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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2538 348-49	Press Mis.
Dated 25.10.1870.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

(1)

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th October 1870*

No 348. Read the following letter from the Rev. A. BATUT, S. J., Rector of Saint Joseph's College, Negapatam, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Negapatam, 30th September 1870.—

I BEG to submit again to the Government, for their consideration, the question of the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Negapatam.

2. In Proceedings of the Madras Government, Ecclesiastical Department, 18th July 1866, the condition of the cemetery is thus described by the Superintending Engineer in a letter dated 4th July 1866.—

“ PARAGRAPH 7. The Roman Catholic Burial Ground at Negapatam is not enclosed. It is situated on a low sandy plateau, near the new Civil Dispensary Hospital, the ground is but a few inches above high water level, and bodies in being buried are often placed in water. To obviate this the Supervisor in charge of Range No. 4, at the request of the Roman Catholic Priest in charge, prepared an estimate of Rupees 2,250 for raising the ground and enclosing it with a wall. Feeling doubtful whether so large a sum would be sanctioned by Government, I suggested that another site should be selected for a burial ground. From the enclosed letter from the Rev. Ciavan it would appear that this is by no means a new proposition, but that no other eligible site can be obtained. Eight or ten Europeans and 434 Natives are said to be buried in this cemetery.

“ 8. In returning the estimate forwarded to the Collector with a report, that gentleman wrote as follows.—“ Government would never sanction so large an outlay, I therefore return the plan and estimate, and can only say that if funds can be anywhere procured, I shall be most happy to countersign.” I would solicit orders regarding the submission of the estimate, Rupees 2,250, adverted to above.

“ Order thereon, 18th July 1866, No 150

“ * * * * The Acting Collector will report fully on the subject of the Roman Catholic Burial Ground at Negapatam.”

3. The Collector's report may be seen in Proceedings of the Madras Government, Ecclesiastical Department, 28th January 1867.

“ PARAGRAPH 2. During the monsoon the greater portion of the cemetery is under water, and except in the very driest seasons, water is reached very close to the surface; so that in order to obtain anything like a fair depth, the bodies have to be literally placed in the water, which quickly flows into the newly made grave. I remember it was the same with the old cemetery at Cuddalore during the monsoon, only here the inconvenience seems to be continuous. Mr. Hutchins informs me that no other site is available, and we had already considered the matter before I had answered Captain Oakes' requisition.

“ 3. There are two ways of meeting the difficulty, etc.

“ Order thereon, 28th January 1867, No. 19.

“ Of the two plans proposed in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter for improving the Roman Catholic Burial Ground at Negapatam, the Government prefer the first as the more permanent, namely, that of raising the ground and enclosing it with a wall. Orders will be accordingly issued in the Public Works Department for carrying out the work as soon as funds are available.”

4. The above Proceedings were again submitted to the consideration of the Government by me in a letter dated Negapatam, 14th September 1868, which letter

A Batut, S. J. Rector of St. Joseph's College, Negapatam.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th October 1870.*

may be seen in Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th October 1868. The following order was issued — "The Government regret that they will be unable to provide funds for this work during the current official year, but the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division will be careful to include the amount of the estimate in his statement of demands to be submitted after the 1st April next on account of works costing below Rupees 2,500 each"

5. The statement was presented accordingly by the Engineer. But on his stating in a letter dated Tanjore, 6th July 1869, that he was "unable to divert any funds for the improvement of the burial ground," the following order was issued, (15th July 1869, No. 2,312) — "As it appears from this letter that the Superintending Engineer of the 6th Division is unable to provide the necessary funds for the improvement of the Roman Catholic Burial Ground at Negapatam, the work must be deferred" See Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 15th July 1869

5 Last year, during the rainy season, our difficulty being extreme, I addressed a petition to the Sub-Collector, Mr. Hathaway, as President of the Municipal Commission, requesting him to submit my observations to the Commissioners, and accompanied him to visit the place. But I regret very much to say that my request was rejected at once, and was not even submitted to the Commission.

6 In conclusion, I beg to say that during the approaching winter it will be impossible to bury bodies in that place, as the very small piece of ground available for the purpose is already filled up with recent graves. Moreover, I consider it very disgraceful to see the bodies not only of Natives but even of Europeans employed in the Government service buried in the mud, and their graves constantly opened by dogs, pigs, etc., that are continually running about. Add to this that during the rainy season the bodies being placed about one foot below the surface, it is very hard to approach the place on account of the bad smell which prevails; so that I believe indeed that there is good reason to fear lest some severe epidemic should arise from that source, as the cemetery is contiguous to the town. Such being the case, I confidently hope that the Government will be pleased to take such measures as may remove the above-mentioned difficulties as soon as possible

No 349.

ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1870, No. 2,538.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 33

The Government greatly regret that they are still unable to appropriate any money for the improvement of the Roman Catholic Burial Ground at Negapatam, but the claim of the work to an allotment as soon as funds are available will not be lost sight of.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division
" Rev A Batut, S J, Rector of Saint Joseph's College, Negapatam.
Exd S. T. Augustin.

*Public Works Department
No 2538
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 25th Oct 1870.
Read the following*

*The Reverend A. Batut, S. J. Rector
of St. Joseph's College, Negapatam
H.E. No. dated 20th Sept 1870*

*The Government
greatly regret that
they are still unable
to appropriate any money
for the improvement of
the Roman Catholic
Burial ground at Nega-
patam, but the claim
of the work to an allot-
ment as soon as funds
are available will not be
lost sight of.*

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*S. Eng 6th Div
A Batut S. J. Rector of St. Joseph's College, Negapatam*

Recd 26/10/70

A.B.

C/23905

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr.
6th Division

Dated

Recd

G.O. 25th Oct 1870 No 2538

No. 248-249

Roman Catholic
burial ground at Negapatam.

Intimating their inability to
~~provide any~~ appropriate
any money for the improvement
the Roman Catholic burial ground
at Negapatam.