M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2036	Press / ~~Mis.~~
291 292	
Dated 25 10 1861	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th October 1861.

No. 291. Read the following letter from B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Úttukóttah, 11th October 1861, No. 44:—

SIR,

1. Lieutenant-Colonel Tapp, Commanding Palaveram, addressed me on the 26th ultimo, requesting that I would take measures for the removal of the Prickly Pear growing extensively at the foot of the two hills to the eastward of the Cantonment, and in the gorge between the hills, the main passage of the sea breeze to the greater number of the houses in Cantonment, as the Sanitary Officer had reported to him that the existence of this shrub was prejudicial to the health of the station.

2. I requested him in reply to furnish me with the written opinion of the Officer in question for transmission to Government, remarking at the same time, that the station was notoriously healthy, and that as the plant could be removed only at considerable expense, the Government would require to be satisfied as to the necessity of incurring it.

3. The enclosed original letter from Dr. Mackay, the Senior Medical Officer and Sanitary Officer of Palaveram, is the result of my communication, and on the former I would now request the orders of Government.

4. There is no doubt that the Prickly Pear largely abounds in the small plain between the Cantonment and the hills, in the valley between the hills, and around the village (Trisúlam) at the eastern opening of the valley, and that the plant is encroaching daily.

5. Dr. Mackay is decidedly of opinion that the shrub should be eradicated, as the sanitary state of the Cantonment is affected by its presence.

6. The recent order of the Government directing the Revenue authorities to expend up to a certain amount, in the removal of this plant, a sum equal to that contributed by the villagers, has been and will be inoperative. The Natives are indifferent to the nuisance, and will not spend a Rupee in abating it. Besides which, the plant is generally of long standing, and the villagers object to take upon themselves the neglect of those who preceded them.

No. 292. ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1861, No. 2,036.

The Collector is requested to state the probable expense of clearing away the Prickly Pear in the localities mentioned by Dr. Mackay. He will also report whether the villagers will not contribute their labor, the Government paying in money half the cost of removing the nuisance.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

N°. 45

From

Surgeon G. Mackay M.D
Senior Med.l Offier Palaveram
& Sanitary Officer.

To

The Officer Commanding
Palaveram

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your letter N°460 dated 20 September 1861, addressed to the Collector Madras District, regarding the removal of the Prickly pear which abounds between the Hills at this Station, and that Gentlemans reply thereto, in which he wishes to be furnished with any opinion in London on the subject.

† Both documents herewith returned as requested.

2 There cannot in my opinion be a doubt as to the propriety of rooting out the whole of the Prickly pear, which abounds in large clumps in that locality

for

for the following reasons:

(a) It affords a harbour for filth and vermin.

(b) Is used by the Natives of the Villages there, as a Place d'aisance

(c) Prevents the free circulation of air around the villages in the hollow between the Hills. The situation of this Village, in a bason surrounded by Hills, renders it advisable, to keep it free from any additional obstacle to free ventilation - and the evil is rapidly increasing, by the growth and spreading of the Prickly pear -

(d) Cholera lately broke out in this village

(e) It is of great importance, if possible, to preserve that village in a salubrious state, being close to windward of the Station of Palamcottah, in a funnel through which the Sea breeze passes

to reach the Cantonment

(f) The large clumps of prickly pear in this locality obstruct the passage of the Sea breeze, through the only opening by which it can again access to a large portion of the Cantonment.

(g) The evil is annually increasing, and it will be endless labour and expense clearing the prickly pear within the limits of the Military Cantonment, with such a forest of it close on the boundary, from which it can rapidly spread, and the seeds be scattered about by Crows and other birds. It may be seen springing up all over the Station, growing even on the roof of a Stable

5. Besides the village in the hollow between the Hills, there is another smaller one situated

situated immediately under the Richer Hill. (on the side towards the Station) This, the Station Staff Officer informs me, is also out of Military limits. It cannot, I think be a healthy locality, particularly surrounded by prickly pear as it is now becoming. If it cannot be removed altogether, it would be very advisable to prohibit its extending, by the building of any more huts.

4. In the 3rd para of his letter the Collector of Madras remarks, that the Station is notoriously healthy. It is very true, that Palavaram has hitherto enjoyed a wonderful immunity from zymotic diseases, particularly from Cholera; but as stated above, Cases have lately occurred in the village between the

two Hills. There have been two Cases in the European Artillery Veteran Company; one or two Cases in the Station Bazar; two Cases, one of them fatal, in the Native Infantry Depôt Hospital and one fatal case in the Hospital of the 23rd Regiment - in the last, the infection was caught at Madras and happily has not spread in the Regimental Lines. But it is only by attention to Sanitary measures that we can expect to preserve the healthiness of the Station - and it is with this view, that I would earnestly recommend the speedy and effectual removal of an evil, which is annually increasing. The longer it is delayed the greater will be the labour and

and expense of effecting it. Experience has proved the difficulty of eradicating Cholera from any locality where it once obtained a footing - and the want of any certain method of cure for this disease makes prevention a matter of infinite importance.-

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Palaveram
4 October 1861

Geo MacRaghlan Surgon
Senior Med. Officer Palaveram.
& Sanitary Officer

not spend or expend in effecting it. Besides which the plant is generally of long standing, & the Villagers object to take up their abode where the neighbourhood is like produced thereby.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obed.t Servant

Geo MacRaghlan

Ent.d Chandrasamy
Sub.t

No-2036

The Collector is request-
-ed to state the probable
Expence of clearing away
the Prickly Pear in the loca-
-lities mentioned by Dr Buchy
& will also report whether the
Villagers will not contribute
their labor, the Government
paying only money half
the cost of removing the
encumbrance

Sd

Copy to the Collr of Madura
Dis: 26

R. Pro 31st October 1860.
No 571-572
9th July 1861 No 135 & 136

(6) Public Dept
Revenue
Pro: of Govt for October
No. 2448.
To
The Collector & Agent
&
The Chief Secretary to
Government
Fort St. George

Dated 11th
Recd 16th October 1860
No 44
(1 Enclosure)
Further C No 1103 of 1860
22 May 1131.
No 1553

Forwarded Dr Buchy's
opinion as to the propriety
of removing the Prickly Pear
growing at the foot of the
Pulneys and begs to request
orders

No 2036. 25th October
Write accordingly

No 3187 OK

No 291 & 292.

22d October 1123.

Dr Buchy
Asst Surgeon
25th October 1860
Letter of the 24th inst
herewith returned
I consider it
necessary
that the
Prickly Pear
should be
removed
as
desired