Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 1772 M

DATED 17th Oct. 1896

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection Notes Recording with remarks, Dr. Sanitary Commissioner's — on the Coonoor 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.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From J. A. MARJORIBANKS, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Coonoor, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Collector of Nilgiris), dated 22nd August 1896, No. 345.

With reference to G.O., No. 1765 M., dated 23rd December 1893, I have the honour to submit herewith the Inspection Notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for Madras of his inspection of this municipality from 1st to 5th June 1896, with my replies and an extract from the proceedings of a meeting of the Municipal Council held on the 21st instant.

ENCLOSURES.

INSPECTION Notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

NILGIRI DISTRICT.

COONOOR MUNICIPALITY.

Inspected 1st to 5th June 1896.

Population per census of { 1881 4,778
1891 6,049

Inspection Notes.

1. *Site.*—The native town, bazaar, market and slaughter-house are all situated in a valley of concave form, through which two streams flow. The bazaar is at an elevation of 5,761 feet above the level of the sea, and the European houses on the heights around may be 300 feet higher.

2. *Streams.* — The stream flowing through the east valley is much polluted by surface drainage, and where it passes through between the houses near butchers' lane and the pork paracherri, it is little better than an open sewer. People evidently empty their household rubbish into this part of the stream. I would therefore recommend that the bed of the stream be narrowed here and laid down with large glazed half-pipes and that the sides be rivetted with stone, to prevent the storm water scouring out the banks. The space gained by narrowing the bed might be utilised for the formation of a foot-path so that ready access may be had for cleansing purposes, which is by no

Chairman's Remarks.

[*The notes below within brackets are those of Mr. Rees, Collector of Nilgiris.*]

Dust-bins are provided for emptying rubbish in, and the stream is too large to admit of the arrangement here suggested.

[I presume this will require the sanction of Sanitary Board.]

Inspection Notes.

the many sojourners. A stair leading down to the chattram latrine is also required, as the present arrangement is dangerous for old people.

7. *Water-supply.*—As pointed out by the Sanitary Commissioner in last year's inspection notes, the water-supply is of a very primitive nature, being open from beginning to end, and therefore liable to gross pollution. As a full description of the channels was given in last year's notes, I do not consider it necessary to occupy time and space by re-telling the tale, but simply notice below the action taken by the council on the Sanitary Commissioner's recommendations. It was recommended that (*a*) the Vannarpet channel should be piped where it passes through the dhobies' village; this has not been done. (*b*) The Yeddapalli channel where it passes through the Protestant graveyard should be diverted to the outside and piped; this has not been done, and it was very evident that surface water had recently been flowing into the water-course. The cracks in the masonry channel had, however, been repaired. (*c*) The branch of the Yeddapalli channel that runs behind the main bazaar should be piped, and that this "should not be deferred in reference to the future water-supply;" nothing has been done. (*d*) A protected supply be given to the chucklers' village; this has been done by means of a cistern and pipe and is of great use to the people. Under the above circumstances, I would strongly urge the council not to delay in getting the new scheme put in hand at once, so that the popularity of Coonoor as a health resort may not decline, as it undoubtedly will, if the state of its water-supply becomes known throughout India.

8. *Sewerage.*—The town is in part supplied with open drains placed at the sides of the streets, which end in manholes connected with underground sewers. These sewers ultimately discharge into the Coonoor river which is thus polluted with crude sewage. As there appears to be no land available for the formation of a sewage farm, I would suggest to the council the desirability of constructing sewage filters for the purification of the effluent, so that it may be discharged into the river without danger to those using the water in the lower parts of the valley. I would point out to the council that

Chairman's Remarks.

This was not done for want of funds, the loan of Rs. 25,000 promised by Government having been withdrawn. The masonry channel through the churchyard has been put in thorough order. It was not piped for want of funds.

Not carried out for want of funds.

The question of water-supply is now engaging the attention of the Sanitary Engineer, and his plans and estimates are awaited by the council.

[I do not know what action the council proposes to take. Perhaps Government would be prepared to sanction some scheme of a less expensive and comprehensive character if the council offers to provide funds. I have dwelt on the subject in forwarding the annual report.]

The council does not see the necessity of constructing sewage filters as the water from the Coonoor river below the sewage outlet is not used for drinking purposes by anybody.

Inspection Notes.	Chairman's Remarks.
town. The new latrine at the sweepers' village was in good order, but the ground at a little distance behind was in such a condition as to suggest the idea that the urine was poured out on the ground here. This is probably due to the difficulty of getting a cart to the spot; so I think the road from the slaughter-house should be extended to this point, a matter of about 150 yards only.	The road will be extended as suggested.
(*c*) There are 145 private latrines, served by a staff of 7 scavengers, so that each man must clean between 20 and 21 a day; this he might manage if he had nothing else to do, but at present, I believe, he is expected to sweep roads as well. This latter duty might well be relegated to others, so that their whole energies may be devoted to the more important duty of removing night-soil. The large servants' latrines attached to the principal hotels are served by the municipality on special terms and are kept in good order; but the wooden squat-plates in use should be replaced by smoothly cut stone or glazed tile. Many of the private latrines inspected were in a very bad state, as they were not provided with a drain to carry off urine and ablution water, this should be remedied under section 207 of the District Municipalities Act.	There are 27 scavengers and 7 drivers, who besides attending to the private and public latrines are employed also in sweeping the roads. Notices will be served to replace the wooden seats by stone ones. Will be attended to.
10. *Slaughter-house.*—There are two well-built houses, one for cattle and the other for sheep. The income derived from them is Rs. 1,800. A new tank for offal has been constructed, but the water-supply has not been attended to as promised. The floor of the beef cooling-room is hacked and rough; this should be repaired. The sheds and store for selling tripe, &c., are much too low in the roof and deficient in ventilation, and should also be more thoroughly protected from the sun than at present. The space behind the slaughter-houses should be railed off so as to prevent people urinating there.	As regards the water-supply for cleansing the slaughter-houses here referred to, what was stated before was that "the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner will have the attention of the council"; but, as it was found that the present mode of cleansing the slaughter-houses answers the purpose very well, it was not considered necessary to incur further expenditure thereon. The suggestions of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner about the floor, &c., have been carried out.
11. *Market.*—The area has been macadamized, but the intercepting drain has not been made as recommended. This year the sheds are to be cemented and provided with stone edges, which will be a great improvement. Wooden boxes are still used by both mutton and beef butchers; this should be stopped at once and the men forced to use stone slab tables.	An intercepting open drain is not considered advisable as it would only form a receptacle for all the filth of the market, and it would probably also be used as a latrine. It is proposed to supply the butchers' stalls shortly with iron tables at the expense of the municipality.

Inspection Notes.

Chairman's Remarks.

would recommend the council to get a more trustworthy man. The glycerine paste got from Ootacamund produces good results. There were 16 prosecutions for failure to vaccinate last year.

The following shows the working of G.O., No. 1502 of 19th October 1894, for the official year:—

Name of municipality.	Number of births.	Number died.	Number left the town.	Number unaccounted for.	Number postponed under medical certificate.	Number referred to Magistrate.	Number vaccinated successfully.	Ratio of successful vaccinations to total births per cent.
Coonoor ..	205	30	11	1	4	..	159	77·6

The percentage of success was 99·1.

15. *Registration.*—One registrar on Rs. 15. The vaccinator helps him, but no one else. Several boards specifying the conditions required under the Act are now posted in various parts of the town. There have been no prosecutions for failure to register births or deaths. The following shows the incidence of mortality for the last three years:—

The total number of deaths in 1896 as entered in column 4 of the statement is up to June 1896 inclusive, and not up to May as shown thereon. The death-rate per mille for the six months from January to June 1896 is 20·0 and the birth-rate 22·9. Of the 121 deaths 26 occurred among the non-residents.

[If the death-rate is 40 per mille up to date, the fact needs immediate attention. I should think there must be some mistake.]

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896 up to May.
Deaths from—				
Cholera	3	5	..	..
Small-pox	..	..	..	1
Fevers	59	54	37	30
Dysentery and diarrhœa	34	38	23	16
All other causes	97	96	109	74
Total ..	193	193	169	121
Death-rate per mille ..	31·9	31·9	27·9	40·0
Births	229	235	219	139
Birth-rate per mille ..	37·8	38·8	36·2	46·0

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th July* 1896.

(Signed) W. B. BANNERMAN, M.D., B.Sc., Surgn.-Major,
Inspr. of Vacen. and Dy. Sany. Commr.

EXTRACT from the proceedings of a meeting of the Municipal Council, Coonoor, held on Friday the 21st August 1896.

* * * *

IV. Read again inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, dated 15th July 1896, of his inspection of the Coonoor Municipality from 1st to 5th June 1896, and the Chairman's remarks thereon.

Resolution.—The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes will be submitted to Government through the Collector, with the Chairman's remarks as approved by the council.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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sides be rivetted with stone, to pre-
-vent the storm-water scouring
out the banks. The space gained
by narrowing the bed might be
utilised for the formation of a
foot-path so that ready access may
be had for cleansing purposes,
which is by no means easy at present.
The Vannarpet stream is very
much fouled by the overflow of the
Mount Road drain, whenever the
manhole there gets blocked, which
seems to be a daily occurrence.
Such a state of affairs is certainly
very discreditable to those responsible
for the oversight of the drains, and
could easily be remedied by station-
-ing a man at this important
junction to remove the debris
as it accumulates. This stream
is also fouled by the surface
drainage of the sweeper's Village
and dhobi's Villages. The
banks of both these streams
have however been much improv-
ved lately by the formation,
at the suggestion of the Sanitary
Inspector, of gardens, where the
owners cultivate Vegetables in a
small way; replacing in this

manner

The Comm[illegible] is n[illegible]
for the faulty cons[illegible]
drains. The Overseer
ordered to do his b[illegible]
the man hole here
in order.

as they are at night at this elevation. The council should therefore carefully scrutinise all plans laid before them, to ascertain that proper arrangements are present to ensure the admission of an adequate supply of fresh air at night, when the doors and windows are shut.

Noted.

6. Chattram.- The floor has been rendered impervious, and a cook-house of corrugated iron has been added since last report. This is a great improvement, but in addition a cement drain along the front of both cook-house and Chattram is required to catch the slops thrown out by the many sojourners. A stair leading down to the chattram latrine is also required, as the present arrangement is dangerous for old people.

The drain and stair p
commended will be provided

7. Water-Supply.- As pointed out by the Sanitary Commissioner in last year's inspection notes, the water supply is of a very primitive nature, being open

from

has been done. (d) A protected supply be given to the chucklers Village; this has been done by means of a cistern and pipe and is of great use to the people.

Under the above circumstances I would strongly urge the Council not to delay in getting the new scheme put in hand at once, so that the popularity of Coonoor as a health resort may not decline, as it undoubtedly will if the state of its water-supply becomes known throughout India.

8. Sewerage.— The town is in part supplied with open drains placed at the sides of the streets, which end in manholes connected with underground sewers. These sewers ultimately discharge into the Coonoor river which is thus polluted with crude sewage. As there appears to be no land available for the formation of a sewage farm, I would suggest to the council the desirability of constructing sewage filters for the purification of the effluent, so that it may be discharged into

The question of water supply engaging the attention of the Engineer, and his plans and are awaited by the Council

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insist on these channels being of oval section cement-lined, or, where they necessarilly pass under houses, that they are made of glazed earthenware pipes embedded in concrete or of iron properly jointed. No arrangement has yet been made for flushing the various sections of the drains though this is very necessary and could easily be carried out as explained by me to the Sanitary Inspector. There are many outlying parts of Coonoor which are as yet guiltless of drains of any kind, such as Ola-patri, Pork Paracherry, Vannarpet, &c.; the Council should keep this in mind with a view to extension as funds permit.

As it rains frequen
in Coonoor not much flu
is necessary except when
is a break in the wealth
then but little water c
be spared for flushing
that required for domes
purposes.

noted.

9. Conservancy. There are 55 corrugated-iron dust-bins, being an increase of 6 during the year. The night-soil and rubbish was disposed of to a Planter last year for a sum of Rs. 3000-0-0, the cartage for a certain distance being given free by the Municipality; this is certainly a

road from the slaughter-house — should be extended to this point, a matter of about 150 yds. only.

The road will be extended as suggested.

( ) There are 145 private latrines, served by a staff of 7 scavengers, so that each man must clean — between 20 and 21 a day, this he might manage if he had nothing else to do, but at present I believe he is expected to sweep — roads as well. This latter duty might well be relegated to others, so that their whole energies may be devoted to the more important duty of removing night-soil. — The large servants latrines — attached to the principal hotels are served by the Municipality on special terms, and are kept in good order but the wooden squat-plates in use should be replaced by smoothly cut stone or glazed tile. Many of the private latrines inspected were in a very bad state, as they were not provided with a drain to carry off urine and ablution-water, this should be remedied under section 207 of the Dist. Municipalities Act.

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Notices will be served the wooden seats by th

Will be attended to.

and beef butchers. This should be
stopped at once and the men
forced to use stone-slab tables.

12. Offensive Trades. Dhobis
are still unlicensed, and keep
the clothes entrusted to them
in their dwelling-rooms. I
would strongly advise the
Municipality to erect a
washing house for these
men and then by means of
licenses compel them to wash
there and no where else. I
spoke to some of the dhobis
about this and they expressed
their willingness to use such a
place if provided for them.
As the soldier's washing
is largely done here it is
important not only to the
people of Coonoor, but also
to the military population
of Wellington. Such a
house would require to have
not only separate tubs for
each man but also lockers
for separate storing of clean
and soiled clothes. A suita-
ble plan would be furnished
by the Sanitary Board
on

butchers stalls shortly with iron
at the expence of the Mun

The licensing of D
under consideration

The Council would
have a plan and est
a Dhobikhana

It would therefore be advisable to change these grounds to some sanitarily safe spot.

14. Vaccination.- One Vaccinator is employed, and I formed a very poor opinion of his trustworthiness and abilities. It took me the best part of two hours to verify five cases, and of these, one case entered as unsuccessful was found to have 6 well formed marks. In Vannarpet, I examined the first five children I found, and of these only two were Vaccinated, though the Vaccinator told me all would be found protected! In Olapatti two cases were verified, one of which the Vaccinator confessed to having corrected the previous day in anticipation of my arrival. This man (C. Durgiah) has 19 years service and his pay is Rs. 18. I would recommend the Council to get a more trustworthy man. The glycerine paste got from Colaçamund produces good results. There were 16 prosecutions for failure to Vaccinate last year.

The Sanitary and M
officer will be requested
the Council with his opinio
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removed and his place filled
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The

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	1	2	9
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24

Wm Bannerman
M.
Surgeon
Inspector of Vaccination
Dy Sanitary Commissioner
Madr

Fort St George
15th July 1896

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Municipal Office
Conoor 22nd Aug. 1896

L.M. Marjoribanks
Chairman.

Rec 24-

Thro' the Collector

118

22nd July 1896
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Coonoor D

R^o/n 1357/S

Forwarded
Chairman, Munl Co
Coonoor.

2. Attention is
to para 2 of G.O. R
dated 23d Dec 1893.

Sur
Sanitary Com
for

Forbes Sturge
15th July 1896

128

Disp 18 [illegible]

R Dis^n our no 1005/96

Forwarded to

Chairman Com

J. Rees.

Collec

20th July/96.

24/56 Inspr

(With an Endorsement)

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* * * *

IV. Read again inspection notes of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, dated 15th July 1896, of his inspection of the Coonoor Municipality from 1st to 5th June 1896, and the Chairman's remarks thereon.

Resolution.—The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes will be submitted to Government through the Collector, with the Chairman's remarks as approved by the council.