

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2293

Press

Mis.

53-54

Dated.

4-10-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1865.*

No. 53. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R. A., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (Railway), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Railway Department, dated Simla, 8th September 1865, No. 789 R :—

SIR,
In the Statement of fresh charges and alterations, on account of Salaries, Establishments, and Contingencies, sanctioned by the Madras Government, within the amount of the Budget grants during April 1865, and submitted to the Government of India in the Home Department, is an item of Rupees 10 per mensem on account of two Toties entertained at the Parcherry at the Pothanoor Railway Station, with reference to which I am directed to intimate that if, as would appear to be the case, the services of the Toties are needed for conservancy purposes beyond the Station limits, the charge should be met from Local and not Imperial Funds.

Referred to the Revenue Department for consideration with the following papers :—

G. O. in the Financial Railway Department, No. 218, dated 4th April 1865.

Letter to the Government of India, No. 328, dated 7th July 1865.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,

Under Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
26th September 1865.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 4th October 1865, No. 2,393.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government observe that there are no Local Funds in the Coimbatore District to which this charge can properly be debited, and that although the Parcherry and Latrines in question are so far beyond the Railway Station limit that they are out side the Station enclosure, still they are in its immediate vicinity, are a consequence of the Station being established there, and are inhabited and used almost entirely by Railway employes.

2. Under these circumstances, and considering how essentially necessary it is for the health of the body of travellers who are detained at this Station for a considerable time, that the greatest care should be observed in maintaining the immediate neighbourhood in as favorable a condition for health as is possible, the Government consider that this petty charge is properly debitable to Imperial rather than to Local Funds.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Railway
Department, 4th April 1865.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 13. From P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Sattimangalam, 18th March 1865, No. 33.

I have received Proceedings of Government and their Order thereon, dated 15th February 1865, No. 111, in which it is stated:—"The Governor in Council regrets to learn, from the foregoing papers, that the orders issued, under date the 26th April last, regarding the Parcherry near the Coimbatore Railway station, have produced but little effect." I deem it due to myself and the other Government officials, who are in any way responsible for the cleanliness of the village lately sprung up outside the Coimbatore Railway station, to make the following explanation. In the correspondence on which the Government Order is based, the village is said to be clean; whilst exception is taken to the state of the latrines. The latrine is attended to by one of the menial servants of the Pothanoor village, which, by the road he has to come along, is distant at least one half-mile. There is no legitimate reason why this man should attend to the latrines. The village which has sprung up at the gate of the Railway station, although within the limits of the Pothanoor village boundary, has nothing to do with that village, which lies to the south of the Railway station, so that the duty of keeping its latrines clean, by means of the menial servants, was never contemplated. When the village servants were constituted, the use of latrines was never dreamt of; all parties betook themselves to the fields. What has hitherto been done, in the way of keeping the latrines outside the Railway station clean, has been done under pressure—very little more pressure, and the servants will resign. I must therefore request sanction of Government for 10 Rupees per mensem to pay two Toties to keep the latrines clean. The Railway Company, although most of the persons who live in the huts outside the Railway gate are their employés, are disinclined to contribute anything towards the maintenance of a healthy sanitary condition amongst them. Until money is found to pay some person to keep the latrines clean, the condition of the Railway Station village will be unsatisfactory, and no amount of orders will produce any beneficial and lasting effect. Mr. Foster, the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, is at present paying for the services of a public Toty from his private funds; but Government, I feel sure, never intended that, in view to escape the appearance of neglect of their orders, their servants should be subjected to this course of proceeding.

No. 14. From P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Camp Allukkuli 20th, March 1865, No. 34.

I beg to enclose copy of a letter from the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Foster, with copy of its enclosure, a letter to his address from Dr. Davis, Zillah Surgeon of Coimbatore. You will be sorry to learn that cholera has broken out at the Railway Station at Coimbatore, and that, when Mr. Foster wrote, ten persons had died, and six more were lying ill with the disease. The conduct of the Railway Apothecary is most reprehensible. He has, I understand, been suspended. In my letter of 18th instant, No. 33, I requested sanction for ten Rupees per mensem to pay two Toties to keep the Latrines of the Railway Station village clean. I have now to request leave to expend any sum, within Rupees 100, to improve the sanitary condition of the village. With reference to the pieces of ground required, the one to receive the sweepings of the Latrines, and the other for a burying ground, I have addressed Mr. Foster, and will, if necessary, bring the matter to the notice of Government.

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, Coimbatore, to P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore; dated Coimbatore, 14th March 1865, No. 32.

I am sorry to have to report the existence of Cholera at Pothanoor.

2. The first case that occurred was a man who came with the disease from Salem by train. It has since spread through the village, and 10 have died. It has, as yet, not disappeared, there still being six ill.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Railway
Department, 4th April 1865.*

3. Dr. Davis at once sent down the Collectorate Dresser, with a supply of medicines. As the Dresser has also duties in Coimbatore, he goes down every day, and I have given up one of my péons to carry the medicines he may have to send to the patients at Pothanoor.

4. I forward herewith a letter of Dr. Davis to me on this subject, which brings to notice a very serious neglect of duty on the part of the Railway Apothecary. I spoke to the Apothecary on the subject, myself, and while expressing himself willing to attend people that sent for him either amongst the people connected with the Railway, or in the village, he told me that he could give no medicines to any, but the Railway officials. He refused to attend passengers. He has been offered the medicines for distribution by Dr. Davis, but he has refused to take them. On receiving his refusal to attend the passengers, I telegraphed to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, requesting him to issue orders on the subject. I now beg most strongly to advise that this Apothecary be dismissed the service. Surely all Medical Officers of Government ought to know that it is their business to do their utmost for every one requiring their assistance. I would here also mention the position of the Railway Apothecary. He is directly under the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals. I cannot see any objection to his being put under the Civil Surgeon, and I am sure Dr. Davis would only be too happy to pay occasional visits to Pothanoor, to see that the Apothecary does his duty.

5. I have also the honor to request that you will obtain the sanction of Government for expending some money on Pothanoor; I do not know how much will be required. I have got a cart and six coolies placed at my disposal, by Mr. Carter, the Engineer of this Division of the Railway, to cart away all the ordure from the latrines; and a large quantity of the earth will also have to be removed. I want them, also, to cover up the sides of the roads, &c., with ashes, where the people have been for purposes of nature. I have also taken a toty, on 5 Rupees a month, to attend to the latrines. He is to see that ashes or earth is thrown down, as soon as any one has used the latrines, and the ordure is to be removed twice a day and buried. For this purpose, I have taken a piece of ground, at a little distance from the village; it is puttah land, certainly, but has not been cultivated for a long time. I request Government will sanction compensation for this. There is no Government land suitable for this purpose, except a small piece, to get to which one has to cross a nullah, from which the villagers are supplied with drinking water. It would not do to run the risk of the water in this channel getting spoiled. Two of the men who have died are Mussulmen. There is no place for them to bury their dead, and I have, therefore, allowed them a piece of Government waste land. To get to this, the channel has to be crossed, but I do not apprehend any danger from the bodies being carried across this.

(True Copy).

(Signed) P. GRANT,
Collector and Magistrate.

From W. F. DAVIS, Esq., M. D., Civil Surgeon, Coimbatore, to the Head Assistant Magistrate, Coimbatore; dated 13th March 1865, No. 19.

I have the honor to call your attention to a matter of some importance to the public health, and one of which immediate notice, and in which immediate action, should be taken.

2. Having heard that Cholera had broken out in the neighbourhood of the Pothanoor Station, and that it had proved fatal to several persons, I at once despatched medicines for the relief of the sufferers, especially a good supply of "Cholera Pills," by the Collectorate Dresser.

3. I instructed the Dresser to put himself in communication with the Apothecary of the Railway Station, and to give him a supply of Pills, asking him to be so good as superintend the distribution of the same, especially to coolies and the poor, who might be attacked with bowel complaint in the neighbouring Parcherry.

4. Yesterday, I called upon the Dresser for his report of cases of Cholera at Pothanoor. He states that he carried out my instructions in every particular, but that he found the Apothecary unwilling, and indeed refusing, to assist in the treatment of the general sick at the station, or any others whatever, unless *bonâ fide* servants of the Railway Company, stating too that he would not attend the families of the Railway servants, nor assist in the distribution of the Government medicines.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Railway
Department, 4th April 1865.*

5. As I am not connected with the Railway officially, I cannot of course take direct cognizance of the conduct of the Apothecary, neither can I give orders to him, but I think it competent in me to recommend that, in the interest of the public health, he be instructed by his employers to give his services, and endeavour, as much as in him lies, to mitigate such a dreadful scourge as cholera, be the poor sufferers therefrom who they may.

6. A sudden accession to the sickness in this Station from fever, &c., the temporary withdrawal of one of my Dressers, and the sickness of another, render much efficient subordinate assistance difficult, if not impossible. I therefore hope, as the Apothecary lives on the spot, and medicines are at his disposal from the Government Stores if required, that, in the event of any one being attacked with Cholera, he will at once treat him, for, by neglecting to do so, he not only is indirectly the cause of loss of life, but directly makes the Railway Station a focus for the concentration of choleraic poison, and a centre whence it is distributed all over the country.

(True Copy).

(Signed) P. GRANT,
Magistrate.

No. 15. From P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Camp Gopichettipolliam, 21st March 1865, No. 35.

I beg to transmit copy of a letter addressed by the Zillah Surgeon of Coimbatore to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Southern Division, and forwarded by the former officer to me, for information.

2. The Zillah Surgeon points out forcibly the wretched nature of the huts outside the Railway Station, and their tendency "to invite attacks of low malarious disease." Unless Government is prepared to pass a legislative enactment, empowering it to regulate the laying out and construction, &c., of Villages springing up about Railway Stations, and to give it retrospective effect, I do not well see how the present difficulty at the Coimbatore Railway Station is to be met. The huts, and the ground on which they stand, are private property; and, as the law stands at present, they cannot be touched.

3. The situation of the Railway station I believe to be most prejudicial to persons arriving there in an exhausted state, the result of fatigue or hunger, and in the least predisposed to disease. The locality lies low, and was formerly irrigated, and produced crops of paddy. It also lies in the line of the current of air from north-east, and east to the Paulghat gap in the south-west. During the south-west Monsoon, whilst Coimbatore is dry and the sky clear above, the Railway Station is constantly visited with showers, whilst long lines of mist pass over it from the west, thereby showing that, if any thing prejudicial to health is borne along in the atmosphere, the Railway Station, from its position, is exposed to its ill effects.

4. The Coimbatore station is a large and important one, at which passengers and goods' trains arrive several times a day. Passengers come from all parts of the country, so that the chances of disease are greatly multiplied. The late hour of arrival of the Madras Train at night and the early hour of its departure in the morning are circumstances which tell against Natives, whose systems are sensitive, and liable to be disarranged by any irregularity in their meals.

5. The interments in the locality, adverted to by Dr. Davis, shall at once be put a stop to.

From W. F. DAVIS, Esq., M. D., Civil Surgeon, Coimbatore, to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Southern Division; dated Coimbatore, 18th March 1865, No. 24.

In continuation of my letter of 14th instant, I have the honor to report that Cholera has been prevailing within the last sixteen days at the Railway station of Pothanoor, about 3½ miles from Coimbatore.

2. Up to the end of February, that part of the District had been very healthy, but on the 1st instant, a Railway Guard coming from Beypoor was seized en route with the disease, and died within a few hours.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Railway
Department, 4th April 1865.*

3. Since that period, Cholera has been of daily occurrence at the station and the neighbouring Parcherry, and, from what I can gather from the Station Master and others, from twenty to twenty-two have been attacked, and eleven of their number have died.

4. The number dying generally has been, as above stated, eleven; but the mortality has been very unequally distributed—a certain class, and those in a certain situation, succumbing in a much more marked degree than others more fortunately circumstanced.

5. As soon as I became aware that the disease had appeared, I despatched a Subordinate with medicines thither, and, next day, I went and inspected the Parcherry adjoining the Railway station of Pothanoor. I found that the position of the houses was such as to invite the attacks of low malarious disease. The huts, numerous and crowded together, are of the most primitive description, in height not more than about six feet from the ground to the gable angle, and every arrangement made apparently to prevent a breath of fresh air from entering, the doors being not much more than sufficient to admit a man to crawl in. These tenements are constructed on ground from which paddy has been reaped, and the stalks of which remain all round about them. In this part of the Parcherry, all those attacked have died, and, although much to be deplored, it can scarcely be wondered at, when, in addition to what I have mentioned, it is added that the wretched denizens of these hovels have very precarious means of existence, and are at present living on the new rice. Cucumbers, too, which are now in season, and very cheap, are common articles of diet. I believe great efforts have recently been made to remove this fungoid excrescence from the Railway station, but its being private property will militate against such a beneficial result.

6. The village of Pothanoor proper lies in a very much better position—ground higher, and dryer, and more open, and the people are more well to do. The consequence has been striking, as regards the difference in the cholera mortality—only 37-0.5 per cent. fatal cases amongst those affected, or more exactly 3 in 8 having died.

7. The mortality among those inhabiting the Railway enclosure itself has been extremely little, and contrasts very favorably with the last two classes, six being attacked, and one dying.

8. I would, in concluding, recommend, in my capacity of Surgeon of the Coimbatore District, that the following suggestions be, if possible, carried out, and a copy of this letter has been sent to the Collector, for his consideration, and, I hope, approval.

1st.—That the huts in the low lying paddy fields be entirely removed from their present position, and rebuilt, if necessary, either on the higher ground on the south-east of the station, or near the village of Coorchy.

2ndly.—That interments in the bund just behind the Chuttrum now being built be discontinued, as the inhabitants of the neighbourhood drink of the water in its immediate vicinity.

3rdly.—That the medical servant of the Railway be instructed to afford medical aid to all persons suffering from cholera, or other epidemic disease, not only in the Railway enclosure, but also in the village adjoining,

(True Copy).

(Signed) W. F. DAVIS, M., D.

Civil Surgeon.

(A true Copy).

(Signed) P. GRANT,

Collector.

No. 16.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1865, No. 218.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letters, the Governor in Council authorizes the Magistrate of Coimbatore to employ, until further orders, two Toties at the Parcherry at the Pothanoor Railway Station, at a cost of Rupees 10 per mensem. The charge will take effect from the date on which it was first incurred by the Acting Head Assistant, Mr. Foster, who will reimburse himself for any payments made by him on this account.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Railway
Department, 4th April 1865.*

2. The Government also sanction the expenditure of such sum as may be required, not exceeding Rupees 100, in improving the sanitary condition of the Parcherry. The Government, as the Magistrate observes, have no power to order the removal of the huts.

3. The conduct of the Railway Apothecary will be brought to the notice of the Agent, who will be requested to give effect to the order suggested by the Civil Surgeon at the close of his letter, (paragraph 8, Clause 3.)

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Coimbatore.

„ Civil Paymaster.

„ Accountant General.

„ Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Journal 1865 Depo
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In Depo. 1865
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Statement of fresh charges and alterations, on account of Salaries, Establishments, and Con during the month of April 1865,

No. of Item.	Government Order.	No.	Office.	Previous scale.			Revised scale.		
				RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1865. 14th April		218	Pothanoor Railway Station, in the District of Coimbatore.	None.			2 Toties at 5 Rupees..	10	0 0

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
7th July 1865.

tingencies sanctioned by the Madras Government, within the amount of the Budget grants, appertaining to Financial Railway Department.

Perma- nent.	Temporary.		Remarks by		
Increase per month.	Period.	Increase per month.	Civil Paymaster.	Dy. Audr. & Acct. General.	Government.
RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.			
.....	Not stated..	10 0 0	(Signed) W. DONALD, Chief Asst. Civil Paymaster in charge.	(Signed) F. LUSHINGTON, Dy. Audr. and Acct. General.	The Magistrate of Coimbatore represented that cholera had broken out in the neighbourhood of the Pothanoor Station; that the latrines had been kept clean only under pressure; that the Railway Company, although most of the persons who lived in the huts outside the Railway Station, were their employes, were not disposed to contribute to the expense of maintaining a healthy sanitary condition; and that the Head Assistant Magistrate was paying for the services out of his private funds. Under these circumstances, the Government authorized the Magistrate to employ, until further orders, two Toties at the Pothanoor Station at a cost of Rupees 10 per mensem, the charge taking effect from the date on which it was first incurred by the Head Assistant Magistrate.
			Requires confirmation, with reference to Financial Resolution of Government of India, dated 15th November 1860, No. 11,322. CIVIL PAYMASTER'S OFFICE, FORT SAINT GEORGE, 11th May 1865.	None. FORT SAINT GEORGE, DEPY. AUDR. AND ACCT. GENL.'S OFFICE, 22nd May 1865.	

Acting Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
7th July 1865.*

No. 9. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 7th July 1865, No. 328.

In continuation of my letter, dated 20th May, No. 252, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to transmit, for submission to the Government of India, the accompanying four Statements of charges on account of Salaries, Establishments, and Contingencies, sanctioned by the Madras Government, within the amount of the Budget grants, during the month of April last.

Revenue Department.
Finl. Railway do.
Judicial do.
Marine do.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

from

Secretary to the Govt of India

N^o 789 R

From
The Secretary to the Govt of India
To
The Secretary to the Govt of Madras
Railway Department

Public Works Department
Simla 8th September 1865

My Sir,

In the statement of fresh charges and alterations, on account of salaries, Establishments and Contingencies sanctioned by the Madras Government, within the amount of the Budget grants during April 1865, and submitted to the Government of India in the Home Department is an item of Rs 10/- per mensem on account of two Lories entertained at the Pancherry at the Pothanoor Railway Station, with reference to which I am directed to intimate that if, as would appear to be the case, the services of the Lories are needed for conservancy purposes beyond the station limits, the charge should be met from local and not imperial funds.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obed^t servant

W^m Dickson L^t Col R^{et}

Secretary to the Govt of India

Forwarded 1865-66
Pro. of Govt. for supply
to the Secy to Govt of India
27 July 1865
in 27/29/65

is in favour of a contribution for local funds as possible. The Govt. considers that this petty charge is best met by local funds. I am sending you the statement for your consideration.

42-000/65

21/9/65
24/9/65
6/10/65

Revenue Department

following letter:

Dr. J. D. McQuinn, Hallowell

Sept. 25 28 St. Louis Mo.
Letter to the Secy of State.
No 228 dated July 18 25

V. Handwritten

Under Secretary to Govt

20. September 1885

Ms. A. 9. 2. 5. 7.

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From the Secretary
to the Gov^{rs} of Indiana

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 Dec 27
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 Doctor

Chas J. Webb

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Chicago, Sept. 21, 1892.

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in the neighbourhood of the station.

in my little book here. I am
 in haste & I am extremely
 anxious to see you.

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New Mexico
in the State of New Mexico