

Local & Muni. (189 *N*) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1242 *do*

DATED 30/8/99

INDEXED. DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Burial ground Stating, with remark,
that the formation of a new cemetery in
the Cannanore Municipality acceptable
to the Mapillas & the closure of the old
one is the only radical remedy to improve
the sanitation of the town.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Closure of Muhammadan bur

as in Cannanore.

L. & M.
19-12-98.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 .
Again G.O., No. dated 189 .
Current No. 147th of 1899, dated 25th May 99, from the Collector of Malabar.
" " " 189 , "
" " " 189 , "

ORDER.

N^o. 1242 Mund

30/8/99

In the opinion of the Government, the formation of a new cemetery acceptable to the Mahallas and the closing of the old one is the only radical remedy and should be kept prominently in view. Meanwhile the Municipal Council can exercise control over the polluted holes under § 156 of the Municipal Act. And can adopt any palliative within their means, such as the building of drains, if this is acceptable to the Sanitary authorities.
(From orders)

24th Jun 99

To

The Collector of Malabar
"Channian" the Cannanore

Closure of Muhammadan burial grounds in Cannanore.

Current No 1496 M.

Am,

For orders

In his notes on the inspection of
Cannanore Municipality, recorded in G.O.
No 426 M, dated 13th March 1890, the
Sanitary Commissioner remarked that the
the Neppila burial grounds in the
Old Town were situated close to
dwelling houses and were kept in a
very untidy state, and recommended
that many of them should be closed,
as they were dangerous to the health
of people living in their vicinities.
The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner,
who inspected the town in the
following December, having also
expressed the same opinion, the
Govt in its order No 312, dated 5th
March 1891 called upon the ^{chairman of the} Municipal
Council to report what action the
Council proposed

Para. 7. of his Notes in p. 812
5-3-91

proposed to take to close the burial grounds above referred to. In reply to this, the Chairman stated that the Muhammadan burial grounds in the Old Town were no doubt a standing block to the sanitation of the locality, that as it was considered better should prevail on the Muhammadan Community to select a site, they were addressed on the subject more than once in vain, that the Council had therefore itself fixed upon a piece of land belonging to the Sultan Ali Raja near the beach, called the Maiden Mosque, which was already used as a burial ground by poor Muhammadans, that this land ~~would be~~ being about $\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, would under ordinary circumstances be sufficient for interment purposes of the general public for some time ^{to come} and that, if the proposed change was found to be a success, extension of ^{that place} the ~~new~~ place might be made by fresh acquisition of

Vide his letter in P. 19372
4-11-91. M.

Para 3 of the P.

Vide his letter in P. 905. M.
25-5-92.

Obid.

of lands available around it. The Council accordingly recommended that the existing public burial grounds in the Old Town should be closed under Section 240 of the District Municipality Act and this recommendation was sanctioned in G.O. No. 1937 M, dated 4th November 1891.

2. In May 1892, Mr. Twigg, the Subcollector in charge of the office of Chairman, reported that the Arakkal Raja claimed that the Maiden burial ground was his private property and objected to its being used as a public burial ground. Mr. Twigg doubted the Raja's right to object, but thought that the Council had done right in not contesting it and in selecting another site for acquisition under the Act. This new site, he said, had not yet been approved by the Civil Surgeon, and as it would take some time before it

could be ready for use, he suggested that the order sanctioning the closure of the existing burial grounds should be held in abeyance. This was approved in G.O. No. 905 M, N dated 25th May 1892.

3. In his inspection notes disposed of in G.O. No. 1832 M, dated

29th November 1894, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner observed that no

change had yet been made regarding the disposal of the dead, but that the

matter of a new burial ground was to be referred to the Collector shortly,

and he suggested that the burial ground at Tamat Palli, which was

extensive and crowded with graves, should be closed at once. The Collector, (Mr. Moberly)

who was thereupon requested by Govt. to report whether a less ob-

-jectionable site could be pro-

-cured for the Tamat Palli burial ground, replied that the piece of

land belonging to the Sultan Ali Raja, which was already used as a

burial ground would probably suit,

P

Vide his letter P.

Vide clause (2) of G.O. 1832 M P. 28-11-94.

Vide G.O. 20472 in G.O. 1326 M P. 28-11-94.

but as the Raja was unwilling to give it for use as a public burial ground and as the Mappilas did not agree to any proposal that might necessitate the abandon-

ment of their present cemetery, he proposed that the matter should be over until he visited Cannanore and saw the Raja and some of the principal Mappila residents.

2. Vide G.O. No. 1326 M, dated 15th August 1895. In the following September, the

Vide Collector's letter in G.O. 1829 M P. 4-11-95.

Collector (Mr. Hewetson) reported that the Mr. Moberly commenced a meeting of the Mappilas on the 7th Idem

and directed the Tahsildar to select a site other than the Maidanapalli

burial ground, that the site selected by the Tahsildar (Satharaparamba)

did not, however, meet with the approval of the Mappilas and was further objectionable as it was

within cantonment limits and as the cost of acquiring it was very high, and

that the Maidanapalli site should be acquired by the Municipality for use

as a Mappila burial ground, and a notice issued under Section 240 prohibiting

6
burials in any other place. He added
that it was found impossible to
arrange the matter amicably, as the
Mappilas had taken up an attitude
of resistance to all proposals for a
change of site. The Government
upon in its order N^o 1829 M, dated R
4th November 1895, approved the
Collector's recommendation and directed
the Council to have estimates drawn
up for acquiring and fencing the new
site, for laying it out with paths
and for providing a masjid in it,
and to forward the estimates for
the orders of Government.

4. The Chairman accordingly sub-
mitted estimates amounting to
Rs 6,500 for the works above referred
to, but he pointed out that of the
two burial grounds ordered to be
closed in G.O. N^o 1937 M, dated 4th
November 1891, the one at Kunjipalle
mosque formed only a portion of
the public burial ground at Manapuram,
condemned by the Sanitary Commissioner as
specially objectionable, and requested
that the whole of this burial ground
might, as originally intended, be ordered
to be closed. The collector, however, observed
that

Vide CN^o 3193 M up to 19. M
8-1-97.

7
that it would be a mere waste of
money to purchase a burial ground
for the Mappilas of Cannanore, until
it was known that they would use
it, as they had already expressed
their disapproval of the ^{new} site and
had taken up an attitude of
passive obstruction. He, however, con-
sidered that this opposition might
be overcome by skilful management
and stated that if Govt. approved his sug-
gestion, he would see what he could
do in the matter when he next went
to Cannanore. In G.O. N^o 19 M, dated

5
8th January 1897, the Collector's proposal
was approved and he was requested
to take an early opportunity of
arranging the matter and to report the
result to Government.

CN^o 1468 M up to 1135 M
10-5-97.

5. In March 1897, the Collector
reported that he ^{had} visited the Mappila
burial grounds in Cannanore, which
were proposed to be closed, as well as
the site selected to replace them, that
the new site was regarded with aver-

by the Mappila Community, as it had been used for Mappila Corpses which were, for some reason, excluded from the other grounds, & that as the question of Mappila burial grounds at Cannanore had not ^{yet} been seriously attempted, any haste in the regard to it should be deprecated, and he stated that the matter might be settled satisfactorily in the course of a year or so. The Government expressed the desire that an early settlement might be arrived at. (No. 1139 M, dated 10th May 1897.)

6. The current read above is the further report on the subject submitted by the Collector (Mr. Dance). He says that he went into the question again when he was at Cannanore in April last and submits a copy of the letter from the Civil Surgeon, whom he consulted on the matter. The Civil Surgeon states that the sanitary position of the old town Cannanore is vile and that the presence of a large burial ground in the very midst of this overcrowded area is most objectionable. ^{He considers that} ~~these are the only ways~~ by which these sanitary defects may be removed.

U

Oct 1496. 2.

Note his letter. Z.

he remedied by any one of the following three ways:—

- (1) By the closure of the objectionable burial ground.
- (2) By creating an uninhabited zone of one hundred yards round the cemetery, by acquiring all buildings within that area.
- (3) By introducing a pipe water supply system and filling in shallow wells in the locality.

The Civil Surgeon states that, although the first of these methods is the most satisfactory from a hygienic point of view, it appears to be impossible for political reasons, as the Mappilas are totally against it and the idea of forcing them is ludicrous, and that as the health of the inhabitants round the cemetery is better than that of the other portions of Old Cannanore, the extreme step of closing the cemetery need not be taken. He considers the second proposal to be utopian for a municipality ^{like Cannanore} which always shows a depleted balance, the estimated cost

cost of acquiring the lands round
the cemetery being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.
The introduction of a pipe ^{system of} water-
supply and the closure of wells in
the vicinity of the cemetery appears
to him to be the most feasible means
and he states that the Mappilas
have expressed themselves willing to pay
enhanced taxes on this account. He
also strongly recommends the construc-
tion of pucca masonry drains
round the cemetery and leading
into the sea and says that the intro-
duction of a pipe system of water-
supply is not likely to cost more
than Rs 25000. The collector agrees with
the Civil Surgeon that the best way
out of the difficulty would be to
provide a pipe water supply, but
as the outlay ^{on it} would be so great as
to cripple the finances of the Munici-
pality, which are already ~~embarrassed~~,
for many years to come, he considers
that in the meantime it is sufficient
to arrange for an improved system
of drainage from the cemetery into
the

Para 2 of collector's letter.

Para. 2 of collector's letter
to the Civil Surgeon. X

ibid

sea, which is not likely to be
7. It is admitted on all hands
that the existence of Mappila burial
grounds in the crowded parts of the
Town Cannanore is very objectionable
and that in the interests of the
health of the people living near
them, it is highly essential that they
should be closed and a fresh ground
in a suitable locality should be
provided in their stead. The only
difficulty in regard to the adoption
of this measure is that the
Mappilas are unwilling to aban-
don their present cemeteries and
are strongly opposed to using the
Maidanapalli site, which it was
proposed to provide for use as a burial
ground, as that has been used
for the burial of heretics and
out-casts. Similar difficulties,
which were experienced in regard
to the closure of the Mappila burial
grounds in Calicut, Palghat and
Mangalore

Mangalore have been overcome by skilful management, and it does not seem to be impossible that the Mappilas of Cannanore can be made to acquiesce in the arrangement, if they are approached with dexterity and a less objectionable site than the Maidanpalli land be selected for a burial ground. It is therefore submitted that a last attempt may be made to bring about an amicable settlement of the matter and that an officer of the rank of Deputy Collector may be deputed for the work. If this proposal ~~is~~ not approved, the only other feasible course appears to be to give up all idea of closing the burial grounds in question and to improve the sanitation of their vicinity, by introducing a pipe system and clearing a water supply and closing the wells therein, and by constructing masonry drains from the cemeteries to the sea. In the latter

no use. The "rank" of a Dy. Collector will not be impressive to the Mappila community.

KA

* Noe go. $\frac{1214m}{29-7-95} + \frac{104m}{15-1-98} + \frac{1784m}{22-11-94}$

latter case, the Sanitary Engineer may be directed to prepare and submit the necessary estimates.

V.A.
15/8/99

The formation of a new ^{acceptable to the Mappilas} cemetery & the closing of the old ones is the only radical remedy, and should be kept prominently in view. Meanwhile the Munt. Council can exercise ~~its~~ control over polluted wells under Sec. 156, removal of the ground at any and can adopt any palliative work & run the risk of an exposure. The endium so far the building of drains, if this is acceptable to the sanitary authorities.

KA 23-8-99.

Submitted that the app. for Deputy Eng. with living to do any work - The chairman urged they are for a little longer - or the Government may take up the position of enforcing the removal of the ground at any and can adopt any palliative work & run the risk of an exposure. The endium so far the building of drains, if this is acceptable to the sanitary authorities.

KA
19/8/99

30th April 1899.

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No.



From

The Collector
of Malabar

Order

No. A 35 99

Dated 28th May 1899

Received 3rd June 99

Registered 5th _____

Enclosures Two

Spare copies. Nil

SUBJECT.

Jamathi Palli burial ground
at Cannanore - requesting
instructions of Government
regarding the closure of —

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No.

FROM

G. W. Dance Esq
 PRESIDENT, DISTRICT BOARD,
 Calicut of Malabar.

TO

The Civil Surgeon,
Cannanore

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith for your perusal and favour of return a bundle of papers relating to the proposed closing of the Janatha Paki burial ground in Cannanore, as per list enclosed.

2. The matter has been hanging fire for many years. The moplas are more sentimental on the subject of burial grounds than most races. A proposal to close an old burial ground is therefore certain to meet with opposition from the moplas concerned. This opposition has been overcome in Calicut and Mangalore by wise handling and the moplas in those towns have cheerfully consented to the closure of their old grounds and the substitution of new ones. Unfortunately the problem was most unwisely approached in Cannanore. The late Chairman selected a ground which had been reserved for heretics and outcasts as the one which should be substituted.

for the Jamaika Palli Cemetery. This of course increased the ordinary opposition tenfold, and the present Chairman has not been able to come to any settlement.

3. The Jamaika Palli Cemetery is indeed opposed to all the accepted rules of Sanitation.

The water supply round it should be a source of all manner of diseases.

As a fact however the moplas who live in the vicinity appear to enjoy as good health as the rest of the inhabitants of Cochin. If however it is considered desirable to protect them against a possible epidemic, I thought ^{that} perhaps a belt might be formed round the Cemetery of say 100 yards, within which all the habitations might be acquired.

No burials would be allowed in this belt, which would thus act as a sort of filter.

I find however that the cost of doing this all at once would be prohibitive, as you will see from the valuation list which is among the enclosed papers. But the Municipality might begin by acquiring the cheaper buildings and extending the belt as the remaining buildings fell to ruin, which appears to be the tendency of the buildings in those parts. The evacuation might be accelerated by closing the worst of the private wells in the belt, and making the house owners go to a distance

for their water. This would be a slow process extending over several years, but the desired result would eventually be obtained.

4. Along with the measures suggested in last para, I think something might be done by having an efficient system of drainage into the sea. I am told that in the monsoon the path to the west of the Cemetery becomes a moat, filled with a sort of "Soup of Cadavers." (You will remember that Don Benigno was believed to prepare such a compound in his pharmacy at Tarascon.) With a proper system of drainage this might be removed.

5. I shall be greatly obliged if you can help me towards a settlement of the matter, either on the lines I have suggested or any other which may be acceptable to the mopl community. You might perhaps by the exercise of your personal influence get them even to agree to accept another ground.

I have &c.

Ed. G. to Dance.

Collector

True Copy

J. A. M. M. M.
21.5.88

To the Collector

No. 178.

Bamnanore.

16th May 1899.

From.

Captain G. Melesworth M.B.

I.M.S.

Ag. Civil Surgeon. Bamnanore

To.

The Collector of Malabar.

Calicut.

Sir,

In reply to your letter (31/98) dated Calicut 3rd of April 1899 - regarding the question of the Jamath Palli mosque Cemetery and its solution.

The question has from a Sanitary point of view exercised my mind for the past 18 months as a satisfactory arrangement - appears to be, from political and economic reasons, most difficult. It may be taken as an axiom that the Sanitary Condition of old town Bamnanore is vile - and that the presence of a large burial ground in the very midst of this overcrowded area, most objectionable. The question is, how can these Sanitary evils be removed. I have consulted privately with influential moflas and have arrived at the following conclusions, which I now submit for your consideration.

- 1st abolish the Cemetery
- 2nd mitigate matters by an uninhabited

2
1496/m/99.

zone of a hundred yards.

3rd a pipe water supply - with filling in of shallow wells.

I am aware that all these proposals have already been taken ^{over} & carry words to deeds.

1. If the Cemetery be abolished, another ground suitable to the Mopla Community must be provided and yet acceptable to the Sanitary authorities. This scheme is the most satisfactory from a hygienic point of view - but it appears to me to be impossible for political reasons - and also on the score of expense. The Municipality have no funds. The Mopla inhabitants are totally against it and the idea of forcing them is ludicrous. Besides, despite the "Sirop de Cadavres" which is said to float on wells and puddles during the monsoon, the health of the inhabitants around the Cemetery is better than that of the other portions of old Cannanore. I do not hold therefore that the extreme step of the abolition of the Cemetery need be entertained.

2. The second proposal is utopian for a Municipality who always show a depleted balance such as Cannanore. So far as I can gather, the purchase of the surrounding land would be about a lakh and a half. Where is this money to come from? and would the gradual

purchase of the land do much good - even if the wells were blocked?

3. A pipe water supply and stoppage of the wells appears to me to be the most feasible - and is what the Mopla Community wish for; In fact they have already expressed themselves willing to pay enhanced rates for the benefit. I would also strongly recommend the building of pucca masonry drains round the Cemetery and leading into the Sea. As to the estimate of Cost, that lies as does also the source of the water with the public works department or Engineer experts, but I am told that such a supply would not cost more than Rs 25,000.

In the space of a letter I can hardly enter fully into the pros & cons of the various schemes propounded, but from the weight of evidence both Sanitary and popular, my bias is strongly in favour of the third scheme. Finally I would point out that the soil of the Cemetery is favourable to rapid decomposition and that the Mopla system of burial might be termed "earth-bear". The land is also open to heavy flushes from the tremendous rain fall of the West Coast and is well exposed

I have &c
Wm. Mobergott nB.
Captain. I m S.
of Civil Surgeon
Kannanod

Free Copy

St. Annaberg
31 5 99
Dorchester.

No.

FROM

CALICUT

28th May

1897

G. W. Dance by J. C. S.

Collector of PRESIDENT, DISTRICT BOARD,

Malabar:

The Secretary to Court

Local and inb Dep't

Post: St. George - Madras

Sir,

With reference to the Correspondence ending
with G. O. no 1139. m. mis dated 10: may 1897 on
the subject of the closure of the Janath Palli
burial ground at Coimbatore, I have the
honor to state that I went into the matter -
again when I was at Coimbatore last month.
I enclose copies of the letter which I wrote to -
the Civil Surgeon after my visit and of his
reply. They speak for themselves.

2. I agree with the Civil Surgeon that the
best way out of the difficulty would be to
provide a pipe water supply. The outlay
however would be so great as to cripple the
finances of the Municipality, which are al-
ready embarrassed, for many years to come.
In the meantime the only thing to do
appears to be to arrange for an improve
system of drainage from the Cemetery
into the Sea. The cost of this would