

Number of pages 4  
Date of repair 10  
Initials of Reference

M.B.O. 1-82,400-22-21-40

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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |               |
|----------|-------|---------------|
| G.O. No. | 227   | Press<br>Mis. |
| Dated    | 18-2- | 1871          |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 79. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 9th January 1871, No. 1:—

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Order of Government, dated 23rd November, No. 1511, commending the report of the Sanitary Commissioner on the state of the town to the consideration of the Municipal Commissioners, and to inform you that it was laid before them, at a general meeting, when a vote thanks was unanimously passed to Dr. Cornish for the valuable suggestions offered by him, and I was requested to put myself in communication with you, in view to ascertaining how far the Government would be prepared to assist the Commissioners in carrying them out.

2. The defects to which Dr. Cornish draws attention are —

- (1,) The disposal of the town sewage;
- (2,) The water supply of the town;
- (3,) The privies in private houses;
- (4,) The disposal of town sweepings;
- (5,) The condition of the villages adjoining the railway station at Pothanore as bearing on the health of the townspeople and the community in general.

3. As will be seen from Dr. Cornish's letter, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th points are all intimately connected. At present all the sewage of the town finds its way into the "Periacolum" or big tank, whence, for the seven months or so during which it is full, the townspeople derive their supply of soft water for domestic purposes. For the remaining months of the year they are dependent on the wells in the town, which, as pointed out by the Sanitary Commissioner, are affected by the water level in the tank and the disgusting cess-pits in the backyards of private houses.

4. The water of the Coimbatore wells being from excess of lime and intrates what is popularly known as "hard," it is not surprising that the residents should resort largely to the tanks bordering on the town for a supply so long as it lasts. Though derived pure from its source, the Noyel river which rises in the Bolmamputty valley, the reservoir above alluded to as the Periacolum or big tank is, as a matter of course, very soon polluted by the town drainage which there finds its natural outlet. This tank, through culverts under the road leading to Palghaut and Pothanore, discharges its surplus water, contaminated as above described, into a lower reservoir known as the "Valan Colum." A rough sketch is enclosed which will serve to illustrate the position of the two tanks.

5. The project, referred to in paragraph 4 of Dr. Cornish's letter, has been up

1. G. O., No. 1177, of 6th June 1860, and Mr. Fraser's letter, No. 7, of 5th May 1860.
2. G. O., No. 1548, of 19th July 1860.
3. G. O., No. 1807, of 28th July 1862.
4. G. O., No. 2566, of 4th September 1865, with enclosures.
5. G. O., No. 2966, of 7th October 1865, do.
6. G. O., No. 25, of 8th October 1868.
7. G. O., No. 872, of 16th March 1866, with Mr. Fraser's original report, dated 22nd March 1861, and Captain Goddard's original letter, No. 692, of 28th February 1862.

before Government some half-a-dozen times during the last ten years. I note in the margin the papers relating to the subject, but all necessary information will be found embodied in the Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, under date the 7th March 1866, No. 344. One

doubt appears now to be removed. There has been a vast amount of correspondence relative to the whereabouts of the original plans. It now seems perfectly clear that

they are irrecoverably lost, which may be regarded as a step in advance, for the project has more than once been shelved pending an inquiry as to what had become of these unlucky plans. We now know that fresh ones must be prepared, and, till this is done, the sketch which accompanies this letter will answer all purposes of reference.

6. The project is briefly this. Owing to the annually increasing accumulation of silt at the lower part of the tanks under the bunds, and the consequent elevation of the original bed, the waterspread has materially changed, and what when the tanks were originally constructed must have been high and dry land is now, owing to the backing up of the water when the reservoirs receive their supply during the monsoon, a swampy marsh. This marshy land it is proposed to reclaim by a stone revetted embankment, indicated in the sketch by the black-dotted lines AA and BB. North of this embankment the low-lying land, which, under present conditions, is submerged for about six months in the year, would have to be raised to the level of the southern portion of the town, the drainage from which would be caught in a sewer, marked in the sketch by the red lines DD, E, FF, having an outfall at the calingula GG on the Trichinopoly road with, if necessary, a relief drain EE under the bed of the Valancolum. At present, however, all I ask the attention of Government to is the proposal to reclaim this marsh, all details as to drainage, disposal of sewage, &c., being left for after consideration by the professional agency which, in view to the project being successfully carried out, must be employed.

7. The objections raised against the execution of this scheme have been many and varied. It was alleged by one that there was no swamp; by another that if there was a swamp it was a nice swamp and not a foetid swamp; by a third that if foetid was present it was not unwholesome; by a fourth that to reclaim the marsh would diminish the quantity of water in the tank and have the effect of throwing wet land out of cultivation. Another, and in my opinion the only objection deserving of attention, was that the low-lying land, when the waters receded, afforded pasturage to the cattle of the town.

8. There is incontrovertible evidence to show that a large extent of land in the rear of both tanks is annually submerged, the depth of water being very small, and that as it recedes the exhalations are offensive and unwholesome. Mr. Fraser, the Engineer who originally projected the work, in his letter printed in Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, under date the 27th September 1865, No. 1388, showed that, by raising the calingula twelve inches, he had increased the quantity of water, and this statement is supported in the report of his successor, Captain Goddard, printed in the Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, dated 7th March 1866, No. 344, where the quantity of water gained is put down at 5,473,307 cubic feet. This Officer, it is true, in paragraphs 12 and 13 of his letter, enters a protest against any diminution of the present area of the tanks, because, owing to their having silted up six feet more or less since they were first constructed, their capacity had diminished and they did not contain sufficient water to cultivate up to the Ayacut estimate. But, with all deference to this professional opinion, I venture to submit that the proposed scheme offers an opportunity of solving one of the great

Note.—Total Ayacut, 1727 Cawnies, assessed at..... rs. 24,303  
Waste in Fasly 1274, the date of Captain Goddard's  
letter, 48 Cawnies assessed at..... 518  
In Fasly 1277, 25 Cawnies assessed at..... 286  
This waste on inquiry is stated to comprise the space occupied by distributing channels, threshing floors, and a few  
plots of land above irrigation level.

problems of the day, viz., getting rid of the accumulations of silt which are filling up the grand reservoirs constructed under former dynasties and annually decreasing their value. The people complain of the diminution of the capacity of the tanks all over the country, but, as yet, engineering science has not been able to grapple with the difficulty. The fact is admitted; but, in the first place, the cost of excavating and removing such a mass of deposit is so enormous, and, in the second, the want of space as a rule to dispose of it is so obvious, that the Engineers can only shrug their shoulders and exclaim *non possumus*. But in this particular case (I offer the opinion as an unprofessional man with great diffidence), the difficulties do not appear to be insurmountable, and, if the mode of carrying out this scheme of reclamation, sketched below, is pronounced by competent authority to be feasible, I venture to predict, as the result of a few years' operations, the following advantages:—

- 1st.—An increase in the capacity of the tanks, advantageous alike to the interests of the State and the ryots cultivating under them.
- 2nd.—The conversion of a noxious swamp into gardens and pasture land, pleasant to the eye, and producing food for man and beast.
- 3rd.—The provision of a supply of fresh water, unpolluted as at present by town sewage, for the inhabitants of Coimbatore.
- 4th.—A source of revenue to the Municipality, which would enable the Commissioners to carry out many works of public utility now in abeyance for want of funds, and possibly to lessen the burden which rate-payers have now to bear.
- 5th.—The improved sanitation of the town.

9. My proposal is this. The tanks have silted up under the bunds as indicated at *aaaa* and *bbbb* in the sketch. There can be no question that the removal of this silt, even to a limited extent, would be advantageous alike to the State and to the holders of land under the tanks. I suggest the excavation of this silt by convict labour during the dry season, and its conveyance on trucks running on light iron trains to the space enclosed by the walls AA and BB and being there deposited until the present low-lying marshy ground is raised to the level of the town site. The cost of plant, masonry works, &c., I propose should be paid out of municipal funds, Government supplying the convict labour gratis, and also the services of their Engineers in laying out the work and advising on its execution. With this assistance the Commissioners would prefer to retain the carrying out of the work in their own hands, as they can command cheaper rates than the Department of Public Works Officers.

10. In return for this assistance the Government will benefit by the improvement of two very important tanks. The Municipality will be thereby enabled to effect an improvement, the importance of which is insisted on by the Sanitary Commissioner; but which, from its magnitude and the costly nature of the operations involved, they could not hope to carry out without such aid. In return for the outlay which they will have to make, the Commissioners think they may fairly ask that the land reclaimed, which in its present state does not and cannot yield a shiver towards the imperial revenues, may be made over to the town in perpetuity. A portion of it, it is proposed to reserve as common pasture land for the cattle belonging to the

townspeople; another part will be laid out for recreational purposes; and the remainder portioned out as market gardens and a municipal farm, in view to utilizing the sewage and other fertilizing agents at the disposal of the Commissioners. Plans illustrative of all such proposed improvements will, of course, be submitted for the approval of Government before being carried into execution, as also of the works necessary to carry out the reclamation project.

11. The Commissioners are fully aware of the defective nature of the arrangements connected with privies in private houses. The question is receiving their careful attention; but, as the Government are aware, it is one which is beset with many difficulties, the principal of which is that to many backyards there is no access except through the houses into which, of course, no one of the scavenger caste can be admitted. Some houses are, however, free from this drawback and would, with proper arrangements, admit of the soil being removed from outside. It is proposed shortly to commence a system of house-to-house scavenging with residences offering these facilities, and it is hoped that, as its advantages become known, arrangements may be made with house-owners whose premises are at present inaccessible from without, which will admit of an extension of the plan. I am happy to be able to state that the advantages of the public latrines are fully appreciated, and that applications to construct more are being received faster than the Commissioners can comply with them.

12. The Commissioners request me to state that they quite concur with Dr. Cornish's opinion that it would be most desirable to bring the village of Pothanore and other villages adjacent to the railway station under municipal control; but so widely to extend their limits (the villages in question being three or four miles distant) would enormously increase their expenditure without a proportionate augmentation of income unless, indeed, they were permitted to include the railway buildings. There is so much to be done in Coimbatore itself, and the resources at the disposal of the Commissioners are comparatively so limited that they would not feel justified in extending the municipal boundaries unless they saw their way to a corresponding increase of revenue.

13. Having in view the many reforms required to bring this town into a proper sanitary condition, and the heavy expenditure which carrying them out will involve, I avail myself of this opportunity to enter once more a respectful protest against the orders of Government marginally noted, under which the cost of maintaining the road between the railway station at Pothanore and Coimbatore outside municipal limits is charged to municipal funds.

I respectfully submit that the intention of the Legislature, in vesting the Government with powers of control over the expenditure of funds raised under Act X. of 1865, was to enable them to prevent any illegal appropriation of the monies so raised. In the case in point, an illegal application of municipal funds not only receives the sanction of Government, but is made under its express orders, contrary to the wishes and opinion of the municipal body as at present constituted. When the Towns' Improvement Act was first introduced four years ago, the Commissioners proposed to establish, under its provisions, tolls as one of the sources of municipal income. As represented in paragraph 2 of my letter, printed in the Proceedings of Government dated 8th July last, No. 847, the Government at first distinctly refused

G. O., dated 4th October 1866, No. 1013.

G. O., dated 20th November 1866, No. 1187.

G. O., dated 8th July 1870, No. 847.

to sanction the levy of municipal tolls on the ground that the road between Pothanore and Ootacamund was already tolled in three places. Now the grounds of this objection were intelligible. The Government apparently considered that the traffic between the two places was already sufficiently taxed, and had this resolution been adhered to, I should not have had the *locus-standi* I have at present. It was *not*, however, adhered to. By their Order of the 20th November 1866, No. 1187, the Government waived the objections raised in their previous order, and sanctioned the levy of tolls on traffic entering municipal limits on the condition that the funds thus raised should be applied to purposes other than those to which the law required they should be restricted. When hard pressed for funds to carry out sanitary measures which were urgently called for, the Commissioners accepted the condition, and when three-and-a-half years afterwards its illegality and the hardship which it entailed upon rate-payers was urged on the consideration of Government, the Commissioners were informed that they must adhere to the condition imposed, or be prepared to abandon the revenue derived from tolls. Had they accepted the latter alternative, all municipal action must have come to a standstill, for there would not have been sufficient income to defray the charges of police and conservancy. It has been urged that the Municipality is fairly chargeable with the maintenance of the road in question, because it derives a portion of its income by tolling the traffic passing through the town from the railway to the Hills. But if this argument is sound, the Commissioners are equally liable for the repairs of the twenty-eight miles of road between the foot of the Hills and the northern limits of the Municipality, inasmuch as they toll all traffic passing through from the Hills to the railway station. This is almost entirely *through* traffic, whereas a large portion of that entering the southern gate, whether it comes from the railway or by road from Pollachy and Palghat, never goes beyond the town. Timber, building materials, firewood, salt-fish, cocoanut-oil, &c., come in by road in large quantities from the Pollachy and Palghat taluqs and are all consumed in the town, where there are extensive depôts for the sale of the commodities enumerated. If there was a superfluity of municipal funds, or if the local funds of the district were unable to bear the charge, the objection would not be pressed, but the fact is that the Commissioners have not means to carry out measures which the health of the town requires, and although, for the last three or four years, the repairs of the road in question have been carried out at the expense of the Municipality, the maintenance allowance has been drawn by the Department Public Works from local funds and expended on other parts of the road. By an oversight provision was made for this in the Local Fund Budget for 1871-72, a mistake which will have to be rectified unless, as I am fain to hope, the Government will relieve the Municipality of the burden complained of. It should be remembered that, in the early years of its existence, the Commissioners have to make good the deficiencies consequent on many years of neglect, and it is surely, therefore, impolitic to augment the difficulties which they already have to contend with in view to a paltry saving of local funds. Should the Government, however, adhere to their determination conveyed in Government Order, dated 8th July 1870, No. 847, Public Department, the Commissioners request that the municipal limits may be extended so as to include the railway station at Pothanore, when they would be prepared to undertake the conservancy of the adjacent villages referred to by the Sanitary Commissioner.

*18th February 1871.*

Copy of a Resolution passed by the Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore at their Meeting, dated  
7th January 1871.

The meeting considered and approved of a letter proposed to be addressed by the Magistrate and President to Government on the several suggestions offered in the Sanitary Commissioner's report.

(Signed) H. E. SULLIVAN,  
*President.*

No. 80. ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1871, No. 227.

The Government are glad to learn that the Municipal Commissioners of Coimbatore have so promptly taken into consideration the proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner.

2. The chief improvements suggested, viz.:—

- (1,) The introduction of a good system of surface drainage ;
- (2,) Provision of a pure water supply ;
- (3,) The proper disposal of the town sweepings ;

are in the first two cases dependent on, and, in the third, connected with, a scheme for reclaiming certain land adjacent to the "Peria" and "Valan" tanks, which was not originally included in their waterspread, but which owing to the altered level of their beds, through the accumulation of silt, is now, during the monsoon months, a swampy marsh. Such a marsh, situated as it is close to the town, cannot but be injurious to the public health.

3. The Commissioners propose, by constructing a stone embankment and raising the level of the low-lying land, to convert this swamp into ground available for pasture, for recreational purposes, for market gardens, and for a municipal farm, in which the sewage and refuse of the town may be utilized. They propose to counteract the resulting diminution in the capacity of the tanks by removing the accumulated silt, and thus making up in depth for what is lost in area.

4. In aid and compensation for this undertaking on their part the Commissioners request, (1st) that the land thus reclaimed may be made over to the Municipality in perpetuity ; (2nd) that the necessary services of an Engineer may be placed at their disposal by Government ; and (3rd) that they may be furnished with convict labour, gratis.

5. The Government are willing to assist the Commissioners as desired by granting the services of their Engineer Officers in laying out the work and advising in its execution, and they will be prepared to make over to the Municipality any land which may be reclaimed at the cost of the Municipality upon plans and to an extent to be hereafter approved by Government, but they cannot comply with the application for convict labour free of charge. It will, therefore, rest with the Municipality to provide the labour.

6. The Government decline to reconsider their decision regarding the maintenance of the road between Coimbatore and Pothanore.

(True Extract.)

*Chief Secretary.*

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore.  
,, Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 1

Coimbatore Municipal  
Commissioners Office  
9<sup>th</sup> January 1871

From.

M. E. Sullivan Esq.  
Magistrate of Coimbatore  
and President to the Coimbatore  
Municipal Commission

To  
The Honorable. P. S. Ellis.  
Chief Secretary to Government  
Fort. Saint George.

Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge  
receipt of the Order of Government dated  
23<sup>rd</sup> <sup>1870</sup> ~~1871~~ commanding the Report  
of the Sanitary Commissioner on the State of  
the town to the consideration of the Muni-  
cipal Commissioners and to inform you  
that it was laid before them at a general  
Meeting where a vote of thanks was  
unanimously passed to Dr. Cornish for  
the valuable suggestions offered by him  
and as requested to put myself in  
communication with you in view to

Cost of 1871 ~~Estimates~~

PUBLIC.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,  
Coimbatore.  
Esq., Esq., Esq.

Dated February, 1871.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O. 18th February 1871, No. 227.

FEBRUARY.

No. 79-80.

Passing orders on the proposals submitted by  
the President, for giving effect to the recommend-  
ations of the Sanitary Commissioner for the  
improvement and protection of the public health of  
the town of Coimbatore.

ascertaining how far the Government would be prepared to assist the Commissioners in carrying them out.

2. The defects to which Dr. Cornish draws attention are.

1. The disposal of the Town Sewage.
2. The water supply of the Town.
3. The privies in private houses.
4. The disposal of town sweepings.
5. The condition of the villages adjoining the Railway Station at Pothanore as bearing on the health of the Towns people and the Community in general.

3. As it will be seen from Dr. Cornish's letter the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> points are all intimately connected. At present all the sewage of the Town finds its way into the "Peria Colim" or Big tank whence for the seven months or so during which it is full the townspeople derive their supply of soft water for domestic purposes. For the remaining months of the year they are dependant on the wells in the town which as pointed out by the Sanitary Commissioners are affected by the water level in the and the disgusting cess pits

in the back yards of private houses.

4. The water of the Coimbatore wells being ~~from~~ from excess of lime and intrates what is popularly known as "hard" it is not surprising that the residents should resort largely to the tanks bordering the Town for a supply so long as it lasts. Though derived pure from its source, the Vajal river which rises in the Bolanampally valley, the reservoir alone alluded to as the Peria Colim or Big tank is as a matter of course very soon polluted by the town drainage which there finds its natural outlet. This tank, through culverts under the road leading to Palghat and Pothanore, discharges its surplus water contaminated as above described into a lower reservoir known as the "Valam Colim". A rough sketch is enclosed which will serve to illustrate the position of the two tanks.

5. The project referred to in para 4

of Dr. Cornish's letter has been up before Government some half dozen times during the last ten years. I note in the margin the papers relating to the subject but all necessary information will be found embodied in the Proceedings of Government Judicial Department under date the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1866 No 344. One doubt appears now to be removed. There has been a vast amount of Correspondence relative to the whereabouts of the original plans. It now seems perfectly clear that they are irrecoverably lost, which may be regarded as a step in advance for the project has more than once been shelved pending an enquiry as to what had become of these unhappy plans. We now know that fresh ones must be prepared and till this is done the sketch which accompanies this letter will answer all purposes of reference.

6. The project is briefly this. Owing to the annually increasing accumulation of silt at the lower part of the tanks

1. G.O. No 1177 of 18<sup>th</sup> June 1860 & Mr. Fraser's letter No 7 of 5<sup>th</sup> May 1860.
2. G.O. No 1548 of 19<sup>th</sup> July 1860.
3. G.O. No 1807 of 28<sup>th</sup> July 1862.
4. G.O. No 2586 of 14<sup>th</sup> September 1865 with enclosure.
5. G.O. No 2966 of 17<sup>th</sup> October 1865.
6. G.O. No 25 of 8<sup>th</sup> October 1868.
7. G.O. No 872 of 10<sup>th</sup> March 1866 with Mr. Fraser's original Report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1866 and Captain Lytton's original letter No 392 of 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1862.

④ - Sketch of a new plan (prepared in 1862) & asked for by the Collector in Nov. 1862.

elevation of the original bed the water spread has materially changed, and what when the tanks were originally constructed, must have been high and dry land is now, owing to the backing up of the water when the reservoir receive their supply during the monsoon a swampy marsh. This marshy land is proposed to reclaim by a stone revetted embankment indicated in the sketch by the black dotted lines AA and BB. North of this embankment the low land which under present conditions is submerged for about 6 months in the year would have to be raised to the level of the Southern portion of the Town the drainage from which would be caught in a sewer marked in the sketch by the red lines DD, E, FF having an outfall at the Calingula GG on the Srichinopoly road. With if necessary a relief drain EE under the bed of the Valachi Column. At present however all I ask the

attention of Government to is the proposal to reclaim this marsh, all details as to drainage, disposal of sewage &c. being left for after consideration by the professional agency which in view to the project being successfully carried out must be employed.

7. The objections raised against the execution of this scheme have been many and varied. It was alleged by one that there was no swamp, by another that if there was a swamp it was a mere swamp and not a fated swamp, by a third that if factor was present it wasn't unwholesome, by a fourth that to reclaim the marsh would diminish the quantity of water in the tank and have the effect of throwing wet land out of cultivation. Another and in my opinion the only objection deserving of attention was that the low lying land when the waters receded afforded pasturage to the cattle of the Town.

8. There is incontrovertible evidence to show that a large extent of land in the rear of both tanks is annually submerged, the depth of water being very small and that as it recedes the exhalations are offensive and unwholesome. In these the Engineer who originally projected the work, in his letter printed in Proceedings of Government Judicial Department under date the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1865 No. 1388 showed that by raising the Cahigula 12 inches he had increased the quantity of water, and this statement is supported in the report of his successor Captain Goddard printed in the Proceedings of Government Judicial Department dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 1866 No. 344 where the quantity of water gained is put down at 5,473,307 Cubic feet. This officer it is true in paras 12 and 13 of his letter enters a protest against any diminution of the present area of the tanks because owing to their having

silted up 6 feet more or less since they were first constructed their capacity had diminished and they did not contain sufficient water to cultivate up to the Ayacut estimate. But with

all deference to this professional opinion I venture to submit that the proposed scheme offers an opportunity of solving one of the great problems of the day viz. getting rid of the accumulations of silt which are filling up the ground reservoirs constructed under former dynasties and annually decreasing their value.

The people complain of the diminution of the capacity of the tanks all over the country but as yet engineering science has not been able to grapple with the difficulty. The fact is admitted, but in the first place the cost of excavating and removing such a mass of deposit is so enormous and in the second the want of space as a rule to dispose of it is so obvious that the Engineers can only shrug their

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Total Ayacut  
1737 Cawnies  
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Waste in Tushy 1274  
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nounced by competent authority to be feasible, I venture to predict as the result of a few years operations the following advantages.

- 1<sup>st</sup> The increase in the capacity of the tanks advantageous alike to the interests of the State and the ryots cultivating water them.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The conversion of a noxious swamp into gardens and pasture land pleasant to the eye and producing food for man and beast.
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11. The Commissioners are fully aware of the defective nature of the arrangements connected with privies in private houses. The question is receiving their careful attention but as the Government are aware it is one which

the principal of which is that, to many back yards there is no access except through the houses into which of course no one of the Scavenger Caste can be admitted. Some houses are however free from this drawback and would with proper arrangements admit of the soil being removed from outside. It is proposed shortly to commence a system of house to house scavenging with residences offering these facilities and it is hoped that as its advantages become known arrangements may be made with house owners whose premises are at present inaccessible from without which will admit of an extension of the plan. I am happy to be able to state that the advantages of the public latines are fully appreciated and that applications to construct more are being received faster than the Commissioners can comply with them.

12. The Commissioners request me to state that they quite concur with Dr. Cornish's opinion that it would be most desirable to bring the village of Pothanore and other villages adjacent to the Railway Station under Municipal control, but so widely as to extend their limits (the villages in question being 3 or 4 miles distant) would enormously increase their expenditure without a proportionate augmentation of income unless indeed they were permitted to include the Railway Station. There

itself and the resources at the disposal of the Commissioners are comparatively so limited that they would not feel justified in extending the Municipal boundaries unless they saw their way to a corresponding increase of revenue.

13. Having in view the many reforms required to bring this town into a proper sanitary condition and the heavy

G. O. dated 4<sup>th</sup>  
October 1866 No. 1003.

G. O. dated 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
number 1866 No. 1057.

G. O. dated 8<sup>th</sup> July  
1870 No. 847.

expenditure which carrying them out will involve I avail myself of this opportunity to enter once more a respectful protest against the orders of Government marginally noted under which the cost of maintaining the road between the Railway Station at Pothanore and Jimbhatoor outside Municipal limits is charged to Municipal funds. I respectfully submit that the intention of the Legislature in vesting the Government with powers of Control over the expenditure of funds raised under Act of 1865 was to enable them to prevent any illegal appropriation of the monies so raised. In the case in point an illegal application of Municipal funds not only requires the sanction of Government but is made under its express orders contrary to the wishes and opinion of the Municipal body.

as at present constituted. When the  
Town Improvement Act was first  
introduced four years ago the Commis-  
sioners proposed to establish, under its  
provisions tolls, as one of the sources  
of Municipal income. As represented  
in para 2 of my letter printed in  
the Proceedings of Government dated  
8<sup>th</sup> July last No. 847 the Government at  
first distinctly refused to sanction  
the levy of Municipal tolls on the  
ground that the road between Pol-  
more and Oatcannal was already  
tolled in three places. Now the  
grounds of this objection were intelligible.  
The Government apparently considered  
that the traffic between the two  
places was already sufficiently taxed  
and that this resolution being adhered  
to I should not have had the  
locus standi I have at present. It  
was not however adhered to. By their  
Order of the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1866 No. 1187

2569  
The Government waived the objections  
raised in their previous order and  
sanctioned the levy of tolls on traffic  
entering a Municipal limits on the  
condition that the funds thus re-  
ceived should be applied to purposes  
other than those to which the law  
required they should be restricted. When  
I had pressed for funds to carry out  
sanitary measures which were urgently  
called for the Commission accepted  
the condition, and when 3 1/2 years after

~~words its meaning was narrow~~  
which it entailed upon rate payers  
was urged on the consideration of Govern-  
ment the Commissioners were informed  
that they must adhere to the condition  
imposed or be prepared to abandon  
the revenue derived from tolls. As  
they accepted the latter alternative  
all Municipal action must have  
come to a stand still for there would  
not have been sufficient income to  
defray the charges of Police and

Conservancy. It has been urged that the Municipality is fairly chargeable with the maintenance of the road in question because it derives a portion of its income by tolling the traffic passing through the Town from the Railway to the Hills. But if this argument is sound the Commissioners are equally liable for the repairs of the 28 miles of road between the foot of the Hills and the northern limits of the Municipality inasmuch as they toll all traffic passing through from the Hills to the Railway Station. This is almost entirely through traffic whereas a large portion of that entering the Southern gate whether it comes from the Railway or by road from Pollachy and Palghant never goes beyond the town. Timber, building materials, firewood, saltfish, coconuts oil &c. come in by road in large quantities from the Pollachy and Palghant Taluqs & are consumed in the Town

where there are extensive depots for the sale of the commodities enumerated. If there was a superfluity of Municipal funds or if the local funds of the District were unable to bear the charge the objection would not be pressed but the fact is that the Commissioners have not means to carry out measures which the health of the town requires, and although for the last three or four years the repairs of the road in question have been carried out at the expense of the Municipality, the maintenance allowance has been drawn by the D. P. W. from Local funds and expended on other parts of the road. Very an oversight ~~provision~~ <sup>was made</sup> for this in the Local Fund Budget for 1871-72 mistake which will have to be rectified unless, ~~as~~ I am fair to hope, the Government will relieve the Municipality of the burden complained of. It should be remembered that in the early years of

its existence the Commissioners have to  
make good the deficiencies consequent  
on many years of neglect and it is  
surely therefore impolitic to augment  
the difficulties which they already have  
to contend with in view to a gratifying  
saving of local funds. Should the  
Government however adhere to their  
determination conveyed in Government  
Order dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 1870 No. 847 Public  
Department the Commissioners request  
that the Municipal limits may  
be extended so as to include the  
Railway Station at Pothanore when  
they would be prepared to undertake  
the Conservancy of the adjacent  
villages referred to by the Sanitary  
Commissioners.

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

A. Munnion

Magistrate and President  
of the Combarator Municipal

by of a Resolution passed by the Municipal  
Commissioners of Combarator at their Meeting  
dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 1871.

The Meeting considered and  
approved of a letter proposed to be  
addressed by the Magistrate and  
President to Government on the several  
suggestions offered in the Sanitary  
Commissioners' report.

Signed, H. E. Sullivan  
President

/ True Copy /

Secretary  
Secretary

142 - 6  
149 - 6

Revised 1871. The  
Constitutional Municipal  
Commission.

From H. S. Sullivan Esq.  
New York and David  
to the Constitutional  
Municipal Commission

The City Secretary to  
the Municipal Commission  
New York City

Dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 1871  
New York City

Enclosure 1

I beg to inform  
you for the Government  
that the Municipal  
Commission is carrying out the work  
the suggestions of the  
Municipal Commission  
in regard to the Municipal  
Commission of the City of New York

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov/70 111-112  
16<sup>th</sup> March/60 53-56  
4<sup>th</sup> Apr/ - 29-30  
6<sup>th</sup> June/ - 78-79  
19<sup>th</sup> July/ - 321-323  
28<sup>th</sup> July/62 585-586  
29<sup>th</sup> Aug/65 222-226  
27<sup>th</sup> Sept/ - 296-297  
31<sup>st</sup> Oct/ - 222-223  
7<sup>th</sup> Nov/66 32-35

4<sup>th</sup> Oct/66 - 61-62  
20<sup>th</sup> Nov/ - 111-112  
27<sup>th</sup> Dec 162-162 & 163  
8<sup>th</sup> July 1870 11-14 Ms.

31

Door of Consultation

To Hatoepollim

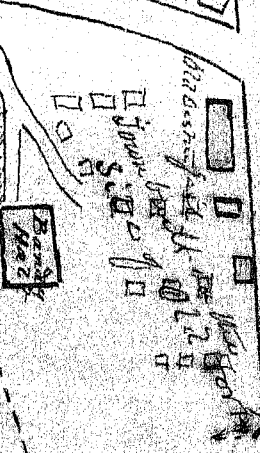
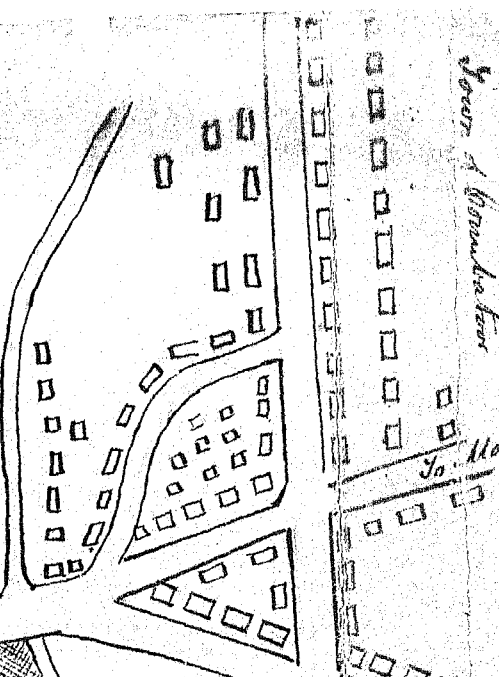
A small piece of land set aside by the King for the poor

St. Catherine

To the King

F

G

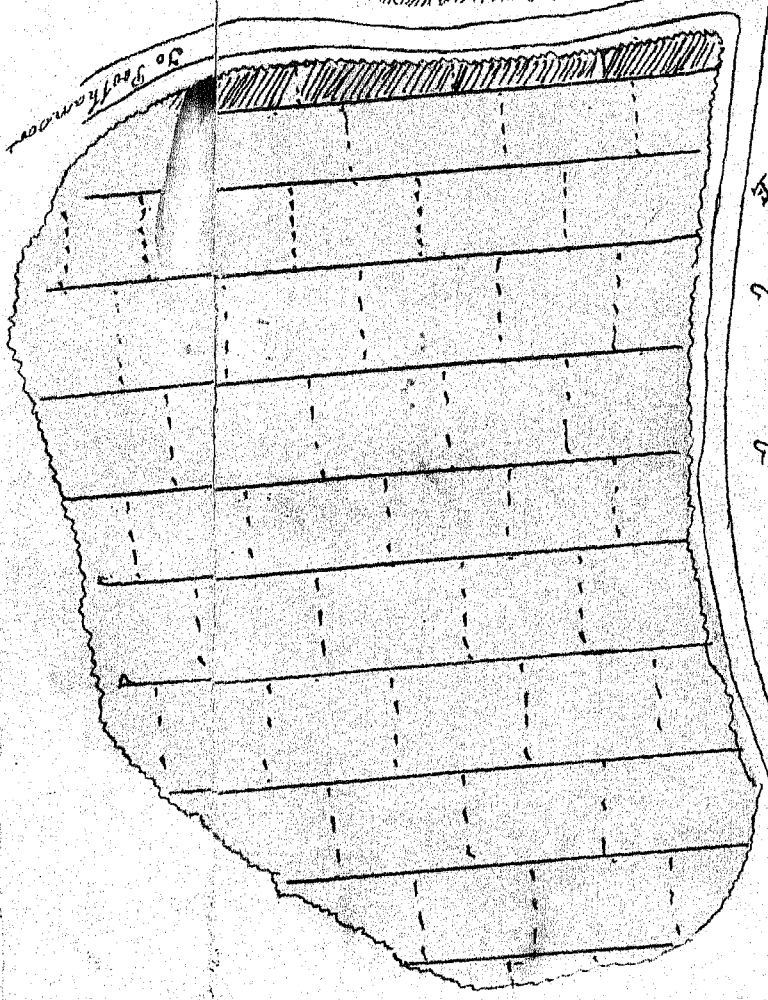


Valan Column

St. Catherine



Perza Column



St. Catherine

Public Department

Memorandum for Orders

Letter from the Pres<sup>t</sup> of the Municipal Comm<sup>n</sup> Coimbatore dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 1871, No 1.

In the letter now circulated, the Collector of Coimbatore, Mr Sullivan, submits proposals for giving effect to the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission for the improvement and protection of the public health of the Town of Coimbatore.

2. The chief improvements namely,

1. The disposal of the Town sewage.
2. The

Sketch showing the position of the tanks known as the Talim & Peria Columns in the vicinity of Coimbatore town.

Enclosure in letter No. 1 dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 1871 from the President Coimbatore Municipal Commission to the Chief Secretary to Govt.

P. G. 17 Feb 1871  
In B. No 79

In B. No 79

2. The water supply of the  
Town.

3. The disposal of the Town  
Sweepings

are all dependent on cer-  
-tain works to be carried  
out for reclaiming land  
submerged by the waters  
of two adjacent tanks,  
removing the silt from  
these tanks - deepening  
them &c and applying  
town sewage and sweepings  
on the reclaimed land  
so as to convert it into  
gardens and pasture ground.  
Sewers would also be con-  
-structed so as to cut off  
the sewage from the wa-  
-ter of the Tanks.

This

3. This is a rough outline  
of the scheme which is  
itself only roughly indi-  
-cated, no plans or estimates  
having been prepared until  
it is known to what extent  
the Govt are prepared to  
assist the Coimbatore  
Municipality; Mr Sullivan  
proposes that the work of  
excavation and reclamation  
which is the heaviest part  
of the work, should be done  
free of cost by the convicts  
in the Coimbatore Central  
Jail, the Municipality  
bearing only the cost of  
plant, masonry works &c.  
Besides supplying grates  
the convict labor, Mr

Sullivan

Sullivan asks for the services of the Govt Engineers in laying out the work and advising in its execution - the Municipality keeping the work in their own hands.

The Commissioners further ask that the land reclaimed, which at present yields nothing, should be made over to the Municipality for ever.

4. It is submitted that the Govt cannot afford to give over <sup>to this Municipality</sup> grates for an indefinite time, the valuable Jail labor ~~to the Municipality~~, and that if the labor is to be charged to them

them at its real value, i.e. the value of intramural convict labor on the present improved system, the Commissioners will prefer free labor which can be more easily and economically directed, than that of convicts working out of doors at a distance from the Jail.

5. The improvement of the house privies, as proposed by Mr. Sullivan appears judicious, and is entirely a matter which is in the hands of the Municipal Commissioners, and does not require the interference of Government.

6. The remainder of  
Mr. Sullivan's letter re-  
-opens the much vexed  
question of the maintenance  
by the Municipal Com-  
-missioners of the road  
between Coimbatore and  
Pothanore. This matter  
has received very careful  
consideration at the hands  
of Govt. The decision of  
the Govt is contained in  
their Proceedings of 8<sup>th</sup> July  
1870, No 847, which are  
enclosed.

It is hardly ~~seemly~~  
in Mr. Sullivan to re-  
-open this question or  
that of extending the  
Municipal

I enclose.

J. D. S.

23  
39  
Municipal limits of Co.  
- thence after so recent  
a decision / It is submitted  
that an order may be  
prepared to the effect that  
the Govt regret that they  
cannot comply with the  
application for convict  
labor - free of cost, that  
the Govt consent to make  
over to the Municipality  
any land which may be  
reclaimed at the cost of  
the Municipality upon plan  
and to an extent to be  
hereafter approved by Govt.  
and <sup>that they decline</sup> ~~declining~~ to reconsider  
the decision regarding the  
maintenance of the road  
between

between Coimbatore and  
Pothanore.

The village of Po-  
thanore and the Rail-  
way Station and neigh-  
bourhood can, if the  
provisions of the law are  
rigorously enforced by  
the Magistracy, be kept  
in a proper state of clean-  
liness.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the  
Magistrate and President to the  
Coimbatore Municipal Commis-  
sion, dt 9 January 1871. N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Order thereon, 18 February 1871. N<sup>o</sup> 227

The Government are glad  
to learn that the Municipal  
Commissioners of Coimbatore  
have so promptly taken into  
consideration the proposals of  
the Sanitary Commissioner.

2 The chief improvements  
suggested are:

- (1) The introduction of a  
good system of surface  
drainage.
- (2) Provision of a pure  
water supply.
- (3) The proper disposal  
of

of the Town Sweepings -  
are in the first two cases de-  
pendent on, and, in the third,  
connected with, a Scheme for  
reclaiming certain lands adja-  
cent to the "Veria" and "Doelam"  
tanks which were not origi-  
nally included in their water-  
spread, but which owing to  
the altered level of their beds,  
through the accumulation  
of silt, is now, during the snow-  
soon months, a swampy  
marsh. Such a marsh situated  
as it is close to the town, can-  
not but be too injurious to  
the public health. —

3 The Commissioners  
propose, by constructing a  
stone embankment and  
raising the level of the low-  
lying land, to convert these  
swamps into ground available  
for

for pasture, for recreational  
purposes, for market gardens  
and for a Municipal Farm  
in which the Sewage and  
refuse of the Town may be  
utilised. They propose to counter-  
act the resulting diminution  
in the capacity of the Tanks  
by removing the accumulated  
silt and thus making up in  
depth for what is lost in area.

4 In aid and compensa-  
tion for this undertaking  
on their part the Commissioners  
request (1<sup>st</sup>) that the lands  
thus reclaimed may be made  
over to the Municipality in  
perpetuity (2<sup>d</sup>) that the neces-  
sary services of an Engineer  
may be placed at their disposal  
by Government and (3<sup>d</sup>) that  
they may be furnished with  
convict labour, gratis. —

The

5. The Government are  
willing to assist the Commis-  
sioners as desired by grant-  
ing the services of their Engi-  
neers Officers in laying out  
the work and advising in  
its execution and they will  
be prepared to make over  
to the Municipality any land  
which may be reclaimed at  
the cost of the Municipality  
upon plans and to an extent  
to be hereafter approved by  
Government; but they cannot  
comply with the application  
for convict labor free of  
charges. It will therefore rest  
with the Municipality to pro-  
vide the labor.

The Government de-  
cline to reconsider their  
decision regarding the  
maintenance of the road be-  
tween Comhatore & Hothanoor. —

L.B.

24/2/20  
The President Comhatore Municipality  
Sanitary Committee

Govt. of 1871 M. M. M.

Public

To

The West Point  
Committee

Dated

1871, No. 227

Recd.

Nos. 19-50

I have ordered  
the Secretary, and  
by the West, for giving  
effect to the necessary  
action of the Secretary  
conferences for the  
improvement of the  
of the public health of  
the town of Hamilton.