M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-31.

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(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 73 Press Mis.

152-53

Dated 8 1 1866.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

No. 152. Read the following Endorsement of the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 14th December 1865, No. 612.

Read the following letter from the Consulting Physician Madras Railway Company, to the Agent and Manager Madras Railway Company, dated Royapooram, 12th December 1865, No. 205.

1. On the 9th instant I returned to Madras, having completed my second half-yearly inspection, in the current year, of Stations on the South-West and North-West Lines and Bangalore branch of the Madras Railway.

2. With the solitary exception of the resort of gentlemen, on the south platform at Arconum, I found all the stations clean in all their parts. In the forementioned station, however, Natives had intruded into the European urinaries and abused them shamefully ; and, as a means of preventing such abuse in future, I beg to suggest that the entrances to the European urinaries be guarded by doors, with strong latches. The existence of these will materially help watching Porters in their efforts to prevent Natives trespassing where they have no right of admittance, but such doors will not by any means prove a substitute for Porters, whose vigilance should be more constant and careful than it has hitherto been.

3. Though the urinaries were all but universally clean, several of them were offensive ; and those in which offensiveness was most marked, were *covered*. I make this remark with special respect to a reference made some time ago to me on the subject of covered latrines and urinaries. My observations during the recent inspection leave no doubt on my mind that it would be a great mistake to cover those in connection with our Railway stations. Air itself is a most powerful deodorizer, and any arrangement which would restrict or reduce its free access to latrines and urinaries, must necessarily render them offensive ; and I feel certain that resorts, which are now almost or quite inodorous will, when roofed in, be intolerable on account of their stench. I need only to allude to the offensiveness of the covered urinaries in the Madras Terminus, Arconum, Bangalore, and Beypoor, in support of what I have just stated.

4. In almost all the Native latrines the use of sand and earth, as a covering to the asphalte flooring, had been discontinued, and a quantity of one or other was kept in a corner of each latrine for the purpose of being thrown upon the droppings as they are deposited. This change is a decided improvement. The latrines are less offensive than they were before, and this for the obvious reason, that urine flows off at once into the cesses, instead of being absorbed by the sand or earth, and seething in the sun. The floors also are now more frequently washed, and cleanliness thus better secured. I would, however, recommend that a covered reservoir for earth be built in one corner of each latrine in all the stations, similar to those already constructed by Mr. Carter in the latrines at Coimbatore.

5. The condition of the Native village just outside the Railway premises at Salem demands attention. A large number of huts are crowded together on a limited space, without any regard to ventilation or any adequate provision for drainage. The community here are doing their best to prepare themselves for the invasion of epidemic disease, which is sure to act with fatal violence amongst them whenever it may occur.

6. The necessity for better conservancy arrangements at Beypoor is manifest. Dust-bins should be built for the houses of Railway servants, and Scavengers directed to empty those receptacles twice daily. Privy trucks should be provided with uprights, like those at Coimbatore, to cover in the apertures through which they are let into the privies.

7. Tree-planting has been commenced in the premises of Coimbatore station, and is required in some other stations as well. That of Wontimittah, on the North-West Line, I may specially mention as one which would be improved in this way, some minor details, observed by me during the inspection just terminated, I shall communicate to the Chief Engineer and Traffic Manager.

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1. Forwarded to Government for information.

2. The Agent and Manager has been requested to state whether the suggestions in paragraphs 2, 6, and 7 have met with his approval, and whether he proposes to give effect to them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 8th January 1866.*

3. In reference to the remarks in paragraph 5, I enclose, for the information of Government, copy of a letter I have addressed to the Collector and Magistrate of Salem. It would seem doubtful whether he will have much power to improve the condition of the village, until the Act now passing through the Legislative Council shall have come into operation.

(Signed) J. C. ANDERSON, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
*Consulting Engineer for Railways.*

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From the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Collector and Magistrate of Salem, dated Madras, 14th December 1865, No. 555.

1. I have the honor to forward an extract from a Report from the Consulting Physician, Madras Railway Company, on the condition of the village adjoining the Railway station at Sooramungalum, and to request that you will be so good as to take such steps as may be necessary to introduce some order in the arrangement and style of accommodation existing in the place, as well as for keeping the place clean.

2. I am not aware whether any provision has been made for a latrine for the use of the people living in the village, and for its being kept clean.

3. The Bill which is now under the consideration of the local Legislative Council, will give you ample powers for regulating the sanitary arrangements essential in villages situated within a certain distance of the Railway; but it would seem desirable, in the meantime, that such precautionary measures as may be necessary, should be taken to prevent an outbreak of epidemic disease at the village near the station.

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No. 153. ORDER THEREON, 8th January 1866, No. 73.

RAILWAY, No. 12. Ordered to be recorded.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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No 205. Madras Railway Company,
Consulting Physicians Office,
Royapooram, 12th December 1865.

To

The Agent and Manager
M. R. Co.

Dear Sir,

1. On the 9th Instant, I returned to Madras having completed my second half yearly Inspection in the Current year, of Stations on the South West and North West Lines, and Bangalore branch of the Madras Railway.

2. With the solitary exception of the resort of Gentlemen, on the South platforms at Arconum I found all the Stations clean in all their parts. In the forementioned Station however, Natives had intruded into the European Urinaries and abused them shamefully; and, as a means of preventing such abuse in future, I beg to suggest that the entrances to the European Urinaries be guarded by doors, with strong latches. The existence of these will materially help watching Porters in their efforts to prevent natives trespassing where they have no right of admittance, but such doors will not by any means prove a substitute for Porters, whose vigilance should be more constant and careful than it has hitherto been.

3. Though the Urinaries were all but universally clean, several of them were offensive and those in which offensiveness was most marked, were Covered. I make this remark with special respect to a reference made some time ago to me on the subject of Covered Latrines

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and Urinaries. My observations during the recent Inspection have no doubt on my mind that it would be a great mistake to Cover those in connection with our Railway Stations. Air itself is a most powerful deodorizer, and any arrangement which would restrict or reduce its free access to Latrines and urinaries, must necessarily render them offensive; and I feel certain that privies, which are now almost or quite, inodorous will, when roofed in be intolerable on account of their stench. I need only to allude to the offensiveness of the Covered Urinaries in the Madras Terminus, Erode, Bangalore and Beypoor, in support of what I have just stated.

4. In almost all the native Latrines the use of sand and earth, as a Covering to the Asphalte flooring, had been discontinued, and a quantity of one or other was kept in a Corner of each Latrine for the purpose of being thrown upon the droppings as they are deposited. This change is a decided improvement. The Latrines are less offensive than they were before, and this for the obvious reason, that Urine flows off at once into the Cesses, instead of being absorbed by the sand or earth, and see thing in the sun. The floors also are now more frequently washed, and Cleanliness thus better secured. I would, however, recommend that a Covered reservoir for earth be built in one Corner of each Latrine in all the Stations, similar to those already Constructed by Mr Carter in the Latrines at Coimbatore.

5. The Condition of the native Village just outside the Railway premises at Salem demands attention. A large number of huts are crowded together on a limited space, without any regard to ventilation or any adequate provision for drainage. The community here are doing their best to prepare themselves for the invasion of epidemic disease, which is sure to act with fatal violence amongst them whenever it may occur.

6. The necessity for better Conservancy arrangements at Beypoor is manifest. Dust-bins should be built for the houses of Railway Servants, and Scavengers directed to empty those receptacles twice daily. Privy Trucks should be provided with uprights, like those at Coimbatore, to cover in the apertures through which they are let into the privies.

7. Tree-planting has been commenced in the premises of Coimbatore Station, and is required in some other stations as well. That of Pondicherry on the North West line, I may especially mention as one which would be improved in this way. Some minor details, observed by me during the inspection just terminated, I shall communicate to the Chief Engineer and Traffic Manager.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd) W. D. Cork Somerset, M.D.
Consulting Physician.
M. R. C.

/True Copy/
Agent and Manager.

No 612.

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No 73
Recorded
Govt St George
8th January 1866

Forwarded to Government for information.

2. The Agent and Manager has been requested to state whether the suggestions in paragraphs 2. 6 & 7. have met with his approval, and whether he proposes to give effect to them.

3. In reference to the remarks in paragraph 5, I enclose for the information of Government copy of a letter I have addressed to the Collector and Magistrate of Salem. It would seem doubtful whether he will have much power to improve the condition of the Village, until the Act now passing through the Legislative Council shall have come into operation.-

J. Anderson Lt Coll. R.E
Consulting Engineer for Pys

Madras
14th Decr 65

To
The Secretary to Government &c &c &c
Fort Saint George