



EAST AFR. PROT.
40532

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field 823

SANITARY AFFAIRS

Date
912

November

Previous Paper.

Is satisfied that need for ameliorative measures most certainly exists. The first desideratum is the creation of a Sanitary Staff. Reports as to the condition of Mombasa, Nairobi, Lamu, Nakuru and Kisumu. Submits proposals for dealing with Infectious Disease at Mombasa. Promises further despatch as to Mombasa drainage. States as to unsatisfactory condition of European Hospital at Mombasa. States as to progress of Nairobi Drainage Scheme.

6692
1142 - Nairobi
1402 - Mombasa Drainage

Print & send to Mr. Bellamy at once.

H. J. R.

23/XII

*Mr. Bellamy 3/1
Mr. Johnston Mc Read*

These papers are to be circulated in print at the next meeting to be considered together with the E. A. P. Annual Report. I must therefore not keep them long.

It will be noted that the P. has in the last paragraph of his letter asks for ^{expert} advice as to the best way of dealing with the problems with which he is faced. Whether it would be possible to put him in touch with such advice - the best method of doing so is I think worthy of consideration for both the Sanitary condition of important towns & the malaria - Drainage Mombasa

Discussed
Subsequent Paper
11/24/12

factory state of sanitary regulations in the Protectorate seem to me to require remedy.

I do not agree with par 4 of the Gorro's despatch, for I think the Sanitary Laws of the Colony as they stand at present, futile: there is too great a decentralization of authority, ^{for there} to be ~~of~~ sufficient force on the Annual ^{my memorandum}.

I do not ~~think~~ ^{like} the Gorro's suggestion

that a badly designed hospital would make nice quarters for European nurses; nor do I think they should have offices underneath their living rooms (par 8) nor do I think the prestige of white women would be benefited by such an arrangement.

The importance of the efficient sanitation of Mombasa & Kilindini is referred to in (par 10 page 6)

I think the P.H.D.'s recommendation for the isolation of Kilindini by an unclimbable fence impractical (par 11 p 6)

I agree H.F.

The recommendation for the division of the Nairobi township into a residential & a business area, has been found useful elsewhere but

I do not agree with par 12 Gorro's despatch in the recommendation to put a fence round Kilindini

Such a fence is a

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15/19

an efficient Police service for the
protection of private property at
highly essential before such
a scheme can be developed.

The remarks on the ³⁰⁰Laurens
township (par 16 p. 10) find an
interesting commentary in par 3
19 of the Annual ^{Medical} Reports.

With regard to the P. H. O.'s
letter Par 5 it will be seen that
the ~~Plan~~ ^{he} is well satisfied with
the adequacy of the accommodation
of the infectious diseases hospital
at Mombasa.

I agree with the P. H. O.'s
recommendation in par 7 with
the exception of 7(2) which I consider
unpractical.

The question of the funds
available for sanitation at Nairobi
(par 9) requires looking into.

With regard to the water
supply at Mombasa two questions
appear to me to require answering
1. Is an efficient system of
drainage of the sullage water to be

10

a part of the scheme?

2. ~~So the~~ Will it be possible, when the new water supply is installed, to close the wells or well existing treaties present the superseding of this measure?

If both these questions are answered in the negative I don't know that the benefits of a ^{pure} water supply will be felt.

as a reply to the dispatch of the S.G.S in the Annual Report of 1910. Consider the Gross reply ^{was} very satisfactory & as a covering ^{despatch} to the P.M.'s letter ^{was} very encouraging.

T. O. G. M.

It is something that the Govt admits that "need for ambulatory means most certainly exists" as told me ^{2.1.18} a year ago, in vigorous terms.

Par 5 to 6. Until the revised estimates we can't tell what is to be done with the scheme in 37763.

Par 7. The person for appointing Committee seems to be deeply rooted in P. A. I don't suppose this local Sanitary Committee will be any particular use.

Par 8. I agree with Mr. M. J. J.

Par 9. This is all to the good.

Par 10. I have never seen anything like this

A. Dept. note H. P. R.

correspondence terminating (see item 7) in 31627. As these H.P. should be dealt with before the 7th, & I have a great deal of other work to do, I cannot now find the time to read it. I may perhaps be forgiven for pointing out that these H.P. should have been sent through me, & that it is useless for me to pretend to do the work which I am supposed to do in connexion with the E.A. dependence of important H.P. on subjects which clearly come within my "sphere of influence" are not even sent to me to see when a decision has been taken (presumably some at least of these H.P. should have been printed.)

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Par 11. I agree the suggestion is reasonable.

Par 12. The same remarks apply to ~~the~~ Belfield's idea that "the reservation of an area for purely domestic purposes, & the removal of residential quarters therefrom are matters ... at present of any great urgency, and cannot await ... further development of the port" - by which time the expense of carrying out the proposals will have increased perhaps four or five fold, & become insupportable.

Par 13. There is doubt that the use of the Nairati river for drinking purposes on any large scale could be put to a stop, if Govt were so minded, by more effective means. "It has sufficed" the more ignorant elements of the population "with pamphlets on typhoid. The

Further question arises - How does the virus get contaminated? - & the yet further problem - 'can the source of contamination be removed or lessened?'

Par 16 I don't know what the "considerable sum spent on roads" has to do with sanitation - unless 'roads' means 'streets'

Par 15 - This is a pleasant illustration of the practical working of the idea that town planning & segregation can avert the development of the town

Par 16 I wonder how many people would have to die in an outbreak of "epidemic disease" before ~~the~~ Belfield could be convinced that it was desirable that a filthy hole like Lamm should be changed. As for his "Anglo-Indian official of great experience", I can only say that the type is familiar

Par 21. A better course would certainly be for some experienced medical man to go to East Africa, either from home (e.g. Sir R. Ross or Professor Simpson) or from some other Colony or Protectorate or other form of British dependency.

Jagannath D. Muzumdar is the generally unsatisfactory character of this despatch.
AF 3

To: Read.
The provision for the new Sanitary Dept. is about £5800, and I hope we may have the C. & G. view on the scheme as put forward in

5 miles
leaving
country

37743. It is a pity that Sir [unclear] did not come on time as I could have explained that the proposed revision of the Bill - as reported by the Telegraph - does not affect the. That is touching the Government's best interest but may be set off against the criticisms of the despatch.

While we are cutting down estimates to agree with the help & help principle & borrowing money to carry out necessary works, there is a real difficulty in finding money even for sanitary works, but if the C. & G. will help us to call the Treasury's check book blank, it might give us a definite programme to be able to get on. They don't do balances. I'm going down that we shall have to be content with the Sanitary Dept. and frame future plans in the light of the recommendations.

(R.S.)
3/1/10
at once
& J.H.

4/1

M. P. [unclear]
The [unclear]
J. Anderson.

Circulated in front to TAMS Committee 4 Jan 1913
The Committee contented themselves with observing that this despatch merely emphasized the points brought out in dealing with the Annual Medical Report for 1911, in 33793. Please see minute on that paper. AF 20
A. J. H. 2/1/10

C. O.
40532

REC^d
REC^d 23 DEC 12

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

November 27th 1912.

No. 822



303

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 30 of January 19th respecting the sanitary condition of this Protectorate.

2. The subject as a whole and in particular the various points specially dealt with in that despatch have received my close and earnest attention since my assumption of duty and, although, except at Mombasa, I have not yet had an opportunity of making a detailed personal examination, I am satisfied from the information which I have received from the Principal Medical Officer and other officers that need for ameliorative measures most certainly exists.

3. The first desideratum is undoubtedly the creation of a Sanitary Staff, on the subsequent recommendations of which our future action must necessarily largely depend. The Principal Medical Officer has made the requisite provision in his draft estimates for 1913-14 and after full consideration I have endorsed his proposals

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

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26-12

Dr. Milne
Oct. 21st
1912

proposals in their entirety, as the work to be taken in hand is so extensive, that it cannot be effectively supervised by any smaller staff than that for which he has asked. In this connection I would invite reference to my Confidential despatch No. 124 of the 7th instant relating to the Medical estimates, in which the various posts and the duties assigned thereto are set out at greater length.

The sanitary staff would remain a branch of the Medical Department and would exercise authority over all officials engaged in conservancy work, for which it is hoped to find suitably qualified candidates to replace some of those at present employed who are not technically competent to deal with such questions.

4. It has not yet been brought to my notice that the endeavours of the Medical Department to effect improvements in sanitation have been impeded or obstructed by lack of legislative authority, but should it subsequently become apparent that the work which will have to be undertaken in this connection needs further support, steps will be taken to invest the responsible authorities with the necessary legal jurisdiction.

5. The questions mentioned in paragraph 6 of your despatch are undoubtedly subjects in regard to which the views of the Sanitary Department should be obtained. If this has not always been the case in the past the

explanation

explanation probably lies in the fact that the Medical Staff has hitherto been too fully occupied with other work to render the necessary reports with sufficient expedition. In future this duty will be assigned to the newly formed Sanitary Department and its approval will be an obligatory preliminary to sanction for the inception of any such works as those referred to by you.

6. I have recently visited Mombasa and have had an opportunity of inspecting all parts of the town, both European and Native. As a result I find that matters in the African and Indian quarters are far from satisfactory, the two first essential improvements to be effected being the evolution of a system of surface drainage and the removal of the abattoirs to a situation outside the inhabited area. The former should present few difficulties, as the configuration of the ground with a general seaward slope is very favourable. The streets and by-ways are, however, extremely narrow and tortuous and their hopeless irregularity will materially increase the cost and complexity of any scheme which may be adopted, for it will not be possible to interfere to any great extent with the existing buildings and thoroughfares. I am instructing the Public Works Department to prepare the data necessary to enable the Sanitary authorities to make recommendations in this respect and to give some estimate of the probable outlay. In the meanwhile any discussion of ways and means would be premature.

7. As regards the prevalence of malaria in Mombasa a local Sanitary Committee has been appointed, which is endeavouring inter alia to effect a reduction in the number of mosquitoes. I fear however that no great improvement is to be expected until we are in possession of specific sanitary recommendations in this connection and can provide the funds to carry them out.

8. I have inspected the European Hospital at Mombasa and must agree that it is lacking in many of the essentials which such an institution ought to possess. The building is old and inconveniently designed for its purpose, most of the rooms are dark and ill-ventilated and there is neither operating theatre nor sterilizing plant. I think that it would be useless to attempt to effect any improvement in the existing structure, but it is situated on an excellent site, and in my opinion the solution suggested by the Principal Medical Officer is the best, viz: that a ward should be erected as an adjunct to the present building and the latter converted into an administration block and Sisters' quarters.

I have not however been able to include provision for this work in the estimates for the coming year as the funds at my disposal have been appropriated for purposes of greater urgency.

9. The female lunatics in the Gaol at Mombasa though confined in the same building, have not latterly been in association with the female convicts

(5)

convicts. It has, however, been always recognised that the utilisation of a portion of the Gaol as an Asylum was in the highest degree undesirable and the arrangement has always been regarded as a makeshift. Accommodation has now been provided at Nairobi and the female lunatics will be removed there almost immediately.

10. Turning to the measures for dealing with specific outbreaks of infectious or contagious disease in the town itself and for preventing the introduction of such diseases from outside, the erection of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, to which your sanction has already been accorded, should form the first instalment of a comprehensive scheme, and the building will be constructed with that object. Such a scheme will involve the establishment of a complete Quarantine Camp on thoroughly up-to-date lines and this I regard as most essential. I attach a letter from the Principal Medical Officer on the subject and must express my entire concurrence with the principles which he has enunciated, though I cannot agree with some of the practical measures which he advocates. The time has in my opinion undoubtedly arrived when we should take steps to render ourselves independent of Zanzibar in the matter of Quarantine. The contribution which we make annually to the Prison Island Station is greatly in excess of the benefit which we derive therefrom and its distance from Kilindini is such as would cause considerable inconvenience if

(6)

we had to use it to any great extent. We shall doubtless have to compensate the Zanzibar Government if we abandon it, but I think that we should not hesitate to incur the necessary expenditure. The trade of Mombasa and Kilindini is increasing so rapidly that it would be most regrettable if the ports acquired a bad sanitary reputation, which would hamper and restrict their legitimate development and I consider that no expense should be spared to avoid this. The cost will undoubtedly be somewhat heavy, amounting probably to £15,000 or more initial and about £1,400 recurrent, and I have not been able to make provision for it in the draft Estimates for 1913-14. It should however most certainly be met, and I would suggest that this be done from the general savings, which are bound to accrue even on the most carefully prepared Budget, rather than from balances, the greater part of which will most likely be required for the Kilindini Pier.

11. You will observe that the Principal Medical Officer recommends the isolation of an area round Kilindini Harbour from the rest of the Island by means of an unclimbable fence, but I fear that I cannot endorse his suggestion. Plague is endemic in the interior and infection by way of the Railway would always be possible, nor could communication with Mombasa by water be effectively prevented. The proposed fence would in my opinion be excessively costly, extremely unpopular and quite

quite useless. I cannot therefore regard it as in any way a practicable expedient.

12. The reservation of an area for purely business purposes and the removal of all residential quarters therefrom are matters deserving of consideration but they are not at present of any great urgency and can well await such further development of the port, as will give us some idea of its future requirements both from a railway and commercial point of view. It would also be well that any definite conclusion should be postponed until the Sanitary Department has had an opportunity of making any recommendations which may be prompted by hygienic considerations.

13. As regards Nairobi the prevalence of water-borne disease can be attributed with certainty to the Nairobi River itself, which flows through the town and is undoubtedly used for drinking purposes by numbers of the Indian and native inhabitants. We have now an ample pipe-borne supply of excellent quality from Kikuyu, but it will require much time and patience before the more ignorant elements of the population can be taught the dangers of using water from a contaminated source. A pamphlet on Typhoid and its causes has been issued by the Medical Department and every effort is being made to enlighten public opinion in this respect.

The procedure in regard to the approval of buildings erected in the township had already been altered prior to the receipt of your despatch

and