

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3087

DATED 17th June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm^d with remarks to the Board of Revenue.
Pleas: Am. Capt. Comm^d to the Bd. Board Madras,
for attention the 104. Sanitary Comm^{ty} Inspection
notes on the Kodakanal Union &c.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	200 484 (S)						
	= 300 4135						
	9-8-97						

Government (1897) of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 920 L., 15th May 1897.

MAY.

G.O. no. 308 of 17th June 97.
communicated
to the Board of Revenue
for report with reference
to para 2 of the order
read above. G.O. No. 172 of
16.2.93 was communi-
cated to the Board of
Revenue by G.O. No. 990 Rev.
of 11.3.1893.

Inspection Notes.

Communicating to the District Board, Madura, for attention, the Deputy Sanitary Commis-
sioner's — on the Kodaikānal Union; requesting the Revenue Department to report what action
has been taken regarding the removal of the burial-ground within the drainage area of the lake;
and directing the Collector to frame and submit an estimate of the receipts and charges of a
municipality which might be established at Kodaikānal.

14 June 97

2 to the B? of Rev (L.R.)
25.6.97

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Inspection Notes of the Inspector of Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner.

MADURA DISTRICT.

KODAIKANAL UNION.

Inspected 8th and 9th October 1896.

Population as per census of 1891] 1,873

This popular sanitarium is situated near the highest point of the Palni range at an average elevation of 7,000 feet. Most of the houses are situated on the slopes of the hills surrounding the large artificial lake, and it is therefore very important that conservancy arrangements should be adequate to prevent contamination of its waters. There is at no time a great flow of water through the lake, and, in the hot weather at least, the water is more or less stagnant, so that great attention is needed to keep it in a sanitary state. During last season, the level of the lake fell by about two feet laying bare a strip of mud, more or less wide, all round the margin. As, at the same time, the temperature during the day was sufficiently high to enable the malarial germ to flourish in this strip of marshy land, I think we need not search farther afield for the cause of the fever that prevailed here in the months of May and June. Some of the cases were pronounced by competent authority to be typhoid, but from the evidence brought before me by the apothecary I have no doubt that the majority were examples of remittent fever and ague. If, as would appear, the origin of this outbreak is to be traced to the shrinking of the lake laying bare a large extent of marshy ground to the action of the air, then the remedy is not far to seek. It will be necessary in future to guard against the shrinking of the lake by repairing the *bund* and by bringing a fresh supply of water into the lake basin so as to create a constant current through it and to compensate for evaporation during the hot weather. Fortunately, this can be easily done by anticipating the water-supply scheme by a few years. It has been proposed by the Sanitary Engineer to dam up the water of the stream above the Fairy falls and to bring it by a channel to the edge of the lake basin below Mr. Bruce's house, from which point it is to be piped. Now, if this first instalment of the water scheme is carried out, the question of keeping the lake at a constant level will be solved; and as I believe it will not be even necessary to erect a dam, there being a constant flow in the stream at Fairy falls, the remedy is not likely to prove a costly one. As the prosperity of Kodaikanal depends entirely on its fame as a health resort, it is hoped that the district board may see its way to allot funds for this essential object.

2. *Swamp land* exists in various parts of the settlement and should be drained in order to remove the moisture which so favours the growth of the malarial organism. Draining need not be an expensive matter, as all that is required is that open drains be dug to a depth of three feet in the "herring-bone" fashion that is so well known in the bog lands at home. The spots referred to are the gymkhana ground and the swamp south of it, the swamp at the foot of the Post Office hill, and the large extent of land near the Tinnevely settlement. I would recommend that the latter part be first undertaken, as there are many houses all round which must suffer from the mists rising from the marsh at night.

3. *Conservancy*.—There are two scavengers and four sweepers under charge of a sanitary inspector. Besides cleaning the four public latrines at Kodai village, their main work is to sweep the roads. The latrines were clean at the time of my visit and

seem to be used to some extent. The suggestion made in the last inspection notes, that a colony of scavengers should be brought up from Madura and given huts and a plot of land to cultivate, has not yet been carried out, and until some such scheme is put in force, it is quite evident that no real advance can be looked for in sanitary matters. The cleaning of the roads is a much less important matter than the removal of faecal matter from the inhabited area. Private scavenging is not in force, each householder making his own arrangements for the disposal of refuse matters. In spite of occasional visits of the sanitary inspector, the results cannot be said to be good as a rule, for the average householder will not take the trouble to see what becomes of the contents of the sweepers' basket. In some cases pits are dug into which everything in the shape of refuse is cast and allowed to putrify without any addition of earth, with the result that neighbouring water-supplies are endangered.

4. *Water-supply*.—Drinking-water is obtained at present from springs and wells, but as the station goes on increasing, so does the danger of pollution to many of these sources. It is, therefore, satisfactory to know that a scheme has been worked out by the Sanitary Engineer for supplying the station from the stream above Fairy falls, and that the catchment area has been reserved under orders of Government. It is not necessary to describe the state of the various springs and wells, as this was fully gone into last year, and the condition remains unchanged. It is to be hoped that the Tahsildar's endeavours to find a water-supply for the new village will be successful, as at present the supply, being below the street, is liable to pollution.

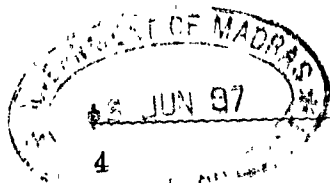
5. *Markets*.—There is a weekly market held in a thatched building where also hawkers live in the season. The surroundings were cleaner than at last inspection.

6. *Slaughter-house*.—There is no public slaughter-house, every butcher killing in his own premises. A description of a few of these will serve to show what treatment meat is subjected to before it reaches the consumer. *Manuel* kills in a small yard with filthy gutters all round; the meat is hung in a room in his house in which rags are also kept. A diseased bullock was standing in the yard and would, no doubt, be converted into beef next day. *Kanakam* is said to kill in the house, but there seems hardly room for that, so probably he uses the road for this purpose; meat is hung in a dark, unventilated room festooned with cobwebs. *Arokium*, said to be the best butcher, hangs his meat in a room into which the smoke from his kitchen goes through a hole in the wall.

I would urge the union very strongly to build a slaughter-house with cooling room attached, so that the meat may be kept under observation till it is sent out to be sold. This would not be a financial loss to them as a fee could be charged to the butchers, and though, under the powers of a union, there is no provision compelling butchers to use such a place, yet practically pressure can be brought to bear on them, as no European would willingly buy meat which has been hung in a native hut when any is procurable from a sanitary cooling room such as the union members would erect.

7. *Milk-sellers*.—The sellers of milk, with two exceptions, come under the same condemnation as the butchers. Cow-houses, as a rule, are ill paved or not paved at all and in close proximity to dwellings, and most of them are not regularly cleaned. It is almost needless to say that the milk is kept in the owners' houses under the most insanitary conditions. *Periya Karapa Konan* has thirty cows and keeps the milk in a room, 5 feet by 10 feet, in which I found three children! *Aligiri Konan* has fifteen cows and keeps the milk in ancient chatties in a dirty, dark room amid the most filthy surroundings. And so on with all the rest with two exceptions, viz., the "Swan" dairy kept by a pensioned sepoy, and Mrs. McNair's dairy, which have separators and are conducted more or less on scientific principles. At the former dairy the milk is kept in an isolated room built specially for the purpose, and the tin vessels used for storing the milk are kept scrupulously clean. I advised the owner to have the walls and floor of this room cemented and the ceiling boarded, and this he promised to do. It is therefore now in the power of visitors to bring pressure to bear on the insanitary dairies by exclusively employing these two until proper sanitary arrangements are made in the others.

8. *Burial of the dead*—is still carried on within the drainage area of the lake, as apparently no action has been taken subsequent to the publication of G.O., No. 17, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th February 1893.



No. 920 L., 15TH MAY 1897.

9. *Registration.*—For the year ending with September there have been registered 61 births and 44 deaths, which, on the recorded population, is equivalent to 34.16 and 23.4 per mille per annum. As the population must have increased considerably since 1891, even these figures are too high, and I therefore think that more attention to this matter is desirable.

10. *Sanitary Administration.*—The union members are comparatively powerless in the present state of the law, and it is therefore hoped that the new Act conferring greater powers on the committees of the smaller hill sanatoria may soon become law. In anticipation of such an Act being passed, it may be advisable to sketch what would be required. First of all, a trained sanitary inspector with horse allowance, working under an European Chairman (who might also be given horse allowance), is necessary. Under him a staff of road sweepers—say, six men and three carts—to keep all roads and lanes clean. Most important of all, a staff of scavengers (eight men and four night-soil carts) to attend daily at all the houses removing the daily accumulations, which householders would be obliged to keep ready in air-tight receptacles. By properly arranging the beats of the scavengers, it could be managed that the empty carts were drawn up to the highest points to begin with and would then be easily brought down hill as the loads were picked up from house to house. A properly-constructed cineratorium should be erected at a point somewhere below the new village, and all rubbish and night-soil should be burned by the aid of the clearings of the wattle plantations which require constant attention. The above implies, of course, that all householders are compelled to build and maintain proper latrine accommodation for their servants—a most vital point. These modest requirements would not cost much and would be well within the means of the union if it were to be empowered to impose a tax on visitors in proportion to the number of servants imported by them.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
17th March 1897.

(Signed) W. B. BANNERMAN, Surgeon-Major,
Insp. of Vaccn. and Dy. Sanj. Commr., Madras.

No. 739-S.

Forwarded to Government.

25th March 1897.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lt.-Col.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

ORDER—No. 920 L., dated 15th May 1897.

Communicated to the District Board, Madura, for attention.

2. The Revenue Department will be requested to state what action has been taken with reference to G.O., No. 17, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th February 1893.

3. The District Municipalities Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897, now provides for increased taxation; and the Collector will be requested to frame a detailed estimate of the probable receipts and charges of a municipality which might be established at Kodaikānal, and submit it to Government at an early date—*vide* G.O., No. 1740 M., dated 16th November 1894.

(True Extract.)

M. W. S. P.

Secretary to Government.

To the President, District Board, Madura.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Collector of Madura.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Editors' Table.

Exd. A. Raitt.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189.

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

S. P. S.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only