M.R.O. 1—39,000—18-10-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1077 Press ~~His.~~

191-192

Dated 16.7.1864 ~~19~~

3/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 191. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police, Madras; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 11th July 1864, No. 70.

I have the honor to report that about a quarter before 12 o'clock, on the night of the 29th ultimo, a fire was discovered by the Police in the Bamboo and Redwood yards on the Poonamallee road, opposite the premises of Messrs. Barrie and Co.

2. The Police force in the neighbourhood assembled immediately, and Colonel Campbell with the fire engines from the Gun Carriage Manufactory came to the spot very soon afterwards; but owing to the inflammable nature of the materials, the flames speedily attained such a height that the engines could not make any impression, and they were therefore moved so as to command the line of buildings immediately behind the fire with the view of preventing it from spreading into New Town, in which direction the wind was then setting. Every available hand was at the same time employed in removing the wood from the yards, and a considerable quantity was thus saved.

3. About 2 o'clock A. M., the fire engines arrived from the Fort accompanied by two officers and a fatigue party of 100 men from Her Majesty's 76th Regiment, whose assistance was very valuable in pulling down and removing thatch and other combustible matter, by which means the progress of the flames was arrested; and by day-light the danger was nearly over, although the fire was not finally subdued until a few hours later.

4. The wood-yards belong to 13 individuals, and the total value of the property destroyed amounts, according to their calculation, to Rupees 17,540, but I am inclined to believe that this is somewhat exaggerated. The value of the property saved by the exertions of the Police and the establishment of the Gun Carriage Manufactory is estimated at Rupees 3280. No personal injury of consequence was sustained by any one.

5. All the Departments above-mentioned worked throughout the night with zeal and alacrity, and a party from the 2nd Regiment N. I., which arrived about 2 A. M., also rendered material assistance.

6. Store Serjeant Kowen, in charge of the Fort engines, remained on the spot all the succeeding day with a party of Lascars in order to quench the smouldering heaps, which was not thoroughly accomplished until night.

7. The cause of the fire has not been positively ascertained, but there is reason to believe that it arose from the carelessness of a woman who owns the wood-yard where it broke out, a cooking fire having been seen there about 10 o'clock that same night.

8. With reference to paragraph 4 of my letter of the 30th January 1864, No. 20, I beg strongly to recommend that one, if not two water-carts should be attached to each engine, in order to avoid the loss of time which takes place in filling the engines by means of buckets. The platforms of these carts should be a few inches higher than the top of the well of the engine, and the wheels placed at

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

16th July 1864.

such a distance from each other as to admi[illegible] end of the wa[illegible] up un[illegible] [illegible]d of the engine which could then be quickly [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]ontain less than 50 gallons.

2. ORDER THEREON, 16th July 1864, No. 1077.

[illegible] Council approves [illegible]on made in paragraph 8 of the [illegible]ing letter, and, with reference [illegible] the 6th instan[illegible] requests the Inspector General of Or[illegible] [illegible]nd Magazines to arrange for the provision of two water-carts to be att[illegible] each of the fire engines distributed about the town.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Police.
" Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.
" Military Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Judicial *Department.*

Jud Pg 17. 15
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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from the Commissioner of Police ——— Enter 11th July '64 No. 1424.

Order — 16th July 1864 No. 1077.

The Governor in Council approves the suggestion made in para 8 of the foregoing letter, & with reference to the Orders of the 6th Inst. No. 1003, requests the Inspector General of Ordnance & Magazines to arrange for the provision of two Water Carts to be attached to each of the Fire Engines distributed about the Town.

1 Sep

The Comm. of Police
" Inspector Genl. of Ordnance & Magazines. } desp 21/7
" Mily. Dept. ———

*a*C18 . *Department.*

No. 4 5

PROCEEDINGS *of* GOVERNMENT

Dated