

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Sanitary Inspection Notes by the Inspector of Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner.

SALEM MUNICIPALITY.

INSPECTED 10TH, 11TH, AND 12TH SEPTEMBER 1883.

Population per Census of 1881—males 24,582 ; females 26,131 ; total 50,713.

Roads.—The main streets are in fair repair and kept clean. The smaller streets and lanes are, however, in many parts used as latrines, especially at Kitchipalium.

The sweepings are taken to depôts out of the town and there deposited. They are occasionally sold, but the demand for them is not great. If there was a road up to Yercaud, they could easily be disposed of, as the Vice-President said the planters would buy them.

There are eighty-four dust-bins—twenty-four wooden and sixty stone.

Drainage.—The system of drainage is very defective. Some streets have masonry drains, which are daily flushed, and others have only side-cuttings. The drains discharge into four cisterns situated near the river. Two of the cisterns are emptied by means of pumps and two by hand, the contents being carted to either the municipal tope or Kitchipalium tank. During the rains these cisterns overflow, and the drainage passes into the river from which the people get their drinking water.

In one part of Shivapett there are excellent drains, which are coated with Portland cement, and it would be well if all the streets were provided with similar ones.

The drainage, &c., of backyards and compounds is very defective, and all cess-pits should be filled up.

There are few cess-pools, and they are cleaned rarely if ever.

Water-supply.—From wells and river ; the latter, although the principal supply, is very bad. When there is no cholera in the town the people are allowed to take water for drinking purposes from any part of the river, but when it is prevailing a police guard is placed along the banks, and only water from above the anicut is used. Below the anicut, bathing, washing of clothes, &c., take place, and some of the drainage of the town discharges into it. The banks are also used as latrines in some places.

There are ninety-five wells from which drinking water is obtained ; all these wells should have walls round them, and those that have not, steps, platforms, and drains also. This supply is fairly good.

Conservancy.—The establishment consists of 4 nuisance inspectors, 11 maistries, 26 drain-cleaners, 9 cistern coolies, 81 scavengers, 110 toties, 5 river watchmen, 40 rubbish, 21 night-soil, and 4 sewage carts. When cholera is prevailing the staff is increased.

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There are many private latrines. Some are daily cleaned by the municipal toties, but others are rarely, if ever, emptied. It would be well if all the private latrines were daily cleaned out by the municipal servants.

There are ninety-seven kerosine-oil lamps.

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Cremation and Burial-grounds.—There are eleven; those situated near the river should be closed.

Markets.—There are three; two are held daily and one weekly. They were clean when I visited them.

Vaccination.—This municipality employs three vaccinators—one first class, one second class—and a vaccinatrix. The vaccinatrix had lately died, and her place had not been filled up.

First-class vaccinator T. Velu Pillay has over two years' service, knows no English, and seemed unfit for the post. His register was disgracefully kept, and many of the columns were blank. It was impossible to tell from it the dates on which the cases were vaccinated, the nature of lymph used, &c. Although it was the 11th of September when I saw his book, there were no entries in his register for that month. His instruments were also disgraceful; the lancet old, dirty, point broken, and it was a marvel to me how he could vaccinate with such an instrument. His preserved lymph was unfit for use.

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During the first part of the year the disease prevailed most in Shivapett, but latterly in Salem.

From 17th May to 21st June no cases were reported, and at that time there was heavy rain and freshes in the river. On the 21st June the cases attacked lived in different parts of the town and there was no history of importation.

The number of attacks has been 1,224 and deaths 528. As in former epidemics, the people who suffered most were those who used the river water. The Brahmins of Shivapett agraram, who drink well water, escaped altogether, but amongst the Brahmins of Salem agraram, who use the river water, forty cases occurred, ten proving fatal. Kitchipalium, which is one of the dirtiest parts of the town, did not suffer much, and the people in that part drink well water. It was found that after good rain the number of cases diminished. Only two cases occurred amongst the jail population.

Much the same remedial measures were adopted as in former epidemics.

Remarks.—This town is sadly in need of a good system of domestic and public drainage and water-supply. Vaccination is also not as thorough as it should be.

The improvements which have taken place since last inspection are making new wells and repairing old ones; enlarging the Shivapett slaughter-house; erecting more vegetable stalls in the Shivapett market; constructing some drains and preventing the river water below the anicut being taken away for domestic purposes.

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(Signed) J. A. LAING, Surgeon-Major,
Inspector of Vaccination and
Deputy Sanitary Commissioner.

MADRAS,
16th October 1883.

No. 1418.

Endorsement on the above.

Forwarded for the information of Government.

(Signed) M. C. FURNELL, M.D., F.R.C.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

MADRAS,
5th November 1883.

ORDER—dated 15th November 1883, No. 2579, Financial.

Communicated to the President of the Salem Municipality.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Salem.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Public Works department.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Gobt. of (1883) Madras.

FINANCIAL.

No 3363 Waf 23rd Nov^r/83

Communicated

to the S.E. 4th Circle,
for information

Sof. C.B.
u.s.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 15th November 1883, No. 2579.

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NOVEMBER.

Municipal—Sanitary.

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No 3363 May 23rd 1883

Communicated

By the S.C., 4th Circle, for
information.

S/C.B.
N.S.

Issued

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Mr. Ch. 10317

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FINANCIAL.

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*Communicated
to the Suptg. Engrs, &
Circle, for information.*

P.S.C.

Issued

Recd.

21/11/83

Encl.

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23/11*

S. En Circle

4/11

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