

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 30 25

DATED

January 1898

1 copy with
no 3216/88

[Despatch Abstract.]

Conservancy in Subjails, Pro, Judicial Dept Requesting
Main S^t Magistrates to experiment upon two systems
— advocated and drawing the attention of the
S^d to the proposal of the S. G. of Prisons for the removal
latrines from estimates when subjails are the
only built, Comd to S. G. for attention.

7-1-90

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A., Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 22nd July 1897, No. 3433.

In the year 1894, the District Magistrate of South Arcot sanctioned the experimental use in the sub-jails of the sub-division of moveable trench latrines, with tatty screens, such as are advocated on page 100 of the late Dr. McNally's Sanitary Hand Book. In a letter, Dis. No. 98, dated 29th August 1896 (copy enclosed), the Sub-Collector of South Arcot reported that these latrines had worked well. The Sub-Collector's report was referred to the Sanitary Commissioner who, in a letter, No. 514-S., dated 2nd March 1897 (copy enclosed), expressed approval of this form of latrine.

2. The expenditure which has been incurred on building and repairing sub-jail latrines during the last thirty years must have been very large, and it is still going on. The latrines built are, nevertheless, generally ill-ventilated and difficult to keep clean, although a considerable sum is spent annually on wages to sub-jail toties. In some sub-jails, there is not sufficient ground to enable moveable trench latrines to be used, but in many others there is plenty of land available and the digging of trenches would furnish the prisoners with some healthy exercise. If the trenches are dug at regular intervals of a yard and in regular lines, a small compound will furnish sufficient space. In these circumstances, magistrates of districts not on the West Coast might be asked to give a trial to the South Arcot system, which may prove both more economical and more sanitary than the usual plan. Where sub-jails are being newly built, the latrines might be removed from the estimate and the sub-jail officers directed to introduce the moveable trench system.

ENCLOSURES.

COPY of letter, Dis. No. 98 of 1896, dated 29th August 1896, from the Joint Magistrate, South Arcot, to the District Magistrate, South Arcot.

Adverting to your office reference on No. 1982-Mag., dated 5th September 1894, I have the honour to report that the moveable-latrine system was introduced into the sub-jails of Tindivanam, Villupuram and Vanur in June 1895. The Superintendents of these sub-jails have reported that it has worked very well. It being very simple besides very inexpensive is the safest and best method of disposing of the night-soil from a sanitary point of view, and I have no objection to its being introduced in all the sub-jails of the district.

2. The civil apothecary's report on the working of the system in the Tindivanam sub-jail shows that it has worked satisfactorily; he also states that there will be some difficulty experienced in the sub-jails having only limited area available for shifting the latrines from time to time and that, if the old ground is to be worked over again in such places, this difficulty may be got over by re-opening the trenches and removing the contents elsewhere for being utilized as manure away from drinking-water sources and by heaping fresh earth up near the latrine for filling in the trenches from time to time.

COPY of letter, No. 514-S., dated 2nd March 1897, from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

With reference to your letter, No. C. 343, dated 30th January 1897, I have the honour to state that I am not in a position (being in camp) to refer to Surgeon-Major McNally's book, and am therefore unable to say precisely what details he advises; but if they be those mentioned in your letter, namely, of having moveable tatties combined with trenches not deeper than six inches, I consider the mode admirable. The only drawback is that the method is not suitable for wet weather. To meet this difficulty of the trench-latrine system, it is possible to form shelters on wheels which can easily be moved from place to place.

2. As an alternative to the above method, I would invite your attention to the camp conservancy system advocated by Moses and also by Mahomet. In my opinion, there is no more perfect system both from an agricultural and sanitary point of view. As natives will not take the trouble to use the "paddle" themselves, and when the work is conducted for them coolies are liable to make the holes far too big and to waste much time in their construction, I have got Messrs. Sultan & Co. to make a "Jewish conservancy spade", which suits requirements and is now much used at festivals. This will with two strokes make a hole six inches broad and eight inches deep. If such a spade were provided at each sub-jail that has ground at disposal, all that would be required is that the convict should be required to use the spade at definite intervals and after defecation in the hole to fill it in by moving with his foot the excavated earth placed at one side.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camp, Anantapur, 18th August 1897, No. T-3-2.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 1594, dated 29th July 1897, herewith returned, regarding the conservancy system to be adopted in sub-jails, I am of opinion that either the moveable latrines with shallow trenches, six inches wide, as proposed by the late Surgeon-Major McNally, or the method suggested by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. King, might be adopted with advantage, the latter being the least expensive.

Endorsement, No. 1814.

Referred to the Inspector-General of Prisons, with the request that he will report whether, in view of the Surgeon-General's opinion that the system of conservancy suggested by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel King is the least expensive, he would recommend the adoption where ground is available of that system in preference to the one tried in South Arcot.

(By Order.)

(Signed) W. FRANCIS,
Ag. Under Secretary.

31st August 1897.

From A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A., Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 24th September 1897, No. C. 1785.

I have the honour to return the papers referred to me under Mr. Francis' endorsement, No. 1814, dated 31st August 1897.

2. The Sanitary Commissioner states that Jewish conservancy spades will be supplied by Messrs. Sultan & Co. at Rs. 18 per dozen if a large number is ordered, and that, as they are made of iron, they will last for several years.

3. I agree with the Surgeon-General that either the shifting trench system or the Jewish spade system will do well, provided they are really worked properly. It seemed to me that the former could be more easily supervised. District Magistrates might be directed to try both systems. But the chief object in view is to stop the building of expensive latrines which are sometimes unprovided with a toty, and which are often so dirty as to themselves constitute a nuisance.

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No. 1756, JUDICIAL, 10TH DECEMBER 1897.

ORDER—No. 1756, Judicial, dated 10th December 1897.

The Government considers that both systems of conservancy may, with advantage, be tried, and the District Magistrates of all districts, except Malabar and South Canara, will accordingly be requested to introduce one or other of them experimentally into each sub-jail in their districts. It will depend on the space available which method should be adopted in each case.

2. The attention of the Public Works Department is directed to the concluding sentence of the Inspector General's report, dated 10th December 1897.

2. The attention of the Public Works Department will be invited to the concluding sentence of the Inspector-General's letter of the 22nd July last, No. 3433.

(True Extract.)

(True Extract.)

Mr. C. C. C. C. C.

For Chief Secretary.

To all District Magistrates.
 „ the Inspector-General of Prisons.
 „ the Sanitary Commissioner.
 „ the Surgeon-General.
 „ the Public Works Department.
 „ the Revenue Department. ✓

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