

1. Number of pages 8
2. Date of repair 6-1-37
3. Initials of Referee
M.B.O. 1-39,001-16-11-37

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	682	Press
		Mis.
Dated	20-5-19	1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th May 1869.*

No. 171. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 12th May 1869, No. 615.

In the Proceedings of the Madras Government of the 9th April last, Public Department, on a letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras to your address under date 18th March 1869, No. 797, and Order thereon, No. 456, of the same date, in paragraph 2 it is stated, "The attention of the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, will be called to the remarks contained in the three last para-

I cannot conclude this portion of the report without noting that the condition of the drains in Madras still continues very unsatisfactory. Conservancy generally is decidedly improved, and the public latrines, and rubbish depots, have been so carefully looked after that a great abatement has been effected of the intolerable nuisances formerly occasioned by them. But the drains of Madras were never more offensive than in 1868. The urgent need of an improvement in this respect cannot be too strongly or too frequently reiterated.

graphs on page 7 of the report, relative to the drainage, water supply, and the state of the Cooum river." These paragraphs are marginally quoted.

2. The question of drainage of Madras had my attention at a very early date, and on the 15th of January 1867,

in a Memorandum to the late Board, I said as follows:—

Drainage.—This has always been the grand stumbling-block in the sanitary condition of Madras. I trust though that better days are in store, and that if we get the very comprehensive scheme of Captain Tulloch, and that of Mr. Fraser for supplying water into operation, we shall no longer be looked upon as the benighted Presidency, but may set a good example in these respects to our sister ones.

3. Two years and four months have elapsed since this was written, and we are no further advanced towards a better system of drainage, I regret to say, than we were then, and Captain Tulloch, who was sent home on purpose to study the different systems both in England and the Continent, has been for months employed at Bombay giving the Commissioners there the benefit of his advice instead of us, who certainly have a more legitimate claim on his services. In order to meet some of the more pressing evils, in the Budget for 1868 a sum of 17,300 Rupees was asked for drains of which, however, only 10,000 were sanctioned, as there was always the answer ready "let us wait for Captain Tulloch's system; it is no use spending money on drainage which may all be upset under that." Seeing, therefore, the futility of asking for any large sum, I only put 10,000 Rupees in the Budget for 1869, and this was struck out on a resolution of an Honorary Commissioner, "that it be deferred until the receipt of the new drainage scheme." I, however, succeeded, at a subsequent meeting on the 28th January 1869, in getting this small sum sanctioned. It will, therefore, be seen that it is not from want of inclination but from want of means and the being met by the "previous question" of Captain Tulloch's system that I have been able to do little or nothing for the drainage of Madras. My Executive Engineer, Mr. Lee, is now engaged in the preparation of a very interesting report on the subject of the main drain and the doing away with the intolerable nuisance caused to dwellers in the Fort during the north-east monsoon, and to those in Black Town and the neighbourhood during south-east and south-west winds, when the gates are opened near Kelly's column, and I purpose addressing Government shortly on the subject.

4. The main drain has, up to this time, cost in round numbers close on 4,00,000 Rupees, exclusive of what was spent in the last century, of which there is no record; but its completion to the sea had, in 1824, cost 2,11,322 Rupees; there has,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th May 1869.*

therefore, been as much money spent on this main drain as it would, it is to be hoped, give Madras an effective system of drainage, and yet notwithstanding the enormous sums spent, it is the great nuisance of the present day.

5. *Water supply.*—As regards this subject, Government are aware of the measures taken by the Municipality to intro-

The water supply is abominable in quality, and signally deficient in quantity, and the Cooum river is a foul and noisome cesspool.

Under these circumstances the healthiness of Madras during the period under review must be attributed to higher than human influences, but it is no less incumbent upon the authorities to expedite the carrying out of systems of drainage, and water supply, and the improvement of the Cooum. It is our bounden and imperative duty to protect the population from diseases of preventible origin, and not, as we now do, to permit a soil to be prepared for the growth of epidemic disease, seeds of which may be sown on any day.

duce a plentiful supply of water from the Red Hills, and I am in great hopes that before the end of next year we may be in a condition to do away with the long-standing reproach of being dependent on tanks and wells for our water supply with the two most exceptional seasons we have had for a number of years; these

tanks and wells are rapidly failing, and the question of water supply this year, unless we should get, as in June 1868, a heavy fall of rain very shortly, is most serious, for, with scarcity and consequent badness of water, we must expect a sickly season.

6. *Conservancy of Cooum.*—As regards this I need only say that it is not under the Municipality, but the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division. The Cooum river is rightly described, by the Sanitary Commissioner, as a foul and noisome cesspool, and so it must be under the present system of drainage. In a conversation with Mr. Fraser, last Sunday, who was employed in preparing for the second opening of the Ennore bar, he told me he had addressed Government on the subject of taking advantage of present dry state of the Cooum to deepen it, and I shall be glad to hear that Government entertain favourably this proposition.

No. 172.

ORDER THEREON, 20th May 1869, No. 683.

To be recorded.
(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Govt. of 1869 Madras.

Public

Date May 20

Recd.

G. O. 20 May 1869, No. 683

Nos. 171-172.

Recording letter from the
Pres. Madras Municipality
Comm. remarks relative to
the drainage & water supply
of Madras and the state of
the Cooum river.

Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC.

Recd. May, 20th.

Recd.

G. O., 20th May 1869, No. 683.

Nos. 171-172.

Recording letter from the President of Madras
Municipality, communicating remarks relative to
the drainage and water supply of Madras and the
state of the Cooum river.

Pro 9 April 1869 nos 78-79

Public 1869 dept

From
The President of the
Municipal Commⁿ
of Madrid
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 12th May 1869
Recd 14th May 1869
No 615

Ref J. 24
Submitting explanation
called for in para 2 of
G. O. No 456 of the 9th
April 1869 Public Deptⁿ
relating to the drainage
water supply and the state
of the Coorn river
No 683. 20 May 1869.

Recorded

M. R. R. S. Mis

C. H. May
1820

191 472