eal & Munl. (1897) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 757 M

DATED 26. 5. 99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Unhealthiness of Potacamund:

Recording, with remarks, letter from the Chairman, Munl: Council, Ootacamund, reporting the steps which the Munl: Council proposes to take to remedy the ——, disapproving the Chairman's suggestions that the Council should grant loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen to enable them to comply with its Sanitary requirements, and stating that separate orders will issue on the question of appointing a Health officer to the 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 {1899} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.
Regd. } 1899.
Enclosures
Spare copies

G.O., No. 757 M., 26th May 1899.

MAY.

Unhealthiness of Ootacamund.

Recording, with remarks, letter from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, reporting the steps which the Municipal Council proposes to take to remedy the —, disapproving the Chairman's suggestions that the Council should grant loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen to enable them to comply with sanitary requirements, and stating that separate orders will issue on the question of appointing a Health Officer to the Municipality.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From G. HAMNETT, Esq., C.I.E., Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated 4th February 1899, No. 5466.

In continuation of my letter, No. 4742, dated 19th December 1898, I have the honour to submit the papers marginally noted containing the steps which the Municipal Council proposes to take to carry out the recommendations made by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, Major H. Thomson, I.M.S., in his report upon the unhealthiness of Ootacamund. It will be observed that the course prescribed by the Government in Circular Memorandum, dated 18th January 1893, No. 16, viz, that "when Chairmen of Municipal Councils submit replies to the inspection notes of the Sanitary Commissioner, it is essential that each of the several points noticed should be answered *seriatim*" has not been followed in this instance, as the report was a special one, and as it was thought it would be more satisfactory if the views of the Members of the Council were expressed independently of the executive.

Copy of a report of the first Sub-Committee of five Municipal Councillors, dated 20th October 1898.
Copy of a letter from the Executive Engineer on special duty, dated 21st October 1898.
Copy of note by Mr. Butterworth, dated 14th December 1898.
Copy of a report of the second Sub-Committee comprised of the Chairman, Civil Surgeon, and the Acting Collector, dated 4th January 1899.
Copy of the Proceedings of a special meeting of the Municipal Council held on the 4th February 1899.

On this supposition the gentlemen marginally noted were appointed on the 1st October 1898 to form themselves into a Sub-Committee and report to the Council with their opinion on the recommendations made by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner.

Colonel J. F. Garwood, R.E., nominated as Councillor on 10th May 1898.
Colonel K. F. Stevenson, Vice-Chairman, nomi[illegible] Councillor on 5th May 1896.
Major C. M. Thompson, Civil S[illegible], nominated as Councillor on 14th Jun[illegible] nominated as Councillor on 23rd
Mr. W. F. [illegible]
Augustool Mahomed Sait Sahib elected on 27th April 1897.

2. The Sub-Committee furnished its report on the 20th October. This report was circulated, and at the meeting held on the 14th November it was deferred for consideration to a special meeting which was held on the 19th December 1898. At this meeting the Council had also before it a note by the late Acting Collector, Mr. A. Butterworth, on the Sub-Committee's report to the effect that it did not seem to him to go sufficiently into detail, and he was of opinion that the Committee should be asked to furnish detailed suggestions on the points specified by him. The Council, however, resolved at the meeting that the Chairman, Civil Surgeon and Collector be requested to consider the Sanitary Commissioner's report in detail. It, at the same time, resolved—

(2) "That a Health Officer be appointed on a salary of Rs. 300 per mensem his duties to be hereafter defined by resolution of the Council. The increased expenditure to be met by enhancing the tax on lands.

(3) "That Government be moved to confer police powers on Sanitary Inspectors."

3. The second Sub-Committee's report was received on the 7th January 1899, circulated, and considered at a special meeting held on the 4th February; but it is, with much regret, I have to state that, before the meeting was held, Mr. Butterworth, the Acting Collector, who took so much interest in Municipal matters, was compelled from sudden and serious illness to vacate the office of Collector, and Mr. C. J. Weir appointed instead as permanent Collector of the district. Mr. Weir was present at the meeting, but having taken over charge of the district only on the 1st instant, he could not express his views on the points touched upon by the two Sub-Committees.

The Municipal Council, after some discussion, resolved to adopt the suggestions in the first Sub-Committee's report, paragraphs 2 to 6, and also the suggestions by the second Committee as modified at the meeting. The Council further adopted the suggestions in paragraph 7 of the first Sub-Committee's report that "the only remedy for the defective state of sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the Municipality.

It considers it useless to pass resolutions when under present arrangements there is no certainty that such resolutions would be carried out. What Ootacamund requires is that the present conservancy establishment should be properly supervised, that when orders are passed ordering the abatement of any nuisance, &c., such orders should be promptly carried out, and that when municipal orders are disobeyed or ignored the culprits should be promptly and adequately punished. The Committee regrets to say, though it may be to a certain extent a reflection on themselves, that such is not the case at present, and until these very patent defects are remedied by stricter supervision, the present insanitary condition of the town is likely to continue."

4. The suggestions in the first Sub-Committee's report, paragraphs 2 to 5, relate to the Marlimund reservoir, the acquiring of the catchment area, the filtration of the water supplied by the Anderson process or some other means, the prevention of waste of water from leaky taps, &c., and the satisfactory condition of the Dodabetta supply.

The suggestions in the second Sub-Committee's report relate to the removal of buildings in the crowded parts of the town when funds are available; that great caution should be exercised in permitting the construction or re-construction of buildings in the bazaar; that the most vigorous use should be made of the Council's power to remove buildings which are actually ruinous; the closing of certain wells and the constructing of washing platforms (Dhobi khanas); that dhobies be required to supply themselves with special buildings or rooms for the storage of clothes, and that licenses be refused under section 188 (1) (*a*) where such special accommodation is not provided; that licenses be not issued for 1899–1900 in respect of certain cow-sheds unless they are provided with proper floors, drainage and ventilation; that the number of animals to be kept in each shed be fixed in the license; that no new license for cow-sheds be granted unless the applicants have constructed suitable buildings for the sole purpose of storage of milk, and that existing licensees be warned at once that their licenses will not be renewed unless they make similar arrangements; that bake-houses be repaired and whitewashed, that the license should be withdrawn in the case of one bake-house, and in other cases the grant of licenses to be dependent upon the removal of the defects noted; that the Chairman should inspect and report on each of the native ærated water manufactures; that provision should be made for carrying out the following works :—

(1) A slaughter-house for pigs in Mettucherry;
(2) Pens for animals near slaughter-houses; and
(3) A market for the sale of meat of inferior qualities.

That an additional rubbish cart be procured for the removal of horns and skulls in Butchers' street; that licenses be refused in 1899–1900 to mutton butchers until their shops are put into decent order; that animals should be inspected before slaughter, and that the services of a man who understands the diseases of cattle thoroughly should be obtained; that the Sub-Committee sees no use in framing bye-laws if the Sanitary Inspectors do their duty; that the Government be asked to take the views of the Council before accepting any scheme for the removal and disposal of

night-soil through pipes; that more latrines be provided, existing ones at the east end of Kandal be re-built or repaired, that a small latrine is urgently needed in the mosque chattram, that private latrines should be inspected systematically and reported on by the Sanitary Inspectors and that public latrines be provided with a quantity of dry earth.

5. Having accompanied Mr. Butterworth throughout his inspections of the town, I beg to invite the attention of the Government to the following remarks in his note, dated 14th December 1898:—

"I am in full accord with the Sub-Committee in thinking that there has been great laxity on the part of the executive in the past, but it must be remembered that we are to a great extent suffering for the sins of our fathers, for the town has been allowed to grow up in so crowded a fashion as to render it a matter of great difficulty to keep it clean and wholesome. I also wish it to be understood that I do not regard the town as being in an unsatisfactory condition, *if judged by the standard of Municipalities in the plains*. But, of course, that standard should not be applied to Ootacamund, and, judged by the standard which ought to be applied, Ootacamund is in a condition which calls for very great improvement. As I have inspected, I believe, every lane and alley in the place, I am in a position to express an opinion on this subject.

"I attribute the defects in the management of the town to the following principal causes:—

(1) "The Chairman and Municipal Councillors ought to do more regular personal inspection, and, in this connection, I suggest that once every week each Divisional Councillor should inspect his division with the Sanitary Inspector and report briefly to the Council the principal defects which he has discovered.

(2) "It is essential that Sanitary Inspectors should be carefully selected. I regard a pass in Hygiene as of very little value and am of opinion that we want men, who, whether they had certificates in Hygiene or not, can get orders carried out and not men of the class we sometimes see appointed. The town has suffered greatly in my opinion from the utter inefficiency and idleness and, possibly, from the corruption of its previous Sanitary Inspectors.

(3) "The prosecution of Municipal cases has been carried out in a very unsatisfactory manner, and I think it would be a great advantage if the Chairman sometimes attended Court to see how they are conducted. The ridiculous lenity of the sentences imposed by the Sub-Magistrate is another factor which told heavily against good administration, but I trust that, with the coming into existence of the Bench, this cause has ceased to operate.

(4) "There has been a strong tendency to regard the licensing system as a source of revenue instead of a mode of control. This is a most pernicious error, for it has led to the free granting of licenses where licenses ought to have been rigidly refused. So widely spread was this confusion as to the objects of the licensing system, that, as I understand, the Sub-Magistrate used to hold that, if a man tenders the fee for a license, a license cannot be refused.

"Finally, and with all deference to the expert opinion of the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, I venture to record my dissent from his opinion as to the drainage of the town. It is surface drainage, no doubt, and open to the defects of surface drainage, but, whether under-ground drainage is wholesome may be questioned and, apart from the question whether under-ground drainage is better, I regard the drainage of Ootacamund as satisfactory and as the best thing about the town. It is not correct to describe the drainage as disconnected from the houses. The connections are often wanting, no doubt, but in probably more cases they are complete.

"One great drawback to surface drainage is the liability of pollution by night-soil. The open drains are constantly used to defœcate into, and I would suggest, firstly, that heavy sentences for this demeanour should be pressed for before the Bench, and, secondly, that Government be moved under section 282 (4) to give police powers to the Sanitary Inspectors."

6. Mr. Butterworth in his note, an extract from which is given in paragraph 5 of this letter, says, "judged by the standard of Municipalities in the plains," he does not regard the town of Ootacamund as being in an unsatisfactory condition. No other standard can possibly be applied at present, seeing that the town has been allowed to grow up as native towns have been in the plains, and that the bulk of the population is "native", utterly indifferent to sanitary rules and laws. Their dwellings are described as follows: by the Sanitary Commissioner in his Inspection notes, dated 15th to 22nd September 1893, G.O., No. 648 M., dated 23rd May 1894.

"The houses occupied by the poorer class of natives are of a very inferior description. Of houses examined with reference to evident over-crowding, only seven were found to be provided with any description of windows. Certain of them are built with upper stories, whence the sewage is allowed to sink into the apartments below. In some instances as a result of this practice, the walls of the lower apartments were found in a state usually expected in the interior of a cess-pool. These places are literally dens, in which it would be inadvisable to place dogs of the slightest value. Taking the average superficial space and cubic contents per head of ten houses, it is found that 18·2 superficial and 180·6 cubic feet only are available per head; but in one instance, the total available superficial space per head was only 8·7 feet, there being 12 souls crowded in one room. These dens are owned by natives in good circumstances and are literally lodgings for which heavy rent is charged during the "season." Their condition illustrates the necessity for the adoption of the "Common Lodging Houses Act" in this Presidency."

I enclose copy of a note which I drew up for the information of the Municipal Council in June 1897, together with the plan referred to for the information of the Government.

7. In noticing defects in management, Mr. Butterworth attributes them to the Chair*men* and Municipal Councillors. I do not wish to enter here into any defence of my own management, but I may say that it is not right to associate the Chairman with the Vice-Chairman and the Councillors, because the Chairman has, since he took up the office in 1892, made it a rule to go about the town every morning, except on mornings when he was compelled to stop at home to bring up arrears of office work. Whereas the Vice-Chairman and the Councillors have not done so, and when Mr. Butterworth proposed the following resolution at the meeting held on the 19th December 1898: "That the Chairman be requested to make proposals as to the powers which he should delegate to the Vice-Chairman," the motion was lost, as that gentleman said he would assist, but could not undertake the supervision of any department and the majority of the other Councillors vetoed the suggestion that each Divisional Councillor "should inspect his division" once every week and report briefly the principal defects.

8. As regards the selection of sanitary inspectors for this town the Government was addressed on the 30th September 1898, No. 3304, but has not yet passed orders on the subject.

9. As regards prosecution of Municipal cases, the Government will have learnt from my letter No. 1702, dated 9th August 1897, that it was conducted in a most unsatisfactory manner, and although sanction was given for the appointment of a special sanitary inspector to conduct these prosecutions, it has not yet been possible to secure the services of a good, intelligent man, owing probably to the small remuneration of Rs. 50 a month.

10. Since I joined the Municipality in 1892, I felt the necessity of introducing stringent conditions in licenses to ensure efficient control. On the 10th September 1896, I sent to the Sanitary Commissioner thirteen (13) forms of licenses, and added, "I may mention that the conditions in force have been introduced gradually, and no objections are made to them now." The Sanitary Commissioner in his reply dated 25th September 1896, wrote as follows:—

"In general terms I approve of the license forms received from you. I have had under preparation for some months a complete set of rulings, and, till this is furnished you, it is unnecessary for me to make any suggestions. I may, however,

take this opportunity of stating that I believe yours is the only Municipality in the Presidency which has exhibited sufficient energy to evolve a complete set of forms of the nature and that I think the work fulfilled highly creditable to your sanitary instincts."

The Sanitary Commissioner in his inspection notes for September 1893 cited above, remarked :

"*Offensive trades.*—Licenses have been issued under this head with more than usual care Each license bears upon it the conditions under which it is issued, and although in some cases these are not very full, they still show that the Municipality grasps the fact that section 188 is not meant solely for the purpose of exacting fees from those pursuing a certain class of trades, but also pre-supposes that attention shall be paid to the sanitary conditions of premises for which they are issued."

It will be apparent from this that the licensing system was not regarded solely as "a source of revenue."

11. In advertence to the suggestion that licenses should be absolutely refused to persons who have earned their living by certain occupations and trades since the town of Ootacamund was established about three quarters of a century ago, I entertain some doubts. The people engaged in such occupations and trades are mostly poor. They have not the means of complying with rules which require improved sanitation and management, and it seems hard to tell these people you shall not get a license until you have carried out the improvements which we consider necessary and desirable. Money too cannot be obtained from the Shylocks of Ootacamund (without substantial security) even at 24 per cent. per annum. In the circumstances, the most humane course would be to grant loans in easy terms to people to make the improvements in their occupations and trades, which sanitary science at present requires in connection with the health of the people who live in the town.

12. The question of filtration of the Marlimund water-supply to the town was considered and disposed of in G.O., No. 2156 M., dated 2nd October 1897. In this connection it may be mentioned that in April 1895, the Municipal Council on the suggestion of the Sanitary Engineer to the Government resolved.

(i) that the Marlimund supply should be brought under greater control and furnished with more stop cocks and valves.

(ii) that all non-self closing taps should be gradually abolished, none of the existing taps of this class being renewed.

(iii) that meters should be attached whenever necessary to service pipes in order that water may be paid for according to the quantity used in excess of domestic supply.

These resolutions were not carried out for want of funds.

On the 28th January 1899 the Municipal Council passed the following resolution in view to prevent the waste of water :—

"The waste-not taps shall be supplied in future to all houses to which water is supplied by the Municipality, and that in the case of the renewal of existing screw-down taps waste-not taps be substituted. The price of a screw-down tap is Rupees 1–14–0 and that of waste-not tap Rs. 13-8-0. House owners naturally object to the use of the more costly tap."

13. Dhobies are required to provide separate rooms for storage of clothes. The following extract from the Inspection notes of the Sanitary Commissioner on the Coonoor Municipality in October 1894 will show that the provision of rooms has been insisted upon in this Municipality for some time past :—

"It is also desirable that vigorous measures that have been successfully applied by Mr. Hamnett, C.I.E., in Ootacamund, should be also enforced here in regard to dhobies. Under section 188, the Chairman has insisted upon dhobies retaining the clothing of customers in special sheds forming no part of a dwelling house. If this can have been effected in Ootacamund, in spite of vigorous opposition from the dhobies, it ought also to be feasible in Coonoor."

14. *Dhoby Khanas.*—A Sub-Committee was appointed by the Municipal Council on the 2nd April 1898 to consider and report on the question of providing dhoby khanas. The Sub-Committee recommended "that the floor of the present open stream be stopped by constructing a dam across it, and that from this water head, pipes be laid on to the washing places at Kodappamund and Vannarapetta, with separate washing stones, &c., and a separate tap for each dhoby. * * * Similar water-pipes and taps should be constructed at Kandal." The papers were referred to the Sanitary Engineer to Government. He replied on the 20th May 1898, saying—

"The proper plan to supply the dhoby khanas which the Committee propose should be erected is from the Kodappamund pipe, which, I presume, will be large enough for the purpose; whether this is so or not I cannot state because the plans of this work have not been before the Sanitary Board.

"The stream which will supply this pipe is the stream in which the dhobies of that end of Ootacamund wash, so that if the pipe is ample they would get pure water instead of damming up the stream lower down where it might be impure."

The papers were shown to the Acting Sanitary Commissioner on his inspection of the town in June 1898. He disapproved of the Sub-Committee's recommendations and desired that the matter be deferred until the pipe-head above Kodappamaund is completed.

15. *Native aerated water manufactories.*—I have inspected these and am of opinion that the licenses should be withdrawn from the 1st April next if the owners do not provide proper factories in suitable localities.

16. The Municipal Council has had under its consideration the expediency of providing a slaughter-house for pigs, but, like other projects and schemes, had to abandon it for want of funds. It should be taken up as soon as funds can be allotted.

17. The necessity for pens for cattle and sheep was noted by the Council in paragraph 47 of the administration report for 1892–93, and also in paragraph 45 of the report for 1893–94. A plan and estimate amounting to Rs. 1,450 were prepared for the construction of pens in November 1896, but put aside for want of funds.

18. Last year plan and estimate amounting to Rs. 2,765 were prepared for a mutton and beef market near the houses of the butchers just below the slaughter-houses, but the unforeseen expenditure on account of the plague precluded the Council from carrying out what it wished to do.

19. *Incinerators*—The question of constructing incinerators has been under consideration since May 1894. The papers were finally referred to Mr. J. Somers Eve, Executive Engineer on special duty. This gentleman after enquiries made during his trip to Bombay in November 1897 wrote—

"I do not advise the use of an incinerator for Ootacamund, because to be of any use it must be in a central position, and as far as I can learn an incinerator is and must be more or less of a nuisance, arising from either the fumes from the furnaces themselves or the smoke from the chimney, both of which smell excessively. It may be possible to minimise the former, but no chimney however high will carry away the smoke from the surrounding hills if the incinerator is placed in the valley, and I do not think it would be of much use economically to place it anywhere else."

A copy of Mr. J. Somers Eve's letter was sent to the Sanitary Engineer to Government on the 27th November 1897.

20. In February 1898, the Municipal Council considered the question of lighting the town with oil-gas in place of kerosine lamps, but the cost was prohibitory, and there being no funds available, nothing further was done.

21. Pending the orders of the Government on this letter and its accompaniments, the suggestions made by the Sub-Committees, which involve no large expenditure of money will be carried out.

22. It is indispensably necessary that a Sub-Engineer or Engineer should be appointed as soon as possible. The office of Municipal Engineer was abolished in 1895, consequent on the loss of land revenue amounting to Rs. 8,000.

23. The Sanitary department should be under the control of an officer who can devote his whole time and attention throughout the day to the sanitation and lighting of the town.

24. An educated, well informed subordinate is much needed to manage and control the Municipal office establishment. His salary may be met from the allowance now assigned to the Chairman.

Note by Chairman.

In circulating the bye-laws drafted by Mr. G. T. Walch regarding buildings, I may mention that the Sanitary Commissioner, in his notes of inspection in September 1893, has dwelt on the insanitary condition of the houses of the poorer classes. He described them as dens not fit for human habitation.

2. On his inspection in June 1896, he wrote—

"I would advise the Council to frame estimates with the object of ascertaining whether it could not, with financial safety, build, under section 177, model native dwellings for the poor and offer them for reasonable rent upon the proceeds of a loan from Government."

3. I had the accompanying plan prepared in January 1897. The plan shows a small house for a poor family with all the requirements. The land for such a house will not exceed 450 square feet.

It also shows a block for two families with all requirements. The land for such a block will not exceed 600 square feet.

It seems to me that the time has arrived when Municipalities should take every precaution to see that the poorer classes are properly housed, and that the houses are so built that sanitation may be easily carried out and the health of the town preserved.

In connection with this, I would ask members to read the article on "Uninhabitable dwellings" in the sanitary record for 30th April 1897, page 394, and resolve on appointing a strong Sub-Committee to go carefully into the question of dwellings for the poorer classes and suggest the measures which the Municipal Council may conveniently adopt.

OOTACAMUND,
5th June 1897.

(Signed) GEO. HAMNETT,
Chairman, Municipal Council.

From Colonel J. F. GARWOOD, R.E., and others, Municipal Councillors, Ootacamund, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated 20th October 1898.

The Committee appointed by the Municipal Committee at their meeting on 1st October 1898 to consider the report of the Sanitary Commissioner on the unhealthiness of Ootacamund have the honour to submit their report.

2. The first point on which they remark is the water-supply from the Marlimund reservoir.

3. To make the water-supply from this source thoroughly satisfactory it is desirable that the buildings on the Tudor Hall estate be purchased and demolished, that all cultivation on private land in the gathering ground of the reservoir be prohibited, and all building rights on such private lands secured; that is to say, compensation paid to the owners who would not be allowed to build on their lands or use it for any other purpose than for growing trees for fuel, &c. It would also be desirable to purify the water by the Anderson process or to adopt some other means of filtration, but this latter is of not so much importance if the catchment area is preserved from contamination.

4. Financial reasons will probably prevent these recommendations being carried out in their entirety, but as an absolute minimum of what is necessary to improve the purity of the water, the Committee would recommend that all building rights on private land in the catchment area be taken up; that is to say, that the existing buildings on the land be allowed to remain, but that no more buildings be allowed to be erected, and secondly that the land under cultivation with tea on the margin of the reservoir be put out of cultivation for a distance of, say, 100 yards from the margin of the reservoir and the land re-afforested. The compensation to be paid for these improvements should not amount to any prohibitive sum.

5. The Committee is also of opinion that if proper executive steps were taken to prevent the waste of water from leaky taps, &c., in the winter months, the volume of water in the reservoir would be likely to remain much greater in the dry season than was the case last year, but for the reasons stated at the end of this report, the Committee consider it useless to go into details of what is required to be done in this particular.

6. The Dodabetta supply is satisfactory, and the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendations on the matter.

7. The Committee are of opinion that the only remedy for the defective state of sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the Municipality. They consider it useless to pass resolutions when under present arrangements there is no certainty that such resolutions would be carried out. What Ootacamund requires is that the present conservancy establishment should be properly supervised, that when orders are passed ordering the abatement of any nuisance, &c., such orders should be promptly carried out, and that when municipal orders are disobeyed or ignored, the culprits should be promptly and adequately punished. The Committee regret to say, though it may be to a certain extent a reflection on themselves, that such is not the case at present, and until these very patent defects are remedied by stricter supervision, the present insanitary condition of the town is likely to continue.

From J. F. SOMERS-EVE, Esq., Executive Engineer on special duty, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated Ootacamund, 21st October 1898, No. 438.

With reference to your No. 3578 of 15th instant, forwarding the Acting Sanitary Commissioner's report (No. 1831 S. of 22nd August 1898), I have the honour to offer the following remarks.

2. I recognize the liberal spirit in which Major Thompson has written his report, but I would emphasize the fact that his report is based considerably on presumptions, not conclusions, and I think that some of them are more than open to question.

3. *His paragraph* 4 (1).—I do not think there was any necessity for introducing the intermittent system of water, and in the future this should not be done if the Marlimund reservoir is full at the end of October (Mr. Walch's late report on the Ooty water works makes this clear).

His paragraph 4, (2) *and* (3).—I do not believe either lowering the lake level or removing the silt had anything to do with the outbreak of enteric, nor, I believe, do the Medical officers of the station. The reason for lowering the lake was to repair and re-align the iron sewer through the lake and this was absolutely necessary.

The lake was first lowered in April 1897, and the condition of the lake at that time at the corner of the Willow Bund was disgusting as all the sewage of the bazaar and above had been depositing there for more than a year. This liquid sewage was all baled into the lake iron sewer and got rid of, and if enteric had arisen from this procedure it might have been understood. The next lowering was at the beginning of January by 3 feet and this left the silt in which there was sewage high and dry.

Before proposing to remove this part of the ground I consulted Surgeon-Major Ross, who is, I believe, an authority on such matters, and he expressed an opinion that no harm could follow its removal.

It is remarkable that the men of the 4th Pioneers who did most of the work in this spot were never healthier as a regiment, nor did I hear of a single case among the local coolies who were at work there.

4. *His paragraph* 5.—I admit the drainage of the main bazaar is very bad. The people throw all sorts of rubbish into the open drains, and go unpunished. The Municipality should, with the new Bench of Magistrates, be able to stop this. The number of rubbish bins in the bazaar is quite inadequate and this the Municipality could easily remedy. Specimen plans and estimates for the proper drainage of the bazaar were submitted by me months ago. I understand they have been in the Sanitary Commissioner's office for over three months. The gratings referred to are absolutely necessary as long as the people are allowed to throw rubbish into the open drains. Such rubbish cannot be allowed into the closed sewer which it would immediately block, and it would be equally pernicious to allow it to enter the stream feeding the lake. The gratings only become an evil when they are blocked, and there is absolutely no necessity for them to be blocked if they are properly attended to. I have written to the Chairman, Ootacamund Municipality, on several occasions on this subject complaining that this is improperly attended to. It would be an unnecessary expense, as the bazaar sweepers should attend to this, but if they cannot or will not do it, I will guarantee to see to these gratings being kept clear and clean, and I should want three sweepers and a man to look after them to do it. I do not understand Major Thompson's suggestion to put the gratings horizontal instead of vertical and do not think it feasible.

5. *His paragraph* 6.—I am not sure that the proposed ventilators would be any better than the existing arrangements, as the bazaar slopes upwards, and the ventilator should be considerably higher than 12 feet to be of any use, and when they are high they may generate back currents in the sewer which are highly objectionable.

6. *His paragraph* 7.—With this I agree, but it is intended to take up the main bazaar first and proceed with the others as funds are procurable. Mettucherry can hardly be described as overcrowded as a whole.

7. *His paragraph* 8.—I concur and proposals are in hand for the sewage farm.

8. *His paragraph* 9.—I thoroughly agree. It will be impossible to pipe drain parts of the bazaar unless some houses are removed.

9. The report is herewith returned with thanks.

Note.

The report of the Sub-Committee does not seem to me to go sufficiently into detail. The intention of the Council was, I understand, that the Sub-Committee should make definite suggestions for remedying the defects pointed out by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner. As this has not been done, I am of opinion that the Sub-Committee should be asked to furnish us with detailed suggestions on the following points which are those touched on by the Sanitary Commissioner:—

(1) As to which houses should be removed from the more crowded parts of the bazaar in order to open it up.

(2) As to which stand pipes should be removed on the ground that they are in dangerous proximity to drains or latrines.

(3) As to which wells should be closed as being open to serious pollution.

(4) As to the places at which dhobies should be allowed to wash clothes, as to the provision of washing platforms, and storage places and as to the licensing of dhobies.

(5) As to the dairies and cow-sheds which are in such bad order that licenses should be refused for 1899–1900 and as to the regulations which should be laid down for the improvement of dairies and cow-sheds.

(6) As to the bake-houses in respect of which licenses should be refused for 1899–1900.

(7) As to the ærated water factories for which licenses should be refused for 1899–1900.

(8) As to the provision of cattle pens in connection with the slaughter-house and of a slaughter-house for pigs.

(9) As to the framing of rules in respect of the matters specified in paragraph 22 of the report of the Sanitary Commissioner.

(10) As to the inspection of private as well as public latrines; as to the provision of more public latrines and as to the adoption of standard plans for private latrines.

(11) As to the erection of an incinerator and the prevention of the nuisance caused by the disgusting stench of the night-soil carts.

(12) As to an increase of the conservancy establishment.

2. I am in full accord with the Sub-Committee in thinking that there has been great laxity on the part of the executive in the past, but it must be remembered that we are to a great extent suffering for the sins of our fathers, for the town has been allowed to grow up in so crowded a fashion as to render it a matter of great difficulty to keep it clean and wholesome. I also wish it to be understood that I do not regard the town as being in an unsatisfactory condition *if judged by the standard of municipalities on the plains*. But, of course, that standard should not be applied to Ootacamund, and judged by the standard which ought to be applied, Ootacamund is in a condition which calls for very great improvement. As I have inspected, I believe, every lane and alley in the place, I am in a position to express an opinion on this subject.

3. I attribute the defects in the management of the town to the following principal causes:—

(1) The Chairman and Municipal Councillors ought to do more regular personal inspection, and in this connection, I suggest that once every week each Divisional Councillor should inspect his division with the sanitary inspector and report briefly to the Council the principal defects which he has discovered.

(2) It is essential that sanitary inspectors should be carefully selected. I regard a pass in hygiene as of very little value and am of opinion that we want men who, whether they hold certificates in hygiene or not, can get orders carried out and not men of the class we sometimes see appointed. The town has suffered greatly in my opinion from the utter inefficiency and idleness and possibly from the corruptions of some of its previous sanitary inspectors.

(3) The prosecution of municipal cases has been carried out in a very unsatisfactory manner and I think it would be a great advantage if the Chairman sometimes attended court to see how they are conducted. The ridiculous lenity of the sentences imposed by the Sub-Magistrate is another factor which told heavily against good administration, but I trust that with the coming into existence of the Bench, this cause has ceased to operate.

(4) There has been a strong tendency to regard the licensing system as a source of revenue instead of as a mode of control. This is a most pernicious error, for it has led to the free granting of licenses where licenses ought to have been rigidly refused. So widely spread was this confusion as to the objects of the licensing system that, as I understand, the Sub-Magistrate used to hold that if a man tenders the fee for a license, a license *cannot* be refused.

4. Finally and with all deference to the expert opinion of the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, I venture to record my dissent from his opinion as to the drainage of the town. It is surface drainage no doubt, and open to the defects of surface drainage, but whether underground drainage is wholesome may be questioned, and apart from the question whether underground drainage is better, I regard the drainage of Ootacamund as satisfactory and as the best thing about the town. It is not correct to describe the drainage as disconnected from the houses. The connections are often wanting, no doubt, but in probably more cases they are complete.

One great drawback to surface drainage is the liability to pollution by night-soil. The open drains are constantly used to defœcate into, and I would suggest, firstly, that heavy sentences for this misdemeanour should be pressed for before the Bench, and secondly that Government be moved under section 282 (4) to give Police powers to the Sanitary Inspectors.

(Signed) A. BUTTERWORTH.

14*th December* 1898.

To the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Ootacamund.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Monday the 19th December 1898.

* * * * *

Subject No. II.

Read Resolution, dated 14th November 1898, deferring for consideration the report of the Sub-Committee, dated 20th October 1898, regarding the steps to be taken to carry out the recommendations of the Sanitary Commissioner in connection with the unhealthiness of Ootacamund together with letter No. 438, dated 21st October 1898, from the Executive Engineer on special duty regarding the intercepting sewer.

Resolved:

(1) That the Chairman, Civil Surgeon and Collector be requested to consider the Sanitary Commissioner's report in detail.

(2) That a Health Officer be appointed on a salary of Rs. 300 per month, his duties to be hereafter defined by resolution of the Council. The increased expenditure to be met by enhancing the tax on lands.

(3) That Government be moved to confer police powers on Sanitary Inspectors.

(Signed) GEO. HAMNETT,
Chairman.

COPY of a report of the second Sub-Committee comprised of the Chairman, Civil Surgeon and the Acting Collector, dated 4th January 1899.

We, the undersigned, have the honour to submit to the Council our detailed report upon the remarks appearing in the Sanitary Commissioner's report read in G.O., No. 1571 M., dated 7th September 1898, as requested in the Council's resolution of the 19th December 1898.

Paragraph 9.—While fully concurring in what is said regarding the crowding of buildings in the bazaar, we think it useless to specify the buildings which, in our opinion, ought to be removed in order to open up the worst parts of the town, seeing that the Municipality has not got the money to engage in any large scheme of this nature. We consider it sufficient to urge—

(1) that, when funds are available, they can be usefully expended upon the removal of buildings from crowded localities;

(2) that the greatest caution should be exercised in permitting the construction or re-construction of buildings in the bazaar;

(3) that the most vigorous use should be made of the Council's power to direct the removal of buildings which are actually ruinous.

Paragraph 14.—Some wells have recently been closed under orders of the Council.

The following other wells should be closed:—

(1) that near the old agraharam (belonging to the Municipal Council);
(2) that near Esoof Sait's new block in old agraharam;
(3) that inside the mosque chattiram;
(4) that near Kadi Wali's flag in Lower Bazaar road.

The following wells need proper platforms and drains:—

(1) that attached to Willow Band cottage;
(2) that on the west side of Peyton's road.

Paragraph 15.—There should be three washing platforms constructed. One should be at Kodapamund and water could be supplied to it either from the Dodabetta pipe system or, as that course might involve an undue waste of water, by taking off water from the Kodapamund stream by means of a pipe. Pure water could be obtained from the latter source if the pipe were carried high enough. There is a good site for a washing platform near where the dhobies now wash at Kodapamund. Another platform could be made near Mr. Hamnett's house and could be supplied with water either from the Dodabetta supply or by taking off water above Vannarapettai from the Manjakalmund stream. Another platform should be constructed at Kandal, the water being supplied from the stream which issues from the lake. At present washing is done here in the dirty stream which drains Kandal. We regard the provision of platforms for dhobies as an urgent matter, and we recommend that any savings which occur in the current official year should be expended in constructing them and supplying them with clean water. As regards the licensing of dhobies, we observe that control can be exercised under section 188 (i) (*a*), and we suggest that this clause should be rigorously worked in future. Each dhoby ought to supply himself with a special building or room for the storage of clothes, and the practice of storing clothes in the huts wherein they live should be put a stop to. Licenses should be refused in respect of places where separate and suitable storage room for clothes is not provided, and a list of such places should be prepared by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Paragraphs 16—18.—The cow-sheds of the following residents of Kodapamund were inspected:—

(1) Guri Gowda,
(2) Nunja Gowda,
(3) Hanuma Gowda,
(4) Jowri Gowda,
(5) Malanna Kode,
(6) Devamma,
(7) Kareyanna.
(8) Ninga,
(9) Kappani Gowda,
(10) Nunjai Gowda,
(11) Chikka Mudda Gowda,
(12) Sunchi Gowda,
(13) Chennayya Gowda,
(14) Giriya Gowda's son Nanjai Gowda, and
(15) Tippa Gowda.

The Municipality has lately effected some improvement in these sheds by compelling the construction of air-holes and sinks to catch the urine, but they are still in an unsatisfactory condition. The floors are roughly paved with stones, and dung and urine collect in the holes and sink into the floors which are generally filthy. No licenses should be issued for 1899–1900 in respect of any of the above sheds unless they have been provided with proper floors which might slope so as to allow of proper drainage. In addition sheds belonging to Nos. (3) (this man has no license), (6), (8) and (14) require additional ventilation. All cow-sheds ought to be measured and a maximum number of animals fixed in the license. At present there is great overcrowding in some sheds. We note that when air-holes are opened in cow-sheds, the owners frequently close them at nights on the ground that the wind blowing in upon the cattle gives them chills. Ventilators should therefore be made high up in the walls so as to prevent any risk to the cattle and at the same time to provide a supply of fresh air. At Kandal cow-sheds belonging to the following individuals were inspected:—

(1) Minakshi Ammal,
(2) Kola Maduray,
(3) Palani Ammal,
(4) Yerrappan,
(5) Chinna Venkatasawmy, and
(6) Venkataraman.

Similar remarks apply as in the case of the sheds at Kodapamund. The Municipality has recently effected improvement in these buildings by insisting on ventilation, but licenses for 1899–1900 should be refused until proper sloping floors and drains and ventilation are provided. We may mention that the Chairman has had complete lists of all cow-sheds prepared and the principal defects are therein noted.

We further suggest that no new licenses for cow-sheds be granted unless the applicant has constructed a suitable building for the sole purpose of storage therein of the milk, and that all existing licensees be warned at once that their licenses will not be renewed unless they have made similar arrangements. The present system of keeping milk in dirty crowded huts is most insanitary and ought to be prohibited.

Paragraph 19.—We inspected a number of bake-houses and found most of them in fair order. The following only call for remark :—

(1) Blue Mountain Bakery—more air and light repairs to the floor and white-washing required.
(2) No. 281, Main Bazaar—needs repair and general cleaning and white-washing.
(3) No. 187, Main Bazaar—has the same needs as the Blue Mountain Bakery.
(4) No. 9, Mosque Street—this place is unfit for use as a bakery.
(5) No. 34. Lower Bazaar road—additional light and air required.
(6) No. 168, Main Bazaar—not clean.
(7) No. 164, Main Bazaar—needs whitewashing.

License should be refused for 1899–1900 in case No. (4), and in the other cases the grant of license should be dependent upon the removal of the defects noted.

Paragraph 20.—The Chairman has promised to inspect and report on each of the Native ærated-water manufactories.

Paragraph 21.—We regard it as most important that provision should be made for carrying out the following works :—

(1) A slaughter-house for pigs in Metuchery.
(2) Pens for animals near the slaughter-houses.
(3) A market for the sale of meat of inferior qualities.

The Council properly prohibits the sale in the main market of those portions of animals which are eaten only by the poorest classes of the community, but the result of this prohibition is that this meat is exposed for sale in shops which are quite unsuited for the purpose and in localities where the presence of butchers' shops is offensive to the public. We therefore strongly urge on the Council the necessity for devoting funds to the construction of a small meat market, below the slaughter-houses, wherein the inferior parts of animals will be sold. If this work is done, the sale of meat in the bazaar can be absolutely prohibited. To abate the nuisance caused by the throwing about of horns and portions of skulls in Butchers' road, a cart should visit the slaughter-house every evening for the removal of such refuse. It is complained that the number of carts is insufficient for this purpose. Another should be procured as soon as possible, as the condition of the road near the slaughter-houses is disgusting. In this connection we may note that licenses for 1899–1900 ought to be refused in respect of several of the butchers' shops, in Mutton Butchers' road, until they are put into decent order. The butchers' shop at Kandal also needs attention. There is not proper ventilation in the room where the meat is hung.

Paragraph 22.—We fully agree as to the expediency of having animals inspected before slaughter, but it is necessary to obtain the services of a man who understands the disease of cattle thoroughly. We think that the Chairman should be asked to make early enquiries of the Sanitary Commissioner as to whether such a man is procurable, and if so, on what terms, in order that the slaughter-houses may be put in the charge of a thoroughly competent man. We regard this as a very important matter. As regards the other suggestions in this paragraph, we see no use in framing by-laws. If the Sanitary Inspectors do their duty, the necessary improvements can be effected without additional rules. It is merely a matter of inspection and supervision of the

Inspectors. We cannot see our way to take action on the vague suggestion that we should set forth the sanitary principles to be observed in the construction and maintenance of dairies, bakeries, hotels, chattirams, &c.

Paragraphs 23 and 27.—We do not discuss the subject of the removal and disposal of night-soil, because there is a scheme under consideration for its removal, as we understand, by water through pipes. We wish, however, to record our opinion that Government should be asked to take the views of the Council before accepting any such scheme, as we regard with some apprehension the introduction of any system of removal of night-soil by the European method.

Paragraphs 24—26.—Steps are gradually being taken to improve the latrines and to provide more of them. At present these are not nearly enough. The latrines at the east end of Kandal are in a shocking condition and ought to be re-built or at all events re-floored without delay. In the mosque chattiram a small latrine is urgently needed. (In this building more ventilation, re-flooring, cleaning and whitewashing also are much wanted.)

As regards the inspection of private latrines, we consider that the Sanitary Inspectors should be directed to inspect them all systematically and report on them to the Chairman who can then take action. Standard designs for private latrines can be procured from the Sanitary Board. At all public latrines a quantity of dry earth ought to be provided.

Paragraph 28.—Steps have been taken to increase the number of scavengers.

We have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE HAMNETT.
(,,) A. BUTTERWORTH.
(,,) C. M. THOMPSON, Major, M.B., I.M.S.

PROCEEDINGS of a Special Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Saturday the 4th February 1899.

* * * * *

Subject No. I.

Read Council's resolution No. XX, dated 14th January 1899, deferring for consideration the letter, dated 4th January 1899, from the second Sub-Committee appointed in resolution, dated 19th December 1898, to consider in detail the Sanitary Commissioner's report on the unhealthiness of the town with Colonel Garwood's resolution regarding the raising of the salary of the Chairman and securing the services of a military or gazetted officer.

The Council adopts the suggestions in the first Sub-Committee's report, paragraphs 2 to 6 and also the suggestions by the second Sub-Committee as modified at this meeting. The Council further adopts the suggestion of the first Sub-Committee in paragraph 7 that in its opinion "the only remedy for the defective state of sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the Municipality. The Committee considers it useless to pass resolutions when under present arrangements there is no certainty that such resolutions would be carried out. What Ootacamund requires is that the present conservancy establishment should be properly supervised ; that when orders are passed ordering the abatement of any nuisance, &c., such orders should be promptly carried out ; and that when municipal orders are disobeyed or ignored, the culprits should be promptly and adequately punished. The Committee regrets to say, though it may be to a certain extent a reflection on itself that such is not the case at present and until these very patent defects are remedied by stricter supervision, the present insanitary condition of the town is likely to continue."

Colonel Garwood's motion was put to the meeting and lost.

(True Copy.)

OOTACAMUND,
4th February 1899.

(Signed) GEO. HAMNETT,
Chairman.

Ref. on Confl. Cur. No. $\frac{17}{18}$.

Forwarded to Government.

I was present at the meeting of the Council which adopted the detailed recommendations of the second Sub-Committee. These recommendations, if carried out, will, I consider, do much to improve the healthiness of the station.

2. In paragraph 11 of his letter the Chairman suggests that the Municipality should make loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen to enable them to comply with our sanitary requirements. Legislation would, I fancy, be required to legalize such loans.

Apart, however, from this and the probable difficulties that would occur in working the proposal, I think it is doubtful whether, in the interests of the public, poor persons without capital should be encouraged and assisted to become our purveyors of milk, bread and meat.

I think it is desirable that such trades should be taken up by persons with some capital. As long as they are in the hands of the very poor there will be a constant struggle to enforce our rules and a constant danger of pollution from overcrowding and adulteration.

Though individual hardship might occur, I do not think it would be for the disadvantage of the community if our municipal regulations drove indigent milkmen, bakers and butchers out of the trade.

3. As regards the recommendations of the first Sub-Committee, the question of improving the Marlimund water-supply is, I am aware, engaging the attention of Government, and I do not propose to discuss the matter as to the suggestion to strengthen and improve the executive department of the Municipality. I find that the question has been discussed at considerable length by my predecessor in his letter No. 17—98 (confidential), dated 25th December 1898. There are now proposals before Government to appoint a Health Officer on Rs. 300 a month and an Engineer on Rs. 200 and in connection with the latter appointment it has been, I believe, suggested that the District Board Engineer should do the municipal engineering work, Rs. 200 of his salary being paid from Municipal funds. The suggestion does not commend itself to me on general principles, and I agree with Mr. Butterworth that for Rs. 200 the Municipality could procure the services of a whole-time Engineer capable of doing what was required.

4. If the appointments of a Health Officer and an Engineer are sanctioned, the municipal executive will be greatly strengthened and as long as Mr. Hamnett continues as Chairman and gives the attention to office work and accounts, for which he has, I understand, always been remarkable, the administration should be efficient. When, however, Mr. Hamnett retires, an event which I believe is not likely to be very long delayed, difficulties may arise.

If the Municipality has to pay Rs. 300 per mensem for a Health Officer and Rs. 200 for an Engineer, I do not think that it is likely to be able to spare more than Rs. 250 now paid to the Chairman for his successor.

The principal duties left to the Chairman will be accounts and office work duties which are often distasteful to the class of men from which Government would wish to select a Chairman and it seems very doubtful if a man of the right stamp would accept the chairmanship with the clerical duties and money responsibility for Rs. 250 a month.

It might thus be necessary to appoint a paid Secretary to do the clerical, revenue and account work on Rs. 250, and as all the details of the municipal executive work would then be performed by paid servants, the chairmanship might be made an honorary office.

5. Instead, however, of thus administering the Municipality by an honorary Chairman and three paid executive officers, viz., Health Officer, Engineer and Revenue and Accounts Secretary, it would, I think, be feasible and in many ways preferable to adhere to the system of a paid Chairman.

A paid Chairman could, I think, be got who would discharge the duties of two of the executive officers referred to above for even a smaller remuneration than the combined pay of the appointments.

A retired Engineer officer would, I think, be able not only to do the engineering work proper but could also, in consultation with the local medical officers and if assisted by competent sanitary subordinates, do the duties of a Health Officer satisfactorily, the office work being under this arrangement left to a paid Secretary, subject of course to the Chairman's general control. Or if this distribution of the work is objected to and it is considered that there should be a Health Officer who was an expert in that special subject, it would not be impossible or even difficult to get an officer who could do the Engineer's work and also manage the office. If, however, there is to be a paid Chairman, I think it would be well that he should have as much of the out-door work as possible. He would see what was required with his own eyes and see that orders were carried out and in fact put an end to the state of things which the first Sub-Committee complains of.

(Signed) C. J. WEIR,
Collector of the Nilgiris.

24th February 1899.

Order—No. 757 M., dated 26th May 1899.

Recorded.

2. Orders have already been passed in G.O., No. 485 M., dated 13th April 1899, conferring Police powers on the Sanitary Inspectors.

3. With reference to paragraph 8 of his letter, the Chairman is referred to G.Os., No. 254 M., dated 24th February 1899, and No. 504 M., dated 19th April 1899.

4. The suggestion made in paragraph 11 of the Chairman's letter, that the Municipal Council should grant loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen in order to enable them to comply with the sanitary requirements of the Council, cannot be approved. In this connection the Chairman's attention is drawn to the Collector's remarks in paragraph 2 of his endorsement, in which the Government fully concurs. In the interests of public health, the terms of the licenses should be stringently enforced irrespective of the wealth or poverty of the licensees. It should be always borne in mind that the system of licensing certain trades provided for under the Act has in view the enforcement of sanitary rules and not the collection of revenue.

5. Separate orders will be passed on the question of appointing a Health Officer referred to in paragraph 2 of the Chairman's letter.

(True Extract.)

M. HAMMICK,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

Government {1899} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Proof for approval.

Recd. / Regd. } 1899. Enclosures / Spare copies

G.O., No. 757 M., 26th May 1899.

MAY.

Unhealthiness of Ootacamund.

Recording, with remarks, letter from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, reporting the steps which the Municipal Council proposes to take to remedy the —, disapproving the Chairman's suggestions that the Council should grant loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen to enable them to comply with its sanitary requirements, and stating that separate orders will issue on the question of appointing a Health Officer to the Municipality.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From G. HAMNETT, Esq., C.I.E., Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated 4th February 1899, No. 5466.

In continuation of my letter, No. 4742, dated 19th December 1898, I have the honour to submit the papers marginally noted containing the steps which the Municipal Council proposes to take to carry out the recommendations made by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, Major H. Thomson, I.M.S., in his report upon the unhealthiness of Ootacamund. It will be observed that the course prescribed by the Government in Circular Memorandum, dated 18th January 1893, No. 16, viz., that "when Chairmen of Municipal Councils submit replies to the inspection notes of the Sanitary Commissioner, it is essential that each of the several points noticed should be answered *seriatim*" has not been followed in this instance, as the report was a special one, and as it was thought it would be more satisfactory if the views of the Members of the Council were expressed independently of the executive.

Copy of a report of the first Sub-Committee of five Municipal Councillors, dated 20th October 1898
Copy of a letter from the Executive Engineer on special duty, dated 21st October 1898.
Copy of note by Mr. Butterworth, dated 14th December 1898.
Copy of a report of the second Sub-Committee comprised of the Chairman, Civil Surgeon, and the Acting Collector, dated 4th January 1899.
Copy of the Proceedings of a special meeting of the Municipal Council held on the 4th February 1899.

On this supposition the gentlemen marginally noted were appointed on the 1st October 1898 to form themselves into a Sub-Committee and favour the Council with their opinion on the recommendations made by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner.

Colonel J. F. Garwood, R.E., nominated as Councillor on 10th May 1898.
Colonel K. F. Stevenson, Vice-Chairman, nominated as Councillor on 5th May 1896.
Major C. M. Thompson, Civil Surgeon, nominated as Councillor on 14th June 1898.
Mr. W. F. Donaghue nominated as Councillor on 23rd August 1898.
N. M. Gool Mahomed Sait Sahib elected on 27th April 1897.

2. The Sub-Committee furnished its report on the 20th October. This report was circulated, and at the meeting held on the 14th November it was deferred for consideration to a special meeting which was held on the 19th December 1898. At this meeting the Council had also before it a note by the late Acting Collector, Mr. A. Butterworth, on the Sub-Committee's report to the effect that it did not seem to him to go sufficiently into detail, and he was of opinion that the Committee should be asked to furnish detailed suggestions on the points specified by him. The Council, however, resolved at the meeting that the Chairman, Civil Surgeon and Collector be requested to consider the Sanitary Commissioner's report in detail. It, at the same time, resolved—

(2) "That a Health Officer be appointed on a salary of Rs 300 per mensem his duties to be hereafter defined by resolution of the Council. The increased expenditure to be met by enhancing the tax on lands.

(3) "That Government be moved to confer police powers on Sanitary Inspectors."

3. The second Sub-Committee's report was received on the 7th January 1899, circulated, and considered at a special meeting held on the 4th February; but it is, with much regret, I have to state that, before the meeting was held, Mr. Butterworth, the Acting Collector, who took so much interest in Municipal matters, was compelled from sudden and serious illness to vacate the office of Collector, and Mr. C. J. Weir appointed instead as permanent Collector of the district. Mr. Weir was present at the meeting, but having taken over charge of the district only on the 1st instant, he could not express his views on the points touched upon by the two Sub-Committees.

The Municipal Council, after some discussion, resolved to adopt the suggestions in the first Sub-Committee's report, paragraphs 2 to 6, and also the suggestions by the second Committee as modified at the meeting. The Council further adopted the suggestions in paragraph 7 of the first Sub-Committee's report that "the only remedy for the defective state of sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the Municipality.

It considers it useless to pass resolutions when under present arrangements there is no certainty that such resolutions would be carried out. What Ootacamund requires is that the present conservancy establishment should be properly supervised, that when orders are passed ordering the abatement of any nuisance, &c., such orders should be promptly carried out, and that when municipal orders are disobeyed or ignored the culprits should be promptly and adequately punished. The Committee regrets to say, though it may be to a certain extent a reflection on themselves, that such is not the case at present, and until these very patent defects are remedied by stricter supervision, the present insanitary condition of the town is likely to continue."

4. The suggestions in the first Sub-Committee's report, paragraphs 2 to 5, relate to the Marlimund reservoir, the acquiring of the catchment area, the filtration of the water supplied by the Anderson process or some other means, the prevention of waste of water from leaky taps, &c., and the satisfactory condition of the Dodabetta supply.

The suggestions in the second Sub-Committee's report relate to the removal of buildings in the crowded parts of the town when funds are available; that great caution should be exercised in permitting the construction or re-construction of buildings in the bazaar; that the most vigorous use should be made of the Council's power to remove buildings which are actually ruinous; the closing of certain wells and the constructing of washing platforms (Dhobi khanas); that dhobies be required to supply themselves with special buildings or rooms for the storage of clothes, and that licenses be refused under section 188 (1) (*a*) where such special accommodation is not provided; that licenses be not issued for 1899–1900 in respect of certain cow-sheds unless they are provided with proper floors, drainage and ventilation; that the number of animals to be kept in each shed be fixed in the license; that no new license for cow-sheds be granted unless the applicants have constructed suitable buildings for the sole purpose of storage of milk, and that existing licensees be warned at once that their licenses will not be renewed unless they make similar arrangements; that bake-houses be repaired and whitewashed, that the license should be withdrawn in the case of one bake-house, and in other cases the grant of licenses to be dependent upon the removal of the defects noted; that the Chairman should inspect and report on each of the native ærated water manufactures; that provision should be made for carrying out the following works :—

(1) A slaughter-house for pigs in Mettucherry;
(2) Pens for animals near slaughter-houses; and
(3) A market for the sale of meat of inferior qualities.

That an additional rubbish cart be procured for the removal of horns and skulls in Butchers' street; that licenses be refused in 1899–1900 to mutton butchers until their shops are put into decent order; that animals should be inspected before slaughter, and that the services of a man who understands the diseases of cattle thoroughly should be obtained; that the Sub-Committee sees no use in framing bye-laws if the Sanitary Inspectors do their duty; that the Government be asked to take the views of the Council before accepting any scheme for the removal and disposal of

night-soil through pipes; that more latrines be provided, existing ones at the east end of Kandal be re-built or repaired, that a small latrine is urgently needed in the mosque chattram, that private latrines should be inspected systematically and reported on by the Sanitary Inspectors and that public latrines be provided with a quantity of dry earth.

5. Having accompanied Mr. Butterworth throughout his inspections of the town, I beg to invite the attention of the Government to the following remarks in his note, dated 14th December 1898:—

"I am in full accord with the Sub-Committee in thinking that there has been great laxity on the part of the executive in the past, but it must be remembered that we are to a great extent suffering for the sins of our fathers, for the town has been allowed to grow up in so crowded a fashion as to render it a matter of great difficulty to keep it clean and wholesome. I also wish it to be understood that I do not regard the town as being in an unsatisfactory condition, *if judged by the standard of Municipalities in the plains*. But, of course, that standard should not be applied to Ootacamund, and, judged by the standard which ought to be applied, Ootacamund is in a condition which calls for very great improvement. As I have inspected, I believe, every lane and alley in the place, I am in a position to express an opinion on this subject.

"I attribute the defects in the management of the town to the following principal causes:—

(1) "The Chairman and Municipal Councillors ought to do more regular personal inspection, and, in this connection, I suggest that once every week each Divisional Councillor should inspect his division with the Sanitary Inspector and report briefly to the Council the principal defects which he has discovered.

(2) "It is essential that Sanitary Inspectors should be carefully selected. I regard a pass in Hygiene as of very little value and am of opinion that we want men, who, whether they had certificates in Hygiene or not, can get orders carried out and not men of the class we sometimes see appointed. The town has suffered greatly in my opinion from the utter inefficiency and idleness and, possibly, from the corruption of its previous Sanitary Inspectors.

(3) "The prosecution of Municipal cases has been carried out in a very unsatisfactory manner, and I think it would be a great advantage if the Chairman sometimes attended Court to see how they are conducted. The ridiculous lenity of the sentences imposed by the Sub-Magistrate is another factor which told heavily against good administration, but I trust that, with the coming into existence of the Bench, this cause has ceased to operate.

(4) "There has been a strong tendency to regard the licensing system as a source of revenue instead of a mode of control. This is a most pernicious error, for it has led to the free granting of licenses where licenses ought to have been rigidly refused. So widely spread was this confusion as to the objects of the licensing system, that, as I understand, the Sub-Magistrate used to hold that, if a man tenders the fee for a license, a license cannot be refused.

"Finally, and with all deference to the expert opinion of the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, I venture to record my dissent from his opinion as to the drainage of the town. It is surface drainage, no doubt, and open to the defects of surface drainage, but, whether under-ground drainage is wholesome may be questioned and, apart from the question whether under-ground drainage is better, I regard the drainage of Ootacamund as satisfactory and as the best thing about the town. It is not correct to describe the drainage as disconnected from the houses. The connections are often wanting, no doubt, but in probably more cases they are complete.

"One great drawback to surface drainage is the liability of pollution by night-soil. The open drains are constantly used to defœcate into, and I would suggest, firstly, that heavy sentences for this demeanour should be pressed for before the Bench, and, secondly, that Government be moved under section 282 (4) to give police powers to the Sanitary Inspectors."

6. Mr. Butterworth in his note, an extract from which is given in paragraph 5 of this letter, says, "Judged by the standard of Municipalities in the plains," he does not regard the town of Ootacamund as being in an unsatisfactory condition. No other standard can possibly be applied at present, seeing that the town has been allowed to grow up as native towns have been in the plains, and that the bulk of the population is "native", utterly indifferent to sanitary rules and laws. Their dwellings are described as follows: by the Sanitary Commissioner in his Inspection notes, dated 15th to 22nd September 1893, G.O., No. 648 M., dated 23rd May 1894.

"The houses occupied by the poorer class of natives are of a very inferior description. Of houses examined with reference to evident over-crowding, only seven were found to be provided with any description of windows. Certain of them are built with upper stories, whence the sewage is allowed to sink into the apartments below. In some instances as a result of this practice, the walls of the lower apartments were found in a state usually expected in the interior of a cess-pool. These places are literally dens, in which it would be inadvisable to place dogs of the slightest value. Taking the average superficial space and cubic contents per head of ten houses, it is found that 18·2 superficial and 180·6 cubic feet only are available per head; but in one instance, the total available superficial space per head was only 8·7 feet, there being 12 souls crowded in one room. These dens are owned by natives in good circumstances and are literally lodgings for which heavy rent is charged during the "season." Their condition illustrates the necessity for the adoption of the "Common Lodging Houses Act" in this Presidency." I enclose copy of a note which I drew up for the information of the Municipal Council in June 1897, together with the plan referred to for the information of the Government.

7. In noticing defects in management, Mr. Butterworth attributes them to the Chair*men* and Municipal Councillors. I do not wish to enter here into any defence of my own management, but I may say that it is not right to associate the Chairman with the Vice-Chairman and the Councillors, because the Chairman has, since he took up the office in 1892, made it a rule to go about the town every morning, except on mornings when he was compelled to stop at home to bring up arrears of office work. Whereas the Vice-Chairman and the Councillors have not done so, and when Mr. Butterworth proposed the following resolution at the meeting held on the 19th December 1898: "That the Chairman be requested to make proposals as to the powers which he should delegate to the Vice-Chairman" the motion was lost, as that gentleman said he would assist, but could not undertake the supervision of any department and the majority of the other Councillors vetoed the suggestion that each Divisional Councillor "should inspect his division" once every week and report briefly the principal defects.

8. As regards the selection of sanitary inspectors for this town the Government was addressed on the 30th September 1898, No. 3304, but has not yet passed orders on the subject.

9. As regards prosecution of Municipal cases, the Government will have learnt from my letter No. 1072, dated 9th August 1897, that it was conducted in a most unsatisfactory manner, and although sanction was given for the appointment of a special sanitary inspector to conduct these prosecutions, it has not yet been possible to secure the services of a good, intelligent man, owing probably to the small remuneration of Rs. 50 a month.

10. Since I joined the Municipality in 1892, I felt the necessity of introducing stringent conditions in licenses to ensure efficient control. On the 10th September 1896, I sent to the Sanitary Commissioner thirteen (13) forms of licenses, and added, "I may mention that the conditions in force have been introduced gradually, and no objections are made to them now." The Sanitary Commissioner in his reply dated 25th September 1896, wrote as follows:—

"In general terms I approve of the license forms received from you. I have had under preparation for some months a complete set of rulings, and, till this is furnished you, it is unnecessary for me to make any suggestions. I may, however,

take this opportunity of stating that I believe yours is the only Municipality in the Presidency which has exhibited sufficient energy to evolve a complete set of forms of the nature and that I think the work fulfilled highly creditable to your sanitary instincts."

The Sanitary Commissioner in his inspection notes for September 1893 cited above, remarked :

"*Offensive trades.*—Licenses have been issued under this head with more than usual care. Each license bears upon it the conditions under which it is issued, and although in some cases these are not very full, they still show that the Municipality grasps the fact that section 188 is not meant solely for the purpose of exacting fees from those pursuing a certain class of trades, but also pre-supposes that attention shall be paid to the sanitary conditions of premises for which they are issued."

It will be apparent from this that the licensing system was not regarded solely as "a source of revenue."

11. In advertence to the suggestion that licenses should be absolutely refused to persons who have earned their living by certain occupations and trades since the town of Ootacamund was established about three quarters of a century ago, I entertain some doubts. The people engaged in such occupations and trades are mostly poor. They have not the means of complying with rules which require improved sanitation and management, and it seems hard to tell these people you shall not get a license until you have carried out the improvements which we consider necessary and desirable. Money too cannot be obtained from the Shylocks of Ootacamund (without substantial security) even at 24 per cent. per annum. In the circumstances, the most humane course would be to grant loans in easy terms to people to make the improvements in their occupations and trades, which sanitary science at preseut requires in connection with the health of the people who live in the town.

12. The question of filtration of the Marlimund water-supply to the town was considered and disposed of in G.O., No. 2156 M., dated 2nd October 1897. In this connection it may be mentioned that in April 1895, the Municipal Council on the suggestion of the Sanitary Engineer to the Government resolved.

(i) that the Marlimund supply should be brought under greater control and furnished with more stop cocks and valves;

(ii) that all non-self closing taps should be gradually abolished, none of the existing taps of this class being renewed.

(iii) that meters should be attached whenever necessary to service pipes in order that water may be paid for according to the quantity used in excess of domestic supply.

These resolutions were not carried out for want of funds.

On the 28th January 1899 the Municipal Council passed the following resolution in view to prevent the waste of water :—

"The waste-not taps shall be supplied in future to all houses to which water is supplied by the Municipality, and that in the case of the renewal of existing screw-down taps waste-not taps be substituted. The price of a screw-down tap is Rupees 1-14-0 and that of waste-not tap Rs. 13-8-0. House owners naturally object to the use of the more costly tap."

13. Dhobies are required to provide separate rooms for storage of clothes. The following extract from the Inspection notes of the Sanitary Commissioner on the Coonoor Municipality in October 1894 will show that the provision of rooms has been insisted upon in this Municipality for some time past :—

"It is also desirable that vigorous measures that have been successfully applied by Mr. Hamnett, C.I.E., in Ootacamund, should be also enforced here in regard to dhobies. Under section 188, the Chairman has insisted upon dhobies retaining the clothing of customers in special sheds forming no part of a dwelling house. If this can have been effected in Ootacamund, in spite of vigorous opposition from the dhobies, it ought also to be feasible in Coonoor."

14. *Dhoby Khanas.*—A Sub-Committee was appointed by the Municipal Council on the 2nd April 1898 to consider and report on the question of providing dhoby khanas. The Sub-Committee recommended "that the floor of the present open stream be stopped by constructing a dam across it, and that from this water head, pipes be laid on to the washing places at Kodappamund and Vannarapetta, with separate wash-ing stones, &c., and a separate tap for each dhoby. * * * Similar water-pipes and taps should be constructed at Kandal." The papers were referred to the Sanitary Engineer to Government. He replied on the 20th May 1898, saying—

"The proper plan to supply the dhoby khanas which the Committee propose should be erected is from the Kodappamund pipe, which, I presume, will be large enough for the purpose; whether this is so or not I cannot state because the plans of this work have not been before the Sanitary Board.

"The stream which will supply this pipe is the stream in which the dhobies of that end of Ootacamund wash, so that if the pipe is ample they would get pure water instead of damming up the stream lower down where it might be impure."

The papers were shown to the Acting Sanitary Commissioner on his inspection of the town in June 1898. He disapproved of the Sub-Committee's recommendations and desired that the matter be deferred until the pipe-head above Kodappamaund is completed.

15. *Native aerated water manufactories.*—I have inspected these and am of opinion that the licenses should be withdrawn from the 1st April next if the owners do not provide proper factories in suitable localities.

16. The Municipal Council has had under its consideration the expediency of providing a slaughter-house for pigs, but, like other projects and schemes, had to abandon it for want of funds. It should be taken up as soon as funds can be allotted.

17. The necessity for pens for cattle and sheep was noted by the Council in paragraph 47 of the administration report for 1892-93, and also in paragraph 45 of the report for 1893-94. A plan and estimate amounting to Rs. 1,450 were prepared for the construction of pens in November 1896, but put aside for want of funds.

18. Last year plan and estimate amounting to Rs. 2,765 were prepared for a mutton and beef market near the houses of the butchers just below the slaughter-houses, but the unforeseen expenditure on account of the plague precluded the Council from carrying out what it wished to do.

19. *Incinerators*.—The question of constructing incinerators has been under consideration since May 1894. The papers were finally referred to Mr. J. Somers Eve, Executive Engineer on special duty. This gentleman after enquiries made during his trip to Bombay in November 1897 wrote—

"I do not advise the use of an incinerator for Ootacamund, because to be of any use it must be in a central position, and as far as I can learn an incinerator is and must be more or less of a nuisance, arising from either the fumes from the furnaces themselves or the smoke from the chimney, both of which smell excessively. It may be possible to minimise the former, but no chimney however high will carry away the smoke from the surrounding hills if the incinerator is placed in the valley, and I do not think it would be of much use economically to place it anywhere else."

A copy of Mr. J. Somers Eve's letter was sent to the Sanitary Engineer to Government on the 27th November 1897.

20. In February 1898, the Municipal Council considered the question of lighting the town with oil-gas in place of kerosine lamps, but the cost was prohibitory, and there being no funds available, nothing further was done.

21. Pending the orders of the Government on this letter and its accompaniments, the suggestions made by the Sub-Committees, which involve no large expenditure of money will be carried out.

22. It is indispensably necessary that a Sub-Engineer or Engineer should be appointed as soon as possible. The office of Municipal Engineer was abolished in 1895, consequent on the loss of land revenue amounting to Rs. 8,000.

23. The Sanitary department should be under the control of an officer who can devote his whole time and attention throughout the day to the sanitation and lighting of the town.

24. An educated, well informed subordinate is much needed to manage and control the Municipal office establishment. His salary may be met from the allowance now assigned to the Chairman.

Press. Print here the note by the Chairman dated 5th June 1899 on page 15.

A. —

From Colonel J. F. GARWOOD, R.E., and others, Municipal Councillors, Ootacamund, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated 20th October 1898.

The Committee appointed by the Municipal Committee at their meeting on 1st October 1898 to consider the report of the Sanitary Commissioner on the unhealthiness of Ootacamund have the honour to submit their report.

2. The first point on which they remark is the water-supply from the Marlimund reservoir.

3. To make the water-supply from this source thoroughly satisfactory it is desirable that the buildings on the Tudor Hall estate be purchased and demolished, that all cultivation on private land in the gathering ground of the reservoir be prohibited, and all building rights on such private lands secured; that is to say, compensation paid to the owners who would not be allowed to build on their lands or use it for any other purpose than for growing trees for fuel, &c. It would also be desirable to purify the water by the Anderson process or to adopt some other means of filtration, but this latter is of not so much importance if the catchment area is preserved from contamination.

4. Financial reasons will probably prevent these recommendations being carried out in their entirety, but as an absolute minimum of what is necessary to improve the purity of the water, the Committee would recommend that all building rights on private land in the catchment area be taken up; that is to say, that the existing buildings on the land be allowed to remain, but that no more buildings be allowed to be erected, and secondly that the land under cultivation with tea on the margin of the reservoir be put out of cultivation for a distance of, say, 100 yards from the margin of the reservoir and the land re-afforested. The compensation to be paid for these improvements should not amount to any prohibitive sum.

5. The Committee is also of opinion that if proper executive steps were taken to prevent the waste of water from leaky taps, &c., in the winter months, the volume of water in the reservoir would be likely to remain much greater in the dry season than was the case last year, but for the reasons stated at the end of this report, the Committee consider it useless to go into details of what is required to be done in this particular.

6. The Dodabetta supply is satisfactory, and the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendations on the matter.

7. The Committee are of opinion that the only remedy for the defective state of sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the Municipality. They consider it useless to pass resolutions when under present arrangements there is no certainty that such resolutions would be carried out. What Ootacamund requires is that the present conservancy establishment should be properly supervised, that when orders are passed ordering the abatement of any nuisance, &c., such orders should be promptly carried out, and that when municipal orders are disobeyed or ignored, the culprits should be promptly and adequately punished. The Committee regret to say, though it may be to a certain extent a reflection on themselves, that such is not the case at present, and until these very patent defects are remedied by stricter supervision, the present insanitary condition of the town is likely to continue.

From J. F. SOMERS-EVE, Esq., Executive Engineer on special duty, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated Ootacamund, 21st October 1898, No. 438.

With reference to your No. 3578 of 15th instant, forwarding the [illegible] tary Commissioner's report (No. 1831 S. of 22nd August 1898), I have the honour to offer the following remarks.

2. I recognize the liberal spirit in which Major Thompson has written his report, but I would emphasize the fact that his report is based considerably on presumptions, not conclusions, and I think that some of them are more than open to question.

3. *His paragraph* 4 (1).—I do not think there was any necessity for introducing the intermittent system of water, and in the future this should not be done if the Marlimund reservoir is full at the end of October (Mr. Walch's late report on the Ooty water works makes this clear).

His paragraph 4, (2) *and* (3).—I do not believe either lowering the lake level or removing the silt had anything to do with the outbreak of enteric, nor, I believe, do the Medical officers of the station. The reason for lowering the lake was to repair and re-align the iron sewer through the lake and this was absolutely necessary.

The lake was first lowered in April 1897, and the condition of the lake at that time at the corner of the Willow Bund was disgusting as all the sewage of the bazaar and above had been depositing there for more than a year. This liquid sewage was all baled into the lake iron sewer and got rid of, and if enteric had arisen from this procedure it might have been understood. The next lowering was at the beginning of January by 3 feet and this left the silt in which there was sewage high and dry.

Before proposing to remove this part of the ground I consulted Surgeon-Major Ross, who is, I believe, an authority on such matters, and he expressed an opinion that no harm could follow its removal.

It is remarkable that the men of the 4th Pioneers who did most of the work in this spot were never healthier as a regiment, nor did I hear of a single case among the local coolies who were at work there.

4. *His paragraph* 5.—I admit the drainage of the main bazaar is very bad. The people throw all sorts of rubbish into the open drains, and go unpunished. The Municipality should, with the new Bench of Magistrates, be able to stop this. The number of rubbish bins in the bazaar is quite inadequate and this the Municipality could easily remedy. Specimen plans and estimates for the proper drainage of the bazaar were submitted by me months ago. I understand they have been in the Sanitary Commissioner's office for over three months. The gratings referred to are absolutely necessary as long as the people are allowed to throw rubbish into the open drains. Such rubbish cannot be allowed into the closed sewer which it would immediately block, and it would be equally pernicious to allow it to enter the stream feeding the lake. The gratings only become an evil when they are blocked, and there is absolutely no necessity for them to be blocked if they are properly attended to. I have written to the Chairman, Ootacamund Municipality, on several occasions on this subject complaining that this is improperly attended to. It would be an unnecessary expense, as the bazaar sweepers should attend to this, but if they cannot or will not do it, I will guarantee to see to these gratings being kept clear and clean, and I should want three sweepers and a man to look after them to do it. I do not understand Major Thompson's suggestion to put the gratings horizontal instead of vertical and do not think it feasible.

5. *His paragraph* 6.—I am not sure that the proposed ventilators would be any better than the existing arrangements, as the bazaar slopes upwards, and the ventilator should be considerably higher than 12 feet to be of any use, and when they are high they may generate back currents in the sewer which are highly objectionable.

6. *His paragraph* 7.—With this I agree, but it is intended to take up the main bazaar first and proceed with the others as funds are procurable. Mettucherry can hardly be described as overcrowded as a whole.

3

The Col [illegible] Gazette [illegible] words "a Committee" should be cut when the par[illegible]

7. *His paragraph* 8.—I concur and proposals are in hand for the sewage farm.

8. *His paragraph* 9.—I thoroughly agree. It will be impossible to pipe drain parts of the bazaar unless some houses are removed.

9. The report is herewith returned with thanks.

Note.

The report of the Sub-Committee does not seem to me to go sufficiently into detail. The intention of the Council was, I understand, that the Sub-Committee should make definite suggestions for remedying the defects pointed out by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner. As this has not been done, I am of opinion that the Sub-Committee should be asked to furnish us with detailed suggestions on the following points which are those touched on by the Sanitary Commissioner:—

(1) As to which houses should be removed from the more crowded parts of the bazaar in order to open it up.

(2) As to which stand pipes should be removed on the ground that they are in dangerous proximity to drains or latrines.

(3) As to which wells should be closed as being open to serious pollution.

(4) As to the places at which dhobies should be allowed to wash clothes, as to the provision of washing platforms, and storage places and as to the licensing of dhobies.

(5) As to the dairies and cow-sheds which are in such bad order that licenses should be refused for 1899–1900 and as to the regulations which should be laid down for the improvement of dairies and cow-sheds.

(6) As to the bake-houses in respect of which licenses should be refused for 1899–1900.

(7) As to the ærated water factories for which licenses should be refused for 1899–1900.

(8) As to the provision of cattle pens in connection with the slaughter-house and of a slaughter-house for pigs.

(9) As to the framing of rules in respect of the matters specified in paragraph 22 of the report of the Sanitary Commissioner.

(10) As to the inspection of private as well as public latrines; as to the provision of more public latrines and as to the adoption of standard plans for private latrines.

(11) As to the erection of an incinerator and the prevention of the nuisance caused by the disgusting stench of the night-soil carts.

(12) As to an increase of the conservancy establishment.

2. I am in full accord with the Sub-Committee in thinking that there has been great laxity on the part of the executive in the past, but it must be remembered that we are to a great extent suffering for the sins of our fathers, for the town has been allowed to grow up in so crowded a fashion as to render it a matter of great difficulty to keep it clean and wholesome. I also wish it to be understood that I do not regard the town as being in an unsatisfactory condition *if judged by the standard of municipalities on the plains.* But, of course, that standard should not be applied to Ootacamund, and judged by the standard which ought to be applied, Ootacamund is in a condition which calls for very great improvement. As I have inspected, I believe, every lane and alley in the place, I am in a position to express an opinion on this subject.

3. I attribute the defects in the management of the town to the following principal causes:—

(1) The Chairman and Municipal Councillors ought to do more regular personal inspection, and in this connection, I suggest that once every week each Divisional Councillor should inspect his division with the sanitary inspector and report briefly to the Council the principal defects which he has discovered.

(2) It is essential that sanitary inspectors should be carefully selected. I regard a pass in hygiene as of very little value and am of opinion that we want men who, whether they hold certificates in hygiene or not, can get orders carried out and not men of the class we sometimes see appointed. The town has suffered greatly in my opinion from the utter inefficiency and idleness and possibly from the corruptions of some of its previous sanitary inspectors.

(3) The prosecution of municipal cases has been carried out in a very unsatisfactory manner and I think it would be a great advantage if the Chairman sometimes attended court to see how they are conducted. The ridiculous lenity of the sentences imposed by the Sub-Magistrate is another factor which told heavily against good administration, but I trust that with the coming into existence of the Bench, this cause has ceased to operate.

(4) There has been a strong tendency to regard the licensing system as a source of revenue instead of as a mode of control. This is a most pernicious error, for it has led to the free granting of licenses where licenses ought to have been rigidly refused. So widely spread was this confusion as to the objects of the licensing system that, as I understand, the Sub-Magistrate used to hold that if a man tenders the fee for a license, a license *cannot* be refused.

4. Finally and with all deference to the expert opinion of the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, I venture to record my dissent from his opinion as to the drainage of the town. It is surface drainage no doubt, and open to the defects of surface drainage, but whether underground drainage is wholesome may be questioned, and apart from the question whether underground drainage is better, I regard the drainage of Ootacamund as satisfactory and as the best thing about the town. It is not correct to describe the drainage as disconnected from the houses. The connections are often wanting, no doubt, but in probably more cases they are complete.

One great drawback to surface drainage is the liability to pollution by night-soil. The open drains are constantly used to defœcate into, and I would suggest, firstly, that heavy sentences for this misdemeanour should be pressed for before the Bench, and secondly that Government be moved under section 282 (4) to give Police powers to the Sanitary Inspectors.

(Signed) A. BUTTERWORTH.

14*th December* 1898.

To the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Ootacamund.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Monday the 19th December 1898.

* * * * *

Subject No. II.

Read Resolution, dated 14th November 1898, deferring for consideration the report of the Sub-Committee, dated 20th October 1898, regarding the steps to be taken to carry out the recommendations of the Sanitary Commissioner in connection with the unhealthiness of Ootacamund together with letter No. 458, dated 21st October 1898, from the Executive Engineer on special duty regarding the intercepting sewer.

Resolved:

(1) That the Chairman, Civil Surgeon and Collector be requested to consider the Sanitary Commissioner's report in detail.

(2) That a Health Officer be appointed on a salary of Rs. 300 per month, his duties to be hereafter defined by resolution of the Council. The increased expenditure to be met by enhancing the tax on lands.

(3) That Government be moved to confer police powers on Sanitary Inspectors.

(Signed) GEO. HAMNETT,
Chairman.

COPY of a report of the second Sub-Committee comprised of the Chairman, Civil Surgeon and the Acting Collector, dated 4th January 1899.

We, the undersigned, have the honour to submit to the Council our detailed report upon the remarks appearing in the Sanitary Commissioner's report read in G.O., No. 1571 M., dated 7th September 1898, as requested in the Council's resolution of the 19th December 1898.

Paragraph 9.—While fully concurring in what is said regarding the crowding of buildings in the bazaar, we think it useless to specify the buildings which, in our opinion, ought to be removed in order to open up the worst parts of the town, seeing that the Municipality has not got the money to engage in any large scheme of this nature. We consider it sufficient to urge—

(1) that, when funds are available, they can be usefully expended upon the removal of buildings from crowded localities;

(2) that the greatest caution should be exercised in permitting the construction or re-construction of buildings in the bazaar;

(3) that the most vigorous use should be made of the Council's power to direct the removal of buildings which are actually ruinous.

Paragraph 14.—Some wells have recently been closed under orders of the Council.

The following other wells should be closed:—

(1) that near the old agraharam (belonging to the Municipal Council);
(2) that near Esoof Sait's new block in old agraharam;
(3) that inside the mosque chattiram;
(4) that near Kadi Wali's flag in Lower Bazaar road.

The following wells need proper platforms and drains:—

(1) that attached to Willow Band cottage;
(2) that on the west side of Peyton's road.

Paragraph 15.—There should be three washing platforms constructed. One should be at Kodapamund and water could be supplied to it either from the Dodabetta pipe system or, as that course might involve an undue waste of water, by taking off water from the Kodapamund stream by means of a pipe. Pure water could be obtained from the latter source if the pipe were carried high enough. There is a good site for a washing platform near where the dhobies now wash at Kodapamund. Another platform could be made near Mr. Hamnett's house and could be supplied with water either from the Dodabetta supply or by taking off water above Vannarapettai from the Manjakalmund stream. Another platform should be constructed at Kandal, the water being supplied from the stream which issues from the lake. At present washing is done here in the dirty stream which drains Kandal. We regard the provision of platforms for dhobies as an urgent matter, and we recommend that any savings which occur in the current official year should be expended in constructing them and supplying them with clean water. As regards the licensing of dhobies, we observe that control can be exercised under section 188 (i) (*a*), and we suggest that this clause should be rigorously worked in future. Each dhoby ought to supply himself with a special building or room for the storage of clothes, and the practice of storing clothes in the huts wherein they live should be put a stop to. Licenses should be refused in respect of places where separate and suitable storage room for clothes is not provided, and a list of such places should be prepared by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Paragraphs 16—18.—The cow-sheds of the following residents of Kodapamund were inspected:—

(1) Guri Gowda,
(2) Nunja Gowda,
(3) Hanuma Gowda,
(4) Jowri Gowda,
(5) Malanna Kode,
(6) Devamma,
(7) Kareyanna.
(8) Ninga,
(9) Kappani Gowda,
(10) Nunjai Gowda,
(11) Chikka Mudda Gowda,
(12) Sunchi Gowda,
(13) Chennayya Gowda,
(14) Giriya Gowda's son Nanjai Gowda, and
(15) Tippa Gowda.

The Municipality has lately effected some improvement in these sheds by compelling the construction of air-holes and sinks to catch the urine, but they are still in an unsatisfactory condition. The floors are roughly paved with stones, and dung and urine collect in the holes and sink into the floors which are generally filthy. No licenses should be issued for 1899–1900 in respect of any of the above sheds unless they have been provided with proper floors which might slope so as to allow of proper drainage. In addition sheds belonging to Nos. (3) (this man has no license), (6), (8) and (14) require additional ventilation. All cow-sheds ought to be measured and a maximum number of animals fixed in the license. At present there is great overcrowding in some sheds. We note that when air-holes are opened in cow-sheds, the owners frequently close them at nights on the ground that the wind blowing in upon the cattle gives them chills. Ventilators should therefore be made high up in the walls so as to prevent any risk to the cattle and at the same time to provide a supply of fresh air. At Kandal cow-sheds belonging to the following individuals were inspected:—

(1) Minakshi Ammal,
(2) Kola Maduray,
(3) Palani Ammal,
(4) Yerrappan,
(5) Chinna Venkatasawmy, and
(6) Venkataraman.

Similar remarks apply as in the case of the sheds at Kodapamund. The Municipality has recently effected improvement in these buildings by insisting on ventilation, but licenses for 1899–1900 should be refused until proper sloping floors and drains and ventilation are provided. We may mention that the Chairman has had complete lists of all cow-sheds prepared and the principal defects are therein noted.

We further suggest that no new licenses for cow-sheds be granted unless the applicant has constructed a suitable building for the sole purpose of storage therein of the milk, and that all existing licensees be warned at once that their licenses will not be renewed unless they have made similar arrangements. The present system of keeping milk in dirty crowded huts is most insanitary and ought to be prohibited.

Paragraph 19.—We inspected a number of bake-houses and found most of them in fair order. The following only call for remark:—

(1) Blue Mountain Bakery—more air and light repairs to the floor and whitewashing required.
(2) No. 281, Main Bazaar—needs repair and general cleaning and whitewashing.
(3) No. 187, Main Bazaar—has the same needs as the Blue Mountain Bakery.
(4) No. 9, Mosque Street—this place is unfit for use as a bakery.
(5) No. 34, Lower Bazaar road—additional light and air required.
(6) No. 168, Main Bazaar—not clean.
(7) No. 164, Main Bazaar—needs whitewashing.

License should be refused for 1899–1900 in case No. (4), and in the other cases the grant of license should be dependent upon the removal of the defects noted.

Paragraph 20.—The Chairman has promised to inspect and report on each of the Native ærated-water manufactories.

Paragraph 21.—We regard it as most important that provision should be made for carrying out the following works:—

(1) A slaughter-house for pigs in Metuchery.
(2) Pens for animals near the slaughter-houses.
(3) A market for the sale of meat of inferior qualities.

The Council properly prohibits the sale in the main market of those portions of animals which are eaten only by the poorest classes of the community, but the result of this prohibition is that this meat is exposed for sale in shops which are quite unsuited for the purpose and in localities where the presence of butchers' shops is offensive to the public. We therefore strongly urge on the Council the necessity for devoting funds to the construction of a small meat market, below the slaughter-houses, wherein the inferior parts of animals will be sold. If this work is done, the sale of meat in the bazaar can be absolutely prohibited. To abate the nuisance caused by

the throwing about of horns and portions of skulls in Butchers' road, a cart should visit the slaughter-house every evening for the removal of such refuse. It is complained that the number of carts is insufficient for this purpose. Another should be procured as soon as possible, as the condition of the road near the slaughter-houses is disgusting. In this connection we may note that licenses for 1899–1900 ought to be refused in respect of several of the butchers' shops, in Mutton Butchers' road, until they are put into decent order. The butchers' shop at Kandal also needs attention. There is not proper ventilation in the room where the meat is hung.

Paragraph 22.—We fully agree as to the expediency of having animals inspected before slaughter, but it is necessary to obtain the services of a man who understands the disease of cattle thoroughly. We think that the Chairman should be asked to make early enquiries of the Sanitary Commissioner as to whether such a man is procurable, and if so, on what terms, in order that the slaughter-houses may be put in the charge of a thoroughly competent man. We regard this as a very important matter. As regards the other suggestions in this paragraph, we see no use in framing by-laws. If the Sanitary Inspectors do their duty, the necessary improvements can be effected without additional rules. It is merely a matter of inspection and supervision of the Inspectors. We cannot see our way to take action on the vague suggestion that we should set forth the sanitary principles to be observed in the construction and maintenance of dairies, bakeries, hotels, chattirams, &c.

Paragraphs 23 and 27.—We do not discuss the subject of the removal and disposal of night-soil, because there is a scheme under consideration for its removal, as we understand, by water through pipes. We wish, however, to record our opinion that Government should be asked to take the views of the Council before accepting any such scheme, as we regard with some apprehension the introduction of any system of removal of night-soil by the European method.

Paragraphs 24—26.—Steps are gradually being taken to improve the latrines and to provide more of them. At present these are not nearly enough. The latrines at the east end of Kandal are in a shocking condition and ought to be re-built or at all events re-floored without delay. In the mosque chattiram a small latrine is urgently needed. (In this building more ventilation, re-flooring, cleaning and whitewashing also are much wanted.)

As regards the inspection of private latrines, we consider that the Sanitary Inspectors should be directed to inspect them all systematically and report on them to the Chairman who can then take action. Standard designs for private latrines can be procured from the Sanitary Board. At all public latrines a quantity of dry earth ought to be provided.

Paragraph 28.—Steps have been taken to increase the number of scavengers.

We have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE HAMNETT.
(,,) A. BUTTERWORTH.
(,,) C. M. THOMPSON, Major, M.B., I.M.S.

PROCEEDINGS of a Special Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Saturday the 4th February 1899.

* * * * *

Subject No. I.

Read Council's resolution No. XX, dated 14th January 1899, deferring for consideration the letter, dated 4th January 1899, from the second Sub-Committee appointed in resolution, dated 19th December 1898, to consider in detail the Sanitary Commissioner's report on the unhealthiness of the town with Colonel Garwood's resolution regarding the raising of the salary of the Chairman and securing the services of a military or gazetted officer.

The Council adopts the suggestions in the first Sub-Committee's report, paragraphs 2 to 6 and also the suggestions by the second Sub-Committee as modified at this meeting. The Council further adopts the suggestion of the first Sub-Committee in paragraph 7 that in its opinion "the only remedy for the defective state of sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the Municipality. The Committee considers it useless to pass resolutions when under present arrangements there is no certainty that such resolutions would be carried out. What Ootacamund requires is that the present conservancy establishment should be properly supervised; that when orders are passed ordering the abatement of any nuisance, &c., such orders should be promptly carried out; and that when municipal orders are disobeyed or ignored, the culprits should be promptly and adequately punished. The Committee regrets to say, though it may be to a certain extent a reflection on itself that such is not the case at present and until these very patent defects are remedied by stricter supervision, the present insanitary condition of the town is likely to continue."

Colonel Garwood's motion was put to the meeting and lost.

(True Copy.)

OOTACAMUND,
4th February 1899.

(Signed) GEO. HAMNETT,
Chairman.

Note by Chairman.

In circulating the bye-laws drafted by Mr. G. T. Walch regarding buildings, I may mention that the Sanitary Commissioner, in his notes of inspection in September 1893, has dwelt on the insanitary condition of the houses of the poorer classes. He described them as dens not fit for human habitation.

2. On his inspection in June 1896, he wrote—

"I would advise the Council to frame estimates with the object of ascertaining whether it could not, with financial safety, build, under section 177, model native dwellings for the poor and offer them for reasonable rent upon the proceeds of a loan from Government."

3. I had the accompanying plan prepared in January 1897. The plan shows a small house for a poor family with all the requirements. The land for such a house will not exceed 450 square feet.

It also shows a block for two families with all requirements. The land for such a block will not exceed 600 square feet.

It seems to me that the time has arrived when Municipalities should take every precaution to see that the poorer classes are properly housed, and that the houses are so built that sanitation may be easily carried out and the health of the town preserved.

In connection with this, I would ask members to read the article on "Uninhabitable dwellings" in the sanitary record for 30th April 1897, page 394, and resolve on appointing a strong Sub-Committee to go carefully into the question of dwellings for the poorer classes and suggest the measures which the Municipal Council may conveniently adopt.

OOTACAMUND,
5th June 1897.

(Signed) GEO. HAMNETT,
Chairman, Municipal Council.

Forwarded to Government.

I was present at the meeting of the Council which adopted the detailed recommendations of the second Sub-Committee. These recommendations, if carried out, will, I consider, do much to improve the healthiness of the station.

2. In paragraph 11 of his letter the Chairman suggests that the Municipality should make loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen to enable them to comply with our sanitary requirements. Legislation would, I fancy, be required to legalize such loans.

5

Press
Please take this to the Placemaker
A on page 8

Refer on Conft Cir No. 17/18 dated 24th February 1899

CR No. 663 M

V.K.

H.M.

W

It seems advisable that H.M. 2nd Sec Mr. Weir's letter contained herein before passing orders on the file relating to the Health Officer, Ootac. Munic. (Sent to him on 20th). The letter touches the question of Hon. Chairman.

The other points in the present file can be disposed of later.

HT
27.2.99

See marginal notes.
Also the other file.
What is the ref. in para 8 of Chairman's letter No 5466 of 4th Feby 99.

AA 28.2.99

Note for the Secretary –

The Ootacamund Chairman's letter No 2304 of 30th September 1898, referred to in para 8 of his letter below, has been referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for remarks. Vide docket of CR No 3087 M/98. His remarks have not yet been received.

V.R.
6/3/99

G.O. 504 M
19-4-99

[illegible] its return.
Answer H.M.

HT 1.3.99

Seen. Dr. King's reply will be communicated to the Chairman I suppose. The question of Health Off. etc. is best [illegible] not till Govt. are requested [illegible] the Hills [illegible] H.A.

A Note for the Secretary
Please [illegible] the Chairman's letter flagged [illegible]
Also the San. Commissioner's letter flagged D in [illegible] No. 254 M. of 24th February 1899.

H.M. HT
28.3.99

I.R.
27/3/99

Apart, however, from this and the probable difficulties that would occur in working the proposal, I think it is doubtful whether, in the interests of the public, poor persons without capital should be encouraged and assisted to become our purveyors of milk, bread and meat.

I think it is desirable that such trades should be taken up by persons with some capital. As long as they are in the hands of the very poor there will be a constant struggle to enforce our rules and a constant danger of pollution from overcrowding and adulteration.

Though individual hardship might occur, I do not think it would be for the disadvantage of the community if our municipal regulations drove indigent milkmen, bakers and butchers out of the trade.

3. As regards the recommendations of the first Sub-Committee, the question of improving the Marlimund water-supply is, I am aware, engaging the attention of Government, and I do not propose to discuss the matter as to the suggestion to strengthen and improve the executive department of the Municipality. I find that the question has been discussed at considerable length by my predecessor in his letter No. 17—98 (confidential), dated 25th December 1898. There are now proposals before Government to appoint a Health Officer on Rs. 300 a month and an Engineer on Rs. 200 and in connection with the latter appointment it has been, I believe, suggested that the District Board Engineer should do the municipal engineering work, Rs. 200 of his salary being paid from Municipal funds. The suggestion does not commend itself to me on general principles, and I agree with Mr. Butterworth that for Rs. 200 the Municipality could procure the services of a whole-time Engineer capable of doing what was required.

4. If the appointments of a Health Officer and an Engineer are sanctioned, the municipal executive will be greatly strengthened and as long as Mr. Hamnett continues as Chairman and gives the attention to office work and accounts, for which he has, I understand, always been remarkable, the administration should be efficient. When, however, Mr. Hamnett retires, an event which I believe is not likely to be very long delayed, difficulties may arise.

If the Municipality has to pay Rs. 300 per mensem for a Health Officer and Rs. 200 for an Engineer, I do not think that it is likely to be able to spare more than Rs. 250 now paid to the Chairman for his successor.

The principal duties left to the Chairman will be accounts and office work duties which are often distasteful to the class of men from which Government would wish to select a Chairman and it seems very doubtful if a man of the right stamp would accept the chairmanship with the clerical duties and money responsibility for Rs. 250 a month.

It might thus be necessary to appoint a paid Secretary to do the clerical, revenue and account work on Rs. 250, and as all the details of the municipal executive work would then be performed by paid servants, the chairmanship might be made an honorary office.

5. Instead, however, of thus administering the Municipality by an honorary Chairman and three paid executive officers, viz., Health Officer, Engineer and Revenue and Accounts Secretary, it would, I think, be feasible and in many ways preferable to adhere to the system of a paid Chairman.

A paid Chairman could, I think, be got who would discharge the duties of two of the executive officers referred to above for even a smaller remuneration than the combined pay of the appointments.

A retired Engineer officer would, I think, be able not only to do the engineering work proper but could also, in consultation with the local medical officers and if assisted by competent sanitary subordinates, do the duties of a Health Officer satisfactorily, the office work being under this arrangement left to a paid Secretary, subject of course to the Chairman's general control. Or if this distribution of the work is objected to and it is considered that there should be a Health Officer who was an expert in that special subject, it would not be impossible or even difficult to get an officer who could do the Engineer's work and also manage the office. If, however,

there is to be a paid Chairman, I think it would be well that he should have as much of the out-door work as possible. He would see what was required with his own eyes and see that orders were carried out and in fact put an end to the state of things which the first Sub-Committee complains of.

(Signed) C. J. Weir
Collector of the Nilgiris

ORDER—No. 757 M., dated 26th May 1899.

Recorded.

2. Orders have already been passed in G.O., No. 485 M., dated 13th April 1899, conferring Police powers on the Sanitary Inspectors.

3. With reference to paragraph 8 of his letter, the Chairman is referred to G.Os., No. 254 M., dated 24th February 1899, and No. 504 M., dated 19th April 1899.

4. The suggestion made in paragraph 11 of the Chairman's letter, that the Municipal Council should grant loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen in order to enable them to comply with the sanitary requirements of the Council, cannot be approved. In this connection the Chairman's attention is drawn to the Collector's remarks in paragraph 2 of his endorsement, in which the Government fully concurs. In the interests of public health, the terms of the licenses should be stringently enforced irrespective of the wealth or poverty of the licensees. It should be always borne in mind that the system of licensing certain trades provided for under the Act has in view the enforcement of sanitary rules and not the collection of revenue.

5. Separate orders will be passed on the question of appointing a Health Officer referred to in paragraph 2 of the Chairman's letter.

(True Extract.)

for *Ag. Secretary to Government.*

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

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

Local & Municipal Department.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Minutes of Obtaining

Again G.O., No. dated 189 .

Again G.O, No. dated 189 .

Current No. 637 of 1899, dated 4th February, from the Collector of the Nilgiris

" " " 189 , "

" " " 189 , "

P.S

ORDER.

No. 757 M. Mis. dy 26-5-99

Recorded

NA 18.5.99 C.

2. Orders have already been passed in G.O. No. 485 M. dated 13th April 1899, conferring Police powers on the Sanitary Inspectors.

3. With reference to para 8 of the letter, the Chairman is referred to G.O. Nos. 254 M. dy 24th February 1899 and 504 M. dated 19th April 1899.

4. The Suggestion made in para of the Chairman's letter that the Municipal Council should grant loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen in order to enable them to comply with the Sanitary requirements of the Council, cannot be approved. In this connection the Chairman's attention is drawn

the Collector's remarks in para 2 of his endorsement in which the Government fully Concurs. In the interests of public health, the terms of the licenses should be stringently enforced irrespective of the wealth or poverty of the licensees.

5. Separate orders will be passed on the question of appointing a Health officer referred to in para 2 of the Chairman's letter.

I.R.
2/5/99

17.V.99.

It sh^d be always borne in mind that the system of licensing certain trades provided for under the Act, has in view the enforcement of sanitary rules & not the collection of Revenue –

Note.
That file is connected with the app^t of a Secretary for the Municipality – It is with the H.M.

17 V 99

Yes.
8.5.99

To
The Chairman, the Ootacamund M^c
" Collector of the Nilgiris
" Sanitary Commissioner
Editor's Table.
Despd. 8/6/99

No.

~~Extract from the~~ Proceedings of a special Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Saturday the 4^th February 1899.

~~Subject No.~~ Present.

The Chairman
C. J. Weir Esqre. Collector
Col: H. D. Stevenson
W. D. Donaghue Esqre.
Revd. C. Bioley
Col: J. D. Garwood R.E.
Abdul Rhyman Hajee Dakir Mahomed Sait Sahib
J. Browne Esqre.
Major C. M. Thompson M.B. I.M.S.
J. S. Manning Esqre.
Dr. J. A. Menzies.

Subject No. I

Read Council's resolution no. XX dated 14^th January 1899 deferring for consideration the letter dated 4^th January 99 from the Second Sub Committee appointed in Resolution dated 19^th December 98, to consider in detail, the Sanitary Commissioner's report on the unhealthiness of the town with Col: Garwood's resolution regarding the raising of the salary of the Chairman and securing the services of a military or gazetted officer.

RESOLUTION:—

The Council adopts the suggestions in the first Sub Committee's report paras 2 to 6 and also the suggestions by the Second Sub Committee as modified at this meeting. The Council further adopts the suggestion of the first Sub Committee in para 7 that in its opinion "the only remedy for the defective state of Sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the municipality. The Committee considers it useless to pass resolutions when under present arr[illegible]s to [illegible] there [illegible] t[illegible] when municipalities [illegible] every

The Co[illegible]

[illegible] to the effect [illegible] the words "a Councillor" shall be out [illegible]

the Collector's remarks in para 2 of his endorsement in which the Government fully concurs. In the interests of public health, the terms of the licenses should be stringently enforced irrespective of the wealth or poverty of the licensees.

5. Separate orders will be passed on the question of appointing a Health officer referred to in para 2 of the Chairman's letter.

[illegible]
2/5/99

[illegible]
7.v.99.

It sh[oul]d be always borne in mind that the system of licensing certain trades provided for under the Act, has in view the enforcement of sanitary rules & not the collection of Revenue —

Note.
That file is connected with the app[ointmen]t of a sanitary [illegible] for the Municipality. It is with the H[illegible].

[illegible]
17 v 99

Yes.
[illegible] 8.5.99

To
The Chairman. The Ootacamund M[unicipalit]y
" Collector of the Nilgiris
" Sanitary Commissioner
Editor's Table.
[illegible] 8/6/99

No. 6

~~Extract from the~~ Proceedings of a special Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Saturday the 4th February 1899.

W50

~~Subject No.~~ Present.	Resolution :—
The Chairman C. J. Weir Esqre. Collector Col: [illegible] Stevenson W. [illegible] Donaghue Esqre. Revd. C. Biolley Col: J. [illegible] Garwood R.E. Abdul Rhyman Hajee Dakir Mahomed Sait Sahib J. Browne Esqre. Major C. M. Thompson M.B. I.M.S. J. S. Manning Esqre. Dr: J. A. Menzies.	
Subject No. I. Read Council's resolution no. XX dated 14th January 1899 deferring for consideration the letter dated 4th January 99 from the Second Sub Committee appointed [in] Resolution dated 19th December 98, [to] consider in detail, the Sanitary Commissioner's report on the unhealthiness of the town with Col: Garwood's resolution [rega]rding the raising of the salary [of the] Chairman and securing [the] services of a military or [ga]zetted officer.	The Council adopts the suggestions in the first Sub Committee's report paras 2 to 6 and also the suggestions by the Second Sub Committee as modified at this meeting. The Council further adopts the suggestion of the first Sub Committee in para 7 that in its opinion "the only remedy for the defective state of Sanitation of the town is to strengthen the executive of the municipality. The Committee considers it useless to pass resolution[s] [w]hen under present arr[angeme]nts to [illegible] there is no [illegible] t[o] when municipalities [illegible] [illegible] every

The Co[uncil]
[illegible]

[illegible] to the effect [illegible]
the words "a councillor" shall be
out [illegible]

requires is that the present Conservancy establishment should be properly supervised that when orders are passed ordering the abatement of any nuisance &c such orders should be promptly carried out, and that when municipal orders are disobeyed or ignored, the Culprits should be promptly and adequately punished. The Committee regrets to say, though it may be to a certain extent a reflection on itself that such is not the case at present and until these very patent defects are remedied by stricter supervision, the present insanitary condition of the town is likely to continue".

Col. Garwood's motion was put to the meeting and lost.

(True ~~Extract~~ Copy)

[signature]
Chairman.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
OOTACAMUND, 4th February 1899.

To

Dept. 8/6/99

Ootacamund.
5th June 1897.

Note by Chairman

In circulating the Bye-laws drafted by Mr. G. T. Walch regarding buildings, I may mention that the Sanitary Commissioner in his notes of inspection in September 1893 has dwelt on the insanitary condition of the houses of the poorer classes. He described them as dens not fit for human habitation.

2. On his inspection in June 1896 he wrote:

"I would advise the Council to frame estimates with the object of ascertaining whether it could not with financial safety, build, under Section 177, model native dwellings for the poor and offer them for reasonable rent upon the proceeds of a loan from Government".

3. I had the accompanying plan prepared in January 1897. The plan shows a small house for a poor family with all the requirements. The land for such a house will not exceed 45. sq: feet.

It also shows a block for two families with all requirements. The land for such a block will not exceed 600 sq: feet.

It seems to me that the time has arrived when municip[al] ... should ... every ...

1-6-98

that the poorer classes are properly housed, and that the houses are so built that sanitation may be easily carried out and the health of the town preserved.

In connection with this I would ask members to read the article on

"Uninhabitable dwellings" in the Sanitary Record for 30 April 97. page 394. and resolve on appointing a strong sub Committee to go carefully into the question of dwellings for the poorer classes and suggest the measures which the Municipal Council may conveniently adopt.

(Sd) Geo: Hamnett.

Chairman once

"True Copy"

Geo Hamnett

Chairman once

No.

Extract from the Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Ootacamund Municipal Council held on Monday the 19th December 1898.

~~Subject No.~~ To present.	Resolution :—
The Chairman A. Butterworth Esqre Collector Col: K. J. Stevenson W. J. Donaghue Esqre Col: J. D. Garwood R.E. J. Browne Esqre Revd C. Bialey Major Cn. Thompson M.B. D.M.S. M. M. Fool Mahomed Sait Sahib J. S. Manning Esqre Subject No. II. Read resolution dated 14th November 98 deferring for consideration the report of the Sub Committee dated 20 October 98 regarding the steps to be taken to carry out the recommendations of the Sanitary Commissioner re connection with the unhealthiness of Ootacamund together with letter no. 438 dated 21 October 98 from the Executive Engineer on Special duty regarding the intercepting sewer.	Resolved :— (1) That the Chairman, Civil Surgeon and Collector be requested to consider the Sanitary Commissioner's report in detail. (2) That a health-officer be appointed on a salary of Rs 300 per month, his duties to be hereafter defined by resolution of the Council. The increased expenditure to be met by enhancing the tax on lands. (3) That Government be moved to confer Police powers on Sanitary Inspectors."

Municipal Office,

Ootacamund, 189 .

To

(True Extract)

Chairman.

200
1-6-98

The Co
Sanitation

the words "a Councillor" shall be

Confidential

Ref on Confl an. No. 17/10 dated 24.2.95

Forwarded to Government.

I was present at the meeting of the Council which adopted the detailed recommendations of the Second Sub Committee. These recommendations, if carried out, will, I consider do much to improve the healthiness of the Station.

2. In para 11 of his letter the Chairman suggests that the municipality should make loans on easy terms to the poorer tradesmen to enable them to comply with our Sanitary requirements. Where are the funds to come from. We N.C. would have to borrow. Legislation would I fancy be required to legalize this in order to lend. Such loans.

Apart however from this and the probable difficulties that would occur in working the proposal, I think it is doubtful whether in the interests of the public, poor persons without Capital should be encouraged and assisted to become our purveyors of Milk, bread and meat.

I think it is desirable that such trades should be taken up by persons with some Capital. As long as they are in the hands

left where it is, in suburbs, for the present.

to be able to spare more than Rs 250 now paid to the Chairman for his Successor.

The principal duties left to the Chairman will be accounts and office work duties which are often distasteful to the class of men from which Government would wish to select a Chairman and it seems very doubtful if a man of the right stamp would accept the Chairmanship with the clerical duties and money responsibility for Rs 250 a month.

It might thus be necessary to appoint a paid Secretary to do the clerical Revenue and account work on Rs 250: and as all the details of the municipal Executive work would then be performed by paid servants the Chairman-ship might be made an honorary office.

5. Instead however of thus administering the municipality by an honorary Chairman and 3 paid Executive Officers viz Health Officer, Engineer and Revenue and accounts Secretary, it would I think be feasible and in many ways preferable to adhere to the system of a paid

Chairman

A paid Chairman could I think be got who would discharge the duties of two of the Executive Officers referred to above for even a smaller remuneration than the combined pay of the appointments.

A retired Engineer Officer would, I think, be able not only to do the Engineering work proper but could also in consultation with the local medical officers and if assisted by competent Sanitary Subordinates do the duties of a Health Officer satisfactorily — the office work being under this arrangement left to a paid Secretary subject of course to the Chairman's general control. Or if this distribution of the work is objected to and it is considered that there should be a Health Officer who was an expert in that special subject it would not be impossible or even difficult to get an Officer who could do the Engineer's work and also manage the office. If however there is to be a paid Chairman I think it would be well that he should have

[This is the most feasible solution. A.A. 28.7.99]

[... the ... ding ... hair- ... blica ... ction ... hair- ... in ... ating ... 1899.]

The Co[...] Gazette [...]

[...] to the office, the words "a Councillor" should be out [...]

of the very poor there will be a Constant
struggle to enforce our rules and a Constant
danger of pollution from over Crowding and
adulteration.

Though individual hardship might occur
I do not think it would be for the disadvantage
of the Community if our municipal Regulations
drove indigent milkmen, bakers and butchers
out of the trade.

Mr Hammetts comments are very feeble. We will sacrifice the public to the licensees. The terms of the licenses should be stringently enforced the wealth or poverty of the licensee has nothing to do with the matter the public interest alone has to be considered. HS

3. As regards the recommendations of the first Sub Committee; the question of improving the Marlimund watersupply is I am aware engaging the attention of Government and I do not propose to discuss the matter as to the Suggestion to Strengthen and improve the Executive Department of the Municipality. I find that the question has been discussed at Considerable length by my predecessor in his letter No. 17/98 (Confidential) dated 25-12-1897.

Civil Surgeon

There are now proposals before Government to appoint a Health Officer on Rs 300 a month and an Engineer on Rs 200 and in connection with the latter appointment it has been believed suggested that the District Board Engineer should do the Municipal Engineering work Rs 200 of his salary being paid from Municipal funds. The suggestion does not commend itself to me on general principles and I agree with Mr Butterworth that for Rs 200 the Municipality could procure the services of a whole time Engineer capable of doing what was required.

4. If the appointments of a Health Officer and an Engineer are Sanctioned the Municipal Executive will be greatly Strengthened and there will never be any vigorous Municipal administration so long as Mr Hammett is Chairman. He as long as Mr Hammett Continues as Chairman has not the nerve for it and is and gives the attention to Office work and accounts for which he has I understand always been remarkable, the administration Should be efficient. When however Mr Hammett retires, an event which I believe is not likely to be very long delayed, difficulties may arise.

If the municipality has to pay Rs 300 per mensem for a Health Officer and Rs 200 for an Engineer I do not think that it is likely

as much of the outdoor work as possible.
He would see what was required with his own
eyes and see that orders were carried out and
in fact put an end to the state of things
which the 1st Sub Committee complains of.

[illegible]
Collector of the Nilgiris

[illegible]
25-2-99

12//

Number of copies required. { Order complete. 40
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter. }

[C]opy sent to Press. 26-5-99
[Retu]rned for signature. 7-6-99
[Desp]atched in print. [illegible]-6-99

Read again G.O., No. 189 ... [D]ated

[Pri]nt No. 668 M. in type

More proof please
CR
12/5

[E]nclosures to C. No.

[illegible] of Government A .. .. ..

[illegible] of Government.

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original.

N.B.—
A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.