L. & M.
1,000—10-4-95.

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 634/m

DATED 8th April 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection Notes.

Recording, with remarks, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's ----on the Ootacamund Municipality.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

8 April / 634

JANUARY 1895, No. M., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From G. F. HAMNETT, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 25th January 1895, No. 3840.

In compliance with paragraph 2 of G.O., dated the 23rd December 1893, No. 1765 M., Local and Municipal, I have the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Government, the Inspection Notes of the Inspector of Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, from 1st to 3rd December 1894, with my replies, and an extract from the proceedings of a meeting of the Municipal Council held on the 24th January 1895.

ENCLOSURE.

Inspection Notes of the Inspector of Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

NILGIRI DISTRICT.

OOTACAMUND MUNICIPALITY.

Inspected 1st and 3rd December 1894.

Population as per census of 1891 .. { Males .. .. .. 7,912 / Females 7,141

Total .. 15,053

Inspection notes.

A great part of the inhabited area of Ootacamund drains naturally towards the lake, and it therefore behoves the council to see that effectual means are used to intercept and divert sewage from this sheet of water. Up to the present, efforts in this direction have not had the happiest results, for practically the whole of the sewage of the bazaar, agraharam, bandy shola, Vannarapetta and Kodapamund discharges into the lake. The drains designed to intercept and carry off the sewage of these villages does not fulfil its function, for sewage from both directions may be seen flowing out of the manholes into the upper lake. Not satisfied with thus defiling the water, the greater part of the rubbish of the town is carted to this spot and tipped into the water to fill up shallow part at the end of the Gymkhana ground! It is only natural then to find that this cheap but decidedly nasty way of reclaiming the swamp causes most disgusting odours to arise from it, and that the water is covered with a nasty green scum. I would recommend that this objectionable practice be stopped

Chairman's remarks.

The Sanitary Commissioner has commented upon this (*vide* Proceedings of Government, dated 23rd May 1894, No. 648 M., Local and Municipal, and 3rd December 1894, No. 1864 M., Local and Municipal).

It is no satisfaction to the municipal council to do so. The Sanitary Engineering Department is entirely to blame for this defiling.

Not to the spot where the sewage fouls the lake. The Gymkhana Committee wished to widen the race course adjoining the lower bazaar road beyond the Hobart school, and the sweepings were deposited on the margin of the course. Most of the Gymkhana ground has been made from time to time by such deposits without any inconvenience to those using the race course or to those dwelling in the lower bazaar road. The "disgusting odours" emanate from the sewage of the town

Inspection notes.

forthwith. Higher up than the beginning of the drain the feeder streams supplying the lake are contaminated by washermen and by the drainage of cow houses at Kodapamund. Arrangements should be made to have special platforms arranged and set apart for washing purposes, and the waste water from these should be utilised for the irrigation of land before being allowed to re-enter the streams.

Only by thorough measures can the lake be rescued from its present position of an enormous cess-pool, and until this is done and the water-supply is settled satisfactorily, the sanitary condition of this important health resort cannot be regarded as other than very doubtful.

2. *Roads.*—These are in excellent condition and many small foot-paths have been laid out and metalled during the year in the poorer localities. They are well swept and clean, much care being evidently bestowed on them.

3. *Dwellings.*—The objectionable dwellings noted by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner last year have been pulled down, and more sanitary brick houses are being erected. There are still, however, many houses too small for human habitation, and such as would not be tolerated for a moment in any town in England, and I see no reason why they should be allowed here. The scrutiny of plans does not appear to be very efficient, *e.g.*, two large huts have been built within the last year at Kodapamund, and yet no arrangement was made for privies, nor for the removal of house drainage.

Chairman's remarks.

flowing into the lake. The work of depositing sweepings has been stopped (*vide* extracts).

Extract from the late Dr. McNally's Sanitary Hand Book for India.

Page 107—*Disposal of Dust, Mud and Inorganic refuse.* "Dry rubbish of all kinds, when it does not contain much vegetable or animal matter, may be most usefully employed for filling up hollows and foul wells and tanks, but it should always be covered over with earth half a foot or more in depth. Else it may be burnt, the ashes being mixed with night-soil and sold or employed as manure."

Extract from Sanitary Engineering in India for the use of Municipalities and Engineers by John Wallace, C. E., Bombay.

Page 171.—"The disposal of solid town refuse upon waste lands or for levelling up hollow or low-lying places is the simplest and cheapest of all methods, if the cost of handling and transport are not expensive, provided always that land is available and that no nuisance results to the inhabitants of the suburbs."

Dr. J. Maitland in his concise report of the Municipal town of Ootacamund for the year 1890–91 said:—

"Street refuse is carted to Titical, about three miles to the west of the town. Inoffensive refuse is used for filling up the margins of the lake."

Dr. King has noticed this also; but the municipal council has no funds for acquiring lands or building platforms.

The condition is not so bad as Dr. Bannerman imagines.

Very likely. The reason why it is allowed in India is due partly to the habits of the people and partly to their inability to provide better buildings.

The scrutiny has to be limited to the means of the applicants.

Inspection notes.

The cow-sheds and houses where milk is stored are in the same unsatisfactory state as last year; it is to be hoped that the new Act will give power to deal with the important matter of milk supply.

4. *Surface drainage.*—Since last year the ground near the peons' lines at Woodlands has been greatly improved by open drains; but there are many other swampy tracts of land between the hills which should be similarly dealt with, or better still under-drained by means of open-jointed pipes. The expense which would not be much, would soon be recouped to the owners, by the better and healthier crops produced by the drier and therefore warmer land.

5. *Sewerage.*—An imperfect system of open drains is found in the bazaar and agraharam which discharge into the intercepting drain. Many house convictions are very imperfect in the whole of this area and section 214 of the Act should be enforced. The levels of the large intercepting drain are evidently wrong, as at one point nearly opposite the brewery streams of sewage may be seen coming from both directions and flowing out into the lake! As this matter has however lately been under examination by the Acting Sanitary Engineer, doubtless a suitable remedy will now be found. The only other part of the inhabited area which is provided with a drainage system is Kandal, where cement concrete drains have been formed. The inhabitants complain loudly of the smell proceeding from the numerous cess-pools which exist on the line of drains and with reason. The Chairman informed me that arrangements have now been made to close most of these unnecessary structures, and the sooner this is done the better. Here also house connections are often non-existent or very imperfect. Several other villages are in urgent need of drainage works, *e.g.*, Metucheri, Hodaparmund, Old Ootacamund, &c.

The proposed sewage farm has not yet been begun, and the sewage therefore still flows into the stream beyond the lake.

6. *Conservancy.*—There are forty-nine latrines. Of these twelve are of a new and improved type of pail latrine, and are in very good order and sanitarily suitable; thirty-six are of the old pail pattern and not at all sanitary; these are, however, being gradually removed to make room for the new type; and one is on the water system. This latter has not yet been provided with a flushing cistern as recommended last year. The latrines are well looked after, and the sanitary staff appear to work well under the energetic supervision of the chairman.

More latrines are required in various parts, and especially in the bazaar.

The new latrines are so entirely free of smell that they may quite well be planted in the midst of crowded localities and close to houses

Chairman's remarks.

Those who have been induced to take out licenses have been required to conform to certain conditions to keep the sheds clean, &c.

If owners would only take the same view as the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, the swampy tracts of land could be easily drained.

The Municipal Council will enforce the section gradually.

These are defects in Engineering, although the council employes an Engineer and the Sanitary Engineer gives his advice.

An estimate to carry out the closing amounting to Rs. 350 has been approved by the Sanitary Board and funds have been allotted in the budget estimate for 1895–96.

These urgent needs cannot be dealt with without funds.

The cause of delay has been explained in the letter to the Government, No. 1264, dated 6th July 1894.

Yes, and the Municipal Council will provide them as soon as funds are available.

Inspection notes.

or roads without causing any nuisance; so I trust three or four may soon be erected there and so prevent the present habit of defoecating over the open drains.

Three more *urinals* have been erected in the market, making four in all. These should be arranged so that a stream of water may constantly run through them, otherwise they are apt to become offensive.

Night-soil—is removed in eleven good iron carts to Titical, where it is buried in trenches with alternate layers of rubbish and earth, and when sufficiently altered is sold to planters. The amount realised last year was Rs. 1,270.

Private Scavenging.—The total number of private latrines is said to be 360, of which 244 are cleaned by municipal agency. The surplus revenue derived from this service might very well be spent in providing the latrines so urgently needed in the bazaar.

Rubbish removal—is effected by twelve rubbish carts. There are 131 dust-bins, but more seem to be required; as before remarked part of the town rubbish is used for reclaiming the swamp, which is not a sanitary mode of disposal. The rest is carted to Titical and buried with the night-soil.

7. *Watter-supply.*—As this was so fully gone into last year, and as the matter is still under consideration by the Sanitary Engineer, no lengthy remarks seem called for. The water in Marlimand reservoir is at present five feet below the average, which is locally attributed to too free growth of eucalyptus trees in the catchment area, and partly to abstraction of water for the use of the Government house dhobies without sanction from the municipality. No doubt this latter cause has only to be known to find a remedy. The Old Ootacamund source is covered in and the door for inspection purposes nailed down. I would recommend that a bar and padlock be supplied, so that inspecting officers may readily open the cistern and ascertain its condition.

8. *The Market.*—This has been somewhat improved since last year; but still is by no means what one would expect in such a town as Ootacamund. The butcher's stalls have not yet been provided with stone slab tables.

9. *The Chattrams.*—The market chattram is now available in its whole extent for the accommodation of vendors, but it requires extensive repairs to floors and walls, which should both be cement plastered. The public chattram also requires attention, the floors and court yard should be concreted and cemented.

10. *Slaughter-houses.*—The mutton slaughter house has been considerably improved lately. The cooling room, however, is not much used, and most butchers remove the meat to their own premises, which is not a satisfactory plan. I would recommend that the room be sub-divided by wire screens into a number of compartments so that each butcher may have separate accommodation. The present dislike to the public cooling room

Chairman's remarks.

Application has been made to the Collector for acquiring small plots of land in the town for putting up urinals and latrines.

This will be done during 1895-96, funds having been allotted for the purpose in the budget estimate.

The council is quite alive to the necessity of erecting more latrines wherever needed.

It is not used now.

The water was turned off to the reservoir prior to Dr. Bannerman's visit.

Had Dr. Bannerman informed the Chairman at what hour he would inspect the place the cover could have been kept open. The bar and padlock could only be used if a watchman is stationed on the spot to see that the lock is not stolen as soon as it is put on.

Every improvement demands money.

For want of funds.

The funds at the disposal of the council do not admit of this being done.

An estimate of cost will be called for from the Engineer before any action is taken on this recommendation.

Inspection notes.

appears to be that as there is only one key the butchers are frequently kept waiting before they can get the place opened. By the above arrangement each set of butchers could have their own key and so obtain entrance at their own convenience. The cattle slaughter-house was in good order.

11. *Vaccination*—seems to be well carried on at present, and the lymph in use is very good. In the months of March, April and May, 119 births were registered, and of these 56 have been vaccinated, 28 died, 18 could not be found, 11 are sick and only 6 remain unprotected. All these six have had notices served on them and will be prosecuted. The sick certificates are at present granted by the vaccinator; this is not as it should be, and a medical subordinate should be appointed for this work.

First-class Vaccinator, N. Munaswamy Naidu, pay Rs. 23, has only six months' service; has been trained in the Madras depôt and seems to know his work very well, and to be energetic. Books, instruments, &c., in good order.

I verified thirteen cases, all of which were correctly entered.

The calf depôt is at the hospital in a corrugated iron shed. This is very hot during the day and cold at night; I should advise that the roof be covered with tiles to mitigate the evil. The inoculation is not direct from calf to calf, but glycerine paste is used. This must inevitably lead to degeneration, and I would recommend that if it is too expensive to keep up a weekly supply of calves, the calf be inoculated from a child's arms not with paste.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894 up to end of October.
Number vaccinated	850	868	1,100	941	895
,, ,, successfully	758	728	990	910	795
,, ,, under one year of age	257	281	405	422	384
,, verified * by Inspecting officer	..	169	89	128	101
Births	443	445	..	..	..

* Available only for the official year.

12. *Registration.*—One registrar on Rs. 20 is kept.

The Sanitary Inspectors note in their daily diaries all births and deaths discovered by them, and thus a check is kept up.

Chairman's Remarks.

The Civil Surgeon will be asked to arrange accordingly.

The President of the District Board will be informed.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894 up to the end of October.
Deaths from—					
Cholera	..	8	..	..	1
Small-pox	17	1	4	2	..
Fevers	85	64	85	90	96
Dysentery and diarrhœa	40	35	49	45	35
Other causes	280	190	206	191	193
Total ..	422	298	344	328	325
Death-rate per mille ..	34·2	24·1	22·8	21·8	27·9
Births	442	441	454	461	421
Birth-rate per mille ..	35·8	35·0	30·1	30·6	33·5

FORT ST. GEORGE,
6th December 1894.

W. B. BANNERMAN, M.D., Sur.-Capt.,
Inspr. of Vaccn. and Dy. Sany. Commr.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Thursday, the 24th January 1895.

* * * * *

I. Read endorsement, dated 8th January 1895, No. 9-S., from the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, forwarding, for transmission to Government, the inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, on his inspection of the Ootacamund Municipality with the chairman's replies.

The council approves of the replies by the chairman, and resolves that they be submitted to the Government with the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's notes.

No. 9-S.

Forwarded to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, through the Collector.

2. The favour of attention is requested to paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 23rd December 1893, No. 1765 M., Local and Municipal.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
8th January 1895.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col.,
Acting Sanitary Commissioner, Madras.

Per. No. 58.

Forwarded.

(Signed) H. F. W. GILLMAN,
Ag. Assistant Collector, Nilgiris.

10th January 1895.

Local & Municipal Dept. 4/95 CURRENT No. 447/95

Resubmitted as desired thro' the Collector.

G. Hamnett
Chairman.

Ootacamund.
14: March /95

To
The Collector of Nilgiris.

Local and Municipal Department

2 P

No. 382

Returned to the Chairman with the request that he will resubmit it through the Collector.

(By Order)

J. Francis
Ag: Assistant Secretary

Fort Saint George
13th March 1895

To
The Chairman, Munl. Council,
Ootacamund.

Scar

R.C. 98/95 of 16-3-95

3 P

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No: 1006 M

Forwarded. The undersigned has not noticed that disgusting odours arise from the reclamation works. He can testify from experience that odours were not absent from the bazaar end of the lake, before these works were begun, and in his opinion they now prevail no more than they did formerly. Inoffensive dry refuse is deposited at the west end of the Hobart Park, but the reclamation is chiefly carried out with clean earth and sand from the neighbouring cutting. The matter is referred to in Memo printed in Go dated 3rd December 1894 No 1864 M. The defilement of the lake is due to faults in the general drainage scheme for which the Municipal council cannot fairly be held responsible.

2. The drainage question has been noted upon in the Memorandum recorded in Go dated 3rd December 1894 No 1864 M. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner necessarily goes over the same ground, over which the Sanitary Commissioner travelled in his Inspection notes recorded in Go dated 23rd May 1894 No 648 M, upon which the Council has noted in Memoranda disposed of by Go dated 23rd May 1894 No 648 M and by the order the number and date of which are given above, to which reference is solicited

3. When the Kodappamund[x] water supply scheme is sanctioned, efforts will be made to deal with the washer-men in some such manner as the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner suggests. With reference to that officer's statement that the "Sanitary condition of Ootacamund cannot be regarded as other than very doubtful" reference is solicited to the Memorandum printed in Go dated 3rd December 1894 No 1864 M, from which it will appear that most carefully collected statistics prove the health of the town to be very far in advance of the Municipal average, and to fall very little short of that of rural areas.

[x] The provision of Rs 12500 for this (which sum the Council proposed to borrow from Govt) in the 1895-96 Budget has been struck out of it as the Council applied after the Provincial Loans Budget had been drawn up. Savings will however probably accrue later in the year.

4. In regard to objectionable dwellings, plans are carefully scrutinized at the Municipal meetings and construction is ...

carried out under supervision. It must not be forgotten that 999.25 per mille of the inhabitants are natives of India and are poor. Too stringent an insistence on cubic areas, might lay the Council open to a charge of inhumanity, for the poor must be housed.

5. As regards sewerage efforts are being made to correct faults in Construction.

6. The water-supply is being carefully economized and every possible precaution is adopted in order to the prevention of waste. The rainfall of the year is somewhat short throughout the district and the country just around Cotacamund has suffered from an unusually prolonged drought. Efforts have been made to fell Eucalyptus and large numbers have been cut down on Government lands. Most of the property on which they grow however belongs to private owners. The Eucalyptus tree is well known to possess the property of absorbing moisture, but it is the fact, that only an infinitesmal proportion of the catchment area of the two reservoirs is occupied by plantations of this tree, and that the surface drainage is probably not materially affected thereby while only a ~~very~~ comparatively small proportion of the water stored proceeds from springs, the supply of which no doubt is affected by over planting of Eucalyptus. The undersigned thinks the over-growth of Eucalyptus a great misfortune to the station, as it prevents the perflation of air, but if the acquisition of private properties, at the high and fast rising prices which now rule, for the purpose of felling Eucalyptus ~~of~~ is under consideration, the local theory that a diminution in the water-supply is due to the prevalence of this tree, will first require demonstration. Mr Snowdon channel runs chiefly through shola, the Eucalyptus plantations lie chiefly below the level of the reservoirs.

7. Vaccination is improving rapidly and statistics will show a very satisfactory advance. The President of the Local Board, the Civil Surgeon, Surgeon Major Walker, and the Deputy Tahsildar of Cotacamund have all been working together with the chairman to bring about an improvement. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's suggestion that the Calf depot should be titled is a very good one and it has already been adopted. Much difficulty is experienced here in hiring Calves, and the owners have practically to be bribed to supply them.

8. The registration of births, deaths and marriages is carefully effected and continually checked.

J. D. Rees
Collector

L & M - DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 1006 M.

From

Dated 189 .

FOR ORDERS.

These sanitary gentlemen lose their heads a good deal —
I have added a list of the Draft
WS
9/4/95

Seen MC 5/4/95

FROM CIRCULATION.
WITH REMARKS.

Submitted to CS. for perusal of
Mr's remark in addition to the
Draft. MC 5/4/95

As to para 3. of the draft order put upon the Current.

Dr. Bannerman in para 1 (end) of the Inspection Notes, "follows the lead of his chief (vide G.O. ~~648 M.~~ 23.5.94) and describes the Bolgy Lake as "an enormous cesspool", & says that the sanitary condition of the town "cannot be regarded as other than very doubtful".

The Coonoor itself has hardly been called worse names than "cesspool", & it is submitted that the description gives a very erroneous notion of the condition of the Lake. As to the general sanitary condition of the town. The Council's resolution in G.O. ~~1804 M.~~ 23.12.94 shews that it is not so very appalling after all.

It is submitted that Govt. is not required to accept literatim all the opinions of its sanitary or other advisers & that to let these notes with their forcible language go to the Press & the Public with merely the order recorded upon them amounts to an admission by Govt. that it considers the description of the town given in them to be true. This again is unfair to the Chairman, & very damaging to the town.

The Sanitary Inspection Notes have lately become more & more highly-coloured, & the Govt. recently remarked upon one of Dr. King's on Madras that he was

Amazed after reading them, to find that any one was left alive in the City.

W.C. 28.3.95

I fully agree with the A.S. Both Dr. King & Dr. Bannerman have drawn a highly coloured picture of Ootacamund. There is nothing to be gained by this sort of thing to discourage the administration and raises unnecessary alarm.

[initials]
1/4/95

Inspection Notes of Dr. Bannerman on Ootacamund.

1006 M

H.M.

(for orders.)

in G.O. 634 M / 16.4.95

Local & Municipal Dept.
AR. CURRENT No. 1006 M

From
The Collector
Nilgiris

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt
Local & Municipal
Madras

Dated 16"
Recd 18 } March 1895

Refer Cur No 495/95
Encl. 2
C.S.N. 498 M 06

Subject

Inspection Notes.

Submitting of the — with remarks.

(with order)

H.M.
C.S.
B.3.

~~Order~~.

Recorded
~~2. The latrine on the water system referred to in paper: 6 of the inspection notes should be provided with a flushing cistern without further delay.~~ attention of the Chairman will
order. M 8.4.95 No 634 M

V.R. 23/3/95

Recorded.

2. The attention of the ~~Chair~~ Council will be drawn to the remarks in para. 6. of the notes upon the latrine on the water system.

3. The Govt. ~~is disposed to~~ agree with the Collector ~~in considering~~ that statistics do not support the ~~forcible description~~ opinion of the insanitary condition of the lake & the town which is stated generally ~~given~~ by the Deputy Sanitary Commr. That officer's descriptions appear to Govt. to be too highly coloured. That the sanitary ~~condition~~ state of Ootacamund is capable of improvement is not to be denied, but it is certain that the town is on the whole a healthy one & that its sanitary condition is much better than was the case a few years ago.

WR 28.3.95

BS 2/4/95 4/4/95

To
- The Chairman, M.C., Ootacamund
- " Collector of Nilgiris
- " Sanitary Commissioner
- " Sanitary Engineer
Editor's table.

Despd 24/4/95

23/3. 23.3.23

8th April 1895, No. 634 M., Local and Municipal.

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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

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Inspection notes.

Chairman's remarks.

The cow-sheds and houses where milk is stored are in the same unsatisfactory state as last year; it is to be hoped that the new Act will give power to deal with the important matter of milk supply.

Those who have been induced to take out licenses have been required to conform to certain conditions to keep the sheds clean, &c.

4. *Surface drainage.*—Since last year the ground near the peons' lines at Woodlands has been greatly improved by open drains; but there are many other swampy tracts of land between the hills which should be similarly dealt with, or better still under-drained by means of open-jointed pipes. The expense which would not be much, would soon be recouped to the owners, by the better and healthier crops produced by the drier and therefore warmer land.

If owners would only take the same view as the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, the swampy tracts of land could be easily drained.

5. *Sewerage.*—An imperfect system of open drains is found in the bazaar and agraharam which discharge into the intercepting drain. Many house connections are very imperfect in the whole of this area and section 214 of the Act should be enforced. The levels of the large intercepting drain are evidently wrong, as at one point nearly opposite the brewery streams of sewage may be seen coming from both directions and flowing out into the lake! As this matter has however lately been under examination by the Acting Sanitary Engineer, doubtless a suitable remedy will now be found. The only other part of the inhabited area which is provided with a drainage system is Kandal, where cement concrete drains have been formed. The inhabitants complain loudly of the smell proceeding from the numerous cess-pools which exist on the line of drains and with reason. The Chairman informed me that arrangements have now been made to close most of these unnecessary structures, and the sooner this is done the better. Here also house connections are often non-existent or very imperfect. Several other villages are in urgent need of drainage works, *e.g.*, Metucheri, Hodaparmund, Old Ootacamund, &c.

The Municipal Council will enforce the section gradually.

These are defects in Engineering, although the council employes an Engineer and the Sanitary Engineer gives his advice.

The proposed sewage farm has not yet been begun, and the sewage therefore still flows into the stream beyond the lake.

An estimate to carry out the closing amounting to Rs. 350 has been approved by the Sanitary Board and funds have been allotted in the budget estimate for 1895–96.

6. *Conservancy.*—There are forty-nine latrines. Of these twelve are of a new and improved type of pail latrine, and are in very good order and sanitarily suitable; thirty-six are of the old pail pattern and not at all sanitary; these are, however, being gradually removed to make room for the new type; and one is on the water system. This latter has not yet been provided with a flushing cistern as recommended last year. The latrines are well looked after, and the sanitary staff appear to work well under the energetic supervision of the chairman.

These urgent needs cannot be dealt with without funds.

The cause of delay has been explained in the letter to the Government, No. 1264, dated 6th July 1894.

More latrines are required in various parts, and especially in the bazaar.

Yes, and the Municipal Council will provide them as soon as funds are available.

The new latrines are so entirely free of smell that they may quite well be planted in the midst of crowded localities and close to houses

Inspection notes.

or roads without causing any nuisance; so I trust three or four may soon be erected there and so prevent the present habit of defœcating over the open drains.

Three more *urinals* have been erected in the market, making four in all. These should be arranged so that a stream of water may constantly run through them, otherwise they are apt to become offensive.

Night-soil—is removed in eleven good iron carts to Titical, where it is buried in trenches with alternate layers of rubbish and earth, and when sufficiently altered is sold to planters. The amount realised last year was Rs. 1,270.

Private Scavenging.—The total number of private latrines is said to be 360, of which 244 are cleaned by municipal agency. The surplus revenue derived from this service might very well be spent in providing the latrines so urgently needed in the bazaar.

Rubbish removal—is effected by twelve rubbish carts. There are 131 dust-bins, but more seem to be required; as before remarked part of the town rubbish is used for reclaiming the swamp, which is not a sanitary mode of disposal. The rest is carted to Titical and buried with the night-soil.

7. *Water-supply*—As this was so fully gone into last year, and as the matter is still under consideration by the Sanitary Engineer, no lengthy remarks seem called for. The water in Marlimand reservoir is at present five feet below the average, which is locally attributed to too free growth of eucalyptus trees in the catchment area, and partly to abstraction of water for the use of the Government House dhobies without sanction from the municipality. No doubt this latter cause has only to be known to find a remedy. The Old Ootacamund source is covered in and the door for inspection purposes nailed down. I would recommend that a bar and padlock be supplied, so that inspecting officers may readily open the cistern and ascertain its condition.

8. *The Market.*—This has been somewhat improved since last year; but still is by no means what one would expect in such a town as Ootacamund. The butcher's stalls have not yet been provided with stone slab tables.

9. *The Chattrams.*—The market chattram is now available in its whole extent for the accommodation of vendors, but it requires extensive repairs to floors and walls, which should both be cement plastered. The public chattram also requires attention, the floors and court yard should be concreted and cemented.

10. *Slaughter-houses.*—The mutton slaughter house has been considerably improved lately. The cooling room, however, is not much used, and most butchers remove the meat to their own premises, which is not a satisfactory plan. I would recommend that the room be sub-divided by wire screens into a number of compartments so that each butcher may have separate accommodation. The present dislike to the public cooling room

Chairman's remarks.

Application has been made to the Collector for acquiring small plots of land in the town for putting up urinals and latrines.

This will be done during 1895-96, funds having been allotted for the purpose in the budget estimate.

The council is quite alive to the necessity of erecting more latrines wherever needed.

It is not used now.

The water was turned off to the reservoir prior to Dr. Bannerman's visit.

Had Dr. Bannerman informed the Chairman at what hour he would inspect the place the cover could have been kept open. The bar and padlock could only be used if a watchman is stationed on the spot to see that the lock is not stolen as soon as it is put on.

Every improvement demands money.

For want of funds.

The funds at the disposal of the council do not admit of this being done.

An estimate of cost will be called for from the Engineer before any action is taken on this recommendation.

Inspection notes.

appears to be that as there is only one key the butchers are frequently kept waiting before they can get the place opened. By the above arrangement each set of butchers could have their own key and so obtain entrance at their own convenience. The cattle slaughter-house was in good order.

11. *Vaccination*—seems to be well carried on at present, and the lymph in use is very good. In the months of March, April and May, 119 births were registered, and of these 56 have been vaccinated, 28 died, 18 could not be found, 11 are sick and only 6 remain unprotected. All these six have had notices served on them and will be prosecuted. The sick certificates are at present granted by the vaccinator; this is not as it should be, and a medical subordinate should be appointed for this work.

First-class Vaccinator, N. Munaswamy Naidu, pay Rs. 23, has only six months' service; has been trained in the Madras depôt and seems to know his work very well, and to be energetic. Books, instruments, &c., in good order.

I verified thirteen cases, all of which were correctly entered.

The calf depôt is at the hospital in a corrugated iron shed. This is very hot during the day and cold at night; I should advise that the roof be covered with tiles to mitigate the evil. The inoculation is not direct from calf to calf, but glycerine paste is used. This must inevitably lead to degeneration, and I would recommend that if it is too expensive to keep up a weekly supply of calves, the calf be inoculated from a child's arms not with paste.

Chairman's Remarks.

The Civil Surgeon will be asked to arrange accordingly.

The President of the District Board will be informed.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894 up to end of October.
Number vaccinated	850	868	1,100	941	895
,, ,, successfully	758	728	990	910	795
,, ,, under one year of age	257	281	405	422	384
,, verified * by Inspecting officer	..	169	89	128	101
Births	443	445	..	..	..

* Available only for the official year.

12. *Registration.*—One registrar on Rs. 20 is kept.

The Sanitary Inspectors note in their daily diaries all births and deaths discovered by them, and thus a check is kept up.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894 up to the end of October.
Deaths from—					
Cholera	..	8	..	..	1
Small-pox	17	1	4	2	..
Fevers	85	64	85	90	96
Dysentery and diarrhœa	40	35	49	45	35
Other causes	280	190	206	191	193
Total ..	422	298	344	328	325
Death-rate per mille ..	34·2	24·1	22·8	21·8	27·9
Births	442	441	454	461	421
Birth-rate per mille ..	35·8	35·0	30·1	30·6	33·5

FORT ST. GEORGE,
6*th December* 1894.

(Signed) W. B. BANNERMAN, M.D., Sur.-Capt.,
Inspr. of Vacen. and Dy. Sany. Commr.

No. 9-S.

Forwarded to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, through the Collector.

2. The favour of attention is requested to paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 23rd December 1893, No. 1765 M., Local and Municipal.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
8*th January* 1895.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col.,
Acting Sanitary Commissioner, Madras.

Per. No. 58.

Forwarded.

10*th January* 1895.

(Signed) H. F. W. GILLMAN,
Ag. Assistant Collector, Nilgiris.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Thursday, the 24th January 1895.

* * * * *

I. Read endorsement, dated 8th January 1895, No. 9-S., from the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, forwarding, for transmission to Government, the inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, on his inspection of the Ootacamund Municipality with the chairman's replies.

The council approves of the replies by the chairman, and resolves that they be submitted to the Government with the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's notes.

No. 382.

Returned to the Chairman with the request that he will resubmit it through the Collector.

(By order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
13*th March* 1895.

(Signed) W. FRANCIS,
Ag. Assistant Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund.

No. 4478.

Resubmitted, as desired, through the Collector.

OOTACAMUND,
14*th March* 1895.

(Signed) G. HAMNETT,
Chairman.

To the Collector of Nilgiris.

R. C. No. 495.

Forwarded.

The undersigned has not noticed that disgusting odours arise from the reclamation works. He can testify from experience that odours were not absent from the bazaar end of the lake before these works were begun, and in his opinion they now prevail no more than they did formerly. Inoffensive dry refuse is deposited at the west end of the Hobart Park, but the reclamation is chiefly carried out with clean earth and sand from the neighbouring cutting. The matter is referred to in memorandum printed in G.O., dated 3rd December 1894, No. 1864 M. The defilement of the lake is due to faults in the general drainage scheme for which the municipal council cannot fairly be held responsible.

2. The drainage question has been noted upon in the memorandum recorded in G.O., dated 3rd December 1894, No. 1864 M. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner necessarily goes over the same ground over which the Sanitary Commissioner travelled in his inspection notes recorded in G.O., dated 23rd May 1894, No. 648 M; upon which the council has noted in memoranda disposed of by G.O., dated 23rd May 1894, No. 648 M., and by the order the number and date of which are given above, to which reference is solicited.

3. When the Kodappamund water-supply scheme is sanctioned, efforts will be made to deal with the washermen in some such manner as the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner suggests. With reference to that officer's statement that the "sanitary condition of Ootacamund cannot be regarded as other than very doubtful", reference is solicited to the memorandum printed in G.O., dated 3rd December 1894, No. 1864 M., from which it will appear that most carefully collected statistics prove the health of the town to be very far in advance of the municipal average and to fall very little short of that of rural areas.

4. In regard to objectionable dwellings, plans are carefully scrutinized at the municipal meetings and construction is carried out under supervision. It must not be forgotten that 999·25 per mille of the inhabitants are natives of India and are poor. Too stringent an insistence on cubic areas might lay the council open to a charge of inhumanity, for the poor must be housed.

5. As regards sewerage, efforts are being made to correct faults in construction.

6. The water-supply is being carefully economized and every possible precaution is adopted in order to the prevention of waste. The rainfall of the year is somewhat short throughout the district, and the country just around Ootacamund has suffered from an unusually prolonged drought. Efforts have been made to fell eucalyptus and large numbers have been cut down on Government lands. Most of the property on which they grow belongs, however, to private owners. The eucalyptus tree is well known to possess the property of absorbing moisture, but it is the fact that only an infinitesimal proportion of the catchment area of the two reservoirs is occupied by plantations of this tree, and that the surface drainage is probably not materially affected thereby, while only a comparatively small proportion of the water stored proceeds from springs, the supply of which, no doubt, is affected by over planting of eucalyptus. The undersigned thinks the overgrowth of eucalyptus a great misfortune to the station, as it prevents the perflation of air, but if the acquisition of private properties for the purpose of felling eucalyptus at the high and fast rising prices which now rule is under consideration, the local theory that a diminution in the water-supply is due to the prevalence of this tree will first require demonstration. The Snowdon channel runs chiefly through shola, and the eucalyptus plantations lie chiefly below the level of the reservoirs.

7. Vaccination is improving rapidly and statistics will show a very satisfactory advance. The President of the Local Board, the Civil Surgeon, Surgeon-Major Walker, and the Deputy Tahsildar of Ootacamund have all been working together with the Chairman to bring about an improvement. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's suggestion that the calf depôt should be tiled is a very good one and it has already been adopted. Much difficulty is experienced here in hiring calves, and the owners have practically to be bribed to supply them.

8. The registration of births, deaths and marriages is carefully effected and continually checked.

Ootacamund,
16*th March* 1895.

(Signed) J. D. REES,
Collector.

Order—dated 8th April 1895, No. 634 M., Local and Municipal.

Recorded.

2. The attention of the council will be drawn to the remarks in paragraph 6 of the notes upon the latrine on the water system.

3. The Government agrees with the Collector that statistics do not support the opinion of the insanitary condition of the lake and the town generally which is stated by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. That officer's descriptions appear to Government to be too highly coloured. That the sanitary state of Ootacamund is capable of improvement is not to be denied, but it is certain that the town is, on the whole, a healthy one and that its sanitary condition is much better than was the case a few years ago.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund.
„ Collector of Nilgiris.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.
„ Sanitary Engineer.
Editors' Table.

Exd. Shaik Kareem,

Govt. of {1895} Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 8th April 1895, No. 634 M.

APRIL.

Inspection Notes.

Recording, with remarks, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's — on the Ootacamund Municipality.

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18 No.

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No. 634 M

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