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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated	18. 9. 1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

7th September 1877, No. 203.

Cemeteries.

Read the following papers:—

No. 3. *From the Venerable C. R. DRURY, M.A., Archdeacon of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 21st July 1877, No. 497.*

I have the honor to forward a letter from the Rev. S. Percival, Officiating Minister at Negapatam, in connection with the Bishop's Additional Fund, in which he states that the public cemetery at that station has been in use for nearly two centuries, and it is impossible to dig a new grave in it, without disturbing old ones, and he adds that "Public health and Christian decency alike demand that it be at once closed, and a new cemetery formed."

2. I submit this for the consideration of Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Rev. S. PERCIVAL, M.A., Officiating Chaplain, Negapatam, to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated 17th July 1877.

I have the honor to lay before you the present state of the Negapatam Cemetery. The public burial-ground, which dates from the occupation of Negapatam by the Dutch, has been in use for public interments for a period of at least two centuries, judging from existing inscriptions on tomb-stones. The ground is in consequence saturated with human remains, and it is impossible to dig a new grave in it without disturbing old ones. In a word, public health and Christian decency alike demand that it be at once closed, and a new cemetery formed.

2. Will you, under the circumstances, kindly inform me what steps I am to take in this matter?

No. 1426.

Referred to the Collector of Tanjore for report.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
23rd July 1877.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

No. 4. *From A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Collector of Tanjore, dated Negapatam, 25th August 1877, No. 601.*

With reference to your docket of the 28th ultimo, No. 2563, with enclosures, I have the honor to state what has taken place regarding the cemetery here.

2. In the end of November last, you as President of the Municipal Commission forwarded to the Vice-President a copy of extracts from the Inspection Report on the Civil Dispensary at Negapatam by the Deputy Surgeon-General, Southern Districts, sent you by the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department. The following are the Deputy Surgeon-General's remarks regarding the cemetery:—"Para. XX. *Burial of the dead, &c.*—Not prejudicial at present, but the European burial-ground, in which there are tombs upwards of 200 years old, is much overcrowded, and from its small

size must have, in many instances, been occupied by successive generations of corpses in the same ground." This was laid before a meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held on the 7th December 1876, when it was resolved that a copy of the Deputy Surgeon-General's remarks should be forwarded to the Chaplain of St. Peter's, with a request that he would be good enough to take steps to acquire new ground, and have the old burial-ground closed to future interments. A copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Chaplain on the 9th December 1876, and on the 11th December he replied that he would take steps to acquire ground for a new cemetery. On the 17th July 1877, the present Officiating Chaplain was requested to say whether any steps had been taken as promised. As it appeared from his reply of the same date that nothing had been done copies of the correspondence that had taken place on the subject were sent to him, whereupon he replied on the 19th July that he had written to the Archdeacon of the Diocese. From the above you will see that the Chaplain's reference to the Archdeacon arose out of the action taken by the Municipal Commissioners. Reference was made to the Chaplain, because the management of the cemetery is entirely under him, and the Commissioners have hitherto had nothing to do with it.

3. All who visit the cemetery come to the same conclusion, viz., that it is time it was closed, and the Commissioners are of this opinion; but, so far as I have been able to gather on the several occasions when the matter came up, they seem to think that the whole cost of providing a new cemetery should not be borne by the Municipality, and that they should get some assistance from Government.

4. To the south of the present cemetery and adjoining it there is a piece of waste land belonging to Government. I think the best plan will be to enclose this ground, and this is the opinion of all who have taken any interest in the matter. In fact, I do not know where any ground can be got near the town suitable for the purpose, and I have never heard anyone suggest any other place. There are two or three houses only near the place. The extent is more than is actually required at present, but it is considered that it will be better to enclose all now. Leaving eight yards between the road and the new wall there are 8 Ms. 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ks. The land is unassessed. The highest rate of assessment charged for such land is 2 Annas per kuli, and the lowest is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Annas, so that the assessment calculated at the lowest rate would be 69 Rupees, 12 Annas, and 4 Pies per annum. If Government will kindly let us have the land free from assessment, I shall at once lay the matter again before the Commissioners and have estimates of the cost of building a wall and of filling up a hollow which lies on the west side of the ground and must be filled up, otherwise it will become a nuisance, prepared. Government might, I think, be requested to give some assistance as I understand they gave a considerable sum for a similar object some years ago, viz., the improvement of the Roman Catholic Burying-ground here.

5. The enclosures of your docket are herewith returned.

No. 2950.

Forwarded for the consideration of Government, with reference to their docket, No. 1426, dated 23rd July 1877.

TANJORE,
31st August 1877.

(S. ned) H. S. THOMAS,
Collector.

No. 5. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1877, No. 203.

Ordered that the report from the Acting Sub-Collector of Tanjore be communicated to the Venerable the Archdeacon in view to his ascertaining from the Officiating Minister at Negapatam whether he approves the ground referred to, in paragraph 4 of the report, for a cemetery.

2. The Collector will call on the District Engineer to furnish a sketch of the ground, and an estimate of the probable charge for enclosing it with a masonry wall.

3. The question of the remission of assessment on the land will be considered and disposed of in the Revenue Department when it is finally decided to acquire the land for a cemetery.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Venerable the Archdeacon.
" Collector of Tanjore.
" Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.

Wright.

N^o 5561
Communicated to the Board
of Revenue.

27th of Revenue 18-9-77

18. Sep/77

Secretary—Orders passed on certain papers
relating to the formation of a new cemetery at
Nagpur.

W. H. Allen

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 3-5.

Gr. 18-9-77: 5561.

G.O., 7th September 1877, No. 203.

Dated September 7th.
18-9-77
13 September

To
THE VENERABLE THE ARCHDEACON,
N.C., Dec., N.C.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Boht. of 1877 31/10/75.

2/10/27

Original Document

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