L. & M.
2,000—12-9-98.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1979 & 1980 dt.

DATED 24-11-98.

DESPATCHED INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reclamation of a Swamp near the Harness & Saddlery Workshops, Madras.

Forwarding for the information of H.E. the Governor General-in Council copies of a report from the President, Munl. Comn., Madras, explaining the circumstances under which the Municipality undertook the ——— & of one from the Health Officer, Madras, on the unhealthiness of the land as it existed before & stating that the deposit of rubbish on the site in question has been discontinued from the 21st Septr. 1898.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ccs 454 M/99							

Reclamation of a swamp near the Harness and Saddlery Work-shops Madras.

B

Local and Municipal Department.

CNos 3120 M. 98

mis ORDER. No. 1979 dated 24/11/98

The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India:-

Letter No. 1980 mis dated 24/11/98

To

The Secretary to the Government of India
Military Department.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 2704 M.W. Ordnance Works, dated 29th September 1898, forwarding a communication from the Director-General of Ordnance, relating to a complaint of nuisance caused by ~~the filling up, by~~ the Municipality of Madras filling up with town refuse, ~~of~~ certain land attached to the Harness and Saddlery Work-shops at Madras, and requesting to be furnished with certain reports on the subject, I am directed to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, copies of a report from the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, explaining the circumstances under which the Municipality undertook the reclamation of the land in question and of one from the Health Officer, Madras, on the unhealthiness of the land as it existed before the Municipality commenced to fill it up with town refuse and the effect of the Municipality's action on the sanitary condition of the place and its neighbourhood.

I am also to state that the deposit of rubbish on the site in question has been

Please see that copies of the Health Officer's letter & the Enclosures read with the Govt of India letter are sent to that Govt with this letter
ZHQ
23/11

Examined
Send copies of the President's report & the Health Officer's letter.
ZHQ
23/11/98

discontinued from the 21st September 1898,
as already reported in my letter No. 1738..M,
dated 14th October 1898.

The enclosures received with your
letter ... only are herewith returned.

I have &c.,

V.R
21/11/98

H I
18 11 98

Dup 24/11/98

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

3120 M

CURRENT No. ~~4620 M~~

TO BE REFERRED WITH REPLY

From

No. 1180 I/ 18-10-98

~~Order~~

The Government of India,
Military Department.

Referred to the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for early report, which should be accompanied by a report from the Health officer on the points referred to in para. 1 of the letter from the Government of India.

A Edgington
for Secretary to Govt.

No. 2704

Dated 29th September 1898.
Received 7th October 1898.
Registered
Enclosures 3.
Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Requesting that an enquiry may be made into the complaint of the nuisance caused by the filling up by the Municipality of Madras with town refuse, of certain land attached to the Harness and Saddlery workshops at Madras.

To,
The President, Munl: Commrs,
Madras (with Enclosures
to be returned)

Encl

(Signed) T.W. G...

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. B920 M.

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
-7. OCT. 1898
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Ordnance Works

No 2701 M. W.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 29th September 1898.

It is requested that the above heading, with number and date of this communication, may be quoted in any subsequent correspondence on this subject.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
Municipal. ~~*Public Works*~~ *Department.*

SIR,

Ord 3097 1/98

In continuation of telegram no. 2701 m. w. dated the 28th September 1898, I am directed to forward the letter noted in the margin from the Director General of Ordnance in India, relative to a complaint of the nuisance caused by the filling up by the Municipality of Madras with town refuse, of certain land attached to the Harness and Saddlery workshops at Madras, and to request that, under the orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council, an enquiry may be made into the matter, and the Government of India favored with a report thereon accompanied

"No. 3265 E. dated the 6th September 1898, and enclosures. (Return requested)

accompanied with a report of the Health officer, Madras, as to (1) the unhealthiness or otherwise of the land as it existed before the Municipality commenced to fill it up with town refuse, and (2) the effect of the action of the Municipality on the sanitary condition of the place and its neighbourhood.

2. It is possible that by some local action, the President, Madras Municipality, may be persuaded to abate the nuisance.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Major, R.E.,
for Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to:-
The Director General of Ordnance in India.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 3359 M

UNDER REGD. TO GOVT. 1 NOV 98 PUBLIC L &

Order

From

THE PRESIDENT,
Municipal Commission,
Madras.

H. No. 1689

Dated 25th October 1898

Received

Registered

Enclosures 2 & 2 V C. 3120 M 98 returned.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting report with reference to endorsement No. 1180 dated 18th October 1898 on current No. 3120 M. (herewith returned) accompanied by a report from the Health Officer on the Sanitary question

Genl. Dept.
13.

~~G.~~ No. 1689

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,
General Department,
Madras, 25th October 1898.

From

The Hon. Lieut.-Col. SIR GEORGE MOORE, KT., C. I. E.,
President, Municipal Commission.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT
CURRENT No. 3359 M

To

The Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Department,
Fort St.George.

SIR,

Enclosures
3

With reference to your endorsement No.1180, dated 18th October 1898 on Current No.~~4020~~ 3120 M. (herewith returned), I have the honour to submit as follows:-

2. On the 13th February 1896, the Inspector-General of Ordnance was asked if he had any objection to the land bearing Survey No.372 in Pulian Tope Road near the Powder Mills being reclaimed similarly to the land on the east of the Road.

3. On the 16th March 1896, he replied that he did not desire it.

4. On the 22nd September 1896, a notice under Section 326 of Act 1 of 1884 was served on the Inspector-General of Ordnance to drain off the water from the land attached to Powder Mills, Pulian Tope Road.

5. The Inspector-General intimated that the notice should be served on the Executive Engineer, Military Works.

6. This was done on the 24th September 1896.

7. On the 2nd October 1896, the Executive Engineer wrote to say that the water level could be reduced 1' and suggested that the swamp be filled up by the Municipality

BACK PAPERS.

G. O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ms	1737-38. Genl	14-10-98	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G. O.	No.	Department.	Date.

leaving a channel between the Culverts.

8. Carts were not available then, and after some further correspondence the Executive Engineer asked the President on 29th June 1898 to proceed with the reclamation of Survey No.372 as proposed.

9. Although this was quite sufficient, I thought it better that the Executive Engineer and I should meet on the spot, which we did on the 8th July 1898. The Executive Engineer was perfectly satisfied.

10. On the 26th July 1898 the Executive Engineer intimated that as the land was occupied by the Ordnance Department the consent of that Department was necessary before the land could be reclaimed.

11. The reclamation had then been commenced.

12. Now this contention I hold to be quite untenable, under the provisions of Sections 326 & 327.

13. I had already gone out of my way by asking the Inspector-General if he had any objection to the reclamation. He objected to it - I had no alternative then but to proceed under Section 326 and accordingly served a notice on the Inspector-General. He repudiated the responsibility and transferred it to the Executive Engineer, Military Works.

14. On the notice being transferred to that Officer, the arrangement mentioned above was come to.

15. How then can the Inspector-General claim to be consulted any further - As a matter of fact I need not have consulted him at all.

16. This claim has also been set up by the Ordnance Officer.

17. To resume - On 1st August 1898 the Ordnance Officer addressed the President on the subject and requested suspension of the work.

18. He was informed on the 8th August 1898 under what authority action had been taken, and asked if he was prepared to fill up the land and drain the swamp.

19. On the 12th August 1898 he replied that he was unable on his own responsibility to sanction the deposit of rubbish (which he was never asked to do) and again requested suspension of the work.

20. He was again informed on the 16th August 1898 that if he was prepared to do the work himself within a reasonable time, there would be no occasion for the Municipality to do it.

21. A further communication was received from the Executive Engineer, dated 8th September 1898, requesting to be shown on the plan the extent to which it was proposed to fill up the swamp.

22. On the 20th September 1898, the Health Officer submitted a report to the President which led to the deposit of rubbish being stopped on 21st September 1898.

23. As the report from the Health Officer which I have the honour to forward herewith, will deal with the Sanitary question, I pass it over.

24. Silt continued to be deposited.

25. Current No.3051 M. was received on 3rd October 1898 and returned with my No.587 dated 4th October 1898.

26. On 3rd October 1898 No.A/2615 was received from the Ordnance Officer, observing that the deposit of rubbish had been stopped, but bringing to notice that silt was still being deposited.

27. He was informed on the 6th October 1898, that orders

had been issued to stop any further deposit.

28. The position now is this. I believe that estimates are being prepared by the Military Works Department for carrying out the work.

29. I am quite prepared to allow a reasonable time for the work to be executed, failing which, I shall under the provisions of Section 327 carry out the work and fill up the swamp with sea-sand - a very expensive work - and recover as provided in Section 437.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Lt.-Col.

President, Munl.Commn.

TO

To

The Ag. President.

. . M . C .

1898,

follows:--

Sir,

I was inspecting the new rubbish deposit n... rubbish ...upy. The ...Mills this morning and visited as well some of the p... and Bucking... the lines near by. They all complained greatly of the... n the the rubbish but admitted that it was noticed chiefly ... there was no breeze. There was no smell from the rubbi... ...oul, ...tible ... the lines at the time I was there and the p... ...t certainly does not blow in that direction. The smell no... ...f the lines was partly due to the morass surrounding the... foul water in the ditch round the Powder Mills. I adm... ...l water having trickled over the rubbish heap can have fr... ...ben this morass through a culvert, but it never was free fr... before any rubbish was deposited there. The people in ... attribute the incidence of various diseases to the pre... ...f rubbish, such as fever, headaches, rheumatic fever, &c. &c. I quite see the unfitness of allowing rubbish to be deposited where near human habitations, in fact within Municipal li... surroundings of these lines are naturally so insanitary tha... prefer to account for any fever there may have been by the ... of the foul morass rather than the incident of the deposit rub... Nevertheless if there are genuine complaints of nuisance we... do what we can to relieve them, so I recommend that the dep... rubbish in this locality be discontinued at any rate as lo... soil and other stinking stuff is mixed with the dry rubbis... no harm in filling up with silt as that gives off no smell.

(Signed) J.W. Cornu...

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AD AGAI

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TO

The President,

M . M . C .

Sir,

As required by No.1180 dated 18th October 1898, Local and Municipal, I have the honour to submit as follows:--

The land near the Harness Factory on which rubbish has lately been deposited is very low lying and swampy. The excess of water finds its way into the Otery Nullah and Buckingham Canal. In the rains the whole area is under water; in the hot weather, part is dry, part is marshy and part always has water lying on it. At all seasons of the year the water is foul in the hot weather because cattle wallow and are washed in it and natives defaecate around it, in the rains because much of the added water has flowed over and through ground fouled by the accumulations of the preceding months. Another continual source of supply is the neighbouring sewage farm. This has been formed by the deposit of rubbish on low ground to a height of probably 8 - 10 feet. Part of this site has been used as a burial ground and has subsequently received another coating of rubbish in which burials again have taken place. As far as I can ascertain, without the aid of numerous borings the soil lying beneath this mixture of refuse and corpses is of a clayey nature and practically impervious, so that all water which percolates through the superimposed layer must run along it till it reaches a natural water-course or pervious bed. Since the quantity of sewage pumped on to the farm is in excess of its absorption capacity even in dry weather and since the farm is not under-drained and the natural fall is towards the Otery Nullah and the Buckingham Canal by way of the low ground under consideration it follows that the water found on that swamp is largely reinforced by unchanged sewage. From the above it is clear that towards the south and east of the Harness

Factory Quarters there exists a morass fed by surface drainage from native habitations, the overflow from the sewage farm, and the washings of rubbish deposits in the neighbourhood. To the immediate north of the Quarters is the ditch surrounding the Harness Factory which is if anything more offensive than the swamp to the south, at least according to the accounts of some of the residents in the quarters. Altogether a more unhealthy spot to live in and could hardly be selected.

2. In filling up part of this swamp with rubbish, no doubt a considerable temporary nuisance would arise, as decaying leaves and vegetable matter are extremely offensive to the nose, but that an appreciable effect on the health of the inmates of the quarters would result is more than problematical. As soon as rubbish is deposited it is covered up with earth, which at once stops any objectionable odour, and the only possible source of danger is the addition of some material, containing decomposing organic matter, through which rain water can percolate and remove soluble substances capable of further disintegration, to the enormous mass of similar material already in existence. This danger may be disregarded as infinitesimal. That as the process advanced and the line of deposit neared the quarters, the nuisance would be intolerable and the quarters would have to be temporarily vacated both on account of the smell and the presence of number of kites and crows and dogs and pigs, which frequent the line of deposit in search of aliment, is highly probable, but the ultimate result would undoubtedly be beneficial, looked at from all points of view. Valuable land would have been reclaimed, a foul morass rendered innocuous, an unhealthy site changed to a comparatively healthy one and the Municipality financially benefitted. From excavations I have lately had made in old rubbish deposits I find that in about 3 years a depth of about four to five feet of rubbish is completely disintegrated. Below that level the process proceeds more slowly and would probably take seven or eight years for a depth of

nine or ten feet of rubbish to be completely disintegrated. The depth of rubbish to be deposited over the area in question would not exceed six feet, so five to six years would probably suffice. The fact that building on a recent rubbish deposit or so called 'made ground' is universally condemned until a term of years has elapsed, scarcely affects the point for if a given area is covered by an impermeable stratum the free circulation of air beneath it is seriously impeded and the nitrifying process in consequence is delayed. In the same way, if a layer of water fills up the interstices of the soil the desired changes cannot take place. I have not been able to detect any ill health among the people residing near a recent rubbish depot; indeed it would be difficult to understand that noxious gases rising from such an area could have any injurious effect as they would be so diluted with pure air. Considering that the wind in Madras travels at a rate of 60 to 250 miles a day it is obvious that any gas issuing from an open space is at once enormously diluted and carried far away. If the area were however covered with closely set habitations the result would be very different, as the disintegrating processes would be hindered and the emanations confined by walls and narrow passages. The greatest objection to the proximity of rubbish heaps to human habitations lies in the liability of the water supply to contamination, but that does not enter into the present question. To summarise, this deposit of rubbish is a somewhat unpleasant method of reclaiming a useless and unhealthy area of marshy land, but is in no way detrimental to the public health. If carried to a conclusion it would necessitate the temporary vacation of the Quarters.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. Connell

M.A., M.B.,
B.C., (Cantab) F.L.S.
Lieut., I.M.S.
Health Officer, Muni.Comm

28/10/98

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READ AGAI

CURRE

ENCLOSURES

ORDER OF

LETTER OF

STEMEN

PERS

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.
GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

From

Dated
Received
Answered

Enc.

Reference No.

Subject.

H.O Please put up all the papers on this subject - they are in P.W.D. I think
19.10.98

H.C.
19.10.98.

The Health Officer
Sir,
Herewith the papers on
19/10/98

The President—
20.10.98.

N.B.—
A = C
B = No
P = Copy
Q = Copy heading only.

2/3359/1898

e used.

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When copied
When examined
When signed

189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
189 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.									
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.									
AS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.									

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