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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 5	Press
B.P. No.	Mis.
Dated 1.12.1873	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 369. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government in the Public Department, dated 10th October 1873.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 8th October 1873, No. 53.

On the 16th of April last, I brought to the notice of the Consulting Engineer for Railways the existence of stagnant water in the Railway Station of Coimbatore, caused by the excavation of soil below the surface level of the tank, which I apprehended would be a cause of sickness. In fact, it does add to the dampness and possible malaria of a residence in the more immediate vicinity.

2. I was informed, in reply, that the Resident Engineer was of opinion "that the noisome smell complained of proceeds not so much from this land (query water?) as from the lands outside the Railway Station compound, submerged by the water of the tank," and that the case is no worse than before the construction of the railway.

3. It seems to me that there is an appreciable difference between the case of a reservoir constructed for irrigation, and a hole dug by a Company for the excavation of earth, and that if the waters of the tank spread when it is full, they recede when the water becomes used up.

4. This is different from the water stagnating in an artificial hole; and Government may perhaps be of opinion that some attempt should be made to remedy the artificial nuisance.

Transferred to the Department Public Works.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

Referred to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for report, in communication with the District Engineer, if necessary.

Ootacamund,
10th October 1873.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 369A. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 3rd November 1873, No. 581.

In returning the letter* from the Collector of Coimbatore which accompanied your endorsement dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to report, for the information of Government, that I last week inspected that part of the Coimbatore station enclosure to which Mr. Wedderburn refers.

* No. 53, 8th October 1873.

2. In the south-east corner of the enclosure there is a small strip of land, some 80 yards in length by 15 in breadth, which lies low enough to be flooded by the waters of the Coimbatore tank, when the latter is full. This strip of land

forms, in fact, part of the tank, with which it has free connection by means of a bridge built by the Railway Company across the public road. It receives the drainage, not only of the station enclosure, but of a considerable piece of land outside the station, which drains into it by means of a small natural water-course. Before the construction of the Neilgherry branch this small water-course crossed the present line of railway and joined the Coimbatore tank to the west of it. Upon the construction of the railway the water-course was diverted, and it now joins the tank to the east of the line.

3. At the time of my inspection the tank was full, and the depth of water in this small inlet averaged from 1½ feet to 2 feet. As mentioned above it has free communication with the tank, and the water in it rises and falls along with the level of the tank. Mr. Wedderburn is mistaken when he speaks of the water stagnating in this corner of the station enclosure.

4. I enclose, for the information of Government, a letter* from the Agent of the Madras Railway Company, giving cover to a report on the subject from the Chief Engineer. A copy of this report was furnished at the time to Mr. Wedderburn. I am able to endorse the whole of Mr. Going's remarks. No good object would, in my opinion, be gained by calling upon the Company to fill in the small piece of low-lying land in question. Its distance from the station-house is about 250 yards, and no unpleasant smell from it is ever felt there. Mr. Wedderburn is mistaken in stating that "it adds to the dampness and possible malaria of a residence in the more immediate vicinity" of the station. Its existence cannot possibly have any appreciable effect in comparison with the extensive water-spread of the tank, from which it is separated only by the width of the public road; and, as pointed out by Mr. Going, the condition of the station enclosure is virtually the same now as it was before the construction of the railway.

* No. 531, 24th July 1873.

From J. W. MELLIS, Esq., for the Acting Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 24th July 1873, No. 531.

With reference to your letter No. 364 of the 18th of April 1873 and its enclosure,* I have the honour to enclose you a copy of the Acting Chief Engineer's letter, No. 477, of the 23rd instant, upon the subject of the piece of low land within the compound of the Coimbatore Station alluded to by Mr. Wedderburn.

* Copy of letter from Collector of Coimbatore, No. 7, 16th April 1873.

From T. H. GOING, Esq., Acting Chief Engineer, to W. B. WRIGHT, Esq., Acting Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Madras, 22nd July 1873, No. 477.

In continuation of my letter, No. 272, of 5th May last, I beg to report that I have inspected the locality referred to by Mr. Wedderburn, and that I am of opinion that no appreciable sanitary benefit would be derived by filling in the low land in question, because it is of very limited extent indeed compared with the large expanse of flooded land lying outside the station compound.

2. I may add that before the Railway Company entered on this ground the area now enclosed by the station fence contained a low piece of ground, also subject to inundation from the tank. This was filled up by the railway bank, in the construction of which a similar piece of low ground (the one in question) came to be substituted. So that in fact the case is no worse by the existence of the railway.

Proceedings of, the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th November 1873.

No. 370. Order thereon, 26th November 1873, No. 2,856.

RAILWAY, No. 57.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is satisfied by the explanations given by the Chief Engineer of the Madras Railway and by the Consulting Engineer that the excavation made by the Railway Company at the Coimbatore Station has in no way altered for the worse the sanitary condition of the locality.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Public do.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Govt. of Tamil Nadu

PUBLIC WORKS.

To,

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER FOR

RAILWAYS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 2012.

Rcvd. 28th Exd.

G. O., 28th November 1872, No. 2,856.

NOVEMBER

Nos. 669-670

Coimbatore Railway Station.—Passing orders on letter from the Consulting Engineer regarding the sanitary state of the station.

No. 5.
Communicated to the
Board of Revenue.