

The Madras Sewage Farm.

The Committee of experts appointed by Government to report about the Tondiarpet Sewage Farm arrived at the following conclusions.

1. The Committee are of opinion that the inspection and report of Mr. Bainbridge Fletcher, the Government Entomologist, supply evidence to show that the Tondiarpet Drainage Farm is not a probable breeding ground for all the Anopheline mosquitoes which cause malaria in the adjacent area of Tondiarpet and consequently the question whether the Sewage Farm is a primary cause of malaria in the adjoining inhabited area must on this ground be answered in the negative.

2. The Committee are of opinion from the report of Mr. Bainbridge Fletcher and from their own observation that the presence on the Tondiarpet Sewage Farm of numerous ponds and swamps, in which the larvae of non-malaria carrying mosquitoes were found to be present in large numbers shows that the farm is a contributory cause of mosquito nuisance and that the present policy of filling up ponds and swamps on the farm should be continued and it is advisable to expedite the work by utilising the sand from the adjoining sea beach.

3. The Committee are of opinion that the sub-soil water level in the neighbourhood of the Sewage Farm is raised owing to the presence of the Farm and that this raising is of great benefit to the owners of Cocoanut and other plantations in the vicinity in irrigating their lands from ponds and wells.

4. They are further of opinion that this raising of the water level will increase the breeding grounds of Anopheline mosquitoes to the Tondiarpet area. So to this extent the Sewage Farm might be considered as a contributory cause of the prevalence of malaria.

5. The Committee consider that the danger of contamination of water in wells owing to the presence of the Sewage Farm commonly extends to the vicinity of the farm.

6. To what distance the pollution of the sub-soil water by the Sewage Farm extends, cannot, owing to the ordinary pollution of the sub-soil itself, be determined, but the Committee consider that in the case of Tondiarpet no well should be used for drinking purposes within 300 yards of the Sewage Farm, and that the earliest opportunity should be taken by the Corporation to see that this part of the town is provided

with a sufficient piped water supply and that the existing drinking-water wells are permanently closed.

7. The Committee consider that the present rate of 50,000 gallons of sewage per acre applied to the Tondiarpet Sewage Farm is more than the land can be expected to efficiently dispose of under present conditions and that when the strength of the sewage increases, owing to the construction of new drainage works and sanitary conveniences, the necessity for reducing the quantity of sewage applied per acre will be more evident.

The Committee consider that, as soon as necessary arrangements can be made, the quantity should be reduced to a maximum of 30,000 gallons per acre per day.

8. The Committee consider that the present Sewage Farm should be laid out and worked according to the system described in Mr. Sampson's report, till such time as the new Farm proposed in Resolution No. 11 is brought into operation.

9. The Committee are of opinion that the smell from the Sewage Farm is most evident at the open channel and is caused by the agitation of the sewage when dropped through the sluices and that it is advisable to arrange these sluices as shown in appendix to the Committee's report so as to obviate any agitation of the sewage *en route* to the distributing channels.

10. The Committee are of opinion that, owing to wave action towards the shore and the consequent erosion of the sea beach north of the harbour, the suggestion that the Sewage should be pumped into the sea at this place is not sanitarily served and might result in more objections than have been raised by the presence of the Tondiarpet Sewage Farm.

11. With reference to the question of the effect on the health of the city owing to the presence of the Tondiarpet Sewage Farm, the Committee consider that the general principle that no Sewage Farm should be within a Municipal area should be accepted in dealing with the question of the site of Sewage Farm for Madras and that as the present Sewage Farm does not fulfil this general condition, the Farm should be abandoned as early as practicable and a new Farm opened north of Tiruvottiur and east of the Ennur Road to which the sewage of the city should be pumped and there disposed of on sound agricultural methods.

The present site therefore will be abandoned. A new farm will be started between Tiruvottiyur and Ennur whither the sewage of the town will be pumped. A profit of Rs. 300 per acre is estimated by the Committee to accrue if this new land be properly managed on sound lines.

It need hardly be said that there is large scope for an agricultural graduate to make the scheme a paying concern.

Mysore Agricultural Department.

Mysore has taken the lead in the matter of reorganising its agricultural department involving an expenditure of nearly double the present amount, to enable the Department to co-operate with the agricultural population. The programme of the work for the next 5 years has been laid down. Co-operation of the department with Revenue and Educational officers is insisted. The chief work will consist of (1) the formation and working of Agricultural Associations; (2) the formation and development of Co-operative Societies for agricultural purposes; (3) stimulating the growth of commercial crops; (4) stimulating the improvement of production in area, quality and quantity; (5) stimulating the increase of agricultural stock. The pay of the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the Chemist for the Geological Department will be fixed at Rs. 400—30—700. The pay of the Agricultural Chemist will be Rs. 250—30—700. Dr. Coleman's proposal to appoint Mr. A. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer, as Deputy Director of Agriculture, has been approved. Having regard to their services and qualifications, Mr. H. V. Krishnayya and Mr. A. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer will be started on Rs. 490 and Rs. 400 respectively with effect from 1st March 1914. The place of the Agricultural Chemist will not be filled till Mr. B. Narasimha Iyengar, now in training in Europe, returns duly qualified. The pay of the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineer and Senior Assistant Chemist, Mycologist, Entomologist and Botanist will be Rs. 150—20—350 and second assistants will get Rs. 70—10—150. The pay of the Agricultural Inspectors, Assistant Farm Managers, and Supervisors of rural science in Elementary Schools will be Rs. 50—4—70 and 30—4—50, 19 places being sanctioned for the higher grade and 8 for the lower grade. The average cost of the establishment as revised will be Rs. 1,10,663 per year as against Rs. 46,411 at present, involving an increase of Rs. 64,252 per annum.