M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 23-10-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1883 Press Mis.

163-69.

Dated 24-9- 1875.

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
24th September 1875.

Municipal—Sanitary.

No. 163. Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major H. KING, Acting Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coonoor, 15th September 1875, No. 19 :—

I have the honor, herewith, to forward, for the information of Government, an extract from my Inspection Notes of a tour through the District of South Arcot.

EXTRACT from Inspection Notes of the Municipality of Chedambaram, by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Paragraph 21. European medicine is making little progress here. A *Dispensary* has been working (if the word may be used) in this town for eight years, under a Hospital Assistant of the older (and incomparably better) class ; and the result is a daily attendance of from 15 to 20 cases mostly of "skin disease"—in plainer language, itch—in a town of 15,500 inhabitants. It is difficult to see why a hospital should be expected to succeed where a dispensary has failed ; yet it is proposed—even, I believe, intended—to erect a hospital (on a "standard plan" of course), at a cost (according to estimate) of Rupees 11,000. It will be useful, no doubt, to a handful of starved, and travel-worn religious mendicants to die in, and will in some measure act as a poor-house and relieve the revenues of the wealthy Pagoda ; but as a hospital it will be almost useless. It is simply waste of money to expend Rupees 11,000 on a hospital in a poor, Brahmin-ridden town, where the streets, or what ought to be streets, are unmade ; where street-drains, house-drains, and public latrines are unknown ; where there is no public slaughter-house ; and where the people are still allowed contentedly to drink the washings of each other's bodies and clothes. Let the dispensary struggle on and cure itch ; but a hospital may be postponed until rudimentary sanitation is begun, and until there is some faint sign of its being likely to be appreciated.

22. Municipalism is a plant of tender growth at Chedambaram ; as it probably will be, for many years to come, in any place where there are no European officials to tend it. Poverty and prejudice render the soil more than usually unfavorable here. If the experiment is to be continued, especially if the hospital project should be carried out, I recommend that the Native Surgeon, now employed at Cuddalore, be stationed at Chedambaram instead. The duties now performed by him can easily be undertaken by the Civil Surgeon ; and the Officer at present at Cuddalore, Mr. Robertson, is, I understand, quite willing to assume them in addition to his own. Mr. Parsaram Naik, the Native Surgeon, is a man of considerable professional experience, and, as a native, is far more likely to make way as a practitioner amongst a purely native population than the best European, or East Indian Hospital Apprentice or Apothecary likely to be posted to the hospital ; while he takes a special interest in sanitary matters and would be a valuable member of a somewhat lethargic Municipal Commission. I am not aware of any objection to the transfer which I suggest.

23. The revenue of the Municipality is small in proportion to the population, and very small as compared with the sanitary and other work which ought to be done. The principal attraction of the town and the chief source of danger to the health of its inhabitants is the great Pagoda which offers the advantage of a tank in which sins may be washed off—and the water looks as if it had been very long and freely used for this purpose—and other spiritual benefits. Twice a year a feast is held here, and in ordinary years pilgrims assemble in great numbers increasing the filth and unhealthiness of the town and district, as well as the wealth of the temple. In ordinary cases a frequented Pagoda contributes directly to the maintenance of roads and to sanitary improvements through the cess upon its lands ; but the Chedambaram temple has no lands and contributes nothing to the revenue either of Municipality or Local Fund Board. Its revenue—which is sufficiently ample to maintain in idleness about 300 families—is closely connected with the sanitary condition of the town ; as was illustrated this year by the fact that cholera being prevalent in the

town at the time of the summer feast, no pilgrims put in an appearance. Under these circumstances, I think the Temple Trustees may fairly be called upon to assist liberally in improving the streets, the drainage, and the water-supply of the town. I do not know whether special legislation would be necessary to enforce the call; but I think it probable that, since justice and self-interest are on the side of sanitation, gentle pressure by the civil authorities might prove efficient.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. KING, Surgeon-Major,
Acting Sanitary Commissioner.

No. 164. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1875, No. 1883.

Communicated to the President of the Chedambaram Municipality and to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, for their remarks.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, C
,, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Departm

Exd. T. O'Connor

Govt. of 1875 Mdrs.

FINANCIAL.

To THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Chedambaram,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 24th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 24th September 1875, *No.* 1883.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 163 164.

Municipal, Sanitary.—The Sanitary Commissioner's Inspection Notes of a tour in South Arcot, communicated for remarks.

18
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B

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

No. 19 *Madras,* Coonoor 15 Sept 1875.

From

Actg
The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government (Public Dept)
Ootacamund.

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to forward for the information of Government an Extract from my Inspection Notes of a tour through the District of South Arcot.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Henry Bowie
Actg Sanitary Commissioner for
Madras.

Municipal - Sanitary Oct^D 21 Dispatch 1875 No 1883-48

Communicated to the President of the Chingleput Municipality - to the Surgeon Genl & Inspr Genl Department for their remarks.

To the President of the Chingleput Municipality
Surgeon Genl & Inspr Genl

Dispatched 6/11/10

Municipal Sanitary

From Acting
The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Dated 15th Octr. 1875.

Despatched

Received

No. 19

Enclosures. 1

Forwarded for information & extract from this Inspection Note of a tour in North Arcot.

2476
12/63

Vaccination

Govt. of Madras.

Civil

R. No. 4 - 10/11 of Statistics &c.

G. O. 24th Sept. 1875. No. 1883

Nos. 163 - 164

Municipal - Sanitary - Sanitary Commissioner's Inspection Notes of a tour in South Arcot Communicated — for his remarks.