

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 745 M

DATED 2nd May 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection Notes.

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

2ND MAY 1895, No. 745 M., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From M.R.Ry. P. TAMBUSWAMI MUDALIYAR Avargal, Chairman, Municipal Council, Kumbakónam, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Sub-Collector and the Collector of Tanjore), dated Kumbakónam, 23rd March 1895, No. 696.

I have the honour to submit herewith the inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, on his inspection of this municipality with the Chairman's remarks and with a copy of the resolution of the council thereon.

ENCLOSURES.

INSPECTION NOTES of the Inspector of Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner,
Madras.

TANJORE DISTRICT.

KUMBAKONAM MUNICIPALITY.

Inspected 14th and 15th November 1894.

Population as per census of 1891 ..	{ Males	..	..	26,471
	{ Females	..	..	27,836
			Total	54,307

Inspection Notes.

The town is situated on low-lying land composed of sand and alluvium between, and below the level of, the Cauvery and Arasilár rivers. The soil is consequently water-logged, and to relieve this a deep ditch has been cut through the centre of the area. This certainly drains off a considerable quantity of water, but the effect is purely local and no real good can be hoped for until a system of sub-soil drainage for the whole town area is taken up. This might conveniently be taken up along with a drainage system for removal of sewage.

2. *Roads*.—These were in very fair order considering the fact that all material has to be brought by rail from Vallam. The distance by rail to Trichinopoly where good granite metal may be had is not

Chairman's Remarks.

The sub-soil drainage question will be considered by the council when the drainage system for the removal of sewage is taken up. The question of a sewage farm on a small scale for a portion of the town has already received the approval of the council and is awaiting the sanction of Government.

The council have till now been deterred from giving the granite metal a trial in consequence of the very heavy outlay this requires. They are on the look-out for better road material than that now in use.

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There is a collection of very dirty huts along the jail road near the hospital, which should not be allowed to increase; and a latrine should certainly be provided. In the town there is much overcrowding in some parts, and houses are so built that scavengers cannot reach many of the backyards except by entering through the house. This should be obviated by acquiring land under the Act and opening up passages for scavengers between the rows.

Care will be taken to prevent any increase in the number of huts. As for overcrowding, the Act gives power to the council to prevent it and when such cases are brought to the notice of the council by the servants of the municipality they will proceed under the Act. With regard to facilitating the cleansing of latrines through passages other than through the houses themselves, the council are of opinion that the matter though important cannot now be undertaken both on account of the cost it involves and the difficulty of acquisition.

I do not know if the council has considered—or cares to consider—the plan of back lanes run between two lines of houses or at the back of houses, or if such is feasible in Kumbakonam. But there is no other satisfactory way of removing refuse from houses; and when such a plan is proposed it always is opposed on grounds of interference with privacy or for fear of thieves, &c. Vigorous prosecution for foul premises would, no doubt, overcome obstructiveness of this sort in time.

(Intld.) J. T.

3. *Drainage.*—The importance of sub-soil drainage in this town has already been alluded to. As regards sewerage there is one drain in Solaiyappa Mudali street which conveys a considerable amount of sullage-water away from one set of houses, but (as no outlet has been provided) only to deposit it in the neighbourhood of others. This should be at once attended to and the sewage conducted on to the adjacent garden ground and so harmlessly disposed of. There are very numerous cesspools throughout the town, all of which permit of soakage. In Balu Chetti street every backyard has a cesspool and the road is soaked with cow's urine. In some places—*e.g.*, Chakrapani street south—there are horrible cesspools in the street, which are apparently never emptied as there are no sewage carts. Proper iron cylindrical carts should be got, and all these cesspools emptied by

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means of hose and suction pipe. When emptied they should be examined, and where found leaking the owners should be compelled to reconstruct them after plans which may be got from the Sanitary Board. From the above description it must be evident that no sewage is removed from the inhabited area.

4. *Conservancy.*—There are 383 dust-bins, or one for every 141 inhabitants, which is too small a number.

The rubbish is removed in 32 rubbish carts to two depôts—one south of the railway and the other north of the Cauvery. Both are in suitable situations but the rubbish is stored in a very disorderly manner. It would not cost anything to compel the cartmen to deposit their loads in regular order, and then the depôt keeper could easily cover the day's accumulations with four inches of earth. By this simple measure the value of the rubbish as manure would be greatly increased.

State of Backyards.—The rubbish in backyards is apparently not touched, as those I examined were in a most disgusting state. One municipal councillor, M.R.Ry. J. V. Bathraswami Chettiyar, asked me to inspect his backyard, which I did, and the state of affairs in the streets where he lived was appalling. The inhabitants are silk-dyers and use a considerable quantity of water for their trade. As they are not allowed to run this on to the street as formerly, it all collects in the backyards forming a putrefying accumulation of most disgusting odour; in the words of the petition presented to me, "the gardens of each house seem like a tank and the houses seem like flowers upon the tank." The inhabitants of this division (No. II) are therefore willing to pay half the cost of forming drains to carry away this filthy water from their backyards, and I think the council would do well to assist them in their laudable desire.

Latrines.—There are 22 public latrines of the open-space type. They seem to be much used, and the surroundings also; evidently more latrines are required. They should be of the standard type and placed in crowded localities. The suggestion made last year that the night-soil should be utilised for manuring a portion

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Corrugated-iron dust-bins are being placed in various quarters where they were found necessary. More dust-bins are kept in the office which would soon be sent to the various divisions of the town.

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There is much prejudice in using night-soil as manure. Even the rubbish is only sparingly utilized by land-owners as

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Urinals.—There are several urinals with chunam floors and corrugated iron walls, but they are largely used as latrines, and were so foul as to be almost unapproachable. It is very evident that the people are only too glad to use latrines when provided, and the present number could be trebled with advantage. These urinals could easily be converted into two-seat latrines and I should recommend this being done. Close to one of these urinals a stream of cow urine was flowing from the Sankaráchháriya mattam; this should be stopped.

Private Scavenging.—Four hundred and ninety privies are cleaned daily by municipal agency, but this is an absurdly small number for a large town like this. The staff consists of 29 scavengers so that each man has only seventeen latrines to cleanse. With the same staff therefore the number of houses served might easily be doubled. From the state of the back-yards seen by me, I would press the urgent need of extension on the notice of the councillors as one of the most important parts of their duty.

5. *Water-supply*—is in the same state as last year, and as it was then so fully gone into, it is not necessary to offer any further remarks here. I would only impress on the councillors the utter folly of sinking more wells in the inhabited area and would impress on them the absolute necessity that exists for obtaining a pure supply from *outside* the town; otherwise they will constantly be liable to suffer from cholera epidemics such as have within the last two years carried off 728 of the population.

6. *Markets.*—There are three markets which yield a revenue of Rs. 2,519-1-4. The vegetable market consists of rows of thatched sheds with sandy floors, kept fairly clean. The meat and fish market consists of rows of tiled sheds with rough, unpointed brick floors and open, sandy ground between. The meat is exposed on boards; these should be forbidden and stone-slab tables substituted. The sheds should have concrete floors plastered with cement and be provided with drains for daily flushing. There is an open-space latrine here too close to the market.

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The passage by which the stream of cow urine flowed near the urinal here referred to has since been permanently closed. A latrine with corrugated-iron walls is in course of construction and will be completed before the close of the official year.

Every endeavour is being made to extend the system of private scavenging. The council expect better results when the sanitary inspector now undergoing training in the Madras Medical College enters on his duties.

Remedies will have to originate in the council.

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8. *Disposal of the Dead.*—There is a burning ground on the north bank of the Cauvery, which should be removed as it appears to be the habit to wash the bodies in the river before cremation.

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Births	1,490	1,540	1,390	1,755	1,325

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10. *Registration.*—There are two registrars—one in the municipal office and one in Big Bazaar street. The seven nuisance inspectors keep a list of births, &c., in each ward, from which the central register is compiled.

The vaccinators complained that frequently they are supplied with wrong information by the registrars, and I satisfied myself that this was so in three cases. The probability is that the nuisance inspectors accept hearsay evidence and do not in all cases verify the information received. This should be duly noticed.

This is being attended to with greater care.

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Deaths from—					
Cholera	129	188	146	389	339
Small-pox	161	27	20	25	7
Fever	272	334	318	286	316
Dysentery and diarrhoea	212	215	211	228	168
All other causes	811	894	885	1,038	876
Total	1,585	1,658	1,580	1,966	1,706
Death-rate per mille	31.6	33.1	29.1	36.2	37.7
Births	1,490	1,540	1,390	1,755	1,325
Birth-rate per mille	29.7	30.7	25.6	32.3	29.3

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed)
7th December 1894.

W. B. BANNERMAN, M.D., Surgn.-Captain,
Inspector of Vaccination and Dy. Sany. Commissioner.

No. 2240 S.

Forwarded to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Kumbakonam, 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,
21st December 1894.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col.,
Ag. Sany. Commissioner for Madras.

Endt. on C. No. 1033-MI.

Forwarded.

VALLAM,
27th December 1894.

(Signed) J. THOMSON,
Ag. Collector.

No. 627-Eng.

Forwarded.

30th December 1894.

(Signed) R. B. CLEGG,
Ag. Sub-Collector.

PROCEEDINGS of the Special Meeting of the Municipal Council, Kumbakonam, held on the 20th March 1895.

4. Resolved that the inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, with the Chairman's remarks, be submitted to Government.

No. 1251.

Forwarded to the Collector.

24th March 1895.

(Signed)

R. B. CLEGG,
Ag. Sub-Collector.

Endt. on Cur. No. 251-MI.

Forwarded.

TANJORE,
28th March 1895.

(Signed)

J. THOMSON,
Ag. Collector.

ORDER—dated 2nd May 1895, No. 745 M., Local and Municipal.

Recorded, with the following remarks:—

(1) Steps should be taken to provide a latrine for the use of the people occupying the huts along the jail road near the hospital.

(2) The question of improving the sanitary condition of the Silk weavers' street should not be indefinitely postponed. As the inhabitants of the division are willing to meet the council halfway, there should be no difficulty in carrying out the necessary improvements at once.

(3) The open-space latrine near the market should be removed or a less objectionable one substituted.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Kumbakonam.

„ Collector of Tanjore.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Sanitary Engineer.

Editors' Table.

Exd. A. Raiff.

Gob. of {1895} Madras.

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The sub-soil drainage question will be considered by the council when the drainage system for the removal of sewage is taken up. The question of a sewage farm on a small scale for a portion of the town has already received the approval of the council and is awaiting the sanction of Government.

The council have till now been deterred from giving the granite metal a trial in consequence of the very heavy outlay this requires. They are on the look-out for better road material than that now in use.

Care will be taken to prevent any increase in the number of huts. As for overcrowding, the Act gives power to the council to prevent it and when such cases are brought to the notice of the council by the servants of the municipality they will proceed under the Act. With regard to facilitating the cleansing of latrines through passages other than through the houses themselves, the council are of

Inspection Notes.

built that scavengers cannot reach many of the backyards except by entering through the house. This should be obviated by acquiring land under the Act and opening up passages for scavengers between the rows.

3. *Drainage.*—The importance of sub-soil drainage in this town has already been alluded to. As regards sewerage there is one drain in Sholapa Mudali street which conveys a considerable amount of sullage-water away from one set of houses, but (as no outlet has been provided) only to deposit it in the neighbourhood of others. This should be at once attended to and the sewage conducted on to the adjacent garden ground and so harmlessly disposed of. There are very numerous cesspools throughout the town, all of which permit of soakage. In Ballu Chetty street every backyard has a cesspool and the road is soaked with cow's urine. In some places—e.g., Chackrapani street south—there are horrible cesspools in the street, which are apparently never emptied as there are no sewage carts. Proper iron cylindrical carts should be got, and all these cesspools emptied by means of hose and suction pipe. When emptied they should be examined, and where found leaking the owners should be compelled to reconstruct them after plans which may be got from the Sanitary Board. From the above description it must be evident that no sewage is removed from the inhabited area.

4. *Conservancy.*—There are 383 dust-bins, or one for every 141 inhabitants, which is too small a number.

The rubbish is removed in 32 rubbish carts to two depôts—one south of the railway and the other north of the Cauvery. Both are in suitable situations but the rubbish is stored in a very disorderly manner. It would not cost anything to compel the cartmen to deposit their loads in regular order, and then the depôt keeper could easily cover the day's accumulations with four inches of earth. By this simple measure the value of the rubbish as manure would be greatly increased.

State of Backyards.—The rubbish in backyards is apparently not touched, as those I examined were in a most disgusting state. One municipal councillor, M.R.Ry. J. V. Bathrasamy Chetty, asked me to inspect his backyard, which I did, and the

Chairman's Remarks.

opinion that the matter though important cannot now be undertaken both on account of the cost it involves and the difficulty of acquisition.

As already stated the matter is now before Government and the council expect their sanction. As soon as sanction is received the work will be begun and completed before the next wet season. The removal of sewage matter from the cesspools is engaging the attention of the council.

I do not know if the council has considered—or cares to consider—the plan of back lanes run between two lines of houses or at the back of houses, or if such is feasible in Kumbakonam. But there is no other satisfactory way of removing refuse from houses; and when such a plan is proposed it always is opposed on grounds of interference with privacy or for fear of thieves, &c. Vigorous prosecution for foul premises would, no doubt, overcome obstructiveness of this sort in time.

(Intld.) J. T.

Corrugated-iron dust-bins are being placed in various quarters where they were found necessary. More dust-bins are kept in the office which would soon be sent to the various divisions of the town.

Attention will be paid to the observations on the storage of rubbish in the depôts.

The Silk-weavers' street has been a very difficult problem for the council to solve. The old habits of the people are so difficult to put a stop to and some time must elapse before a better condition of sanitation is secured.

Inspection Notes.

state of affairs in the streets where he lived was appalling. The inhabitants are silk-dyers and use a considerable quantity of water for their trade. As they are not allowed to run this on to the street as formerly, it all collects in the backyards forming a putrefying accumulation of most disgusting odour; in the words of the petition presented to me, "the gardens of each house seem like a tank and the houses seem like flowers upon the tank." The inhabitants of this division (No. II) are therefore willing to pay half the cost of forming drains to carry away this filthy water from their backyards, and I think the council would do well to assist them in their laudable desire.

Latrines.—There are 22 public latrines of the open-space type. They seem to be much used, and the surroundings also; evidently more latrines are required. They should be of the standard type and placed in crowded localities. The suggestion made last year that the night-soil should be utilised for manuring a portion of land has not yet been acted on, but it is still buried at haphazard in the older parts of the rubbish heap.

Urinals.—There are several urinals with chunam floors and corrugated iron walls, but they are largely used as latrines, and were so foul as to be almost unapproachable. It is very evident that the people are only too glad to use latrines when provided, and the present number could be trebled with advantage. These urinals could easily be converted into two-seat latrines and I should recommend this being done. Close to one of these urinals a stream of cow urine was flowing from the Sankara Charya mattam; this should be stopped.

Private Scavenging.—Four hundred and ninety privies are cleaned daily by municipal agency, but this is an absurdly small number for a large town like this. The staff consists of 29 scavengers so that each man has only seventeen latrines to cleanse. With the same staff therefore the number of houses served might easily be doubled. From the state of the back-yards seen by me, I would press the urgent need of extension on the notice of the councillors as one of the most important parts of their duty.

5. *Water-supply*—is in the same state as last year, and as it was then so fully gone into, it is not necessary to offer any further remarks here. I would only

Chairman's Remarks.

There is much prejudice in using night-soil as manure. Even the rubbish is only sparingly utilized by land-owners as manure. This is because of the nature of the soil in these parts and of the mode of cultivation adopted by the people.

The passage by which the stream of cow urine flowed near the urinal here referred to has since been permanently closed. A latrine with corrugated-iron walls is in course of construction and will be completed before the close of the official year. Every endeavour is being made to extend the system of private scavenging. The council expect better results when the sanitary inspector now undergoing training in the Madras Medical College enters on his duties.

Remedies will have to originate in the council.

(Intld.) J. T.

This is engaging the serious attention of the council.

Inspection Notes.

impress on the councillors the utter folly of sinking more wells in the inhabited area and would impress on them the absolute necessity that exists for obtaining a pure supply from *outside* the town; otherwise they will constantly be liable to suffer from cholera epidemics such as have with- in the last two years carried off 728 of the population.

6. *Markets*.—There are three markets which yield a revenue of Rs. 2,519-1-4. The vegetable market consists of rows of thatched sheds with sandy floors, kept fairly clean. The meat and fish market consists of rows of tiled sheds with rough, unpointed brick floors and open, sandy ground between. The meat is exposed on boards; these should be forbidden and stone-slab tables substituted. The sheds should have concrete floors plastered with cement and be provided with drains for daily flushing. There is an open-space latrine here too close to the market.

7. *Slaughter-house*.—There are two tiled sheds with a brick paved court between. Tar is used for the floors, but cement would be much more cleanly and suitable. The dry dung is kept in shallow pits close to the shed; this should not be allowed, but it should be removed to the rubbish depôt. The liquid matter at present runs out on to a field behind where it forms a festering pool. This land should be acquired, under-drained, and then used as a sewage farm.

8. *Disposal of the Dead*.—There is a burning ground on the north bank of the Cauvery, which should be removed as it appears to be the habit to wash the bodies in the river before cremation.

9. *Vaccination*.—This is carefully looked after by Mr. Wright, the local medical officer, who takes much trouble with this branch of his work. The lymph is got from the Tanjore depôt and is yielding excellent results. I examined 153 school children and found 104 vaccinated, 22 unprotected and 27 with marks of small-pox. The vaccinators should regularly go round the schools and vaccinate all found unprotected under ten years of age. From November 1893 to April 1894 inclusive, 833 live births were registered; of these 205 died, 187 left the place, 194 have been vaccinated and 99 remain unaccounted for. Of the rest, 147 have been referred to the magistrate, of which 58 have been disposed of and 89 are pending.

Chairmans' Remarks.

The fish and meat market has since been repaired at a considerable cost.

Will be attended to.

? Please see which mark this is meant to supply to.

Dead bodies are not washed at all in the river before cremation. The washing is invariably done at home.

With regard to the removal of the burning ground, the council regret that such a course is certain to be opposed by the population in consequence of the great sanctity attached to that particular locality.

Inspection Notes.

First-class Vaccinator Dorasawmy Mudaly.—Service 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. Pay Rs. 15. Books, &c., neatly kept. I marked fourteen cases for verification; all were entered correctly, two were absent.

Second-class Vaccinator Bálakrishna Náidu.—Service 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. Pay Rs. 10. Books neatly kept. I marked twelve cases for verification, of which one was not correctly entered as to number of successful vesicles.

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894 up to date (31st Oct. 1894.)
Number vaccinated	1,428	1,509	1,631	1,631	1,406
" " successfully	1,315	1,439	1,553	1,574	1,367
" " under one year of age	215	461	668	688	773
" verified by inspecting officer	828	1,188	1,154	1,024	901
Births	1,490	1,540	1,390	1,755	1,325

10. *Registration*.—There are two registrars—one in municipal office and one in Big Bazaar street. The seven nuisance inspectors keep a list of births, &c., in each ward, from which the central register is compiled.

The vaccinators complained that frequently they are supplied with wrong information by the registrars, and I satisfied myself that this was so in three cases. The probability is that the nuisance inspectors accept hearsay evidence and do not in all cases verify the information received. This should be duly noticed.

This is being attended to with greater care.

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894 up to date (31st Oct. 1894.)
Deaths from—					
Cholera	129	188	146	389	339
Small-pox	161	27	20	25	7
Fevers	272	334	318	286	316
Dysentery and diarrhoea	212	215	211	228	168
All other causes	811	894	885	1,038	876
Total	1,585	1,658	1,580	1,956	1,706
Death-rate per mille	31.6	33.1	29.1	36.2	37.7
Births	1,490	1,540	1,390	1,755	1,325
Birth-rate per mille	29.7	30.7	25.6	32.3	29.3

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed)
7th December 1894.

W. B. BANNERMAN, M.D., Surgn.-Captain,
Inspector of Vaccination and Dy. San'y. Commissioner.

No. 2240 S.

Forwarded to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Kumbakonam, 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,
21st December 1894.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col.,
Ag. Sany. Commissioner for Madras.

No. 627-Eng.

Forwarded.

(Signed) R. B. CLEGG,
Ag. Sub-Collector.

30th December 1894.

Endt. on C. No. 1033-Ml.

Forwarded.

VALLAM,
27th December 1894.

(Signed) J. THOMSON,
Ag. Collector.

From M.R.Ry. P. TAMBISAMY MUDALIAR, Rao Bahadur, Chairman, Municipal Council, Kumbakonam, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Sub-Collector and the Collector of Tanjore), dated Kumbakonam, 23rd March 1895, No. 696.

I have the honour to submit herewith the inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, on his inspection of this municipality with the Chairman's remarks and with a copy of the resolution of the council thereon.

ENCLOSURE.

PROCEEDINGS of the Special Meeting of the Municipal Council, Kumbakonam, held on the 20th March 1895.

4. Resolved that the inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, with the Chairman's remarks, be submitted to Government.

No. 1251.

Forwarded to the Collector.

(Signed) R. B. CLEGG,
Ag. Sub-Collector.

24th March 1895.

Endt. on Cur. No. 251-Ml.

Forwarded.

(Signed) J. THOMSON,
Ag. Collector.

TANJORE,
28th March 1895.

1/2
p.s. order 1/2.5.95 No 745

Recorded with the following
remarks: -

(1) Steps should be taken to provide a
latrine for the use of the people occupying
the huts along the jail road near the
hospital.

(2) The question of improving the sanitary
condition of the silk weavers' street should
not be indefinitely postponed. As the
inhabitants of the division are willing
to meet the Council halfway, there should
be no difficulty in carrying out the
necessary improvements at once.

(3) The open ^{space} latrine near the market
should be removed ^{or} to a less objectionable
locality one substituted.

1/2
25/4/95
30.11.95

To, The Chairman, M.C. Kumbarhumm.
" Collector of Bangalore.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Engineer.
Editor's Table. 25/2/95

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Kumbarhumm

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