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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1705-	Press
652-653	Mis.
Dated 29-6-	1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th June 1863.*

No. 652. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department, dated 17th June 1863, No. 949:—

Requesting the preparation of Estimates for public Necessaries in the Fort and Town of Trichinopoly. } (Vide Judicial Proceedings, 17th June 1863, Nos. 165 @ 167.)

No. 653. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1863, No. 1,705.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 6th Division for early attention with reference to paragraph 3.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

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JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

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 accumulations 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?"

"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 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 boundary of the Cantonment.

(Dated 2nd June 1863, No. 1,506.)

ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1863, No. 919.

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 overrun 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 Poofloor, 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

1862, No. 639, Public Department.

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector and Magistrate of Trichinopoly.

" Principal Inspector General Medical Department,
" Military Department.
" Public Works Department.

Encl. T. McMootry.

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