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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public - DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>883</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>18-7-</i>	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
18th July 1870.

No. 57. Read the following letter from the Acting Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, dated Fort Saint George, 24th June 1870, No. 82-G.:—

Ordnance Department.]

In forwarding, for the consideration and orders of Government, copy of a letter from the Acting Superintendent of the Gun-Powder Factory to my address, representing recent fresh erections on the open space bordering the road which leads immediately to the Factory, of a nature considered to involve danger to the security of the Factory, and the lives of those who are employed, I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, that my own opinion entirely coincides with the general principle expressed by Colonel R. Cadell, based upon the long experience of the past, and the practice of all powder Factories conducted on ordinary principles of prudence and regard to security, that such Factories should be isolated, and as large surrounding space as possible kept free from habitations, and every source of danger from fire, &c.

2. That the danger indicated in paragraph 5 of Colonel Cadell's letter is no unreal chimera, was painfully illustrated some years since in one of the worst explosions recorded in the Bombay Powder Factory, where the fine dust powder escaped from and surrounding the working-houses was ignited by the sun's rays focussed by a transparent prism of quartz, and observed to run along the ground entering the door of the building and exploding a large mass of powder therein with fatal results to many lives.

3. I am informed that the cinerator chimney might, with equal advantage, have been erected some hundreds of yards distant; and it is much to be regretted that the previous order of Government, quoted in the last paragraph of Colonel Cadell's letter, has been disregarded. No accident may possibly occur from it for years, but if it does at any time, no consideration can compensate for the risk incurred.

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From Lieut.-Colonel R. CADELL, Acting Superintendent of the Gun-Powder Factory, to the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 22nd June 1870, No. 205.

In my letter, No. 171, dated 27th ultimo, I had the honour to bring to your notice that the Municipal authorities were erecting a cinerator on the portion of the extensive masses of ordure and street-sweepings nearest the Factory under my charge, and to the west of the Powder Mill road. I beg to attach a copy of a letter from the President of the Municipal Commission on the subject. You will observe that in it he thinks that "absolute safety from sparks or burning matter issuing from a chimney eighty feet high will be ensured" by a perforated iron-grating or cover being placed at the top of the chimney. I need scarcely observe that, unless constantly renewed, such a cover would soon become useless from the united effects of great heat coming through it from underneath and from the effects of the weather. A constant inspection, moreover, of the top of a chimney eighty feet high is not easy.

2. Observing extensive excavations being made last week to the east of the Powder Mill road between the Salt Cotar Railway station and the Factory, and being apprehensive that an extension of the so-called "*Sewage Farm*" was contemplated, I addressed a letter of urgent remonstrance to you on the subject, as the stinks from masses of ordure and sweepings (which in some places are fourteen feet deep with a mere sprinkling of earth over them) were so bad that in the end of last month I was compelled, in defence of my own health and that of the employes in

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
18th July 1870.*

this establishment, to address most earnestly both the Municipal Commission and the Sanitary Commissioner on the subject.

3. I am now, however, informed that it is only a cart-stand which is to be erected on the east side of the road, but I cannot allow the work to go on without bringing it to your notice.

4. A cart-stand is most objectionable in many ways. It will bring numerous vagabond strangers to the neighbourhood of the Powder Factory, the comparative isolation of which has hitherto added to its safety, and in the vicinity of cart-stands there must be collections of straw and other most inflammable materials. Colonel Bean and Captain Hunter, the Executive Engineers, being here on other duty on Saturday, both agreed with me that it was quite possible that, during a strong wind, burning matter from the cinerator and from the cart-stand (in case of fire there) might quite easily be blown over the 500 yards more or less which only separate them from the Factory.

5. The danger from such an accident is, as you are aware, much greater here than at home, because the climate compels us to work with open doors, and the outsides of, and even the ground round, some of the buildings are at times unavoidably covered with fine and most ignitable powder dust.

6. Should you deem fit to bring these subjects to the notice of Government, I would beg an enunciation of the general principle that the plains round the Powder Factory should not be built over or more inhabited than they are at present, and even existing huts should be removed if a fitting opportunity occurs.

7. Before concluding this, I would beg particularly to refer to Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 766, dated the 2nd July 1867, and to state that, notwithstanding the second paragraph of the decision referred to, the Municipal Commission have neither directly nor indirectly consulted the Superintendent of this Factory on the subjects now brought to notice, though they so nearly affect the health and lives of those under his charge.

Referred to the Public Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
1st July 1870.

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Major,
Offg. Depy. Secy. to Govt., Mily. Dept.

No. 58. ORDER THEREON, 18th July 1870, No. 883.

Under the circumstances represented by the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, His Excellency the Governor in Council directs the President of the Municipal Commission not to proceed with the construction of a Cinerator and a Cart-stand in the vicinity of the Gun-Powder Factory.

2. The attention of the President of the Municipal Commission is directed to paragraph 3 of the G. O., dated 2nd July 1867, No. 766, which enjoins consultation with the Superintendent of the Gun-Powder Manufactory, before any alterations are made in the land surrounding the Factory.

(True Extract.)

Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.
,, Acting Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines.
,, Military Department.

Ed. J. Wright.

Govt. of 1870) ~~Edwards~~

PUBLIC.

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

Dated July, 18th.
Recd.

Encl

G. O., 18th July 1870, No. 883.

JULY.
Nos. 57-58.

Ordering the discontinuance of the erection of a
Generator and Cart-stand in the vicinity of the
Gun-Powder Manufactory.

Ordnance Department.

ORDNANCE OFFICE:
Fort Samt George
24 June 1879.

From,

No. 22
Colonel G. Rowlandson,
Acting Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Military Department.

Sir,

In forwarding for the consideration and orders of Government, Copy of letter from the Acting Superintendent of the Gun Powder Factory to my address, representing recent fresh explosions on the open space bordering the road which leads immediately to the Factory, of a nature considered to involve danger to the security of the Factory, and the lives of those who are employed, I have the honor to state for the information of Government that my own opinion entirely coincides with the general principle expressed by Colonel W. Cadell, based upon the long experience of the past, and the practice of all powder factories conducted on ordinary principles of prudence and regard to security, that such factories should be isolated, and as large surrounding space as possible kept free from habitation, and every source of danger from fire &c.

2. That the danger indicated in para 5 of Colonel Cadell's letter is no unreal chimera, was painfully illustrated some years since in one of the worst explosions recorded in the Bombay Powder Factory, where the fine dust powder escaped from
and

and surrounding the working houses was ignited by the sun's rays focussed by a transparent prism of quartz, and observed to run along the ground entering the door of the building and exploding a large mass of powder therein with fatal results to many lives.

3. I am informed that the Generator Chimney might with special advantage have been erected some hundreds of yards distant, and it is much to be regretted that the previous order of Government, quoted in the last para of Colonel Bredell's letter, has been disregarded. No accident may possibly occur from its use, but if it does at any time, no consideration can compensate for the loss incurred.

I have the honor to be

Your Most Obedient Servant,

J. P. M. D. C. Colonel
Acting Inspector General of Ordnance
and Magazines

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter *from the*
il of Cordue & Magazines.

Here enter 24th June 1850 N^o 9
82.

Order them of Cotacambú 18th July 1870
N^o 883

Under the circumstances represented by the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, His Excellency the Governor in Council directs the President of the Municipal Commission not to proceed with the construction of a cinerator and a cart stand in the vicinity of the Gun Powder Factory.

He

Oct 4th 1867
Oct. 26th July 1867 he y 800/82

Made recd
 Albany 1890. September
 No 9555-

Box 2 - July 16 through Aug 19 - 20

Nov. 18. July 190.

The Acting Chapter Clerk
of St Andrew & St Agatha's

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The Secretary to Government
Military Department.

Oct 24th volume 1877
No 4 253
No 2-30

Apr. 4
1863
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afterwards for the entire
 duration and order of service
 must be taken from the
 regulations of the Home Board
 relating to hospitalizing soldiers
 sleeping on the spot where
 holding the road which leads
 immediately to the factory of a
 certain considered to involve
 changes to the benefit of the
 factory and the two others
 who are employed.

Referred. - 10

Wm. B. Saunders
1870.

102 Apartment

my

Dr. J. B. Webb, 1000 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

57.
Hager
from
25/10/17
25/10/17

Referred to the Committee

Cont. of 118 } Mauds.

Public

To
The Post Office, London.
Bristol
per

Dated 11th July 1870, No. 883.
Recd.

Nos. 57. 58.

Regarding the circumstances
of the execution of the
"Bankers" in the vicinity
of the Gun Powder House,
factory—

2nd 22 July 1870