

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

**P.
Mis.**

Dated

Do not be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
10th June 1865.

Read the following papers:—

No. 74. From T. I. P. HARRIS, Esq., Session Judge of Trichinopoly; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trichinopoly, 21st February 1865, No. 48.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, under date the 15th instant, forwarding copy of their Proceedings of the 7th idem, directing me to place a number of convicts at the disposal of the Magistrate for the purpose of cleaning the town of Trichinopoly.

2. For the information of Government, I beg to state that requisitions for convict aid for the purpose in question, are invariably made of me every year by the Magistrate, and are always complied with.

3. I can readily and willingly bear witness to the very great pains and trouble taken by the Magistracy ever since I have been here, in respect to the streets being kept as clean, and the drainage preserved in as an efficient state, as possible, and to precautionary steps being taken in general in regard to the maintenance of the health of the town.

4. At the request of the Magistrate, two gangs of convicts were employed last year in removing and burying the immense quantity of prickly-pear bushes overgrowing the glacis of the Fort, and I have little doubt the removal of this obnoxious mass of rank vegetation contributed, in some degree, towards keeping off any serious out-break of cholera from the place.

5. If the Fort ditch were filled up, and the old walls entirely dismantled, the measure would be attended with incalculable benefit as regards the sanitary condition of the Fort and town of Trichinopoly.

No. 75. From A. R. McDONELL, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Trichinopoly; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trichinopoly, 13th March 1865, No. 10.

As directed in the Order of Government No. 227, dated the 7th ultimo, I have the honor to forward the accompanying letter from the Head Assistant Magistrate, to whose especial care and attention the superintendence and conservancy of the town are entrusted, reporting fully on the present state of the town, and the measures taken for the prevention of nuisances, with reference to the Order of Government, No. 1639, dated the 15th of November last.

2. In addition to the number already sanctioned, I would beg to recommend the construction of eight more latrines as follows:—

- 3 more in the town itself.
- 3 in Yedateruvu and Varaganery.
- 1 in Beemanaik Polliem; and
- 1 in Woriorc.

3. These thickly populated villages are situated close to the town, and lie between it and the Military Cantonment.

4. I would beg to assure the Government that every endeavour will be made by myself and Mr. Comyn to improve the sanitary state of the town.

5. The Sessions Judge placed a party of convicts at our disposal, and they have done much in effecting a cleansing of the more dirty parts of the town.

6. If the Fort ditch be filled in and the dense prickly-pear jungle cleared, and the proposed latrines constructed, I feel sure that the town of Trichinopoly will be as healthy, and its air and water as pure as that of any other equally crowded and populous town in the south of India.

From W. H. COMYN, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, Trichinopoly; to A. R. McDONELL, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Trichinopoly, dated 4th March 1865, No. 6.

With reference to the Order of Government, dated 7th February 1865, No. 227, communicated to me on the 13th February, I have the honor to submit a report on the present state of the town of Trichinopoly, and at the same time to state what measures have been taken the past year for the prevention of nuisances therein.

2. From the Sanitary Report of the Garrison Surgeon for the last quarter of 1864, upon which, partly, the abovementioned Government order was framed, it appears that the insanitary state of Trichinopoly is attributed to "a defective and insufficient state of drainage, the existence of excessive vegetation, pools of putrescent offensive water, and extensive soiling of the ground surface from refuse and ordure."

3. With a view to show the present condition of the town (with reference to these particulars), I shall take them in the order in which they stand.

4. *Drainage.*—There are at present no drains, worthy of the name, in the town; the majority of the streets are absolutely unprovided with them, and it is only in some of the larger and more important streets that drains, and these open and uncovered, exist. In the rainy season, particularly this want of drainage is felt, but this remark applies to all of the year, for in the absence of drains, the people are in a measure driven to allow for household purposes, and other offensive matter, to flow from their houses into the streets. This improper practice has been now, to a certain extent, stopped; but it is needless to mention that the present defective state of drainage is a subject worthy of serious consideration.

5. *Excessive Vegetation.*—This, I imagine, has reference chiefly to the prevalence of prickly-pear, by which obnoxious plant the whole of the ramparts inside the Fort ditch are over-grown. This weed grows rapidly, and has been steadily increasing for several years past. Nothing, however, can be done to remedy the evil, until adequate funds are provided for the purpose of defacing the Fort walls.

6. In the Order of Government noted in the margin, the sum of Rupees 27,600 was ordered to be entered in the Budget for this purpose, but up to the present time, no funds having been available, nothing has been done. As prickly-pear exists in no other part of Trichinopoly, except in very small quantities, the levelling of the Fort walls will be the death-blow to this obnoxious weed.

7. On the west side of the Fort the prickly-pear has in certain places spread to such an extent that it now over-hangs the ramparts, and over-arches upon a pathway much used by the people, thereby causing them great annoyance, while the chances of death from snake bites are greatly increased. I consider this a nuisance that should be removed without further delay, and would recommend that an estimate* be prepared for the sanction of Government, removal, as a preliminary step to the great work of levelling the whole of the ramparts.

* Cost probably under Rupees 300.

*22nd October 1863, No. 639.

8. In the Government order* above referred to, the sum of Rupees 2000 was sanctioned for the removal of prickly-pear outside the Fort ditch. This work was commenced by Mr. Lemon and carried out by myself; and I am happy to be able to report, from personal observation, that the plant when once buried, has not sprung up again. Parts of the ground thus cleared have become over-grown by castor-oil plants which, however, have now been removed.

9. *Pools of putrescent water.*—At present there are no pools of this nature in the town, except in the immediate vicinity of the new line of Railway, now in course of construction. These pools, the Railway authorities will fill up themselves; those that formerly existed in the town, have already been filled up.

10. *Refuse and ordure.*—The space occupied by the ramparts and covered with prickly-pear, as well as the Fort ditch, are now the daily resort of the inhabitants of the town for the purposes of nature. Fines have been imposed and individuals imprisoned on account of this nuisance, but the evil can never be effectually remedied until the people are provided with public privies.

11. The streets, owing to the daily employment of bandies for the purpose of removing heaps of straw, ashes and other refuse, are now tolerably clean; but the number of bandies now employed is quite inadequate for the efficient removal of refuse, not only from the town, but from the four important suburbs of Orriore, Varaganery, Edateruvu and Beemanaikopolim; as the three latter suburbs lie between the town and the Cantonment, the sanitary condition of both must, in a measure, depend upon the thorough cleansing of these suburbs.

12. A monthly sum of Rupees 72 was sanctioned for the employment of bandies, for which sum eight bandies were some months ago procurable; at the present time only six bandies are employed owing to the increased cost of straw, &c. I would, therefore, suggest that a further sum of Rupees 48 per mensem be sanctioned for the employment of four additional bandies; one for each of the suburbs abovementioned.

13. The insanitary condition of the town I consider partly attributable to the existence of the Fort ditch, which forms a receptacle for all kinds of refuse, and from which, naturally, foul exhalations arise. As soon as the ramparts are levelled and the Fort ditch filled up, the sanitary condition of the town will be immensely improved.

14. *Houses.*—With reference to the general condition of the town, I may state that, as a rule, the houses are in a good state of repair, and it has not been found necessary during the past year to put in force the provisions of Chapter 20 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, so far as that Chapter relates to the removal of houses in a dilapidated condition.

15. Many two-storied and tiled houses have lately been built; the main streets are tolerably wide, and the houses are built regularly, though uniformity of style and dimensions cannot as yet be expected in the town. In the smaller streets and lanes of the town and suburbs, as might be expected, the buildings do not present so satisfactory an appearance, the houses being irregularly built and in many places greatly crowded.

16. *Roads.*—The roads, as a general rule, are not in good order, being in many places uneven, and needing repairs. This remark bears special reference to the roads in the suburbs.

17. *Bandy Pettahs.*—The bandy pettahs in the town are many in number, and, generally speaking, are the property of private individuals, to whom orders have been frequently issued to keep them in a clean and healthy state. On a recent inspection of these bandy pettahs, I was pleased to find that their condition in this respect was satisfactory, and the same remark applies to the oil mills, of which many exist in and near the town.

18. *Tanks.*—There are 36 tanks in the town, of these six (and these large ones) are in good order, and, except in seasons of drought, the supply of drinking water is sufficient to meet the requirements of the inhabitants. The other tanks, some of which, however, have become

partly filled with mud, and are used by the people for other than drinking purposes. The are supplied with water from the river Cavery, by means of the Wyacondan channel; but, in some cases, the subterranean channels having become blocked up, there is a deficiency in the supply of water; the tanks then become partially dried up, and the atmosphere in the neighbourhood is consequently vitiated; what expense may be incurred in making the necessary repairs, can be met, as heretofore, from the Local Fund.

19. With regard to the measures taken to prevent nuisances, the annexed State-ment will show the nature of the offences, the punishment awarded, and the number of individuals punished under the provisions of Act XXIV of 1859 (Police Act).

20. The provisions of Chapter XX of the Code of Criminal Procedure in several instances for the removal of nuisances occasioned by the existence of putrescent water in the neighbourhood of public thoroughfares; but in no case has it been necessary to have recourse to the provisions of the Indian Penal Code for the suppression of nuisances.

21. In many periodical visits to the town and suburbs, I have frequently been accompanied by the Superintendent of Police, Lieutenant Cox, from the force of whose example, the Inspectors, Head and Deputy Constables, and their subordinates are, I trust, beginning to take an interest in the cleanliness of the town and the well being of its inhabitants, which, but a short time ago, they seemed to view with apathetic indifference.

22. It was only on a very recent visit to the town, that I was surprised to find heaps of rubbish, the accumulation of several days, immediately opposite and close to the Chief Police station in the Fort. The Head Constable had not even thought of having it removed and excused himself on the grounds that the people were in the habit of throwing the refuse there during the night; a similar state of things existed, but a short time ago, close to another and important Police station, at Dark's Bridge, we have now got a good Town Inspector, and as the value of the co-operation of the Police with the Magistracy towards the prevention of nuisances cannot be too highly estimated, I trust that the sanitary condition of Trichinopoly may soon be greatly improved.

23. Although much remains to be done, and a great deal depends upon the removal of the Fort walls, the filling up of the Fort ditch, and the construction of an adequate number of latrines, I am of opinion that during the past year a certain amount of improvement has taken place in the sanitary condition of Trichinopoly.

24. During the months of January and February of the present year the rate of mortality from cholera has been exceedingly low, and bears a favorable comparison with that of the two previous years. The disease did not make its appearance until the middle of January, and up to the present time, only 30 cases have been reported as having proved fatal in the town. During the months of December 1863, and January and February 1864, cholera raged with great virulence, and the number of deaths reported as having happened in those months was 468. In January and February 1863 the number of deaths from cholera was 269.

25. The town has of late been singularly free from epidemics and infectious diseases of any sort; and at the present time, considering the disadvantages under which they lie in the want of sufficient drainage and other sanitary arrangements, the general health of the town and suburbs, with a population of nearly 1,00,000, is decidedly good.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) *Æ. R. McDONELL,*
Officiating Magistrate.

STATEMENT showing the nature of the offences, the punishment awarded, and the number of individuals punished under the provisions of Act XXIV of 1859.

Clause 5 of Section 48.							Clause 7, Section 48.						
Allowing offensive matter to flow from houses, &c.				Throwing dirt, refuse, &c., into the road.			Committing nuisances.						
Number of persons on whom fines imposed.	Number imprisoned.	Number fined.	Amount collected.	Number of persons on whom fines imposed.	Number imprisoned.	Number imprisoned in default of payment of fine.	Amount collected.	Number of persons on whom fines imposed.	Number imprisoned.	Number imprisoned in default of payment of fine.	Amount collected.	Total number of individuals punished.	Total amount collected.
			RS. A.				RS. A.				RS. A.		RS. A.
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(Signed) *W. H. COMYN,*
Acting Head Assistant Magistrate.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) *Æ. R. McDONELL,*
Officiating Magistrate.

No. 76. ORDER THEREON, 10th June 1865. No. 500.

With the second of the letters above recorded the Magistrate of Trichinopoly has submitted a letter from his Head Assistant, reporting on the sanitary condition of the town of Trichinopoly, with reference to the Proceedings of the 7th February last.

2. It appears from this Report that the great wants of the town are: 1st, a sufficient number of public privies; 2nd, the filling up of the Fort ditch by the destruction of the ramparts and clearing away of the prickly-pear with which the ditch and ramparts are filled; and, 3rd, an efficient system of drainage.

3. Orders have been recently issued in the Public Works Department for the immediate erection of the ten latrines which were sanctioned some time ago. The Superintending Engineer will now be called upon in the Department Public Works to report whether this work has been completed, and if not, he will be directed to include it in his monthly Statement of important works in progress. The Magistrate recommends the erection of eight other latrines in addition to the ten already sanctioned, but the cost of these, as well as the cost of a proper system of drainage, and of filling up the Fort ditch, are charges which may properly be met from Municipal Funds, and for which it will be the duty of the Magistrate to provide through the agency of the Municipality which will shortly be created under the operation of the Bill now before the Council of the Governor.

10th June 1865.

4. Meanwhile the labor of the large body of convicts in the Jail at Trichinopoly should be utilized as far as possible in carrying out any works that may be calculated to improve the sanitary condition of the town, including the demolition of the ramparts and clearing away of the prickly-pear from the Jail. All such convicts as may be available for hard labor shall be employed on the above works under the direction of the Magistrate. The latter on the 1st proximo the number of convicts placed at his disposal in pursuance of the orders, and the works on which they are employed. He will submit on the 1st of each month, until further orders, a brief report on the progress of the works in question, showing the average daily number of convicts employed on them during the previous month. The officer in charge of the Jail will, on the same date, submit a Statement of the daily average number of prisoners in Jail during the same period, showing the manner in which they have been employed.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Trichinopoly.

- „ Session Judge of do.
- „ Department of Public Works.
- „ Quarter Master General.
- „ Military Department.
- „ Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read in the meeting letter

From the Session Judge of Trichinopoly. 21.2.65 Feb. 21. 10.10.

From the offg. Magistrate of do. 15 March 65 10.10.

Order thereon 19 June 1865 No. 836.

was a second of the

above recording

Magistrate of Trichinopoly, as

submitted from his

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under the direction of the
Magistrate. The latter
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of convicts placed at his
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~~the average daily number~~
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Magistrate of Trichinopoly
Session Judge of do
Desp 13/ Depa of Public Works
16 Quarter Master General
Military Dept to
Inspector Genl of Jails

Vol. 1865 Department.

No. 236.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

1924-24th
1923-23rd
1922-22nd
1921-21st
1920-20th
1919-19th
1918-18th
1917-17th
1916-16th
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1914-14th
1913-13th
1912-12th
1911-11th
1910-10th
1909-9th
1908-8th
1907-7th
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1902-2nd
1901-1st
Dated 16 June 1865
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