M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	802	Press ~~Mis.~~
67-68.		
Dated	7 - 6 -	1873.

15/16

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 67. Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Magistrate of South Canara, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Mangalore, 20th May 1873, No. 725:—

I have the honour to reply to the marginally-noted Order of Government regarding the necessity for the construction of a Powder Magazine in the town of Mangalore, for which the Municipality has provided an allotment of Rupees 2,000 in their Budget.

G. O, 6th April 1872, No. 460, Finl. Dept.

2. From the returns kept in my office, it appears that the average quantity of gunpowder, imported into the town of Mangalore annually, is about 3000 lbs. more or less, calculated on the actual imports for the last three years, but this quantity is liable to fluctuation according to the actual demand for the article in the local market, and in one year (1869-70) it rose to as much as 6025 lbs. This quantity is exclusive of another 1000 lbs. imported annually for the use of the time-gun.

3. The quantity imported by the merchants on private account is stored by them in casks or wooden boxes in common rooms of their warehouses in the bazaar (all of which are, however, tiled), with usually no more precaution than is taken for the safety of other goods in a warehouse. The quantity stored in each varies from 50 to 100 and 500 lbs. It appears that the powder is usually imported in tin canisters of various sizes, and to this fact is probably to be attributed the general absence of any accidents hitherto; but, as the town does not enjoy immunity from fires, explosions are not impossible, and in that case the destruction of life and property would be great.

4. To guard against such a danger, I agree with the Municipal Commissioners that it is desirable to have a separate storehouse in which all gunpowder imported by native dealers can be stored, and that such powder should not be allowed to lie in the bazaars as it now does. Sections 521 and 528 of the new Criminal Procedure Code certainly empower the Magistracy to enforce better care and precaution in storing such dangerous substances, but the Magistracy cannot always be expected to watch every little storage in the bazaar, much less to anticipate a prospective danger such as may suddenly arise from the outbreak of fire in the town. Very recently a large warehouse in which firewood was stored was destroyed by fire in close proximity to several other shops in which gunpowder is kept for sale, and, had not the fire been seasonably extinguished by the fire-engines of the Municipality, the conflagration would have been very extensive and serious. In the face of such accidents, I am of opinion that the proposal of the Municipal Commissioners should meet with the approval of Government. I apprehend no difficulty in inducing the dealers to store their powder in a common Magazine under such arrangements as may be made for the purpose, the provisions of Sections 521 and 528 of the Criminal Procedure Code being resorted to in the case of those who refuse to do so.

5. But, while fully supporting the Commissioners' proposal for a separate Magazine for the town, I am not at all confident that they would be able to make satisfactory arrangements for guarding and securing it from accidents or any mischievous explosion of its contents. The place where they propose to locate the

building is far removed from the town, and the charge of the building will necessarily be in the hands of some ill-paid servant employed to guard it, and I much doubt the advisability of placing such buildings in such doubtful keeping.

6. It appears to me that a preferable and safer arrangement will be to erect the proposed new building in close contiguity to the Regimental Magazine in the town of Mangalore, where it can be under the direct eye of the Military Officers, and to entrust the entire custody to the Officer Commanding the Station. Such an arrangement seems to be the more desirable on political grounds, as, on occasions of any public disturbance, the people can at once be cut off from all means of mischief. Beyond the mere guarding of the Magazine, for which no additional sentries will be required, no further trouble will be entailed on the Military authorities, as they might simply be made responsible for the seals, while the storage and issues could be made by the Municipal Commissioners in accordance with such arrangements as might be most convenient to the former; or, if the Military are nervous about their own Magazine being endangered by the Municipal handling of their too contiguous powder, all powder could be given out by the Military themselves once or twice a-month at most.

7. I consulted* the Officer Commanding regarding the feasibility of such an arrangement, but that officer entirely objects to any building for storage of powder being constructed in proximity to the Regimental Magazine for "Military and other obvious reasons" which, he states, were already set forth on a previous occasion when a Powder Magazine for the use of the Police was proposed to be erected in the cantonment, and the proposal was disallowed in G. O., dated the 19th June 1867, No. 2236, Military Department.

* *Vide* enclosed correspondence.
To Officer Commanding Mangalore, dated 21st March 1873, No. 362.
From Officer Commanding Mangalore, dated 27th March 1873.
To Officer Commanding Mangalore, dated 16th May 1873, No. 689.
From Officer Commanding Mangalore, dated 17th May 1873, No. 122.

8. Although the reasons then urged by the Commanding Officer do not seem to be quite applicable to the present case in which the proposed Magazine will be practically, if not entirely, in the hands of the Military authorities, still, since the arrangement is not convenient to the latter, I see no other alternative but to recommend that the new Magazine be placed in some locality outside the cantonment limits, but as near the Municipal Office as possible, so that it would be under better supervision than if it were built on the Urva Maidan, where it would be nearly two miles from the Municipal and Collector's Offices.

9. Two sites are available for this purpose—one of which is a small strip of land facing the Regimental Messhouse at the southern extremity of the cantonment, and long ago excluded therefrom; and the other, a piece of unoccupied Government ground adjoining the Collector's Office on the north, and forming portion of the strip of land on which stands the Telegraph Office. I should much prefer the former site to the latter as it is within 250 yards of the Regimental Magazine; and, although the proposed Magazine would not be under the control of the Military authorities, still it would in the case of any outbreak be under the eye and within fire of the sentry watching the Regimental Magazine. The Commanding Officer, however, objects to this site also as being contiguous to the Messhouse and the Officers' quarters, but that is an objection which applies with nearly equal force to their own Magazine, which is necessarily in the midst of the cantonment. The second site is, therefore, the only one to be selected, and I see no objection to the Powder Magazine being placed there. The Treasury and Subsidiary Jail guard of the Collector's Office can also cursorily watch the premises, which are a few yards distant therefrom. The ground will, however, have to be made over to the Municipality, and I request the sanction of Government to my doing so.

10. The only other sites which I can suggest are Sultan's Battery, the Urva Maidan, and the sandspit between the sea and the estuary. All these lie under the same disadvantage that in case of an emeute any force required to guard them would be entirely cut off from the main body, and they would probably have to be abandoned to the rioters. If the Government concur that the proposed Powder Magazine is required for storing the powder in the town, the allotment proposed by the Municipal Commissioners, which they have again repeated in their current year's budget, will require to be sanctioned, so as to admit of the building being commenced as soon as practicable.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Magistrate of South Canara, to Colonel T. FFRENCH, Officer Commanding Mangalore, dated Ajekar, 21st March 1873, No. 362.

The Municipal Commissioners having proposed to build a Magazine for the safe storage of the large quantity of gunpowder imported by the traders at Mangalore, the question arises as to which would be the more preferable site for such a building—whether the Urva Maidan or Sultan's Battery, with a Police guard to watch it, or the parade ground under the surveillance of the Regimental guard. I am of opinion that, apart from the convenience of the traders, the latter site is more desirable on political grounds, the bulk of the ammunition in the district being thereby placed entirely under the control of the Military authorities. The building can be erected in close proximity to the Regimental Magazine, so as to admit of both being guarded by the same sentry, and the keys deposited with one of your officers. Your people, however, need only look to the seals, and will not be held responsible for the contents which can be stored and issued by an agent of the Municipal Commissioners, according to such arrangements as may be most convenient to you. The extra labour thus entailed on your people will, I think, be little, if any, and more than counterbalanced by the advantage secured by it in a political point of view. I have, therefore, the honour to request you will be so good as to inform me whether you have any objection to this proposal, and if not, what arrangements you would desire to have made in connexion with it.

From Colonel T. FFRENCH, Officer Commanding Mangalore, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Magistrate of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 27th March 1873, No. 83.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 21st instant, number and subject as per margin, and to state, in reply, that I object to the construction of a Powder Magazine in proximity to the Regimental Magazine for Military and other obvious reasons already fully set forth in letter from the Officer Commanding Mangalore to the Quartermaster-General, dated 25th May 1867, No. 109, published in G. O., No. 2236, 19th June 1867.

No. 362.
Requesting to be informed if the Officer Commanding Mangalore has any objection to the Municipal Commissioners erecting a Magazine for storage of gunpowder in close proximity to the Regimental Magazine.

2. For the rest such a building could not be erected anywhere within the cantonment without the sanction of the Commander-in-Chief, paragraph 1293, Army Regulations, being explicit on that point.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
7th June 1873.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to Colonel J. ORR, Officer Commanding Mangalore, dated Mangalore, 16th May 1873, No. 689.

I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether, in the event of a small Magazine for the storage of gunpowder being erected by the Municipality at the site noted in the accompanying plan, where it would be 250 yards distant from the Regimental Magazine, there would, in your opinion, be any danger to the latter in case of any accident to the former.

From Colonel J. ORR, Officer Commanding Mangalore, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 17th May 1873, No. 122.

In reply to your letter, dated 16th May 1873, No. 689, I have the honour to state that I object to the erection of a Civil Magazine within or near the limits of the cantonments, and consider that one erected on the spot indicated on your plan, which is part of the parade maidan (herewith returned as requested), would be extremely dangerous, in the event of an explosion, to the public buildings in the vicinity, as well as to the Regimental Messhouse and houses occupied by officers and others at that end of the cantonment.

2. I quite coincide with the objections made to the erection of a second Magazine in the vicinity of the present one, as expressed by Colonel Ffrench in his letter, No. 83, dated 27th March 1873, to your address, and also by Colonel Dobbie in his letter, No. 199, dated 25th May 1867, to the Quartermaster-General, as published in G. O., dated 10th May 1867, which both the Commander-in-Chief and the Governor-General in Council concurred in, as per Memorandum dated 3rd June 1867, No. $\frac{450}{1867}$, paragraph 2, from the Quartermaster-General, and Order, No. 2236, dated 19th June 1867.

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, 7th June 1873, No. 802.

The Governor in Council sanctions the erection of the Municipal Powder Magazine on the site north of the Collector's Office.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Mangalore.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Military ,,

Exd. J. Wright.

Magistrates Office S-
in Circuit
Camp Ajekar 21st March 1873

No 362

7

From

The Magistrate of South Canara.

To

The officer Commanding Mangalore

Sir,

The Municipal Commissioners having proposed to build a Magazine for the safe storage of the large quantity of gunpowder imported by the traders at Mangalore, the question arises as to which would be the more preferable site for such a building - whether the Urwa Maidan or Sultan's battery with a Police guard to watch it, or the parade ground under the surveillance of the regimental guard. I am of opinion that apart from the convenience of the traders, the latter site is more desirable on political grounds, the bulk of the ammunition in the District being thereby placed entirely under the control of the Military authorities. The building can be erected in close proximity to the regimental Magazine so as to admit of both being guarded by the same sentry, and the Keys deposited with one of your officers. Your people, however, need only look to the seals, and will not be held responsible for the contents which can be stored and issued by an agent of the Municipal Commissioners according to such arrangements as may be most convenient to you. The extra labor thus entailed on your people will I think be little, if any, and more than counterbalanced by the advantage secured by it in a political point of

Govt. of [1873] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The PRESIDENT of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSION, Mangalore, &c., &c.

Dated June, 7th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 7th June 1873 No. 802.

JUNE.
Nos. 67-68.

Sanctioning the erection of the Municipal Powder Magazine on the site proposed, north of the Collector's Office.

view. I have therefore the honor to request you will be so good as to inform me whether you have any objection to this proposal, and if not, what arrangements you would desire to have made in connection with it

I have the honor &c.

Signed/ A. S. Thomas
Magistrate

No. 83.

Mangalore 27th March 1873.

From
The officer Commanding
Mangalore

To
The Magistrate of
South Canara

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 21st Instant, No. and subject as per margin, and to state in reply, that I object to the construction of a Powder Magazine in proximity to the Regimental Magazine for Military and other obvious reasons already fully set forth in letter from the officer Commanding Mangalore to the Quarter Master General dated 25th May 1867, No. 109, published in G. G. No. 2236. 19th June 1867.

No. 362.
Requesting to be informed if the officer Commanding Mangalore has any objection to the Municipal Commissioners erecting a Magazine for storage of Gunpowder in close proximity to the Regt. Magazine

2. For the rest such a building could not be erected anywhere within the Cantonment, without the sanction of the Commander-in-Chief, para 1293 Army Regulations being explicit on that point.

I have the honor &c.

No. 689.

Mangalore 16th May 1873.

From
The Collector of South Canara

To
The officer Commanding Mangalore

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether in the event of a small Magazine for the storage of Gunpowder being erected by the Municipality at the site noted in the accompanying plan where it would be 250 yards distant from the Regimental Magazine, there would, in your opinion, be any danger to the latter in case of any accident to the former.

I have the honor &c.

Signed/ A. S. Thomas
Collector

No. 122.

Mangalore 17th May 1873.

From
The officer Commanding
Mangalore

To
The Collector of
South Canara

Sir,

In reply to your letter dated 16th May 1873, No. 689, I have the honor to state that I object to the erection of a Civil Magazine within or near the limits of the Cantonments, and consider that one erected on the spot indicated on your plan which is part of the parade Maidan (herewith returned as requested) would be extremely dangerous in the event of an explosion

to the Public buildings in the vicinity as well as to the Regimental Mess House, and houses occupied by officers and others at that end of the Cantonment.

2. I quite coincide with the objections made to the erection of a second magazine in the vicinity of the present one, as expressed by Colonel French in his letter No 83 dated 27th March 1873 to your address, and also by Colonel Dobbie in his letter No 199 dated 25th May 1867 to the Quarter Master General as published in G.O. dated 10th May 1867 in which hath the Commander-in-Chief and the Governor-General in Council concurred in as per Memorandum dated 3rd June 1867 No $\frac{450}{3802}$ para 2, from the Dy Qr Mr General, and order No 2236, dated 19th June 1867.

I have the honor &c

Signed/ James Orr Col:
Commanding Manipalore

/True Copies/

H. Thomas.

Magistrate

Cmpd. Mrs

South Canara Magistrate's Office
Mangalore, 20th May 1873

No. 725.

13C

From

H. S. Thomas Esqre
Magistrate of South Canara

To

The Honble W. Hudleston
Chief Secretary to Government,
Financial Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to the marginally noted Order of Government regarding the necessity for the construction of a powder Magazine in the town of Mangalore for which the Municipality has provided an allotment of Rs. 2000 in their Budget.

© G.O. 6th April 1872, No. 460, Finl. Dept.

2. From the returns kept in my office it appears that the average quantity of gunpowder imported into the town of Mangalore annually is about 3000 lbs. more or less, calculated on the actual imports for the last three years, but this quantity is liable to fluctuation according to the actual demand for the article in the local market, and in one year (1869-70) it rose to as much as 6025 lbs. This quantity is exclusive of another 1000 lbs imported annually for the use of the Time Gun.

3. The quantity imported by the Merchants on

Encl.

In a letter from the Magistrate of South Canara to the Chief Secretary to Govt. Fort. St. George. Financial Dept. dated 20th May 1873 No. 725.

S-O-Wt 802-74 4 Gr

Copies of Correspondence relating to the proposed construction of a Powder Magazine within the Town of Mangalore

In Encl. to 925.

on private account is stored by them in casks or wooden boxes in common rooms of their warehouses in the Bazaar (all of which are however tiled) with usually no more precaution than is taken for the safety of other goods in a warehouse - The quantity stored in each varies from 50 to 100 and 500 lbs - It appears that the powder is usually imported in Tin Canisters of various sizes and to this fact is probably to be attributed the general absence of any accidents hitherto, but as the town does not enjoy immunity from fires, Explosions are not impossible and in that case the destruction of life and property would be great -

4. To guard against such a danger, I agree with the Municipal Commissioners that it is desirable to have a separate store-house in which all gun-powder imported by native dealers can be stored, and that such powder should not be allowed to lie in the bazaars as it now does - Sections 521 and 528 of the new Criminal Procedure Code certainly empowers the Magistracy to enforce better care and precaution in storing such dangerous substances, but the Magistracy cannot always be expected to watch every little storage in the Bazaar, much less to anticipate a prospective danger such as may suddenly arise from the outbreak of fire in the town - Very recently a large warehouse in which firewood was stored was destroyed by fire in close propinity to several other shops in which gunpowder is kept for sale, and had not the fire been seasonably extinguished by the fire-engines of the Municipality, the conflagration would have been very extensive and serious - In the face of such accidents, I am of opinion that the proposal of the Municipal Commissioners should meet with the approval of Government - I apprehend no difficulty in inducing the dealers to store their powder in a common magazine under such arrangements as may be made for the purpose, the provisions of Section 521 and 528 of the Criminal Procedure Code being resorted to in the case of those who refuse to do so -

5. But while fully supporting the Commissioners' proposal for a separate magazine for the Town, I am not at all confident that they would be able to make satisfactory arrangements for guarding and securing

securing it from accidents or any mischievous explosion of its contents. The place where they propose to locate the building is far removed from the town, and the charge of the building will necessarily be in the hands of some ill-paid servant employed to guard it, and I much doubt the advisability of placing such buildings in such doubtful keeping.

6. It appears to me that a preferable and safer arrangement will be to erect the proposed new building in close contiguity to the Regimental Magazine in the town of Mangalore where it can be under the direct eye of the military officers, and to entrust the entire custody to the officer Commanding the Station. Such an arrangement seems to be the more desirable on political grounds, as on occasions of any public disturbance the people can at once be cut off from all means of mischief. Beyond the mere guarding of the Magazine for which no additional sentries will be required, no further trouble will be entailed on the Military authorities, as they might simply be made responsible for the seals, while the storage and issues could be made by the Municipal Commissioner

Ind. G.O. No. 802 of 1st June 1875. Pub. 4 Jan 1876. 4 Jan 1876 53 Sub 7-68

17

Financial Department.

No. 929.

From The Magte of South Canara.

Dated 20 May 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

I would sanction the Magazine in the Taluk Cutcherry being the Collrs Office.

L. D.L.

Proposed Construction of Powder Magazine in the Town of Mangalore.

Plan & Orders

C265 A.

Commissioners in accordance with such arrangements as might be most convenient to the former; or if the Military are nervous about their own Magazine being endangered by the Municipal handling of their too contiguous powder, all powder could be given out by the Military themselves once or twice a month at most.

7. I consulted the Officer Commanding regarding the feasibility of such an arrangement, but that officer entirely objects to any building for storage of powder being constructed in propinity to the Regimental Magazine for "Military and other obvious reasons" which he states were already set forth on a previous occasion when a Powder Magazine for the use of the Police was proposed to be erected in the Cantonment and the proposal was disallowed in G. O. dated the 19th June 1867, No 2,236, Military Department.

(1) Vide enclosed Correspondence
To Officer Commanding Mangalore, dated 21st March 1873, No 362
From Do, 27th March 1873, No 83.
To — Do —, 16th May 1873, No 639
From — do — 17th May 1873, No 122

8. Although the reasons then urged by the Commanding Officer do not seem to be quite applicable to the present case in which the proposed Magazine will be practically

practically, if not entirely, in the hands of the Military authorities, still since the arrangement is not convenient to the latter, I see no other alternative but to recommend that the new Magazine be placed in some locality outside the Cantonment limits, but as near the Municipal Office as possible, so that it would be under better supervision than if it were built on the Elwa Maidan where it would be nearly two miles from the Municipal and Collector's offices-

9- Two sites are available for this purpose- one of which is a small strip of land facing the Regimental Messhouse at the Southern extremity of the Cantonment and long ago excluded therefrom, and the other, a piece of unoccupied Government ground adjoining the Collector's office on the North, and forming portion of the strip of land on which stands the Telegraph office- I should much prefer the former site to the latter as it is within 250 yards of the Regimental Magazine, and although the proposed Magazine would not be under the Control of the Military authorities, still it would in the case of any

any outbreak be under the eye and within fire of the sentry watching the Regimental Magazine- The Commanding Officer however objects to this site also as being contiguous to the Messhouse and the officers' quarters, but that is an objection which applies with nearly equal force to their own Magazine which is necessarily in the midst of the Cantonment- The second site is therefore the only one to be selected and I see no objection to the Powder Magazine being placed there- The Treasury and subsidiary Jail guard of the Collector's office can also cursorily watch the premises which are a few yards distant therefrom- The ground will however have to be made over to the Municipality, and I request the sanction of Government to my doing so-

10. The only other sites which I can suggest are Sultan's Battery, the Elwa Maidan and the sand spit between the sea and the Estuary- All these lie under the same disadvantage that in case of an emeute any force required to guard them would be entirely cut off from the main body and they would probably have to be abandoned to the rioters- If the Government concur that

that the proposed Powder Magazine is required for storing the Powder in the town, the allotment proposed by the Municipal Commissioners which they have again repeated in their current year's Budget will require to be sanctioned, so as to admit of the building being commenced as soon as practicable-

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obed.t Servant

H. Turnal.

Magistrate

Finance 1873 Depts

From The Magistrate
South Canara
To The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Finl. Deptt. Ootacamund

Dated 20th / 23 May 1873.
Rec'd 24.

No. 725.
Encls: one -
No. 929

Reply to the order of Govt.
dated 6th April 1872. No. 460,
Finl. Deptt. regarding the
necessity for the construction
of a Powder Magazine in
the town of Mangalore —

With order

With an Order

Ootacamund. 7th June 1873. No. 802.

Submitted to Government for
sanction to the erection of the
Powder Magazine at Mangalore
as per Plan & Estimate
submitted with the
Letter from the
Collector of South Canara
dated 20th May 1873
No. 725.

C 25/5

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To the Presdt. Munl. Commrs.
Mangalore

Dated June 7.
Recd, Encl.

G. O. 7 June, 1873, No. 802

Nos. 67. 68.

Sanctioning the creation of the Munl. Powder Magazine on the Site proposed, North of the Collr's office.