

N^o 2887 Wd/2-11-86

Govt. of {1886} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Communicated
to the Suptg. Engineer
V circle, in continua-
-tion of G.O. No. 2555 W.
dated 30th September
1886.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

(sd) J. O. H.

G.O., 14th October 1886, No. 1054 M.

N^o 2887 Wd/2-11-86

OCTOBER.

District Municipalities Act.

Accepting the opinion of the Collector of North Arcot that the introduction of the — in Chittoor is undesirable, and desiring him to report after the close of the official year on the measures adopted by the Union Committee.

S. & V circle.

With order

P. W. Department
Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Read the following:—

14TH OCTOBER 1886, No. 1054 M., FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., dated 24th September 1886, Mis. No. 945 M., Financial.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Collector of North Arcot to report whether the District Municipalities Act may not now be introduced into the Chittoor town.

READ—also the following papers:—

From G. BIDIE, Esq., M.B., C.I.E., Acting Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, dated Fort St. George, 20th September 1886, No. 235.

With reference to G.O., No. 361 L.F., Financial, of 26th March 1886, I have the honor to submit, for the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, a letter from the District Surgeon of North Arcot, in which he reports that, although fever is still very prevalent in Chittoor, wet cultivation in compounds and in the town and heavy manuring with night-soil and decayed leaves are carried on as before.

2. In my report as Sanitary Commissioner on the unhealthy state of Chittoor it was remarked, with reference to wet cultivation in the town, that "there is evidently imperfect drainage, and, as Dr. Lancaster points out, the use of green leaves of trees and of night-soil as manure would probably, under such circumstances, confer on the rice-fields all the baneful influence of a swamp." I am still of the same opinion with regard to these fields when situated in close proximity to houses and highly manured, and consider that immediate steps should be taken to prevent wet cultivation and objectionable manuring within the limits of the town.

3. As the agency, working under the Local Fund Act, does not seem able to cope with the present state of affairs, I have the honor, further, to suggest that the town of Chittoor be made a municipality, which will enable the community to deal with the present insanitary conditions and carry out the urgently needed improvements.

No. 1639-C.

Transferred to the Financial (M.) Department for disposal.

(By Order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
2nd October 1886.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Under Secretary to Government.

G.O., dated 24th September 1886, No. 5651, Revenue.

ABSTRACT.—Agreeing with the Board of Revenue in their remarks against the proposed transfer of the headquarters of the Collectorate of North Arcot to Ranipet for a period of six months, and transferring the papers to the Financial Department in continuation of G.O., dated 10th August 1886, No. 693.

From W. H. GLENNY, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Kátpádi, 1st October 1886, No. A.

With reference to G.O., dated 24th September 1886, Mis. No. 495 M., on G.O., dated 10th August 1886, I have the honor to recommend that Chittoor be *not* constituted a municipality.

2. The inhabitants are very strongly opposed to the measure. If I thought that there was ground for reasonable expectation of any decided, or even of any perceptible, improvement in the health of the place if a municipality were introduced, I should recommend its introduction. But I think there is no ground for such expectation. I further think that the inhabitants have a right to be heard when they urge that (1) the "union" system, and (2) the large remedial measure, viz., the stoppage of rice cultivation on 72 acres of land, should have a fair trial.

3. Certain it is that the fever now afflicting Chittoor is a true malarial fever. Nothing that a municipal *régime* could do would go to the core of the evil. Chittoor was perfectly healthy when it was not as clean as it is now. It is not in the parts of the station, where the operations of a municipal staff might effect some change in cleanliness, that the fever is worst. The dwellings of the Judge, the Collector, the Civil Surgeon, the Treasury Deputy Collector, and those of the other Europeans and of the American Missionary, are, as you are aware, as pestilential as any house in the bazaar, and they are not near the native town or any hamlets or parcherries. Chittoor is decidedly cleaner at this moment than it was this time last year. Yet the month that has just closed shows a larger tale of sickness in the native town than any since February last, and at this moment there is grievous sickness in the European houses that are not practically abandoned. Thus it is an inevitable inference that the pestilential influence is absolutely independent of the cleanliness or dirtiness of the native quarters of the station.

4. But even on the assumption that a higher degree of sanitary effort would effect the health of the place, and on the further (entirely gratuitous) assumption that the "union" system cannot be as efficient as the "municipal" system, I do not think that the main object would be attained. The main object is the sanitary regulation of private premises. Dirt in the streets is unsightly and to a certain degree unhealthy. The streets can be kept clean, and *are* in Chittoor kept "moderately clean," as Dr. Bidie remarked. Cess-pits, cess-pools, middens, filthy backyards, *these* are the real sources of any mischief that comes of filth. Private scavengering is the cure. Government know from painful experience how difficult—how nearly impracticable—is the application of this remedy anywhere. There are—taking Chittoor for purposes of illustration—two sources of difficulty common to all houses inhabited by Mussulmans or caste Hindus, viz., (1) the objection of the women to come outside, and (2) the objection to let sweepers enter from the front. Latrines and back entrances can respectively be brought to bear upon these difficulties. But what is to be done when (3) there are two house-closes *dos-à-dos*? This is a very common case in Chittoor. The theoretical solution of the problem is obvious; but every experienced officer knows that the said solution will not do in one case in fifty.

5. What a municipal council could do in the direction of providing more latrines the union can do, and I have satisfied myself that they are bestirring themselves. Suitable ground is hard to get; for, of the three villages (Chittoor, Mittoor, and Goldinghampettah) constituting the town popularly called "Chittoor," the whole of one and part of another stand on ground that was (and still ought to be) rice land. Difficulties have been created as to the drainage system—which is very fair indeed for a rural village in design and execution—by the encroachments of persons able to influence tahsildars. The union can do as much to minimize this evil as could be done by a municipal council.

6. The municipality could not be compact unless Gramespett and Kangireddipalli, not to mention Santapett and Kattamanchi, were left out. Gramespett and Kangireddipalli and Malapalli could not be left out, as they are not outside fever-range. If they were taken in, about 50 per cent. of the population of the municipality would belong to the agricultural classes. The population would aggregate about eight or

nine thousand. The income of the union is about Rs. 2,500. This is all available for sanitary purposes. When all the claims of the various departments had been satisfied, there would not, under municipal rule, be very much more than this to spend on sanitation.

7. This letter is already much longer than it should be if multitudinous occupations allowed me time to compress it, and of myself I do not claim that *Felix qui potuit*, &c., can be said. But as I know that some supposed facts and causes are *not* facts and *not* causes, I venture to trouble Government with but a few words on this Chittoor problem. Mr. Davidson's impression that the fields are heavily manured with night-soil is totally without foundation. The Sanitary Commissioner's opinion that as to natural causes of malaria Chittoor is in the same plight with Palmanér and Gudiyátam cannot be correct, for Palmanér and Gudiyátam are perfectly healthy; at the first, there is no municipality; at the second, the municipality has hardly begun operations.

8. That the Ganganeri F.T.L. is higher than before the famine I am quite sure from careful inquiries. That Iyavari

* This tank is *below* the town and station; it catches the drainage of the slopes.

F.T.L. is higher I know. That Kattumanchi * F.T.L. is higher I venture to think, partly on the very grounds advanced

by the Executive Engineer for the contrary opinion, partly because while the bed *must* be higher the ayacut has not diminished, and partly because there are buildings still standing and there are traces of old gardens, &c., on ground now yearly submerged. Chittoor, like Cuddapah, Cumbum and Kurnool, is in a hole, and in a hole commanded by water. The two greatest fever seasons on record at Cumbum were the two years (1875 and 1883) following those in which water flowed over the calingula of the great tank. The great increase of fever in Kurnool synchronized with the opening of the canal in 1864; the great exacerbation of the endemic began with the wet cultivation permitted in 1880 and ended with the stoppage thereof in 1882. With these facts within my personal knowledge, I may be permitted to repeat that, in my opinion, if Chittoor ever again becomes fit for human habitation, the recovery will *not* be due to any improvement in the cleanliness of the town.

ORDER—dated 14th October 1886, No. 1054 M., Financial.

The Government are disposed, on careful consideration, to accept the opinion of the Collector that the constitution of a municipality at Chittoor is unnecessary and undesirable. The effect of the remedial measures now being taken and the working of the union recently established will be awaited. All objectionable manuring within limits to be fixed by the Collector should be strictly prohibited.

2. The Government desire to have a special report after the close of the official year as to the measures adopted by the Union Committee.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot.
" Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras,
" Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
with enclosure returned.

Exd. J. Moses.

Order thereon No. 2881 Wd/

November 1886.

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