

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1584 *M*

DATED 2^d October 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Administration Report.

Communicating to the Municipal Commissioners, Madras, the despatch of the Secretary of State for India forwarding, for information, seventy copies of a memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the-----of the Madras Municipality for 1893-94.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Municipal Council.

CURRENT No. 2

India Office,
London, 15th August 1895.

Statistics,
No. 2.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor
in Council, Fort St. George.

MY LORD,

I forward, for the information of your
Excellency's Government, 70 copies* of a
Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission
on the Administration Report of the Madras
Municipality for 1893-94.

* 12 by mail; 58 by book post.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

George Henderson

ENCLOSURE.

MEMORANDUM by the Army Sanitary Commission on the Administration
Report of the Madras Municipality for 1893-94.

1. *Projects for Sanitary improvement.*—When this Report issued, the town of Madras had arrived at a critical point in its sanitary history. The expert who had been sent out by the Secretary of State to examine into the condition of things, and devise the measures which appeared to him best suited to remedy it, had submitted his recommendations, and they were under the consideration of the Commissioners. No particulars are given of what these recommendations are, but Mr. Cousins was evidently much impressed with the urgent need of radical reforms, and recorded his opinion that under existing conditions the wonder was, not that the mortality was so high as it was, but that it was so low. His proposals include a general drainage and sewerage scheme, estimated to cost 23 lakhs of rupees, an improvement of the water-supply at an estimated cost of nearly 21 lakhs, and also certain measures for doing away with the nuisance now caused by the river Coum, which are estimated at a little over 3 lakhs. We must await a full description of these various projects, which have such an intimate bearing on the health of the town, and defer any comments upon them until we learn how far they have been accepted and are about to be carried out. Under these circumstances, we need not refer to the progress made in sanitary works during the year, for this was, as might be expected, but small, and to a large extent tentative, dependent on the issue of Mr. Cousins' report. Nor need we say anything further on the sanitary defects of the town, which are set forth very fully and clearly in this Report of the President of the Municipal Commission for 1893-94, defects under many heads, which are of so grave a character as to call most urgently for removal. The President remarks that "the greatest obstacle to progress is the poverty of the town," and the large sum which the execution of Mr. Cousins' schemes involves will, no doubt, offer a formidable difficulty, but we trust that means may be found to overcome this difficulty if it should appear, after careful examination, that the measures proposed are the best which can be devised to place the town in a proper sanitary condition.

2. *Registration of births.*—We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to making a very few remarks on some other matters of general administration bearing on the health of the inhabitants, and, first, as regards the births of the year. The registration is carefully conducted, and the results generally satisfactory. The birth-rate, 40.2 per 1,000, is the highest yet registered, and the proportion of male to female births, 104.8 to 100, is *prima facie* evidence of accuracy. The ratios, taken by wards, fluctuate considerably, but the apparent discrepancies to a large extent disappear if the comparison be confined to the eight divisions of the town, where the population is larger and therefore affords a safer basis for comparison.

3. *Registration of deaths.*—There was a considerable improvement in the health of the town as indicated by the registration of deaths. In 1891 these had equalled 52 per 1,000, and in 1892 had fallen to 46. In 1893 there was a further fall to 41, but this was still a high ratio. The President attributes the persistently heavy mortality of recent years, in great measure, to the increased price of food, which, he observes, presses much more on the towns where wages are paid in money than on the country where wages are paid in kind. In the opening chart the facts as regards prices and meteorology are portrayed side by side with the

mortality, the mean of which during the ten previous years had equalled 38.9. In looking at the distribution of the deaths by locality there are no very marked extremes. The range is between 32 and 47, but if infant mortality alone be taken there is considerable variation, the extremes being 300 in one division and 486 in another.

4. *Deaths according to cause.*—Arranged according to causes the deaths stand thus:—

Cholera	-	27	=	0.05 per 1,000
Small-pox	-	20	=	0.04 "
Fevers	-	6,628	=	14.6 "
Bowel complaints	-	2,708	=	5.9 "
Other causes	-	9,201	=	20.3 "
Total	-	18,584	=	41.0 "

In this summary the most noteworthy features are the remarkable abeyance of both cholera and small-pox and the large portion of the mortality ascribed to *Fevers* and *Other causes*.

5. *Cholera.*—Excepting 1886, when the deaths from cholera numbered only 4, not one of the previous ten years had presented so favourable a return as that of 1893, and the total of 27 deaths which it recorded under this head presents a remarkable contrast to such figures as 1,193 in 1884 and 1,916 in 1891. In January 1893 three deaths from cholera were reported, but none others followed till July, when two more occurred, and then each month till the end of the year contributed one or two. It is worthy of notice that the 27 deaths were thus spread over seven months of the year, and that they occurred in six of the eight divisions of the town.

6. *Small-pox and Vaccination.*—The experience of Madras in respect of small-pox continued to afford striking evidence of the protective power of vaccination and of the care with which this important work had been done over a series of years. Only 20 deaths under this head in 1893 is a very favourable record. But, as we remarked in our Memorandum on the Madras Municipal Report for 1892-93, fluctuations must be expected in the history of small-pox, even with the most careful vaccination, and when the disease has been in marked abeyance for several years is the time when, according to all experience, epidemic increase is to be feared.

7. *Fevers.*—The great part of the mortality due to fevers has already been referred to. Of the gross total of 41 per 1,000 they contributed 14.6. The incidence of these diseases varied much in the different divisions of the town. In the 6th Division the death-rate ascribed to them was only 9 per 1,000; in the 2nd Division it was 20.1. The marked increase in fevers which has characterised the statistics of Madras during the last few years has been referred to in previous reports. In addition to the general insanitary conditions which favour their prevalence, there has been a great rise in the price of food, which has materially affected the condition of the people.

15th July 1895.

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Statistics

15th August 1895

The
Letter to Fort St-George
N^o 2 & Enclosure

Recd 3/9/95

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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Local & Municipal Department

CURRENT No.

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G.O., No.

DATED

From

The Secretary of State

London.

What line
misc.

Order.

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28 Sep

Communicated to the

Municipal Commissioner, Madras.

Mrs. Ags

12

24/9/95

RES TO C. No.

No. 2

Dated 15-8-95

Received 7-9-95

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Regarding for information 40 copies of a
memorandum by the Army Sanitary
Commission on the Administration
of the Madras Municipality for
1904.

The Administration report of the Municipality
for 1894-95 will show what action has been
taken when Mr. Conner's scheme. It
does not however describe them in any sort
of detail. Should the Army San. Comm. be
sent a copy of his report upon them? The
fluctuations in deaths from fever are probably
due to the fact that native doctors attribute
every death to the causes of which they cannot
accurately diagnose to fever.

Mrs. Ags

To: They haven't asked first

The President, Municipal Commission,
Madras.

" Sanitary Commissioner
" Sanitary Engineer.

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HERE NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
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