M.R.O. 1—77,000—6-6-37.

(1) Number of pages .....

(2) Date of repair .....

(3) Initials of the Reference .....

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1217	Press Mis.
626 37	
Dated 26-10-	18 37.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 636. Read the following letter from W. FRASER, Esq., C. E., Special Engineer, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Red Hills, 18th October 1866, No. 39:—

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that Doctor Porteous, the Deputy Inspector General, sent an Apothecary to attend the coolies on Monday morning last, the 15th.

2. I saw the Apothecary this morning, and he reports—

I. That there was no case of cholera amongst the coolies when he arrived.

II. That on that night a man, who had come from Conjeveram, took cholera and died.

III. That no case has occurred since amongst the coolies; but there was one fatal case in the village of Poral, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Chuttrum, where a little girl 7 or 8 years' old died.

IV. That the general health of the coolies is pretty good, but that they are in a very low physical condition, and, should disease break out amongst them, they would probably suffer severely.

V. The coolies eat very little solid food, but spend the greater part of their wages in the purchase of toddy. They are also in the habit of eating uncooked vegetables, and the shell fish found around the tanks.

VI. That they are extremely dirty in their habits, and will not render each other any aid; and that they keep the Chuttrum in a filthy state.

3. I have directed that the Chuttrum should be cleaned thoroughly to-day, and purified with a disinfecting fluid, of which the Apothecary has a supply; that four of the coolies be selected for the purpose of keeping the Chuttrum clean.

That a portion of it be set apart for the sick.

As the Apothecary is on the spot I have requested him to see whether he could form the coolies into messes, so that the cooking could be carried on on a large scale. This would ensure to the coolies cooked food, a large quantity of solids, and less toddy.

4. Should I find it necessary, on my inspection this evening, I will rent a large house which is near the Chuttrum, so as to diminish the crowding which at present exists. They object to go to the hut, and it is desirable that they should be under the eye of the Apothecary.

5. I have often reported that many of the coolies are totally unfit for work; many are old and infirm men and women, and one is actually blind.

On their being mustered to-morrow morning I will, with the aid of the Apothecary, pick out those who are unfit for work and send them to Madras.

6. In ten or twelve days more we may expect the heavy rains which usually continue for a fortnight. During that period no one can work out-of-doors.

Unless the Government direct me to the contrary I will then send all the Madras coolies away, and I trust there will be no necessity after that time to employ them again.

Trusting that the arrangement I have made will be satisfactory to the Government.

No. 637. ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1866, No. 3,427.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 53. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No 639.

Madras water works Office
Red Hills
18th October 1866

From

W. Fraser Esqre C.E
Special Engineer

To

Colonel C.A. Orr R.E
Secretary to Government P.W.D

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government that Doctor Porteous the Deputy Inspector General sent an Apothecary to attend the Coolies on Monday Morning last the 15th:—

1, I saw the Apothecary this morning and he reports,—

I That there was no case of Cholera amongst the coolies when he arrived —

II That on that night, a man, who had come from Conjeveram, took cholera and died —

III That no case has occurred since amongst the coolies, but there was one fatal case in the

Village of Porad, ¾ of a mile from the Chattram, where a little girl for 8 years old died.—

IV— That the general health of the Coolies is pretty good, but that they are in a very low physical condition, and, should disease break out amongst them, they would probably suffer severely—

V— The coolies eat very little solid food, but spend the greater part of their wages in the purchase of Toddy: They are also the best of eating uncooked Vegetables, and the Shell fish found around the Tanks.

VI— That they are extremely dirty in their habits, and will not render each other any aid;— and that they keep the Chattram in a filthy state.—

7— I have directed that the Chattram should be cleaned thoroughly today, and purified with a disenfecting fluid of which the Apothecary has a supply:— That four of the Coolies be selected for the purpose of keeping the Chattram clean:—

That a portion of it be set apart for the sick:—

As the Apothecary is on the spot I have requested him to see whether he could form the Coolies into Messes; so that the Cooking could be carried on on a large scale: This would ensure to the Coolies cooked food, a large quantity of solids, and less Toddy—

8— I should find it necessary, on my inspection this evening, I will rent a large house which is near the Chattram, so as to diminish the crowding which at present exists:—

They object to go to the Hut, and it is desirable that they should be under the eye of the Apothecary

5— I have often reported that many of the Coolies are totally unfit for work: Many are old and infirm men and women. and one is actually blind:—

On their being mustered tomorrow morning

I will, with the aid of the Apothecary, pick out those who are unfit for work and send them to Madras. —

6 — In ten or twelve days more we may expect the heavy rains which usually continue for a fortnight: — During that period no one can work out of doors: —

Unless the Government direct me to the contrary I will then send all the Madras Coolies away, and I trust there will be no necessity after that time to employ them again. —

Trusting that the arrangement I have made will be satisfactory to the Government

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servt
William Dacon C.E
Genl Engineer

I will, with the aid of the Apothecary, pick out
& them

F. W. 1866 Dofno
From Genl Supt Quetta
Abom £4290
W. Fraser Esqre CE
Special Engineer
To Colonel C. A. Crealock CB
Secretary to Government
&c &c &c

Dated 18th October/66
Rd 28th

Genl Staff Engineer
26th Octr 1866

No 3427 - 26th Octr 1866.

Reporting that Dr Porteous Asst
an Apothecary to attend the Coolies
at work at Red Hills, on the 15th
Instant — cases of Cholera
exist regarding them as generally
healthy for pretty [illegible]

Also reporting that when there
is heavy rain, he will send all the
Madras Coolies away from work —

No 536 - 67.