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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. <i>H 40</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
<i>293-94</i>	
Dated <i>13</i> <i>2</i>	<i>1871</i> .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th February 1871.*

No. 293. Read the following Endorsement of the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 25th January 1871, No. 41 :—

Docket from the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, to the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 19th January 1871, No. 33.

Has the honour to enclose a copy of the Acting Consulting Physician's Report* on the sanitary condition of the Railway for the half-year ended the 31st December last.

* No 259, dated 17th January 1871.

(Signed) J. W. MELLIS,
For Agent and Manager.

From the Acting Consulting Physician of the Madras Railway Company, to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway Company, dated Royapouram, 17th January 1871, No. 259.

I BEG to state that the usual half-yearly inspection was made by me in the latter part of December and the beginning of January.

2. On this as on former occasions all the stations on the main line and branches, including the recent extension to the Toongabudra river, were visited, but as I have reported on the small stations to the Traffic Manager, I do not now consider it necessary to say more regarding them than that I was on the whole satisfied with their condition.

3. NORTH-WEST LINE. *Tirupetty*.—Here the station premises and waiting room were in good order, as were also the public urinals and latrines. One tube in the native men's latrine required repair, as it leaked, and the running bungalow privy required tar up the walls, a better slope for the floor, and a pit and bucket behind. The Choultry outside the compound was clean; but the ditch around this building, though dry, was unsightly, and will be offensive next rainy season unless improved.

Cuddapah was in excellent order. The station premises, public latrines, waiting rooms, and private bungalows were clean. In no latrine was there the least smell. In all the private privies, pits and buckets have been successfully introduced.

Ghooty.—Has had the ladies' room much improved in appearance since the date of last inspection, and the gentlemen's waiting room was in good order. The public native latrines were in a satisfactory state; but the European urinary, though clean, was smelling strongly, and the entrance passage had the floor soiled. This urinary requires the floor to be made more sloping, a more free exit for the urine, and, in order to prevent nuisance in the passage, a light and a Peon when trains are expected, and at other times a locked door at the entrance. Some of the private privies were in want of tar up the walls, and some were offensive and not quite clean. I was not on the whole entirely satisfied with the Inspector at this important station, as he accounted for the indifferent condition of the conservancy by stating that he had had repeated attacks of fever during the season. I felt it necessary to tell him that nothing could be considered a sufficient excuse for neglect of sanitation, and that, if he felt himself unable to perform his duties efficiently, the proper

course was to take leave on medical certificate. The accommodation provided for Guards has been improved since last report; but the native writers' lines are still unchanged, and afford very indifferent quarters for the Company's clerks. Several of the houses occupied by Drivers and other employes have panels, and not venetians, for the doors, which must affect ventilation injuriously. A broad path in front of the Drivers' bungalow, and cutting or burning the grass, would improve the appearance of the compound and diminish the risk of snake-bite. As fever and epidemic diseases prevail during certain winds, a thick tope of trees might with advantage be planted along the bank of the river and on the south side of the compound. Attention should be directed to a native village steadily growing up near the Company's land on the south side. If the village is necessary in the position it now occupies, means should be adopted for improving its conservancy, but it will become a source of danger to the Railway servants.

Arconum—This station was in good order, and the conservancy was found well attended to. As stated in last report, the north native latrine was not quite free from smell; and, as I know that care has not been wanting, I am inclined to think that, although from the numbers frequenting it, there may be always more or less difficulty here, a great part of the nuisance might be removed by re-flooring the latrine with asphalt sloped sufficiently to allow the urine to run off very quickly into pipes much larger than those at present in use. In the ladies' room on the south platform the basket is too large for the pan; and, in the gentlemen's urinary on the same platform, the asphalt requires renewal in some places. The native latrines attached to the lines were in good order, clean, and sweet; and this was the case with the privies attached to the private bungalows also, where, however, there were no pits or buckets. The sweepers here require to have huts in or near the compound, for which they are willing to pay rent. At present they have a long way to walk to and from their work several times a day. The ditch on the east outside the compound and the latrine belonging to the Choultry near the Railway boundary were very dirty.

4. SOUTH-WEST LINE *Vellore*—At this station, the platform, waiting rooms, and public latrines and urinaries were in excellent order. The private privies were quite clean and sweet. They had pits and buckets behind them as recommended in my last report. The asphalt in some of the floors was not quite perfect. A bazaar has grown up on the south-west side opening into the compound, and giving rise to considerable nuisance both within the Company's premises and outside along the west hedge.

Salem was found clean and in a satisfactory state. The platform, waiting rooms, public latrines, and urinaries were in good order, and the privies attached to the bungalows were without smell. Pits have been made and buckets supplied to all the bungalows. The addition recommended in last report was being made to the Signallers' bungalow at the time of my visit. The aloe hedge at the east side of the compound is very near a large bazaar, and is said to give rise at times to a very offensive smell from nuisance committed under it. On examination, I could not see any nuisance there, but the situation is such as to render a wall very desirable.

Erode—This station was in good order when I inspected it, the latrines, urinaries, and waiting rooms being all clean. There were pits and buckets at each

bungalow. There is some difficulty in obtaining water for conservancy purposes at this station, the irrigation channel, which is at some distance, being the chief source of supply. A well in the compound seems required. The Choultry latrine on the east side of the compound was very clean.

Coimbatore.—Had the platform, waiting rooms, and public latrines and urinaries very clean and free from offensive smell. The latrines for the native employes were also clean, and the privies attached to the bungalows, which were having pits and buckets introduced at the time of my visit, were well kept. The Choultry latrine was dirty. The nuisance arising from passengers for the 4-15 A. M. train sleeping in the back verandah was very marked. There was a disagreeable odour at 10 P. M. even, but this was nothing to that experienced on entering the verandah at 4 A. M. next day, when the smell was most offensive and gave rise to nausea. The locomotive lines require masonry drains leading into a main drain.

Palghaut.—Had the waiting room, public latrines, and urinaries and platform in good order, and the privies attached to the bungalows occupied by the employes were being completed. The compound had had the long grass cut shortly before inspection, and the paths to the bungalows were clear. If the compound were levelled and good grass introduced, a profit might be made by the sale of hay, and at the same time the health of the employes would be improved by the removal of the swamp now existing between the engine-shed and the bungalows.

Beypore.—At Beypore the waiting rooms and all places open to the public were clean. Some of the utensils in the ladies' waiting room were chipped, and one basin was missing from the stand. The private and workmen's latrines were all clean and free from smell, but there were no pits or buckets at the private latrines. A public latrine for native passengers is required.

5. BANGALORE BRANCH. *Bangalore*—This station was found much improved in regard to its sanitation. The waiting rooms were in good order, as were also the public and private latrines and urinaries. The cess-pools have been filled up, and the other recommendations made in the last report are being attended to. The large masses of stone alternating with excavations near the porters' and other lines in front of the station afford shelter to persons committing nuisance. The excavations might with advantage be filled up and the ground fenced and planted.

Jollarapett requires but little notice, as the waiting rooms, public latrines and urinaries were in very good order, and the private privies were quite clean and sweet although they had no pits or buckets, and the slope of the floor was in some instances towards the door. The Reddy's house which was being proceeded with in July appeared to have had nothing done to it for sometime. The traffic lines require masonry drains in front leading to a main drain, and if the locomotive lines are to remain, the drainage in that part of the compound should be improved.

6 In concluding this report, I have much pleasure in stating that the Inspectors, with the exception mentioned, have been very attentive to their duties during the past half-year. The recommendations made in my last report have been attended to, and the changes then suggested are being gradually effected.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th February 1871.*

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Agent has informed me that the attention of the heads of departments has been called to the remarks relating to the buildings in the several departments.

(Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Captain, R. E.,
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

No. 294.

ORDER THEREON, 13th February 1871, No. 440.

RAILWAY, No. 37.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

*the Railway for the half year ended
31st December last:*

J. H. Nellis.

for the Agent & Manager.

20889
Madras Railway

From

The Agent Manager
of the M.R.

To
The Acting Cons. Engr.
for Railways

Per 387/71
Dated 19 January
Recd. 20 " 1871

Memorandum
Has the honor to
enclose a copy of
the Acting Consulting
Physician's Report
on the Murchison Commission

* No 259 - 17 January
1871.

Enclosure

No 41.

Submitted for the information of Government.

The Agent has informed me that
the attention of the heads of Departments has
been called to the remarks relating to the buildings
in the several Departments.

W. S. B. D. J. S. T. Captain R. E.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

Madras, 25 Jan'y 1871

Ag. Consgr Engr. for Railways

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort Saint George

208

(3)

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

1871. *Sept*

No 389

From The Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To The Secretary to Government, P W Department, Fort St. George

Dated 25th } *Laury* 1871
Received 27 }
Encl. 1. No. 41-

Submitting for the information of Government, Consulting Physician's report for the past half year.

No 440-13 Feb 17
With an order

Order to be recorded.

Revised

At St. George's
13 Feb 17

12. Consulting for Railways
Sept 14/71

61 Feb 11 B. 3rd

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Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Ag. Consulting Engr.
for Railways

Dated

Recd

Encl 1/

G O 13: Feb 1871, No. 440.

Nos. 293 & 294

Stations. Endorsement
The Engr. for Railways
Submitting the Engr. Physician
half report of the Sanitary
State of the Stations on
the S. W. & S. N. Lines
The Madras Railways
Recorded.