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M.R.O. 1-25,000-16-10-20

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT

|          |                |             |
|----------|----------------|-------------|
| G.O. No. | <i>678</i>     | Press       |
|          |                | <i>Mis.</i> |
| Dated    | <i>20-5-19</i> | <i>1869</i> |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,*

*20th May 1869.*

No. 161. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 11th May 1869, No. 611.

I have the honour to acknowledge the Proceedings of Government noted in the margin, passing orders in regard to the complaints preferred by certain inhabitants of Black Town, relative to the inefficiency of the police of the town of Madras and the consequent increase of violence and crime therein.

2. In paragraph 4 of such orders my attention is directed to the 12th paragraph of the letter from the Acting Commissioner of Police to Government of the 24th March last, No. 20, (embodied in the Proceedings of Government above noted,) in which he observes as follows: "The most effectual way of putting down crime and stone-throwing by night lies in the proper lighting of the town ; in this respect Madras is most lamentably wanting : human eyes can do but little without light, a glimmering light is rising in several streets in Black Town : but I think that, if the Municipal Commissioners could see their way to brighter and more extensive lighting, the nightly safety of property and the convenience of the public would be advanced."

3. Among the various municipal improvements the town of Madras is in need of, extension of lighting has had my prominent attention, which will be evidenced by the fact of the number of lights used by the Municipality for the convenience of the public increasing annually. In 1857 there were, as far as I am able to ascertain from the records of my office, only 295 lamps, and they were gradually increased to 637 ; this being the number in the year 1867, to which the large addition of 271 was made in 1868, making a total of 908, which last-mentioned figure, during the past four months of the current year, has been raised to 1043, costing upwards of Rupees 20,000 a year for maintenance alone, to say nothing of the heavy expenditure which the Municipality incurs in purchasing lamp-posts, &c. To afford better light I have substituted Kerosene for ordinary lamp-oil in some parts of Popham's Broadway, and intend extending this to other parts of the town, if our finances will admit.

4. It appears to me, however, from the tone of the observation above quoted, that the Acting Commissioner of Police is under an erroneous impression that the object of lighting the town was the detection of robbers and crime, the chief purpose for which lights are used within municipal limits (and especially on the bridgeways) being to prevent accidents and collisions, which is patent from the circumstance of the lights being allowed to burn till midnight only, when traffic is supposed to cease ; and I cannot see my way to give substantial effect to his wishes by illuminating the whole of the municipal area (consisting as it does of about twenty-seven square miles) in such a manner and to such an extent as it is presumed will help the Police Force (some of whom carry with them handlights) in their discovery of crime and robbers during nights, without involving an enormous expense, which, in my opinion, cannot be met, except from an independent source, such as the levy of a "Lighting-tax," and this tax I do not think it desirable to submit, for the consideration of the Municipal Commissioners, under present circumstances.

*Acting Commr. of Police*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
20th May 1869.*

5. I observe that the complaints which have led to the present correspondence are based upon the existing system of the working of the police, and not upon any want of or defect in lighting the town, and that the complainants express their satisfaction and approval of the old system of police, and that at a period when lighting was either not in existence at all, or in a far more defective state than it now is.

6. On behalf of this Municipality, which contributes upwards of a lac of rupees every year towards the maintenance of the police, I cannot refrain from taking this opportunity of complaining of the want of diligence, on the part of the police subordinates, in the discovery of theft and crime even in the best-lighted parts of this city, such as the south beach road, where not long ago some of the lanterns themselves, (the lighting of which is supposed to afford principal aid to the police,) were on one occasion stolen, and others were on another occasion found broken. The occurrence of these events, as well as certain other damage and loss to public property, have been brought to the notice of the Acting Commissioner of Police, but without success in tracing any of the parties guilty of the several offences.

7. The nightly safety of property, in my opinion, depends far more upon the diligent and faithful discharge by the police of their duties, than in the better illumination of the town and suburbs by the Municipal Commissioners.

No. 162. ORDER THEREON, 20th May 1869, No. 678.

In the letter above recorded the President of the Municipal Commission affords evidence that progress has been made in extending the lighting of the town.

2. The Government trust that this progress will be continued. They fully concur in the opinion expressed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that the lighting of the streets is an important element in the prevention of offences against property at night, and that it is the duty of the Municipality to afford aid in this respect to the police.

(True Extract).

*Chief Secretary.*

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.  
,, Acting Commissioner of Police.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the  
President of the Munt. Comm.  
Madras.  
(Here enter 11 May 1869. No. 811.)

Order thereon. No 678-20 May/69.  
In the letter above  
recorded the President of  
the Municipal Commission  
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2. The Government  
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to afford aid in this respect  
to the Police.

The Presd. Munt. Comm.  
Madras. } disp 28/5.  
- Acting Comm. of Police

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,  
Madras.  
Esq., &c., &c.

Dated May, 20th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 20th May 1869, No. 678.

WAT.  
Nos. 161-162.

Issuing orders in regard to the lighting of the  
town of Madras.

Bot. of 186 } *Endure.*

*Public*

To  
*The Mayor's Council, Council  
of the City.*

Dated May 20 } 1869, No. 638  
Recd.

Nos. 161, 162.

*Reading order in regard to  
the signing of the Town of  
Madras.*

*Ms. 2584-*