

Public (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 92

Dated 16th Jan: 1896.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

6-602
MEDICAL OFFICER FOR KODAIKANAL.

Requesting the Collector of Madura to intimate to the members of the deputation to His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of his visit to Kodaikanal that it is not found possible to post a Commissioned Medical Officer ~~to~~ Kodaikanal during the season.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

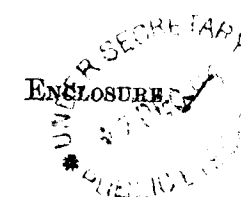
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

(1895) DEPARTMENT.

From *C. F. MacCartie Esq. J.C.*
~~THE~~ PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE
 RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR.

To
 THE CHIEF SECRETARY
 TO GOVERNMENT,
 DEPARTMENT.

Dated 24 } October 1895.
 Received 28 }
 Regd 29 }



Subject.
Cutting from Madras Times
 TRANSFERS a petition from *Containing*
H. R. the Governor's speech at
Kodai Kanat for necessary
action.

7 NOV. 93
 1134
Endd. 11/11/95

Referred to the Surgeon
 General for remarks
 on the proposal to post
 a Commissioned
 Medical Officer to
 Kodai Kanat during
 the season each year.

Indistinct
Chief Secretary

To the Surgeon General

For Mr. Grimes
A letter to the Governor
**H.E. The Governor's speech at
Petition from Kodaikanal**

DATED 24th October 1895.

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to
Government for disposal.

(By Order)

W. J. G. G.
Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
G. J. G.
1895.

Mr. GRIMES then read the following address:—
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the residents and bondholders of Kodaikanal, beg to offer your Excellency a most hearty welcome. We feel most keenly the honour done us by your Excellency's visit, though we regret that it should have occurred at a time of the year when Kodaikanal is usually least attractive and when so few of our number are left to welcome your Excellency. This is, we believe, only the third time that a Governor of Madras has ever visited the station, which is doubtless in great measure owing to the fact that the means of communication are so bad and the ghaut journey so trying. This also prevents many would-be visitors from coming here each season, and in this connection we earnestly request your Excellency's favourable consideration of the proposed new driving ghaut road from the S. I. Railway through the Lower Pulneys to Kodaikanal (which could eventually be easily and cheaply extended to the planting centres on the Travancore hills, and thus save a special and much more expensive ghaut road for these centres alone in the future). This road would tap the resources of the Lower Pulney villages, would prove an enormous boon to the planters already on the hills, would encourage others to take up land and develop the possibilities of these hills, which we believe are considerable, besides drawing supplies to Kodaikanal and the planting districts from a much larger area of the low country than is at present the case and so opening out new markets for local produce to the great benefit of both producers and consumers. Kodaikanal is now supplied by Periyakulam only, and there being no competition whatever, no enterprise is stimulated amongst the inhabitants of that place, with the result that we are badly and scantily supplied at very high prices. A road affording easier means of communication would also add to our consuming power by drawing a larger number of visitors and their servants here each season. In addition to the road, we most earnestly beg that your Excellency will be pleased to grant us some form of Municipality, and to reserve an area for our future water-supply; for, now that Kodaikanal has increased to its present size, sanitation and our water-supply have become very pressing matters, as will be seen from the accompanying report of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner presented to your Excellency's Government last year. As a Union we have absolutely no powers whatever to raise funds for any local purposes. We are unable for want of means to initiate any sanitary measures, nor have we power even to regulate the slaughter of cattle for our food or the storage of milk, though these are matters urgently requiring attention and specially reported on by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner in the report attached (pages 3 and 4, clauses v, vii and ix). We are in fact in these and all other public matters in exactly the same position as a native village on the plains, though in the season our community numbers some 250 to 300 Europeans and Americans. The house property here is worth some lakhs of rupees, from which a considerable revenue for local purposes might be obtained, while at present, each house, from the largest to the smallest, pays only a house-tax of Rs. 5 per annum to the District Board and a few annas for road cess. We are the more hopeful that your Excellency will favourably consider our requests, as the Report referred to shows that these matters have already been brought officially to the notice of your Excellency's Government. The greatest charm of Kodaikanal is the lake, which we are given to understand by experts who have examined it, is in danger owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the bund. We, therefore, earnestly beg to draw your Excellency's attention to this danger to the very existence of a growing and popular sanatorium, for, were the bund to give way, the place would be uninhabitable and the myriads of dead fish. We would also point out to your Excellency that although Kodaikanal is nearly as large as Coonoor, we have no resident physician, while Coonoor, situated within a few miles of Ottacamund and close to Wellington, from either of which places a doctor could be easily and quickly summoned, is allowed a Civil Surgeon. In urgent cases to summon the Civil Surgeon from Madras to Kodaikanal even if he were at headquarters and could start immediately on receipt of a telegram, would involve a delay of some 18 to 24 hours. We therefore pray your Excellency to favourably consider the advisability of appointing a Medical Officer as "Superintendent" of Kodaikanal, as is done in Mahabaleswar, Matheran, and we believe other hill stations in the north of India. The want of a resident physician deters many families from settling here who would otherwise do so, while the appointment of a Medical Officer as "Superintendent" would be attended by considerable advantages in every way. In conclusion we greatly regret that your Excellency is not likely to be able to visit Kodaikanal again, but we trust that in the future the Governors of Madras will honour us with their presence oftener than has been the case in the past.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR said:—Gentlemen, I beg to thank you in the first instance for the extremely kind manner in which you welcome me on paying this my first visit, and I am afraid, my last visit to your place. Though I personally wish the weather was a little more favourable, yet I suppose that it is my own fault for having chosen to come up at this particular time of the year, when the North-West monsoon is most likely to give us the sort of weather that we are now experiencing. At the same time, I am glad to have had this opportunity of coming here and seeing the place of which I have heard so much. Not unnaturally, as Governor of this Presidency, it is my wish to make myself acquainted as much as I possibly can with various places in the Presidency of importance and such of the sanatoria as Kodaikanal is. You refer me in your address to several matters and ask me to give you assistance, so as to make your existence a little more favourable than it is at present. I think,

from my experience of the difficulty of the ghaut road, by which you are connected, I can very well understand the allusion you make to the difficulties of communication which are existing by that particular means of communication, and I quite understand your wish to be connected by a carriage road with the plains, but at the same time you are as well aware as I am that you cannot establish such communications as you are asking for without the outlay of a considerable sum of money. I find that to construct a road such as would lead you from Kodaikanal to Attur would cost as much as Rs. 4,14,000. The District Board say that they have no money for this purpose, and I am afraid that I cannot hold out any hope as to Government being able to come to your assistance with such a large sum of money as that, but at the same time, it appears that an alternative plan has been suggested, viz., that a bridle-path should be constructed from Attur to Mulyar, at a cost of Rs. 85,000. At the present moment, Government is in communication with the District Board, and has asked what their views are as to the construction of the bridle-path. When we know what their views are on this matter we will go into the question, and you may depend upon it we shall do as much as we possibly can to meet your wishes, if we find it is financially possible for us to do so. I understand informally that the District Board would be perfectly willing to accept this bridle-path if made over to them as a free gift, but speaking here, I am not able to commit Government to such a large outlay at the present moment. Connected with this subject is the opening up of the Lower Pulneys, a district which is suffering very much in not having a proper communication, and a district which has risen in importance, and there is no doubt whatever that an improvement in the communications there would add much towards the opening of what I believe to be a valuable and important district. Therefore, the matter is one which you may be sure will receive the careful and serious attention of Government, and I hope it may be found possible to do something to meet your wishes in this particular respect. The next point you allude to is the question that Kodaikanal be made into a Municipality. I believe from what I hear that such a measure would be undoubtedly attended with a great deal of success in such a place as Kodaikanal, and that it is only in consequence of your inability to raise a proper amount of money, that your sanitation and various other points which require the attention of the Local Government are now very much wanting. As regards the constitution of the place into a Municipality you may depend upon it that the matter will be seriously considered by Government as soon as we pass, as I hope we shall soon pass, the Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act. This is one of the first points that we shall have to undertake when the Legislative session will open in Madras, and I hope it will be found possible in that Act to introduce some means by which such places as Kodaikanal will be able to get from those that visit them a proper amount of taxation, because it is found almost impossible to meet the requirements of hill stations unless some means are devised by which those that visit them can be made to contribute more fairly and equitably to the demands which they set up. If this Bill is passed, as I hope it will be, this question will be taken up seriously, and I hope it will be found possible in this respect to meet your wishes. As regards the reservation of the catchment area for water-supply, it appears from the report submitted by the Sanitary Engineer on the subject, the Board of Revenue has been requested to take the necessary action for reserving the areas, and I hope that matter will be carried out promptly. As regards the preservation of the lake, Col. Pennycook, who knows this matter as well as anybody else, and who is an expert on the subject, has assured us that there is no immediate danger; but he thinks that a masonry bund in the rear of the tank would be all that is necessary; and that matter is being looked into, and I hope we shall soon be in a position to get an estimate to see how much money should be raised for doing what is considered necessary to make it absolutely safe. You then say that a Medical Officer should be appointed as "Superintendent" of Kodaikanal. I am afraid this is a subject on which I am not able to give you any satisfactory answer at the present moment, because I am well aware of the great difficulties we have in meeting all the demands for commissioned officers in every part of the Presidency. But I will bring your wish to the notice of the Surgeon-General to see if it can be found possible, without detriment to public service generally, to meet your wishes. You must understand that I do not hold out any definite promise, but I can only undertake that the matter shall be carefully looked into, and I hope it may be possible to find some means of sending a commissioned officer during at all events, the season. I think it is very doubtful if we can send a man down here to remain permanently. However, this is a point that I will look into, and you may depend upon it, if it is possible, we will do what we can. I can quite understand the feelings which prompt you to make this request, as I consider they

C.S. Secy
H. J. G.
29/10

No.

Encl.

From

Madras, December 1895.

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.J.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Public DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

With reference to your endorsement N:2653 dated the 6th November 1895 (herewith returned) asking for my remarks on the proposal to post a commissioned medical officer to Kodaikanal during the season each year, I have the honour to state that there is no provision in the cadre of the Madras medical establishment for such an appointment.

2. I cannot see the necessity of it. Government now provides commissioned medical officers at two Hill Stations in the Madras Presidency, viz, Ootacamund and Coonoor and there is ample room to provide accommodation for any number of visitors in either of these stations for those who prefer to be attended by a commissioned medical officer. The officers in those stations are, as a rule, selected because they have been

successful in private practice elsewhere.

3. I see the petitioners have suggested that a Commissioned Medical Officer should be appointed Superintendent of Kodaikanal as is done in Mahableshwar and Matheran. In reply to a letter I wrote on the subject to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay, he writes "The duties of the Superintendents of Matheran and Mahableshwar are as follows:-

(a) Medical Officer of the Hill.
(b) Assistant Collector and Magistrate with the hill as his taluk, and the whole of his duties in the Revenue Department devolve on him including road making, conservancy of forest &c.

(c) Every public duty of any description whatsoever forms a part of his responsibilities as Superintendent and he is always gazetted as a third class Magistrate and an Assistant to the collector of the District.

If Government approves of these arrangements and a cadre appointment is sanctioned by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State, I am quite sure there would be no difficulty in selecting a Medical Officer who would carry on the duties with great benefit to the station of Kodaikanal both from a medical and Administrative point of view.

4. In paragraph 15 and Appendix III of
my

my letter to you N^o: 541 dated the 13th October 1894. I have suggested that the appointment at Kodaikanal should be retained for a Military Assistant Surgeon and this point has again been dealt with in another letter to you N^o: 573 dated the 22nd November 1895.

5. Government now provides the Medical Subordinate at the Kodaikanal Hospital and gives a full grant of medicines not exceeding Rs. 120 in value per Annum, under G. O. N^o: 1228 L. F. dated the 28th September 1886.

Christophe
Major-General

From

SURGN.-MAJOR-GEN. C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

The Honble the Chief Secy,
to Govt. Pub. Depart.

No. 538

ENCLOSURES.

Dated 6th } December 1895.

Received 7

Regd 9

No.

Pub C no. 3597 & 4123

Subject.

Remarking upon the
proposal to post a Commis-
sioned Medical Officer to
Kodaikanal during the
off.

It is.

It is subd. that there is no
probability of the cadre being
increased to provide a M.O.
for Kodaikanal. The appt of
a M.O. Asst Surgeon of some
kind would be an im-
provement on the exist-
ing arrangements.

The proposed scheme is
an unpracticable one.

As to the class of med. subordinate
to be employed at Kodaikanal,
that will be a matter for the future.
Ment. Ct. to consider - I am
against any expenditure of pub.
money in these minor Sanatoria -
behave enough to do to keep up out-
on my opinion should reduce the
expenditure on those within them
inasmuch as any other place.

We can make out a case
for increasing the cadre on
account of Kodaikanal.

It is evidently impossible to
increase the cadre for this
purpose.

f.c.

Recorded.

187.156 (from orders)

Ct. No. 92 of 16 Jan 96
I would suggest the
following official memo-
randa No. 92 of 16 Jan 96.

With reference to the
request put forward by a
deputation at Kodaikanal
on the occasion of H.E.
the Governor's recent visit
that a Medical Officer should
be appointed "Superin-
tendent" of that station,
the Collector of Madura
is requested to inform
the members of the depu-
tation that the matter
has recd. the careful
consideration of Govt with
the result that it is found
impossible to spare the
services of an officer on
the establishment and
it is considered that no
sufficient case exists for

To The Surgeon General

for seeking the sanction
of the Secy of State to
an increase of the
cadre of medical officers
for the purpose.

7.13.
8.1.96.
15/11/96.

To the (Mr. Pelladara)
" Surgeon General
with ref to his No.
538 d/6. x 11.95.

Medl. Officer
for Kodakanal

from Orders

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETAIL.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B. -
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.