

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1260	Press
		~~Mis.~~
<u>180-52</u>		
Dated	8 th May	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th May 1869.*

Read the following :—

No. 150. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th January 1869,
No. 590.

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Madras District, to the Acting
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 15th January 1869,
No. 10 :—

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for the information of the Board, copy
of report to Mr. Thornhill from Mr. Apothecary Saviel, on the result of his treat-
ment of the fever which broke out lately among the inhabitants of Allikuly and
of a few other villages of the Trivellore Talook, and to state that the Tahsildar has
been called upon to report on the expediency of clearing away some of the Forest
in the neighbourhood, and what measures he would propose for the encouragement
of more extended cultivation, as suggested by Mr. Saviel.

2. Mr. Saviel's letter has also been sent on to Mr. Lee Warner, the Assistant
Collector in charge of the Trivellore Talook, who has been requested to visit the
locality himself, and also to make such suggestions as he might think proper, with
regard to the sanitation, generally, of the neighbourhood.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Apothecary A. SAVIEL, late in Medical charge of Allecooly, to the Collector and Magistrate
of the Madras District, Sydapet, dated Madras, 22nd November 1868, No. 16.

I HAVE the honor to subjoin a Statement of sick from Ague, treated in Allikuly and adjoining
villages from the 27th September to the 16th November 1868, the period I afforded medical
aid to the inhabitants of those villages who had been suffering from the above sickness :—

	No.
Admitted from 27th September to 16th November 1868...	211
Died	2
Discharged cured... ..	204
Remaining	5

2. Three more deaths from other diseases, not included in the foregoing Statement, also
occurred—namely, one from Hepat. ac. one from Apoplexy, and one from Dysentery ac.

3. The country, composed of a number of villages, is surrounded by hills and forest,* and the
villages are extremely dirty, being filled with
heaps of decomposing animal and vegetable mat-
ter, which I am of opinion are sources of malaria,

* The ground rocky.

to which the inhabitants of the above villages are constantly exposed, poverty of the labouring class
generally acting as a predisposing cause.

4. I would, therefore, suggest, as a sanitary measure, that the forest be cut down for some
distance, and the filth from and about the houses of the villages removed under the Municipal Act:
the lake on the west end be made wider by enlarging the anicut, so as to ensure a larger supply of
water from streams running down from the neighbouring hills, which would be the means of improv-
ing the cultivation now failing, I understand, from deficiency of the necessary element; the rivulets
alone being insufficient to meet the demands of agriculture.

5. I beg to add that, though the demolition of the forest, as suggested, may be attended with
disadvantage to cattle, by curtailing their forage, yet this would be counterbalanced by advantages
accruing therefrom by bringing waste land into cultivation, thus affording labour to the poorer class
that now suffer from poverty.

6. In conclusion, I am glad to observe that the prevalence of the disease has considerably
subsided since the late heavy rains, and though the sickness had somewhat increased for a few days

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afterwards, it again decreased remarkably, so that on the 16th November, the day previous to my departure, the number remaining under treatment was only five, all improving.

THE Board await the Collector's further report on the result of Mr. Lee Warner's inspection.

No. 151. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1869, No. 2,532.
Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 28th January 1869, No. 590.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 13th March 1869, No. 70.

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 28th January, No. 590, I have the honor to forward, herewith, copy of a letter received from Mr. Lee Warner, the Assistant in charge of the Trivellore Talook, and of a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Thornhill who also lately visited the village of Allikuly.

2. The Board will observe that apparently everything has been done that can be done to arrest the fever that lately decimated the neighbourhood. The jungles are reported as not dense enough in any way to account for the sickness, neither, can the water be considered as a likely cause of it; my idea is, that general poverty had much more to say to it, and that, it is hoped, will be now somewhat remedied, as employment and food will be given to the inhabitants upon the various works recommended by Mr. Lee Warner, and which I have ordered to be carried out at once.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Assistant Collector of Madras, to the Collector of Madras, dated Allikuly, 3rd February 1869.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have had my camp pitched at Allikuly for the last three days. I have personally inspected the streets and many of the houses and backyards of the village, and I cannot find anything remarkable in the dirt and filthiness of Allikuly above the dirt and filthiness of any ordinary Hindoo village, where the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and share their cleanliness with cattle, pigs, and other animals. There is one cesspool which runs by the side of the Monegar's house, which I have ordered to be cleansed, though I am not very sanguine of the good which may arise from that single act. It may possibly be, that the village site has become contaminated in some way, and that the fever will not be got rid of, as it is in the ground; but the water is so excellent and nice tasting, I can hardly form that opinion. Neither is there anything in the situation of Allikuly which should render it more liable to fever than the surrounding villages. The whole valley lies in a basin of hills at a higher level than the flat country which is outside, and ought to be feverish; but then the difficulty is, that Allikuly is the only village attacked, while other nearer to the jungle slopes are perfectly free. The whole thing is a mystery at present, and will not in the least be cleared up by any general remarks that the Medical Department may make regarding decomposing filth, vegetable matter, or predisposing causes. The fever will, I hope, now die of itself, and precautions must be taken to prevent the similar accumulation of filth in the streets, which has been noticed by Mr. Saviel. I am much obliged to Mr. Saviel for his mention of the necessity of repairing the tank at Allikuly. Of its extension I can say nothing, as Mr. Thornhill, Mr. Goodchap, and myself visited it, and are of opinion that it should not be extended, but put into thorough repair as it stands. I will apply at once that the repairs may be commenced. The estimate for strengthening the existing bund and making a second sluice and repairing the calingulah amounts to 1,600 Rupees.

2. Above the village of Placepolliem is a narrow gorge, which may be turned to admirable advantage by throwing a bund across the lower parts of it and damming up the water. I have

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asked the Officer in charge of the Range to submit his opinion with an estimate at once. The villagers of this valley are mostly poor, but industrious; and they are certainly as hard up for water as other people, when there is a failure of the monsoon. I can show the pecuniary advantage arising from the construction of such a tank or tanks, when I hereafter submit the project for immediate execution, as a special case, called for with reference to the lamentable fever that, without killing them, has, to a certain degree destroyed the vitality of the working population of Allikuly, and with reference to the proceedings of the Medical Department. The works must be carried out here at once, and earlier than other works, as the rains that fall in this valley are up at once, and have no other outlet save the outlets where tanks have been constructed. The rains are expected after May. It has been suggested to me, that the general contour of these hills, and the high level of the valley itself, suggest volcanic action. Perhaps the site of the village has been contaminated in this way by some of the volcanic waves lately noticed by the Collector of North Arcot, which adjoins this part of our district.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

MEMORANDUM.

THE fever which raged at this place last year, led me, when there on boundary work, to take note of the state of the village. The Apothecary sent out to relieve the sick last year gave it as his opinion that the fever was caused by the proximity of jungle and by the filthy state of the village.

2. I did not see anything exceptional in the state of the village; it had been partially cleansed before I went there; but although dirty enough, it was not more so than the generality of villages in this part of the country.

3. Neither is there any thick jungle near the village which would appear likely to produce malaria. Allikuly with some four or five other villages is situated in a valley surrounded by stony hills. The hills rise from 300 feet to nearly or quite 1,000 feet above the sea, and the valley itself is considerably more elevated than the surrounding country, and forms a perfect basin from which there is but one outlet for all the rain-fall. It would appear to have been of volcanic origin, the entire surface of the hills and valley being thereby covered with loose round stones, and the rocks where exposed being composed of a species of conglomerate resembling enormous masses of concrete. The slopes of the hills are covered with low jungle, somewhat dense in the ravines but sparse on the hill sides. It has been cleared in places for cultivation, and in the low ground near the stream which intersects the valley appears to bear good wet crops; higher up on the slopes dry crops are grown: the soil is not unfertile, but frequent rain is of course requisite to mature the crops.

4. I visited the tank with Mr. Lee Warner and Mr. Goodchap, Assistant Engineer, and we were agreed in thinking that it should be put in thorough repair but not enlarged. To enlarge it would submerge much good land and a village. There are sites in Placepettah, Hodsonpuram, and Hodsonnagaram, where moderate sized tanks might be constructed at a small cost, and with very good results. There is a good deal of spring water in the hills, and some of the nullahs have even now small streams running down them.

5. As regards any further clearance of the jungle, I doubt if it would be productive of good. The light covering now on the hill sides must tend to mitigate the heat, which, in the hot season is no doubt intense, and must be rather beneficial to health than otherwise. It would be advantageous to encourage the planting of topes if possible; the trees, chiefly tamarind, round the villages have grown to a great size, and the soil is clearly favorable to their growth. Allikuly itself is surrounded by lime gardens which seem to thrive well.

6. It is remarkable that of all the villages in the valley, Allikuly alone was attacked with fever, and it is said that no such outbreak has been known in the village for thirty or forty years.

The site of the village does not appear unhealthy; it is on the rocky slope of the hill with the bed of the streams at its foot; there is almost always a slight stream of water passing along the bed.

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7. No fresh cases of fever appear to have occurred for some two or three months, but many of those formerly attacked have still returns of the fever, which seems to have been very debilitating in its effects.

CAMP OOTTUKOTAH.
5th February 1869,

(Signed) G. THORNHILL,
Collector on Special duty.

RESOLVED that the foregoing papers be submitted for the information of Government.

2. In a letter dated 15th January 1869, No. 10 (embodied in the Board's Proceedings above named) the Collector forwarded a report from Mr. Apothecary Saviel concerning an outbreak, in September last, of ague of a severe but not fatal type, at the village of Allikuly, in the Trivellore Talook.

3. Mr. Saviel visited the village and reported that out of 211 cases which had received medical treatment between 27th September and 10th November 1868, two had died, and 204 had been cured, five remaining under treatment at the time of his departure. He attributed the origin of the outbreak to the filthy condition of the village, the poverty of the people affording a predisposing cause.

4. The Collector stated that he had instructed Mr. Lee Warner to visit the locality and make such suggestions as he might think proper regarding the sanitation generally of the neighbourhood.

5. This has been done, and a report has been forwarded with Mr. Fano's letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings.

6. It will be seen that Mr. Thornhill and Mr. Lee Warner, accompanied by Mr. Goodchap, the Range Officer, have visited the village, but do not find its condition exceptionally filthy, and are at a loss to account for the unusual outbreak of disease.

7. The Collector has sanctioned various works recommended by Mr. Lee Warner for giving employment and food to the villagers, as well as improving their water-supply,

No. 152.

ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1869, No. 1,260.

Miscellaneous.

THE proceedings of the District Officers are approved. The cost of the work to be undertaken must of course, be met from the ordinary Public Works Grant of the district.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Revenue Department
No 1260

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 8th May 1869.

Recd the following
Pro. of the Board of Revenue

Submitting correspondence
on the sanitary condition of
Alkully village in Madras Dist^y,
lately visited by fever. —

(B. G. 14th April 1869 N. 2532)

The proceedings of
the District Officers are ap-
proved. The cost of the work
to be undertaken must of course
be met from the ordinary
P. W. Grant of the District.



To the B^d of Rev^y Despo
H. W. Esq^r
Secy^r Genl^y

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Spottisall

Year of 1869

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy, &c., &c.

Dated May, 8th.

Recd.

Est.

G. O., 8th May 1869, No. 1,260.

MAY.

NO. 150-152.

Sanitary condition of Alkully village in
Madras District.—Proceedings of the District
Officers in connection with it, approved.