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**MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.****Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

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**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
30th May 1864.*

No. 667. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Communicating papers from Mr. J. Cullen, Mechanical Engineer, Madras Railway, regarding his method for preserving timber from, and destroying white-ants. } (Here enter 17th May 1864, No. 563.)

No 668. ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1864, No. 1,571.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers and the Consulting Engineer, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.  
„ Consulting Engineer Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
17th May 1864.*

No. 95. Read the following letter from J. CULLEN, Esq., Mechanical Engineer, Madras Railway; to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, Fort Saint George, dated Perambore, 6th May 1864.

Having some time back since observed a letter from the Governor of St. Helena inserted in the Madras papers by order of the Governor of Ceylon, offering a reward to any one for a process for preserving timber from, and destroying white-ants in that Island, I having a patent for that process wrote to the Governor of Ceylon on the subject.

2. Some days after I observed a statement in one of the Calcutta papers, viz., that the Bengal Government in reply to the Governor of St. Helena had sent my preparation for the information of that Governor. I addressed the Government of Bengal on the subject, the enclosed are copies of correspondence on the subject, likewise one from the Government of Ceylon.

3. I have made many experiments in India extending over years on that subject, the first being in the Punjab, the proceeds of which I took with me to London for the inspection of Sir Charles Wood: he required a further test, the enclosed is a copy. I tried an experiment for Colonel Maitland at the Gun Carriage Manufactory, two or three pieces failed, the reason I explained to Colonel Maitland having analyzed the lime I used and found a quantity of earthy matter mixed with it.

4. I used pure shell the next experiment I made, which was on that class of timber attacked at the Gun Carriage Manufactory for Mr. W. B. Wright, the enclosed is a copy of results.

Copies of these have been sent to the Home authorities.

From Lieutenant R. E. DAUBUZ, Officiating Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division; to the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, Baugulpore, dated Berhampore, 3rd June 1862, No. 149.

With reference to your Memorandum, No. 29, dated 28th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that two blocks of wood coated with Mr. Cullen's preparation were, with three other pieces of well seasoned wood, buried in a place infested with white-ants on the 9th January last.

2. On taking them up yesterday I find that the prepared pieces have remained untouched, while the other blocks have been attacked but only to a small extent, owing, I believe, to the white-ants not moving much during the dry season.

3. As the experiment has been so far unsatisfactory, I have had them buried again to see what the result will be after two or three months rainy season.

4. The outer coating with which the prepared blocks were covered has to a great extent peeled off, which if happening invariably would materially affect the efficacy of the process, unless the wood were well saturated throughout with the preparation.

No. 77.

Copy submitted to the Officiating Chief Engineer of Bengal for information, with reference to his letter, No. 4316, dated the 17th December last.

(Signed) W. S. TREVOR, Captain, R. E.,

Offg. Supg. Engineer, Northern Circle.

BERHAMPORE, 6th June 1862.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
17th May 1864.*

From Lieutenant R. E. DAUBUZ, Officiating Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division; to Captain W. TREVOR, R. E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, 4th or Northern Circle, Bangalore, dated Berhampore, 26th September 1862, No. 607.

With reference to your Memorandum, No. 126, dated 22nd instant, I have the honor to inform you that on taking up the blocks of wood which have been buried since the date of my former letter, I find that the block covered with the preparation has not been touched by the white-ants, while those unprepared in any way have been attacked.

2. The coating of the preparation does not seem to have been in any way affected by the damp, and is almost in the same condition as when last inspected.

No. 231.

**MEMORANDUM.**

Copy forwarded to the Officiating Chief Engineer of Bengal, with reference to Government of Bengal, No. 4431 of the 16th ultimo.

(Signed) W. S. TREVOR, Captain, R. E.,

BHANGULPORE, 7th October 1862.

(True Copy.) Offg. Supg. Engineer, Northern Circle.

(Signed) J. S. THORPSITON,

For Chief Asst. Public Works Department,  
Bengal Secretariat.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. CULLEN.

From J. SWAN, Esq., Colonial Secretary, Colombo; to J. CULLEN, Esq., Mechanical Engineer, Madras Railway, dated Colombo, 22nd March 1864.

November 6th, 1863.  
February 25th, 1864.

With reference to your letters as per margin,  
I am directed to acquaint you that copies thereof  
have been transmitted to the Governor of St.  
Helena.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. CULLEN.

I hereby certify that I have tested Mr. John Cullen's composition for the preservation of timber on three different descriptions of wood, namely, on teak, mango-wood and deal.

2. The specimens prepared with a coating of the composition were buried in a white-ants' nest where they were allowed to remain for six months. On being taken up they were found to be quite sound and untouched by the white-ants.

3. I had the pieces of wood split up and found that they were quite free also from injury by damp or rot.

MADRAS RAILWAY COMPANY,  
LOCOMOTIVE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,  
PERAMBORE WORKS, MADRAS,  
6th February 1863.

(Signed) W. B. WRIGHT,  
Locomotive Superintendent.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. CULLEN.

From Lieutenant Colonel W. W. READ, R. E., Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department; to J. CULLEN, Esq., Mechanical Engineer, Madras Railway Company, Perambore, dated Fort William, the 29th February 1864, No. 1016.

Public Works Department,  
General.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 18th ultimo, addressed to the Government of India, and to state that, on an application from His Excellency the Governor of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
17th May 1864.*

St. Helena for information respecting the best manner of destroying white-ants and preventing the ravages of these insects, a copy of your letters noted in the margin, and of certain reports (copy annexed) giving the result of experiments which have been tried in Bengal with your preparation, were forwarded to the Government of St. Helena for information.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. CULLEN.

From the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 21st September 1861, No. 50.

At the request of Mr. John Cullen, the Engineer, who was sent from this country in January 1858, to erect the Iron Barracks at Kurrachee, three pieces of timber are transmitted, which have been prepared by him with his patent process, with a view to their being tested in India as to their capability of resisting the ravages of white-ants.

2. I also forward copies of his letters, explaining the method that he proposes for experimentalizing on the specimens of wood now sent, and shall be glad to receive a report upon its success or otherwise, as soon as the invention has been fairly tried.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. CULLEN.

No. 96.

ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1864, No. 563.

Communicated to the Department Public Works, and to the Military Department.

(True Extract.)

*Chief Secretary.*

To the Public Works Department.  
" Military Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

1997

*John*

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Communicated to the  
Superintending Engineer and the  
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Great Canal Company.

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20<sup>th</sup> Aug 1871 }

*W.B.*

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