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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1500 Press Mts.

524-525

Dated 23—5— 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 23rd May 1864.

No. 524. Read the following letter from Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Edashevil, 18th March 1864, No. 2,131 :—

SIR,

1. I have lately been furnished by Government with the report of the Royal Sanitary Commission ; from it and the newspaper comments it seems to me that the Officers of the Department Public Works are held in some measure responsible for the sanitary condition of Cantonments and large Stations ; there have never been any orders that I am aware of on the subject ; if there are, I trust I may be supplied with them.

2. The management of Madura Town is entrusted almost entirely to the Town Sub-Magistrate, a Native. I see that he has some carts and scavengers, but the drains are always in a filthy condition, black with standing sewage, which is allowed to dribble from the adjoining houses into it ; the solid matter is occasionally scraped out and left on the road near, till it is dry and then removed.

3. The ventilation of the town is bad in the extreme, the free passage of air is impeded by the badly kept Cocoanut gardens which almost encircle the town, and which are the resort of the neighbouring residents for all necessary purposes ; next to my own house is a garden so overgrown that it is impossible to trace a snake twenty feet through it ; they are known to abound in it.

4. My landlord and the owner of this garden have quarrelled, and the latter neglects his ground to deteriorate the value of the property I occupy, vainly as long as there are so few houses in Madura for Government Officers to occupy, the tenant has no remedy.

5. There is not a single street which runs through Madura, one or two are of fair length without a bend or turn, but all are closed at either or both ends by houses ; this can, I conclude, be remedied only when the town people are more advanced and have municipal funds, but it renders all the more necessary some regulations as to the management of the surrounding gardens.

6. Till now I have done nothing, but I shall be glad to know if I am likely to be called to account in any way for shortcomings which most of the residents in Madura complain of.

No. 525. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1864, No. 1,500.

1. The Government fail to see the necessity for this reference. Before any responsibility in connection with matters not within his own line of duties is imposed upon Captain Moberly, due notice will be given him.

2. Any suggestions which Captain Moberly may have to offer for the improvement of Madura should be submitted to the local authorities, who are responsible for the condition of the Town.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

and which are the resort of the neighbouring residents for

Supty Engrs Office 8 Division

No. 7131 Coimbatore 18th March 1864.

From.

Captain F. J. Moberly R.E.
Superintending Engineer 8 Division

To.

Colonel L. A. Cox R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir,

Public. I have lately been furnished by Government with the report of the Royal Sanitary Commn; from it and the news paper comments it seems to me that the Officers of the P.W.D. are held in some measure responsible for the sanitary condition of cantonments and large stations- there have never been any orders issued that I am aware of on the subject- if there are I trust I may be supplied with them.

2. The management of Madura town is entrusted almost entirely to the town Sub Magistrate- a native- I see that he has some carts and scavengers- but the drains are always in a filthy condition, black with standing sewage, which is allowed to dribble from the adjoining houses into it- the solid matter is occasionally scraped out and left on the road near till it is dry and then removed.

3. The ventilation of the town is bad in the extreme- the free passage of air is impeded by the badly kept cocoanut gardens which almost encircle the town and which are the resort of the neighbouring residents-

for

for all necessary purposes- next to my own house is a garden so overgrown that it is impossible to traverse a snake 20ft through it- they are known to abound in it.

4. My landlord and the owner of this garden have quarrelled, and the latter neglects his ground to deteriorate the value of the property I occupy- mainly as long as there are so few houses in Madura for Government Officers to occupy- the tenant has no remedy.

5 There is not a single street which runs through Madura- one or two are of fair length without a bend or turn, but all are closed at either or both ends by houses- this can, I conclude, be remedied only when the townspeople are more advanced and have municipal funds- but it renders all the more necessary some regulations as to the management of the intervening gardens.

6. Till now I have done nothing- but I shall be glad to know if I am likely to be called to account in any way for shortcomings which most of the residents in Madura complain of.

I have &c

J. J. Moberly Capt R.E.
Superintending Engineer &c &c

Supdg Engrs office
&c &c Ootacamund
18th March 1861

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E
Secretary to Government.

Referred to the President's Sanitary Commission.
No. 1500

The Govt fail to see the necessity for this reference. Before any responsibility in connection with matters not within his own line of duties is imposed upon Capt Moberly due notice will be given him -
2. Any suggestions which

for all necessary purposes - next to my own house is a garden so overgrown that it is impossible to trace a

Pro: 30th March /64
No 536-537

No 624. 525

Capt Robertson may have to offer for the improvement of Madras should be submitted to the local authorities who are responsible for the condition of the town -

Chepauk
23rd May /64

To the S E & Dr
Despr 25th May /64

P V 1864 Despr
Govt Fort St Geo
No 1340

The Supg Engineer
8th Division

To
The Secy to Government
P W D.

Dated 18th
Pro 28th } Receipt 1864

Requests to be supplied if there are any orders passed on the Report of the Royal Sanitary Commission and brings to notice that the Sanitary Condition of the Presidency towns is bad.

No 1500 - 23rd May 1864 -

I have &c

F J Nicholetts Capt R E
Superintending Engineer &c &c

Supdg Engrs office
&c &c &c Cochemil
18th March 1864

To

Colonel C A Orr R E
Secretary to Government