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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 16-6-5-7

G.O. No. 1202 Press Mis.

Dated 11-6- 18 97

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 16th June 1857.

No. 28. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 25th May 1857, No. 1698.

Read the following letter from Captain T. THOMPSON, Town Major; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, dated 16th May 1857, No. 1601.

SIR,

I have the honor by order of the Right Honorable the Governor to submit for the consideration of Government the enclosed Report of Surgeon J. Kellie 2nd District on what he considers the satisfactory results of the late experimental Chimney erected over the large Drain at the N. E. Angle of the Fortress, and also offering some suggestions which he considers will tend to a further removal of the unpleasant smells arising from the escape of the sewerage.

Letter from Acting Superintending Surgeon J. KELLIE, Presidency; to Captain T. THOMPSON, Town Major, Fort Saint George, dated 13th May 1857.

SIR,

In reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 17th October 1856, I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor the result of the experiment of erecting a Chimney over the Drain at the N. E. Angle of the Fort. The Chimney was erected for the purpose of destroying or dissipating the effluvia which used daily to issue from it, and after testing its effects in various ways, I am of opinion that it has quite fulfilled the object I had in view when recommending it.

2. It would appear that the noxious gases generated in the drain were unable to escape for many hours, and consequently accumulated in large quantities and became so condensed that when the doors of the Tunnel were opened at low tide, to allow of the exit of the water, the effluvia, which had been so long pent up, rushed forth in so concentrated a form as to be almost insupportable to the Lascars employed for that purpose, flooded the neighbourhood, and rendered some of the houses in the Fort and Esplanade at times scarcely habitable.

3. The main cause of the above evil was therefore evidently occasioned by the gases being retained in the Tunnel, until by accumulation and concentration they became highly offensive, instead of being allowed continually to escape and thus endeavouring to produce a current of fresh air through the Drain, now, I consider that these two objects have been fully accomplished by the erection of the Chimney; it acts as a tap upon the Drain, the gases are carried off by the flue as soon as they are formed, and at the top of the Chimney they become mingled with the atmosphere, and are there so diluted as to be rendered innoxious and inoffensive.

4. On opening the Tunnel some days ago after the doors had been closed for many hours, no effluvia whatever escaped, there was scarcely any perceptible smell, and the Lascars in charge of the Drain (the best of all authorities) stated that such had been the case ever since the Chimney was in operation. Two of them freely entered the Tunnel and walked for some way into it, and on their return stated that there was scarcely any smell in the Drain.

5. As the draft in the Chimney was increased on opening the doors of the Tunnel, I am of opinion that they should either be kept open, or that small openings be made in the doors to allow of the free ingress of fresh air.

6. The only suggestion that I can make to render the Chimney more effective would be to add to its height, which would increase the draft, at present barely sufficient, and carry the gases into the higher current of the atmosphere.

7. But although the effluvia which used to escape from the Drain has been effectually removed, still disagreeable odours will arise from the Sewerage after it leaves the Drain and before it is absorbed by the sand, or thoroughly mingled with the Sea. If I might presume to offer an opinion on this point I would suggest as a mode of getting rid of this nuisance, the formation of

a small Tank, at the mouth of the Drain, and that the fluid Sewerage collected there, be raised by a Picottah and conveyed by an iron pipe, far from the shore, along a Groin, erected for that purpose in front of the Drain. The Tank would require to be divided into two portions, by an iron grating to prevent straw, pieces of wood, &c. &c. being conveyed into the iron pipe.

The Governor in Council observes that Dr. Kellie's report appears satisfactory, and directs that it be communicated to the Department of Public Works, in which any further necessary orders will be issued.

2. The acknowledgments of Government are due to Mr. Kellie for the very useful sanitary improvement which there is reason to hope will be the result of his suggestion.

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

No. 29. ORDER THEREON, No. 1122; dated 11th June 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with a request that he will report on Dr. Kellie's further suggestion in connection with the Chimney erected over the Drain at the North East Angle of the Fortress, for removing effluvia from the sewerage.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

No. 1698.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 25th May 1857.

Read the following letter,

No. 1601.

From

The Town Major,

To

To the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor by order of the Right Honorable the Governor to submit for the consideration of Government the enclosed report of Surgeon J. Kelly 2nd District on what he considers the satisfactory results of the late experimental Chimney erected over the large Drain at the N. E. Angle of the Fortress, and also offering some suggestions which he considers will tend to a further removal of the unpleasant smells arising from the escape of the sewerage.

I have &c.,

FORT SAINT GEORGE, 16th *May* 1857.

(Signed) THOS. THOMPSON,
Town Major.

From

The Acting Superintending Surgeon Presidency,

To

The Town Major, Fort Saint George.

Sir,

In reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 17th October 1856, I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor the result of the experiment of erecting a Chimney over the Drain at the N. E. Angle of the Fort. The Chimney was erected for the purpose of destroying or dissipating the effluvia which used daily to issue from it, and after testing its effects in various ways, I am of opinion that it has quite fulfilled the object I had in view when recommending it.

2. It would appear that the noxious gases generated in the drain were unable to escape for many hours, and consequently accumulated in large quantities and became so condensed that when the doors of the Tunnel were opened at low tide, to allow of the exit of the water, the effluvia, which had been so long pent up, rushed forth in so concentrated a form as to be almost insupportable to the Lascars employed for that purpose, flooded the neighbourhood, and rendered some of the houses in the Fort and Esplanade at times scarcely habitable.

3. The main cause of the above evil was therefore evidently occasioned by the gases being retained in the Tunnel, until by accumulation and concentration they became highly offensive, instead of being allowed continually to escape and thus endeavouring to produce a current of fresh air through the Drain. Now, I consider that these two objects have been fully accomplished by the erection of the Chimney—it acts as a tap upon the Drain, the gasses are carried off by the flue as soon as they are formed, and at the top of the Chimney they become mingled with the atmosphere, and are there so diluted as to be rendered innoxious and inoffensive.

4. On opening the Tunnel some days ago after the doors had been closed for many hours, no effluvia whatever escaped, there was scarcely any perceptible smell, and the Lascars in charge of the Drain (the best of all authorities) stated that such had been the case ever since the Chimney was in operation. Two of them freely entered the Tunnel and walked for some way into it, and on their return stated that there was scarcely any smell in the Drain.

5. As the draft in the Chimney was increased on opening the doors of the Tunnel, I am of opinion that they should either be kept open, or that small openings be made in the doors to allow of the free ingress of fresh air.

6. The only suggestion that I can make to render the Chimney more effective would be to add to its height, which would increase the draft, at present barely sufficient, and carry the gases into the higher current of the atmosphere.

7. But although the effluvia which used to escape from the Drain has been effectually removed, still disagreeable odors will arise from the sewerage after it leaves the Drain and before it is absorbed by the sand, or thoroughly mingled with the Sea. If I might presume to offer an opinion on this point I would suggest as a mode of getting rid of this nuisance, the formation of a small Tank, at the mouth of the Drain, and that the fluid sewerage collected there, be raised by a Picottah and conveyed by an Iron pipe, far from the shore, along a Groin—erected for that purpose in the front of the Drain.

The tank would require to be divided into two portions, by an iron grating to prevent straw, pieces of wood &c. being conveyed into the iron pipe.

I have &c.,

MADRAS, 13*th May* 1857.

(Signed) J. KELLIE,
Ag. Supg. Surgeon Presy.

The Governor in Council observes that Mr. Kellie's report appears satisfactory, and directs that it be communicated to the Department of Public Works, in which any further necessary orders will be issued.

2. The acknowledgments of Government are due to Mr. Kellie for the very useful sanitary improvement which there is reason to hope will be the result of his suggestion.

(True Extract & Copies.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Town Major.
" Department Public Works.
" Surgeon J. Kellie.

Exd. R. Spears.

Memo—it is requested that the former R. C. may be returned. returned—15th

Nº 28+29.

Cs 6 June 59

Public Works 16th Dept.
Do to Cons 16th June.
Nº 1125.

Extract from the Mins. of Cons. in the Military Department.
Dated 25th May
Received 1st June } 1859

Nº 1698

Observing that the report of surgeon J. Hellier 2nd District on the results of the late experimental Chimney erected over the large Drain at the N.E. Angle of the Fortress appears satisfactory and directing that it be communicated to the Dept. of Pub. Works in which any further necessary orders will be issued.

Write an order
No 1122. 11th June

Nº 1122

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with a request that he will report on Dr Hellier's further suggestions in connection with the Chimney erected over the Drain at the North East Angle of the Fortress for removing effluvia from the Sewerage.

F W St. George
11th June 1859

A Copy to the Chief Engr. Dept. 10