

BACK PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1899) Dept. Government (1899) of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Current No 1326

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G.O., No. 341 L., 13th February 1899.

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Inspection Notes.

Communicating to the District Board, Madura, for attention, the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's — on the Kodaikānal union.

28/2/99
23/2/99

Mc
21/2/99

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

INSPECTION NOTES OF THE INSPECTOR OF VACCINATION AND
DEPUTY SANITARY COMMISSIONER, MADRAS.

MADURA DISTRICT.

Kodaikanal Union.

Inspected 15th, 16th and 17th September 1898.

Population as per census, 1891 1,873

The great feature of the sanitarium of Kodaikanal is the large lake. Most of the European houses are situated on the slopes draining into this sheet of water. Fortunately the native houses and bazaars are outside the basin, so that there is not the same danger of contamination as exists at Ootacamund. Still, as there is very little flow into the lake during the dry season, great care should be exercised in the conservation of the bungalows. As there is a leak in, or under the lake bund it is necessary to look for a fresh source of water to compensate for this loss, and for evaporation. As pointed out in last inspection notes, the shrinking of the lake was the probable cause of an outbreak of fever here in 1896. It would be advisable therefore to carry out at once the first part of the proposed water-supply scheme, that is, to dam up the valley above Fairy falls, and to bring the water thus impounded to the upper edge of the lake basin in an open channel, from whence it could be admitted into the top end of the lake and thus keep up an appreciable flow through it, and at the same time maintain the water at a constant level.

2. *Swamp Lands.*—In last inspection notes attention was drawn to the swamp lands existing in various parts of the settlement, and draining by open cuts was recommended. Nothing has been done to carry out this inexpensive measure, the union not having made any application for funds.

3. *Conservancy.*—The staff employed at present is four sweepers on Rs. 8 and two scavengers on Rs. 9 under the charge of an untrained sanitary inspector on Rs. 12. The sanitary inspector complained that the sweepers were not provided with baskets, rakes or mamooties. During the whole of last year there was no supervision at all, as no provision was made for the pay of the sanitary inspector. The Deputy Tahsildar wrote three times to the Taluk Board about this, but no notice was taken until the President of the Board paid a personal visit to Kodaikanal. I would again urge the necessity for importing scavengers from the low country, and the erection of huts for them, so that they may be induced to stay. The sweeping of roads is a minor matter when compared with the proper disposal of human excreta. At present each household disposes of its refuse as appears good to the individual occupier; the result cannot be said to be good, for the average householder does not take the pains to see where, or in what manner, the sweeper disposes of excreta. In this way many of the existing sources of water are endangered.

4. *Water-supply.*—This is from wells and springs, many of which are liable to pollution. The three wells supplying the old village were quite dry for two months this year, and at the time of inspection had a mere dribble in them, so that most of

the inhabitants were obliged to go to the stream issuing from the lake, a most unsatisfactory source. As will be seen later on, under the head of milk supply, this constitutes a serious danger to the whole community. The wells are liable to pollution from Aligiri Konans byre and a rubbish hole near the shop. This bad water-supply to the old and new villages at Kodaikanal is a standing menace to the health of all residing here, and demands urgent attention. Efforts to find water at the new village have failed, and the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty is to be found in the introduction of water in pipes. If the first instalment of the water-supply scheme be carried out as proposed in paragraph 1 *supra*, it would be an easy matter to bring the water from the edge of the lake basin near M.R.Ry. Appaswami Pillai's house, to the village by means of stoneware pipes. There is a gentle fall the whole way, and the distance is less than two miles; so the expense would not be great. Covered cisterns could be arranged at intervals for the supply of the various houses near the pipe track, and as the proposed route would pass not only most of the bungalows now suffering from drought but also the three villages where cows are kept, very great boon at small expense would be conferred by this means. A good water-supply for the native villages is essential if typhoid is to be kept out of this sanitarium. The whole catchment area of the proposed reservoir above Fairy falls has been already reserved by Government, so no houses can be built there; but I would again draw attention to the fact that the house, formerly the property of Mr. Dahl, now belonging to Government and to be used as residence for the Assistant to the Government Astronomer, is close to what will be the edge of the lake. This is not a large house it is true, but still if a case of typhoid fever was to occur in it, the results might be disastrous to the people using the water from the reservoir. I would therefore suggest that the house be moved a few hundred yards across the road, so as to be outside the catchment area. The only valuable material in the house is the timber, and this could all be used again, the walls are merely stone in clay. The cost of removal would be trifling.

5. *Markets.*—A weekly market is held in a thatched building, where also hawkers live during the season. Judging by the smell, it would appear that the back of the building is used as an urinal.

6. *Slaughter-house.*—There is still no slaughter-house, each butcher killing in his own premises. The following notes are instructive as showing the treatment meat is subjected to from the want of this convenience:—

Moses, beef butcher, kills and hangs the meat in a single lean-to thatched room measuring 10' x 6'. He at present lives in this room.

Vedanayagam, beef butcher, kills and hangs in a dirty thatched room, communicating under the roof with the family living room. The beef hanging was manifestly of most inferior sort. Hides stored in same room.

Arokiam, beef butcher, kills and hangs in the same room, the floor dirty and with a filthy hole in the wall through which blood, &c., flows out. The roof, however, is fairly clean and metal hooks are used for hanging meat.

Gnanaprakasam, beef butcher, surroundings dirty, hangs meat in the living room.

Mustan, mutton butcher, kills in front of the house, three a day during the season. Mutton hung in the outer room of the house. Above the joists from which the meat hangs, and separated by a few reeds only, is the bed of the butcher.

Mutiah Rowthar also lives and kills in the same place.

Manuel, beef butcher, kills in a filthy courtyard in front of his house. Hanging room very filthy.

Chinnaswami, beef butcher, kills outside; meat is hung in the kitchen and living room.

From the above it must be quite evident that there is urgent necessity for both slaughter-houses and cooling rooms for beef and mutton.

7. *Dairies.*—The milk-supply is far from satisfactory. The two dairies noticed in last inspection notes, as showing some approach to cleanliness, have been closed. The milk-supply is now almost entirely in the hands of one man, who buys up the

whole stock from the native sellers. His dairy is no doubt kept in good sanitary condition, but as he only has some three cows himself there is no guarantee that the milk sold from his dairy is not contaminated before it comes into his possession. As noted above, the wells at the village ran dry this year and the villagers resorted to the stream flowing out of the lake for their supply. With this water they wash the milk vessels even if they do not dilute the milk itself, so that pollution of milk is certain. The following shows under what conditions the cows are kept, and the milk collected:—

Susai Mudali keeps ten cows in a byre with central drain full of stale urine; the calves are kept in his bed-room. Water from well, or, when dry, from lake stream. No separate place for storing milk.

Gnana Mudali keeps five cows in a filthy byre. House very dirty. Water-supply as above.

Mayandi Konan keeps five cows in a filthy byre. House fairly clean, but hot and stuffy. Water-supply as above.

Aligri Konan keeps fifteen cows in the usual dirty fashion, also many goats in the same building. The milk vessels were standing on a cot in a small room in which dirty clothes were hanging and used as sleeping room at night. Water-supply same as above.

Anything more primitive than the above state of affairs cannot be imagined, and as milk is well known to act as a conveyor of disease germs something should be done to remedy this at once.

8. *Bakeries*.—There is only one bakery at present. It is situated in good sanitary premises, and conducted in a satisfactory manner.

9. *Burial of the dead*.—The new cemetery has not yet been used, and burials of both Europeans and Natives continue to take place in the old situations (*vide* G.O., No. 17, Ecclesiastical, dated 16th February 1893).

10. *Vaccination*.—The Local Fund vaccinator carries on work here. He was absent on the Lower Pulnis during the inspection. At the Roman Catholic school 23 scholars were inspected; nineteen were vaccinated and four unprotected. At the American Madura Mission school, seventeen were inspected; thirteen were vaccinated, two had marks of small-pox and two were unprotected. Of ten children examined on the roads, nine were vaccinated and one was unprotected. A town with 14 per cent. of its youthful population unvaccinated, cannot be said to be well protected against small-pox. I verified eight cases from the village lists, of these six were correctly entered, and two were absent.

11. *Registration*.—Is conducted by the Munsif, but as he was absent during my inspection I could not examine his books.

12. *Sanitary Administration*.—It is satisfactory to learn that within a short time a municipality is to be established here; so it may be useful to sketch what ought to be the first objects of this body. At present it can hardly be said that there is any sanitary administration, and the first thing that should be done is to organize this on a firm basis. A trained sanitary inspector is necessary, and he should be provided with a pony to enable him to get round the widely scattered houses with reasonable frequency. Under him at least eight scavengers will be needed to serve the 110 bungalows scattered over the hill sides. If the men work in couples, and are provided with four night-soil pans on wheels, they ought to be able to remove all excreta from the latrines daily. By proper arrangement, it could be managed that each couple with an empty cart begin at the highest point in their beat and coming regularly down pick up loads as they go, ultimately reaching the depot below the village with full carts. The present staff of road sweepers is probably sufficient, but hand-carts for every two men should be provided. As there is no demand for rubbish as manure here, the contents of the carts should be burned in a cinerator erected on the vacant ground on the opposite side of the old ghât road from the new village. Here also trenching grounds for night-soil could conveniently be situated. Each house should have a servants' latrine, worked on the bucket principle as at present great nuisance is occasioned by indiscriminate squatting along roadsides and near water-supplies.

The scheme drawn up by the Collector for the formation of a municipality shows that even with help from the District Board in the matter of Medical officer's salary, the receipts and expenditure nearly balance. It is manifest that no improvements can be effected, when the current expenses absorb all the income. I would therefore suggest as advisable that a water scheme on the modest scale sketched above be executed and that necessary apparatus, such as slaughter-house and cooling room, night-soil buckets, and rubbish carts, be presented to the settlement before launching it on its own resources. It would be well also to ensure that, when the conduct of affairs passes to the care of an elected council, the sound rule that no native houses be allowed to be erected within the drainage area of the lake, be still enforced, either by the Collector, or Government may not appear necessary; but unless a definite ruling is established, this warning is certain to be lost sight of in course of time.

(Signed) W. B. BANNERMAN, MAJOR, I.M.S.,
Inspector of Vaccination and Dy. San. Commissioner,
Madras.

MADRAS,
15th January 1899.

No. 161-S.
Forwarded to Government.
(Signed) W. G. KING, Lieut.-Col., I.M.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

MADRAS,
17th January 1899.

ORDER—No. 341 L., dated 15th February 1899.
Communicated to the District Board, Madura, for attention.
(True Extract.)

A. B. S. S. S.
for Secretary to Government.

To the President, District Board, Madura.
" Collector of Madura.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Revenue Department.

Red. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

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