

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2424	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
115-46	
Dated 6-10-1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th October 1865.*

No. 115. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department :—

Passing orders on papers relating to the closing }
of the Civil Dispensary at Rancepett in North } (Here enter 2nd October 1865, No. 1,026.)
Arcot.

No. 116. ORDER THEREON, 6th October 1865, No. 2,424.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 1,026.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
2nd October 1865.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 9. To His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,
Fort Saint George, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY IN COUNCIL,

We, the undersigned Inhabitants of Wallajapett Taluq, heard with the greatest regret that the Civil Dispensary at Raneepett, which was of great benefit to the sick poor, was closed under the instructions of the authorities. We were hitherto led to believe that it was founded upon Lungerkhana Funds and was self-supporting, independent of the medicines and services of the Dresser supplied by Government, and whether that it is true or not we have not the means of knowing. Sometime ago, we have subscribed about one thousand and five hundred Rupees to purchase and give a building for the Hospital; whether a suitable building is to be purchased, or erected, is a question which awaits the decision of the Collector. We, therefore, pray that the Governor in Council will be pleased to order the re-opening of the Dispensary at once, as it is our desire to raise a monthly subscription from among ourselves to meet the servants' wages, &c., provided the benefit of the Lungerkhana Funds is really closed against the poor of this and adjoining Taluqs.

For which act of kindness we shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

WALLAJAPETT, (Signed) M. BALAKISTNA ROW,
26th October 1864. *Hd. Clerk of the Hd. Asst. Collr.'s Office, N. Arcot.*
and others.

No. 2936 of 1864.

Referred to the Collector, for report upon the whole subject.

(By Order).

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
22nd November 1864.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under Secretary to Government.

No. 10. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Penamuri, 23rd March 1865, No. 12.

I have the honor, with reference to the endorsement on the accompanying petition,* to submit the report therein called for.

* No. 2936 of 1864.

2. The Raneepett Dispensary, to which the petition refers, was closed in October last, as no private subscriptions were forthcoming for its support. Petitioners pray that it may be re-opened, as they are willing to subscribe towards its maintenance.

3. In the Proceedings of Government, dated 16th May 1854, No. 478, Public Department, sanction was given for the establishment of two Dispensaries, one at Arcot, and another at Vellore, to be maintained out of savings effected in the administration of the Lungerkhana benefactions established in the above named localities.

4. At that time, the cumulative savings of the Lungerkhana Funds amounted to Rupees 11,386; and calculating, at the then prevailing prices of grain, it was

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
2nd October 1865.*

anticipated that a considerable surplus would annually accrue from the Lunkerkhana Funds to meet the expenditure incurred in setting up these two Dispensaries, the annual cost of which was estimated at Rupees 2316 for the Arcot Institution, and Rupees 2460 for that at Vellore.

5. The Arcot Dispensary was opened in January 1855, and that at Vellore in June 1854, a great portion of the accumulated savings being expended in setting up both establishments. Shortly after their establishment, the price of rice began to rise, and the expected savings year by year dwindled away so steadily, that at the end of the official year 1859-60, not only had all the accumulated surplus been absorbed, but the expenditure had exceeded the available assets by Rupees 1253.

6. It was then resolved by Government to abolish the Lunkerkhanas gradually, on the ground that the Dispensaries had been found to be the more useful form of endowment, and that the Lunkerkhanas, as heretofore administered, encouraged fraud and mendicancy.

7. The Secretary of State for India was, however, averse to the abolition of the Lunkerkhanas, and in his Despatch of the 8th May 1860, No. 31, directed that they should be continued on the scale of expenditure to which they had been limited in 1854-55, the Dispensaries being maintained at the same time on their then footing. The Government accordingly directed, in their Order of the 28th June 1860, No. 1069, Revenue Department, that these Dispensaries should be included in the list of Government Dispensaries, and should be reported on in common with them.

8. The annual sum allowed for the Lunkerkhanas, under the orders above quoted, was 1200 for that at Arcot, and 4176 for the Vellore Institution, being 5376 for both. This arrangement, which commenced with the official year 1861-62, left free Rupees 4265-15-0 annually, for expenditure on account of the Dispensaries from that year.

9. The Order contained in paragraph 6 of the Proceedings of Government, dated 10th April 1861, No. 802, severed the connection of the Revenue authorities with these Dispensaries. Up to that time, it had been the practice to include them in the Report on the Lunkerkhanas.

10. The expenditure in the Lunkerkhanas continues still limited to the amount mentioned in paragraph 8. Meanwhile economy in the general management, and the gradual operation of the other restrictive measures introduced by Mr. Bourdillon, have resulted in a considerable saving of the funds. The marginal statement shows the amount of these accumulations in each year, commencing from 1860-61. If to the aggregate amount be added the allotments set apart for the Dispensaries during the three past official years, we shall have a surplus of Rupees 18,818. Unfortunately, as a matter of account, it has been the practice to carry this surplus year by year to the credit of Government.

	Arcot. RS.	Vellore. RS.
1860-61...	1,817	3,559
1861-62...	131	166
1862-63...	206	260
1863-64...	173	208
Total ..	1,827	4,193
	60	20

11. As nearly as I can calculate, the average expenditure in each of these Dispensaries, exclusive of European medicines and professional attendance, has been Rupees 700 annually.

12. Thus the original amount set apart for the maintenance of these Dispensaries is, the Government will observe, quite sufficient to meet even the extraordinary charges of professional attendance, on a scale of 25 Rupees for a 2nd Dresser, and of an allowance of 50 Rupees to the Surgeon, as head money.

13. Under the circumstances above detailed, it seems to me incumbent on the Government either to direct the refund of all surplus which has been carried in the interim to public credit, and to continue to the Dispensaries their former allotments, or, if that be considered inexpedient, that the original grant, viz., Rupees 9641-15-0 be again set free for annual expenditure, for the purposes of these Lungerkhana endowments. I need scarcely observe that this latter arrangement would be a retrograde movement. Mr. Bourdillon has so fully exposed all the weaknesses and evils of the system under which

Letter to Board, 9th August 1859, No. 100.

these charities were formerly administered, that there can be no question that the reform initiated by him, though in the outset not so successful from a financial point of view as was anticipated, is still a very substantial improvement on the system which it replaced, and, now that we have safe data upon which to resume action, that both Dispensaries should be resuscitated at as early a date as possible.

14. From the subjoined enclosures, Government will learn that efforts have been made at Vellore and Wallajapet to get up a subscription list on behalf of the re-establishment of both Dispensaries, and with some success. My impression is that, were the temporary diversion of the Lungerkhana allotments at once stopped, and were these declared to be prospectively available, together with Intermediate arrears, for the purposes of the Dispensaries, the people would be willing enough to come forward with their private contributions. As it is, there is an apparent bad faith about the present aspect of matters, which must more or less repress any exhibition of public spirit in this direction. I anticipate no difficulty whatsoever in finding suitable accommodation at both places among the public buildings now standing idle; and if Government will be pleased to sanction a refund of arrears, and to declare the original allotments once more available, both Institutions might be revived at once, under a system of management which I could easily arrange, in concert with the Sub-Collector and Head Assistant located at Vellore and Raneepett, respectively.

Free Translation of Urzi from V. LUTCHMIA NAYADU, Tahsildar of Wallaja, to G. BAMBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot; dated 22nd October 1864.

The Dispensary at Wallajapet was removed to Raneepett about two years ago. The removal, I am told, was occasioned by failure of the inhabitants of this place to contribute towards payment of the rent of the building occupied by the Dispensary. The merchants of the place have now raised subscriptions for the purchase of Mr. Bilderbeck's Bungalow*, for the use of the Dispensary, and have actually paid in Rupees 984, which is now in deposit in the Treasury. The bungalow is not, in its present condition, worth Rupees 2000 (the sum asked for it by the owner).

NOTE—Since sold to a Mr. Potter, and to be pulled down, I believe, for the material.

and when purchased, it would require a further sum of Rupees 700 or 800 for its repair. I therefore, in my Urzi of the 11th July 1864, No. 85, proposed to Mr. Robinson the propriety of erecting in a proper locality at Wallajapet a new building for the Dispensary, but no reply has yet been received. Dresser Parthasardi Moodelliar told me yesterday that orders had been received from the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals for closing the Dispensary at Rancepett, and they had accordingly been carried out. This is much to the misfortune of the people. This Dispensary has been opened by Mr. Bourdillon, the charge being met from the Lunkerkhana Funds. I have had no occasion to peruse the correspondence on the subject, and I am therefore unable to give any account thereof. The Board of Revenue have, as represented by Mr. Fraser, in 1862, recorded that cumulated savings from Lunkerkhana Funds were available for this Dispensary, and these Proceedings I perused a year ago in the Head Assistant Collector's office. Such being the case, I am unable to account for the abolition of the Dispensary at Rancepett. I respectfully request that you will at once give the subject your merciful consideration, and adopt proper measures for the continuance of the Institution.

(Signed) V. LUTCHMIA NAYADU.

(Free Translation).

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,

Collector.

From W. F. HATHAWAY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot; dated Vellore, 29th November 1864, No. 427.

With reference to my letter, 215, of the 14th June last, I have the honor to inform you that I called a meeting of all the chief inhabitants of the place, for them to decide whether they wished to have the Civil Dispensary continued, by means of private subscriptions, or not.

2. I told them shortly how the matter stood, and left it to them to decide. I was surprised to find that they were very anxious to support it, and that they all at once came forward with subscriptions, many putting their names down at once for sums of 100 and 50 Rupees. Altogether a sum of 1100 Rupees odd has been subscribed.

3. However, as it has not yet been paid up, it will not do to be too sanguine. The people are aware of the advantages of a Dispensary, and, on the whole, are desirous that it should be continued; but I doubt whether it will ever be very cordially supported. There is no inclination to make use of it personally in case of illness, and it is looked upon as merely a relief for the perfectly indigent and destitute. This is the object most to be desired, viz., that the Institution should itself be popular and taken advantage of, as there is no intrinsic use in the mere subscriptions and the keeping on the Dispensary, if none are ready to make use of it. At present, in spite of the very large population of this town, the applications for relief are very few, and, on going there, one sees the whole building empty, except, perhaps, one or two patients at the most.

4. This is the thing that I am most anxious to remedy. I asked the Dresser whether he could not interest the people a little more in the Institution, and get them to make use of what they are willing to subscribe for; but I was told that he was unable to go amongst the people or speak to them about it, as he had always to be in attendance at the Dispensary itself. Seeing then that there was a Dresser attached to the Sub-Collector's office, who had nothing to do all the year round, except when in tents at Jummahbundy time, I told him also to attend at the Dispensary and assist the other Dresser, and see what he could do towards interesting the people in the matter; but I doubt whether he has sufficient energy to do much.

5. On the whole then, I should propose that the Civil Dispensary be continued for another year, by means of the present subscriptions, but that then it be closed, unless the books show a larger number of admissions, and a greater willingness on the part of the people themselves to take advantage of the benefit offered.

(True Copy).

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,

Collector.

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, 2nd October 1865, No. 1026.

The above letter is a report called for from the Collector of North Arcot upon a petition from certain residents of Rancepett, in that District, complaining of the closing of the Civil Dispensary there, and representing that the Dispensary had been originally instituted and supported from surplus Lunkerkhana Funds.

2. It appears that when the late Honorable East India Company took charge of the District of North Arcot, they found, at Vellore and Wallajapett, Lunkerkhanas which had been established by the Carnatic Government, and for which a yearly allowance was made. Feeling themselves bound by these obligations, they continued the charities by a yearly grant of Rupees 9641-15-0, and on this footing the Institutions continued for many years.

3. In 1854, it was found that the amount yearly granted was not expended, and the Government, respecting the obligation which by ancient prescription lay upon them, of expending the endowment for charitable purposes, sanctioned the establishment of Dispensaries at each of these places, out of the surplus funds, and allotted certain sums to be devoted to each of the four charities, two Lunkerkhanas and two Dispensaries.

4. It was subsequently brought to notice that there were no longer any savings available from the Lunkerkhana, owing to the enhanced price of grain, and the Government for some time paid larger sums for the support of the four charities, with the intention of eventually allowing the Lunkerkhanas to die out. The Secretary of State, in reviewing these proceedings, objected to this intention being carried out, stating that he was not "prepared to sanction even the gradual abolition of the more ancient benefaction of the Lunkerkhanas," but sanctioned the division of the funds, in the proportion fixed by Government, between the two classes of Institutions. The Dispensaries having been for some time established, orders were given in 1860 (G. O., No. 1069, of the 28th June, Revenue) that they should be included in the list of Government Dispensaries, and be reported on with them. They thus became merged in the general list, and when, in 1863, orders were passed compelling the provision of local aid for the support of Dispensaries, the rule was applied to those Institutions, the fact being overlooked that they were on a footing essentially different from that of the other Dispensaries. This was not, however, forgotten in the neighbourhood, and the people, knowing that the Dispensaries were established from ancient endowments, objected to relieve Government from what they felt to be an obligation of weight, and, in consequence of no subscriptions being forthcoming, the Rancepett Dispensary was closed.

5. From the Collector's letter it appears that savings have been effected in the Lunkerkhana expenditure since 1860-61, and that the allotments, at the old scale, for the Dispensaries have not been spent for the last three official years, so that Government have saved an aggregate amount of Rupees 18,818, on the original Lunkerkhana endowment, since 1860-61. Mr. Robinson states that the annual cost of each of the Dispensaries does not exceed Rupees 700, and that the allotment of 1854 would provide, besides this, Rupees 25 per mensem for a 2nd Dresser, and the allowance of Rupees 50 for the Surgeon, and he strongly urges the immediate restoration of the Dispensaries, and restitution of the funds above adverted to, remarking that the apparent bad faith of the transaction represses any exhibition of public spirit. He says that there will be no difficulty in finding suitable buildings, and that he can guarantee good management.

2nd October 1865.

6. The Government regret that the Dispensaries were allowed to be closed, without the circumstances of the Institutions being brought prominently before them, and consider that it now only remains that the earliest possible measures be taken for restoring the Establishments at Vellore and Rancepett, the latter being a more suitable station than Wallajapett. The Government sanction the annual payment of the allotments to Dispensaries which were made in the orders sanctioning their institution, viz., Rupees 2160 annually to Vellore, and Rupees 2316 to Rancepett. With reference to the re-payment of the arrears of Rupees 18,818, the Government would be glad to be informed of the purpose to which the Collector proposes to apply the amount, which has been carried to the credit of Imperial Funds.

7. The Revenue Board will resume their supervision of the working of the Institutions, as coming within the scope of Regulation VII of 1817.

8. Had they not been withdrawn from the Board's charge, by G. O. dated 28th June 1860, it is probable that the nature of their origin, as derived from an old charitable endowment of the former Native Government, would not have been left unnoticed, when their abolition was contemplated.

(True Extract).

[Signature]
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of North Arcot.

„ Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Accountant General.

21-24-24
Communicated to the
Revenue Board. —

6th October 1865

File Boarding Case with Bm Sub Dept. not on 7 Oct

Ed. J. H. Burns.

17
3*10/10/65*

Year = 1865. Dec 14.
No. of Good Birds
172. 279.

Proceedings of the
Probas Court in
the Public Office

Q. 20 of the Board of Directors
of 14 Aug 1900 1782

Ordered 22^d of Oct.
 Received 5th 1865
 \$1026-

Received of
C. W. 10/13/24

to Mr. P's
existing orders on
proper relating to the
closing of the Guild Dis-
= pendary at Bameyett,
in State Street

26/15716.

No 2484. b 6^o Delo

W. H. Crocker