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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

P-W. DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 3-7- 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

M 43

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
3rd July 1867.

No. 84. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Military Works), dated Simla, the 10th June 1867, No. 50 :—

Governments, Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab.
Chief Commissioners, Oudh, Central Provinces, and British Burmah.
Commissioner of Mysore.
Resident at Hyderabad.
Agents, Governor General, Central India, and Rajpootana.
Military Department.
Adjutant General.
Quarter Master General
Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal.

Copy of the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations, and to the Public Officers and Departments noted on the margin, for information and guidance, with special reference to the question of dry earth conservancy treated of in the papers which accompanied Public Works Department Circular No. 28, dated 16th March 1867.

By Order, &c.,

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R. A.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

From the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 30th April 1867, No. 238.

1. With reference to your Circular No. 28, dated the 16th March, copy of which was lately received for information, I have the honour to observe that, while fully agreeing with Dr. Mouat as regards the great value of the dry earth system of conservancy especially in jails, the plan of latrine recommended for adoption is by no means well adapted for the purpose. It is much more elaborate than desirable. During my recent tour I have had an opportunity of inspecting the latrines used in many jails, and have found that a simple shed provided with earthen-ware pans forms an admirable privy for prisoners. All such contrivances, as "scuttles for earth," "urinal boxes on wheels," and "holes for shooting the earth," are not only unnecessary, but must interfere with that extreme cleanliness which attends the greatest simplicity of structure. Were such latrines as given in the plan generally introduced into jails, the expense would be very great, while the money that would thus be diverted might be expended with very much greater advantage on other jail works of much more pressing necessity. Moreover, it is very undesirable, both as regards discipline and sanitary considerations, that one latrine should be frequented by 500 prisoners as proposed.

2. There is another important question alluded to in the extract from Dr. Mouat's report which accompanies the Circular under reference. He there expresses his opinion that the "burying of sewage in jail gardens is a dangerous proceeding," and "one extremely liable to be injurious to health;" and, moreover, entertains little doubt "that the burying of large quantities of dried ordure mixed with sand in the garden of the Central Jail at Lahore, has been the chief cause of the great sickness that prevailed there." Dr. Mouat's remarks were made nearly two years ago. Since that time many important facts have come to light with reference to the special form of sickness which caused so great mortality in the Lahore and other Jails, and the evidence appears to me to prove in the most conclusive manner that there are no grounds for believing that the sickness was due, in any way, to the burying of sewage in the jail gardens. Sewage is now buried in, I may say, all the jail gardens of the North-Western Provinces and Punjab; and so long as it is buried in such a way as to act as manure, I believe it could not be disposed of in a better or safer manner. In last Annual Sanitary Report* I drew attention to Dr. Mouat's opinion on the origin of the jail fever, with a view of showing that it rested on an insufficient basis, and I am anxious that the circulation of his

* Page 129.

opinion by the Government of India should not interfere with the excellent conservancy arrangements that are now generally carried out in the jails of Upper India.

No. 85. ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1867, No. 1,978.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 9.

Communicated to the Judicial Department and to the Superintending Engineers in continuation of G. O. of the 14th May 1867, No. 1,454.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.
,, Superintending Engineers.
To Captain Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Augustin,

Circular No. 50, Public Works.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Military Works.

SIMLA, *the 10th June* 1867.

Copy of the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations, and to the Public Officers and Departments noted on the margin, for information and guidance, with special reference to the question of dry earth conservancy treated of in the papers which accompanied Public Works Department Circular No. 23, dated 16th March 1867.

Governments, Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab.
Chief Commissioners, Oudh, Central Provinces, and British Burmah.
Commissioner of Mysore.
Resident at Hyderabad.
Agents, Governor General, Central India, and Rajpootana.
Military Department.
Adjutant General.
Quarter Master General.
Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, *Colonel*, R. A.,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Captain, R. E.,
Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 238, dated Simla, 30th April 1867.

From—The Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal,
To—The Secretary to Government of India, P. W. D.

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To the Secretary to Govt. of Madras
in the Public Works Dept.

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* Page 129.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Military Works

To

CIRCULAR No. 50, PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated Simla, 10th June 1867.

Received 26th do

Dry earth Conservancy.

William Coaker

28th June 1867 Ord. 10th July 1867.

To

The Judicial Dept.
" Surg. Engrs.
Capt. Kennedy.

Dept. 4/7/67