

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rudra DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1220	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	29-11-	1965

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
29th November 1865.

Read the following papers :—

No. 108. From the Officiating President Sanitary Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 16th August 1865, No. 361.

With reference to paragraph 85 of the report by this Commission on Black Town, I have the honor specially to bring

* Markets for meat, fish, and vegetables, should all be removed beyond the bounds of the town. A proposition to this effect, as regards Black Town, we understand has been already before Government, accompanied by a suggestion, on the part of Mr. Pycroft, to transfer all such to an appropriate building, proposed to be erected on the open space south of Patcheappah's Hall; to this proposition the Sanitary Commission beg to offer their earnest support.

to the notice of His Excellency the Governor in Council that it is, in a sanitary point of view, highly desirable that an early and entire transfer of the Markets should take place from Black Town, as urged in that report.*

2. The state of cleanliness of the general market in Popham's Broadway is creditable to the authorities who have charge of it; but the building itself is badly situated, in the middle of a dense and dirty town, with filthy open sewers all around. The building itself, with its low roof and the walls dividing it into compartments, is ill-adapted for that free perfusion of fresh air, which is so essential in all places where food is exposed for sale.

3. I place in the margin a list of the several markets within the town and suburbs of Madras, where meat, fish, and vegetables are retailed to the community; with the exception of the large market above

Black Town 8.	Chintadrepett 4.
Triplacane 3.	Pereamuttoo 4.
Mylapoor 8.	Royapoorum 8.

alluded to, they are all private Native property. They are horrible, filthy places. I need not enter into details on this subject, though I beg to express my full conviction that both fish and flesh exposed for sale in these localities must become rapidly tainted and utterly unfit for human food, by exposure to the emanations around. Upon a visit to these places, I found the fish and meat both of a greenish hue and unwholesome appearance.

4. It is true that the Government does its best to supply wholesome rations to the soldier; but it is also true that the large portion procured for the families in the bazaar, by their cooks, is of the very worst kind. A Sub-Committee of this Commission, in reporting the result of their inquiries personally at these localities, urged the early transfer of all markets within a certain area to an open spot, either opposite Patcheappah's Hall, or between that and the Memorial Hall. In doing this, they merely reproduced a former recommendation made by Mr. Pycroft, and the Commission, being strongly of opinion that this measure is necessary for the public health, have been in communication with Mr. Chisholm, Civil Engineer, regarding the form of structure (as well as its probable cost) best suited for a market in that locality.

5. Should the Government be pleased to accord its sanction to the proposal, I believe a sum of Rupees 60,000 would build a handsome market, sufficiently large to meet the wants of all Madras. I think that the Municipal Commissioners should undertake its entire construction and management, not only as a measure of public good on behalf of the community, but also as a source of profit to themselves.

6. In the Municipal Bill, I think a clause should be introduced, making it penal to retail flesh, fish, or vegetables, except at licensed retail localities. These should be carefully selected in open sites, and retailing parties should procure their

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supplies from the general market, and from no other source. The general market Inspector should be empowered to prevent unwholesome articles of food being exposed for sale.

7. But if this proposal cannot be carried out, I would urge that Government accord sanction to the erection of the proposed building, by means of a joint stock company, and that the Government support the project, either by taking up a certain number of shares, or nominating a Director, *ex-officio*, and a Secretary.

8. I have little doubt, with this slight recognition from Government, that funds would speedily be forthcoming to raise an edifice, which would redound to the credit of Madras, apart from the measure being so necessary for the good of the public health.

9. This Commission will be glad to submit plans for approval, should a favorable reply be received to the above proposition.

Referred to the Municipal Commissioners, for their opinion as to the feasibility of erecting a Market on the site proposed by the Sanitary Commission, should it be available, in lieu of that in Popham's Broad-way, the cost being defrayed from Municipal Funds.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
13th September 1865.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 109. From the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 16th November 1865.

We have the honor to acknowledge your docket, dated 13th September thereon, and to return the letter from the President of the Sanitary Commission, No. 361, dated 16th August 1865, relative to the erection of a new central market for Black Town.

2. Dr. Macpherson's proposition, as to be gathered from paragraphs 1 and 6, appears to be that one central wholesale market should be established, and retail markets supplied therefrom, exclusively.

3. We fail to perceive the advantage of this arrangement. To carry it out would necessitate a vigilant superintendence at every retail market, and with such established, it seems no objection, but rather an advantage, that the meat, fish, and vegetables, should come directly from the Slaughter-houses, the sea, and the gardens, to these retail markets, than be exposed to the damage, long carriage and much handling inevitably cause to articles of that description.

4. We entirely concur with the Sanitary Commissioner, as to the necessity of purity and cleanliness, in the places where articles of food are exposed for sale, and our President, when serving on the Committee for the preparation of our Municipal Act, brought the subject under consideration, proposing that the sale of the above perishable articles should be positively forbidden, except in licensed markets, and that all roadside stalls should be closed, but this, after much discussion, was negatived.

5. Such prohibition having been negatived, the best course to be adopted (as appears to us) is to multiply and place within easy reach of the inhabitants, in all parts, eligible retail markets, to compete with the road side stalls, rather than to

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adopt any measure tending to centralize the wholesale trade, and on these grounds we deprecate the closing of any of the markets now existing.

6. Sections 162 to 165 of our present Act appear to give us sufficient powers to enforce such measures of cleanliness as are necessary for the object in view, and Section 167 empowers us to place all markets under strict inspection, for the prevention of the sale of unwholesome food, and we anticipate no difficulty in maintaining the present markets in a fairly satisfactory condition, by the judicious application of the powers there given us.

7. In reference to the question of erecting another market, simply in substitution of the Public market in Popham's Broadway, we beg to state that we are not at present prepared to incur the expense. The Sanitary Commissioner acknowledges its condition to be creditable to those in charge of it. It is occupied for only six hours in the early part of the day, and thoroughly cleansed every afternoon, and though there is not perhaps so thorough a ventilation, as another site might afford, we feel there are other more pressing wants that should be first met from our Funds.

8. In reference to the delay that has occurred, we beg to state that the Commissioners under the late Municipal Act (XIV of 1856) deferred any reply to your communication, in order that it might express the opinion of the present Commissioners, who would have to carry out the measure.

No. 110. ORDER THEREON, 29th November 1865, No. 1220.

The foregoing letter from the Municipal Commissioners will be communicated to the Sanitary Commission.

2. The Governor in Council concurs in the views expressed by the Municipal Commissioners.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating President Sanitary Commission.

„ Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Public Department
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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letters :-

From the Offg President, Sanitary
Commission - Madras. } Here enters 16th Aug. 1865 No. 367
Municipal Comm^{rs} for
the Town of Madras } 16 Nov.

Order thereon 29th November 1865 No. 1220.

The foregoing letter
from the Municipal Com.
is at work while to send the
Sanitary Comm^{rs}. The
President has given his opinion
we do not think a satisfactory
one & then the matter may rest
the only effect of Comm^{rs} then is
the Comm^{rs} would be to 2. The Governor in Council
concurs in the views expressed
by the Municipal Com.
Sanitary Comm^{rs}.

It does not much matter
but put up if we
do not communicate this
to the Offg President Sanitary
Commission
Municipal Commissioners
for the Town of Madras

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Pro. of Govt.

Public 1865. Department.

No. 220

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

No. 755 of 1866.
" " 493 of 1867.
" " 276 of 1869.
" " 76 of 1870.

Dated 29 September 1875

As Secretary for the
Public Affairs of the
Central Government

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