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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	671	(9)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	15.3.		1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th March 1876.*

Read the following :—

No. 220. *Extract from Inspection Notes of a tour in the Chingleput District.*

CONJEVERAM.

Paragraph 9.—Sivakanchi, including under that name nearly half the Municipal town, mainly depends for water on several tanks at present freely open to all caste-people. These tanks are supplied by the Lalakal, but under present circumstances only during freshes. Were this valuable channel put into and kept in repair a perennial stream would flow into the north-western section of the town. At the time of my visit (February) the Shevagunga tank, within the enclosure of the great temple of Siva, instead of receiving a continual supply of sweet and wholesome water, had had none since preceding rains, was low and exceedingly foul; and nevertheless was used *faute de mieux* by every one for everything. The same may be said of the other tanks in communication with the Lalakal.

10. This channel begins in an excavation in the sand near the left bank of the Vegavati river, 4 miles from the Sivaite temple. A high bank of sand separates the source from the river bed. The water is of course that of the stream, subterranean during the dry season, filtered through many yards of sand, and pure and clear when it issues. In February it was running from the head in sufficient quantity to be a great boon to the thirsty town below, if it could only reach it; but a few hundred yards away it had sunk into the sandy bed of the neglected channel to re-appear no more. The channel is (or ought to be) crossed by two aqueducts to convey over it the surplus water of the Amby and Poothery tanks. The former of these is out of repair, and there were no symptoms apparent of any intention to make it efficient. The latter is represented by a chaotic heap of stones; but a few new bricks seem to evince an intention of doing something some time. No workmen were employed, and I scarcely think it will be possible to have the rebuilding executed before the setting in of the monsoon. Meantime the Lalakal is in a worse condition than it was before anything was done for it.

11. The repair of these aqueducts and the deepening of the entire channel must be executed before the needed water can reach Conjeveram. The aqueducts are a long way from being repaired. Some sand has been thrown out of the channel towards its upper end, which will be washed and blown in again long before the aqueducts are repaired.

12. About a mile from the temple the channel divides. Three-fourths of its contents (if it had any) would supply the tank of a Srotriyam village, the remainder would be distributed, after running for some distance in an open channel, to the Sivakanchi tanks, by covered masonry conduits said to be in good repair.

13. It appears, therefore, that there are three parties interested in the restoration of the Lalakal: the Municipality of Conjeveram, the inhabitants of the Srotriyam village, and Government. The villagers were willing to contribute their full share of the cost, repaying the Municipality, who were to bear the expense in the first instance, by instalments. The Commissioners were equally willing and had money available (which they have not now, I understand). Government was anxious that the work should be executed at once, but less than nothing has been done.

14. The wishes of Government on the subject were made abundantly clear in G.O., 9th June 1874, No. 1,512, Public Works Department, paragraphs 4 and 5.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th March 1876.

15. Should this channel ever again be restored, those portions of it above the division, near which houses stand, should be protected by an agave hedge, and dung-heaps (of which I saw some) removed from its edge. Below the division it would be most desirable to pipe the channel down to the masonry conduits.

16. It is important to point out that, with insignificant exceptions, the tanks which the Lalakal supplies belong to temples, and are completely exempt from Municipal control. The action of the managers of the Vishnuvite temple, at the other end of the town, in excluding the public from a reservoir to which they previously had access, is a warning of what may be done elsewhere. It is clear that the Commissioners will have no power to reserve any of these tanks for special purposes. This state of things will not be satisfactory, and the Municipality should construct reservoirs of their own. It is noteworthy that not one of the temples, whose tanks are to be kept full by the Lalakal at the expense of the Municipality, contributes one pie, in any form, to the Municipal income.

THE extract forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, for information.
MADRAS,
17th February 1876.

No. 289.

(Signed) H. KING,
Ag. Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

No. 221.

ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1876, No. 671.

IRRIGATION, No. 19.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer, Chingleput, who will, with reference to G.O., No. 1,512, of the 9th June 1874, state fully what action was taken and to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner, state fully what action was taken to carry out the instructions conveyed in that order, and what has prevented the completion, long before the present time, of the works required to render the Lalakal efficient as regards the objects contemplated.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Chingleput.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Financial Department.

Ed. S. T. Austin
Spare Copies

Extract from Inspection Notes of a tour in the Chingleput District.
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Office of Sanitary Commissioner
 Madras 17th February 1876.
 No 289

Extract forwarded to the Secretary to
 Government Public Department, for information.
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 Ag Sanitary Commissioner
 for Madras.

In 15 March 76 B.F. 220

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FORMER CASES.

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M. WORKS FORM No. 3.

Current No.

1277.

From

*The Ag. Sanitary
Commissioner
of Madras*

No. *289*

Dated

17 Feby.

1876.

Recd.

Subject: *Forwarding an
Extract from Inspection
Notes of a house in the
Chingleput Dist.*

S. P. J.

Ans

ENCLOSURES *22-2-76*

From

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Orders and Proceedings in file.

Depart- ment.	No.	Date.	ENDORSEMENTS.		
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"	<i>171</i>	<i>17/2/76</i>			
"	<i>121</i>	<i>18/2/76</i>			
"	<i>83</i>	<i>16/2/76</i>			
"	<i>133</i>	<i>21/4/76</i>			
"	<i>1512</i>	<i>2/5/76</i>			

No 671

Public Works Dept

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 15th March 76.

Read the following:-

*Extract from Inspection Notes of a house
in the Chingleput District submitted by the
Acting Sanitary Commissioner of Madras.*

*Communicated to the
District Engineer Chingle-
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to G. O. No 1512 of the 9th
June 1874 and to the re-
marks of the Sanitary
Commissioner, state fully
what action was taken
to carry out the orders
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and what has prevented
the completion, long before
the*

LATER CASES.

Current No.

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*See 13-3-76
Ans 7-3-76*

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To The District Inspector, Chingleput
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 " Sanitary Commissioner
 " Tiruvel
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Govt. of 1876 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The St Engineer
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From

From

From

G. O. 15th March 1876

671

No. 276-221

Lalakkal Channel, Chinn
- Report - by
from inspection notes by
The Acting Secretary, Commission
- Commission regarding the -
Communicated to the Engr
Engr with instructions.

Sept 25 1876