

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1503	Press ~~Mis~~
Dated	2-12-	1967.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
2nd December 1867.*

No. 1. Read the following Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department.

Communicating a report by Dr. Howard } (Dated 26th November 1867, No. 3674).
on the fever prevailing at Ganjam.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 2nd December 1867, No. 1503.

The Governor in Council resolves to refer the information regarding the fever at Ganjam, above recorded, to the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, and to the Sanitary Commissioner, with a view to their speedily advising the Government as to the practical measures which should be temporarily adopted at Ganjam to reduce the mortality and sickness which prevail there.

2. Other and more comprehensive measures will doubtless be required, but the information necessary is not in a sufficiently complete condition to enable the Government to pass orders.

(True Extract).

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th November 1867.*

No. 585. Read the following letter from the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, Fort St. George, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 7th November 1867, No. 440 :—

In continuation of my docket No. 389, of 5th October 1867, and with reference to Proceedings of Government Public Works Department, No. 3,219, of 17th October 1867, noted in the margin, I have the honor to forward the enclosed report* by Dr. Howard on the fever prevailing at Ganjam; and with reference to his account of the sanitary condition of that place, I would beg to represent the urgent necessity that exists for some measures being adopted to remedy the evils pointed out.

From the Zillah Surgeon, Berhampore, to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Her Majesty's Indian Medical Department, Northern Division, Waltair, dated Ganjam, 16th October 1867.

1. In accordance with the instructions conveyed in your letter No. 759, dated Waltair, 7th October 1867, after making over the Civil station of Berhampore to Surgeon Major F. L. Clementson, I proceeded without the least delay to Ganjam, reaching that station on the night of the 10th instant. Prior, or simultaneous to my arrival in Ganjam, and as I informed you in my letter No. 8, dated Ganjam, 11th October 1867, I deemed it right to consult and seek the co-operative help of all the heads of the public departments in and about Ganjam, soliciting tabular returns of sick, and the personal presence, if possible, of these heads of departments in verifying the number of sick, in my company; and with this view I wrote letter numbers 1 to 7 (copies of which I have sent you) to the Collector, Assistant Engineer, Supervisor Public Works Department, Master Attendant, Salt Superintendent, Sub-Magistrate, and Inspector of Police.

2. On leaving Berhampore I took the medicines noted in the margin of my letter No. 8, but regretted to find no Dresser in Ganjam. On the 11th, I wrote to the Collector on the subject, who very kindly sent out, on the 12th, his Dresser with a supply of medicines reported by me in letter No. 9. On the arrival of the Dresser, I fixed him and the medicines in a house in the main street of Ganjam, about its centre; the Collector kindly informing the people by beat of tom-tom that medicines would be distributed gratuitously to all applicants at this house, while I, for my part, with a supply of emetics, purgatives, quinine-powders, and pills, itinerated through each village, from house to house, prescribing tabulating, and advising on sanitary matters. This I continued to do from the 11th to the 15th, until I had made myself fairly acquainted with the number of sick, the general type of the fever, and the sanitary state of the hamlets forming Ganjam and a few adjacent villages; returning to Berhampore on the morning of the 16th instant. I hope I may be permitted to add that all the heads of departments, including the various village Curnums and Kazies (and excepting, perhaps, the Police), responded most cordially and quickly to my request, and in a great measure helped me to make up the tabular statement appended.

3. The town of Ganjam, situated on the right or east bank of the Rushkoollia, between this river and the sea, was about a century back one of the most, if not the most, populous, maritime town in the Northern Circars, between Bunder (Masulipatam) and Calcutta; it was a large Military and Civil station, the residence of a Judge and Collector, and, by report, was garrisoned by nearly 2,000 or 3,000 troops of all arms. The remains of the old fort and magnificent buildings, now in ruins, fully bear evidence to a former prosperous state. It is now a solitary wilderness, the abode of pariah dogs, jackals, hyenas, and vultures, and inhabited by boatmen, also fishermen, cultivators, Ooryahs, and a few dealers in the rice trade. It consists of three villages, named Borapilly, Pointhela, and Ganjam proper, with the population, houses, and number of fever cases given in tabular form A. The soil of the town and to the west of the grand trunk road, is alluvial; to the east, white sand, the

former forms the rice fields, the latter the salt pans. Its sanitary condition is so bad, that I question if any thing can be worse; every vacant space about the town is either a stagnant pond or a rice field, both receiving the surface drainage, charged with fermenting, decaying vegetable matter, and filth; the once doubtlessly well-kept gardens, surrounding the ruined buildings, are either guava jungle, or rice cultivation, surrounded on all sides by dense hedges of the pindana or screwpine, rising from six to twelve and fifteen feet in height, and equally as thick, forming a safe retreat for reptiles and wild animals; the masonry drains and small tunnels, constructed in years long passed, across roads, are choked up with sand, mud, and dried sticks, so that, as has been the case more than two or three times to my personal knowledge, the town, excepting the main trunk road, has been flooded; and, added to this, the back-yards attached to the native houses contain each its solid heap of filthy ordure, tainting the atmosphere; free and healthy perfusion of the town is impossible from this jungly condition, and the numerous green stagnant ponds and marshy fields under a hot sun are for ever throwing off miasm, making fever endemic in Ganjam.

4. About the beginning of the Pindary war, in 1815, 1816, and 1817, a severe outbreak of fever occurred among the civil population and troops in Ganjam, causing a panic, and general exodus of all who could get away; the Government removing the troops and civil people. This has become a matter of history; and since that period Ganjam and Ganjam fever have become synonymous with death! The fever then is described as short in duration, very severe in its effects and symptoms, and rapidly fatal, in from 24 to 48 hours, from local congestion either of the brain, lungs, or abdominal viscera. It appears to me, from the native description, to have been of the bilious remittent type, and, since the first outbreak, endemic fever has recurred yearly, more or less severe in its type, and depending in a great measure upon the rain fall and humidity of the atmosphere with the insanitary state of the town; nor must it be forgot, in the present enquiry, that the famine of 1865-66 has much to do with the present state of fever: the want and starvation of that period left hundreds thin, spare, and bloodless below par, and the causes named above, superadded to this anæmic condition of the people, have been the present exciting and approximate agents in developing the fever.

5. Of the 584 cases of fever in a population of 7,083, 419 occurred in children from 2 to 14 years of age, and 165 in adults above 14 years, and as an evidence that fever is endemic, I found 272 cases of enlarged spleen, varying from about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 or 15 lbs., (in ?); the major part of the cases were of the intermittent type, the fever showing itself every alternate day, or once in from 15 to 30 days. For years past only six cases, three in Binchinapilly, two in Pointhela, and one in Borapilly, showed symptoms of bilious remittent fever; there were numerous cases of jaundice, and nearly in all constipation. These poor natives are thoroughly ignorant of medicine; a purgative or an emetic in many cases would quite relieve them of their fever in the early stage, but ignorant as they are they keep in the old groove: in the cold stage they light fires, and get beaten or shampooed, a good thing doubtless to set the blood in circulation, and cut short the cold stage; in the hot, they have recourse to hot decoctions of pepper, cinnamon, and the spice family generally, knowing that warm, stimulating drinks bring on the stage of perspiration; this they continue day after day, until tired they give it up in despair, when possibly a purgative or mild emetic would relieve the vitiated secretions at once. I was informed "that four months back the fever was much more severe and the deaths more numerous, but latterly matters had improved." It is also worthy of remark that the four villages adjacent to the river bank, who drank of the river water, showed only two cases of spleen in 1,241 of the inhabitants, while those villages partaking of the water of stagnant ponds showed 270 cases of spleen in a population of 5,842.

6. In conclusion, I would most respectfully suggest, first, that a Dresser with a small supply of medicines be stationed in Ganjam until the cold weather sets in, or for about three months, and that a house be sanctioned at a rentage of one rupee per month, and a small contingent bill for lamp-oil monthly; secondly, that all the inhabitants be called upon to fill up small stagnant ponds, and cut down hedges to the regulated height and thickness; thirdly, that half a dozen masonry wells be made either at the expense of the population, or from any funds at the Collector's disposal; fourthly, that existing drains be well cleared out and deepened, and, where needed, fresh drains be cut to run off surface water into the river; lastly, as in all probability the 7th,

11th, and wing of 31st Regiment will pass through Ganjam, it would be advisable not to permit any encampment in or within three miles of Ganjam, and if thought advisable by you or the Inspector General, Medical Department, I shall be glad to run into Ganjam fortnightly or monthly. Second Dresser Arjoonum has received instruction with regard to treatment, and has been desired by me to send you weekly returns of sick.

A.
Statement of Sick in Ganjam and adjacent villages, with number of houses and population.

	Population.	No. of Houses.	No. of Fever cases.	Remarks.
Forming Ganjam. { Ganjam proper ... Ponthela ... Borapilly ... Total ...	3,968 347 134 4,449	1,147 107 33 1,287	339 108 27 474 sick 1 in 9-75	Of these 474 fever cases, 361 occurred in children from 2 to 14 years of age; 113 in adult male and female. Number of children with enlarged spleen 242. Drinking water from stagnant ponds.
Dumdumpoorum Pedda Kunchipoorum Chinna do. Dolze Pettah ... Total ...	505 453 175 108 1,241	109 127 46 30 312	10 3 1 3 17 sick 1 in 73	Of these 17 cases of fever, 9 occurred in children, 8 in adults. Two cases of spleen noticed in these villages. Drinking water from the river.
Government Villages. { Palibundah ... Paullivoro ... Kondapoorum ... Soorje Narainpoorum ... Lutchmipoorum ... Moyreebundah ... Neeladrypoorum ... Total ...	1,133 260 1,393	283 not given. 283	18 42 17 4 5 3 4 93 sick 1 in 15	Of the 93 cases of fever, 49 occurred in children, 44 in adults. Twenty-eight cases of enlarged spleen examined in these villages. Drinking water from stagnant ponds.
Paloor Zemindry. Grand Total ...	7,083	1,882	584 sick 1 in 12	

GANJAM,
16th October 1867.

(Signed) J. S. HOWARD, M. D.,
Zillah Surgeon, Berhampore.

B.
Tabular Statement of Fever Cases in the following Departments.

Departments.	Total Sick.	Total Strength.	Remarks.
Master Attendant's Department	1	12	Of 67 registered Boatmen, none reported sick. Males 23, females 25, children 3—total 51; but of these, only 17 adults and 5 children were <i>bonâ fide</i> sick, when I examined them. No return received.
Salt Department	3	35	
Sub-Magistrate's Department...	9	3	
Public Works Department	51	381 Coolies employed by D. P. W.	
Police, Ganjam...		420	All these sick cases are included in Tabular Statement A.
Total ...	75		

C.
Observation in Ganjam.

Date.	THERMOMETER.					Barometer.	DIRECTION OF WIND.			RAIN.		Remarks.
	6 A. M.	10 A. M.	12 A. M.	4 P. M.	8 P. M.		6 A. M.	12 A. M.	6 P. M.	Inches.	Cents.	
11th	72°	73°	74° 50	71°	70°	30 at Berhampore, 29-70 arising in Ganjam.	N. E.	N. E.	N. E.	2	3	Heavy rain all day, little wind, clouds densely packed passing southerly, some thunder and lightning at 10 A. M. N. E., 4 P. M. rain ceasing, 6 P. M. ceased.
12th	71° 50	73°	75°	72°	72°	29° 85	N. E.	N. E.	N. E.	...	75	Morning hot, bright sun, wind very slight, 2½ P. M. heavy clouds rising from N. E., and passing southerly, sharp shower of rain from 4 to 6½ P. M.
13th	71°	72° 50	74°	73°	73°	20° 90	N. E.	N. E.	N. E.	...	85	Morning cloudy, with small rain, no wind all day, sun hot and oppressive, rain from 12 M. until 6 P. M. in showers of half an hour interval.
14th	72° 50	73°	75	74°	74°	30°	N. E.	N. E.	N. E.	...	...	Sunny, bright morning, very warm at midday, no wind, Thermometer in sun at 2 P. M. 111°; 5 P. M. very slight sprinkling of rain.
15th	72° 50	73°	76°	74°	...	30°	North only.	N. E.	N. E.	...	...	Bright sunshiny morning, very hot M. Thermometer in sun 12 M. 105°, a very slight sprinkling of rain.

* In shady cool house facing the sea.

Total rain-fall in three days, 3 inches 68 cents.

(Signed) J. S. HOWARD, M. D.,
Zillah Surgeon, Berhampore.

GANJAM,
16th October 1867.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th November 1867.*

No. 586. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1867, No. 3,674.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 49.

Communicated to the Revenue and Public Departments, and to the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division in continuation of the Orders of Government noted below :—

No. 3,018, 27th September 1867.

„ 3,071, 3rd October „

„ 3,219, 17th „ „

(True Extract.)



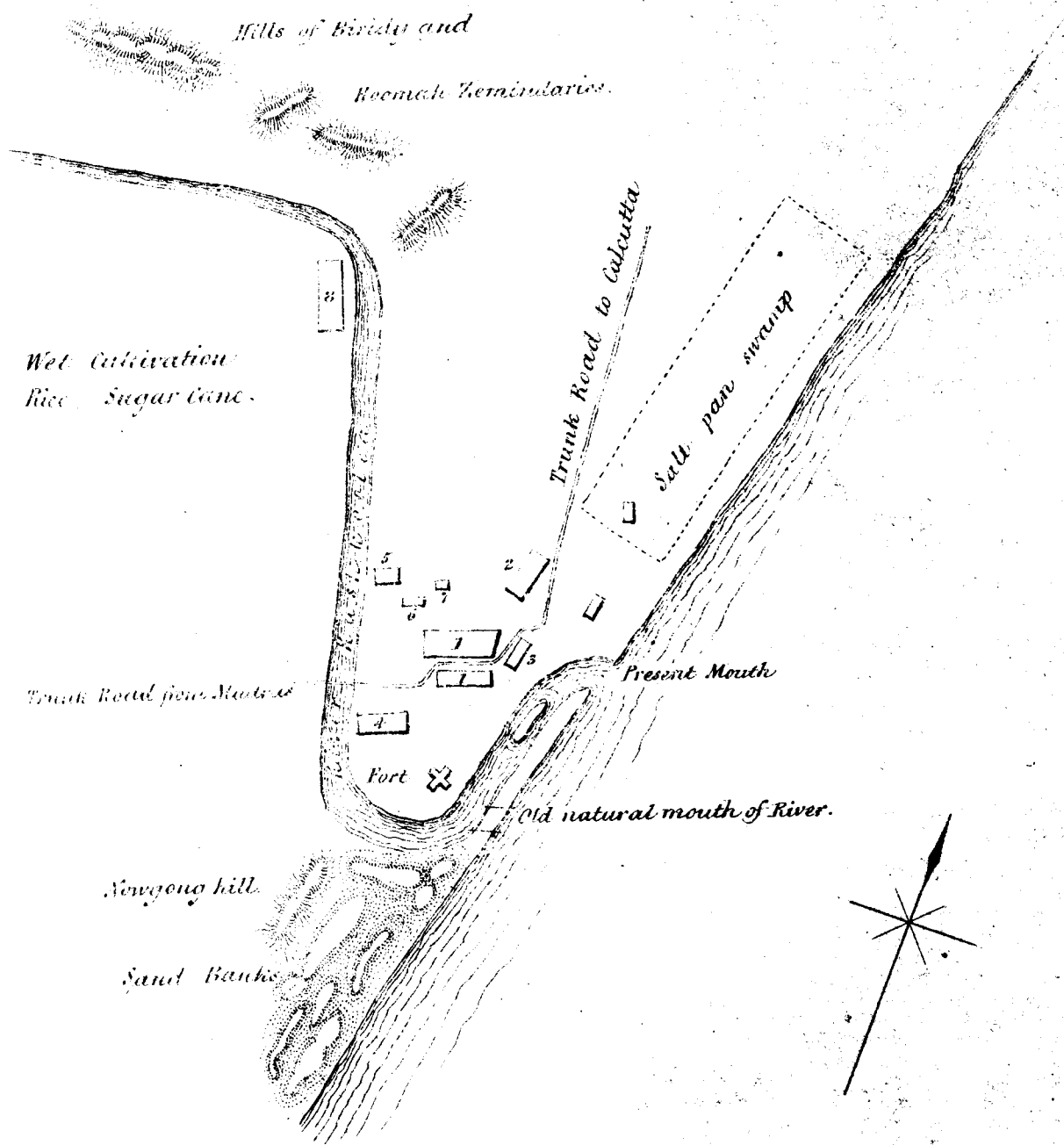
Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Department.

- „ Revenue do.
- „ Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
- „ Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.
- „ Collector of Ganjam.
- „ Military Department.
- „ Sanitary Commissioner.

ROUGH SKETCH OF GANJAM.

1. Ganjam proper on both sides Trunk Road.
2. Poonthela.
3. Borapilly
4. Dandarapeerum.
5. Pedda Kunchipoorum.
6. Chinna Kunchipooram.
7. Dolze Pettah.
8. Bundah.



No 4 roughly for 1374
 8 October - 39420
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No 4 1877 North

No 4 1877 North
 1003494

No 4 1877 North

No 4 1877 North
 1003494

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~

Pos. of Govt. Public Works Department.
dated 26 November 1867. N. 3674.

Order thereon. 2^d Decr. 1867 N. 1503.

The Governor in Council
resolves to refer the information,
regarding the Fever at Ganjam,
above recorded, to the Principal
Inspector General, Indian
Medical Department, and to
the Sanitary Commissioner,
with a view to their speedily
advising the Government as
to the practical measures
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condition to enable the Govern-
-ment to pass orders.

To
Insp. Genl. Ind. Med. Dept. } desd 2/12
Sanitary Commissioner }
P. W. Dept. desd 5/12

1-2
J. M. W. Department.

No. 1503

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 2^d December 1869

24th Dec 1869. 21.1.70
1869-1868