

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1929A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
342A		
Dated	17-7-1874	105

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 342A. Read the following letter from Surgeon E. NICHOLSON, British Medical Service, on special duty, Public Works Department, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bangalore, 8th July 1874, No. 83 :—

I HAVE the honor to state that since receiving the orders of Government, dated 24th April 1874, I have used every endeavour to complete the examination of limestones by the date therein specified, viz., 31st July. For this purpose I have been obliged to put aside the conclusion of my report on the surki experiments; but still, using all diligence, I am occasionally obliged to pause when I meet with a stone, the chemical examination of which points to the probability of its possessing marked hydraulic properties, as, in order to confirm its value, it must be burnt and subjected to practical examination. By so doing I have found, besides many excellent hydraulic limestones, several stones yielding a cement which is fully equal to Portland cement in its value for hydraulic masonry, and is only inferior to it in rapidity of setting. I can at present speak with certainty regarding three such cement-stones found in the Coimbatore District.

1st.—Irrigation Range, Kotamungulum.

2nd.—Collegal Range, Ajpuram.

3rd.—Do. do.

The Ajpuram stones are, I understand, obtainable in large quantity. I have also found a stone little inferior in a specimen sent from Ootacamund; it is found near Mettapollium at Podur and Mungalkerry.

2. Having deemed it advisable, rightly I hope, to make a complete examination of any stone promising to be of unusual value, I find myself somewhat pressed for time, and should be glad of an extension of two months or even of one month in order to complete the work of classification in a proper manner. I believe that by the end of the extended period I should be able to lay before Government a set of cements which will reduce the necessity for imported cement to a minimum, and also a simple and inexpensive method of making Portland cement to set under water in as many minutes as it usually requires hours.

3. I am also preparing a collection of typical limestones with a descriptive classification for reference or for purposes of instruction.

4. With regard to my calcimeter, I regret that pressure of work has prevented me from preparing drawings and specifications of it; I am, however, preparing a duplicate instrument, by the aid of which as a pattern and of imported materials the instrument could be made up in the Departmental Workshops.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th July 1874.

No. 342B.

ORDER THEREON, 17th July 1874, No. 1,929A.

IRRIGATION, No. 33.

Establishment.

UNDER the circumstances brought to notice by Surgeon Nicholson in the above letter, the Government accede to his request for an extension of the period of his employment, on the special duty

on which he is now engaged, up to the 31st August 1874.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

Joint Secretary to Government.

To Surgeon E. Nicholson.
To the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Proceedings of the Madras Government
From G.O. No. 1929A of 17th July 1874
Surgeon Nicholson (He Eeels 83 dated 8 July 1874)
Read the following

Under the circumstances brought to notice by Surgeon Nicholson in the above letter, the Govt. accede to his request for an extension of the period of his employment, on the special duty on which he is now engaged, up to the 31st August 1874.

3- despatch only to Dr. Nicholson 17/7/74
Controller 18/7/74
S. Copies despatch 17/8/74

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

*Noted
5/9/74*

Surgeon E. Nicholson

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 17 July 1874, No. 19298

Nos. 342A-342B.

Surgeon Nicholson -

The period of Surgeon
Nicholson's employment on
the special duty in which
he is now engaged extended
up to the 31st August 1874