

MEDICAL.

1920.

Board of Health.

C.S.

No. 720

Board of Health.

SUBJECT.

192<sup>o</sup>

21st Sept:

Draws attention to the prevalence of rats and their danger to Public Health.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

H. E.

(1)

Submitted.

for C. S.  
23/9/20.

Ex 60. } £ 20. of Ord. 5. of 1894.  
on 24.9.20

Wm  
23.9.20

(3)

Extract from the Meeting of the Executive Council of the 24th September, 1920.

With regard to the recommendations made therein to invite the co-operation of the townspeople to assist in the destruction of the vermin, the Council agreed that this was a matter for the Board's own consideration under the Public Health Ordinance No: 5 of 1894, but advised that provision of £10 be made in the estimates under preparation for the expenditure involved by the suggested award of threepence for each female rat destroyed. His Excellency concurred and ordered that the Board be so advised and that the draft estimates for 1921 be made to include the Council's recommendation.

Subsequent Paper.

499/26.

Letter to Board of Health 29.9.20

(5)

Ex 60. with previous papers. Wm

H. E.

Letter from the Board of Health of the 17th Nov: 1920

Ex. 60  
for C. S.  
17/11/20.

Ex. 60, with previous papers.

W.D.M.  
15.12.20

A.C.S.

It is not His Excellency's wish  
that this matter should be dealt with  
in Executive Council.

W.D.M.  
Clerk & Co.  
8th March 1921

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted. The Clerk to Council would  
seem to be referring to the Administrator's minute of 15th  
December last.

W.D.M.  
A. C. S. 8/3/21.

A.C.S.

Will you kindly ask Colonial Surgeon to  
advise me as to measures which he thinks  
it is necessary to take with a view to reduction  
of number of rats in Stanley.

W.D.M.  
9 March 1921.

Hon: Col: Surgeon,

Will you kindly comply with H.E's minute.

W.D.M.  
A. C. S. 10/3/21.

BOARD OF HEALTH,

STANLEY.

21st September, 1920.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Health to inform you that at a meeting of the Board held on the 20th instant, it was unanimously agreed that immediate steps should be taken to endeavour to reduce the very large numbers of rats now present in various places in Stanley, notably at the rubbish heap, the two slaughter houses, and the various warehouses, etc.

2. The Board agreed to recommend that Notices be posted calling the attention of the People to the danger which would ensue from rats if by any chance plague should be introduced into the Colony, and inviting the Public to assist the Board in the attempt to destroy these pests.

3. The Board further recommended that the sum of threepence should be paid for each female rat destroyed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Shire.*

Ag. Clerk to the Board.

THE HONOURABLE  
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
STANLEY.

29th September

20.

Sir,

I am directed by the Administrator to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st September, 1920, drawing attention to the danger to Public Health caused by the large number of rats in Stanley.

2. With reference to the Board of Health's suggestion to invite the co-operation of the townspeople to assist in the destruction of the vermin, and in view of the fact that this is a matter for the Board's own consideration under the Public Health Ordinance of 1894.

3. I am to say, with regard to the recommendation contained in paragraph 3 of your letter, that the Legislative Council will be asked, when considering the estimates for the coming year, to vote a sum of £10 to cover the expenditure involved in the suggested award of threepence for each female rat destroyed.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

for Colonial Secretary.

THE HONOURABLE  
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
STANLEY.

The Clerk to the Board of Health,  
Stanley.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

Report of Sub-Committee on the Question  
of the Extermination of Rats.

4th November, 1920.

Present: Messrs Gresham, Hardy, and Lellman.

1. The Committee are of the opinion that in order to deal with the rats, it is essential that the Government employ a man whose whole time should be devoted to rat-catching. The Committee do not consider that it is any use leaving the question of extermination solely to private enterprise. The £10 which has been voted for the purpose will therefore prove to be quite inadequate.

2. It is proposed that special licences be granted by the Government to persons of suitable age for the purpose of shooting rats, either by airguns or .22 rifles, at the rubbish dump, the two slaughter-houses, and the East and West jetties, subject of course to the approval of the owners of the various properties.

3. The Committee are not prepared to recommend the use of arsenic, and consider that this poison should only be employed under the supervision of a medical man, or by the suggested rat-catcher, with the approval of the Colonial Surgeon.

4. Although the Committee understood the Colonial Surgeon to say he does not, in the main, approve of viruses, they would suggest that as every means possible must be used, a quantity of virus be obtained from England.

Upon

*Entailing an increase of the fixed establishment. S. of S's sanction required.*

*Regulations would have to be made under Ord. 5. of 1902. vide § 49 (2).*

Upon its arrival, a suitable placard should be posted inviting the Community to apply for it.

The Committee consider that it is useless at the present time, when there are no means of dealing with the trouble, to issue Notices appealing for the people's co-operation.

5. Finally the Committee would suggest to the Board that the Government be urged to procure the incinerator which has already been applied for, at the earliest possible date, so that the dumping of rubbish may be discontinued. It is felt that the dump is the most difficult place to deal with, and that once rats no longer find quantities of food there, they will forsake it for places where they can be more easily dealt with.

*note got.*

*certainty.*

(sgd) H. H. R. GRESHAM. }  
 " V. J. LELLMAN. } Members of the  
 " RAY V. HARDY. } Sub-Committee.

of the townspeople to assist in the  
 ing of the virgin. I am to refer you the  
 talk is a matter for the Board's own  
 consideration before the public health  
 ordinance of 1904.

5. I am to say, with regard to the  
 recommendation contained in paragraph 2  
 your letter, that the Legislative Council  
 will be asked, when considering the same

721/20.

BOARD OF HEALTH,

STANLEY.

17th November 1920.

Sir,

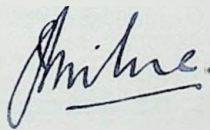
With reference to my letter to you of the 21st September last, I am directed by the Board of Health to forward the attached copy of a report of a sub-Committee appointed by the Board to deal with the question of the extermination of rats in Stanley. The report has been adopted by the Board.

I am to ask you to be good enough to lay this report before His Excellency the Administrator for his consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Ag.Clerk to the Board.

THE HON.COLONIAL SECRETARY,

STANLEY.

Hon Colonial Secretary

I am unable to advise how  
this £10 can be spent usefully.

<sup>18</sup>16/5/21

*H. W. P.*  
Colonial Surgeon

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted.

*W. A. Thompson*  
A. C. S. 18/5/21.

*H.E.S.*

*It seems unnecessary to incur expenditure  
at present.*

*W. A.*  
18 May 1921

Hon. Col. Secretary:

Report on rat repression please

- (1) The local adoption of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act of 1919, which puts upon the Citizens of London the responsibility of taking steps to destroy rats on their premises and of taking reasonable measures to keep the number of vermin in check.
- (2) Protect all food supplies - (including any waste feedstuff thrown away) from rats; since the birth-rate of rats is practically dependent on the available food supply. No Food. No Rats.
- (3) Poison by means of Barium Carbonate and Squill (Scilla Maritima)
- (4) Trapping by the use of lithographers varnish spread on cardboard.
- (5) Destroy the female rats:

*H.M.P.*

Colonial Surgeon

15.3.21

H. E. the Governor,

Submitted

*H. W. Simpson*

A. C. A. 11/3/21

H.P.S.

The Colonial Surgeon in an interesting letter, informed me that he had modified his views with regard to Rat Reduction: will you please refer the paper to him for further report + ask him to advise as to practical measures, with the proviso as to disposal which should be taken for reduction of rats. *H.M.P.*

2 Dec 1921

Colonial Surgeon,

Papers referred to you for the  
favour of your report please.

*B. Thompson*

A. C. S. 2/5/21.

Hon Colonial Secretary

As far as I have been able  
to investigate, the rats in the vicinity of the  
East Slaughter House are devoid of fleas and are  
not a danger to the public health. I would not  
advise steps being taken for their destruction.

*H. M. P.*

Colonial Surgeon

6/5/21  
9

H.E. the Governor,

Submitted.

2. The rats in the vicinity of both the Eastern  
and Western Slaughter Houses act as scavengers.

*B. Thompson*

A. C. S. 9/5/21.

H.C.S.

£10 is provided under Head IX Item 20  
for destruction of rats: will you please ask  
Colonial Surgeon to advise as to how the  
sum may be spent usefully.

*PR*

13 May 1921.

Hon: Colonial Surgeon,

Will you kindly advise in  
accordance with His Excellency's minute above.

*B. Thompson*

A. C. S. 14/5/21.