

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1306	Press
B.P. No.	130-131-	Mis.
Dated	10-5-	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th May 1873.*

No. 130. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R. E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 31st March 1873, No. 5,638 :—

In acknowledging the receipt of G. O., 24th March 1873, No. 915, in which the Inspector General of Jails expresses his disapproval of the Madura pattern of latrine, I have the honour to offer the following remarks, and to request the favour of your giving them the same publicity as has been given to Colonel Wilson's adverse criticisms on the latrine in question.

1. Colonel Wilson admits that the latrine at Madura "was not quite finished" at the time of his visit, and that it had not been used. He also admits that he did not examine the building 'minutely.' And thus it has happened that he has condemned a pattern of latrine for reasons which have no actual existence.

2. I should premise by saying that I claim no kind of originality for the design of latrine in question. My object is to follow as closely as possible the plan laid down by the Rev. Mr. Moule, the introducer of the earth-closet system, and to adapt that system to what may be termed 'squatters' in lieu of 'sitters.'

3. The galvanized iron pan, introduced by Mr. Moule, is provided by me for each seat or rather 'squat,' so that there is no risk that the persons "using the seats will micturate on the ground in front of them," as conjectured by the Inspector General of Jails.

4. Colonel Wilson's objection No. III., also at once disappears, as there is no "hole in the wall," and no occasion therefore "to rake the matter out," as conjectured. Indeed, by the system I advocate, all this dabbling in filth is avoided, as the pans when filled are carried bodily away and emptied, and their contents can, if necessary, be used over and over again, as I have myself witnessed at Mr. Moule's office in England, where after but only a few days the paper even disappears, and there is nothing to distinguish the matter from ordinary earth.

5. In regard to objection I., that the building has no roof, the latrine in question was built in this manner by the special desire of the Municipal Commissioners of Madura, as it is found that during rain latrines are little used, as people will not go to the inconvenience of visiting a distant latrine. Moreover, as the pans are provided with covers, they are protected from the rain; and an open latrine has the advantage of being purified by the grand deodorizing power of the sun. For a jail, of course, a covered latrine may be deemed advisable, though scarcely on Colonel Wilson's reasoning in regard to privacy. For if privacy while using the latrine is considered of little moment, see paragraph 3 of his letter, "as persons using the latrine are seen by those who may enter after them, or who may quit the place before them," so covering in the latrine may be deemed of little use, as persons using the latrine will, during rain, get wet both in entering and quitting it. The question, however, of roofing the latrine or not is a question apart, and if desired by the Inspector General of Jails, the District Engineer, in each case,

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10th May 1873.*

would provide the same with the materials lying most conveniently and economically at his hands.

7. All I advocate is that the Moule earth-closet system should be departed from as little as need be, and that such an arrangement as that introduced in the Coimbatore system be rendered impossible. For surely it must be conceded that that man must indeed be lost to all sense of feeling, who can, while seated at his ease, view without disgust other men's urine coursing down in a broad gutter immediately in front of him.

8. I enclose my design for the latrine for the new debtor's jail at this place. You will observe that it is roofed, and that it has a space for a covered bucket to be used as a urinal. I understood Colonel Wilson to say, during his recent visit to Madras, that he approved of this design.

No. 131.

ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1873, No. 1,303.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 3.

ORDERED that Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts' plan of latrine be lithographed and circulated to all District Engineers for adoption in any Municipalities or Cutcheries where it may be approved of by the Municipal Board and the Magistracy.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To District Engineers,
To the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings,
To Major R. B. Kennedy,
To the Public Department.
" Revenue "

With Plan.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

No 5638.

District Engineer's Office
Madras 31 March 1873

From

Lieut. Colonel R. A. Roberts R.E.
District Engineer, Madras.

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government D.P.W.

Sir,

Enclosure 1
Plan

In acknowledging the receipt of L.O. 24 March 1873, No. 915, in which the Inspector General of jails expresses his disapproval of the Madras pattern of Latrine, I have the honor to offer the following remarks and to request the favor of your giving them the same publicity ^{has been given to} as Colonel Wilson's adverse criticisms on the Latrine in question.

2 Colonel Wilson admits that the Latrine at Madras "was not quite finished" at the time of his visit, and that it had not been used. He also

admits that he did not examine the building "minutely." And thus it has happened that he has condemned a pattern of latrine for reasons which have no actual existence.

3. I should premise by saying that I claim no kind of originality for the design of latrine in question. My object is to follow as closely as possible the plan laid down by the Reverend Mr. Moule, the introducer of the earth closet system and to adapt that system to what may be termed 'squatters' in lieu of 'sitters'.

4. The galvanized iron pan introduced by Mr. Moule is provided by one for each seat, or rather 'squat'; so that there is no risk that the persons using the seats will "micturate" on the ground in front "of them," as conjectured by the Inspector General of jails.

5. Colonel Wilson's objection, No III, also at once disappears, as there is no "hole in the wall" and no occasion therefore to rake the matter out," as conjectured. Indeed by the system of advocate, all this habbng in filth is avoided, as the pans when filled are carried bodily away and emptied and their contents can, if necessary, be used over and over again, as I have myself witnessed at Mr. Moule's Office in England; where after but only a few days the paper even disappears, and there is nothing to distinguish the matter from ~~an~~ ordinary earth.

6. In regard to objection I, that the building has no roof, the latrine in question was built in this manner, by the special desire of the Municipal Commission of Madras, as it is found that during ^{rain} latrines are little used, as people will not go to the inconvenience

of visiting a distant latrine. Moreover
as the pans are provided with covers,
they are protected from the rain;
and an open latrine has the
advantage of being purified by
the grand deodorizing power
of the sun. For a part, of course,
a covered latrine may be deemed
advisable, though scarcely on
Colonel Wilson's reasoning in regard
to privacy. For if privacy while
using the latrine is considered
of little moment, see para 3 of his letter,
as persons using the latrine are
seen by those who may enter after
them, or who may quit the place
before them; so covering in the
latrine may be deemed of little
use, as persons using the latrine
will, during rain, get wet both in
entering and quitting it. The
question, however, of roofing the latrine
or not is a question apart, and
desired by the Inspector General

of jails, the District Engineer, in each
case, would provide the pans with
the materials lying most conveniently
and economically at his hands.

7. All I advocate is that the
Moulton earth-closet system should be
departed from as little as need be;
and that such an arrangement
as that introduced in the Comptrol
system be rendered impossible. For
surely it must be conceded that
that man must indeed be lost to
all sense of feeling, who can, while
seated at his ease, view without
disgust other men's urine coursing
down in a broad gutter immediately
in front of him.

8. I enclose my design
for the latrine for the New Deton's
part at this place. You will observe
that it is roofed, and that it has
a space for a covered bucket to
be used as a privy. I under-
stood Colonel Wilson to say, during

his recent visit to Madras, that he
approved of this design.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedt^l servant,
Geo. J. Roberts, (Vint Robt. & Co)
District Engineer

Leaves:
C. *Keokukensis*

[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page]

Satd 31st March 1873
Received 5th April 1873.

Enclosure 1

Offering certain
remarks on G. O.
No 915, dated 24
March 1873 on the
subject of Latimer

With our order

24/10/20

Ordered that ninth Ball be sold to Robert

None of them are better suited and

circulated to all Districts & are now

Do not change his nature at any his appearance

of the Municipal Board & the Legislature

15-11-1904

Hand 1
Nov 27-8-93

Pro 22. Monte / 2056
27/30-31

The United States of America
 do hereby certify that
 the following is a true and correct
 copy of the original
 as the same appears on file
 in the office of the
 Secretary of the
 Department of the
 Interior
 at Washington, D.C.
 this 19th day of
 August 1903
 Secretary of the Interior

17 May - R2 3 May.

Cp. 2207
Code of 1873
PUBLIC WORKS.

To the District Agent.

Dated

Recd.

Recd. of

May 10 1873. 1806

Nov. 13/13/1

Caprine Lt. Col. Roberts

Plans of Caprine ordered
to be lithographed & cir-
culated to all St. Aug.
for adoption in any
Municipalities or Sub-
divisions where it may
be approved of by the
Municipal Board &
the Magistracy.

May 12 3 May.