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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1419.	Press. / Mis.
Dated	12-3-1877	197 .

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Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

1413

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st March 1877. *No.* 702.

Read the following papers :—

No. 13. Petition from the Inhabitants of Park Town, dated 12th February 1877.

THAT your memorialists the inhabitants of Park Town, employés of the Madras Railway Company, &c., residing and working near the General Hospital Bridge beg to submit the following for the consideration of your Grace in Council.

2. That during last year a bund was put across the Cooum on the north side of the General Hospital Bridge for the purpose of widening and improving the same; during the continuance of the bund it was found that the water in the Cooum south of the bund was always kept at mean sea level, and hence the bund was strengthened and retained permanently.

3. That this bund prevents the free circulation of the water and other putrid matters found into Cochrane's Canal by the numerous large sewers opening into it, and consequently the bund has become a nuisance.

4. That in or about June last the stench arising from the accumulation of putrid matters on the north side of the bund drew public attention, and became so serious that the President of the Municipal Commission, in conjunction with the Government and Railway Officials, took measures to remedy the evil; but your memorialists beg to assure your Grace in Council that the stench still continues, and, in your memorialists' humble opinion, will only cease on the removal of the bund, which will allow of the putrid matter now accumulating on the north of the bund and contaminating the air with the nauseous effluvia arising from its decomposition to flow into the sea, or its effects neutralized by its being distributed over a very much larger surface instead of as at present being concentrated in one locality.

5. That the health of some of your memorialists who are situated immediately next to the nuisance has been seriously impaired from the continuance of this nuisance, and during the past few days two of their number have fallen victims to cholera.

6. That your memorialists are peculiarly situated having cholera and infectious disease sheds and dead house of the Genera Hospital adjacent to them and at a time when famine, cholera, and small-pox are rife in this city, and to have a public nuisance in addition without the opportunity of removing away from it seems to your memorialists a hardship which has only to be represented to your Grace in Council to be removed.

7. That apart from the personal considerations of your memorialists the continuance of the bund and nuisance must be undoubtedly detrimental to the health of the patients in the General Hospital, and its being vicinal both to the People's Park and one of the largest thoroughfares in Madras would make the removal of this nuisance caused by a work of doubtful utility a public good.

8. That, should your Grace in Council still think the continuance of the bund necessary, your memorialists beg respectfully to suggest that the bund be removed to some locality north of the Elephant Gate Bridge, where the nuisance will not be so keenly felt by your memorialists or the public, as the inhabitants of that locality are

not in the vicinity of the canal as is the case at the General Hospital Bridge, and your memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Note by the Acting President Madras Municipal Commission.

With reference to a petition from certain inhabitants of Madras complaining of the nuisance near General Hospital Bridge, caused by the existence of the dam lately erected by the Public Works Department, and to a copy of a letter from the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, it is suggested that the cleansing of the portion of the canal to the north of the said dam be undertaken and be carried out in the following manner :—

1st.—To construct a bund across the canal between 200 or 300 yards to the north of the present dam.

2nd.—To intercept the sewage falling into the portion thus bunded off and to discharge it to the north of the new bund.

N.B.—Were the intercepted sewage discharged into the Cooum south of the present dam, it would most probably be the cause of a still greater nuisance than it is at as it would lie principally under the arch of the General Hospital Bridge.

3rd.—The clearing and cleansing with proper deodorants of this portion will then be proceeded with, the silt being thrown into previously prepared trenches in the People's Pak.

4th.—The removal of the dam at the bridge and the admission of the Cooum water into the cleansed portion of the canal; the intercepting drain discharging the sewage to the north of the bund would then be removed, and the sewage allowed to discharge as before.

5th.—This operation to be repeated as many times as might be required for the cleansing of the remaining portion of the canal.

(Signed) L. R. BURROWS,
Ag. President, Municipal Commission.

No. 13-A. Memorandum.

The Chief Engineer is of opinion that the proposals* of the President, Municipal Commission, for the abatement of the nuisance arising from the filthy state of the canal north of the General Hospital Bridge are likely to prove as efficient a [illegible]utive as the circumstances will allow of being introduced.

* In a note without date on a petition, dated 12th February 1877.

2. The distance from the General [illegible]ital Bridge to the Elephant Gate Bridge is about 3,900 feet, and all this length could be cleaned out and the filth buried in the People's Park, the canal being bunded at [illegible]derate intervals during the progress of the work.

3. As each successive length is cleaned the restoration of communication southwards with the Cooum will be necessary to secure the dilution of the sewage, and it is not probable that any material alteration in the state of the Cooum generally will thereby be produced.

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4. A bund not further north than the Elephant Gate Bridge should be maintained until the canal water-level from Ennore to Madras rises above the level of the Cooum.

Fort St. George, 16th February 1877. (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E., Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

No. 13-B. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 28th February 1877, No. 480.

From L. R. BURROWS, Esq., Acting President of the Madras Municipal Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 17th February 1877, No. 712.

I have the honor to report, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, that navigation has ceased on the East Coast Canal since Wednesday the 7th instant, in consequence of insufficiency of depth of water. The inconvenience to merchants and others who depend on the canal for conveyance of goods and supplies, and the desirability of putting the canal into a navigable state, need not be pointed out.

2. There are two Famine Camps on the banks of the canal between the Basin and the Shadayancoopum Lock. One of these camps situated near Manally Bridge is under the superintendence of Captain Heming, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Madras, and contains about 500 men, who are engaged on the traverse of the Veysurpady Powder Magazine.

3. The other camp situated near Sattakadu Bridge is under my supervision, and there are at present about 725 working men, women, and boys, who have been employed in cleaning tanks in the neighbourhood pending the preparation of the scheme for the Municipal Sewage Farm and Nightsoil Depôt.

4. As none of these works are of an emergent nature, they might, I think, be advantageously postponed, and the coolies now employed upon them be set on to deepen the canal.

5. I would suggest that the District Engineer of Chingleput be requested to furnish two estimates for deepening the canal to the required depth, one from the Basin to the Manally Bridge, and the other from the Manally Bridge to the Shadayancoopum Lock. The former estimate could be taken on hand by Captain Heming's coolies, and the latter by mine. The work would be done in a very short time.

6. Beyond Shadayancoopum Lock there is water, and I am informed that navigation is still going on between Pulicat and Ennore.

7. If the canal be deepened as far as the Shadayancoopum Lock, it will doubtless be used considerably for bringing in firewood and shells, the supply of which is now seriously diminished in consequence of the present want of depth of water.

No. 13-C. From the same Officer, dated Madras, 17th February 1877, No. 713.

I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of His Grace the Governor in Council, a proposal drawn up in consultation with the Municipal Executive Engineer for cleaning the Cochrane's Canal from above the General Hospital Bridge and for removing the present dam to a point higher up the canal.

2. By the means now proposed the portion of the canal referred to can be cleaned without causing much nuisance, and the dam can be removed without the danger of suddenly exposing any considerable area of fresh mud in the Cooum bed.

3. If at the same time steps be taken for the admission of sea water into the Cooum, the level of that river would not be lowered and might perphas be raised a little.

No. 13-D. From the same Officer, dated Madras, 27th February 1877, No. G. 776.

In continuation of my letter of the 17th instant, on the subject of the nuisance in the Cochrane's Canal near the General Hospital Bridge, I have the honor to forward an estimate for clearing the canal for a distance of 200 yards and covering the slush in the People's Park. The work is one that could be done almost entirely by famine coolies, and I shall be glad to undertake it as a Famine Relief work with the sanction of Government. The expense of temporarily diverting the sewage could be borne by the Municipality.

2. If the Government are averse to the proposal being carried out, I should be glad to know whether they would be pleased to allow the Municipality to divert the sewage to a point 200 yards higher up the canal, where a small bund could be thrown across to prevent it from approaching the Hospital Bridge. The water remaining in the canal on the side towards the bridge could be thrown over this bund, and the bed of the canal being deodorized with road dust as the water was drained off might be allowed to dry.

3. It would then merely require watching to prevent the population from using it as a latrine.

Referred to the Public Works Department for disposal.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 14. Order thereon, 1st March 1877, No. 702.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 3.

His Grace the Governor in Council is of opinion that the removal of the filthy deposit from the Cochrane's Canal south of the Elephant Gate Bridge [illegible]rying it in the People's Park is not likely to prove the palliative it is suppos[illegible] likely to be conducive to the health of the residents in the vicinity of the canal.

2. The only apparent permanent remedy is to remove the deposit to some distance and place it in such localities as may not be injurious to any one. Arrangements are now being made for the speedy clearance by contract of the canal north of the Elephant Gate Bridge, and it is contemplated that, so soon as the canal shall have been rendered navigable, the same contractor shall take up the clearance of the Cochrane's Canal from the Elephant Gate Bridge to the Hospital Bridge, removing the spoil by boats to such localities, up the canal, as may be deemed desirable. The

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proposal to divert the sewage to the extent noted in letter No. 776 of the 27th February 1877 and deodorizing the bed of the canal is not objected to.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,
Acting Joint Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Presidency.
" President of the Madras Municipal Commission.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Financial Department.
" District Engineer, Chingleput.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
20 Spare Copies

Rev: Dept

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No. 1700

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
PRESIDENCY,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 1st.

Issued

Rect. 12 March Encl.

G. O., 1st March 1877, No. 702.

MARCH.

Nos. 13-14.

Cochrane's Canal south of the Elephant Gate Bridge.—Orders issued relative to the removal of the filthy deposit from the —.

No 1419
Comm^r to the
Board of Revenue
12 March 77