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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2929 Press / Mis.

(455-57)

Dated 25-11- 18 [illegible].

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 25th November 1862.

No. 455. Read the following letter from Captain E. HEMERY, R. E., Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 14th November 1862, No. 344:—

SIR,

1 Copy of letter to the address of the Municipal Commissioners, dated 15th April 1862.
1 Do. to the District Engineer, Presidency, dated 17th April 1862.

As directed in paragraph 1 of the Proceedings of Government, No. 2,716, dated 12th instant, I have the honor to forward copies of Mr. G. Norton's letters to the address of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras, and of the District Engineer Presidency, dated 15th and 17th April 1862, respectively, on the subject of the chemical fluid prepared by him for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains and which formed an enclosure to Colonel Ouchterlony's Endorsement to Government, dated 5th July 1862, No. 86.

From Mr. G. NORTON, to the Municipal Commissioners, Madras, dated Madras, 15th April 1862.

GENTLEMEN,

1. I beg to bring to your notice that I prepared a chemical fluid, the application of which for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains and rendering sewerage fluid innocuous has been (as far as my experiments go) attended with complete success. The fluid is readily and easily made, has a rather pleasant odour, requires no expensive apparatus for its manufacture, is safe and not detrimental to health in its application and speedy in its effects; it is prepared from materials that are readily accessible in the market, the cost of preparation including expense of materials (but without charge for labor, which is a mere trifle) does not exceed from 3½ to 4 Annas the gallon. The deodorizing effects of the fluid by my trials (which are still in an incipient state) extend to *one* in *sixty* parts; in other words, one gallon of the fluid will deodorize sixty gallons of sewerage fluid. This quantity of sewerage fluid was, by application of the deodorizer, rendered perfectly innocuous in the course of a few seconds, after slight agitation. The sewerage fluid experimented upon was obtained from a drain in Black Town, and from the drain in the General Hospital. Other experiments of the chemical fluid were upon sulphuretted hydrogen water and gas, each separately, prepared in the Laboratory of the Medical College, in both cases with complete success. I am of opinion that its application on a more extensive scale to some of the drains of Madras, and accumulations or heaps of offensive matter in some of its suburbs will be attended with equally good results, and recommend to you the propriety of giving it a fair trial with the views of mitigating considerably the nuisance arising from the drains and accumulations of decomposing matter, if not, of removing the nuisance altogether.

2. I can prepare any quantity of the deodorizing fluid you may require or order for experiment by having timely notice of a day or two. It will be supplied to you at the cost price. I do not desire any profit; my sole object in bringing this subject to your notice, is a regard for the public benefit.

From Mr. G. NORTON, to Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. HITCHINS, District Engineer, Presidency, dated Madras, 17th April 1862.

SIR,

1. I enclose for your perusal copy of a letter which I addressed to the Municipal Commissioners on the subject of a chemical fluid prepared by me for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains and for rendering sewerage fluid, &c., innocuous, and would respectfully suggest the application of the fluid to the drains, &c., in the Fort. The fluid will be supplied to you at the cost price (as offered to the Municipal Commissioners) on public grounds.

2. Since I addressed the Municipal Commissioners I yesterday carried out some experiments in the Laboratory of the Medical College in the presence of Mr. J. Mayer, Professor of Chemistry, and Messrs. J. J. Wood and R. Wilkins, Assistants in the College, and the following substances, which were completely deodorized to the satisfaction of the Professor, viz.:—

(1.) Hydrosulphuret of Ammonia, a very offensive chemical fluid.

(2.) Water impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen gas.

(3.) Sewerage fluid obtained from the drain in the General Hospital.

3. Some trials made to render the air of public necessaries and water closets which is deeply impregnated with an urinous odour, less offensive, or to remove the bad smell altogether by the application of the fluid, have also been attended with success; but my experiments under this head are not sufficiently extensive to permit me to offer a decided opinion on this point.

(True Copies.)

(Signed.) H. W. HITCHINS, Lieut.-Colonel,
District Engineer, Presidency.

(True Copies.)

(Signed.) E. HEMERY, Captain, R. E.,
Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle.

No. 456. ORDER THEREON, 25th November 1862, No. 2,829.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India:—

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 457. From Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 25th November 1862, No. 2,830.

SIR,

1. With reference to your letter No. 4,025, dated 17th October 1862, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of letters marginally noted, addressed by Mr. G. Norton to the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, and to the District Engineer, Presidency, on the subject of the chemical fluid prepared by him for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains.

15th and 17th April 1862.

2. A report will hereafter be submitted of the experiments now being made in pursuance of the sanction accorded in the Proceedings of this Department, No. 1,713, dated 17th July 1862

Madras 15th April 1862

To

The Municipal Commissioners
Madras

Gentlemen,

I beg to bring to your notice that I prepared a chemical fluid the application of which for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains and rendering sewerage fluid innocuous has been (as far as my experiments go) attended with complete success. The fluid is readily and easily made has a rather pleasant odour, requires no expensive apparatus for its manufacture, is safe and not detrimental to health in its application and speedy in its effects it is prepared from materials that are readily accessible in the market, the cost of preparation including

including) expenses of materials (such without charge for labor which is a mere trifle) does not exceed from 3½ to 4 pence the Gallon.- The deodorising effects of the fluid by my trials (which are still in an incipient state) extend to one in sixty parts; in other words, one gallon of the fluid will deodorise sixty gallons of Sewerage fluid. This quantity of Sewerage fluid was, by application of the deodorizers rendered perfectly innocuous in the course of a few seconds, after slight agitation. The Sewerage fluid experimented upon was obtained from a drain in Black Town, and from the drain in the General Hospital. Other experiments of the chemical fluid were upon sulphuretted Hydrogen water and gas, each separately, prepared

prepared in the Laboratory of the Medical College, in both cases with complete success. I am of opinion that its application on a more extensive scale to some of the drains of Madras, and accumulations or heaps of offensive matter in some of its suburbs will be attended with equally good results, and recommend to you the propriety of giving it a fair trial with the views of mitigating considerably the nuisance arising from the drains and accumulations of decomposing matter, if not of removing the nuisance altogether.-

I can prepare any quantity of the deodorising fluid you may require or order for experiments by having timely notice of a day or two. It will be sufficient for

A.

at the Cost price. I do not desire any profit; my sole object in bringing this subject to your notice is a Regard for the public benefit

I Remain &c
G. Norton

Madras 17th April 1862

To
Lieut Colo H. W. Hutchins
District Engineer Presidency

Sir,

I enclose for your perusal a Copy of a Letter which I addressed to the Municipal Commissioners on the subject of a Chemical Fluid prepared by me for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains and for rendering Sewerage fluid &c innocuous, and would respectfully suggest the application of the fluids to the drains &c in the Fort. the fluids will be supplied to you at the Cost price (as offered to the Municipal Commissioners) on public grounds.

Since I addressed the Municipal Commissioners I yesterday carried out some experiments in the Laboratory of the Medical College in the presence of Mr. J. Mayer, Professor of Chemistry and Messrs. J. J. Wood and R. Wilkins, assistants in the College, and the following substances, which were completely deodorized to the satisfaction of the Professor viz.

1. Hydrosulphuret of Ammonia a very offensive chemical fluid
2. Water impregnated with Sulphuretted Hydrogen gas
3. Sewerage fluid obtained from the drain in the General Hospital

Some trials made to render the air of public necessaries and water closets which

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with an urinous odour, befor in
offensive, or to remove the
bad smell altogether by the
application of the fluids, have
also been attended with
success but my experiments
under this head are not in
sufficiently extensive to permit
me to offer a decided opinion
on this point.

I Remain Sir
G. Norton

/ True Copies /

/ Signed H. W. Hotchkiss Lieut Colo
District Engineer & Resident

/ True Copies /

Benny Capt RE.

Acting Deputy Chief Engr C.

Victoria Circle Office
Chepauk
14th November 1862

No. 344

From
Captain E. Henery R.E.
Asst Deputy Chief Engineer C.C.

To
Colonel H. A. Braidwood R.E.
Secretary to Government F.D.

Sir,

I have directed in para 1 of the Proceedings of Government No. 2918 dated 12th Instant, that the honor to forward Copies of Mr. G. Norton's letters to the address of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras and of the District Engineer Presidency dated 15th and 17th April 1862 respectively on the subject of the Chemical fluid prepared by him for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains and which formed an Enclosure to Colonel Onchterlony's Endorsement to Government dated 5th July 1862 No. 86..

I have the honor to be &
E Henery Captain RE
Asst Dy Chief Engineer C.C.

Enclosure in a letter from the Acting Asst Chief Engineer C.C. to the Secretary to Government P.W.D. dated 14th November 1862 No. 344..

P.W.D. 13439/62

Copy sent to the Govt of India, dated 25th November 1862 - No. 2830.

No. 455. 456.

C. 18th Nov. 1862 R. 20th

No. 2829 - 25th November.

No. 2829. 25 Nov. 24.

From No. 01438.

The Asst Q.M. Genl Engineers
&c. &c. &c.

To The Secretary to Government
&c. &c. &c.

Dated 14th November 1862.

Rec'd 15th " "

Encs 2 - No. 344

Forwarded with reference to the Proceedings noted in the 12th instant copies of Col. Portlock's letters on the subject of the Chemical Journal prepared by him for deodorizing the effluvia arising from drains.

456

No. 2829 - 25th November.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India.

S.E. No. 2830 dated 25th Nov. 1862.

Chepauk
25th Nov. 62.

No. 87