

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 33.

The following Minutes are published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 19th January, 1901.

No. 1.

Minutes of the proceedings of the SANITARY BOARD, at a regular meeting held on Thursday, the 3rd day of January, 1901.

PRESENT :

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

ABSENT :

The Registrar General, (The Honourable JAMES HALDANE STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G.).

Minutes.—The minutes of regular meeting No. 27 held on the 20th day of December, 1900, were confirmed.

Malarial Research.—A letter from the Honourable Colonial Secretary informing the Board that all reports received from time to time on the subject of Malarial Research will be forwarded for its consideration, was laid on the table.

Malaria, Kennedy Town.—In connection with the above it was agreed on the suggestion of Dr. WM. HARTIGAN that the attention of the Government be drawn to the fact that a reply to Sanitary Board Letter No. 178 dated November 25th, embodying a resolution requesting to be informed exactly what the Government proposes to do at Kennedy Town with a view to the abolition of the anopheles pools in the immediate neighbourhood of the Inspector's quarters, had not been received.

Suggested Verbal Amendments to existing Bye-laws.—A letter from the Medical Officer of Health was submitted informing the Board that the 15 Public Health Ordinances have been consolidated, the various Bye-laws made under these Ordinances collected and classified, and suggesting the following verbal amendments to existing Bye-laws:—

Drainage Bye-laws.—“The words ‘reconstruct, alter, or amend’ should be added after the word ‘construct’ in the first line of Bye-law 1.

“In Bye-laws 2 and 3 the word ‘new’ should have been deleted by the amending Bye-law recently approved, but as this was not done it should be done now.

“In Bye-law 12 it is provided that ‘no main house drain shall be less than six inches in clear internal diameter.’ As it is not uncommon for four-inch pipes to be used for this purpose, the word ‘six’ should be altered to ‘four.’

“In Bye-laws 5 and 34 the substitution of the words ‘water and air-tight’ should be made for ‘water or air-tight.’

“Bye-law 45 should be altered so as to correspond exactly with Bye-law 3 as to approval of plans by the Sanitary Surveyor.

Notification of Infectious Disease Bye-law.—“In Bye-laws 1, 2, and 3 medical practitioners and others should be required to send certificates of infectious diseases to the Medical Officer of Health and not to the Secretary of the Board or to the Registrar General. Bye-law 2 should however retain the option of the occupiers of premises to notify the officer in charge of the nearest Police Station, who should under Bye-law 3 immediately inform the Medical Officer of Health.

Removal of Patients.—“Bye-law 2 seems to require the word ‘shall’ instead of ‘may’ before ‘remove’ in the first line and before ‘bury’ in the fourth line.

“Bye-law 3 appears to be merely a repetition of section 35 of the new Ordinance (section 29 of the Public Health Ordinance, No. 24 of 1887) and might therefore be repealed.”

The President was of opinion that a six-inch pipe should be insisted on, and moved—

That the Board adopt the amendments with the exception of that substituting a four-inch drain pipe for a six-inch.

The Medical Officer of Health said in regard to the size of the pipe required that it was a matter of opinion, and seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

Suggested Scheme of Sanitary Reform.—The Vice-President, pursuant to notice, asked—

What steps have the Board taken in answer to an invitation made to the Board in May last by direction of the Officer Administering the Government to formulate a scheme of sanitary improvements in this Colony?

The President in reply said the Board forwarded a number of preliminary recommendations to the Government under date of July 23rd last (C.S.O. 1415 of 1900) and July 24th last (S.B. Letter No. 115), to which no replies have yet been received.

Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE, in connection with the above question and reply, traced the origin of the invitation referred to in the question of the Vice-President to the rejection of the Trust Scheme and the Board's resolution relative to the annual setting aside of a percentage of the rates and premia on land sales for purposes identical with the objects of the Trust, and in continuation said that a comprehensive scheme had not been drawn up, as the Board felt that there was very little hope of a comprehensive embodiment of their recommendations on sanitary improvements being accepted, and therefore, pursuant to notice, moved—

That in regard to the Acting Colonial Secretary's Letter to the Sanitary Board of 1st May, 1900, asking the Board to formulate a comprehensive scheme of sanitary improvements, a reply be sent that the Board are not disposed to formulate such a scheme unless some assurance be forthcoming that the Government will give immediate effect to some at least of the Board's recommendations.

Dr. WM. HARTIGAN referred to the extensive enquiries, trouble and personal inspection involved in drawing up the Trust Scheme, and seconded.

The Vice-President spoke in opposition and pointed out that the results of the Board's recent recommendations were, the Insanitary Properties Bill had been put into law, the augmentation of the Sanitary Staff, the erection of latrines, the insertion of \$140,000 to increase the water supply; and continuing said it was the duty of the Board to put before the Government what they thought was right.

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer thought that the Board had no right to make conditions with Government.

The Medical Officer of Health said the point at issue was whether the Board had laid before the Government sufficient schemes for some few years to come or whether it was necessary to prepare further large schemes for their consideration. The schemes which had been laid before the Government and which had not yet been carried out were, provision of additional latrines and public urinals, the erection of a refuse destructor, the disposal of the Peak night soil, a European reservation at Kowloon, the extension of the Board's power in dealing with insanitary property, the formation of a subordinate medical and sanitary staff for service in periods of epidemic, and the erection of dwellings for the European staff of the Board, and therefore in his opinion any more comprehensive scheme was uncalled for.

Major BROWN spoke in support of the motion.

The President referred to the good work effected by Ordinance 34 of 1899, the impossibility of reserving a European area in Kowloon, and said he was unable to support the motion.

The Board then divided on the motion.

<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
Medical Officer of Health.	President.
Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE.	Vice-President.
Dr. WM. HARTIGAN.	Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer.
Mr. JAMES MCKIE.	
Major BROWN.	

Messrs. FUNG WA CHÜN and CH'AN A-FOOK did not vote.

Question—put and carried.

Scavenging of Kowloon.—Major BROWN drew attention to the first paragraph of the Kowloon scavenging contract and pointed out the inability of the contractor to keep the sidewalks clean owing to their obstruction and the deposition of rubbish on them. He was of opinion that this unsatisfactory state of affairs arose from the narrowness of the sidewalks and roads and, pursuant to notice, moved—

That the Board draw the attention of the Government—

- (1) *to the fact that the Kowloon Scavenging Contractor is unable to carry out Condition No. 1 of his Contract, namely, the daily sweeping and cleansing of the sidewalks, owing to the low vegetation, undesirable trees and refuse heaps which now obstruct them.*
- (2) *to the desirability of orders being issued to the Police to prevent the recurrence of any obstruction on the sidewalks in the future.*

Mr. MCKIE said if the matter was brought before the Government it would be attended to, and seconded.

The Vice-President addressed the Board in opposition.

The Board then divided on the motion.

<i>For.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
Medical Officer of Health.	Vice-President.
Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer.	Mr. CH'AN A-FOOK.
Mr. EDWARD OSBORNE.	
Mr. FUNG WA CHÜN.	
Dr. WM. HARTIGAN.	
Mr. MCKIE.	
Major BROWN.	

The President did not vote.

Question—put and carried.

Removal of Dead Figs from the Animal Depôts.—A report of the theft of a pig from the Animal Depôts and a minute by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon thereon suggesting that the Government be asked to place the Depôts under Police supervision from the hours of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly, or as an alternative that the depôts be fenced so as to render impossible the removal therefrom of any sheep or pigs without the knowledge of the Inspector-in-charge, were considered.

The Medical Officer of Health moved—

That the minute of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon be forwarded to Government for the consideration of the Honourable Director of Public Works.

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer seconded.

Question—put and agreed to.

In reference to the latter part of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's minute it was agreed that the consideration of the question of compensating the owner for the loss of the pig be postponed until the owner had submitted his claim.

Foot and Mouth Disease, Pokfulam.—A report furnished by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon in reply to Sanitary Board letter under date of December 21st, 1900, on the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease at Pokfulam, was submitted.

The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer drew attention to the style in which the report was written and pointed out that the Board had requested the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon to give the specific cause of the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease at Pokfulam and not the general cause of this disease.

Major BROWN agreed with the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer.

It was agreed that the President should address the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon on the unsatisfactory nature of the report.

Cholera in Singapore.—A statement showing the number of cases of Cholera in Singapore from the 23rd November to the 4th December inclusive, was submitted.

On the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health, who pointed out that weekly reports had been requested and that the latest report was a month old, it was agreed to ask the Government to obtain a more recent report of this outbreak of Cholera at Singapore.

The Limewashing Return—for the fortnight ended December 31st, was submitted.

In view of the annual recurrence of plague during the early part of the year, it was agreed, on the suggestion of Mr. OSBORNE, to request the Medical Officer of Health to pay special attention to the cleansing of the city during the next two or three months.

It was also agreed, on the suggestion of the Vice-President, that the attention of the Government should be drawn to the large influx of Chinese for the Race Meeting with a view to steps being taken for its diminution.

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

1. A letter from the Honourable Colonial Secretary informing the Board that His Excellency the Governor approved of the Board's proposal relative to watering the streets on the lower level, and requesting the Acting Secretary to order four carts from the lowest tenderer as recommended by the Board.
2. A letter from the Consul-General of Netherlands India stating that arrivals from Hongkong are subject to ten days' quarantine.
3. Reply from H.B.M. Consul, Batavia, regarding quarantine against arrivals from Singapore.
4. Result of the analysis of a sample of Milk.
5. Mortality Return from Macao for the week ended 16th December, 1900.
6. Mortality Statistics of this Colony for the weeks ended December 15th and 22nd, 1900.

A confidential meeting was then held.

Adjournment.—The Board adjourned till Thursday, the 17th day of January, 1901.

R. D. ORMSBY,
President.

Confirmed at a regular meeting held this 17th day of January, 1901.

G. A. WOODCOCK,
Acting Secretary.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 34.

Information has been received from the Military Authorities that Artillery Practice will take place as under:—

On 21st, 23rd, 25th and 31st January, 1901, from Lyemun in North-Easterly, Easterly and South-Easterly directions.

On 28th and 30th January, 1901, from North Point in Northerly and North-Easterly directions.

All ships, junks and other vessels are cautioned to keep clear of the ranges.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 16th January, 1901.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 35.

Tenders will be received at this Office until Noon of Monday, the 28th January, 1901, for forming foundations to the proposed new Western Market, on a site situated on the South side of Connaught Road and in front of the Harbour Master's Office.

No work will be permitted on Sundays.

For form of tender, specification and further particulars apply at the Public Works Office.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 17th January, 1901.