

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1349

Press

~~Mis.~~

395-400

Dated

21-7-

~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st July 1863.*

No. 399. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 16th July 1863, No. 2,309 :—

Passing orders on a proposition submitted by the Commissioner of Police for enclosing with fence the Town Esplanades as well as the Fort Glacis, and restore them to their old footing. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 16th July 1863, Nos. 302—304.)

No. 400. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1863, No. 1,349.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue who will be requested to obtain and submit to Government the information required in paragraph 3 of the G. O. above recorded.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, 3rd June 1863; to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

We have the honor to bring to the notice of Government, that the Palmyra Railings around the West and North-West Esplanades of Fort Saint George are rapidly disappearing, owing to the dilapidated condition of the masonry Pillars to which they are affixed; and to request that we may be authorized to remove the same with the view of putting them up on the sides of the approaches to bridges and of roads having steep slopes, where such protection to passengers is much needed.

Referred to the Military Department.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secy. to Government, Public Works Dept.

6th June 1863.

Referred to the Commissioner of Police, for report.

17th June 1863.

From the Commissioner of Police, Madras, 19th June 1863, No. 82; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

With reference to the letter from the Municipal Commissioners, dated the 3rd instant, to the address of the Secretary to Government in the Department of Public Works, a copy of which was sent to me by you on the 17th idem, I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. The Town Esplanades were, until the close of the year 1859, surrounded by Brick Pillars and Railings which were kept in due repair; and any persons trespassing on these Esplanades were prosecuted before a Magistrate.

3. The repairs were formerly made by the Engineer Department, at the requisition of the Commissioner of Police, and paid for by the Collector of Madras out of the proceeds of the Public Department, 4th August 1856, No. 903. Do. 20th March 1857, „ 317, paragraph 4, and 29th July 1859, No. 1163. Grazing rents; but by subsequent orders of Government, it was directed that such repairs should be left entirely to the Collector and the Superintending Engineer.

4. Towards the end of 1859, the Esplanades were thrown open to the public, by Sir Charles Trevelyan, the Notice boards, warning people against trespassing, were removed; the masonry Piers, and Palmyra Railings round the Light House Esplanade were sold under

Vide Fort Saint George Gazette, 2nd September 1859, Page 428. the direction of the Garrison Engineer, and those round the other Esplanades have gradually fallen into disrepair.

5. Since the throwing open of these Esplanades, they have been, and now are constantly traversed in every direction by foot passengers, so that the Grass has been entirely destroyed in many places, and will probably soon cease to exist altogether, unless some steps are taken for its preservation.

6. The appearance of the Town Esplanades at this time, is most unsightly, and it is very desirable that something should be done for their improvement. Instead therefore of removing the Railings, I venture to recommend that the fences of the Esplanades, specified by the Municipal Commissioners, namely, those lying between the General Hospital and Puteheapah's Institution, should be put into thorough repair, and so maintained, that the Boards warning trespassers, be re-placed, and that after due notice has been given to the Public by means of the Newspapers, and by beat of tom-tom; every trespasser be proceeded against as heretofore, as without this measure, it will not be possible to prevent persons from crossing continually, and so destroying the Grass.

7. The surface of the ground has been so trodden that in all probability the whole would require to be turned up lightly with the Plough before it could produce any thing like a good crop of Grass, but I am confident that if the proper means are taken, these Esplanades may be put into such a condition as to become an ornament to the City; and the same course might be adopted with regard to the Monument Esplanade, unless it is considered preferable to reserve it as a place of recreation for those who find the People's Park at an inconvenient distance.

8. On receiving copy of the letter containing the proposition, now under report, I thought it advisable to address the Municipal Board on the subject, and I herewith annex copies of the correspondence, from which it will be seen that the Commissioners concur with me in thinking, it would be desirable to restore and maintain the fences, and also that they are willing to undertake the Conservancy of the Esplanades, upon being furnished with sufficient funds.

9. In paragraph 4 of their letter, the Commissioners state, that it would be necessary to invest them with certain powers to prosecute persons throwing rubbish on the Esplanades or destroying the fences, but I beg to remark that such offences are already punishable under the Police Act, and under Act 31 of 1838, so that no further legislation appears necessary on these points.

From the Commissioner of Police, Madras, 16th June 1863, No. 135; to the Municipal Commissioners, Madras.

I have just been furnished with a copy of your letter to Colonel Birdwood, on the subject of the Palmyra Railings round the Black Town Esplanades, and request you will be good enough to favor me with your opinion, as to whether it would not be more advisable to maintain these fences in thorough repair, and to adopt measures to have the Esplanades laid down with good Grass.

Ever since these Esplanades were thrown open to the public in 1859, they have been traversed in every direction, until the grass has been nearly destroyed; whereas, by a return to the former state of things, and a little management, I see no reason to doubt that they might be made an ornament to the City, instead of remaining an unsightly waste.

From the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras, 17th June 1863; to the Commissioner of Police.

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 16th instant, and in reply to inform you, that we quite concur with you, that it would be preferable to restore the Railings which formerly enclosed the several Esplanades, instead of removing the few that still remain.

2. Our reason for proposing the latter, in our letter to the Secretary to Government, dated 3rd instant, to which you refer, was that the Railings, as they stand at present, are a great eye-sore, and the Palmyras are being daily made away with.

3. If Government should, at your recommendation, decide upon re-enclosing the Esplanades, we shall be happy to undertake the work, on the necessary funds being placed at our disposal, the amount of which will greatly depend upon the description of Pillars to be erected; formerly, they were either of masonry or laterite; the first are too bulky and require to be constantly repaired, and the latter are very brittle and clumsy in appearance. We would recommend granite posts in preference to either, of the same pattern as those around the Light House; the cost will, of course, be greater, than for masonry or laterite Pillars, but they will last for ever and require no repairs.

4. We would suggest, in connection with this subject, that the Conservancy of the Esplanades should be placed under our charge, as at present they are in a most neglected state, but we should require to be armed with power to prosecute offenders, who may deposit rubbish upon them, or in any way injure the enclosures, which we cannot do under the Municipal Act. It would also be desirable to entrust to us the letting out of the Esplanades for grazing purposes, so that their entire management may be in the hands of one Authority.

ORDER, No. 2309, 16th July 1863.

The Governor in Council fully concurs with the Commissioner of Police, that steps should be taken towards improving the present condition of the Town Esplanades, and he is desirous that these Esplanades, as well as the Fort Glacis, should be enclosed with fences, in a thoroughly

substantial manner, granite pillars being used, if not too expensive; that they should be restored to the old footing, Trespass Boards being put up wherever necessary, and due measures taken to prevent their being used as thoroughfares; that the soil should be turned up, wherever required, and laid down with grass; and that they should be let out for grazing as formerly.

2. Government is disposed to transfer the entire charge and Conservancy of the Esplanades and the Glacis to the Municipal Commissioners, reserving only the right of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to employ them as encamping ground, or for other Military purposes, whenever actually needed; and requests that they will submit a detailed scheme of the terms and conditions on which they would undertake the work, with Estimates of the probable cost of the proposed measures. They will also be good enough to submit their views as to the occasional appropriation of the Light House Esplanade for purposes of public re-creation.

3. Reference will be made to the Revenue Department for the purpose of ascertaining the annual receipts for the last ten years on account of the Town Esplanades and the Fort Glacis, as rents for letting Cattle graze thereon, &c., &c.

(True Extract.)

Marshall
Secretary to Government.

To the Municipal Commissioners.

- „ Commissioner of Police.
- „ Revenue Department. *With 10 spare copies*
- „ Public Department.
- „ Quarter Master General.
- „ Brigade Major, Fort Saint George.
- „ Barrack Master.
- „ Adjutant General, for information.

Exd. R. Stephenson.

10/7/63

