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M.E.O. 1-32,400-22-11-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	224	Press
		~~Mis~~
Dated	18-2	18/1

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
18th February 1871.*

No. 73. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th January 1871, No. 416.

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 12th December 1870, No. 403 :—

I have the honour to forward, for the consideration and disposal of the Board, a bill of expenses, incurred by the Acting Superintending Engineer at Dowlaishweram, for disinfecting that station of cholera in the month of July last, when it was so prevalent in this district.

2. Application was made to the Board for permission to incur an expenditure of Rupees 235-14-0, from Local Fund Reserve, for clearing away a quantity of croton jungle which harboured dirt and filth of all sorts, and it was accorded.* The doing of this was entrusted by the Acting Sub-Collector to the Tahsildar of Rajahmundry, who reported he had done so, and sent a particular statement of the cost incurred, amounting to Rupees 471-12-0. The money intended for this purpose was accordingly paid to him to defray expenses.

3. The Board will observe that in his letter, of which I forward copy, the Acting Superintending Engineer "distinctly denies the Tahsildar did anything towards assisting us at the time the cholera was prevailing at this station," while Mr. Horsfall, after perusal of his letter, says, "I have personally inspected the work carried out by the Tahsildar of Rajahmundry in the town of Dowlaishweram, and am satisfied that the money has been fairly and carefully expended. As I inspected the town before the commencement of the work, it is simply impossible that I can be mistaken as to the amount that has been really done."

4. I cannot pretend to decide between two such positive and contradictory statements as the above. I can only say that Mr. Horsfall seems to me the more particular of the two, and that the Superintending Engineer possibly refers to the non-receipt, from the Tahsildar, of any money to defray the principal item of cost, viz., collecting and burning the limestone.

5. It was certainly not, however, for such an item that the outlay was sanctioned by the Board, as a reference to their Proceedings will show. Whether the burning of limestone in a place infected with cholera is usually effectual in stopping its spread, I do not myself know. Major Fischer seems to have found it so. Perhaps the Sanitary Commissioner would be the best authority to decide in this matter. The remedy seems an easily applied one in most cases, and not necessarily a costly one. But Major Fischer is certainly in error in affirming that subscriptions were collected from the people for this purpose. They paid for the purpose stated in Board's Proceedings already quoted. I beg to know, therefore, whether the Board consider it proper that further unauthorized, but apparently beneficial, expenditure by Major Fischer should be paid from the same source.

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From Major J. F. FISCHER, R.E., Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Collector of the Godavery District, dated Dowlaishweram, 21st October 1870, No. 2478.

In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, No. 135, I have the honour to return the bills herewith received, and to again request the subject may be submitted to the Board for disposal.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
18th February 1871.*

I distinctly deny the Tahsildar did anything towards assisting us at the time cholera was prevailing at this station, and his taking the village contributions all to himself without one word of reference to me, though he was perfectly well-aware of the steps I had taken and the expenditure I was incurring, clearly shows he did not feel himself likely to be justified in his proceedings.

2. Both Mr. Horsfall and the Acting Zillah Surgeon visited the station at the time of the cholera prevailing, and the latter entirely approved of the burning of the limestone for which the people subscribed, and not for clearing away a few patches of the croton plant; the great jungle of this near the village was cleared away by Mr. Overseer Harris, under my orders, for less than Rupees 30, and the Tahsildar and his people did nothing here at all, the worst place of any; besides, I have removed thousands of square yards of this croton plant and never incurred anything like the expenditure he alleges it has cost him.

3. When the cholera was first reported to me as prevailing in the village, ten or twelve deaths a day were occurring, and there was a perfect panic in the place; within 24 hours of our commencing to burn the limestone the disease was checked, and only two or three deaths a day occurred, and it never again increased or got head; of course, in a place like Dowlaishweram, having so much intercourse with the district in which cholera was prevailing more or less in almost every village, it was impossible to prevent infected people or means of conveyance coming in, but the progress of the disease was arrested, and ultimately we succeeded in getting rid of it altogether, and for this the people subscribed, and not to pay the Tahsildar so much for his *nonchalance*. I beg to add, for the Board's information, this is by no means the first time the spread of cholera has been arrested by burning limestone in the infected locality.

From J. G. HORSEFALL, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate, to the Magistrate of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry, 5th December 1870, No. 127.

With reference to your letter of the 25th October last, No. 269, I have the honour to state that I have personally inspected the work carried out by the Tahsildar of Rajahmundry in the town of Dowlaishweram, and am satisfied that the money has been fairly and carefully expended. As I inspected the town before the commencement of the work, it is simply impossible that I can be mistaken as to the amount that has been really done. I do not know how Mr. Overseer Harris cleared away a great jungle of the croton plant for less than 30 Rupees; and think there must be some mistake here, as, in many cases, the plants have to be dug up by the roots, and it stands to reason that work of this kind cannot be done for little or nothing. The mere cutting down the trees, no doubt, could have been cheaply effected, but this would have been almost worse than useless.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Bill.

In a letter, dated the 19th July 1870, No. 210, the Collector of the Godavery District reported that he had been asked to provide funds for the prevention of cholera in the village of Dowlaishweram, which was in a filthy and unwholesome condition. He added that Rupees 471-12-0 had been estimated as the cost of removing croton-oil plants, and that the villagers had agreed to pay half that sum. The Board sanctioned a contribution from the Road Fund.

2. It now appears that, while the Road Fund contributions and the subscriptions of the villagers were spent on removing croton-oil plants, the Superintending Engineer spent Rupees 429-10-3 in burning limestone, which he considered a more efficacious measure. He supposed at the time that this sum would have been paid out of the village subscriptions and the Road Fund contribution; but, as has been shown above, they were devoted to a different purpose.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
18th February 1871.*

3. The removal of croton-oil plants was a purpose analogous to that adverted to in Standing Order No. 76-A, and one to which Local Funds could be fairly applied; but the Board do not think this is the case with a temporary prophylactic measure like the burning of limestone during an epidemic.

3. The Board accordingly resolve to submit the bill to Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Secretary.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1871, No. 224.

Sanction is granted for the payment of the Superintending Engineer's bill amounting to Rupees (429-10-3) four hundred and twenty-nine, Annas ten, and Pice three.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue, with the bill.

„ Accountant-General.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Public Works Department

Pros of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 18 February 1878. No. 221.

Read the following No. of the Board of Revenue.

Submg. with remarks, bill amounting to Rs. 429. 10. 3 for charges incurred by Supg. Engr for burning limestone for prevention of Cholera at Bowlaishweram in Godavery District.

H. E. 26 Jan 1878, No. 416

Sanction is granted for the payment of the Superintg. Engineer's bill amounting to Rs. (429. 10. 3) four hundred and twenty nine, annas ten and piece three. from Local Funds.

J. D. But the Public Dept. also pays large charges of this kind.

Secy. of Revenue with the Secy. Accountant General. Secy. of Public Works Department.

L.R.

*RECEIVED
1878
THE BOARD OF REVENUE
GOVT. OF MADRAS
18 FEBRUARY 1878
No. 221.*

Charges incurred by Self
Engl for preservation of the bones
at Bowland Museum in
Lancashire

East of 1871 / 1872

To the Board of Works

£ 18. 12. 6

£ 18. 12. 6 / 1871 & 1872
73. 74

Accounting
the payment of the
Self Engl: etc, for
charges incurred by
him in travelling
Lancashire for the
purpose of the
at Bowland Museum
in the Lancashire Dist.

Howe & Co