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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Agricultural DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1159 Press Mis.

93-94

12-96

Dated 13-00- 1874

819

Not to be folded or roughly handled

CTK

No. 93. Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 22nd September 1874, No. 1217 :—

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Proceedings of Government, No. 1494, of 5th September 1874.

2. The difficulty of applying any system of drainage to Masulipatam is fully explained in the letter of the District Engineer, and, considering the means at the disposal of the Municipality, it is scarcely to be expected that the Commissioners will be able, of their own resources, to carry out a systematic drainage of the town by an engineering scheme calculated to overcome the natural disadvantages of the ground.

3. The proposal of Mr. Leman, to run the house sewage into a hole in the earth has been tried in a different way by the Dutch at Negapatam and by the natives at Trichinopoly. In these towns the house sewage is led into square-shaped brick cisterns constructed in the streets and covered in by stone slabs. In these receptacles (which have no bottom) the fluid drains away into the subsoil, and the solid filth remains behind. These cesspits I have had opened for inspection, and I am informed that they usually fill up in two or three years.

4. While the fluid refuse of the houses is thus put out of sight, and is apparently inoffensive, it by no means follows that it is harmless. The fluid or dissolved matters of sewage are carried into the soil, and, as a matter of fact, wherever this soil contamination exists (as it does in all native towns where the fluid excretions of men and animals sink into the soil) there the water supply becomes loaded with chlorides, nitrates, and sulphates, and is unfit for use.

5. With regard to Masulipatam, it has already a water supply brought from outside, but it is distributed in cheap country-made pipes laid in concrete or puddled clay, and, in the event of any defect in the jointing of the pipes, impure sullage water from the surface of the soil would, not improbably, find its way into the pipes. Care, therefore, is necessary in the construction of such pits as Mr. Leman proposes.

6. There is a plan in some native towns of sinking a common earthen chatty at the end of the house drains, the chatty being perforated at the bottom with several small holes so as to allow the fluid to drain away into the soil, the solid matter being cleaned out daily and placed ready for the scavenger to remove. This is simply the same plan as proposed by Mr. Leman, with a slight modification of details.

7. A town in which the fluid refuse of the people is allowed to sink into the soil can never be said to be drained, and any system which allows of this is contrary to all sound principles of sanitation. For this reason, though Mr. Leman's proposal may be tried as a temporary expedient, I cannot accord the sanction of my approval to it, inasmuch as the system only serves to perpetuate that foul condition of subsoil which it is the object of sanitary science specially to prevent in towns where men and animals occupy but limited areas of space.

8. I would venture to suggest that the Executive Engineer may be called upon to consider the cost and practicability of sewering the more crowded parts of the town, including the lifting or pumping of sewage, and, as regards cesspools already in existence, that they be emptied daily by hand labor. If the temporary

receptacles are provided as proposed for other houses, care should be taken that they are not placed near the waterpipes.

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 13th October 1874, No. 1729.

The suggestions made in paragraph 6 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter are approved.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Masulipatam.
" Public Works Department.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Govt. of [1874] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The PRESIDENT of the
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Masulipatam,
&c. &c.

Dated October, 13th.

Recd.

G.O., 13*th October* 1874, *No.* 1729.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 93-94.

Masulipatam Municipality.—The suggestions made by the Sanitary Commissioner in connexion with the subject of the drainage of the sewage water of the town, approved.

(5)

Financial Department.

No. 1980

From The Sanitary Commissioner. Madras

Dated 22nd Sept. 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

I would submit the papers in terms as before.

S.O.

30.9

7/10

2/10

No. 1217.

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

MADRAS, 22nd Sept 1874

From

The *Sanitary Commissioner, Madras,*

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department

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7 13 Oct 74 — 1725

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provided as proposed for other houses, care should be taken that they are not placed near the water-pipes.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
W M Cornish F.R.C.S.
Sanitary Commissioner for
Madras.

From
The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras
To
The Chief Secy to
Government

Dated 22nd September 74
Recd 25th September 74

No 1217

20/1986

Gives his opinion with reference to the report of the Executive of the Municipality of Masulipatam on the Asst Engineer's plans regarding the best means of getting rid of the sewage water.
With plans

Transcribed (1874) Report
Asstant 13 Oct 1874 No 1729

In Secretary's letter on appeal of the Sanitary Commissioners letter on subject

To the Pres. Masulipatam
Public Works Depart. dup 22/10
Comm

Drus

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

Financial

I

The Presdt. Mund. Commrs
Masulipatam.
&c.

Octr. 13 4 1729.

No. 93.94.

Masulipatam Munny. The suggestions made by the Sanitary Commrs. in connection with the subject of the drainage of the sewage water of the Town, approved.

Original & Draft to Govt
21/11/74