M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-28.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1000 Press
~~Mis.~~

112-113.

Dated 19.7.1865 19 .

3/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
19th July 1865.

No. 112. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 12th July 1865, No. 78.

I have the honor to report the destruction by fire, on the night of the 5th instant, of the building known as Brunton's Cotton Press, situated in Royapoorum, a short distance to the north of the Railway terminus.

2. The Superintendent in charge of the Engine went home about a quarter before 11 o'clock P. M., and states that he requested the writer to look after the building during his absence, which was not to last beyond a few minutes.

3. About 11 o'clock, and during the absence of the Superintendent, the fire broke out in the upper story, where a number of workmen were employed in filling the Press, and before the engines could be got to work, the flames had attained such a height that they could not be got under, and the building was speedily reduced to a mere shell; all the contents with the exception of the engines having been destroyed.

4. A number of large unpressed bales had been opened during the day, in order to provide material for work during the night, and the upper room was full of loose cotton, which in some places was several feet high, and reached to within a short distance of the lanterns on the wall. Several persons on duty in this room have been examined, and it would appear from the evidence of two of these that the fire was caused by want of care on the part of the Musalchee in trimming the lamps, and I am inclined to believe that such must have been the case. However, let this be as it may, I have, after full inquiry, no reason to suspect that the fire was the result of any thing else than accident. The manner in which the loose cotton was heaped and scattered about the room, and the thorough draught through the open windows, will fully account for the rapidity with which the flames increased.

5. Mr. Ansell, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, was on the spot shortly after the alarm, with a party of the Force, and rendered all the assistance in his power. A large party of the 16th Regiment N. I. did good service in passing on to a safe spot the Borahs of cotton, as they were brought out of the enclosure by the Police, and by laborers employed for the purpose.

6. I am informed that the building and Machinery were insured to the amount of a lac and a half.

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 19th July 1865, No. 1000.

To be recorded.

(True Extract).

W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Dedicated 1865 - Dept.

No

From

The Commissioner of Police
Madras

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 12th July 1865.
Rec'd 14th July 1865.
No 1487

Reports the letting
by Sale of 1 Brunton's
Cotton Press with the
right of the 5th July 1865

19th July 1865 No 1000

Recorded

112. 118.

Dd