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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2278 Press Mis.

104-05

Dated 7 9 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 104. Read the following letter from the Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) to the Acting Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 31st July 1871, No. 352-I. :—

THE attention of the Governor-General in Council has again been drawn to the subject of cement manufacture in this country. Various experiments in this direction have been tried in different localities for some time past, without having elicited any satisfactory information as to the existence of a natural cement, or the possibility of manufacturing a material equal to the artificial cements now only obtainable from England at great cost.

2. It is known that the lime-stone formation in the hills overlooking the river Sone contains many qualities varying in degree of excellence and producing a mortar well adapted for hydraulic structures, and that many varieties of the nodular lime-stone formation (usually called kunkur) in various parts of the North-Western Provinces and Punjab are capable of yielding mortar of first-rate quality; but whether a cement can be manufactured from any of the Indian lime-stones capable of application under the varying circumstances and climates found throughout India, and admitting of being transported to distant localities at a reasonable cost, has never yet been established.

3. The subject is one of such great importance in connection with the extensive hydraulic and other works in progress throughout India, that it should be treated in a more definite manner than by a series of merely desultory experiments such as have hitherto been conducted in certain Provinces.

4. His Excellency in Council considers that the subject may be fully taken up first in Bengal, where the cost of lime is very heavy and where the use of cement of good quality has been found to be greatly needed; and to this end His Excellency is pleased to authorize the temporary employment in Bengal of Mr. Dejoux, a gentleman who some time ago proffered his services to Government, and appears to possess certain qualifications necessary for this particular duty. Should he be still willing to serve the Government, he might be offered an appointment as third-grade Executive Engineer for *twelve* months at first, after which time an idea could probably be formed as to the length of time it would be necessary to continue the experiments in Bengal, and of the fitness and qualifications of Mr. Dejoux for this work, and of the propriety of his further employment on a similar duty.

5. But as regards the subject generally it seems probable that amongst the several young engineers employed in each Province there are some who at the School of Mines or elsewhere have acquired a sufficient knowledge of analytical chemistry to make their services useful in testing lime-stones, and ascertaining the additions necessary to give them hydraulic properties, and it would be worthwhile to select such an officer in each Province for this particular duty, and provide him with the necessary, simple, and inexpensive chemical apparatus with a view to his employment on this line of inquiry and experiment.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th September 1871.

No. 105. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1871, No. 2,278.

IRRIGATION, No. 6.

COMMUNICATED to Superintending Engineers in order to the Government being informed of any Executive or Assistant Engineer who professes to have special knowledge of analytical chemistry practically acquired at the School of Mines in London or elsewhere.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers.
,, Major R. B. Kennedy.
To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
To R. F. Chisholm, Esq.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION.

To

Nos. 3521.

Dated Simla, 31st July 1871.

Received 9th Aug 1871

Draws attention to the importance of carrying out experiments in the manufacture of cement in connexion with the extensive hydraulic and other works in progress throughout India, and to the necessity of employing some young Engineer Officer having a knowledge of analytical chemistry for conducting experiments in each Province.

No. 2278-7 September 1871.

Written Order

1871

Cabl of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To Superintending Engr

Dated

Recd.

Copied

No3. 1021 & 105

Cement. Letter from the Govt Madras regarding the Manufacture of Cement & the Necessity for employing some Army Engr Officer having a knowledge of Analytical Chemistry for conducting experiments in and Preparing &c. &c. & the duties of Engr with instructions.