

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No.

2064 W

DATED

7th August 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sanitation - The Sanitary Commission's
Inspection notes suggesting certain
improvements in ^{connection with} the water supply of the
Dumfries Municipality, North Arcot
Dist. referred to the S.E. IV circle
for remarks.

B

Indexed. 9/8

Indexed. 1/1

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

Pr Dept

100A
No. 3221 c/f 21-7-99
2956 c/f 30-6-99
2724 c/f 15-6-99
2444 c/f 20-5-99

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1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies 9

G.O., No. 980 M., 12th July 1899.

B/ No: 2064 u 97-8.88
The remarks & suggestions
at the end of para 2 & in
JULY. paras 3 & 4 of the Sanitary
Commissioner's inspection note
will be referred to the
Supty. Engrs, IV Circle, for
remarks.

Remarks.

Per Hel 27/7 1882 29. VII

Sanitation.

Recording, with remarks, the Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes on the Tirupati Municipality.

To

The Supty. Lyr. TV Circle with papers
replaced

02933/231/7

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From M.R.Ry. V. RANGANADA RAO Avargal, Chairman, Municipal Council, Tirupati, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 19th May 1899, Dis. No. 163-M.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, the Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes on the Tirupati town, together with the reply of the Council thereto passed at its general meeting held on the 17th instant. An extract from the minutes of proceedings of the Council is also herewith submitted.

ENCLOSURES.

INSPECTION NOTES of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, North Arcot District.

TIRUPATI MUNICIPALITY.

Inspected, 22nd February to 1st March 1899.

Population per Census of	1881	..	..	..	..	13,232
	1891	..	..	..	..	14,242

Inspection Notes.

I have already, in connection with plague matters, dealt with certain sanitary reforms in connection with that disease. I now deal with subjects of a routine sanitary nature.

2. *Water-supply—Existing Wells.*—There are several of these that, at an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 10 for the whole, would receive much safety from direct contamination by surface flow by using cement at the junctions of stones. These were pointed out to the Sanitary Inspector.

The new Water-supply.—I visited the site of the infiltration gallery. The Superintending Engineer Mr. Garrett has already drawn attention to the necessity for limiting irrigation in the immediate neighbourhood. After inspecting the site I suggested that no irrigation be allowed within a radius of 18–40 feet, and that no dry cultivation be conducted within half a mile radius of the gallery. This arrangement, as it happens, will not prove expensive, as the area irrigated

The necessary steps have been taken to effect repairs to the wells as suggested.

Extract from the notes will be forwarded to the Executive Engineer, North Arcot, for necessary arrangements in the matter.

Inspection Notes.

Chairman's Remarks.

is not large and dry cultivation is but little. In addition to the taking of this precaution, it is also necessary that graveyards be prohibited within the half-a-mile radius. At present bodies are buried on the bank and within the river bed in undesirable proximity. There is a graveyard round the service reservoir. There is no reason why persons should not bury side by side with the reservoir walls. Graves are within 75 yards of it now. There is a small tank within one hundred yards of the reservoir. This being full would tend to water-log the soil and thus prove a danger should a crack occur in the reservoir walls, if between the bund and the reservoir bodies be placed as now. This bund should be abolished. Pillars should be put up so as to define the area within which burial should take place. No burial should be allowed on the upper part of the slope and none within three hundred yards of the reservoir on the lower part of the slope. One line of pipes extends within a few feet of the Penta drain. The soil through which it runs is soaked with sewage. Insuction of filth being no mere theoretical matter by pipes, whether under pressure or not, it is essential for the safety of the water-supply that this filthy sewage receptacle be correctly arranged. I consulted with certain of the leading members of the community and with the Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department, Mr. Krishnamachari, in charge of the works, as to the disposal of the extra piping intended for extending the system during festivals. It was agreed that the following extensions should be made:—

(1) Near the small temple close to the travellers' bungalow where a festival is held yearly, with six taps for drinking purposes; (2) near the Brahmin and the (3) Sudra pilgrim quarters, for bathing and washing platforms; (4) to the cholera camp site for supply of the sheds there. These arrangements will leave about 500 feet of piping for unforeseen purposes. It was pleaded at this meeting—and I agree with the principle—that it would be much better to have the bathing platforms at present projected half the size and to increase the number of sites where these are to be erected. I should think that this would practically make no difference to the estimate, whilst it would serve very largely to popularize the use of the public bathing platforms.

Inspection Notes.

3. The overflows arranged along the main are formed so as not to allow the water to be subject to contamination. The masonry chamber surrounding the balance overflow valve seems to me, however, to be a uselessly ponderous structure and liable to form a residence for snakes and rats. All that was really required was an iron structure of size sufficient to protect the valve and with an opening guarded by a grid. Manholes have been formed so that nothing short of wilful destruction will place the water in risk.

4. For distribution in the town I believe the usual form of masonry pillars, with cement surfaces, usually found in this Presidency, are to be adopted. I hold that these pillars are unsightly obstructions to a street, and that, in allowing a surface, where the hand of woman after woman drawing water is placed, to be of a colour that does not favour dirt being seen is insanitary. The result of the method is that in a short time each "fountain" is decorated with islands of grassy filth. If masonry pillars must be adopted, the hard smooth surface of the glazed tiles should be employed for the small area of the pillars where such contact is known to take place. Plain exposed pipes with self-closing cocks would be far more satisfactory.

5. In the matter of mode of distribution, I would particularly urge that no householder be allowed to have a tap within his premises under the payment of a sum that shall prove prohibitory to any but a minority. Each householder should have his private tap close to his house exposed to public view and guarded, so far as caste requirements demand, by having the tap enclosed in an iron wire cage provided with a private key. This would save waste and defilement of water by careless disposition of pipes with reference to insuction of air and fluids.

6. *Sewage Removal.*—The Penta drain remains from year to year in its usual state of filth. On my visit its sides were lined with foecal matter, whilst pools of putrid sewage and masses of flies and mosquitoes rendered it a place worth avoiding. If plague visits this town in the indigenous form—already four cases have occurred—the inhabitants of the banks of the Penta drain are liable not to take an appreciative view of municipal institutions. I proposed some time back a makeshift arrangement for this drain;

Chairman's Remarks.

The suggestions will be taken into consideration when there is an occasion for it.

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The matter is, no doubt, an important one and it is engaging the earnest attention of the councillors, and they hope to do something in this matter this year.

Chairman's Remarks.

Inspection Notes.

cobble stones were provided for the banks, country tiles tarred, supported on clay, with cement pointing were provided in default of stoneware or concrete drains. This makeshift drain would have led the sewage to a garden for irrigation or disposal by a sewage filter. The Sanitary Board estimated an arrangement that would have served for a permanent structure, with the result that the Council pleaded want of funds. The estimate was not really large considering the efficient work intended. I think the Council should be required to again apply to the Sanitary Board, stating the amount or funds it is prepared to spend. The earthen tiles have actually been made ready; the cobble stones have also in large part been carted to the spot. *Something* certainly ought to be done to improve this disgustingly filthy and insanitary area, even if the Municipality have to go further in debt for it.

7. *Night-soil Conservancy.*—The chief night-soil conservancy agents are pigs. The Municipality also employs an inadequate staff of sixteen scavengers, not less than 28 being necessary, besides private scavengers. In the matter of removal of night-soil, the capacity of the carts provided gives some idea of the respective capabilities of the pigs and of the conservancy staff. For the total quantity collected by the latter, one night-soil cart and two mounted buckets are provided. Their total capacity is $17\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet, so that at three heaps per day they remove $52\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet; hence there remains not less than $97\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet of night-soil (without allowing for admixture by urine or extraneous matter) for the pigs to alter somewhat in constituents before, in the course of this insanitary cycle, it is deposited a second time on the soil of the town. It is not pleasant to write of these matters, but then such matters should not exist to be written about in a town which has possessed the privileges of a Municipality since April 1886.

8. Corrugated iron latrines have been lately constructed. These cost Rs. 200 each and, consequently, the Sanitary Board should have been consulted before they were built. The internal arrangement of these is bad, there being no correctly-formed drain, so that the urine is allowed to flow over the floor which has to be negotiated by the person using the latrine. It ought to be a simple matter to alter

Arrangements will be made to provide more night-soil carts and more scavengers at once * * * * *

Not necessary under G.O., No. 1698 L., dated 18th September 1896, which requires that the Sanitary Board should be consulted only when the work exceeds Rs. 200.

The defects pointed out will be attended to.

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Inspection Notes.

these latrines so as to provide a small footpath and drain. The metal tube forming the outlet to the cistern should be abolished.

9. The night-soil is deposited in pits near the hospital road toll-gate instead of in trenches under the excuse that the soil is not suitable for this. This statement is incorrect; trenches could be formed easily.

10. *Rubbish disposal*.—This is collected in wooden open carts which are dragged to their destination by sweepers. This demands double the number of sweepers really necessary for the town were bullocks used for traction. The service, as might be expected, is most arduous and consequently much is perfunctorily performed. The Council should abolish one-half of their sweepers—now 32—and introduce bullocks or ponies for traction with full-sized carts. Six carts would then suffice instead of 16. The result would be improved efficiency at a cost not likely to exceed Rs. 10 per mensem.

11. The rubbish is deposited near two of the toll-gates; both are absolutely unsuitable spots. Places sufficiently removed from the public road should be chosen.

12. Another place for deposit of town rubbish is within the roadside drains of the town. These drains are covered at intervals with stone slabs, notwithstanding remonstrances to the contrary. Action should be taken for removal of rubbish and the covering slabs.

13. *Slaughter-house*.—In default of funds for a "pucka building", slaughtering is performed in an enclosed space. It is kept clean. It ought to be feasible to provide the butchers, who have to pay for the accommodation, at least with a thatched shelter that would protect them from sun and rain. Meat should be impressed with a seal issued by the Council before removal to the market.

14. *Graveyards*.—It is very desirable that Vettians be licensed under section 242. It is only by rigid adherence to this precaution that the Council can not only maintain a check upon the deaths for registration purposes, but also prevent the graveyards being littered with fragments of the old cloth, decayed biers, bones and the like and require that the ground be used systematically and, therefore, to the best economy.

Chairman's Remarks.

Orders have been issued accordingly and it will be seen that this is done.

The suggestion commends itself to the Councillors and will be taken into consideration shortly.

Suitable sites will be selected soon.

Such action is not sanctioned by the Council. Wherever it exists, it will be put a stop to.

Will be duly attended to.

Steps will be taken to license Vettians at once.

Inspection Notes.

15. *Market*.—The butchers adhere to the filthy wooden boxes and ropes found at former inspections. It ought not to be a difficult matter for the Council to insist upon the use of slabs and clean wooden blocks and steel hooks. The floor of the fish market should be cement plastered.

16. *Cholera Sheds*.—These are absolutely unsuitable for their purpose. If the Council cannot afford a "pucka" or semi-permanent building, thatched sheds should be erected.

EGMORE,
24th March 1899.

(Signed)

W. G. KING, Lieut.-Col., I.M.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

EXTRACT from the minutes of proceedings of the Municipal Council, Tirupati, passed at its general meeting held on Wednesday, the 7th May 1899.

5. Read Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes on the Tirupati town together with the Chairman's comment thereon.

Resolution.—Draft reply is approved.

ORDER—No. 980 M., dated 12th July 1899.

Recorded with the following remarks:—

(1) The Sanitary Commissioner's suggestion in paragraph 2 of his notes that irrigation and dry cultivation should be prohibited in the neighbourhood of the water-supply works will be referred to the Collector of North Arcot for remarks and for report as to what its adoption is likely to cost. His proposals regarding the prohibition of burials within certain distance of these works should receive the early attention of the Municipal Council.

(2) The attention of the Public Works Department is drawn to the remarks and suggestions at the end of paragraph 2 and in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the inspection notes.

(3) The steps which the Municipal Council proposes to take for the improvement of the Penta drain should be reported to Government.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Tirupati.

" Collector of North Arcot.

" Sanitary Commissioner.

" Engineer.

" Board.

" Public Works Department.

Editors' Table.