

1. Number of Pages 12
2. Date of receipt 2-4-31
3. Index of Reference
M.R.O. 1-22-23-10-11-23

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1326	Press Mis.
Dated	20-10-1870.	

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Office of Sanitary Commission
Cochin 3rd October 1872.

From,

The Sanitary Commission
for Madras.

To,

The President
Municipal Commission
Trichinopoly.

Sir,

With reference to my recent inspection of the municipality of Trichinopoly, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to lay before the Town Commissioners, the following notes for their consideration.

General improvement

It is easy to see that considerable work of improvement has been going on. Military Cantonment, but in and around old Fort. Excellent roads abound in all parts of the station. The demolition of the old fort walls and filling up of the fort ditch, are works likely to enlarge the area for building, even if they do not directly contribute to the salubrity of the town. I observe that arrangements have already been made to plant belts of trees, around the site of the old fortification, and, considering that the town, if unprotected by walls or trees might suffer from malaria engendered in the valley of the river, the measure is most prudent in sanitary point of view.

Market

The convenience of the new market place appears to be much appreciated by the inhabitants. I have to suggest in reference to it, that the flooring of the butchers stalls and the drain in front thereof might be asphalted with advantage. The street

market require some attention from the sanitary inspectors. You will remember that some tanks filled with water salt appeared to us, at one spot, to be so far gone in putridity as to be unfit for consumption.

The question of water supply of this large town. Water supply. has been practically determined by the wisdom and foresight of the ancient rulers of this country, who improved, or constructed, the Myeridah channel, and who built the numerous reservoirs within the fortification, for the supply of the town. The water of the Myeridah channel, as shown by Dr. Pauling, is sufficiently pure for domestic use, and if care is taken in the conservation of the channel banks, and in the prevention of the fouling of the stream, no harm is likely to result from its use. There are many reservoirs within the Fort, owing to the amount of silt brought down by the channel, requiring to be occasionally pumped dry, and cleaned out. Upon an examination of the water in several of these reservoirs, I find that the proportion of putrefiable organic matter varies in good deal, and that in every case there is more noxious organic matter in the reservoirs than in the channel water. I infer from this fact, that the reservoirs have become charged with silt and impurities, and that to keep the water in them at all times wholesome they must periodically be emptied, and cleaned.

The proportion of organic matter in "Bundara" "Bantwal" "charwadya tank" and "Beera" &

"Beera" tank was higher than is usually found in good drinking waters, and more than double the amount actually present at the same time in the channel waters.

My attention has been directed, to the possibility of collecting or purifying water for the supply of the town from the rising grounds of red, lateritic soil, to the south of the Cantonment. Upon an examination of the grounds, and the fact that the ridge on which the "Esquimaux rock" stands, is the watershed of the collecting grounds, I think it is very doubtful whether the area, which naturally drains towards the town, is large enough for the collection of an adequate supply. This however is purely a speculative question, and one that I do not feel competent to speak of with authority. Doubtless if a dam was existed along the line, surface water might be collected, the soil being specially suited, as a collecting ground, of surface rainfall. But with due conservatism of the banks of the Myeridah channel, and attention to the condition of the water within the masonry tanks, a certain number of them being emptied and cleaned every season, I think the present water supply is adequate to the necessities of the municipality. The wells sunk in the higher ground of the Cantonment, and in the Central Park yield an excellent supply of water, comparatively free of organic impurity.

Sabines

This appeared to me to be a deficiency of latrine accommodations, within the fort, and also in the suburbs of Murrumbidgee, Pootoor, and

and Taranganagar. As regards latrines with
the Govt. I think the model adopted by the Municipality is the best suited for the circumstances
of the people. In this situation I would advise the
latrines being made so as to hold no more
than 12 persons at a time, and placed in con-
venient spots, so as to encourage the use of
them, especially by women and children, who
cannot go long distances from their houses. In
the suburbs of the town where land may be avail-
able, the trench system of latrines should be tried.

The registration and conservation of public
in private houses is a subject yet to be dealt with
by the Municipality.

Many difficulties will doubtless arise in
the introduction of a system of houses to house
servicing, but in densely crowded com-
munity, such a measure is absolutely called
for, and the almost annual appearance of
epidemics cholera in the station should warn
us that there is yet much to be done to improve
the public health. A custom exists in the
barbarians of Spichinopoly of leading the house
sewage in a masonry channel, across the street
leading into a cesspit in the street, which
pit is reached over, and is completely concealed
from view. The effect of this system is that the
gases of decomposition flow back into the house
enclosures. The system is in fact a modification
of the brick cesspits of Nagafatana which it seemed
one, had been introduced by the British.

Residents.

in bygone days. I do not think it can be good
for the public health, that the soils of the old towns
should be saturated continually with house filth,
and I venture to hope that the Commissioners may
see fit to interdict the construction of any new cess-
pits after this model, and that when surface drains
have been introduced, so as to secure a daily out-
fall of sewage, that the house drains may be cut
off from the existing cesspits.

Surface Drains. In the surface drainage of towns in India, as
great want is, coarse earthenware coated with a
common glaze, for pipes and sewers shaped in
channels. Such things cannot be locally obtained,
because the art of glazing pottery is unknown to
the artisans who work in clay. I propose to bring
to the notice of Government the urgent need that
exists for manufacturing
manufactures of useful articles of glazed pottery,
that municipalities in time may be able to procure
locally, whatever they may require in the way of
glazed piping, or troughs for street drainage.
Until glazed earthenware is procurable I am
afraid that all arrangements for the surface
drainage of streets must be of a makeshift
character.

Offensive Trades Some oil boiling places in Harriore and
and Tanneries in Taranganagar, seemed to me
to require the supervision of the sanitary inspector.
A tannery in the latter place was very offensive,
chiefly from the neglect of the owner or occupier.
In regard to all these offensive trades, it is a
matter of importance to insist upon every possible
step being taken to diminish their

offensive, and this can only be accomplished
by the constant inspection and supervision of
the sanitary inspectors.

The neighbourhood of the fair and pilgrims of
Beerungum to Spichinopoly town in India
has no question has an unfavorable influence on the
public health of the town. Some papers
the special inspection of Beerungum, Pampati and
that no place in India requires to be brought more
under municipal control, that it does. Cases
of disease abound throughout the town, and the
yearly encourses of pilgrims in November rarely
passes off, without an explosion of epidemic dis-
eases, which necessarily affects Spichinopoly also.

If no arrangements can be made for uniting
Beerungum with Spichinopoly in one municipal
jurisdiction, then I think it is not at all
necessary to the welfare of the latter town that
Beerungum should be constituted an inde-
pendent municipality.

I have the honor to be

Yours

Very obedt. servt.

Wm. Forrester 7001.

Sanitary Commissioner
Madras

Public Works Department
 from
 Sanitary Commission

The Sanitary Commission
 has the honor to forward for the
 information of Government copy of
 letter addressed to the President
 of the Municipality of Trichinopoly
 on the results of his sanitary inspection
 of the town.

Office of Sanitary Commission
 Cochin 3rd October 1870
 4/11

No 1741.

20 October 1870

The observations of the Sanitary Commission
 appear to be of great utility to the consideration
 of the sanitary condition of Trichinopoly.
 The letter will furnish a general idea of the
 sanitary condition of the town and the
 sanitary Commission will be enabled to
 furnish a more detailed report on the
 sanitary condition of Trichinopoly.

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W. H. ...

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Court of 1870 Madras
Public
The Pres. Munit. Comm.
Trichinopoly
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Decd Oct. 20.
Recd.
Encl.
G. O. 27 Oct. 1870, No. 1226.
Nos. 127, 128.

...orders on the report
of the Sanitary Commr, Madras,
the results of his recent
inspection of the Trichinopoly
Municipality