

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Private DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>1436</i>	Press ~~Mis~~
<i>138-139</i> Dated	<i>14-9</i>	<i>-19-1886</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1436

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
14th September 1866.

No. 138. Read the following letter from the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 13th September 1866.

We have the honor respectfully to solicit the serious consideration of Government to the grave nature of the disturbances that took place in the Town of Madras, on the 6th and 7th instant.

2. On the 6th instant, the grain-stores in Triplicane were broken into by a violent mob, and much grain taken away by the rioters, and on the 7th instant, similar acts of violence were committed over many parts of Black Town, New Town, and Royapoorum.

3. It is currently reported and believed that, on the commencement of the riot on the 6th instant, at Triplicane, the Magisterial and Police authorities of that District entered into discussions with the dealers, relative to the prices they were demanding, and it is a fact that a report went abroad that Government had ordered rice to be sold at eight measures per Rupee, at which rate a large quantity was sold on the evening of that day.

4. We attribute the excesses of the next day, the 7th instant, in a great measure, to the success that the mob believed had attended their violence in Triplicane.

5. We beg respectfully to solicit attention, also, to a letter signed by a large number of Grain Merchants and addressed to the Magistrate of the Town Police Court, which appeared in the *Times'* Supplement of the 8th instant. We are unaware whether it was accepted by the Magistrate, and published with his concurrence, or not; but even on the hypothesis that it was the act of the subscribers alone, uninfluenced by argument from without, it is a strong evidence of the sense of insecurity felt by the Native Trading Community.

6. Government, by recent legislation, has required the rate payers of Madras to contribute largely towards the maintenance of the Police, and has constituted our Board the channel of collection of the quota levied. We, therefore, feel it our duty to the public to solicit from Government some expression of opinion calculated to allay the anxiety prevailing.

7. We cannot deprecate too strongly any interference on the part of the authorities in the market rates of supplies; whatever reasons might have existed in former years, when communications were difficult, for the regulation of prices, none can now be urged that will bear examination. We entertain the gravest apprehensions as to the results of the unfortunate occurrences that have now taken place. Madras contains a population of nearly half a million, and is entirely dependent on importation by sea and land for its food. It is essential to the well-being of that vast multitude that the public security, and the prices ruling in the markets, should encourage importation, and thus a constant inward flow of provisions be maintained; but the course now adopted by the Grain Merchants, under the influence of their fears, and the rumoured action of the authorities, will, we are assured, tend to stop importation, and cause the deepest distress.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
14th September 1866.*

No. 139.

ORDER THEREON, 14th September 1866, No. 1436.

The Government have received a report from the Commissioner of Police on the recent riots, and the subject is now under their consideration. Effectual measures have been adopted for the prompt suppression of rioting, and a considerable number of persons who took part in the riots on Thursday and Friday last are in custody. Since Friday, there have been no disturbances; confidence is restored and importations of grain have recommenced.

2. The Government will not tolerate any interference, on the part of their Officers, with the legal rights of Merchants to determine the price of their commodities, nor will they, under any circumstances, permit the establishment of a "Ner-rick", or official tariff of prices.

3. The subject referred to in the 5th paragraph of the Municipal Commissioners' letter has already received the consideration of Government, and orders have been passed upon it.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Municipal Commissioners.
" Commissioner of Police.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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We have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient Servant

J. Veinple
Madras

J. Sundar
S. Polignac
J. Jahan Khan
J. Jahan Khan
Municipal Commissioners

Handwritten notes in the left margin of the second page, including the word "Importation" and other illegible cursive text.

October 1866. Stamford
from 14th

The Municipal Commission
for the County of Essex

To the Chief Secretary
to Government
St. Stephen's.

Date 13th September 1866.
Received 15th

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Selecting the various
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