for want of funds, and partly from want of power to enforce attention to cleanliness within the walls of the house enclosures. A Municipal Act would furnish a remedy for both these requirements, and I am happy to say that there is a prospect that in a few months hence Coimbatore will be under the operation of such an Act. One of the main causes of the unhealthiness of Coimbatore is the large tank to the south of the town. For many months in the year this tank is a foul stagnant swamp. Some years ago a project was started for remedying this state of things, by running an embankment through the middle of the tank, and heightening the bund on the southern side, and by this means so limiting the bed of the tank that it would never become dry at any season of the year. It was calculated, I believe, that the land that would be re-claimed and brought under cultivation by this scheme would more than re-pay the expenses incurred. Unfortunately, after estimates had been made and the work partially begun, the project was abandoned, but I am convinced that until it is carried out Coimbatore will never be so

healthy as it might be, and above all will be subject to periodical outbreaks of cholera. The number of cases of cholera treated in the Hospital were 15, of which four died."

(True Extract).

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH,
Secretary, Principal Inspector General,
Medical Department.

Referred to the Collector of Coimbatore, for report, after consulting the Superintending Engineer of the Division, with reference to the suggestion in connection with the tank at Coimbatore.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
7th March 1864.

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

No. 223. From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 11th May 1864, No. 28.

In reply to Mr. Kerr's Official Memorandum of the 29th ultimo, No. 221, I beg to inform you that on receipt of your Memorandum of the 7th March 1864, forwarding a letter of the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, with its enclosure—an Extract from Dr. Ogg's Report on the sanitary state of Coimbatore—I at once addressed the Superintending Engineer, but have not, as yet, heard from him. The proposition, however, regarding the tank at Coimbatore, was made some time ago, and I have reason to believe that, to carry it out, a very considerable expenditure of money and loss of revenue will be necessary. I shall again address the Superintending Engineer, and, on receipt of his reply, will, without loss of time, report the result.

No. 224. From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Madras; dated Ootacamund, 30th August 1864, No. 67.

In reply to your Memorandum of the 24th instant, No. 461, calling for the Report on the proposed improvements in connection with the Coimbatore tank, I beg to inform you that I have not yet heard from Colonel Walker, in reply to my letter to his address on the subject. I am, however, aware that for some months past the tank has been full, and that, until it is empty, it will be beyond Colonel Walker's power to comply with the requisition of Government, and submit the Report called for.

No. 225. From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Coimbatore, 18th July 1865, No. 86.

In reply to the official Memorandum from the Acting Under Secretary, under date the 30th June, calling on me to furnish the Report called for on the 10th December 1864, regarding the project for the improvement of the Coimbatore tank, I beg to inform you that no official report on the subject has as yet been received from the Superintending Engineer, whom I addressed on the subject on the 12th March 1864, and that there is no probability of any such report for months, as the tank referred to is now full, and will not, probably, be empty until

the end of the year. I cannot help thinking that the evil effects of the tank, in a sanitary point of view, has been over-estimated. For a couple of months towards the end of the season, whilst the water is diminishing and the tank emptying, its bed no doubt is muddy and gives forth a bad smell, but it soon dries up, and becomes perfectly hard. Mr. Fraser's original project will, I feel convinced, cost a large sum of money in actual outlay, and, if I am not much mistaken, in a remission of assessment on wet lands, become unprofitable for want of water, the result of improvements.

No. 226. ORDER THEREON, 29th August 1865, No. 1190.

The Governor in Council is disposed to concur in the opinion of the Collector that the evil effects of the tank referred to, in a sanitary point of view, have been over-estimated, and he directs that the project of improving it be abandoned.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial

37

From the Principal Inspr. Genl. Med. Dept.
D/25 : February 1864.

336

From the Collector of Contributions.
D/11 : & 26 : May 1864 and 18 : July 1865. and 30 : Sept. 1864

For Orders.

I have no fault to find with Butler's conduct, & even think my communication misrepresentations - but I do not wish to enter into any controversy with the Philadelphia Press. Dr. Ogg's report was sent in response to a request for information as to the sanitary condition of the Peninsula, & I have no desire to withdraw any statement I have made.

It may be well to ask the Sanitary Commission for an opinion as to the alleged unhealthiness of the Peninsula. I have no faith in the suggested injunction of it: There cannot be a worse place than Yellow Jack where there is a flooded basin with dead weeds - & up to the head land of the Place inhabited by Europeans. Here a shallow basin is a subject of complaint.

When Dr. Ogg sent the opinion of his Surgeon he caused the correspondence to be commu-

Judicial Department.

7
47

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:

From the Princl. Asstt. Surgn. General & Secy. Sanitary Commrs. dated 25th Feby 1865 No. 54

— Collector of Coimbatore — 11th March & 30th August 1864 & 18th July 1865 No. 28 — 6/1864.

Order thereon — 29th August 1865 — No. 1190.

The Governor in Council is disposed to concur in the opinion of the Collector that the evil effects of the tank referred to, in a Sanitary point of view, have been over estimated, and he directs that the project of improving it be abandoned.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.
— Public Works Dept.
— Princl. Asstt. Surgn. & Secy. Sanitary Commrs.

despd. 31/8

Pro. of Aug.

Judicial 1865. Department.

No. 1190.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

~~Jet. 1924~~
—"— 225/.
—"— 129/66.
Dated 29 August 1865.

222 & 225.