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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT

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Dated	18-12-	1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
16th December 1871.*

No. 111. Read the following letter from the Master Attendant, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 16th November 1871, No. 6659 :—

Administrative Department.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, the papers noted in the margin, which I received some weeks ago at Cochin.

Letter from the Master Attendant, Cochin, to the Master Attendant, Madras, dated 18th October 1871, No. 312.
Do. do. the Superintendent of Sea Customs, Cochin, to the Master Attendant, Cochin, dated 27th September 1871.
Do. do. P.P. Volkart Brothers A. Spitteler, Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers, Cochin Civil Dispensary, to the Master Attendant, Cochin, dated 30th September 1871.
Do. do. W. Doyle, Esq., Civil Surgeon, Cochin, to the Master Attendant, Cochin, dated 30th September 1871, No. 64.

2. I was absent from India when the Bonded Warehouse there was handed over to the Department of Public Works to be converted into a hospital, and had, therefore, no opportunity of reporting to Government that it is the worst possible situation for housing patients suffering from infectious diseases.

3. It is in close contiguity to the landing place, and consequently objectionable in every way.

4. The inmates can have no quiet or privacy there, while every person landing from ships in the roadstead or inner harbour must be exposed to infection.

5. Though the building is near the Master Attendant's office, I have nothing to do with it further than, as it is my duty, to appeal to Government in the interests of the Captains and crews who visit the port, and who under the existing arrangements are liable to the infection of small-pox and other diseases.

6. The money now expended will not, however, be lost; on the contrary, it will be well laid out on the repairs of this building, much required as a Bonded Warehouse.

From the Master Attendant, Cochin, to the Master Attendant, Madras, dated Cochin, 18th October 1871, No. 312.

The work of converting the old Bonded Warehouse into a Seamen's Hospital having attracted general attention and very strong objections having been made by all to the project being carried out, I considered it advisable to obtain in writing the opinion of those whose objections appear to deserve consideration. This correspondence I now do myself the honour of submitting to you, with the view that during your stay at Cochin the matter may receive your consideration.

2. The conversion of the Bonded Warehouse into a Seamen's Hospital had been decided on prior to my taking charge of this office. But I respectfully submit that a more unfit situation for an institution of the kind could not possibly have been chosen, the building being close to my wharf, at which all passengers and shipmasters constantly disembark, and near which one or more boats with European crews are frequently lying in attendance for their commanders. Under such circumstances, unless a large establishment could be afforded, but which cannot be expected, it would be next to impossible to prevent liquor finding its way to the patients. The building is, moreover, low; and opening, as it does, on the principal promenade, makes the site altogether objectionable, and, should any contagious disease be admitted, the inconvenience would be the more felt.

3. It is also necessary to point out that this building is much required for the purpose it was originally intended, for we have no other store at hand in case of emergency. The "Bonded Warehouse," as it is called, required the repairs now being executed, so that to whatever purpose it may be finally determined to devote it the money that is now being expended in repairs would be well laid out.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

16th December 1871.

4. I respectfully submit for your consideration paragraph 5 of Dr. Doyle's letter, and beg that his suggestions may be recommended for sanction.

From the Superintendent of Sea Customs, Cochin, to the Master Attendant, Cochin, dated Cochin, 27th September 1871.

In reply to your communication of the 25th instant in regard to the building attached to the Town Custom-house which is being now converted into a Seamen's Hospital, I have the honour to state that at this port the former is the only building we have for stowing uncleared goods on which godown rent is recovered when detained beyond three days.

2. During the monsoon of 1868, with the Collector's permission, your predecessor stowed a lot of timber and slabs in it in such a manner as to injure the wall, as also doors and windows, of the building, so as to render it insecure for the custody of goods. I submitted then an estimate for its repair, and during the time it was thus left vacant it was suddenly taken charge of by the Department of Public Works, on the suggestion of some of the then Municipal Commissioners, I believe, of its being an "unused Bonded Warehouse," whereas its insecure state forbade its being used for the time being.

3. Mr. O. S. Guennapathy landed last year a large consignment of European liquor, which is still kept in bond, and had to rent two private godowns for the purpose. I cite this as a recent case which has come to my recollection to show the usefulness of the building for this Department and the income that would be derived from its existence to Government.

4. I need not add that in case of accident to vessels in passing the bar, which is of occasional occurrence at this port, this is the only building we have for landing and stowing cargo, in order to lighten vessels, as the nearest and most convenient spot with a Government jetty attached to it. So recently as in May last, when the Gunjah *Rahimany*, Tindal Issah, had wrecked in this bar, we were, as you know, forced to stow such of her cargo as were saved in this very building ere the Engineer had commenced operations.

5. If we are deprived of this only building there is no other which can be converted into a warehouse on an emergency, nor is there any suitable ground available for building such a one, as the Muttoncherry Custom-house is not only an old but too small a building for the requirements of this port, and remotely situated from the Town Custom-house, which was built as an auxiliary to it lower down the river.

6. It seems passing strange that when there are many other spots much more convenient for the erection of an hospital, such an exposed place should have been pitched upon to the detriment of the trading community.

From the Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers of the Cochin Civil Dispensary, to the Master Attendant, Cochin, dated Cochin, 30th September 1871.

In reply to your letter dated 28th instant, addressed to Mr. Spitteler, we beg to enclose copy of resolution passed at a meeting of the Committee of the Cochin Civil Dispensary held yesterday in regard to the Sailors' Hospital.

Copy of Resolution passed at a Meeting of the Committee of the Civil Dispensary held at the Municipal Office on Friday, the 29th September 1871.

"As no inconvenience has arisen from the admission of sailors into the Small-pox Hospital since the 4th October 1869, and as the Dispensary would be a loser by the withdrawal of the sailors, the Committee see no objection to continue to admit sailors as heretofore as long as the Small-pox Hospital is not required for its original purpose.

(Signed) A. SPITTELER,
President.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

16th December 1871.

From W. DOYLE, Esq., Civil Surgeon, Cochin, to the Master Attendant, Cochin, dated Cochin, 30th September 1871, No. 64.

In answer to your's of 28th instant I have the honour to inform you that, as the proposed site of the Sailors' Hospital was approved of by Government before I was appointed to Cochin, I am very unwilling to make any objection to it, more especially as, with the exception of the hospital at present in use, I am unable to point out a better. As you have asked me, however, I think the proposed hospital is open to the following objection.

As it seems improbable that Government will sanction a Dresser for the hospital, and even if there is a Dresser there is no house connected with it for him to live in, the men will be free from all control, and a Dresser at a distance cannot give that constant supervision so essential to the well-being of the sick.

2. The proposed hospital is so close to the landing place that the sailors going or returning from the ships are likely to visit their friends in hospital, and this leads directly to drinking on the part of the patients.

3. It is too near the water for intemperate men and for men suffering from delirium tremens.

4. As during some months of the year the hospital will be occasionally without patients and the toty or other servants employed cannot be trusted to remain there at night, I fear the stores may be liable to be stolen.

5. There is such a good hospital—the Small-pox Hospital—available for the sailors at present, that in the absence of small-pox I would be very unwilling to make any change. Should an epidemic of small-pox occur, however, this hospital should revert to its original purpose, and in that case, notwithstanding the objections to which I think the Bonded Warehouse is liable, I do not know of any place immediately available which would be more suited to the purpose of a Sailors' Hospital. There are grounds to hope, however, that small-pox is on the decline in Cochin as no case has been admitted into hospital since 1869. Under those circumstances I think the Small-pox Hospital might still be used for sailors, and after the Bonded Warehouse has been made suitable for an hospital it might continue to be used as a store, provided it could be given up without delay on an emergency should the Small-pox Hospital be required for its original purpose.

No. 112. ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1871, No. 1874.

Under the circumstances represented in the papers above recorded His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to sanction the conversion, permanently, of the Small-pox Hospital attached to the Civil Dispensary at Cochin into a Sailors' Hospital, and directs that, in the event of a small-pox epidemic, bamboo and leaf-sheds, which can be constructed in a very short time at Cochin, be put up for the accommodation of small-pox patients.

2. The orders of Government sanctioning the conversion of the Bonded Warehouse into a Sailors' Hospital will be considered as cancelled.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.
" Public Works Department.
" Collector of Malabar.
" Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Administrative Department.

Madras.

Marine Office.

16th November 1871.

N. 6659.

From

H. D. E. Dalrymple Esq^r

Master Attendant

Administrative Department
Madras.

To

The Honourable R. S. Ellis Esq. B.

Chief Secretary to Government
Marine Department

Fort Saint George.

Sir

I have the honour to forward

for the information of Government, the

Letter from the Master Attendant
Cochin to the Master Attendant
Madras dated 18th October 1871 N. 312.

- D^r - D^r - Superintendent of Sea Customs
Cochin to the Master Attendant Cochin
dated 27th September 1871.

- D^r - D^r - J. P. Volckart Esq. Barrister at Law
Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers
C. C. D. to the Master Attendant Cochin
dated 30th September 1871.

- D^r - D^r - W. Doyle Esq. Civil Surgeon
Cochin to the Master Attendant Cochin
dated 30th September 1871 N. 64.

papers noted in the
margin, which I
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ago at Cochin.

2 I was absent
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the Bonded Warehouse

there was handed over to the Department
Public Works to be converted into a Hos-
pital, and had therefore no opportunity
of reporting to Government that it is
the

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PUBLIC.

To

THE MASTER ATTENDANT,

Madras.

Per

S.

Dated December, 1871.

Per

S.

G. O. 13th December 1871, No. 1874.

RECEIVED

NOV. 21-1871.

Considering the conversion, permanently, of the
Small-pox Hospital attached to the Civil Hospi-
tal at Cochin into a Soldiers' Hospital, and direct-
ing that in the event of a small-pox epidemic
occurring and hospitals be constructed for the
accommodation of small-pox patients.

the worst possible situation for housing patients suffering from infectious diseases.

3. It is in close contiguity to the landing place, and consequently objectionable in every way.

4. The inmates can have no quiet or privacy there - while every person landing from ships in the Roadstead, or inner Harbour, must be exposed to infection.

5. Though the building is near the Master Attendants Office, I have nothing to do with it further than, as it is my duty, to appeal to Government in the interests of the Captains and Crews who visit the Port, and who under the existing arrangements are liable to the infection of small pox and other diseases.

6. The money now expended will not however be lost, on the contrary it will be well laid out on the repairs of this building much required

-quired as a Bonded Warehouse.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant.

H. D. S. Dalrymple

Master Attendant
Administrative Department.

of Small Pox Patients.

2. The Order of Govern-
ment sanctioning the con-
version of the Bonded
Ware-house into a Sailors'
Hospital, will be considered
as cancelled.

PM

To
The Master Attendant
Public Works Department
Collector of Malabar
P.O. Govt. Secy. Public Works

65/12/20

Public Department

Memorandum.

After much corres-
pondence, on the recommendation
of Mr Macgregor, the Collector
of the District, Dr Whittow
the experienced Zillah
Surgeon, the then Master
Attendant and with the
consent of the Master
Attendant Mr Dabrymple?
(after seeing the building ac-
cording to para 2 of Col. Farewell's
letter & Proceedings of Go-
vernment 15th March last)
it was decided to convert an
old Bonded warehouse
at Cochin, declared not
to be required, into a
Sailors' Hospital.

The whole question is
now again raised - the
present Master Attendant
considers

consider the site unsuita-
-ble - as being too near the
wharf and liable to be visit-
-ed by the sick sailors' friends
with liquor and because the
Bonded warehouse may be
required. The dispensary &
Committee are now averse to
the erection of a Sea Men's
hospital for which they
were before anxious say-
-ing that it will cause
loss to the funds of the hos-
pital and advocate re-
-ception of sailors into the
Small Pox hospital attached
to the dispensary. on the chance
that no epidemic of
Small pox will ever breakout.

The present Civil Surgeon
^{Dr. Smith's hospital}
can point out no better spot, but
thinks that, unless a separate
dressing is kept, there may
be difficulty in preventing
liquor getting to sailors.

He

He recommends
the Small pox hospital being
converted into sailors hospital
but only on condition that if
Small Pox should breakout
the present Small Pox hospi-
tal should be vacated by
sailors, and the Bonded ware-
-house suddenly cleared of goods
and made available for sick
sailors. Mr. Dalrymple, who
saw the place in March last
and made no objection, now
writes in exaggerated terms
against the old Bonded ware-
-house on which nearly 1500 Rs.
will have been spent to convert
it into a sailors hospital.

His sanitary objections have, I
submit, no foundation: if sail-
-ors have small pox they will
be moved into the Small Pox
hospital. and, as regards
visits from sailors they can,
from its proximity, as easily
visit the Small Pox hospital

as

as the old Bonded warehouse.

If the Government decide to cancel their orders and convert the Small Pox hospital into a Sailors' hospital, a shed hospital for Small Pox patients must be built and it will be very difficult to find a good site for it. However with respect, contend, that the objections raised are frivolous and that the Government order should be maintained.

If a bonded warehouse belonging to the Government is absolutely required by Government, it ought to be attached to the Custom House - but the Collector has not represented this as required and advocated the conversion of the old Bonded warehouse as being not required and much too far from the Custom House.

I would say that the site was determined on after much consideration & in the circumstances if all concerned - and it is to be run & under my charge - why in such the responsibility is bestowed to provide a new Small Pox Hospital

I tender the present S. P. Hospital ^{permanently} available for the ~~housing of~~ sailors.

L. S.

I would give the Sailors the permanent Small Pox Hospital and in case of a Small Pox epidemic put up Bamboo & leaf sheds for the Small Pox Patients which can be excellently constructed in a very short time as I can testify at

Cochin. -
The Ad Ware house - stated to be needed for the purposing trade and is apparently very unsuitable for these purposes - Hospital.

AP

