

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 16.

The following Minutes are published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 9th January, 1901.

No. 27.

Minutes of the proceedings of the SANITARY BOARD, at a regular meeting held on Thursday, the 20th day of December, 1900.

PRESENT :

The Director of Public Works, (The Honourable ROBERT DALY ORMSBY), President.
The Medical Officer of Health, (Dr. FRANCIS WILLIAM CLARK).
The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer, (Dr. JOHN BELL).
EDWARD OSBORNE, Esquire.
CH'AN A-FOOK, Esquire.
Dr. WILLIAM HARTIGAN.
JAMES MCKIE, Esquire.
Major HARRY HERBERT BROWN, R.A.M.C.

ABSENT :

The Captain Superintendent of Police, (The Honourable FRANCIS HENRY MAY, C.M.G.), Vice-President.
The Registrar General, (The Honourable JAMES HALDANE STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G.).
FUNG WA CHÜN, Esquire.

Minutes.—The minutes of regular meeting No. 26 held on the 6th day of December, 1900, were confirmed.

Street Watering.—A reply from the Honourable Colonial Secretary requesting a full statement of the reasons why the Sanitary Board are of opinion that the present system should be altered and the streets watered by means of carts, and enquiring why the views of the Medical Officer of Health in his minute of the 16th October last in C.S.O. No. 217 of 1900 have not found acceptance among the other members of the Board, was considered.

Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE pointed out that the dust of the streets was a well known medium for spreading disease, that the Board desired to introduce a more efficient method of street watering than the "bucket" system at present in vogue, and moved—

That a reply be sent that the Board disapproves of the present method of watering the lower levels and considers that watering by carts should be substituted at once.

Dr. WM. HARTIGAN said there was some misunderstanding about this question as he certainly did not understand the Medical Officer of Health to object to the proposed scheme *per se*, but simply to say that the improved scheme would entail additional expense. The present system was sloppy, wasteful and ineffective, while the proposed system would cause a large saving in fresh water by enabling the Board to use water from the harbour and lengthen the life of the roads, he therefore moved—

That the Government be informed that the Board has considered the views of the Medical Officer of Health as to the greater cost of street watering by means of carts, and is of the opinion that the greater efficiency of this method will more than compensate for the increased cost. The Board proposes, moreover, to limit the use of the carts to the lower levels as suggested by the Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE with the consent of the Board withdrew his motion and seconded.

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer was of the opinion that the Government should be informed that the Board desired the more expensive method of watering the streets on the lower levels on account of the great amount of vehicular traffic in Queen's Road, etc. and the necessity of laying the dust.

Question—put and agreed to.

Report of the Quarterly Inspection Committee.—The fourth quarterly report of the Inspection Committee with a minute by the Medical Officer of Health thereon was submitted.

Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE moved—

That the report be forwarded to Government.

Mr. MCKIE seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Mr. OSBORNE in continuation said, the attention of the Government should be drawn to the question of so-called hawking. These men were not *bonâ fide* hawkers, but only monopolised a large proportion of very narrow thoroughfares, and were not only unnecessary but a positive nuisance. He therefore moved—

That the Board request the Government to give directions prohibiting the erection of stalls in the public streets and footpaths by so-called hawkers, who should be restricted to bonâ fide hawking.

Mr. MCKIE in seconding said he could verify all that Mr. OSBORNE had said.

Mr. CH'AN A-FOOK opposed the motion as he doubted the advisability of interfering with the "shop hawker" if the shop keeper in front of whose premises he erected his stall did not object or lodge any complaint with the Government.

The President said he had not yet made up his mind on the subject.

The Board then divided on the question—

For.

The Medical Officer of Health.
The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer.
Mr. OSBORNE.
Dr. HARTIGAN.
Mr. MCKIE.
Major BROWN.

Against.

Mr. CH'AN A-FOOK.

The President did not vote.

The motion was therefore carried.

The Medical Officer of Health in connection with the Quarterly Inspection Committee's Report moved—

That notices be served on the owners of houses in Shek Kai Lane and Shun Pin Lane declaring the said premises to be unfit for human habitation and requiring the owners to make further provision for their adequate lighting and ventilation.

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer addressed the Board and seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

The proposed New Western Market.—Plans of the proposed New Western Market were considered.

The President said that these plans had been prepared in consultation with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.

Mr. McKIE thought that as the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon would have the control of the Western Market, it would be advisable to get his report on the plans.

Mr. OSBORNE was of the opinion that as the Central Market was very dark, the designer might be asked whether there was sufficient light for the New Western Market.

The President informed the Board that the New Western Market would be a much lighter place than the Central Market.

It was agreed that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon be requested to furnish a report particularly as to accommodation, situation, number of stalls and general adaptability to Chinese wants of the proposed New Western Market.

The New Tung Wah Infectious Diseases Hospital.—A block plan of the site of the New Tung Wah Infectious Diseases Hospital was submitted.

The President, in reply to a minute by Dr. HARTIGAN relative to the submission of plans, said he thought he would be creating a dangerous precedent if he put the plans of private individuals before the Board for public criticism.

Dr. WM. HARTIGAN pointed out that the stench arising from the hillside almost directly above the site of the proposed hospital had been frequently noticed and commented upon, and that anopheles had been found flourishing and increasing in the swamp immediately below this site, he therefore moved—

That this Board strongly recommends that measures be taken with the least possible delay to remedy the dangerous nuisance existing on the hillside at Kennedy Town above and in proximity to the New Infectious Hospital, and also that the malarious swamp situated beside the old Glass Works and below the said hospital be drained or otherwise made healthy.

Mr. McKIE in seconding said he could speak from personal knowledge of the abominable stench referred to.

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer was of the opinion that the site of the Kennedy Town Hospital was one of the very healthiest in the Colony.

The Medical Officer of Health drew attention to the differences between the site of the Kennedy Town Hospital and that of the proposed New Infectious Hospital.

Question—put and carried *nem con.*

Foot and Mouth Disease.—A letter from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon informing the Board that Sassoon's Villa premises at Pokfulam may now be declared free from disease was considered.

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer moved—

That the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon be asked to give a full and minute report on the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease at Pokfulam with special reference to its probable causes.

Major BROWN addressed the Board and seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Papers.—The following papers, having been circulated to the Members, were laid on the table—

1. A report by the Medical Officer of Health on the epidemic of Bubonic Plague in Hongkong during the year 1900.
2. A telegram from the Consul-General, Shanghai, dated December 11th, stating that the Chinese Authorities on the recommendation of the Consular Body have suspended medical inspection of steamers from Hongkong.
3. A reply from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon relative to the means adopted to prevent unexamined cattle from mixing with the cattle in the Colony, and stating that he does not think that many cattle are landed without his knowledge, and even if they were the Police would send them at once to the Cattle Depôts.
4. A reply from the Secretary of the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, informing the Board that the Company obtains straw from Tsiu Wan and bran and grain from Shanghai.
5. Lime-washing return for the fortnight ended December 17th, 1900.
6. Statement showing the number of Plague cases and deaths in Bombay City, from 9th October to 29th October, 1900.
7. Mortality Returns from Macao for the weeks ended 2nd and 9th December, 1900.
8. Mortality Statistics for this Colony for the weeks ended 1st and 8th December, 1900.

The work of the year.—The President observed—This being our last meeting for the year I wish to say one or two words before we part. I think we may congratulate ourselves on much good work done in Hongkong during the year 1900. Ordinance 34 of 1899 came into operation this year, throwing a vast amount of extra work on the Sanitary Staff and not a little on the Public Works Department. Under it great improvements have been effected in letting in light into the dark and unwholesome places of the city, in draining, concreting, and lighting private streets and lanes, and in other useful work. I have now, gentlemen, only to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Adjournment.—The Board then adjourned till Thursday, the 3rd day of January, 1901.

R. D. ORMSBY,
President.

Confirmed at a regular meeting held this 3rd day of January, 1901.

G. A. WOODCOCK,
Acting Secretary.