

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

56

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

18-1-

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
18th January 1866.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 59. From Mr. DASSABHAI NOWRAJEE PATCH and other Parsee Inhabitants of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 16th January 1866.

We beg leave most respectfully to forward you, herewith, the accompanying petition, and to request you will be good enough to lay the same before His Excellency the Governor in Council, and to favor us with such orders as His Excellency might be pleased to make on the petition, as early as possible, as Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee, the person named in the petition, is in a precarious state.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR WILLIAM THOMAS DENISON, K. C. B.,
Governor and President in Council of Fort Saint George.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Parsee
Gentlemen and inhabitants of Madras.

SHEWETH,

That one Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee, one of the Parsee community and an inhabitant of Madras, who is now dangerously ill, has expressed his wish that after his death, his corpse should be interred in the Cemetery or Burial Ground situate at Royapooram, within the local limits of Madras, which was originally intended for the interment of the Parsee community, and not in the new Cemetery or Burial Ground lately allotted for the Parsee community.

2. That in pursuance of the dying request of the said Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee, the undersigned have applied to the Municipal Commissioners at Madras for leave to permit the said Ardaseer Cowasjee, after his death, to be buried in the old Cemetery or Burial Ground, where he has been residing, and still is residing, for the last 40 years or thereabouts, but such application has been refused.

3. That the mode of burial at Madras for the Parsee community is the same as that of Christians by burying the corpse in a grave, and in no other way.

4. That the reasons for the said Ardaseer Cowasjee not wishing to be buried in the new Cemetery or Burial Ground, are because there are Burial Grounds of the Christian, Hindoo, and Mahomedan communities adjoining the new Cemetery or Burial Ground intended for the interment of the Parsee community, and not separated therefrom by any wall, and the vicinity of other Burial Grounds to the Burial Ground intended for the Parsee community affects the performance of the religious ceremonies of the Parsee community in the new Cemetery or Burial Ground.

5. That the new Burial Ground allotted for the Parsee community is in every way unfit for the purpose, the more especially as regards the religious feelings and the performance of the ceremonies of the said Parsee community.

6. That the total number of Parsees resident in Madras, does not exceed six in number.

7. That your petitioners are informed that similar applications have been granted by the Municipal Commissioners at Madras to several members of the Hindoo community, and that pieces of ground within their own dwellings were ordered to be allotted for the express purpose of burning the corpses of such members of the Hindoo community, and such pieces of ground were ordered to be registered.

8. Your petitioners are desirous, that for the reasons aforesaid, an exception should be made in the case of Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee, and that after his death his corpse should be buried in the old Cemetery or Burial Ground at Royapooram, which was originally intended for the Parsee community, pursuant to his request.

9. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to make an exception in the case of Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee, and that the Municipal Commissioners

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for the Town of Madras, may be directed to permit the corpse of the said Ardaseer Cowasjee to be interred in the old Cemetery or Burial Ground at Royapooram, which was originally intended for the Parsee community, and that for such purpose the Municipal Commissioners may be authorized and directed to issue the necessary license. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

MADRAS,
16th January 1866.

(Signed) DASSABHAI NOWRAJEE PATCH,
*Manager, P. B. Cama & Co.,
and others.*

Referred to the Municipal Commissioners for early report.

16th January 1866.

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

No. 60. From the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 17th January 1866.

We have the honor to return the petition and letter, dated 16th instant, from the Parsee inhabitants of Madras, relative to the Burial Ground of their persuasion, which was transferred to us for early report.

2. We have to submit, for the consideration of Government, that the Burial Ground in question was reported to Government as one that should be closed, in October 1861, and Government in Order No. 1406, dated 14th October 1861, Public Department, sanctioned the closing accordingly.

3. A Notification to that effect was published the next day at page 557, Volume II of Gazette of 1861, and a copy of the same affixed according to the provisions of Act XIV of 1856 on the wall thereof; a plot of ground in the new Burial Ground having been duly allotted for the use of the Parsees.

4. The Parsee gentleman referred to in the petition was in charge of the closed Burial Ground at the time, but made no objection to its being closed, nor questioned the propriety of the new ground allotted.

5. The fact of this Burial Ground being closed was incidentally reported to Government in reply to an appeal made by this gentleman to be relieved from assessment, and Government in Order No. 683, dated 15th June 1864, Public Department, declined on that ground to concede to the request of the Appellant.

6. Notwithstanding the foregoing facts the corpse of a Parsee gentleman, for many years resident in Madras, named Dhinsah Linghee Punday, was surreptitiously buried in the closed Burial Ground subsequent to its being closed, but the Commissioners did not prosecute for that offence in consideration of the deceased's long residence in Madras.

7. The present case being, however, one in which the applicant had received every possible warning, we did not consider it necessary to allow any relaxation of the provisions of the Act.

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, 18th January 1866, No. 56.

As a special case, and relying on an assurance which has been given by the first two persons whose signatures are affixed to the foregoing petition, that they will lose no time in taking steps with the view of procuring a suitable Burial

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Ground for persons of the Parsee community, the Governor in Council resolves to permit the burial of the individual referred to in the Burial Ground hitherto used by the Parsee community.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To Mr. Dassabhai Nowrajee Patch and others.

To the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

His Excellency Sir William Thomas Denison
Governor and President in Council
of Fort Saint George. -

The humble Petition of the
undersigned Parsee Gentlemen and
Inhabitants of Madras.

eth,

That one Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee one of the
Community and an Inhabitant of Madras who
dangerously ill has expressed his wish that after
death, his corpse should be interred in the
Burying or Burial Ground situate at Royapooram
within the local limits of Madras, which was
originally intended for the interment of the Parsee
Community and not in the New Cemetery or Burial
Ground lately allotted for the Parsee Community. -

That in pursuance of the dying request of
said Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee, the undersigned
applied to The Municipal Commissioners at
Madras for leave to permit the said Ardaseer
Cowasjee after his death to be buried in the old Cemetery
or Burial Ground where he has been residing, and
is residing for the last 40 years or thereabouts,
such application has been refused. -

That

That the mode of Burial at Madras for the Parsee Community is the same as that of Christians by burying the Corpse in a grave, and in no other way.

That the reasons for the said Ardaseer Cowasjee not wishing to be buried in the New Cemetery or Burial Ground, are because there are Burial Grounds of the Christian, Hindoo and Mahomedan Communities adjoining the New Cemetery or Burial Ground intended for the interment of the Parsee Community and not separated therefrom by any Wall and the vicinity of other Burial Grounds to the burial ground intended for the Parsee Community affects the performance of the religious Ceremonies of the Parsee Community in the New Cemetery or Burial Ground.

That the New Burial Ground allotted for the Parsee Community is in every way unfit for the purpose, the more especially as regards the religious feelings and the performance of the Ceremonies of the said Parsee Community.

That the total number of Parsees resident in Madras does not exceed six in number.

That your Petitioners are informed that similar applications have been granted by the Municipal Commissioners at Madras to several Members of the Hindoo Community and that pieces of ground within their own dwellings were ordered to be allotted for the express purpose of burying the Corpses of such Members of the Hindoo Community and such pieces of ground were ordered to be registered.

Yours

Your Petitioners are desirous that for the reasons aforesaid an exception should be made in the case of Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee and that after his death his Corpse should be buried in the old Cemetery or Burial Ground at Royapooram which was originally intended for the Parsee Community, pursuant to his request.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to make an exception in the case of Mr. Ardaseer Cowasjee and that the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras may be directed to permit the Corpse of the said Ardaseer Cowasjee to be interred in the old Cemetery or Burial Ground at Royapooram which was originally intended for the Parsee Community and that for such purpose the Municipal Commissioners may be authorised and directed to issue the necessary Licence.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.

Madras
16 January 1866.

Dadasabhai Puroojin Petch
Manager. P. B. Lema & Co.

Pestonjee Shepervangee of the
Firm of Poonjee Shepervangee
Nowrojee Limjee Metha & Co.
Puttonjee Darabjee
Baramjee Rustonjee Workbox

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

papers: -

Petition from Mr. Dadasabhai
howraje & other Parsee
Inhabitants of Madras

Here enters 18th Jan'y 1866

Letter from Municipal Com-
missioners for the Town
of Madras

— 17 —

Order thereon 18th January 1866, No. 56.

As a special case
and relying on an assurance
which has been given
by the first two persons
whose signatures are
affixed to the foregoing
petition, that they will
lose no time in taking
steps with the view of
procuring

Ms. Pub. No. 57/65

procuring a suitable
burial ground for persons
of the Varsee Community,
the Governor in Council
resolves to permit the
burial of the individual
referred to, in the burial
ground hitherto used
by the Varsee Community.

To Mr. Dapabhai Kowraje Patil &
others - 18/11.

The Municipal Commrs for the
Town of Madras 3. } des 22/11

18/11/11

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59061

Public 1866. Department.

No. 20.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 1866. *January 25*

Press No. 2755, G. M.—1411-65—600.