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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	253	Press Mis.
Dated	25-2-	191869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

9/11/36

Read the following papers:—

No. 208. From the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 20th January 1869, No. 19.

I have the honor to annex, for submission to Government, the following Extract from the Annual Inspection Report of the Civil Dispensary at Ponani, by the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Southern Division, dated 13th December 1868. The town of Ponani, as Government are aware, is notoriously unhealthy, and subject to annual severe outbreaks of cholera and small-pox, the mortality from which, according to official returns, is very great, as is only to be expected from the very unsanitary condition of the town, as represented in this report.

— —
EXTRACT.

“ Ponani is situated close to the sea on the left bank of the embouchure of a large river, which takes its name from the place. The site is low and undulating. The soil is sand or dry earth, the substratum laterite. There is but little, if any, natural drainage, and any artificial drainage that exists is very insufficient and imperfect. The town of Ponani is scattered to a considerable extent over the locality under advertence, without any regard to arrangement. The conservancy is of the worst description, that is, no attempt appears to have been made to keep the place clean. The ground surface is generally fouled by refuse of every kind, and frequently by ordure. Cess-pools are in common use. They are often to be found of large dimensions, constructed of masonry, inside the houses, with only an opening at the highest point for the reception of the excreta which cannot be afterwards removed. One of these cess-pools are in the building occupied by the Dispensary, and I instructed the Hospital Assistant to cause it to be closed. It would be advisable to ascertain that such has been done. There are also, I am informed, cess-pools in the ground in the vicinity of most of the houses, which when filled by ordure are covered in and fresh cess-pools dug. The tanks in and around the place contain foul looking water, being used for bathing and ablution purposes, and the clothing washed therein is represented to be generally of the foulest description. The water of the wells is commonly brackish, a few wells only contain drinkable water. The inhabitants of the town are chiefly Moplahs, who are, as a rule, exceedingly inattentive to personal cleanliness, and likewise ignorant of any of the advantages pertaining to social and domestic comfort. I believe that the deplorable sanitary state of Ponani can be remedied only by means of a Municipality. If a commission of this kind could be instituted, and its proceedings supervised by the Civil authorities (European and Native) of the district, considerable improvement might be effected. Indeed any attempt to reclaim the inhabitants of this large place from their present moral and physical debasement could hardly fail to be in some degree attended with satisfactory results.”

(True Extract).

(Signed) W. MACKENZIE, M. D.,
Inspr. Genl., Indian Medl. Dept.

Referred to the Collector of Malabar, who is requested to report whether there is any objection to Act X. of 1865, Towns' Improvement Act, being applied to the town of Ponani.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
23rd January 1869.

(Signed) W. S. LILLY,
Actg. Under Secy. to Govt.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
25th February 1869.*

No. 208A. From the Magistrate of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 1st February 1869, No. 7A.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter noted,* forwarded to me for report as to whether there is any objection to the introduction of Act X. of 1865, in Ponani.

This step is advocated by the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Southern Division, on account of the deplorable sanitary condition of the town.

2. I am afraid the condition of the place is not over-colored by the Deputy Inspector General. It is in truth, I think, the most unsavoury spot in Malabar; yet it has long been the head-quarters of a Deputy Collector and Magistrate, as Division officer, as well of a Tahsildar and Taluq Sub-Magistrate. One feature the Deputy Inspector General has not noticed. There are a very great number of

mosques† in the town. Almost every one of these has its crowded burial

ground round it, and I conceive this as much as or more than anything else conduces to the local unhealthiness. The unhealthiness is notorious. Not only cholera and small-pox often prevailing, but diabetes, elephantiasis, tumours, and skin diseases being common.

3. The population of the town proper may be quoted as about 6000. The value of its annual exports and imports for the last twenty years averages about Rupees 8,57,987, and Rupees 1,64,417 respectively, but the trade is languishing. The population is almost entirely Mopillah. The great majority are petty traders, small bazaar-men, and such like. There are very few wealthy men, and the houses and buildings generally are very poor.

4. Under the Towns' Improvement Act the returns from houses, lands, &c., would be small. The Trades tax would not realize much. It would draw the lowest rates in the schedule from a large number of payers, and would cause extreme irritation and discontent. The Carriage tax would yield *nil*, and Cart registration very

little. Tolls would be objectionable for the reasons I have given elsewhere‡ against their introduction in the Coast Municipalities of Malabar.

The proceeds from all sources might be roughly estimated at Rupees 4000, or thereabouts, including the Government contribution. Allowing about one Constable only for every 500 of the population, the cost of the Police would come to about Rupees 2000, leaving only some Rupees 2000 for sanitary and other improvements.

5. Moreover, it would be vain to look for efficient local Commissioners. Even were the Act introduced all real action under it would depend on there being a European, or very exceptional native, officer to work it.

It will be observed that most of the evils commented on by the Deputy Inspector General are of a nature that would bring them under the head of nuisances, and activity on the part of the resident Native Magistracy would go very far to remedy them.

* From Inspector General, Medical Department, dated 20th January 1869, No. 19, under docket from the Under Secretary, dated 23rd January 1869.

† Probably 100 or more.

‡ Vide letter from President to Chief Secretary to Government, dated 14th July 1867, No. 79.
Do. do. dated 19th May 1868, No. 64.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
25th February 1869.*

There is no doubt that the population is a difficult one to deal with in such matters; but much that has not been might be done if the hands of the Magistracy are strengthened by having a little money placed at their disposal.

6. If, as an exceptional case, Government are pleased to make an allowance to assist in remedying some of the worst features of the place, I will endeavour to have more attention paid to sanitary arrangements by the resident Magistracy.

If Government approve, I will submit propositions for the expenditure of Rupees 5000 or 10,000 on sanitary arrangements.

7. But under the circumstances above stated, I would most strongly deprecate the introduction of the Towns' Improvement Act on account of its obnoxiousness, unsuitability to the people, and want of persons to work it properly.

No. 15.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 208B.

The undersigned requests that, instead of "100" entered against the mosques in paragraph 2 of the Magistrate's letter to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 1st February 1869, No. 7A, the following may be substituted:—

"There are in the town proper twenty-six mosques, and two "jarams," (tombs of holy men,) and twenty-two of the mosques have burial grounds in use.

CALICUT,
9th February 1869.

(Signed) G. A. BALLARD,
Magistrate of Malabar.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

No. 209. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1869, No. 253.

The Government resolve to defer the creation of a Municipality in the town of Ponani until the projected revision of the Act has been accomplished.

2. In the meantime the Magistrate of Malabar will submit a statement of the most necessary sanitary improvements and their cost. And, in case the Magistrate desires it, the Zillah Surgeon will visit Ponani and assist that officer with recommendations and advice.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Malabar.

„ Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Extract.

Ponani is situated close to the sea on the left bank of the embouchure of a large river, which takes its name from the place. The site is low and undulating. The soil is sand or dry earth - the substratum laterite. There is but little, if any, natural drainage, and any artificial drainage that exists is very insufficient and imperfect. The town of Ponani is scattered to a considerable extent over the locality under advertence, without any regard to arrangement. The conservancy is of the worst description, that is, no attempt appears to have been made to keep the place clean.

The ground surface is generally fouled by refuse of every kind, and frequently by ordure. Cess-pools are in common use. They are often to be found of large dimensions, constructed of masonry, inside the houses, with only an opening at the highest point for the reception of the excreta which cannot be afterwards removed. One of these cess-pools are in the building occupied by the Dispensary, and I instructed the Hospital Assistant to

to cause it to be closed. It would be advisable to ascertain that such ~~has~~ been done. There are also, I am informed, cess-pools in the ground in the vicinity of most of the houses, which when filled by ordure are covered in and fresh cess-pools dug. The tanks in and around the place contain foul looking water, being used for bathing and ablution purposes, and the clothing washed therein is represented to be generally of the foulest description. The water of the wells is commonly brackish, a few wells only contain drinkable water. The inhabitants of the town are chiefly Moplahs, who are, as a rule, exceedingly inattentive to personal cleanliness, and likewise ignorant of any of the advantages pertaining to social and domestic comfort. I believe that the deplorable sanitary state of Ponani can be remedied only by means of a municipality. If a commission of this kind could be instituted and its proceedings supervised by the Civil authorities (European and Native) of the District, considerable improvement might be effected. Indeed any

any attempt to reclaim the inhabitants
of this large place from their present,
moral and physical debasement,
could hardly fail to be in some
degree attended with satisfactory re=
sults."

(True Extract)

W. MacKenzie M.D.

Inspector Genl.

Ind. Med.

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Malabar Magistrate's Court
 Calicut 9 February 1869
 No. 15.
 The Chief Secretary to Government
 Fort St. George

Memo

The undersigned requests
 that instead of "100" entered against
 the mosques in para 2 of the Magistrate's
 letter to the Chief Secretary to Government
 dated 1st February 1869 No. 7A, the follow-
 ing may be substituted -

"There are in the town proper 26 mosques
 2 "Jarams" (Tombs of holy men) and
 22 of the Mosques have burial grounds
 in use."

J. S. S. S.
 Magistrate of Malabar

Cop. D. H. G.

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Public Works Dept.
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No 7 A

Malabar Magistrate's Court
Calicut 1st February 1869.

From,

G. A. Ballard Esq.
Magistrate of Malabar.

To,

The Honorable R. S. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the letter noted, forwarded to me for report as to whether there is any objection to the introduction of Act X of 1865 in Ponany.

This step is advocated by the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, S. D. on account of the deplorable sanitary condition of the Town.

2. I am afraid the condition of the place is not over colored by the Deputy Inspector General. It is in truth I think the most unsavoury spot in Malabar. Yet it has long been the head quarters of a Deputy Collector & Magistrate, as Division officer, as well

1869. Sept

The Magistrate of Malabar

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 9th Feb } 1869
Recd 11

No 15

Requests certain words may be substituted for some others in para 2 of his letter to Govt. dated 1st Feb 1869 No 7 A.

* From Inspector General, Medical Dept. Dated 20th Jan'y 1869 No. 19, under docket from the Under Secretary dated 23rd January 1869. (herewith returned)

of a Tahsildar and Taluk Sub-Ma-
-gistrate. One feature the Deputy In-
-specto General has not noticed. There
are a very great number* of mosques
in the Town. Almost every one of
these has its crowded burial ground
round it, and I conceive this as much
as or more than any thing else con-
-duces to the local unhealthiness.
The unhealthiness is notorious. Not
only Cholera and small pox often
prevailing, but diabetes, elephan-
-tiasis, tumours, and skin diseases
being common.

Probably 100
or more.

* vide letter from Presd.
to Chief Secy to Govt.
dated 14th July 1867 No 79.
Ordo. ditto dated 19th
May 1868 No 64.

3. The population of the town
proper may be quoted as about
6,000. The value of its annual exports
and imports for the last 20 years
averages about Rupees 8,57,987 and
Rupees 1,64,417 respectively, but the
trade is languishing. The popu-
-lation is almost entirely Mapilla.
The great majority are petty traders,
small bazar men, and such like.
There are very few wealthy men, and
the houses and buildings generally
are very poor.

4. Under the Towns Improvement

Act the returns from Houses, lands,
&c. would be small. The trades tax
would not realize much. It would
draw the lowest rates in the schedule
from a large number of payers, and
would cause extreme irritation and
discontent. The Carriage tax would
yield nil and cart registration very
little. Tolls would be objectionable for
the reasons I have given elsewhere
against their introduction in the
Coast Municipalities of Malabar.

The proceeds from all sources might
be roughly estimated at Rupees 4,000
or thereabouts including the Govern-
-ment contribution. Allowing about
1 Constable only for every 500 of the po-
-pulation, the cost of the Police would
come to about Rs. 2,000 leaving only some
Rupees 2,000 for sanitary and other
improvements.

5. Moreover it would be vain to
look for efficient local commissioners.
Even were the Act introduced all real
action under it would depend on
there being a European, or very exception-
-al native, officer to work it.

It will be observed that most of

the evils commented on by the Deputy Inspector General are of a nature that would bring them under the head of nuisances, and activity on the part of the resident native Magistracy would go very far to remedy them.

There is no doubt that the population is a difficult one to deal with in such matters; but much that has not been, might be done, if the hands of the Magistracy are strengthened by having a little money placed at their disposal.

If as an exceptional case, Government are pleased to make an allowance to assist in remedying some of the worst features of the place, I will endeavour to have more attention paid to sanitary arrangements by the resident Magistracy.

If Government approve I will submit propositions for the expenditure of Rupees 5,000 or 10,000, on sanitary arrangements.

7. But under the circumstances above stated, I would most strongly deprecate the introduction of the Town Improvement Act on account of its obnoxiousness, un-

= suitability to the people, and want of persons to work it properly,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servant,

Samuel

Magistrate of Malabar

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters from the

Super. Genl. Indian Med. Dept. (Here under 20th Jan'y 1869) &
Magistrate of Malabar (Here under 1st Feb'y 1869 No. 7A)

Order thereon 25th February 1869 No. 253

The Government
resolve to defer the
creation of a municipality
in the Town of Ponani
until the projected
revision of the Act has
been accomplished.

2. In the meantime
the Magistrate of Malabar
will submit a Statement
of the most necessary
Sanitary Improvements
and their cost. And,
in case the Magistrate
desires

S. A. 186. of 1869.
No. 7. of 1869. A. 38 208.
No. 2. of 1869. A. 210.
S. A. 186. of 1869.

1869. A. 38 208.
No. 2. of 1869. A. 210.
S. A. 186. of 1869.

Order 1st Feb'y
and 6th " 1869
No. 2. of 1869.

No. 7 A
Enc. 1. 1.

No. 2. 30

Reports on the
Sanitary
State of 1869
in
Ponani

desires it, the Zillah
Surgeon will visit
Ponani and assist
that Officer with
~~the necessary arrangements~~
and advice.
JH ML

It is evident that
we must make
our arrangements
for more shelter
as I must be
aware of your
town. I would
not apply for
Act of Ponani.
I think it has been
considered but then
I would do is - x
in the mean time
the matter might
be better to submit
a statement of the

Memo forwards.

M. Ballard acknowledges
that Ponani is in a filthy
condition and that it is
very unhealthy -
but as the place is not
wealthy & the people are
Moplahs. He deprecates
the application of the
Town Improvement
Act, & all he can sug-
gest is ^{enforcing the Police Act in} ~~sanitary~~ cases
"epizootics" and thereby
somewhat amending

Magistrate of Malabar
Inspection Genl. Indian Med. Dept.
Sept 4/3

Bill Munk

Ord. of 1186 } **Madras**

Public

To
The Mag. of Malabar
see.

4/10 5/10.

Dated July 25 } 1869 No 253.
Recd.

 Nos. 208-209.

Regarding the creation of a
Municipality in the town
of Ponani, with the pro-
posed location of the
municipal corporation

General
Sept
1869