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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rule DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1694.	Press.
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Dated	14 12 1881.	<i>19</i>

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Sanitary Inspection notes of the Inspector of Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, of Madura and Tinnevely districts

Madura

1694

Population 51,987

Inspected 3rd and 5th September 1881.

Roads

Main roads fairly good or under repair. There are numerous narrow tortuous lanes which ought to be opened out, if possible, and properly made so as to prevent water standing on them.

Drainage

Some few streets have open stone built drains

Water Supply

From the river and from wells: must be very subject to pollution. The water in the tank in the large temple seems to consist chiefly of liquid manure of a very offensive description, yet people bathe in it and are said also to drink it: if this be true it must prove a great source of danger in a cholera season.

Courtesy

There is a large establishment with

with carts, dust bins, &c. by means of which the main roads are kept very clean. The sweepings are, in part, sold as they are collected; in part, burned in cinerators and mixed with latrine stuff, but this practice is not liked by cultivators.

There are five pucks and the temporary latrines, the latter being much on the sabaru system. These 19 latrines give one latrine to every 2700 inhabitants; the state of some of the lines and waste places proves how inadequate they are.

There are said to be three markets and a slaughter house for sheep adjoining each: when I visited the 'east market' the slaughter house adjoining was very dirty.

There is no public slaughter house for cattle.

There are three vaccinators who all complain of the difficulty of getting cases for vaccination. The Deputy Inspector also says that such is the case, "the weavers and lower classes can be persuaded to submit, but the rich and civilized will not."

Either

Market

Vaccination

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17:11 Either this is true or the men are lazy, for they do not nearly work up to the average birth rate.

Registration of Births & Deaths These seem to be carefully kept: there are four sub-Registrars who send to the Municipal office a counterfoil with the particulars of each birth or death in their division: these are entered in books kept for the purpose; the counterfoils also being bound.

Shervagunga

Inspected 8th September 1881

Population 8381

Main roads good and clean.

Water supply.

from three tanks and wells. One tank, near the hospital, has a man paid to watch it, the other two and their collecting channels are polluted in every way.

Cleanliness.

There are no public latrines; there are said to be a few private latrines for females: pigs are plentiful, they are the chief scavengers. There are three dust carts, numerous dust bins, and four sweepers for keeping the streets free from refuse.

Registration

Seems to be defective; the and Registration
 births ~~are~~ entered at end of month not reported.
 For year up to end of August there were registered

Deaths	Males 32	Females 28	Total 60	Births	Males 25	Females 20	Total 45
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The births especially are evidently understated. The children are numerous enough, it seemed to me even more numerous than usual in Indian towns.

Melua

Inspected 10 September

Population 5200.

Water supply from one tank that is watched and from wells.

One cart and two sweepers, no latrines; sweepings seem to be collected in one part of the bandy strand to rot; some of the heaps had evidently been here a very long time, there was also a large hole with liquid manure here. Heaps ought to be removed more frequently.
 hole

Registration

hole ought to be filled up. ¹⁶⁹⁴/₃

Seems to be well done, book bears evidence of being written up daily. For year up to end of August were registered:-

Deaths	Males 35	Females 35	Total 70	Births	Males 43	Females 61	Total 104
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Signed W. Price M.D.
 Surgeon Major
 Insp. of Vacc. & Dy. San. Comm.

Tinnevely District

Palamcottah

Inspected 15th September 1881.

Population 17945

Main roads clean and good. Most of them have side cuttings for surface drainage.

From open river channels subject to Water Supply all kinds of pollution, and from wells most of which are said to be salt: the water in a few is good and pure.

The main streets are kept very clean, Conservancy but the smaller lanes show signs of being freely used for purposes of nature. The latrines are not numerous enough: one of those I visited was very dirty.

The slaughter house was being used when I saw it; but it looked as if it were never properly cleaned.

The town seems to be comparatively well lighted.

Vaccination seems to be ^{fairly} well carried on: out of one school I inspected, only seven (these

were

were said by the Master to be new boys from out side villages) were unprotected out of a total of 40. The Vaccinator is under the direct control of the Civil Surgeon.

Tinnevely

Inspected 16th September 1881.

Population 21044.

Main roads are good; some of the principal streets have masonry drains which are freely flushed from the river channel.

Water Supply: from river channels which are open and subject to all manner of pollution, also from wells.

Conservancy.

There seems to be a fairly large conservancy establishment: there are ten latrines of sorts, or one to about each two thousand inhabitants; that these are utterly insufficient, the state of all the smaller streets and lanes that we went through, abundantly testified. The street sweepings are burned in cinerators and the ashes mixed with latrine-stuff to form pondratta: there is said to be a good demand

demand for this

new, not yet used.

Slaughter house

Not yet finished.

Market

Very unsatisfactory. There are 2 Vaccination vaccinators under the direct orders of the native Surgeon; they bring him cases occasionally for inspection, but there seems to be no systematic inspection such as would prevent false entries. The results even as entered are disgracefully bad.

Among the boys in our school, - there were vaccinated 33. Small-pox 10. Improtected 20. This large number of unprotected was - chiefly among the younger boys. Of the 33 vaccinated, only 14 had each six cicatrices.

Seems to be fairly well - Registration of carried out; cheque forms are in use, but the Bornths & Deaths bound registers are kept in the village form.

There were four deaths from Small-pox registered in July, and three in August: two of the latter are said to have occurred in the house of one of the Municipal Commissioners

Tenkasi

Tenkasi 1694
Inspected 21st September 1881.

Population 10,600

A very large native town; main roads fair; but chiefly narrow, unmade lanes. In some streets there are deep side drains, much out of repair, to carry storm water to the river

The water supply is from the river and channels; it is fouled in every possible way.

There are four sweepers with hand carts who try to keep the chief roads of the town clean; the place would probably be in a worse state than it is without them. There are no latrines; the people are supposed to go out to the paddly fields: the state of the lanes and corners prove that few of them take this trouble. I pointed this out to the Tahsildar who was with me. If it would be too expensive to put up bamboo latrines on the Salem plan, it seems to me it would be well to set aside certain lanes and places in different parts of the town for use, and not have all the lanes

houses fouled as at present; these might then be easily cleaned at certain times.

Vaccination is certainly backward except among the weavers: out of a school of 51 boys, twelve had small-pox and eight were unprotected.

Registration of Births and Deaths seems to be neatly entered: from 1st January to end of August this year there were registered:—

Deaths males 164 - females 165 = 329
Births " 164 females 124 = 288

The excess of deaths over births - makes it seem probable that many of the latter, especially females, are not registered.

Kalladakurchi
Inspected 24th September 1881.
Population 11580

Another large native town. Suffers little as regards water supply and Conservancy from Tenkasi; seemed to me rather dirty.

Vaccination

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Vaccination is very backward. This is the Head Quarters of a Vaccinator, yet he has only vaccinated 52 cases here this year! In Aimbamudram another large town two miles off he only vaccinated 23 cases this year. He says the Munsiffs will not give him any personal assistance; they sometimes send a village servant with him, but that is of little use. Out of thirteen girls in a school I examined, five had small-pox; six were unprotected, and two vaccinated: those last two had come from Madras.

Registers are neatly kept: were registered to end of August:—

Deaths males 84 + females 89 = 173.
Births males 78 + females 95 = 173.

Comparing these figures with those for Tenkasi, it seems evident that registration is very defective here.

Nanguneri
Inspected 26th September 1881.
Population 3588

The

The Conservancy establishment consists of two sweepers, with hand carts, there are no latrines, people using bed of tank, lanes &c.

There is a large rain and stream. Water supply fed tank, which is dry for about 8 months in the year, its bed being then used as a latrine. In one part of the bed of this tank, there is a large stone built tank which is said always to contain good water notwithstanding that the people foul it in every possible way: its water is freely used for drinking &c., in the case of an outbreak of Cholera it must prove a great source of danger. Not far from here, are two good wells built by the Local Fund, they are freely used but said to be insufficient. The Tahsildar who came with me to show me these wells &c. is anxious to dig two more wells, and a small tank to be preserved entirely for drinking purposes: the present tank might then be given up solely for bathing and washing purposes. This extra drinking supply seems to me necessary, the proposed sites good.

There

There are some wells in the town but they are said not to be used for drinking.

Vaccination seems to be fairly carried on. In our school, I found Vaccinated 20, Small pox 8, Unprotected 5.

Registers fairly neat, seem to be written up daily. To end of August were registered this year:-

Deaths - Males 31 + females 36 = 67
Births " 32 + " 32 = 64.

No doubt many births escape registration.

Strivigantham.

Inspected 30th September 1881

Population 7200

Conservancy

Two sweepers and hand carts; no latrines, people use lanes, river bed &c. &c.

Water supply:-

For drinking from river, for domestic purposes from wells; latter said to be brackish, that of one examined was so

Some

Some of the streets have rows of Coconut trees planted on each side; these look well and give shade.

Vaccination is evidently very backward in this town: the Vaccinator only did 56 cases here this year.

Kurnum absent.

Registration

Mordithan indal

Inspected 1st October 1881

Population 3639

This population includes two villages.

There is no attempt at conservancy of any sort in either. One of the inhabitants complained of the dirty state in which the village was kept: the moonsiff excused himself by saying that the village servants would not obey him.

The water supply in the dry season is very scanty from wells.

The Moonsiff of this place assisted the Vaccinator in March last, so that in three days he

he vaccinated 168 cases. The moonsiff ¹⁶⁹⁴₈ first got his own child vaccinated then he was able to persuade others: says that if the village servants would obey him he could get thousands more done.

Tuticorin.

Inspected 3rd and 4th October 1881.

Population 10,565

Roads:-

Owing to the great difficulty of getting material for road making, the roads in this Municipality are not in good order and many of them are unmade.

Drainage:-

A few side drains for carrying off storm water.

Water supply:-

The town is supposed to be supplied with water by an open channel from the Tambrapurni river, which brings the water (when the river is in flood) to an open reservoir whence it is distributed through the town in masonry conduits: being subjected to all kinds of pollution both in its course into the town and in the dipping

dipping wells". Even this polluted supply had failed at the time of my visit: the people were then getting what water they could from wells, the supply from most of them being very scanty: it was pitiable to see a number of people surrounding a well, with a few inches of water at the bottom, trying to fill their chatties with palmyra leaf buckets! Even when obtained it is so brackish as to be unfit for drinking or domestic purposes. Fairly good water can be obtained outside the town in the palmyra-topes, but it is too distant to be used by the poorer classes.

There seems to be a large enough Conservancy establishment if properly worked, viz:—one Ins. on Rs 30, who also draws Rs 10 as "lighting-superintendent"; two Pans; five sweepers, and five cart men; four night soil cart men, four male toties, two female, and one boy. That the work is not properly done at present, was very evident during my short visit. Many
of

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of the streets are sandy and difficult to keep clean, but with this establishment much more might be done to keep the town fairly clean than is done.

At the time of my visit there were no latrines! As a natural consequence every quiet corner and street is used as a latrine. There are said to have been three public latrines "about the end of last year". One was removed as the owner of the land objected to it: One as the agent of a mill objected—proves that it must have been kept in a filthy condition: the third fell to the ground". On 21st April 1881, the Commissioners resolved "that public latrines (pucka) will be built when funds are available. Temporary olei enclosures will be put up when the Commissioners can fix upon suitable sites." Suitable sites having not yet been fixed upon the people are compelled to use the streets and shore. It is said that "private privies are cleaned every alternate day; scavengers and toties

loties remove any filth found in the streets every day". From personal observation, I am inclined to think that the cows remove more faecal matter from the streets than the loties.

The Medical officer Mr. O'Leary is not a member of the Commission: it seems to me he ought to be.

There is one 1st class Vaccinator on Vaccination.
Rs 15 a month: his 'results' as entered are bad, and the few lymph cases he was able to show are bad. The Deputy Inspector of Tinnevely Circle has been ~~called~~ ordered to send Mr. O'Leary, under whose superintendence the Vaccinator works, some tubes of good lymph, and the Vaccinator has been ordered to be more careful as to the lymph he works with. The difficulty of getting lymph in Tuticorin is so great that unfortunately, he can have but little choice. The people objecting strongly first to Vaccination and then to giving lymph. Vaccination is very backward, especially among well to do people in Tuticorin: in order to keep up his

¹⁸⁹⁴
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his lymph the Vaccinator has to work villages outside the Municipality, and to keep up his numbers, he Vaccinates as many, among the non-resident cooly class, as are willing to submit for the sake of the one anna batta. This state of affairs can only be remedied by a compulsory act or by educated natives assisting the Vaccinator. The latter seems very unlikely.

Registration of
Births & Deaths.

Registrar draws Rs 20 a month: books seemed to me very complicated: up to end of September this year were registered:—

Deaths	Males 208 + females 184 =	392
Births	Males 248 + females 210 =	458.

Thirty deaths were registered from Smallpox during this time.

Water

Inspected 6th October 1881.

Water supply:—

Chiefly from a well built tank or "Tappa Kulam" and shallow wells scooped in the bed of rivers. The collecting ground of the former is, during the

the dry season, used freely for the purposes of -
nature: there is a sluice arrangement to prevent
the first rush of dirty water getting into the tank,
but this must be very defective. When I saw it, the
water was low, dirty, green and stinking. Some
gardens close by watered from it were thriving
remarkably well. The water from the shallow river
wells seemed to me good though containing much
sediment from the manner of its collection. A few
good "river wells" sunk here - the Sahib Local
Fund Supervisor, who has seen them in Andapale
understands them - would be a great addition
to the water supply of the town.

Two sweepers who keep the main Conservancy
roads fairly clean; Corners and lanes dirty. No
latrines: people resort to river bank and bed the
day.

Sahsildar assists, so it is fairly well Vaccination
carried on in the town.

Sahsildar promised to send up the Registration
Kurnum but he did not come.

Shivulliputtur

Shivulliputtur
Inspected 8th October 1881.

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Population 17,875.

This is a very large native town.

Water Supply:-

from a large "Tappa Kolum" and from wells.
The former is the chief source of drinking water, as
well as the wash tub and urinal of Brahmans
and Hindoos. It is almost impossible to imagine
a more polluted drinking water than this: the
collecting ground is filthy and when collected it is
polluted by hundreds and hundreds of people
bathing and washing their dirty clothes in it from
morning to night. It is said that when, at
one time, they were prevented bathing and washing
in it it stank, proves how foul it is, it will do
the same now if kept for any time without motion.
When examined, it is opaque, 'white' as the natives
call it, but without smell at first. There seem to
be numerous wells in the town; the water is -
what natives call 'black', but Europeans 'pure';
I examined the water of many, as a rule it was
clear

clear, without smell and tasteless. That in the market, was very slightly brackish. One great fault in most of the wells I saw here, is, that the parapet wall is outside the platform, thus assisting instead of preventing waste water from turning into the well.

Four sweepers, who are barely Conservancy sufficient to keep the principal streets clean. No latrines: the result is what might be expected, dry beds of tanks, lanes, every vacant quiet spot fouled with human dung. Permit not for the disgustingly filthy habits of their cows (which must be seen to be credited), buffaloes, and flocks the place would be uninhabitable.

The Tahsildar pointed out to me a spot where he wishes to erect a latrine when the Local Fund Board sanctions the cost. It seems to me in every way a suitable place. I advised him not to put up a brick building, but to be content with two movable temporary structures, one for males, one for females.

Vaccination

Vaccination:-

in Stooralliputtur itself is very backward, the Vaccinator has not been working satisfactorily: he has been dismissed.

Registration:-

Registers are neat and seem to be written up regularly. Up to the end of September were registered this year:

		Total
Deaths	Males 116 + females 142 =	258.
Births	" 223 + " 245 =	468.

I see that for 1880/81 the "rate per cent of Sanitary expenditure to "Available income" was, in the Madurai Circle only 17.2; in the Tinnevely Circle also only 17.2; and in the Shermadavi Circle only 19.7.

To bring the towns and villages into anything approaching a fairly sanitary state the present expenditure must be very largely increased.

Signed W. Price, M.D.
Surgeon Major
Insp^t of Vacc. & Reg. San. Cont.

/ True copies /

M. C. Sumell.

M.D. F.R.C.S.
Surg. Commr. for Madurai

N^o 3157.

1894
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Office of Sanitary Commissioner
URGENT NO 2567
Madras November 30 - 1881.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner, Madras
To,

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George.

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith
Copy of Inspection notes of the Inspector of
Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner.
These are so terse that I have sent them
as they are; they scarcely admit of Condensation.

It will be seen in these as in the
former notes that the great need, for the Sanitary improvement of Municipalities as
well as Villages, is water conservancy. As
this may be carried out with little if any
additional

In Rule 2567/81

additional expense to communities, I would respectfully suggest that all Presidents of Municipalities and Local Fund Boards have their attention called to the matter.

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I have the honor to be
^{Sir}
Your most obedient servant
M. C. Funnell
M. D. F. R. C. S.
Sanitary Commissioner for Honduras

14/12/87
1694

Communicated for re-
marks to the President
of Municipal Commis-
sions, Madras and
Dinnerly Districts.

From
2.87

The President of Madras
Sanitary Council
14/12

1887
Public Dept
From. (Sanitary)
The Sanitary Council

Madras.
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Public Department
Fort St George

Dated 30th
Despatch } November 1887
Recd T }
CURRENT No 2567
No 3154.

Forwards Sanitary
Inspection notes of the
Inspr of Vaccs & Hyg: San'y:
of Madras & Dinnerly
Districts

With orders

[Despatch.]

Back Paper, No.

of 188

1694
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READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, dated
1887, No. Miscellaneous

FURTHER PAPER, No.

of 188

ENCLOSURE.

CURRENT No.

APPENDIX TO DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

APPENDIX TO DITTO.

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File DEPARTMENT.
 G. O.
 DATED 14th December 1881
 No. 1694.
 MISCELLANEOUS.

(157)

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[Despatch Abstract].

*Sanitary Commission
 inspection notes commu-
 cated to the Residents of
 Commissions, Madras and
 Tinnevely Districts.*