

1. 10-11-1910
2. Date of repair 10-11-10
3. Initials of Referencer.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 475	Press Mis.
Dated 17-4-19	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

[Handwritten signature]

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
17th April 1868.

No. 105. Read the following letter from the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 4th March 1868, No. 93.

In submitting the enclosed extract from the Annual Medical Report of the Station of Ootacamund for the year 1867, by Surgeon Donaldson, the Senior Medical Officer there, I would beg to bring most prominently to the notice of Government the state of things described by him.

2. In Dr. Furnell's Report also the neglect of ordinary sanitary precautions is specially noticed; and he concludes by saying that, in consequence, "the reputation of Ootacamund as a sanitarium is certainly on the wane."

3. I earnestly hope that, in the interests of the public service, some measures may be adopted to put our best sanitarium in a more satisfactory state; otherwise the result must inevitably be, that it will become dangerous for invalids to resort to it.

Extract from Annual Medical Report of the Station of Ootacamund for the year 1867, by Surgeon JAMES DONALDSON, M. D., Senior Medical Officer, Neilgherries.

"I am sorry to be able to give so poor an account of the conservancy of the station, and of its state generally. I brought this to notice in my last year's report. As the shortest way of describing it generally, I would here subjoin an extract from that report, and am sorry indeed that it is scarcely possible in any way to modify what is there stated.

"As regards the conservancy of the Cantonment, and the sanitary condition of the various bazaars and villages, things are as bad as they well could be; there is indeed some appearance of drainage in the main bazaar, but it is conveyed simply into the upper portion of the lake close adjacent, the shore of which is thus converted (during wet weather) into a great open cess-pool. In the other bazaars and villages there is no attempt at drainage, and nuisances are committed in all directions in and round each; no system of conservancy for the general Cantonment seems to have been carried out here; no rubbish is carted away; every compound serves as a collection of refuse and debris of every description, and the manure connected with each house is only taken away at all, because the potatoe field owners are glad to get it at the planting seasons, and take it from the compounds to spread on the intervening and circumjacent fields. The roads and lanes and bye-ways of the Cantonment are almost, without exception, in a disgraceful state of disrepair; it is impossible even on the best and most frequented thoroughfares to drive a carriage of the most easy description, without constant jolting and discomfort, from the wide ruts and numberless loose stones everywhere met with, but many of the less frequented roads leading to important parts of the Cantonment, containing many houses and residents, are, in places, all but impassable, and in many parts dangerous to passers by, whether on horseback or on foot."

2. "The public roads are indeed somewhat improved in some places, though still exceedingly bad, and repaired, where repaired at all, without any regard to the commonest laws of road-making; but there is no improvement observable in regard to the conservancy of the station, and in many places the collections of filth and decaying matters, with the consequent noisome effluvia, are worse, more prominent and unsavoury than at date of last report. I can only make one exception to the above, viz., the growth on the Jail Hill referred to last year, and about which I had some correspondence with the Municipal Commissioners, copy of which was sent to the Deputy Inspector General, Southern Division: this growth remained for some months, but was at length partly cleared, and thereby the nuisance was abated; but the clearance was only partial, and if not looked after, the place will soon be as bad as before, owing to the very rapid growth of the plant (an Australian acacia) and to its being only cut down, not uprooted.

3. "Of the places which more especially require notice and careful cleansing, I would specify the borders of the public highway running from "Harrow on the Hill" to the Church; the jungle

on the south side of the road being the worst, but that on the north side, within the compound of "Kempstow" being also very bad. These jungles on the way side are used by every passer by, who is so inclined, and the smell arising at times, especially after a shower of rain, is very bad. Another foul place, used by the public and servants of adjacent houses to a great extent, is the dense jungle at the entrance to "Ottley Hall." Another is the jungly border of a lane leading to Lovedale. Another and particularly offensive place is the lower part of the Jail Hill, on that side next and close to that part of the bazaar where butchers congregate. All manner of offal is here thrown out and left to decay, or to be eaten by dogs, kites, crows, and even by cows. It is a nauseous place to pass at any time, and, being on the borders of the public road from the Willow bund to the Jails, attracts the attention, and causes disgust to all strangers who happen to pass that way. Another disgraceful place is just below this on the edge of the public road, leading from the Willow bund to "Harrow Lodge;" the drainage and impurities of a number of houses are allowed to run and be washed down on to the public road, the drain alongside, which is thus transformed into a filthy cess-pool, which often overflows and runs across the road; for weeks it was thus a cess-pool on and across the public thoroughfare; and even in this drier weather the deep site of the nauseous pool remains, and the filth still exists alongside. Another and a very unnecessary, because lately established nuisance, is a large potatoe field of about seven acres, which borders the Government highway for about 200 yards, from the east end of Glynn Creek to the Willow bund; large quantities of foully smelling manure are brought to, and scattered on this new field, (not "ploughed" in or "covered" over) and there left to decay and contaminate the otherwise pure air of this neighbourhood. The bad odours arising from this field near the bund are very disgusting to the passer by it may be difficult to interfere with vested interests, and to shut up fields which have been cultivated thus for years, but this field was only opened last year, after the Municipal Commission was established, without the leave of that body I understand, and there would seem no reason why the natural beauty of the station should be destroyed and the air corrupted by a vile potatoe field being established without authority in the very heart and centre of Ootacamund.

4. "There are many other unclean spots which I shall be happy to point out, as well as those above mentioned, to the Sanitary Commissioner, if he should favor this station with an official visit. It will be seen from the above that one chief cause of the noisome state of many parts of this otherwise delightful sanitarium is, that excessive amount of undergrowth, which has been allowed to spring up and increase from year to year: part of this is, no doubt, in public places and under the orders of the Municipality; but the very much larger proportion of it is within the compounds of private houses; the remedy, therefore, seems easy; the proprietors of these lands get large rents for their houses, and can quite well afford to keep them clear of jungly undergrowth and other like nuisance; they could, I conceive, be ordered at once to clear their compounds of all jungle, furze, &c., and to keep their hedges down to a reasonable height above the adjoining roads; it could also, I presume, be insisted on, in a rather crowded station like this, that owners of houses should provide small privies for the servants of each house; and if their masters would order the dry earth system to be carried out in these, and see to its being done, the cleansing of a large part of Ootacamund would quickly and without expense to Government be effected; for a very fertile source of putrid emanations would thus be speedily removed, and a prospect of good conservancy for the station be more easy as well as more hopeful.

5. "This morning (23rd January) I took an hour to inspect the bazaar, market, public privies, the border of the stream skirting the lower end of the chief bazaar, &c.; bad as I knew it to be, I was astonished at the magnitude of the evil, and at its growth. I have acted as Sanitary Officer in many stations and Military Cantonments up-country, and have seen many vile places, but not even in the most neglected villages of the Deccan, where no Inspecting Officer had ever set his foot, did I ever see such an utter disregard of all the laws of decency and cleanliness as is here now to be seen by any one who has courage to investigate the extent of the evil. One can only wonder that the few bad cases of fever (three proved fatal), lately observed in the lower parts of the bazaar, have not been multiplied an hundred-fold, and that cholera has not long ago broken out.

6. "The open drains of the bazaar carry down the filth and refuse of the numerous huts until the level near the lake is reached, and there open cess-pools are farmed in, and on, and across the street, reeking with bad odours; there is no attempt at even emptying these cess-pools into the unhappy lake adjacent. The market this morning, Thursday, (Tuesday is market day,) was in a most filthy state; the ground set apart for the exhibition of fruits and vegetables being covered, "littered," with rubbish, straw, dung, &c., as if a whole herd of cattle had been quartered there for a week.

7. "The public privies, two for men and one for women, all very close together near the market, and within 80 yards of the Government high road round the lake, are simply a disgrace to the station. They are open pits surrounded by matting, crossed with planks or beams, (on which the *habitué* and *habituées* also are supposed to perch,) unsheltered in any way from sun or rain, and filled with such a seething foul mass that if any unfortunate, choked by the mephitic odours so copiously evolved, should faint and fall in through a broken plank, he would certainly be choked, if not drowned. There is no dry earth system, no means to quench or weaken the escaping gases; and the consequence is, that the large majority of Natives, who might otherwise resort to these places, are so deterred by the overpowering odours that, little delicate as are generally their olfactories to strong smells, they prefer retiring to the first convenient spot, in rear of the lower bazar houses, or even to the more distant jungles. The natural result of this objection to use the public privies is, the conversion of the whole of the right bank of the little river, which here skirts the bazaar for about 400 yards, and feeds the upper lake into one grand *place d'aisance* for the bazaar population. To perform this walk with undefiled steps is more than difficult, and the odours that arise on all sides are inconceivably noisome. To add further to the unsavoury and unsanitary aspect of this part of the station, which should be a pleasant promenade alongside stream and lake; it is here that the scourings, and rubbish of the streets are shot; this refuse matter being brought in *barrows* and deposited in one of the dozen or so of heaps which fringe the margin of the lake on this its north side: no attempt is made to utilize, cover up, or burn all this decomposing matter; there it is thrown, and there it remains till washed into the lake by rains, or scattered to the winds in due course. The crows, bazaar dogs of the most revolting mangy appearance, stray cows, and domestic fowls are here, as elsewhere, the scavengers in this free station. One public privy is situated on the side of the public road leading to Candal, (one also at Ootoocherry, and one at Candal). These are in much the same state as those above described, being fashioned on the same model; these are the only other public privies in the station which I have been able to discover, except those above mentioned; one crying want should here be noted in connection with this subject of neglected conservancy, there is no public privy for males or females attached to, or in any way connected with, the Police lines. These lines are of considerable extent, and comprise four ranges of building accommodating forty families. There being no private closets, and no place of public resort, the inmates of these lines resort to the back part of their dwellings, to holes and corners near at hand, and to every tree and bush which afford any appearance of shelter, and the state of the surrounding neighbourhood may be imagined; it need not surely be described."

(True Extract).

(Signed) W. MACKENZIE, M. D.,
Inspr. Genl., Indian Medl. Dept.

No. 106. MINUTE by the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, dated 2nd April 1868.

I would refer this communication to the Sanitary Commissioner and to the Municipal Commissioners of Ootacamund, and would direct the former Officer to proceed to Ootacamund without delay, place himself in communication with the Municipal Commissioners and the Executive Engineer, and suggest to them the practical measures which should be immediately adopted, in anticipation of the more extensive

schemes now contemplated for improving the conservancy of Ootacamund, and report the result of his suggestions for the information of the Government. The correspondence put up regarding the receipts and expenditure of the Municipality is not complete, but taking the estimate entered in Proceedings of the 27th August 1867, I find that the receipts, including market tolls, were estimated at Rupees 19,435 for 1867-68. If to this be added Rupees 6478, as the Government contribution of 25 per cent. of the entire sum to be raised and expended, the income would be in round numbers Rupees 25,900, of which Rupees 7400 were to be expended on the Police, leaving Rupees 18,500 for conservancy and repair of roads. I cannot but think that, if this sum had been properly utilized, the state of things described by Dr. Donaldson would hardly have existed. The Magistrate, who is President of the Municipality, should be directed to look into the receipts and expenditure of the Municipality from the time of its formation, and to furnish a full report on its working. We shall then be able to judge whether any special grants for the purposes adverted at the close of the Chief Secretary's Memorandum are really required. Such grants ought to be avoided if possible, as constituting inconvenient precedents with reference to other Municipalities.

2. The Magistrate should be asked to send his report on the receipts, expenditure, and working of the Municipality to the Sanitary Commissioner, for transmission to Government with his report.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT.

I concur.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS.

No. 107. MINUTE by His Excellency the PRESIDENT, dated 2nd April 1868.

I entirely concur in the views expressed by Mr. Arbuthnot. I think, before sanctioning any special grant, we ought to know exactly what has been done, and what has wilfully or carelessly been neglected by the Municipality. If it be necessary hereafter to grant a special sum for the sanitation of the *interior of the Town*, such a grant must be accompanied by a vigorous exertion and self-sacrifice on the part of the people of the town, and if they will not tax themselves, and apply their taxation properly, I think that Government should exercise that power of intervention in raising and appropriating the Municipal taxation, which they possess under the Act, with a view to the general importance of the place to the European community of India.

2. I have not, as yet, been prepared to go beyond the reclamation of the Lake, the great outfall Sewer, and a participation in the cost of bringing in the water from Snowdon. I think that the internal drainage and sanitation of the town should be done by the Municipality.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 108.

ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1868, No. 475.

In the report which accompanies the letter of the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, the Senior Medical Officer of Ootacamund describes, in language which the Inspector General does not consider exaggerated, the unsatis-

factory sanitary condition of that station. Many of the evils described have arisen from the neglect to enforce the provisions of the Towns' Improvement Act, which give ample power to the Municipal Commissioners to abate nuisances, to enforce cleanliness in the markets and places where offensive trades are carried on, and to clear away noxious vegetation.

2. The Governor in Council directs that the papers above recorded be communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner, and to the President of the Ootacamund Municipal Commission.

3. Dr. Ranking will lose no time in proceeding to Ootacamund and in placing himself in communication with the Municipal Commissioners and with the Executive Engineer in charge of the station, and he will suggest to them the practical measures which should be immediately adopted in anticipation of the more extensive schemes now contemplated for improving the conservancy of the Town of Ootacamund.

4. It is observed from the Municipal estimates for 1867-68 that a sum of Rupees 18,500 (exclusive of the amount required for Police) was available for purposes of conservancy and for the repair of the roads. The proper application of these funds should, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, have rendered impossible at Ootacamund, the condition described by Dr. Donaldson.

5. The Magistrate, who is ex-officio President of the Municipal Commission, is directed to furnish a special and detailed report on the receipts and expenditure of the Municipality of Ootacamund from the time of its formation up to the present date, with such remarks as may enable Government to judge how far the Municipal Commissioners have taken advantage of the means at their command. This report will be sent to the Sanitary Commissioner for submission to Government, with Dr. Ranking's report on the measures which he may, after consultation with the Municipal Commissioners and the Executive Engineer, recommend to Government for immediate adoption.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

2

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
17th April 1868.

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3. I earnestly hope that, in the interests of the public service, some measures may be adopted to put our best sanitarium in a more satisfactory state; otherwise the result must inevitably be, that it will become dangerous for invalids to resort to it.

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on the south side of the road being the worst, but that on the north side, within the compound of "Kempstow" being also very bad. These jungles on the way side are used by every passer by, who is so inclined, and the smell arising at times, especially after a shower of rain, is very bad. Another foul place, used by the public and servants of adjacent houses to a great extent, is the dense jungle at the entrance to "Ottley Hall." Another is the jungly border of a lane leading to Lovedale. Another and particularly offensive place is the lower part of the Jail Hill, on that side next and close to that part of the bazaar where butchers congregate. All manner of offal is here thrown out and left to decay, or to be eaten by dogs, kites, crows, and even by cows. It is a nauseous place to pass at any time, and, being on the borders of the public road from the Willow bund to the Jails, attracts the attention, and causes disgust to all strangers who happen to pass that way. Another disgraceful place is just below this on the edge of the public road, leading from the Willow bund to "Harrow Lodge;" the drainage and impurities of a number of houses are allowed to run and be washed down on to the public road, the drain alongside, which is thus transformed into a filthy cess-pool, which often overflows and runs across the road; for weeks it was thus a cess-pool on and across the public thoroughfare; and even in this drier weather the deep site of the nauseous pool remains, and the filth still exists alongside. Another and a very unnecessary, because lately established nuisance, is a large potatoe field of about seven acres, which borders the Government highway for about 200 yards, from the east end of Glynn Creek to the Willow bund; large quantities of foully smelling manure are brought to, and scattered on this new field, (not "ploughed" in or "covered" over) and there left to decay and contaminate the otherwise pure air of this neighbourhood. The bad odours arising from this field near the bund are very disgusting to the passer by it may be difficult to interfere with vested interests, and to shut up fields which have been cultivated thus for years, but this field was only opened last year, after the Municipal Commission was established, without the leave of that body I understand, and there would seem no reason why the natural beauty of the station should be destroyed and the air corrupted by a vile potatoe field being established without authority in the very heart and centre of Ootacamund.

4. "There are many other unclean spots which I shall be happy to point out, as well as those above mentioned, to the Sanitary Commissioner, if he should favor this station with an official visit. It will be seen from the above that one chief cause of the noisome state of many parts of this otherwise delightful sanitarium is, that excessive amount of undergrowth, which has been allowed to spring up and increase from year to year: part of this is no doubt, in public places and under the orders of the Municipality; but the very much larger proportion of it is within the compounds of private houses; the remedy, therefore, seems easy; the proprietors of these lands get large rents for their houses, and can quite well afford to keep them clear of jungly undergrowth and other like nuisance; they could, I conceive, be ordered at once to clear their compounds of all jungle, furze, &c., and to keep their hedges down to a reasonable height above the adjoining roads; it could also, I presume, be insisted on, in a rather crowded station like this, that owners of houses should provide small privies for the servants of each house; and if their masters would order the dry earth system to be carried out in these, and see to its being done, the cleansing of a large part of Ootacamund would quickly and without expense to Government be effected; for a very fertile source of putrid emanations would thus be speedily removed, and a prospect of good conservancy for the station be more easy as well as more hopeful.

5. "This morning (23rd January) I took an hour to inspect the bazaar, market, public privies, the border of the stream skirting the lower end of the chief bazaar, &c.; bad as I know it to be, I was astonished at the magnitude of the evil, and at its growth. I have acted as Sanitary Officer in many stations and Military Cantonments up-country, and have seen many vile places, but not even in the most neglected villages of the Deccan, where no Inspecting Officer had ever set his foot, did I ever see such an utter disregard of all the laws of decency and cleanliness as is here now to be seen by any one who has courage to investigate the extent of the evil. One can only wonder that the few bad cases of fever (three proved fatal), lately observed in the lower parts of the bazaar, have not been multiplied an hundred fold, and that cholera has not long ago broken out.

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(True Extract).

(Signed) W. MACKENZIE, M. D.,
Inspr. Genl., Indian Medl. Dept.

No. 118.

ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1868, No. 475.

In the report which accompanies the letter of the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, the Senior Medical Officer of Ootacamund describes, in language which the Inspector General does not consider exaggerated, the unsatisfactory sanitary condition of that station. Many of the evils described have arisen from the neglect to enforce the provisions of the Towns' Improvement Act, which give ample power to the Municipal Commissioners to abate nuisances, to enforce

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17th April 1868.

cleanliness in the markets and places where offensive trades are carried on, and to clear away noxious vegetation.

2. The Governor in Council directs that the papers above recorded be communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner, and to the President of the Ootacamund Municipal Commission.

3. Dr. Ranking will lose no time in proceeding to Ootacamund and in placing himself in communication with the Municipal Commissioners and with the Executive Engineer in charge of the station, and he will suggest to them the practical measures which should be immediately adopted in anticipation of the more extensive schemes now contemplated for improving the conservancy of the Town of Ootacamund.

4. It is observed from the Municipal estimates for 1867-68 that a sum of Rupees 18,500 (exclusive of the amount required for Police) was available for purposes of conservancy and for the repair of the roads. The proper application of these funds should, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, have rendered impossible at Ootacamund, the condition described by Dr. Donaldson.

5. The Magistrate, who is ex-officio President of the Municipal Commission, is directed to furnish a special and detailed report on the receipts and expenditure of the Municipality of Ootacamund from the time of its formation up to the present date, with such remarks as may enable Government to judge how far the Municipal Commissioners have taken advantage of the means at their command. This report will be sent to the Sanitary Commissioner for submission to Government, with Dr. Ranking's report on the measures which he may, after consultation with the Municipal Commissioners and the Executive Engineer, recommend to Government for immediate adoption.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, Medical Department.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.
„ President of the Ooty Municipal Commission.
„ Public Works Department.

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Memorandum for orders.

I would refer this communication
to the Sanitary Commissioner and to the Executive Engineer
of Ootacamund and would direct the former officer
to forward a return of the funds at his disposal
in the Municipal Commission and the Executive Engineer
and suggest to them the practical measures which should be
immediately adopted in anticipation of the more extensive schemes
now contemplated for improving the conservancy of the Town of Ootacamund.

The Inspector General Medical Department forwards the information of the condition of the town of Ootacamund as regards drainage and conservancy, and it is suggested that the remedial measures should be applied. The drainage should be improved.

scheme proposed by Col
Tulloch, and approved
by the Govt, and sanctioned
by the Govt of India will
do much towards removing
many of the evils to which
Dr. Donaldson draws
attention - but it is of
great importance that
no further time should
be lost in commencing
this work.

The remaining evils ^{pertain} ~~relate~~
to the conservancy of
the station, and would

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has not been properly
adopted the state of things
described by Dr. Donaldson
could hardly have existed
he suggests that the
of the Municipality should
be directed to look into
the receipts & expenditure
of the Municipality from
the time of its formation
and to furnish a full report
on its working - he should
then be able to judge
whether any special funds
for the purposes intended

Our Magnitude should be asked
to send his ~~letter~~ report on the
strength, improvement & working
of the University & the existing
Commissions for Commissions
& Govt. with his report.

London

non

I entirely concur in the views expressed
by Mr. Ackworth. I think before
sanctioning any special grant we
ought to know exactly what has been
done & what has not & what has been
done & what has not been done
by the Municipality.
If it be necessary hereafter to grant
a special sum for the Sanitation
of the Interior of the Town
a grant must be accompanied
by a vigorous execution & self-sacrifice
on the part of the People of the Town
and if they will not tax themselves
and apply their taxation properly
I think ~~that you should exercise the power of~~
~~refusing to grant such a sum~~
~~taxation which they refuse to pay~~
~~these with a~~
view to the general importance of the

Place to the European Community
of India.

I have not as yet been prepared to
go beyond the reclamation of the Lake,
the ^{great} outfall sewer, ^{and a} participation
in the cost of burying in the water
for London. ~~the cost of the sewer~~
~~in the cost of the sewer~~

I think that the internal drainage
and sanitation of the town should be
done by the Municipality.

Napier

Sec^{ns} of Act X. 1864

Removal of Night Soil. Sec 82

Allowing sewage to flow
on street Sec. 86

Filthy houses & land Sec 89

Common nuisances Sec. 90

Stagnant pools Sec - 103

Slaughter Houses Sec. 108

Power to burn hedges Sec. 131
& trees

Power to remove noxious
vegetation & drains - Sec 132.

Inspection of drains
privies & apports - 98.

in a great measure cease
if the Municipality were
energetically directed and
did their duty. The sec^{ns}
quoted marginally of
Act X of 1864. (The Towns
Improvement Act) if
enforced, give all the
legal power required.
But when it is remembered
that Oolacannund was
handed over to the
New Municipality with
the accumulated neglect
of many years, it seems
worthy of consideration

April 1965

whether it would not be
just and politic to make
a special grant to
aid the Municipal for 1963-5
Commissioners in putting to order the place in a thoroughly
satisfactory condition. a
sum of 15 or 20,000 Rs.
to enable them to build
a sufficient number of
public latrines, a small
well paved slaughter house
and meat bazaar, & to clear away low
single - would be money
well laid out. All

estimated at Rs 19635
of Rs 48708. of Rs 6478
an estimate
of 250 per cent of an
estimated sum of Rs
a required
in income would be
in round numbers
Rs 28900 of which
Rs 7600 was
as this
having Rs 18500 for
insurance & against
of work. - I cannot

C. J. D. Singh
11.4.65

Public Bldg Dept

No. 93

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
Fort Saint George, 4th March 1868.

From

The Inspector General, Indian Medical Department,

Fort Saint George,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government, Public Dept.

Fort St. George.

SIR,

In submitting the enclosed Extract from the Annual Medical Report of the Station of Colacumund for the year 1867, by Surgeon (Conradson), the Senior Medical Officer there, I would beg to bring most prominently to the notice of Government the state of things described by him.

2. In Dr. Turnell's Report also, the neglect of ordinary sanitary precautions is specially noticed, and he concludes by saying that, in consequence, "the reputation of Colacumund as a Sanitarium is certainly on the wane."

3. I earnestly hope that, in the interests of the public service, some measures may be adopted to put our best Sanitarium in a more satisfactory state, otherwise the result must inevitably be, that it will become dangerous for invalids to resort to it.

I have the honor to be

Yours faithfully,
G. MacLeod

Minute by the Hon. Secy
S. A. Subbitt
17/3/68. No 254

Minute by the Right Hon.
the President
17/3/68. No 255

Regarding the register
Sanitarium of Colacumund

Extract from Annual Medical Report of the
Station of Actoncum for the year 1867
by Surgeon James Donaldson. M.D. Senior
Medical Officer & Vestibular.

"I am sorry to be able to give so
poor an account of the conservancy of the
station, and of its state generally. I brought
this to notice in my last year's report: as
the shortest way of describing it generally.
I would here subjoin an extract from
that report, and am sorry indeed that
it is scarcely possible in any way to
modify what is there stated.

"As regards the conservancy of the Can-
"nament, and the sanitary condition of,
"the various bazaar and villages things
"are as bad as they well could be - there
"is indeed some appearance of drainage
"in the main bazaar, but it is conveyed
"simply into the upper portion of the lake
"close adjacent, the shore of which is thus
"converted (during wet weather) into a great
"spaw cop pool. In the other bazaar and
"villages there is no attempt at drainage,
"and nuisances are committed in all
"directions in and round each - no system
"of conservancy for the general cantonment
"seems to have been carried out here - no
"rubbish is carted away - every compound

James

380 West
115

1868. West

Don.

The Surgeon General
Wm. M. Donaldson
Chief of Camp

The Medical Officer
James Donaldson

Don. J. M. Donaldson

Don. J. M. Donaldson

Don. J. M. Donaldson

Annual Report of the
Station of Actoncum
on the conservancy
of the station
and the state of the
cantonment.

of the station

" serves as a collection of refuse and debris
" of every description, and the manner
" connected with each house is only taken
" away at all, because the potato field.
" owners are glad to get that the planting
" seasons, and take it from the compounds
" to spread in the intervening and circum-
" jacent fields. The roads and lanes and
" bye ways of the cantonment are almost
" without exception in a disgraceful state
" of disrepair. it is impossible even on the
" best and most frequented thoroughfares
" to drive a carriage, of the most easy de-
" scription, without constant jolting and
" discomfort, from the wide ruts and
" numberless loose stones everywhere met
" with, but many of the best frequented
" roads, leading to important parts
" of the cantonment, containing many
" houses and residents, are, in places, all
" but impassible, and in many parts
" dangerous to passers by, whether on horseback,
" or on foot.

The public roads are indeed
somewhat improved in some places,
though still exceedingly bad, and
repaired, where repaired at all, without
any regard to the commonest laws
of roadmaking, but there is no im-
provement observable in regard to the
conservancy of the station, and in many
places the collections of filth and decaying
matters

matters, with the consequent nuisance of
- stinias, are worse, more prominent
and unsavoury than at date of last
report. I can only make one exception
to the above, vizt, the growth on the
Jail Hill. referred to, last year, and
about which I had some correspondence
with the Municipal Commissioners, copy
of which was sent to the Deputy In-
- spector General Southern Division: this
growth remained for some months,
but was at length partly cleared, and
thereby the nuisance was abated; but
the clearance was only partial, and
if not looked after, the place will soon
be as bad as before, owing to the very
rapid growth of the plant (an austra-
- lian acacia) and to its being only cut
down, not uprooted.

Of the places which more especially
require notice and careful cleansing,
I would specify the borders of the
public highway running from Harrow
on the Hill to the Church - the jungle
on the south side of the road being the
worst, but that on the North side, with-
in the compound of 'Trumpet' being
also very bad. These jungles on the way
sides are used by every passer by, who
is so inclined, and the smell arising
at times, especially after a shower or
rain, is very bad. Another good place,
used by the public, and servants of

adjunct

adjacent houses, to a great extent, is the
dense jungle at the entrance to 'Otter
Hall'. Another is the grossly bad
of a lane leading to 'Tordale'. Another
and particularly offensive place is the
lower part of the Jail Hill, on that
side next and close to that part of
the bazaar where butchers congregate.
All manner of offal is here thrown
out and left to decay, or to be eaten
by dogs, kites, crows and even by
cows. It is a nauseous place to pass
at any time, and, being on the borders
of the public road from the Willow
bund to the jails, attracts the attention,
and causes disgust to all strangers
who happen to pass that way. Another
disgraceful place is just below this
on the edge of the public road, leading
from the Willow bund to 'Harrison
Lodge'; the drainage and impurities
of a number of houses are allowed
to run and be washed down on to the
public road, the drain alongside, which
is thus transformed into a filthy cesspool,
which often overflows and runs across
the road. For weeks it was thus a cesspool
or, and across the public thoroughfare,
and even in this drier weather the
deep silt of the nauseous pool remains,
and the filth still exists alongside. Another
and a very unnecessary, because lately
established

established nuisance, is a large potatoe
field of about 7 acres, which borders the
Government highway for about 200 yards,
from the east end of Glynn's Creek to the
Willow Bund. Large quantities of foully
smelling manure are brought to, and
scattered on this new field, (not ploughed
in, or 'covered over') and there left
to decay and contaminate the otherwise
pure air of this neighbourhood. The
bad odours arising from this field,
near the Bund are very disgusting
to the passer by. It may be difficult
to interfere with vested interests, and
to shut up fields which have been
cultivated thus for years, but this
field was only opened last year, after
the Municipal Commission was established,
without the leave of that body, I under-
stand, and there would seem no reason
why the natural beauty of the station
should be destroyed and the air cor-
rupted by a vile potatoe field being
established without authority, in the
very heart and centre of Octacumund.

There are many other unclean spots
which I shall be happy to point out, as
well as those above mentioned, to the
Sanitary Commissioner, if he should
favour this station with an official visit.
It will be seen from the above, that one
chief cause of the unclean state of many
parts of this otherwise splendid Sanitarium
is, that excessive amount of overgrowth,
which

which has been allowed to spring up and increase from year to year; part of this is, no doubt, in public places and under the orders of the Municipality; but the very much larger proportion of it is within the 'compounds' of private houses. The remedy therefore seems easy; the proprietors of these lands get large rents for their houses, and can quite well afford to keep them clear of jungle, undergrowth and other like nuisance; they would, I conceive, be ordered at once to clear their compounds of all jungle, furze, &c., and to keep their hedges down to a reasonable height above the adjoining roads. It could also, I presume, be insisted on, in a rather crowded station like this, that owners of houses should provide small privies for the servants of each house; and if system to be carried out in these, and see to its being done, the cleansing of a large part of Cotacambund would quickly be effected; for a very fertile source of putrid excretions would thus be speedily removed, and a prospect of good conservatism for the station be more easy as well as more hopeful.

This morning (23rd) I took an hour to inspect the 'bazaar', 'market' 'public privies', the border of the stream skirting

skirting the lower end of the Chief bazaar, &c. - Bad as I knew it to be, I was astonished at the magnitude of the evil, and at its growth. I have acted as Sanitary Officer in many stations and Military Cantonments 'up country', and have seen many vile places, but not even in the most neglected villages of the Deccan, where no inspecting Officer had ever set his foot; did I ever see such an utter disregard of all the laws of decency and cleanliness as is here now to be seen by any one who has courage to investigate the extent of the evil. One can only wonder that the four bad cases of fever (3 proved fatal) lately observed in the lower parts of the bazaar have not been multiplied an hundred fold, and that Cholera has not long ago broken out.

The open drains of the bazaar carry down the filth and refuse of the numerous shops until the level near the lake is reached, and there open cess pools are formed in, and on, and across the street, reeking with bad odours. There is no attempt at ever supplying these cess pools into the unhappy lake adjacent. The market this morning, Thursday, (Tuesday is market day) was in a most filthy state; the ground set apart for the exhibition of fruits and vegetables being covered, 'littered', with rubbish, straw,

July

Aug.

ding, &c., as if a whole herd of cattle
had been quartered there for a week.

The public privies, two for men
and one for women, all very close
together, near the market, and within
80 yards of the Government high road
round the lake, are simply a disgrace
to the station. They are open pits surrounded
by matting, crossed with planks or beams
(on which the "habitués" and "habituées"
also are supposed to go), unsheltered
in any way from sun or rain, and
filled with such a stinking foul mass
that if any unfortunate, choked by
the mephitic odours, so copiously evolved,
should faint and fall in, ~~through~~ before
plank, he would certainly be choked,
if not drowned. There is no dry earth
system, no means to quench or vacation
the escaping gases, and the consequence
is, that the large majority of natives,
who might otherwise resort to these
places, are so deterred by the overpowering
odours that, little delicate as are generally
their objections to strong smells, they
prefer retiring to the first convenient
spot, in rear of the lower bazaar houses,
or even to the more distant jungles.
The natural result of this objection to
use the public privies, is, the conversion
of the whole of the right bank of the
little river, which here skirts the bazaar
for

10. to
for about 400 yards and just the upper
bank, into one grand "place d'aisance" for
the bazaar population. To perform this work
with undisturbed steps is more than difficult,
and the odours that arise on all sides are
insupportably noisome. To add further to
the massiveness and unsanitary aspect of this
part of the station, which should be a
pleasant promenade alongside stream and
city, it is too that the scourgings, and
public of the streets, are 'short' this refuse
matter being brought in barrows and de-
posited in one of the dozen or so of heaps
which fringe the margin of the lake on this
side. Earth sides no attempt is made to
utilize, cover up, or burn all this decom-
posing matter - then it is thrown, and
there it remains till washed into the
lake by rains, or scattered to the winds
in due course. The crowd, bazaar dogs, etc.,
most revolting unhygienic appearance, stray
cows, and domestic fowls are here, as
elsewhere, the scavengers in this free station.
One public privy is situated on the
side of the public road leading to (Hadda)
(one also at (Vatoberry) and one at (Hadda).)
These are in much the same state as those
above described, being fashioned on the
same model - these are the only other
public privies in the station which I have
been able to discover except those above
mentioned; every other spot which has
been noted in connection with this subject
of neglected sewage, there is a public
privy.

privy for males or females attached to,
or in any way connected with the "Police
Lines"! These lines are of considerable
extent, and comprise a range of building
accommodating 40 families. There being
no private closets and no place of public
resort the inmates of these lines resort
to the back part of their dwellings, to holes
and corners near at hand, and to every
tree and bush which afford any appearance
of shelter, and the state of the surrounding
neighbourhood may be imagined; it
need not surely be described?

(True Extract)

H. Maclean

Inspector General,
And Mr. G. J. J. J.

147 Cable
Read letter from Hospital 4 March
Minute by the Hon. Sec. of War 20th
do by the President 4 Apr

17 April 1868 No 275

In the report which accom-
panies the letter of the
Inspector General Indian
Medical department, the
senior Medical Officer of
Fort Vancouver, describes, in
language which the Ins-
pector General does not
consider exaggerated,
the unsatisfactory sanitary
condition of that station.
Many of the evils, ~~described~~
have arisen from the
neglect to enforce the
provisions of the Towns
Improvement Act, which
as ~~supposed~~ give ample
power to the Municipal

N.
G. H.
W. M.

Sub No 6000
No 898

W. M. H. B.

of the Governor in Council

should as appears to
the Governor in Council N.

have rendered impossible at Ootacamund,

the condition described

by D. Donaldson.

The Magistrate, who

is ex officio President

of the Municipal com.

mission is directed to

furnish a special ^{adetailed} report

on the receipts and expenditure

of the Municipality of

Ootacamund from the

beginning of its formation

up to the present date,

with such remarks upon

the working of Act X of

1865, ~~as~~ as may

enable the Govt. to form

an opinion as to the ~~requirement~~ the necessity

of amendment of the Act

which may be necessary.)

This report will be

sent to the Sanitary

etc. may enable

Government to judge

how far the Municipal

Commissioners have

taken advantage of

their command

Commissioners for submission

to Govt, with D. Rankin's

report on the measure

which he may, after

consultation with the

Municipal Comr.

and the Executive

Engineer, ~~and also~~

recommend to Govt

for immediate adoption

RR

To the Sanitary Department

Sanitary Comr.

President of the Ooty M. Comr.

O. M. Dept. etc.

Sept. 20/11

Publ: 1868 Depaull.

No 4/35.

Proceedings of Court

Sailed 17th April 1868.

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