Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1872.

No. 317. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th December 1871, No. 5,059 :—

Read the following letters :—

From the Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 14th November 1871, No. 367.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th ultimo, No. 4,318, I have the honour to forward herewith the Head Assistant Collector's rejoinder to the charge made by the Superintendent of Police, that "Ellore, though "a Municipality, is reported as one of the dirtiest places in the district." Captain Porteous having made this statement, the truth of which he apparently took no means of testing, leaves it to be inferred that cholera was engendered at Ellore by the insanitary state of the town, and thence disseminated to other parts of the district. The real cause of its appearance at Ellore is given in the Head Assistant's letter, whose simple denial of the truth of the Police reports as to the condition of the town, forming the head-quarters of his division, may, I think, under the circumstances, be accepted as satisfactory. It is to be regretted that Captain Porteous did not personally satisfy himself of the accuracy of the reports made to him by his subordinates, before passing them on to the sanitary Commissioner, and having done so, that he did not bring the matter to the notice of the District and Division Magistrates. I have not yet had an opportunity of visiting Ellore, but I know Mr. Happell to be an able and energetic Administrative Officer, and am quite convinced that the charge of apathy and neglect of sanitary measures brought against the Municipal Commission over which he presides is unfounded.

2. No effort is spared to make the heads of villages discharge their duties efficiently in respect of conservancy measures, and quite recently, on the representation of the Superintendent of Police, stringent orders on the subject were issued. I should be very sorry to assert that the villages in this district or in any other were in as satisfactory a condition in this respect as could be wished, but where all depends on the influence and energy of one man, perfection can hardly be expected.

Enclosure No. 1.

From W. A. HAPPELL, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Dippakayalapadu, 3rd November 1871, No. 173.

I have the honour to furnish the explanation called for in the Board's Proceedings dated 9th October 1871, No. 4,318.

2. The explanation of the appearance of cholera, if it was cholera, in Ellore, the only place in my division, mentioned in the Superintendent of Police's letter, is very simple. There was at that time a cholera epidemic on the high road between Bezwada and Hydrabad. Ellore is in frequent communication with Hydrabad by that route, and it is not surprising that a few cases occurred. The disease did not spread. Captain Porteous does not appear to have seen Ellore when he wrote his somewhat spasmodic letter, so, I presume, it will be sufficient for me to deny that Ellore is specially dirty. The streets are kept clean. The town is regarded by the people who live in it as unusually healthy.

From the Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 27th November 1871, No. 385.

ADVERTING to the Board's Proceedings dated 9th October last, No. 4,318, and in continuation of my letter dated 14th instant, No. 367, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Sub-Collector, regarding the condition of certain villages in the Sub-Division, reported by the Superintendent of Police to be "atrociously filthy." The reports of the Tahsildars of Yernagudem and Peddapur on the subject are also enclosed.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Tangapadu, 25th November 1871, No. 237.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith translations of the explanations submitted by the Tahsildars of Yernagudem and Peddapur, with reference to Captain Porteous's letter, contained in Board's Proceedings No. 4,318, dated 9th October last.

2. I have been over the Yernagudem Taluq and through a good many villages of the Rajahmundry Taluq, and beg to state that my experience does not at all bear out Captain Porteous's statements. I have seen nothing that could in any way merit the terms "atrociously filthy," and I can safely say that the villages in this district are at least as well kept and as clean as those of the Kistna, Ganjam or Tinnevelly, in which I have served. There is of course room for improvement every where. but I see no reason to think that there is any thing peculiar about the state of the villages in this district.

3. As regards the village of Prakasarowpalem it will be seen that the Tahsildar had recently had that village cleaned, and from Captain Porteous's letter it is clear that the cholera was brought there, as it might have been to the best conserved village in the district from outside.

4. On the receipt of Captain Porteous's letter about Jaggampetta the Zemindar was written to, and he replied that he would have the place cleaned. I have received no further report ; but as the situation of the place is reported to be unfavourable, I thought of proposing that a Village Conservancy Establishment should be entertained here by the Local Fund Board, as an experiment, that is, if I find on examination that the state of the village is such as to require such a measure.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Translation of two Arzis.

THESE letters will be submitted for the information of Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings No. 4,318, dated 9th October 1871.

2. It would appear that Captain Porteous had been somewhat hasty in attributing an exceptional degree of dirtiness to the villages of the district.

No. 318. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1872, No. 161.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are glad to learn that the reports were not well founded.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1872.

2. They desire to be informed by the Inspector-General of Police under what authority Captain Porteous addressed the Sanitary Commissioner direct instead of applying to the Magistrate, as it was clearly his duty to do, when he believed the reports to be trustworthy.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Inspector-General of Police.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rec: 1872 : Dept
No 177
1871.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH DECEMBER 1871, No. 5,059.

Dup.: 11 Jan.y 1872

Encl. 1

Received. 12 Janry 1872 458

—a—17th—a—a.

No 55

DECEMBER.

No. 5,059.

Sanitary condition of town of Ellore and certain villages—in Godavery District,—Letters from Collector forwarding reports of Acting Head Assistant Collector and Sub-Collector on, from which it will be seen that these localities are not in filthy state described by Superintendent of Police submitted to Government.

Read Order

No 161-26 Janry 1872

Rec: 21st Oct.r/71 No 223-224
Rev Dept

No 317-318

No 161.

20th Sept 1871