

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	536	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	26 - 4 -	191869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N^o 950 of 1869

Referred to the Principal of
the Engineering College for early report
W. A. Ellis
Chief Secretary

Sat St George }
 15th April 1869. }

[illegible]

of the Civil Engineering
College graduated in a
building under the spell.
that the sand, abundant
downs flows at the
breaks forth; that
their complaints to
his depression prove
infectious; it is that
coming partly they are
put to great trouble
owing to the want of
good water to drink.
Pray for the inter-
ference of Govt.

100
69-4-21
256

S.

The Honorable P. S. Ellis Esq. B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Respected Sir,

We the undersigned Inhabitants of Tri-
plicane residing near the Chempak Palace, beg leave to submit
the following grievances, to the notice and favorable consideration
of Government.

That from time immemorial, and also
since the Chempak Palace, became the property of Government;
the water of the Wells, situated in the garden of the said Palace,
has been and is used by the inhabitants, living in the nei-
-rity of the place; but ^{since} six or seven days, they have been inter-
-rupted by the unlawful interference of one of the Students
of the ~~British~~ Engineering College, quartered in the buildings
adjoining one of the Wells, to which people frequent for drawing
water; by putting stones at them, and thereby breaking their
Pots, and upon one of us, representing the Case to his imme-
-diate Superior Officer, a Sergeant Major, he refused to listen
to his complaint; by treating him in a most unbecoming
manner.

Seeing that our grievances were unattended to,
by him, we then brought it to the notice of Captain Edgcote,
~~the~~ Principal of the Engineering College, begging him to enquire
as to the Students using violence to persons (most of whom
were females) going there to draw water from the Well in
question; and in disallowing them the use of water - the
Principal to our great astonishment and regret, refused
granting our request, on the ground that people who frequent
the Well, commit nuisance in the Catherine, situated near it;
and when some of us endeavoured to explain the matter, that,

[illegible]

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th April 1869.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 218. TO THE HONORABLE R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,

Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

RESPECTED SIR,

We, the undersigned, inhabitants of Triplicane residing near the Chepauk Palace, beg leave to submit the following grievances to the notice and favorable consideration of Government :—

2. That from time immemorial, and also since the Chepauk Palace became the property of Government, the water of the wells, situated in the garden of the said Palace, has been and is used by the inhabitants living in the vicinity of the place ; but since six or seven days, they have been interrupted by the unlawful interference of one of the students of the Civil Engineering College, quartered in the buildings, adjoining one of the wells, to which people frequent for drawing water, by pelting stones at them, and thereby breaking their pots, and upon one of us representing the case to his immediate superior officer, a Serjeant Major, he refused to listen to his complaint by treating him in a most unbecoming manner.

3. Seeing that our grievances were unattended to by him, we then brought it to the notice of Captain Edgecome, the Principal of the Engineering College, begging him to inquire as to the student's using violence to persons (most of whom were females) going there to draw water from the well in question ; and in disallowing them the use of water ; the Principal to our great astonishment and regret refused granting our request, on the ground that people who frequent the well commit nuisance in the latrine situated near it, and when some of us endeavoured to explain the matter, that no native would dare to enter latrines used by Europeans, the Principal stopped our speaking by the following expressions, " Hold your jaw," and that " I will cut the infernal natives from drawing water from the well ;" or words to that effect.

4. As our appeal has been so contemptuously treated by the said gentleman, and as this is the only well, the water of which can be drunk by the inhabitants in the vicinity of the place ; and the other wells, the water of some of which that was drinkable are almost dried up, and of some of which is not fit for drink, and as Government are liberal in sanctioning wells, to be sunk for the benefit of the public at Madras and in Mofussil at the expense of the State, we have no other alternative than that of appealing to your compassionate and benevolent mind, and praying that you will be graciously pleased to submit this our grievances to the favorable consideration of Government, and grant us permission, under the above circumstance, to draw water from the well in question.

5. If you will be good enough to direct any police officer to see if nuisance is committed by water-drawing people in the latrines close to this well, as expressed by Captain Edgecome, you will come to know the truth or otherwise of the same.

6. In conclusion we beg to state that the water of the wells similarly situated in Black Town, near the Ordnance lines, is used freely by the inhabitants of that place ; and in granting this our prayer we shall esteem it a blessing conferred upon poor and helpless subjects of your Government.

(Signed) JEY KISHEN, and others.

3X

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th April 1869.*

No. 950.

Referred to the Principal of the Engineering College for early report.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
15th April 1869.

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

No. 219. From Captain W. H. EDGCOMBE, R. E., Principal of the Civil Engineering College, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Chepauk, 17th April 1869, No. 32.

As requested in your No. 950, dated 15th instant, I have the honor to report on the subject contained in the petition of Jey Kishen and other inhabitants of Triplicane.

2. The petitioners state in the 2nd paragraph of their appeal that the well in question has been used by them and their forefathers from time immemorial; this is not true, for before the recent erection of the quarters for the married military students of this College, this well was in ruins, and unused, and it is only since the construction of these quarters, and the consequent cleansing and repair of the well for the use of the European Military students, that the petitioners have come to it for water.

3. Had the petitioners, however, used the water of the well for drinking purposes only, there would not, in all probability, have been any interference with them; but when they come daily in great numbers and bathed at the well, thus converting the ground surrounding it into a perfect swamp, and otherwise creating a nuisance, it was high time to interfere.

4. The fact of a number of nude and dirty natives washing themselves close to quarters occupied by European women, who could hardly avoid witnessing the operation, would, on the score of decency alone, have justified the interference of the military students; but when to this is added the fact that the water after such ablution percolated through the porous soil back again into the well, then to be used as drinking water by European soldiers and their families, I think that the prohibition of the practice was not only justifiable, but urgently demanded.

5. Moreover, as their Commanding Officer, I hold these soldiers responsible for the condition of the quarters and out-buildings: had they not, therefore, interfered to prevent the pollution of the well, and the filthy bedaubing of the walls of the out-buildings, they would have been guilty of disobedience of orders: a grave military offence.

6. The real facts of the case are these: after witnessing the dirty practices of these natives, one of the military students ordered them away from the well, but he avows most firmly that he did not break a single pot belonging to them. This was on the 8th instant; on the evening of that day one of the petitioners, by name Vencatapasath, (and apparently the ringleader,) reported the matter to the Serjeant Major attached to the College, who at once sent for the military student in question to investigate the case, but during the investigation Vencatapasath was so insolent that he had to be ordered away.

7. The next morning early he came to my quarters to report the matter, and promised to look into it. This I accordingly did, and inspected the well in question the following morning, and found it and the walls of the out-buildings in a filthy state.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th April 1869.*

8. While thus engaged the said Vencatapasath at the head of a large mob approached me. His bearing and tone were by no means respectful, and when he became clamorous I was obliged to silence him; but I am not aware that I made use of the elegant and forcible language quoted by petitioners in paragraph 3 of their appeal. I do, however, distinctly remember saying, that, in consequence of the nuisance created by the natives who frequented the well, I should apply to have it enclosed, and this I did on that very day.

9. That certain natives did make use of the latrines and urinals there is no doubt whatever, as my Serjeant Major has, on more than one occasion, turned them out of these buildings; but whether they are included in the list of the petitioners, I am unable to say.

10. Besides the well in dispute there are four other very excellent wells in the immediate neighbourhood at which hundreds of people draw water daily, and in addition to these are two others which require only slight cleansing to be rendered fit for drinking; there is, therefore, no possible reason why the particular well, attached to the new family quarters, should be resorted to by the petitioners, as I have shown, first, that before the quarters were built they did not obtain water from it; and, secondly, that there are six other suitable wells in close proximity.

11. The petitioners' appeal is herewith returned.

No. 229. ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1869, No. 536.

The petitioners complain that the students of the Engineering College have prevented them drawing water from a well opposite the married quarters, which well, they state, has, from time immemorial, been public. The Principal of the College defends the interference on the part of the students on the ground that the well was disused until put in order when the quarters were built, at which time the well was repaired; that the people resorting to the well made it a nuisance by washing at it; and that the washings percolated back into the well.

2. The Government think it undesirable, at such a season of drought as the present, to prevent the public drawing water at this well, but they should be prevented using the well for washing purposes.

3. The Principal will be instructed to see that the students do not interfere with the people, principally women, frequenting the well.

4. The presence of a peon, or, if necessary, a Police Constable, who will be furnished by the Commissioner of Police, will very soon prevent the habit of washing at the well.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Principal of the Civil Engineering College.

„ Commissioner of Police.

„ Director of Public Instruction.

„ Public Works Department.

To Petitioners.

Ed. J. Wright.

Out. of 1869) *Wm. Adams.*

PUBLIC.

To

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE
CIVIL ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

Esq., Esq. Esq.

Dated April, 26th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 26th April 1869, No. 536.

APRIL.

Nos. 218—220.

Passing orders regarding the use by the public
of a well near the Civil Engineering College.

N^o 32
M. D.

Civil Engineering College
Chepauk 17th April 1869

From

Captain W. H. Edgcome R. E.
Principal Civil Engineering College

To

Honorable R. S. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government

Sir

Fort Saint George

As requested in your N^o 950 dated 16th Instant, I have the honor to report on the subject contained in the petition of Jeykisthen and other inhabitants of Triplicane. 2. The Petitioners state in 2nd Para of their appeal — that the well in question has been used by them and their forefathers from time immemorial; this is not true for before the recent erection of the quarters for the married Military students of this College, this well was ruins and unused, and it is only since the construction of those quarters and the consequent cleansing and repair of the well for the use of the European Military students, that the Petitioners have come to it for water.

3. Had the Petitioners however used the water of the well for drinking purposes only, there would not in all probability have been any interference with them, but when they came daily in great numbers and bathed at the well, thus converting the ground surrounding it into a perfect swamp, and otherwise creating a nuisance, it was high time to interfere.

4. The fact of a number of nude and dirty natives washing themselves close to quarters occupied by European women, who could hardly avoid witnessing the

the ~~operation~~, would on the score of decency alone, have justified the interference of the Military Students, but when to this is added the fact, that the water after such ablution percolated through the porous soil back again into the well, then to be used as drinking water by European Soldiers and their families, I think that the prohibition of the practice was not only justifiable but urgently demanded.

5. Moreover as their Commanding Officer I hold these soldiers responsible for the condition of the quarters and out-buildings; had they not therefore interfered to prevent the pollution of the well, and the filthy ~~condition~~ ^{disturbing} of the walls of the out-buildings they would have been guilty of disobedience of orders, a grave Military offence.

6. The real facts of the case are these: After ~~in~~ ^{witnessing} the dirty practices of these natives, one of the Military Students ordered them away from the well, but he avows most firmly that he did not break a single pot belonging to them. This was on the 8th Instant; On the evening of that day ~~one~~ ^{one} of the Petitioners by name ~~Venkata~~ ^{Venkata} ~~Prasath~~ ^{Prasath} (and apparently the very leader of the party) reported the matter to the Surgeant Major attached to the College who at once sent for the Military Student in question to investigate the case, but during the investigation Venkataprasath was so insolent that he had to be ordered away.

7. The next morning early he came to my quarters to report the matter and I promised to look into it. This I accordingly did and inspected the well in question ~~next~~ ^{the following} morning and found it and the walls of the out-buildings in a filthy state.

8. While thus engaged, the said Venkataprasath at the head of a large mob approached me. His bearing and tone were by no means respectful and when he became clamorous I was obliged to silence him, but I am not aware that I made use of the elegant and forcible language quoted by Petitioners in Para 3 of their appeal. I do however distinctly remember saying that in consequence of the nuisance created by the natives who frequented the well, I should apply to have it enclosed and this I did on that very day.

9. That certain natives did make use of the Latrines and Urinals, there is no doubt whatever, as my Surgeant Major has on more than one occasion turned them out of these buildings, but whether they are included in the list of the Petitioners I am unable to say.

10. Besides the well in dispute there are 4 or 5 other very excellent wells in the immediate neighbourhood at which hundreds of people draw water daily, and in addition to these are 2 others which require only slight cleansing to be rendered fit for drinking; there is therefore no possible reason why the particular well attacked

to the New Family quarters should be resorted

but in order when the
quarters were built,
^{at the time the well was}
~~the quarters~~ repaired,
that the people resorting
to the well made it
a nuisance by washing
^{it} ~~at the well~~ and that
the washings percolated
back into the well.

Carlisle Edgcombe's
Explanation is not
very satisfactory &
I submit that he

should be told that
this is, I think it un-
-desirable at such a
season of drought as
the present, to prevent
the public drawing
^{at this well}
water, but ~~that~~ they
should be prevented
using the well for
washing purposes
The Principal should
be told to see that
the students do not

to the new family quarters should be resorted

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter papers.

Petition from few Kachan &
other inhabitants of
Tirupur.

13th April/69.

Report of the Principal of
the Civil Engineering College - 17 - - - 32.

Order thereon No 536. 26 April/69.

The petitioners com-
plain that the students
of the Engineering College
have prevented them
drawing water from a
well opposite the married
quarters, which well,
they state, has, from
time

interfered with the people,
principally women,

frequenting the well

The presence of a person

or if necessary a Police

Constable who will be

furnished by the post.

of this will very soon

prevent the habit

of washing at this

well. -

M.L.

Agree

A.A.

W.H.

2. The Government
think it undesirable
at such a season of
drought as the present,
to prevent the public
drawing

3. The Principal will be instructed to see that the students do not interfere with the people, principally women, frequenting the well.

24. The presence of a
person, or, if necessary, a
Police Constable, who
will be furnished by
the Commissioner of
Police, will very soon
prevent the habit of
washing at the well.

Full

To Petitioners
 To the Virg. Milit. Eng. College
 — Commrs of Police. } day 2nd
 Director A. M. G. }
 P. M. G. }

hit off the mark

Bot. of 186 } 200 and 25

Public

^{to}
The Revd. Wm. E. Rogers
1869

July 10 226 1869

Dated April 26. }
Recd. 1869, No. 536

Nos. 218. 220.

Passing orders regarding
the use by the public of
a well near the Civil
Engineering College.