

1. Number of pages. 6  
2. Date of repair. 2.4.37  
3. Initials of Reference. 7/

M.B.O. 1-89,000-18-10-20.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 1244  | Press |
|          |       | Mis.  |
| Dated    | 7-10- | 1870  |
|          |       | 19-   |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Q*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,*

*7th October 1870.*

No. 18. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Negapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vallam, 12th September 1870, No. 137:—

With reference to the remarks of Government in paragraph 11 of G. O., dated 30th July 1869, No. 1065, directing me to express my opinion on the condition of the tanks in Negapatam, and on the expediency of arranging for their transfer to the Municipality, I have the honour to report as follows:—

2. On receipt of the Government Order, I addressed Mr. Hathaway, who was then Vice-President, on the subject; but as he, in his reply, (a copy of which is herewith enclosed,) dealt very much in generalities, and thought that little or nothing could be done, I waited till he had left the country on furlough, and then brought the subject again to the notice of Mr. Stokes, whose report I herewith forward.

3. Mr. Stokes does not think that the Pagoda tanks can be transferred to the Municipality, in which I agree with him, and proposes instead to get from Europe a portable centrifugal pump by Messrs. Gwynne and Co., calculated to raise 1,500 gallons per minute to a height of twenty feet. By this pump the water in the tanks can be emptied, and the tanks then easily cleaned. The advantages of employing this machine are clearly pointed out by Mr. Stokes. The price of the machinery, together with the cost of carriage, amounts to Rupees 5,000, which is rather less than what the expenditure would amount to were the tanks only once cleaned according to the ordinary method, since the clearing out of one tank alone by the Municipality has cost Rupees 500, and there are, at least, ten more such tanks which need improvement. The cost of working the machine, in respect to each tank, would amount to only a small sum; and this will, I imagine, be easily recovered from the Pagoda Trustees. This scheme thus obviates all necessity for a large annual outlay.

4. Bathing, of course, will have to be still allowed in the Pagoda tanks; but whenever the water gets dirty, the trustees will be called upon to clean them, with the aid of the pump.

5. Moreover, as Mr. Stokes observes, should the machinery at any time get out of order, it can easily be repaired in the Negapatam Railway Workshop.

6. The Commissioners propose to provide funds for this project out of the unexpended balance of last year remaining in their hands, and as, I think, it is a good one, and likely to succeed, I beg to request the early sanction of Government for the same.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1870, No. 1244.

The Government sanction the proposed purchase, by the Municipality of Negapatam, of a centrifugal pump and steam engine for the purpose of clearing out the tanks in the town. It is expected that Rupees 5,000 will cover all charges; but the Government think that the Vice-President has over-estimated the charge for freight, &c., at £150.

(True Extract.)

*Chief Secretary.*

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Negapatam, with two sketches returned.

Exd. J. Wright.

Municipal Commissioners' Office  
N. 341. Negapatam 6<sup>th</sup> October 1869

To,  
The President  
of the Municipal  
Commissioners, Tanjore  
District

Sir,  
In answer to your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo I have the honor to state that a letter was sent by the Municipal Commissioners some time ago to the Pagoda Committee requesting that they would look into the accounts of the Pagodas to which their tanks are attached and let us know whether it was really the case that they were unable to afford expenditure upon them. I thought it advisable to correspond with the Pagoda Committee only, and not with the officials of each temple, etc.

Obdt. of 1870 Madras

PUBLIC.

To  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,  
Negapatam.

Dated October, 7th.

Recd.

Ind.

G. O., 7th October 1870, No. 1244.

OCTOBER,  
Nos. 18-19.

Sanctioning the proposed purchase, by the Negapatam Municipality, of a centrifugal pump and steam engine for the purpose of clearing out the tanks in the town.

are merely their subordinates  
and have to carry out their orders.  
The Committee has been appointed  
by Government for the supervision  
and Control of the various  
temple officials, and I therefore  
thought it best not to treat with  
any but them, both as a matter  
of Courtesy and by way of recognizing  
and upholding their  
authority. They now reply that  
they have gone into the accounts  
and find that it is quite true  
that the Pagoda funds are in a  
very depressed state, and altogether  
unable to make any large expenditure  
on the tanks.

2. With regard however to the  
whole question of a water supply <sup>for which I</sup> <sup>enclose a rough</sup>  
for the town, it must be borne <sup>Sketch Map</sup>  
in

in mind that the work on the  
Tamarai Kalam has now been  
completed, so that the chief requirement  
viz a large reservoir of  
pure drinking water for the town  
has now been provided. It was  
taken in hand at the beginning  
of this year by the Municipality  
and the sum of Rs 1752-8-0  
has been spent in deepening and  
improving it. It is supplied with  
water direct from the river channels,  
and thus fresh water to  
any amount can be poured into  
it for 5 months in the year.  
You did not see this when you  
were here, as the work was not  
quite finished then, but it  
has now been done, and we  
have

very much in generalities and thought that little or nothing could be done. I waited till he had left the country on furlough, and then brought the subject again to the notice of Mr. Stokes, whose report I herewith forward.

Mr. Stokes does not think that the Pagoda Tanks can be transferred to the Municipality, in which I agree with him, and proposes instead to get from Europe a portable centrifugal pump by Messrs. Gwynne & Co. calculated to raise 1500 gallons per minute to a height of 20 feet. By this pump the water in the Tanks can be emptied and the tanks then easily cleaned. The advantages of employing this machine are clearly pointed out by Mr. Stokes.

The

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water reservoir and now forms an excellent bathing place for the whole town. At the same time it also is commanded by a good river channel so as to be completely filled with clean water each year when the freshes come down; and the whole body of water in it is so large that it remains tolerably clean throughout the year.

As to the pagoda tanks they are small square brick tanks that have been used from time immemorial by the brahmins and higher castes for bathing. It is said that the people themselves do not care to drink the water: pots full constantly may sometimes be seen being taken away, but this is said to be merely for household purposes and not for drinking. This being the

have a fine sheet of excellent water free for the whole town. It is not private property in any way, so that the Municipal Commissioners have complete power over it, and it is reserved strictly as a drinking water reservoir, all bathing and washing in it having been stopped.

3. Just outside the town again on the west there is a large tank called Kharai Kolam which also belongs to the public. It is true that this is not kept for drinking purposes, but bathing and washing clothes still go on in it. I do not think however that this can be stopped: it is far too large a tank ever to clean out and keep clean as a drinking water.

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Vallam 12<sup>th</sup> September 1870 31

From C. L. Morris Esq  
President, Municipal Commission  
Negapatam

To The Honorable D. S. Ellis Esq  
Chief Secretary to Government  
Madras  
Cotacamund

Sir. With reference to the circular of Government in para 11 of G.O. dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 1869 No. 1065, directing me to express my opinion on the condition of the tanks in Negapatam, and on the expediency of arranging for their transfer to the Municipality, I have the honour to report as follows—

2 On receipt of the Government order, I addressed Mr. Hathaway who was then Vice President, on the subject; but as he in his reply, a copy of which is herewith enclosed deals

the case, there is not any very urgent necessity for doing much with them. The chief and first thing was to supply good drinking water, and this has now to a great extent been done. One might think that the brahmins would also like a clean place to bathe in, such as the Atikarai Kolam; but of course if they prefer a small dirty pagoda tank like the Pundarige Kolam, I do not see that we can prevent them. They believe in a certain sanctity in the water from the image of the god being dipped in it yearly, and therefore they like to go on bathing and washing their clothes there: and the Pagoda Committee say that even if the Municipality did clean it

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it out perfectly for them, yet if any one were prosecuted for dirtying it again by bathing there and they were cited as witnesses for the defence, they would say that they had authorized and permitted the act, which of course would prevent a conviction. Under such circumstances it is plain that cleaning it out, either from our funds or those of the Pagoda, would be merely throwing money away, as there would be no way to secure its being kept clean afterwards. ~~nothing~~ therefore can be effected unless we go to the length of actually taking away the tank from the Pagoda, making it public property, and preserving it

it strictly for drinking. Nothing less than this is worth doing, for it would be no use cleaning it out, and then letting persons bathe and wash clothes there a week afterwards to make it as dirty as before; for the Pagoda Committee now state plainly that they intend to authorize persons to bathe there as long as it is their property... As for the extreme course of absolutely taking it away from them and making it a reserved reservoir for drinking water, I do not see that this is actually necessary. We already have a far better reservoir in the Tamarai Kolam, which with the Akkarai Kolam and good wells at Velipalayam and the

the south of the town, is almost enough for the present, so far as urgent necessity goes. We are now going to put down a Boston Tube Well by way of supplementing the aggregate supply, and if it is successful perhaps one or two more afterwards, as they cost nothing in comparison with the hundreds of rupees required for cleaning one of these square brick tanks.

5 The reason why a commu-  
=ment was made on the Pagoda tank  
Pundarige Kolam is, that it is the  
first of a series of pagoda tanks  
that are fed from the river Chan-  
=nel. The water flows into it,  
and then there is an outlet at  
the opposite side which feeds the  
the

other Pagoda tanks. The water  
in this first tank had become  
so very bad that it was deter-  
mined to try and empty it, so  
that there might be a clean  
supply when the fresher comes,  
uncontaminated with the old  
water. Five hundred Rupees were  
spent in emptying out the old  
water; and therefore though we  
may not take possession of this  
Pagoda tank, and turn it into  
an actual drinking water reservoir,  
yet the removing this exceedingly  
dirty water was something,  
and the money not therefore  
thrown away. I may explain  
that you saw the tank at  
its worst. Not just when the work  
of

of clearing out these dregs was  
going on, and it is not generally  
of such a very brilliant green as  
that. The fresh water which other-  
wise would have come in by that  
time had purposely been excluded,  
and therefore now that it has been  
allowed to flow in, and the old  
water to a great extent removed,  
it is in far better order. This therefore  
seems all that need be done imme-  
diately, as I do not think that it  
is necessary to convert it into a  
drinking water reservoir, now that  
we have got the Samarai Kolam,  
and on the whole therefore I am  
disposed to leave it a Pagoda bathing  
tank for the present. The more  
tanks we allow for this, the <sup>more</sup> funds  
we shall have for preserving the

few sources that we keep for drinking water only.

6. At the same time it would of course be advantageous if the Pagoda Committee could be induced to repay what has been spent by the Municipality (or part of it) I think that they might be inclined to do this, but are doubtful whether they have the power. There is a general impression that they cannot sell or alienate pagoda property, but are bound to retain it whatever the circumstances. Regulation 7 of 1817 which prescribed the duties of the Board of Revenue, to a certain extent favours the impression; for Section 3 declared that it

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it was their duty to ensure that all endowments are duly appropriate to the purpose for which they were destined," and the Pagoda Committee (who, although Regulation 7 of 1817 is repealed, are bound by Section 7 Act 20 of 1863 to "perform all the duties imposed on the Board" of Revenue) read this as absolutely preventing them from making any conversion or conveyance of property as being an alienation of it from the use for which it was intended. According to this view, the law itself, which declares their duty, forbids them either (1) to give up the tank (2) allow it to be converted from its accustomed use, or even (3) to pay Pagoda money

money towards what has been  
expended on it. It may be said  
that this is a very narrow inter-  
pretation, and that the section  
ought to be read with the usual  
proviso that empowers trustees  
to convert trust property when  
actually for the benefit of the  
trust estate: the only thing is  
that this has never been declared,  
and they naturally are not  
willing to lay themselves open  
to the possibility of an action  
for maladministration and  
waste of the trust property con-  
trary to the directions of the  
law. It might be useful  
as assisting both their own  
work and their relations with  
other parties if the Government

was  
or

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was to express their approval  
of the conversion of pagoda pro-  
perty when actually for the bene-  
fit of the Pagoda, or were even  
to notify their willingness to  
bear them harmless against  
the possibility of an action in  
such cases: as at present the  
point is decidedly obscure, and  
they are not willing to have it  
elucidated at the risk of being  
personally responsible themselves.  
If some such expression of  
opinion were given, it is quite  
possible that the Pagoda Committee  
would in this case be willing to  
raise funds for repaying  
what has been expended in  
cleaning out this Pagoda tank  
and

and I think that if this were done and the stagnant water were periodically emptied out in this way after a certain number of years, it is all that we can expect.

7. As to their reasons for refusing to let the municipality have the tank, it is simply because they know then it would be made clean and kept for drinking purposes only. This is the very thing that they object to: it has always been a bathing place, and they wish it to be kept as a bathing place, and not converted into something totally different, vizt. a reservoir for drinking water. It is much the same as if a gentleman owned a swimming bath, and were told

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told that he was not to use it for that purpose, but was to keep his drinking water in it. It is precisely the same thing here; this is private property, in which the owners allow a few people to bathe. That the municipality should take it and make it a drinking water reservoir is the very thing therefore which they do not want, because they prefer to keep it for its original purpose of bathing and washing clothes in. The only ground on which one could justify the taking it from them and converting it into a drinking water reservoir against their wish, would be the urgent necessity of it for the town owing to the impossibility of obtaining any other drinking water source: but with the

the Samarai Kolam a little more  
than 500 yards off, I cannot affirm  
that this is the case here. This year  
the water had got so very bad that  
as a matter of public charity we  
emptied it out for them, and they  
might be willing to pay for part  
of what was done, if they knew  
that they were at liberty to do so:  
but further than an occasional  
emptying of these bathing places,  
I do not see what we can do. If a  
water system is required for the  
town, the Municipality must take  
steps to provide it: a great deal  
has been done by the Samarai  
Kolam, and if that proves in-  
sufficient, we must devise some-  
thing more, such as a new  
tank, which has been talked  
off

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off, or otherwise: but so long  
as other means can be devised,  
I do not see that we are justi-  
fied in appropriating private  
bathing places: which the owners  
are utterly unwilling to sell them  
simply because they wish to keep  
them to present use.

I have  
(Signed) W. J. Hathaway  
Vice President  
(True copy)

Edw Morris  
President

No 58

Negapatam 10<sup>th</sup> August 1870

From The Vice President  
Municipal Commission  
Negapatam

To The President  
Municipal Commission  
Negapatam

Sir  
With reference to the water supply  
of Negapatam and the state of its  
tanks, on which you requested me  
give you any suggestions I had to  
offer as to their improvement. I have  
now the honor to report that the  
Commission of this Municipality have  
come to a decision, with which I  
concur, that the best thing to do at  
present is to procure a steam pump and  
engine from England, and with it  
to clean out the water of all the tanks

Be a letter

From The President  
Municipal Commission  
Negapatam  
to The Chief Secretary  
to Government  
Madras

Date 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 1870  
Received 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 1870

No 137

Copy of a letter  
from the Vice President  
of Negapatam  
Municipality  
to Mr. A. H. H. H. H.  
to the Chief Secretary  
to Government

in the town once a year -

2 The advantages of this course are obvious. The putrid water could be got rid of at a small cost, and without delay. If found necessary the deposit at the bottom of the tanks could then be removed, or if not removed its exposure to the air would be likely to deprive it of its offensive qualities. The fresh supply of water then introduced would remain moderately pure until another emptying took place next year. This it is hoped will obviate the danger to health believed to result from the noisome exhalations exhaled by the water of the tanks in their present state -

The expense of cleaning a small tank by picottahs is considerable, and

and more than the owners of private tanks can, or than the Commissioners like to call on them to incur. To bale out the water of the Akkarai Kulam, the chief reservoir of the town would cost over Rupees 1000. The Commission cannot lay out the large sums required unless they have some guarantee that the newly introduced water will be kept from contamination. This they cannot have when the tanks belong to private owners. But they expect to be able to pump out the Akkarai Kulam in one day at a cost not exceeding Rupees 50. So small a sum can of course be recovered from the owners of the tank. The cost of baling the Pundariga Kulam

Kulam last year exceeded Rupees 500,  
and there are at least ten such tanks  
in the town—

4 It is believed that the owners  
of small private tanks will themselves  
come forward and hire the pump to  
clean out foul water. If they do not,  
the Commission will not scruple to insist  
on their having the nuisance removed,  
since they can have it done so cheaply—

5 The pump may also be useful  
in raising water to fill the tanks—

6 The course now advocated is preferred  
to that of taking up the tanks under  
the public purposes Act because it will  
be cheaper; more effectual; and less  
likely to excite opposition. I do not think  
for instance that if we were to take  
up

up the Akkaraikulam we should be  
able to prevent the people washing and  
bathing in it. It would cause immense  
inconvenience to numbers. Nor could we  
easily get the Pagoda tanks as they are  
in fact parts of the temple. If we did  
we should still have to permit bathing.  
But with the pump we shall be able  
to insist on the water being kept  
comparatively clean, and yet be able to  
allow bathing. I may add that the native  
commissioners are generally averse to  
taking up temple property—

7 The pump which we propose to get  
is a portable centrifugal pump by  
Messrs Gwynne and Company, London,  
calculated to raise 1500 gallons per  
minute to a height of 20 feet. This is  
priced at £100. The engine to drive it

is one of 10 horse power and will cost £240. It is expected that another £150 will cover carriage and extras, and that we shall be able to land all here for about Rupees 5000. I enclose a sketch taken from Messrs Gwynnes' Circular showing the pump and engine.

8 Should the machinery get out of order it can be repaired at the Railway workshop. No difficulty is anticipated in procuring the services of a native driver to attend to the working of the engine.

9 The cost is to be met out of the savings from last year's income amounting in all to Rupees 8974. The Commissioners hope that you will obtain the sanction of Government to

to the expenditure proposed. It is of importance that it be obtained early that we may be in a position to commence operations next dry weather.

I have been  
Signed 14. J. Stokes  
Vice President.  
(True copy)

E. E. Morris  
President.

The price of the Machinery together with the cost of carriage amounts to Rs Rupees 5000, which is rather less than what the expenditure would amount to were the tanks <sup>only once</sup> cleaned according to the ordinary method, since the clearing out of one tank alone by the Municipality has cost Rupees 500, and there are at least ten more such tanks which need improvement. The cost of working the machine in respect to each tank would amount to only a small sum; and this will, I imagine be easily recovered from the Pagoda Trustees. This scheme thus obviates all necessity for a large annual outlay.

4 Bathing of course will have to

In a letter

from

The President  
Municipal Committee  
Mysore

The Chief Secretary  
to Government  
Mysore

Letter No 1233  
Dated 3 September 1900

No 139

Copy of a letter  
from the President  
of the Mysore  
Municipality

to Mr. A. C. 16.8.1900

to be still allowed in the Pagoda tanks; but whenever the water gets dirty, the trustees will be called upon to clean them, with the aid of the pump.

5 Moreover as Mr Stokes observes, should the machinery at any time get out of order it can easily be repaired in the Negapatam Railway workshop -

6 The Commissioners propose to provide funds for this project out of the unexpended balance of last year remaining in their hands and as I think it is a good one and likely to succeed, I beg to request the early sanction of Government for the same -

I have the honor to be  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> servant

Edw Morris  
President

1890-26  
11-12

Public Report

from The President  
Municipal Committee  
Hepburn

The Chief Secretary  
to Government  
Hepburn  
Oct 12  
Recd 14.3 September 1890

Ag 137  
No 1620 Enclosure 4.  
Requiesc enclosure

for purchasing a pump  
for clearing the lands  
in the Hepburn  
Municipality

1890  
1891

1890. 7 Oct 190.  
The Govt sanction the proposed purchase  
by the Municipality of a site for the  
clearing and the tank in the town. His estimate  
that \$2,500 will cover all charges; but the Govt  
think that the Vice President has overestimated  
the charge for bright at £150.  
H.F.

Mr. W. E. Hepburn  
11-12