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3. Initials of Officer *[Signature]*
M.R.O. 1-39,000-18-10-27

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 746	Press Mis.
Dated 11-6	1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

[Faint handwritten text]

Read the following papers:—

No. 54. From Colonel C. A. DENISON, President of the Madras Municipal Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 9th May 1870, No. 253.

I have the honour to request that you will be pleased to move His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to sanction the transfer of the Mortuary Department from the Sanitary Commissioner to the Municipality.

2. Under Act IX. of 1867 the registration of births and deaths is a Municipal charge; but owing to the difficulty attending the introduction of the measure, and the want of a duly-qualified officer for supervising the Department, the Sanitary Commissioner was asked, in 1867, as a favour to take over the management of the Registrars. On the late Dr. Montgomery having accepted the work, the Government on my application were pleased, in Order No. 4975, of the 31st December 1867, to sanction specially the arrangement.

Resn. passed by Improvement Committee on the 8th Feb. 1870. That this Committee suggest the desirability of requesting the Sany. Commr. to transfer the supervision of the Officers of the Muni. Registr. Dept. to the Presdt., with a view to their being placed under the control of the Muni. Sany. Dept., and that the best thanks of the Commrs. be conveyed to Dr. Ranking for the attention he has hitherto given to the subject."

3. The Commissioners now, however, are of opinion that the supervision ought to rest with the Municipality, and have accordingly passed the resolution entered in the margin.

4. Dr. Cornish has expressed his willingness to give effect to the transfer, but states that he cannot do so without the orders of the Government.

No. 55. From Surgeon W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 18th May 1870, No. 532.

With reference to Memorandum, No. 114, dated 17th current, from the Under Secretary to Government, I have the honour to state that, under Sections 218 to 224 of the Madras Municipal Act of 1867, the whole responsibility of the registration of births and deaths in the city rests with the Municipal Commissioners. The establishment employed for the purpose is entirely maintained and paid by the Municipality.

2. The late Dr. Montgomery, when Secretary to the Sanitary Commissioner, voluntarily undertook the duty of supervising the tabulation of the births and deaths in Madras, a duty which had been taken up originally with the sanction of Government by the Secretary to the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department in 1855, and which, at the end of the year 1865, was transferred to the Office of the Sanitary Commissioner. Since Dr. Montgomery's death the tabulation of mortuary statistics of the town has been conducted under the direction of the Sanitary Commissioner, but by the Municipal clerks who work in the Sanitary Commissioner's office.

3. A short time since the President of the Municipal Commission expressed a desire to have the whole establishment retransferred to his office, from the 1st April 1870, (Appendix A). In reply I informed the Commission that I quite approved of the proposed transfer, but that, as the sanction of Government had been sought for placing the tabulation under the Secretary to the Sanitary Commissioner, I thought that the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
11th June 1870.

approval of the same authority should be obtained before making the proposed change, (Appendix B).

4. The establishment of Registration Offices in the various districts of the town has certainly not been attended with the results expected. In the year 1869, the
4512 births. births and deaths, as per margin, were reported to the
4490 deaths. Registrars, but as regards the deaths, the establishment of mortuary connicopillays, still kept up by the Municipality to visit the burning and burying grounds, brought in particulars of 11,262 deaths. It will be apparent, therefore, that the results at present obtained by the Registration Offices are wholly unreliable.

5. The penal clauses of the Act to enforce registration being new to the people have not yet been enforced to the extent necessary to secure accuracy of statistics. I believe, however, that the District Registrars' offices have now been sufficiently long at work, to give the people a notion of what is expected of them when a birth or death occurs in a family, and that the time has come for the Municipal authorities to enforce the penal clauses of the Act in regard to registration. This they cannot well do, until the control of the Registration Department is in the hands of the Executive Officer of the Municipality.

6. One great difficulty in the accurate registry of deaths is that the burning and burying grounds are still too scattered and destitute of enclosure walls, and that there are no persons in charge of them who might prohibit the burning or burying of bodies, when the particulars of the cause of death are not forthcoming. These subjects, I have reason to believe, are under the consideration of the Municipal Commissioners.

7. There are good reasons why the change proposed by Colonel Denison would work advantageously.

In the first place, the Sanitary Commissioner having no Secretary, and being frequently absent on tours of inspection, has not the time for the supervision of the District Registrars, or the compilation of the returns, (the duty in fact was undertaken by Dr. Montgomery, because, being resident in Madras, he had time and opportunities of supervising it, in addition to his own proper work).

II. The work being purely an executive work pertaining to the Municipality, should be performed by Municipal Officers, as will be done under the revised Towns' Improvement Act in all other Municipalities.

III. The Municipal authorities, having the supervision of the Registration Department under their immediate control, would, doubtless, soon take the necessary steps for rendering the results reliable and trustworthy.

8. In approving of the transfer of the Registration Department to the authorities who are really responsible for its maintenance and efficient working, I wish to state that the results of the registration of births and deaths in the town of Madras would still fall to be considered by the Sanitary Commissioner in his annual review of the vital statistics of the general population.

9. The Sanitary Commissioner, as Registrar-General, should not, I think, be encumbered with the supervision of the local statistics of a town like Madras. What-

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11th June 1870.

ever returns he might require, for embodiment in the general statistical returns of Municipalities, should be furnished to him by the Municipalities.

No. 56. ORDER THEREON, 11th June 1870, No. 746.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the proposal made by the President of the Madras Municipal Commission for transferring the superintendence of the Mortuary Department from the Sanitary Commissioner to the Municipal Commissioners.

2. In making this arrangement His Excellency the Governor in Council trusts that the Municipal Commissioners will take the necessary steps for securing more accurate returns of births and deaths than have hitherto been obtained.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Madras Municipal Commission.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. Wright.

Appendix A

S. No. 191

Municipal Commissioners Office
Madras 18th March 1870

From
Colonel C. A. Driscoll
President, Municipal Commission
Madras

To
Dr. W. R. Cornish
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Sir,
In offering the best thanks of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras and myself to Dr. Ranking and yourself for the attention which you have bestowed on the Municipal Department of this Office for the Registration of Births and Deaths, hitherto under the immediate management of your Office, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to transfer to this Office on the 31st Instant, or earlier, if possible, the Municipal establishment engaged under your supervision for the registration of Births and Deaths, with a view to its being placed under the control of the Sanitary Department of this Office.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

/Signed/ Charles Driscoll President

Municipal Commission

(True Copy)

W. R. Cornish S. R. C. S.

Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

Govt. of 18703

PUBLIC.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE MADRAS
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 11th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 11th June 1870, No. 746.

NOTE.

W. R. C. S.

Sanctioning the transfer of the Mortuary Department from the Sanitary Commissioner to the Municipal Commissioners, Madras.

To letter to the Chief Secy to
Govt. Public Dept. No 532
dated 18th May 1870

Appendix A

From Secy to Govt. No 532
18th May 1870

Appendix B

No 342

Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 21st March 1870

From
The Offs Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras
To The President
Municipal Commissioners
Madras

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 191 of 18th current, and to state that the arrangement proposed by you of transferring the registration of births and deaths from my control to the Sanitary Department of your Office, would appear to require the consent of Government, the present arrangement having been specially sanctioned in Proceedings of Government No 4975 of 31st December 1867.

2. I may add however that I have no personal objection to meet your request, but my own duties will in future involve a good deal of travelling, and having no secretary to supervise the framing of these local statistics, their compilation might I think with great propriety be left to the Department responsible for the collection of the data on which they are framed.

3. Should Government approve of the transfer, to your Department, I shall require to be furnished from your Sanitary Department with a daily register of Cholera mortality, and also a quarterly and annual summary of births and deaths, for inclusion in the general vital statistics of the Presidency.

4. I am sorry to find that the Registrars offices under the Municipal Act have so far failed to yield accurate returns. Until the burning and burial grounds are enclosed and placed under responsible control, I do not think the mortuary conicopolies should be dispensed with. Their returns have been much nearer the

the truth than those furnished by the District Registrars.

5. In regard to the future preparation of the local death statistics, I would venture to express a hope that the Madras Municipality may be induced to consider the advisableness of employing a "Health" or Sanitary Officer. In this large and populous town the services of such an officer are, I consider, particularly wanted. The local death rates would be his constant guide in pointing out removable causes of disease and mortality. Until the services of a properly trained Health Officer can be secured, in connection with the Sanitary Department of the Municipality, the compilation of vital statistics will be wanting in the professional supervision necessary to their completeness.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant
Wm. R. Cornish. F.R.C.S.
Off. Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

True Copy/
Wm. R. Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

to letter to the Chief Magistrate
1805, Public Dept. No. 532
dated 18th May 1870.

Appreciate B

Dr. W. R. Cornish

Pub. Secy. June 1/70
OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.
Public Department.
No. 114 MADRAS.

Dated 17 } per my 187.
Received }

THE Under Secretary to
Government, Public, &c., Departments
is directed to report that

the Sanitary Commissioner
will submit a report
of a kind nature in
the existing Registration
Agency for the purpose of
leading to the employment
of him, giving remarks
on the system
present & the success

or otherwise in the
 opinion of the
 authorities, stating
 the duties to be
 performed it is desirable
 to see that the
 agency should be
 in the hands of the
 Madras Municipality
 or of the
 Sanitary Commissioner

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters.

From the Presd. Muni. Commⁿ, Madras / Here enter 9th May 1870 No 253/
 — " — Sanitary Commissioner — " — 18th — " — No 532/

Order thereon No 746 of 11th June 1870.

His Excellency the Governor
 in Council is pleased to sanction the
 proposal made by the President of
 the Madras Municipal Commission
 for transferring the superintendence
 of the Mortuary Department from
 the Sanitary Commissioner to the
 Municipal Commissioners.

2. In making this arrangement
 His Excellency the Governor in Council
 trusts that the Municipal Commis-
 sioners will take the necessary steps
 for securing more accurate returns
 of Births and Deaths than have
 hitherto been obtained.

J. D. S.

R.

A. A.

To the Presd. Madras Muni. Commⁿ. }
 — Sanitary Commissioner }
 dated 14/6 MA 6000

Box. of 18 Bibles.

Public

To
The Presb. Church. Conn.
Proches.

Dated June 11. }
Recd. 1870, No. 746.

Nos. 54-56.

Sanctifying the transfer of
the Presb. Bibles from
the Society, Conn. to the
Presb. Church, Proches.