

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	420	Press
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Dated	29 - 3 -	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

29th March 1871.

Read the following papers :—

No. 143. From the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, dated Fort Saint George, 8th February 1871, No. G.-308 :—

I have the honour to report that the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory has brought to notice that the Municipal Authorities are erecting a Cinerator near that Manufactory.

2. The President of the Municipal Commission, previous to commencing with the work, addressed the Superintendent

(a) “ I have the honour to inform you that I consider the erection of a Cinerator on the spot indicated in your plan most objectionable : the neighbourhood is densely populated, and the stinks already existing in the district are almost beyond bearing, and I think a little time and money might be well disposed of in trying to decrease such nuisances, instead of making things worse by the erection of a Cinerator.”

of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, and inquired whether there was any objection to the erection of the Cinerator, and the Superintendent distinctly stated that it was most objectionable—*vide* extract entered in the margin (a).

3. Notwithstanding, however, that such objection was taken by the Superintendent to the erection of the Cinerator, the work has been proceeded with, and, when appealed against by the Superintendent, the President of the Municipal Commission replied as follows :—

“ As your objection appeared to be entirely grounded on the belief that a Cinerator must be a nuisance, and the Sanitary Commissioner had already expressed his opinion that there was no reason to look upon buildings of this description when properly constructed as such, it was decided to proceed with the work.

“ From the experience we have of their working in other parts of the town,

(b) “ The distance from the Gun Carriage Manufactory to the Cinerator is only 200 yards, the whole of the Engineers, Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers, and Ordnance Artificers live in the vicinity, and the Ordnance Pupils and Serjeant Instructors with their families live in the Barrack in the Manufactory. It has been represented to me that all the Department feel very uneasy at the prospect of having such a nuisance as a Cinerator in their neighbourhood, not merely from the burning of the filth and rubbish, but also on account of the stinks and foul air that must be occasioned by bringing the filth to the Cinerator. I quite agree with the rest of the Department in their view of the matter.

“ I feel satisfied you will not be able to tell when it is in use, except from seeing the smoke issuing from it.”

4. With reference to these remarks I beg to annex extract from (b) a letter from the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, and, concurring in the views therein expressed, I solicit that the work alluded to may be ordered to be discontinued.

Referred to the Public Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
10th February 1871.

(Signed) C. SCOTT ELLIOT, Lieut.-Col.,
Dy. Secy. to Govt., Mil. Dept.

Referred to the Municipal Commissioners for report. Pending the receipt of orders, the construction of the Cinerator will be stopped.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st February 1871.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
29th March 1871.*

No. 144. From the Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 16th March 1871, S. No. 264.

I have the honour, with reference to the letter from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, No. G-308, dated 8th February, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, forwarded to me for report, to submit the following explanation connected with the construction of the Cinerator on the site objected to by the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory.

2. The Cinerators erected during the early part of 1870 proved so successful in operation, that my predecessor, Major Bowen, resolved to build several others in those parts of the town where they were likely to be most useful, and one of the sites fixed on by him was in Naval Hospital Road. As it was in the neighbourhood of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, he thought it advisable, before commencing work, to ask the Superintendent whether there was any objection to its being built on the spot selected by him; but his object in doing this was not to elicit his views in regard to the Cinerator being objectionable on sanitary grounds or the reverse, the Sanitary Commissioner having been already consulted on this point, and expressed his opinion that, so long as they were properly worked, he considered them to be quite unobjectionable, but simply to ascertain whether, for any other reason, he objected to the proposed site.

3. Judging from his reply that he had no such objection, Major Bowen gave instructions to proceed with the work, which was accordingly commenced shortly afterwards, and I had no idea, until I received the letter from the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, referred to in that from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, that he was in any way opposed to its construction.

4. I at once wrote to him as quoted in the above letter, and, not receiving any reply, concluded it was not his intention to raise any further objection to the building, and desired that the work should be again gone on with.

5. It is evident from the extracts from the letters of the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, marked (a) and (b), which are given in that from the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, that the former does not thoroughly understand the object the Commissioners have in view in establishing Cinerators, and the way in which they are worked. The Cinerators are intended to burn the dry and combustible sweepings of the town, which are collected every day in very large quantities, and chiefly in the most crowded localities, consisting of old leaf-platters, straw, and such like materials; and, by building them in convenient and readily accessible spots, it is hoped that, not only will a considerable saving be effected in the cost of getting rid of this refuse, which has now to be carted to distant and outlying rubbish depôts, but also that it will be removed from the streets of the thickly-populated parts of the town more rapidly and effectually than it is always possible to do so under the present system. In those districts where the Cinerators have had a fair trial, there is every reason to be satisfied with their working in regard to both these points, and, of late, no complaints whatever have been made respecting them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
29th March 1871.*

6. As now constructed, each Cinerator is able to burn twenty-five cart-loads of town sweepings in four hours, and, as the furnace is always kept fully fed and not allowed to go out until the contents of all the carts brought in morning and evening are entirely consumed, there is never any accumulation of rubbish within the Cinerator compound. I may here mention that, under no circumstances whatever, is any night-soil, or anything but dry and combustible rubbish allowed to be placed in the Cinerator Carts.

7. As evidence of the opinion entertained by the Sanitary Commissioner in regard to Cinerators being objectionable or otherwise in densely-populated parts of the town, and of the way in which they are worked by the Sanitary Department of the Municipality, I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter received from him in December last after an inspection of the one at the Trevelyan Water Works, which he made at my request, several of the neighbouring inhabitants having petitioned that it might be removed to some other locality. We visited it without any previous notice having been given to the man in charge, and I am able to state that, as on this, so on every other occasion on which I have inspected Cinerators, whether they have been working or not, and always without previous notice, I have found the ground surrounding them without any accumulation of rubbish, in perfectly good order, and free from any offensive smell.

8. I trust that, under the explanation now furnished, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council will allow the Cinerator in Naval Hospital Road to be proceeded with. The site is the only available one in New Town, and was chosen as being the most suitable for the ready and convenient disposal of the dry sweepings of that part of the town. It will be in charge of an European or East Indian Overseer and kept perfectly clean and in good order; whilst, as regards the possibility of any inconvenience being caused by the smoke issuing from it, I would point out that the smoke from a Cinerator is never dense, and only lasts for a short time every day. I would also respectfully submit that, under no circumstances, could it equal in quantity or denseness the smoke which is nearly always issuing from one or all of the chimneys of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, not one of which equals in height that of the proposed Cinerator.

From the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, dated 6th December 1870, No. 1201.

With reference to your letter, No. 646, of 2nd current, I have the honour to report that, having visited the site of the Cinerator at the Trevelyan Water Works this morning, in company with yourself and the Executive Engineer of the Municipality, and having seen the furnace at work, it does not appear that the residents who have petitioned you for the removal of the Cinerator have any reasonable grounds for complaining. There was no unpleasant odour in the immediate neighbourhood, the yard itself was very clean, and when we walked in the line of the smoke, two or three hundred yards away, the odour of burnt straw was very faint, and in most places not at all perceptible, and was certainly no nuisance at all.

2. The complainants object, I see, to the bringing of strong-smelling refuse into the yard; but, if the cart-load brought in while I was there may be taken as a specimen of the ordinary refuse burnt there, then I think the petitioners are incorrect in their statement. This load contained straw, plantain leaves, and stable litter, which was slightly ammoniacal, but no trace of night-soil.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

29th March 1871.

The burning of such litter even in crowded parts of the town would certainly not be unwholesome. In fact, one-half of the people use "bratties," made of straw, cow-dung, or horse-dung, for fuel in their own houses, and, so far as I know, they make no complaint that the smoke of such fuel is unwholesome.

3. While we were assembled at the Cinerator, some of the persons who had signed the petition appeared before us, and were asked to point out any house into which the smoke blew, so as to be offensive; we expressed our readiness to go and examine the circumstances of any particular building affected in this way, but no one came forward to support the statement that the Cinerator was personally a nuisance to him.

4. During the prevalence of strong winds, and, perhaps in heavy states of the atmosphere, the smoke is blown down, and may possibly be smelt by the inhabitants of upper-storied houses, but this small inconvenience might be remedied by carrying the chimney from twenty to thirty feet above its present height.

5. From what I saw of the action of the Cinerator, I think such an appliance affords the best means of disposal of the dry sweepings of the town. The ash resulting from combustion is perfectly inoffensive, and can be at once sold and used as manure.

6. The great object in putting up Cinerators in crowded parts of the town is to save the cost of carriage of the dry refuse, and, on sanitary grounds, I see no objection to the combustion of such refuse on the spot. By a proper system of feeding the furnaces, I think there ought to be very little smoke, and, with tall chimneys, the smoke might be carried quite away from the tops of the neighbouring houses.

No 145. ORDER THEREON, 29th March 1871, No. 420.

His Excellency the Governor in Council sees no sufficient reason for prohibiting the erection of a Cinerator in the Naval Hospital Road.

2. The permission for the use of Cinerators by the Municipality is conditional on the rubbish to be consumed consisting only of the materials described in paragraph 6 of the letter above recorded, and on the understanding that night-soil is not burnt, and that the yard of the Cinerator is kept scrupulously clean.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Military Department.

,, President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

Obbt. of 1871 31 30 15.

PUBLIC.

To
THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT,
Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated March, 29th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 29th March 1871, No. 420.

MARCH.

Nos. 143-145.

Granting permission for the erection of a Cinematograph in, the Naval Hospital Road, New Town, Madras.

No. ⁹ 309.

From,

Colonel J. L. Parrow, R. A. CB

Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Military Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory has brought to notice that the Municipal authorities are erecting a Cemetery near that Manufactory.

2. The President Municipal Council previous to commencing with the work addressed the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory and enquired whether there was any objection to the erection of the Cemetery and

the Superintendent distinctly

stated that it

was most ob-

jectionable, and

expressly entered

in the margin.

(a) "I have the honor to inform you that I consider the erection of a Cemetery on the spot indicated in your Plan most objectionable, the neighbourhood is densely populated, and the stinks already existing in the district are almost beyond bearing and I think a little time and money might be well disposed of in trying to decrease such nuisances instead of making things worse by the erection of a Cemetery."

3. Notwithstanding however that such objections by the Superintendent to the erection of the Cemetery, the work has been

performed

ordered to be discontinued.

I have the honor to be,

Yr.
Your most obedient servant,

J. L. B. Colonel R. A.
Inspector General of Ordnance
and Magazines.

proceeded with, and when appealed against by
the Superintendent, the President Municipal
Commission replied as follows:

"As your objection appeared to be en-
tirely grounded on the belief that a Cinerator
"must be a nuisance, and the Sanitary Com-
"missioner had already expressed his opinion
"that there was no reason to look upon buildings
"of this description when properly constructed as
"such, it was decided to proceed with the work."

"From the experience we have of their
"working in other parts of the town, I feel satisfied
"you will not be able to tell when it is in use
"except from seeing the smoke issuing from it."

is. With reference to these remarks,

I beg to annex
Extract from
a letter
from the
Superintendent
Gun Carriage
Manufactory,
and concurring
in the views
therein expressed,

(4)
"The distance from the Gun Carriage Manu-
factory to the Cinerator is only 200 Yards, the whole of
the Engineers, Warrant and non Commissioned Officers,
and Ordnance Artificers live in the vicinity, and the
Ordnance Pupils and Sergeant Constructors with their
families live in the Barracks in the Manufactory. It
has been represented to me that all the Dept. are very
uneasy at the prospect of having such a nuisance as
a Cinerator in their neighbourhood, not merely from
the burning of the filth and rubbish, but also on account
of the stinks and foul air that must be occasioned by
bringing the filth to the Cinerator. I quite agree with the
sentiment of the Department in their opinion of the matter."

"Possibly the working of Cinerators in other parts
of the town is not felt to be a nuisance, but I doubt
whether they are situated in such localities as the
one now referred to which is in the midst of a most
densely populated district."

I solicit that the work alluded to may be

ordered

Municipal Commissioners Office
Madras 16th March 1871

From,
John C. Lock Esquire
Off^r President Mun^{ic} Comm^{rs}
Madras.

To
The Chief Secretary to
Government
Fort St. George

Sir,
I have the honor, with reference to
the letter from the Inspector General of
Ordnance and Magazines No 308 Dated 8th
February, to the Secretary to Government
Military Department forwarded to me for
report, to submit the following explanation
connected with the construction of the
Cinerator on the site objected to by the
Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory.
The Cinerators erected during the
early part of 1870, proved so success^{ful}

Public Works
1871

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The Inspector General
of Ordnance & Magazines
The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Regarding a Cinerator
being erected near the Gun
Carriage Manufactory.

10 February 1871.
Fort St. George,
Madras.
Wm. Smith
Refered to the
Public Works
1871

Referred to the Mun. Com^{rs} for
Report: Pending the result of
which the construction of the
Cinerator will be stopped
14/3/71

Superintendent of Ordnance
Magazines
15/3/71

in operation that my predecessor Major Bowen resolved to build several others in those parts of the town, where they were likely to be most useful, and one of the sites fixed on by him was in Naval Hospital Road. As it was in the neighbourhood of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, he thought it advisable, before commencing work, to ask the Superintendent whether there was any objection to its being built on the spot selected by him, but his object in doing this was not to elicit his views in regard to the Cinerator being objectionable on sanitary grounds or the reverse; the Sanitary Commissioner having been already consulted on this point, and expressed his opinion that so long as they were properly worked, he considered them to be quite unobjectionable, but simply to ascertain whether for any other reason he objected to the proposed site.

2 Judging from his reply that he had no such objection, Major Bowen gave instructions to proceed with the work, which was accordingly commenced shortly afterwards, and

11 I had no idea until I received the letter from the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory, referred to in that from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines to the Secretary to Government Military Department that he was in any way opposed to its construction.

I at once wrote to him as quoted in the above letter, and not receiving any reply, concluded it was not his intention to raise any further objection to the building, and desired that the work should be again gone on with.

3 It is evident from the extracts from the letters of the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory marked (a) and (b), which are given in that from the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, that the former does not thoroughly understand the object the Commissioners have in view in establishing Cinerators, and the way in which they are worked. The Cinerators are intended to burn the dry and combustible scrapings of

the town, which are collected every day in very large quantities, and chiefly in the most crowded localities, consisting of old leaf platter, straw, and such like materials, and by building them in convenient and readily accessible spots, it is hoped that not only will a considerable saving be effected in the cost of getting rid of this refuse, which has now to be carted to distant and outlying Rubbish Depots, but also that it will be removed from the streets of the thickly populated parts of the town, more rapidly and effectually than it is always possible to do so under the present system. In those districts where the Cinerators have had a fair trial, there is every reason to be satisfied with their working in regard to both these points, and of late no complaints whatever have been made respecting them.

As now constructed each Cinerator is able to burn 25 Cart loads of town Sweepings in 4 hours, and as the furnace is always kept fully fed and not allowed to go out until the contents of all

the

the Carts brought in morning and evening are entirely consumed, there is never any accumulation of Rubbish within the Cinerator compound. - I may here mention that under no circumstances whatever is any night soil, or any thing but dry and combustible Rubbish allowed to be placed in the Cinerator carts.

As evidence of the opinion entertained by the Sanitary Commissioner in regard to Cinerators being objectionable or otherwise in densely populated parts of the town, and of the way in which they are worked by the Sanitary Department of the Municipality, I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter received from him in December last after an inspection of the one at the Trevelyan Water Works, which he made at my request, several of the neighbouring inhabitants having petitioned that it might be removed to some other locality. We visited it without any previous notice having been given to the men in charge, and I am able to state that

as on this, so on every other occasion, on which I have inspected Cinerators, whether they have been working or not, and always without previous notice, I have found the ground surrounding them without any accumulation of rubbish, in perfectly good order, and free from any offensive smell.

I trust that under the explanation now furnished, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will allow the Cinerator in Naval Hospital Road to be proceeded with. The site is the only available one in New Town, and was chosen as being the most suitable for the ready and convenient disposal of the dry sweepings of that part of the town. It will be in charge of an European, or East Indian Overseer and kept perfectly clean and in good order, whilst as regards the possibility of any inconvenience being caused by the smoke issuing from it, I would point out that the smoke from a Cinerator is never dense, and only lasts for a short time every

every day. I would also respectfully submit that, under no circumstance could it equal in quantity and density the smoke which is nearly always issuing from one, or all of the chimneys of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, not one of which equals in height that of the proposed Cinerator.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

John. Loh.

Offr. President
Municipal Commission

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Library Department

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Regarding the cinema at the

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143-145

With an Order