

MEDICAL
(Board of Health)
(Miscellaneous)

C.S.

19 43.

No. 100/43.

Hon. S.M.C.

SUBJECT.

19 43.

27th July.

MEASURES TO COMBAT PEST OF HOUSEFLY.

Previous Paper.

Reference: 133/24
717/22; 716/22; 57/27

MINUTES.

Minute from Hon. Senior Medical Officer of 27. 7. 43.

(2)

J. H. M. S. O.

S.M.O. would welcome your active cooperation in any organised offensive against flies & their bottles. I should be glad of your observations on

①.

*K.B.**31/7*

(3).

H.C.S.,

Yes.

I consider that an attack on the house - and blow - fly population is called for. The two should be dealt with simultaneously since the blow fly has here to so large an extent taken up habits usually characteristic of the house fly.

I am convinced that the primary need is to make people realise that if they like they can themselves reduce the nuisance.

Therefore at this stage publicity is by far the most important aspect. People need to be taught that practically all household organic refuse can and should be burned.

The question of manure would require special attention since this substance is too valuable to be wasted and if properly handled it should not breed flies.

The compost heap which also is so valuable in gardens does not appear to be a breeding place at all.

Subsequent Paper.

Traps/

Traps, papers and swats could and should be made popular. As for poison, I am extremely doubtful of its efficacy and believe that its obvious dangers out-weigh its utility with the general public.

Payment for scalps might come surprisingly expensive particularly as there are several species of native fly quite like the house fly. The resemblance is so close that it might easily result in so many rejects that the method would lose its popularity and thus nullify itself.

I do not consider that it would be necessary to employ compulsion by means of an inspector in the first stages, perhaps never - that is, if the propaganda achieved its purpose.

J. H. Hamilton

G.N.
4.8.43.

(4).

G.E. The past history of anti-blue bottle campaigns contained in the attached files is illuminating & I think, pertinent because I agree with the G.N. that any new campaign should be aimed at blue bottles as well as house-flies. It has always been realised that efficient sanitary control is the only answer, but none was sufficiently energetic or optimistic enough to do anything about it. Instead efforts were concentrated on trying to establish a parasite. They failed & it was doubtful if the measure would have been effective anyway. The result of all this was, therefore, nil.

2. Government will, of course, give an unqualified blessing to any efforts made by the Board of Health and will be prepared to assist with funds provided it is satisfied that effective measures will be undertaken and maintained, because the campaign will take a long time.

3 the root of the matter is efficient garbage disposal & the prevention of all carrion similar deposits within reach of the rove. This, in my view, entails the (long overdue) construction of an incinerator & strict control by the Police as sanitary inspectors & the Common Ranger, who must prevent carcasses & meat being thrown out to rot. (The range of the blue bottle is 10 miles). I do not see how we can get efficient disposal of organic garbage unless all garbage is incinerated, &

4. The following plan of campaign might be suggested to the Prof. H. Jackson:-

~~(1) The construction of an incinerator.~~

- (2) (1) The appointment of an executive committee including the Govt. Naturalist, the Df Agriculture & the Lt. Registrar.
- (2) The construction of an incinerator.
- (3) Propaganda

(4). Consider sufficient control by the Police & the Common Rangers. (If sufficient power are lacking under the Bye-laws, they should be taken).

(5) Supplies of fly swats & fly paper should be imported from S. America by the shops. Traps are, I think, of less value than fly paper.

5. I do not recommend the payment of a bounty on flies, either per capita or per mille!

6. The one obstacle is that those who are responsible for the campaign should prosecute it energetically & should not flag or faint by the wayside. As far as Govt. is concerned we could express our willingness to construct an incinerator & help in any other way the Board may desire.

N.B.

6/8

(5)
I think this problem should be tackled step by step. ∴ let the B. of H. go ahead with propaganda & preaching first. When we learn the reaction we can think of the second step.

Naturally Govt. would like to see the elimination of the fly.

Incidentally what steps are being taken to prevent the accidental introduction of other insect pests - e.g. mosquito?

[Signature] 11/11/43

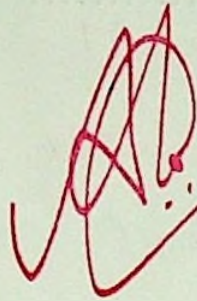
6. Minute to Hon. S. C. O. of 11.8.43.
7. Minute from 16/8/43.

(8).

G.E.

TO see ⑦.

KB
17/8

 17/11/42

PC

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BOARD OF HEALTH, STANLEY.
6TH JULY, 1943.

THE HOUSE-FLY.

When I came here I was impressed by the fact that there were plenty of blue bottle flies but very few house-flies. The past two years have been unusually warm and you may have observed that last year this insect was very prevalent. I may be wrong but I feel that the two previous warm years has given the fly population a boost which will enable them to gain a foothold similar to that now enjoyed by the blue-bottle. There must have been quite a long period when very few blue-bottles were seen and I feel that the common house-fly is now going through a similar period of development.

Next year's fly population develops from the adults which carry over to the winter in the same way as a colony of bees. The bigger the spring population the bigger the autumn swarm will be.

Both the soil and the temperature are unsuited to breeding flies and it follows that the house-fly's breeding ground is man made. It is a great pity if this insect gains a foothold here simply because we were too apathetic to take steps in time. You all know the relation of the house-fly to public health.

What action, if any, do you suggest the Board of Health should take before the next fly season opens.

(SGD) GEO. KINNEARD.
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER.

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22B

President Board of Health.

I suggest the Board should treat with suitable insecticide all breeding grounds known or suspected - stables in the Town, in contravention of the Board's policy, and a good starting point, also dumps on foreshore at East end of Town.

(sgd) A.W. 7. 7. 43.

I think the Board should meet and discuss this matter. I consider last year was a record one for flies, and I think due to several causes.

(SGD) V.A.H.B. 9.7.43.

1. Treatment of breeding grounds with insecticide.
2. Publicity campaign to make people "fly conscious"

(SGD) D.K.C. 12.7.43.

1. Institute some means by which all fly-collecting "soil" and rubbish is taken into the sea beyond Stanley Harbour, i.e. into Port William. This would be expensive but worth it.
2. A publicity campaign to make people "fly conscious" as suggested above.

(SGD) M.H.C. 13. 7. 43.

No.

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

27th July,

19 43. (1)

From THE SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER,

To THE HONOURABLE,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

STANLEY.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.



Please receive a minute on the house-fly, which was circulated to members of the Board of Health. You will note their comments and that the Board feels that action should be taken.

In this connection the following measures could be carried out:-
Publicity.

- (a) Talks and discussions about the house-fly broadcast over the local radio.
- (b) Lessons in school - demonstrations etc.
- (c) Pamphlets & posters.

Control of breeding places.

Garbage could be much more strictly handled. I have approached the Senior Medical Officer, Falkland Island Garrison already with a view to securing his co-operation in this matter.

House to house inspection could be carried out and pressure brought to bear if accumulations of manure or other refuse were found. An efficient co-operative Sanitary Inspector is essential for this.

Destruction of the fly in the Spring.

(a) Every effort should be made to secure the co-operation of the people in killing the fly wherever it is found, during the spring months. Poison, traps, fly swats.

(b) Government could pay a small bounty for every fly delivered before December 31.

Have you any objection to the promotion of an anti-fly campaign please?

C. J. ...
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER.

No. 100/43.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

11th August, 19 43. 6

From The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Honourable

The Senior Medical Officer,

STANLEY.

With reference to your minute of the 27th July, you may certainly look for the sympathy of Government in any campaign to reduce the house and bluebottle fly population. His Excellency considers, however, that the problem should be tackled step by step and he advises that the Board of Health should start with propaganda and assess the reaction of public opinion before proceeding further.

2. The Government Naturalist is very interested in this problem and, of course, it also concerns the Director of Agriculture. No doubt the Board will be glad to enlist the help of these Officers in its campaign.

3. I attach for your perusal certain files which provide an illuminating history of previous attempts to control flies.

4. His Excellency enquires what steps are or can be taken to prevent the accidental introduction of other insect pests, such as the mosquito?

K. G. BRADLEY
Colonial Secretary.

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

16th August, 1943. 7.

From THE SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER,

To THE HONOURABLE,
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
STANLEY.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.



Re:- Destruction of Flies.

I have the honour to acknowledge your minute of August 11th replying to mine of July 27th which dealt with the question of fly control.

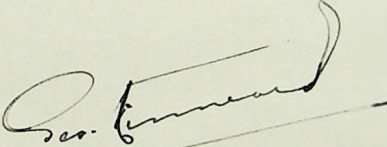
In this connection I had a discussion with the Government Naturalist and the Director of Agriculture on August 14th and the following decisions were reached:-

(1) Regarding paragraph 4 of your minute it was thought that the mosquito for reasons of temperature would be unable to establish itself here. Dr. Gibbs was making provision in the law which he was revising to protect the Colony from plant pests etc.

(2) While there were many things that could be done which would be helpful in controlling the house-fly and the blue bottle fly the most important matter was closer regulation of waste disposal. At present it was not clear as to how waste was going to be disposed of when the present contract ended and there was also the question still undecided of where waste, in future, was to be deposited.

Until we know what the situation is likely to be in 1944 it was considered impolitic to begin propaganda.

Dr. Hamilton undertook to make some investigations into the breeding places of the house-fly.


SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER.