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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th January 1875.*

SANITATION—WATER SUPPLY.

No. 1. Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 7th December 1874, No. 1435:—

With reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 1271, of the 6th October 1874 (Revenue), I have the honor to attach copies of correspondence with the Collector of Tinnevely regarding the improvement of village wells, &c., in those parts of the district where sickness has recently prevailed.

2. A liberal provision has been made, in the Local Funds Estimates of 1875-76, for carrying out sanitary improvements in the villages of the district.

From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Madras, 21st September 1874, No. 1211.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 807, of the 12th September 1874, and enclosures.

2. The investigation conducted by Drs. Rickards and Mr. Bird would seem to indicate that there has been an increase of sickness and mortality amongst certain classes of the people who use new cumboo grain, and who reside in villages that have suffered from prolonged drought and scarcity of water, but there is no evidence to show either that a new disease has arisen in the district, or that the symptoms complained of by certain people have the characteristics of an epidemic disorder.

3. The want of good water in Ettiapuram, during the present dry season, is alluded to by Mr. Rickards, and I trust the Local Funds Board of the district may be enabled to devote funds to the provision of good masonry-lined wells, for the several castes, in this and other villages of the district in which the water supply is known to be bad and scarce in quantity and injurious to the public health.

4. I would venture to suggest that a return should be called for, showing the provision for each village, in regard to water supply, and whether the people depend upon wells, open tanks or running streams, and the number of each available.

5. The conservancy of Ettiapuram and especially of the public wells, which from Mr. Rickards' report is very defective, should be attended to, and perhaps it would be advisable to warn all village authorities to take steps for keeping their wells of drinking water clean, and to pave the margins of such wells.

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, dated Sattakulam, 6th October 1874, No. 263.

In reply to your letter, No. 1211, dated 21st September last, I have the honor to inform you that twelve public wells in Ettiapuram are now being cleaned and floored round, and provision has been made by the Local Fund Board of the Tinnevely Circle for cleaning and flooring round several public wells in other parts of the Ettiapuram taluq.

2. The necessity of this useful work is fully recognised here, and a large number of wells in various parts of the district are annually improved by a masonry or gravel flooring with slope sufficient to carry spilt water away from the well.

From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Ootacamund, 13th October 1874, No. 2.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 263, of the 6th October 1874, in which you inform me that steps have already been taken to clean and repair the wells in the village of Ettiapuram and other parts of the Ottapidaram taluq where sickness has been recently prevailing.

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5th January 1875.*

2. As the Sanitary adviser of Local Fund Boards it is my duty to point out the necessity, in the first instance, of *accurate knowledge* regarding the existing state of affairs in villages as to their water-supply means of cleanliness, &c., and accordingly, in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 1211, of the 21st September, I suggested for your consideration that measures should be introduced for obtaining such information in all villages within the Local Fund Circles. When the Local Fund Boards are in possession of information showing the present provision for water supply, &c., in rural tracts, they will be able to apportion the funds voted for sanitary expenditure in proportion to the needs of the several localities.

3. It seems to me, therefore, that every head of a village might be requested to submit through the taluq authorities to Local Fund Boards an annual return showing, *first*, the number of wells or tanks used for drinking purposes; *second*, their condition as to cleanliness and repair; *third*, the new works and repairs executed during the year; and *fourth*, the establishment and expenditure in keeping the village free of filth.

4. I am called upon every year to review the allotments made by Local Fund Boards for sanitary expenditure, and I have always experienced the difficulty of having to offer advice in ignorance of the actual condition of the several districts. In the absence of detailed information, I am obliged to make recommendations of a general character, leaving the application of general principles to the officials of the Local Fund Boards, whose local knowledge will enable them to remedy the more glaring sanitary defects to the extent of their Budget provision for such objects; but I am of opinion that the time has now come when information regarding the sanitary condition of every important village should be available to the members of the Local Fund Boards, and that this information should be collected and recorded in the Revenue Department.

From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 16th October 1874, No. 3.

As the subject of the accompanying letter, addressed to the Collector of Tinnevely, is one of general application in the administration of Local Funds, I have the honor to forward a copy for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

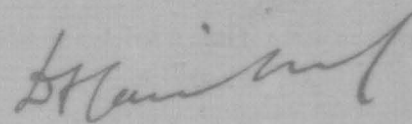
2. The importance of an adequate supply of drinking water for every village in the country is a sanitary question of primary importance. At present *we* have no data on which to decide as to the necessity or urgency of demand on Local Fund Boards for help in this direction, and it would seem, therefore, to be essential to a fair distribution of sanitary expenditure that steps should be taken to ascertain the condition of rural districts in respect to the present provision for water supply.

3. And in regard to existing establishments for village conservancy similar information should be collected, to allow of appropriation of funds set apart for such objects by Local Boards.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1875, No. 9.

Copy furnished to the Revenue and Public Works Departments for information.

(True Extract.)



Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department. ✓
,, Public Works Department.
Ed. J. Wright.

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To the Board of Recrs 11 Jan

Rev: 1875: 242
M 115

Colt. of 1875: 3030735.

PUBLIC.

To THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
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Dated January, 5th.

Recd. - a 13th

G.O., 5th January 1875, No. 9.

11th JANUARY.
Nos. 1-2.

Seizure. - Letter from the Sanitary Commis-
sioner, forwarding copies of correspondence with
the Collector of Immunity regarding the improve-
ment of the water supply of those parts of the
district where sickness prevailed, communicated to
the Revenue and Public Works Departments.

2486
Comm: to the
Board of Revenue
11 Jan 1875

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