

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 1229

DATED 4/2/96

[Despatch Abstract.]

Irrigation Channels —
Dno L & Dept regarding
the questions raised by the
Chairman Municipal
Council, Ellore, in connection
with certain Com. Municipal
to Supply Water L & II Aches

Referring to the Committee
appointed under G.O. No. 1994tn
dated 29th November 1895 certain
questions raised by the
Chairman Municipal Council
Ellore regarding — for
consideration and report.

Amc 257

To the Chief Engr for Lugoatcon
18-1960. Suptg Engineer I & II Circle



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper:—

From the Chairman, Municipal Council, Nilore, dated 22nd November 1895 No. 71 Eng.

Referring to the Proceedings of Govt. dated 29-8-95 No. 1408 H.Ms., I have the honour to report as follows regarding the Proceedings of Govt. in the Public Works Deptt. dated 10-8-95 No. 1977W.

1 As regards para. 2 & 3 the Council propose to convert the Irrigation Channels not now used for irrigation purposes into streets by gradually filling them up, as the cost of converting them into masonry built drains or of conserving them will be prohibitive. The cost to line them with masonry will not be less than Rs. 50,000 which is both prohibitive and non productive, and it is practically impossible to conserve them taking their situation into consideration. Some of the Irrigation Channels are, it is true, used as drains during the rainy season, but in all seasons these Channels are used as public latrines. People were prosecuted for committing nuisances in the bed of these Channels, but the prosecutions were thrown out on the ground that these Channels were the property of the P.W.D. The District Magistrate was requested on 18th August '93 No. 71 to move the High Court to obtain an authoritative decision on the subject but declined doing so.

2 The only course left open to the Council now is to prosecute the P.W.D. which is a step highly objectionable unless unavoidable. If no timely steps are taken by them, the Council will however be compelled to give them notice either to close them or to conserve them. The Public Works Deptt. seems to labour under a misapprehension.

mis-apprehension that it is not their duty to attend to this matter. The existence of these Irrigation Channels in the centre of the town is the main source of all sorts of nuisance and is the chief cause for bringing so much discredit on the Municipal Administration. One fact however cannot be denied namely that some of these Channels are the only source for draining off the rain water in the town. In the absence of any provision for town drainage, I think, the complete closing of all these channels will also ^{Cause} ~~cost~~ great inconvenience to the town. If the Irrigation Channels that are absolutely necessary and that are actually irrigating fields be allowed to continue as they are, but under strict arrangements to conserve them and if the rest be closed, much of the evil might be averted, and the extra expense to the State for opening Irrigation Channels from outside the town might also be avoided. In these circumstances, the Council ventures to hope, that the Govt. will be pleased to take such steps to remedy this admitted evil as it deems fit.

3 As regards to para. 4. Regarding the boat harbour the Council have informed the Executive Engineer Kistna Eastern Division in reply to his letter No. 792 d/18-5-95 of its willingness to take over the harbour free of cost and to level the same, vide Council's Proceedings of the 3rd June 1895. From a personal conversation I have had with the Executive Engineer Mr. Smith, it appears, that the harbour has been closed, but it has not been handed over yet to the Municipality; when it is handed over, provision will be made in the ensuing budget for levelling the same with clean earth or sand. The tank at the end of the creek is not a drinking water tank as the Superintending Engineer appears to think and it will have to be closed now, as its supply of water through the harbour is cut off by the latter being closed.

4 The Council does not agree with the proposal of the Superintending Engineer to remove the woodyards higher up the Canal, as the water flowing down to Ellore will be polluted by the floats awaiting removal, by the coolies engaged in removing the same. There are also hardly any houses above the bridge connect-

connected with the boat traffic and the occupants of these houses also complain against the mooring of the boats there. I may also mention here that Dr. Laing was of the same opinion and the Council as well as the Sanitary Commissioner consider that the removal of ~~the~~ wood yards to below the New Madapalli Channel or to the Godavari ^{Canal} ~~Channel~~ Lock would considerably reduce the pollution of drinking water.

5. As regards para. 5. The Council does not agree with the Superintending Engineer regarding the mooring of boats. If the boats are moored below the New Madapalli Channel there will be no dislocation of trade. The fact that Rajahmundry boats do not pass the Lock and come near the bridge is proof positive that trade will not be affected by the boats being prohibited from mooring near the Bridge. The most important and influential merchants in the town are in the Council and they have unanimously voted for the mooring of the boats below the Bridge. It is in fact they who ought principally to object to the removal of the boats from the present boat-stand. Any little inconvenience, if any, could easily be removed by making some arrangements when required. The object of removing the boat-stand from the present landing place to below the Bridge is to secure purity of canal water which is mostly used by Powerpetta people. So far as sanitation is concerned, the Council must be guided, I think, by the opinion of two Sanitary Commissioners, Drs. Laing & King, who have strongly condemned the mooring of boats at the present boat-stand on Sanitary grounds. The health of the population of the town ought, I should think, also to take precedence over the supposed convenience of a few merchants, who have made no complaint yet against such removal.

6. The washing of clothes and bathing in the Canal can easily be prevented by posting a peon there as is done in the case of the Gaziwilli Varus' tank, which is a drinking water tank. There is a proposal pending before the Council to extent Gaziwilli Varus' tank. The subject of removal of mooring of boats has been occupying the attention of the Council, the Divisional Officers, and the Sanitary & Medical Officers for the last 4 years and the Govt. have been addressed on the subject, vide proceedings of the Council

Council dated 19-3-91 and the Chairman's letter to Govt.No.119 d/1st September 1891.

The Council therefore requests that Govt.may be pleased to take early steps to remove a nuisance which materially affects the health of thousands of towns-men.

Endorsement of the Collector of Godavari d/ 4th December 1895
Dis.on C.No.1704/Eng. *Forwarded.*

In respect of the irrigation Channels no longer required for irrigation purposes the proposal of the Council to fill them up and convert them into lanes or streets making provision only for surface drainage may be approved. To enable the Council to do this they must be formally made over to it by the Public Works Deptt. As regards the Channels still used for irrigation purposes in place of their being closed and made over to the Council by the Public Works Deptt. after others have been substituted for them I would suggest that they should be considered in so far as they lie within the town to be vested in Govt. & the Council jointly. To substitute others for them will admittedly cost much and the Council cannot close them altogether as they are necessary to carry off the surface drainage of the town. Again if the D.P.W. retain sole control of them as the Council point out, they and not the Council must conserve them. The money which it would cost to substitute other irrigation channels outside the town for them may be devoted to their improvements and the Council called upon to contribute an equal amount to this end and to conserve them as the joint owner with the best facilities for doing this.

Para.3. Now that the harbour has been closed it should be made over to the Council for reclamation and conservation. Until it is made over to them, the Council are not responsible for its condition and can do nothing.

Paras.4&c. The contention of the Council that both the timber yards and boat wharf should be moved down the canal to below the point where the Madapilli Channel through which the town receives its principal supply of drinking water, takes off appears to be valid from a sanitary point of view. It would not however be necessary to remove them so far if the Council arranged to supply the Gazavilli ^{varus} Vans-tani through a pipe taking off just below the bridge. This would not cost much as the distance is not great

great and would be a more sanitary means of supply than the existing open channel. The removal demanded by the Council would not in that case cause much inconvenience to the commercial community and boat owners particularly ^{if} the Council were permitted to convert the right bank of the canal at this point into a metalled cart road.

Order No.8 M. Dis. dated 7th January 1896.

The questions dealt with in paras.1,2 and 4 of the Chairman's letter will also be referred for consideration and report, to the Committee appointed under G.O.No.1994 M.dated 29th November 1895 to report on the matter referred to in paras.5 and 6.

(True Extract)

W.D. Shilp
Asstt. Secretary,
for Chief Secretary.

To

The Collector of Godavari,

with copy of G.O.No.1403 I.d/ 29-8-95.

,, Sanitary Commissioner.

,, Public Works Deptt. ✓

,, Chairman, M.C., Ellore,

with copy of G.O.No.1994 I.d/ 27-11-95.

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