

1. No. of ...
2. Date ...
3. Initials ...
M.R.O. 1-20,000-10-10-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	77	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	20 - 1 -	19/869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 95. Read the following letter from the Reverend J. F. KEARNS, Missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Pudiamputtur, 7th January 1869.

I happened to see lately a copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, 3rd November 1868, in which the village in which I reside (Pudiamputtur) is returned as "exempt" from cholera, "cause unknown." I venture to make a few observations with reference to the foregoing, which may, perhaps, be not unacceptable to Government.

2. When I took up my residence here, in 1856, as a Missionary, there were few villages in this Taluq which suffered more from cholera and fever than Pudiamputtur. The village presented an appearance of desolation, and wretchedness, such as I had never seen in the south of Tinnevely, where I had previously been. There was scarce a tree to be seen, and in the large Mission compound, on the western side of the village, there was but a solitary tree standing. The village contains several wells, all with excellent water; but at the time of my arrival, the two principal wells were surrounded each by an extensive pool of stagnant water formed by the waste from drawing, and continually percolating through the earth into the well. From these pools, there extended right through the principal street, a long filthy channel containing any excess that escaped from the pools, and the effluvia arising from them was so great, that, riding by them at early morn, I have been obliged to put my handkerchief to my mouth. The yards of the Natives' houses were all in a most disgusting state, and I was not astonished that the number of people who that year succumbed to the attacks of cholera was fearfully large. I placed myself in communication with the Collector, and explained my views and wishes to him, and he most cordially agreed with me, and sent orders to the Tahsildar to assist me, as far as possible, in my endeavours to improve the place. Accordingly with this aid, I had every well walled up, the two filthy channels cleaned, one deepened and extended so as to carry the water beyond the village, and the other diverted into a field, the owner of which at first stoutly resisted us, but he has since discovered, as I told him at the time he would, that the channel has been a source of wealth to him. The pools we filled up altogether, raising the earth round the wells sufficiently high to throw the water off; and we had removed from the yards every particle of manure which they contained, and the practice since has been to remove all manure from the yards, a clear month before the monsoon sets in. I next commenced to plant trees; and a village which was once remarkable for the absence of trees, is now as remarkable for the rich luxuriant trees which surround it, and the benefits of which, the people acknowledge and appreciate. There are at present standing in the streets, on the road surrounding the village, and in the Mission compound, altogether 700 trees, all of them valuable, the greater number being margosa, and all planted by myself. I make it a practice to have the streets thoroughly cleaned at stated periods, but I never permit filth to remain for an instant in the public streets. In addition to all this, I have endeavoured to impress upon the minds of the people the great value of sanitary precautions, and I am happy to say that I have been successful to some extent. Perhaps to these improvements, under a merciful Providence, the immunity referred to in the Proceedings of Government is

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

due; and here I would record the ready help which I have always received from the Collector for the time being, to keep the village in a clean and healthy state; I would also mention the hearty co-operation of our intelligent Village Moonsiff.

3. The value of trees in a village, and how their presence ministers to the health of the inhabitants, are well-known; but in North Tinnevely, where they are far more needed than in the South, owing to the extensive tracts of black cotton soil from which the heat radiates with great intensity, very few streets enjoy the grateful shade which may be experienced in almost every village in the South; and this is entirely due to the fact, that the Zemindars claim *every tree* upon their estates, no matter by whom planted, and no matter where; and this deters the people from planting their streets, as otherwise in the great majority of cases, they would do, and so add to their comfort, if not to their health. If not incompatible with the practice of Government, I would feel thankful for a copy of the Proceedings referred to.

4. Trusting you will excuse the length of this communication, I have, &c.

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, 20th January 1869, No. 77.

His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council has perused, with much interest, Mr. Kearns' account of his successful labors for the sanitary improvement of the village of Pudiamputtur. He has much pleasure in directing the transmission to Mr. Kearns of copies of the

Pros. of Govt., 16th Oct. 1866, Nos. 132 & 133.
Do. do. 27th Feb. 1867, „ 132 & 133.
Do. do. 3rd Nov. 1868, „ 1—3.

Proceedings of Government marginally noted.

2. The Board of Revenue will report on the statement, at the end of Mr. Kearns' letter, as to the claim preferred by Zemindars to all trees upon their estates, "no matter by whom planted."

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Reverend J. F. Kearns.

„ Board of Revenue.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Inspector General Indian Medical Department.

„ Editors' Table.

Rudiamputtur

Ottapadaram

Timnevelly

To

R. S. Ellis Esqre

Chief Secretary

Sir

I happened to see lately a copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Department 3. Nov. 1868, in which the village in which I reside, (Rudiamputtur) is returned as "exempt" from Cholera "cause unknown". I venture to make a few observations with reference to the foregoing, which may perhaps be not unacceptable to Government.

When I took up my residence here in 1856, as a Missionary, there were few villages in this Taluk which suffered more from Cholera and Fever than Rudiamputtur. The village presented an appearance of desolation and wretchedness such as I had never seen in the South of Timnevelly where I had previously been. There was scarce a tree to be seen, and in the large Mission Compound on the western side of the village, there was but a solitary tree standing. The village contains several wells, all with excellent water; but at the time of my arrival, the two principal wells were surrounded each by an extensive pool of stagnant water formed by the waste from drawing, and continually percolating through the earth into the well. From these pools, there extended right through the principal street, a long filthy channel containing any excess that escaped from the pools, and the effluvia arising from them was so great, that riding by them at early morn, I have been obliged to put my handkerchief to my mouth. The yards of the Natives' houses were all in a most disgusting state, and I was not astonished that the number of people who that year succumbed to the attacks of Cholera was fearfully large.

Genl. of 1869 Minutes.

PUBLIC.

To

THE REVEREND J. F. KEARNS, S. D. G.
Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated January, 20th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 20th January 1869, No. 77.

JANUARY.
Nos. 95-96.

Passing orders on the Reverend Mr. Kearns' account of the measures adopted by him for improving the sanitary condition of the village of Puttampattur in the Tinnevely District.

I placed myself in communication with the collector and explained my views and wishes to him, and he most cordially agreed with me, and sent orders to the Thasildar to assist me as far as possible in my endeavours to improve the place. Accordingly with this aid, I had every well walled up, the two filthy channels cleaned, one deepened and extended so as to carry the water beyond the village, and the other diverted into a field, the owner of which at first stoutly resisted us, but he has since discovered, as I told him at the time he would, that the channel has been a source of wealth to him. The pools we filled up altogether, raising the earth round the wells sufficiently high to throw the water off: and we had removed from the yards every particle of manure which they contained, and the practice since has been to remove all manure from the yards, a clear month before the monsoon sets in. I next commenced to plant trees; and a village which was once remarkable for the absence of trees, is now as remarkable for the rich luxuriant trees which surround it, and the benefits of which the people acknowledge and appreciate. There are at present standing in the streets, on the road surrounding the village, and in the Mission Compound, altogether 700 trees, all of them valuable, the greater number being Margosa, and all planted by myself. I make it a practice to have the streets thoroughly cleaned at stated periods, but I never permit filth to remain for an instant in the public streets. In addition to all this, I have endeavoured to impress upon the minds of the people the great value of sanitary precautions, and I am happy to say that I have been successful to some extent. Perhaps to these improvements under a Merciful Providence, the immunity referred to in the Proceedings of Government is due; and here I would record the ready help which I have always received from the collector for the time being,

to keep the village in a clean and healthy state; I would also mention the hearty co-operation of our intelligent Village Munsiff.

The value of trees in a Village and how their presence ministers to the health of the inhabitants are well known: but in North Serinvelly where they are far more needed than in the South, owing to the extensive tracts of black cotton soil from which the heat radiates with great intensity, very few streets enjoy the grateful shade which may be experienced in almost every village in the South; and this is entirely due to the fact that the Zemindars claim ~~every tree~~ upon their estates, no matter by whom planted, and no matter where, and this deters the people from planting their streets, as otherwise in the great majority of cases they would do, and so add to their comfort if not to their health. If not incompatible with the practice of Government I would feel thankful for a copy of the Proceedings referred to.

Trusting you will excuse the length of this communication

I have the Honor
to be, Sir

Your Obedt^t servant

James F. Neaves
Missionary S. P. G.

7 January 1869

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the

Rev. J. F. Hearn, Missionary S. P. C. Madras
Tamil.

Received 7 Jan 1869.

Order thereon 20 Jan 1869

His Excellency the
Right Honourable the Governor
in Council has perused
with much interest Mr.
Hearn's account of his
successful labours for
the sanitary improve-
ment of the village of
Pudiamputhur. He has
much pleasure in
directing the transmission
to Mr. Hearn of copies
of the Proceedings of Govt
marginally notes.

R.
W. H.

H. J.

Pro. 16th Oct. 1868. No. 132. 133.
27 Feb 1869 - 152. 153
3 Mar 1869 - 1 - 3.

No 3 Hearn 1868/1869 103-

Public 1869 103

From 20 Jan 1869

Rev. J. F. Hearn.

S. P. C.

Madras

27 Jan 1869

No 49

From a person under
examining the village of
Pudiamputhur in
village situated at
said, viz. 20 & 21 No 3.

From 1868, & the copy of
from the 1868/1869.

2. The Board of
Revenue will report on
the statement at the end
of Mr. Vearns' letter as
to the claim preferred
by Zemindars to all
trees upon their estates
'no matter by whom
planted.'

To the Hon^{ble} J. F. Vearns
Board of Revenue
Sanitary Comm.
High Sec^y of Medical Dept
Editor's Table

Bot. of 1869, *Guadua*.
Pelle.

To
Messrs. F. T. Newman & Co. S. P. S.
per.

Dated 20th Aug 1869
Recd.

G. O. S. 1869, No. 773

Nos. 95898

Paying order on the New York
Holland & Co. of the same name,
as per the bill of exchange
the same being a bill of the
order of the same in the
Tinsworth & Co. Ltd.