M.R.O. 1—77,004—8-6-57.

(1) Number of pages 19

(2) Date of repair 7-8-12

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

[illegible] DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1980	Press / Mis.
	172-173
Dated [illegible]	18[illegible].

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
27th November 1874.

No. 172. 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 Ootacamund, 6th November 1874, No. 8:—

ABSTRACT.—Forwards, with reference to G.O., No. 1802, of 22nd October 1874, copy of his letter, No. 1230, to the Collector of Coimbatore, regarding the conservancy of Coimbatore Town, with remarks on the conservancy of the Caroor Municipality.

No. 173. ORDER THEREON, 27th November 1874, No. 1980.

To be recorded.

2. The correspondence in question should receive the careful attention of all Presidents of Municipalities when it appears in the published Proceedings of the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To all Presidents of Municipalities.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
,, the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Govt. of [1874] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

All Presidents of Municipalities, &c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 27th.

Read.

G.O., 27th November 1874, No. 1930.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 172-173.

Coimbatore Municipality.—Letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, forwarding copy of his letter to the Collector of Coimbatore regarding the conservancy of Coimbatore Town, recorded, and the Presidents of all Municipalities requested to give the correspondence their careful attention when it appears in the published Proceedings of the Sanitary Commissioner.

No: 1230. Office of the Sanitary Commr
Madras 24th Sept: 1874.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To.

The Collector of
Coimbatore.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No: 219 of 19th September 1874.

2 The modifications you have introduced in the practical conservancy of the town of Coimbatore are (a) the combustion of dry refuse near the public latrines, in the place of carting such substances to depôts outside the town.

(b) The use of dry ashes in the public latrines in lieu of earth.

(c) The formation of a manure compost out of substances which have hitherto had no commercial value in your neighbourhood.

3 It is most gratifying to myself personally, to know that the Municipal authorities at Coimbatore are not remaining satisfied with the successful results of the conservancy arrangements, introduced some years ago but they are again active in devising measures for the simplification of their arrangements, and for the economical disposal of town refuse.

4 The town of Coimbatore is already well provided with public latrines which are built on a modification (Col Heeroy's) of a plan suggested by myself in 1864

for

and
for the separate collection of urine & fæces.
These latrines have hitherto been worked with
dry earth as a deodorizing material, and
on the whole effectively, though as you justly
observe, the cost of carriage of earth and
refuse, is high.

5 The use of ashes instead of earth
has already been successfully adopted in
this Presidency, at Ootacamund, where Mr
Grigg has given much time and trouble to
the production of a manure suited to the
requirements of planters. With the form of
latrine in use at Coimbatore I conceive that
ashes might well be substituted for earth,
but for the deodorization of urine, which is
separately collected in a receptacle outside
the latrine, I believe dry earth to be the best
material, and for this reason. If ashes (which
consist in part of Carbonate of potash and
soda) are mixed with urine the alkaline
bases of the ashes have the effect of setting
free the ammonia of decomposing urine
(just as chunnam does) which escapes into the
air, and if it does not cause a nuisance,
is lost as a part of the manurial compost.

6 If however dry earth be used for the
desiccation of the urine collected in the
receptacles, it may be dried in the sun
and used half a dozen times over, and
ultimately added to the compost heap,
with great advantage. It cannot be too
often brought to notice, that the constituents of a persons urine, for manurial
purposes, are about three times the value
of his fecal deposits, and that in any
attempt to make a fertilizing compound

the collection of urine is even of greater importance than the solid matters.

7 The precautions necessary in regard to your proposed procedure, are

1. To keep the ashes dry prior to use
2. To keep the compost under cover but exposed to air, and not to use it too soon as manure. The stowing houses should always be covered sheds.
3. To mix with the compost the earth which has been repeatedly used to absorb urine.
4. The blood and offal of slaughter houses, deodorized with burnt bones, may also be mixed with the compost when practicable. (This practice followed at Ootacamund)

8 In my remarks on the Coimbatore Municipality in 1870, I observed that the ordinary cultivators required to be shown the value of town manure, and that the Municipalities will have to lead the way in showing how it could be profitably applied. The next step in the procedure after the production of a valuable fertilizer, is to demonstrate its worth and to convert an unsaleable article into a steady and increasing source of municipal revenue.

9 It is very curious to note the great difference there is in native custom regarding the appreciation of town manure. Thus Mysore the ryots will pay money for the privilege of emptying cess pit privies, and removing the contents to their fields, whereas our Tamil

and Telugu people (through pigheaded prejudice inherited from a pig-headed ancestry) will have nothing to say to it. This prejudice however is subsiding in the face of experience and practice. I find that the market gardeners of Madras, and plantain growers, select from our public heaps all the fresh night soil they can collect, taking it in preference to dry rubbish, of which there are many thousands of tons in stock.

10 I am aware that the value of Municipal manure has to some extent been already demonstrated in Coimbatore in the recently planted topes and old jail garden, but I think it would be advisable for the Commissioners to endeavour to show its value in wet and garden cultivation, as well, and to hire land temporarily for conducting these experiments.

11 A manure such as you propose ought to have a commercial value, and considering that the Coimbatore farmers are no means adepts in the folding of cattle in their fields for the sake of the manure, they would probably soon get over their prejudices against town manure, if they could see with their own eyes the actual results of its use.

12 The difficulties of practical conservancy in towns & villages of India, are enhanced tenfold by this singular objection of the bulk of the people to use human waste in the fertilization of the soil, and practically we shall never make any real progress, until we have succeeded in convincing the ryots and gardeners, that by wasting such matters they are impoverishing their

their fields, diminishing their profits, and injuring their health.

13 For villages I am decidedly in favor of the system you propose to have carried out, but the piece of land set aside for trenching, should be large enough in all cases to allow of the trenched portion being cultivated, with one or more crops every year, and care should be taken to see that the trenched land is regularly cultivated before being used a second time. The people understand the system thoroughly, in your district, as applied to their bullocks and sheep, and what is needed to meet our sanitary requirements is that they shall adopt the principle of putting into the soil human refuse, which if exposed on the surface of village areas, and washed into village tanks and wells becomes a noisome and dangerous nuisance.

I have &c

(Sd) W. R. Cornish F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Commissioner

for Madras

/True Copy/

Geo. Dixon Manager

for Sanitary Commissioner

absent on duty.

No. 8

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER.

Madras, Dolacamund 6th Nov. 1874.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
of
Public Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt
Enclosures. of Proceedings of Government No 802 of 22nd October 1874, and with reference to the 2nd para thereof to append my reply to Mr. Wedderburn's letter No 219 of 19th September. This correspondence I may add will be published in my proceedings for the information of Municipalities.

2. I agree with Mr. Wedderburn in regard to his objections to the use of the river bed for the disposal of excreta and rubbish, and think the Cuddapah Municipality had better begin their operations in Conservancy by utilising their waste products in the enrichment of the soil.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
J. R. Cd.
Sanitary Commissioner for
Madras.

Read 22 Oct 74. No 1582.

27 Nov 1874 No 1980

To be printed in abstract.

order

to be recorded.

The correspondence in question should receive the careful attention of all Presidents of Municipalities when it appears in the published Proceedings of the Sanitary Commissioner.

20/11

All Presidents of Municipalities
Sanitary Commissioner
Surgeon Genl. I. M. Dept

155. Postage 10

Home and Civil Department
(Municipal)

From Sanitary

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To the Chief Secretary to Govt
Public Department

Dated 5th
Despatched 11th } Nov 1874
Received 15th

No. 2372

Enclosures. 1

Forwards with reference to G.O. No. 1802 of 22nd October 1874 copy of his letter No 1230, to the Collector of Coimbatore regarding the conservancy of Coimbatore with remarks on the conservancy of the Bazaar Municipality.

With an Order

Govt. of {187} Madras.

Trich

To All Presidents of Municipalities

G. O. 27 Nov. 1874. No. 1980

Nos. 172-3

Coimbatore Municy - Letter from the Secy Govt. forwg copy of his letter to the Presidt. Coll. of Coimbatore regarding the conservancy of Coimbatore town, recorded & the Presidts of all Municipalities requested to give the communications their careful attention when it appears in the published proc. of the Secy Govt.