

NEWSLETTER

OF THE

TRUCIAL STATES COUNCIL

ISSUED BY

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

النشرة الاخبارية
للمجلس محكام الامارات المتحدة
بصدرها
مكتب التطوير

August 1970

1. General

Dr. Asim Aljamali, Health Adviser, left Trucial Oman on 22nd August for Muscat, having earlier asked for his release to take up his duties as Minister of Health in the Cabinet of the Sultanate of Oman. Dr. Aljamali who has been Health Adviser since the post was created in 1967 will be sadly missed, not least because of his great knowledge of the area obtained since he was first appointed as a Touring Doctor over 10 years ago. The Development Office wishes him success and happiness in his challenging new appointment. Dr. Aljamali's place has been taken by Dr. W.S.J. Thom, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.S.P&S., D.P.H., D.T.M&H., D.C.H., newly appointed Director of Health Services for Dubai, on a temporary and acting basis.

Another departure from Trucial Oman on the same day and for the same destination was Sayyid Said Shaksy, Assistant Director of Development, whose efficient work in the Headquarters since his appointment in July 1967, is a further great loss to the Development Office. It is strongly hoped, however, that both these losses will be tempered by the gain of a closer association between the organisations of the Trucial States Council and the new regime in the Sultanate of Oman.

Only two of the Executive Committee's sub-committees were active during the month, the Planning & Steering Committee and the newly formed Mileiha Committee. A special meeting of the former Committee was called on 4th August to discuss the question of faulty pipes which have been supplied for the Jezirat Za'ab and South Ras al Khaimah Water Supply Scheme; this has been taken up with the suppliers in Kuwait and laboratory tests are being carried out by a firm in the U.K.

The Mileiha Board whose composition was detailed in last month's issue held its first meeting on 1st August and this was followed on 8th August by a visit to the Mileiha Scheme itself, where the members were able to meet officials and representatives of the bedu inhabitants and cultivators. Two further meetings have since been held at which members began to familiarise themselves with the details and objectives of the Scheme.

The General Manager of the Oilfields Supply Center in Dubai has generously offered the Council's organisation a period of free use of the Company's Jet Ranger helicopter each month as its contribution to the social and economic development of the Trucial States.

/ 2. Health

2. Health

(a) Cholera

Since the first reported case in Dubai at the beginning of the month and particularly after the subsequent report of two cases in the Falaj al Mo'alla/Umm al Qaiwain area, Council Health Staff have been active and have worked long hours in all areas giving vaccinations, apart from much of the East Coastal area, which has been attended to by the T.O.S.

(b) Malaria Control Unit

The Unit's new office and laboratory, situated in the Council's office building in Deira, was officially inaugurated on 20th August; it comprises a central laboratory, a class room for training local staff for field work and a store. The Unit has established another laboratory at the Ras al Khaimah Hospital, and an East Coast Headquarters is under construction at Khor Fakkan and will be ready in October.

Work now being carried out by the Unit includes:-

(i) Continuation of the actual survey in areas not covered in the initial survey - Sharjah, Umm al Qaiwain, Falaj al Mo'alla & Manama - and the collection of blood specimens to estimate the incidence of malaria.

(ii) An entomological survey being carried out in certain areas of Ras al Khaimah, including the collection (for identification) of larvae and adult anopheles mosquitoes and to discover their distribution.

(iii) Susceptibility tests for mosquito larvae carried out at Ras al Khaimah using different insecticides (DDT, HCL, Dieldrin & Abate), in accordance with W.H.O. recommendations and techniques. Other tests were also carried out with different formulations and doses in order to study their comparative effect on the anopheline larvae.

(iv) The training of Health Assistants on microscopic diagnosis for malarial parasites and the technique of collecting blood specimens - when fully trained these assistants will be allocated field duties.

The village of Al Khatt in Ras al Khaimah State has been chosen as a field trial area for testing the effectiveness of the different insecticides against the mosquito larvae in their natural breeding places; a geographical reconnaissance and map of the area has already been prepared; which includes detailed sketching of garden, water sources and collections, together with information on the number, type and size of breeding places.

Following a request from the Director of Health in Abu Dhabi, which plans to carry out a pre-Control Malaria Survey of Al 'Ain, the Unit plans to visit that State at the beginning of November.

(c) Al Maktum Hospital

The extension to the Out-patients Department, including the new Casualty & Surgical Outpatients Department were opened on 4th July, and the extension to the administrative offices to provide accommodation for the Medical Planning Officer were taken into use the following day.

The new 40 bed Maternity Unit has been completed and was taken into use in early August, following the arrival and installation of all equipment. A start is being made on adopting the former maternity ward for use as a Paediatric Unit.

July Hospital figures for the Hospital were:-

Total outpatient attendances	11,096
Total in-patients	401
Total number of live births	115

3. Veterinary

Dr. Ghasoub al Asali, Veterinary Officer, returned from leave at the beginning of the month and has been posted to Sharjah, where work is starting on the construction of a new Veterinary Clinic. Work should have begun on this some months ago by P.W.D. direct labour but the site allocated by the Government of Sharjah was too far from its water supply to be of use. A new site by the high level water supply and just outside the "green belt" has been given as an alternative and though less than ideal for the animal owners of Sharjah town, will be developed provided an assurance over the provision of electricity can be obtained. In the meanwhile, the Veterinary Officer has developed the facilities provided in the small clinic in Ajman which will be his headquarters until the Sharjah clinic is completed.

The Digdaga clinic is run by the Council's second Veterinary Officer, Mr. R. H. Ansell, who arrived in May, and whose responsibilities include the Digdaga herd of Friesian cattle. These appear to be surviving the summer satisfactorily, thanks to careful management, though the milk yield has understandably dropped.

The total of livestock treated by the Council's Veterinary Services during the past three months is:-

Goats	1,007
Sheep	36
Camels	184
Cows	132
Horses	28
Chicken	2,110

4. Fisheries

(a) Fishery Survey

The Survey Vessel 'Majid' has been laid up for most of the month of August in Khor Fakkan, due to staff leaves and the summer lull in the fishing season. The Survey, in association with the International Protein/New England Fish Company, is being resumed. Previously, a useful quantity of albacore or long fin tuna has been found in the Gulf of Oman, apart from the rich resource of anchovy previously suspected, which however lies very close in shore.

Statistics collected by the Fisheries Department in some detail during the year suggests that the total catch of fish from Trucial Oman will probably be in the region of between 45,000 and 50,000 tons annually, inclusive of both fresh and dried fish production. This is against the estimate of 10,000 tons previously made.

(b) Umm al Qaiwain Aid Scheme

The Council's Fishery Office in Umm al Qaiwain gives active assistance to the Umm al Qaiwain Government Aid Scheme for Fishermen. From March to August of this year five fishing launches of keel lengths ranging from 15 ft. to 21 ft. were built by Umm al Qaiwain fishermen under the Loan and Aid Scheme run by the Government of the State. These boats have been fitted with in-board diesel motors of horse power ranging from 5 h.p. to 24 h.p., purchased too under the Government's Aid & Loan Scheme. This has enabled more fishermen to take to fishing in the Gulf proper with the aid of fish traps, rather than confine their activities to the creek from small boats fitted with outboard motors. The total catch has shown appreciable sign of increase in quantity and variety of fish caught.

The Umm al Qaiwain Government inaugurated the Aid & Loan Scheme in 1969 in respect of outboard motors for fishermen. This has benefited these fishermen who are accustomed to fish in the creek rather than in the Gulf itself.

Both these schemes are administered by the Fisheries Department of the Development Office.

(c) Ice Factories

Another activity in which the Development Office may become involved to assist the Government of Umm al Qaiwain is the Ice Factory and Cold Store which the State Government have arranged to have built. The Development Office has been asked to take over the running of this, but there are unfortunately many items to be attended to before this plant is in a fit state to be operated. The Development Office has urged the Government to ensure these are done before it will accept responsibility for operation.

Equipment for the Council's own ice making plant in Khor Fakkan is on order, but this will not be operative until 1971.

(d) General

The report of Dr. D.N.F. Hall, Fisheries Adviser to the U.K. Ministry of Overseas Development, who visited Trucial Oman in January & February, has been received. Dr. Hall considers that Fisheries development in the area is proceeding on the right lines and that production from the waters of the two Gulfs could be increased five to ten fold, both in respect of pelagic species in the supposed richer eastern end of the Arabian Gulf (where the fertile water from the Gulf of Oman is able to penetrate) and of clupeids (sardine-like fish) in the Gulf of Oman.

While acknowledging that there will be pressure to achieve eye-catching results with the money spent on fisheries, Dr. Hall emphasizes the importance of pressing ahead with biological research, which is the more valuable the earlier it is begun. In modern times individual fishing units are not only more efficient, but whole fleets of vessels can move quickly from one apparently productive area of the world to another and can make rapid inroads into fish stocks. Research studies should be begun before any major impact is made on the stocks. The Council's modest research organisation based on Khor Fakkan has therefore come none too soon.

These research facilities would be available for the F.A.O. Indian Ocean Fishery Survey when this is set up. A meeting of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission is due to be held next October, but representatives from Trucial Oman to attend this have not yet been nominated by the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries & Cooperatives which has not been able recently to meet.

5. Capital Works Programme

(a) Roads

An experimental length of bitumen surfacing has been completed within the compound of the new Ajman Power Station, in preparation for similar work to start on the trans-peninsular road in the vicinity of Masafi, where all road-making plant is now concentrated. Work has started on a fourth bridge site on the Wadi Ham, this for a crossing of the main Wadi, and the Royal Engineers Squadron are assisting with the launching of the steel frame bridges on the second and third sites and are also undertaking the construction of a second major box culvert. Heavy mid-month rain washed out some of the temporary wadi crossings but has not affected the main course of the work.

The route from Dhaid to the start of the formed road in the Wadi Siji near Masafi has now been completely graded, thereby improving access to the area.

On the East Coastal road, north of Khor Fakkan, hand pitching, masonry work and culvert construction are continuing. One large retaining wall for the major pass north of Sharam was completed and all necessary gravel fill placed for the improved road formation. A new length of similar retaining wall has been started round a headland north of this pass.

(b) Buildings

Ras al Khaimah Hospital: The main building has been occupied for some months and is virtually complete, though some minor items still need attention, and the airconditioning for operating theatre and the X-Ray equipment is still not ready. Staff housing, arranged as an extension of the main hospital contract with Darwish Engineering is complete and handed over. Also complete and operative is the Out-Patients Department, built at a modest cost by P.W.D. direct labour operation.

Sharjah Hospital: This was started as a Development Office project for a 50 bedded Hospital of comparable design to those being built at Ras al Khaimah and Dibba. By decision of H.H. the Ruler of Sharjah the size was later doubled to 100 beds, which involved a fundamental re-design, with the Government of Sharjah undertaking to pay the additional cost. At the same time H.H. the Ruler entered into an agreement with the firm of Hospitalia for the supply of over QDRs. 3 million worth of equipment (in respect of which the Development Fund has already paid QDRs. 400,000/- to the Government of Sharjah) but it has so far proved impossible to ascertain the extent of equipment ordered; without this it is difficult to reach conclusions on the final design of the main two-storeyed hospital building, the shell of which now awaits completion and on which work has virtually stopped. Progress has, however, recently been made in reaching agreement on the revised design and it is hoped that work on the main building will shortly be resumed (so far paid for in toto by the Development Fund); however, it is still not yet certain as to how the out-patients departments and casualty, administrative block and staff housing and other ancillary buildings will be financed.

Dibba Hospital: The main hospital building (Khoury Contracting Company) and the out-patients department (P.W.D. direct labour) are expected to be completed by the end of September and the staff houses (extension of the main Hospital contract) some six weeks later. However, it will not be possible to open the Hospital until next year as the equipment, the bulk of which has been ordered, is not expected to arrive before then.

Dhaid Health Centre: Satisfactory progress is being made on the construction of this by the Contractor, C.C.C.

Clinic and School, Abu Musa Island: Good progress on these two buildings has also been made by the Contractor, Alexander Construction Co.

Low Cost Houses, Dibba: Eight houses in Fujairah Dibba have been completed and ten for Husn Dibba (Sharjah) are nearing completion. These have all been built by P.W.D. direct labour.

(c) Electricity

The new Power Station in Ajman was brought into operation on 19th July. Work on all H.V. overhead lines has been completed, though new transformers are still to be installed, which may be the cause of persistent complaints from some areas of the town. Work is also well ahead on new L.V. lines.

In Umm al Qaiwain extensions and strengthening of the H.V. and L.V. distribution has been proceeding, but until this work is completed the firmness of a good supply cannot be guaranteed. Work on the erection of poles leading to the new housing area of the son of the Ruler, 3½ Km south of the town has begun, but this costly and extravagant process will probably have to be postponed because of shortage of funds.

The new Power House at Fujairah, commissioned on 20th May, has been functioning successfully and over 100 consumers are being supplied. Work continues on accommodation for Power House Staff.

At Dibba two generators have been installed (one of 175 KW, the other of 50 KW) but although approximately 50 connections have been arranged very little consumer demand is expected until parts of the Hospital complex begin to be used.

(d) Town Water Supplies

At Ajman a 6" line has been laid from the old power station to the jetty. The P.W.D. is carrying out a further survey for an alternative water supply for the town, in place of the present unsatisfactory arrangements for supply from Sharjah. This was recommended in a recent review carried out for H.H. the Ruler by Mr. Alan L. Craig, Water Resources Engineer of Occidental Oil Co., who suggested a dual system of drinking water from outside the territory and piped brackish water for other purposes.

At Dibba the water tank is almost complete and most of the mains have been laid; branch lines have been held up to a certain extent, awaiting fittings.

On the south Ras al Khaimah and Jezerat Za'ab project two difficulties have arisen:-

- (i) the failure of a number of the 10" pipes on testing, and
- (ii) the ripping up of the pipe already laid between the completed water tank and the village of Jezerat Za'ab by the Saudi road contractors, Bin Ladin Organisation.

The question of the failure of the pipes has already been taken up by the Water Engineer who paid a visit to the manufacturers in Kuwait. Despite these set-backs it is hoped to have water flowing to the village during September.

Arrangements have been started for a small town water supply for the village of Falaj al Mo'alla.