

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 99

Press
~~Mis.~~

191-192

Dated

15-1-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1866.*

No. 191. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department:—

Allowing the Potters of Meersaibpett, Islampett, }
and Cosapett, to retain their kilns at the } (Here enter 22nd December 1865, No. 1,300.)
place now occupied by them.

No. 192. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1866, No. 99.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for their
information.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 1,300.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd December 1865.

Read the following papers :—

No. 76. From the Officiating Commissioner of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 3rd October 1865, No. 106.

With reference to Order of Government, No. 995, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to enclose an extract from a letter to Mr. Fane, Magistrate of Madras, conveying my Report on the spot of ground alluded to.

2. I have been in communication with Mr. Fane on the subject of the Potters' kilns, and he will doubtless submit the result to Government.

No. 77. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th November 1865, No. 7561A.

Read letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 19th October 1865, No. 338.

With reference to the last paragraph of the Government Order of the 16th August last, No. 852, I have the honor to state that no other site can be found to which to remove the Potters' kilns of Meersaibpettah, &c., as, in a thickly-peopled District like Madras, wherever the kilns were removed to, there would be objections raised by the neighbourhood.

2. The present Officiating Commissioner of Police has forwarded to me the report called for from him by the Board, in their Proceedings of the 12th September 1865, which I herewith enclose.*

3. This report is consequent upon the inspection Captain Hearn made of the site originally proposed and selected by the Deputy Collector of Madras. This site also Captain Hearn pronounced to be objectionable, and in fact comes to the conclusion that no site would be an improvement upon the present one, and recommends, therefore, that the potters may be left undisturbed.

4. Considering the apparent impossibility of getting a proper place, and the expense the Government would be put to in removing the potters there, as well as the fact that, with the exception of one Mahomedan, who has of late years only taken up his residence there, none of the neighbourhood have made any complaints of nuisance against the kilns, I would also suggest that the potters be allowed to remain where they are.

From the Officiating Commissioner of Police, to the Collector of Madras, dated 3rd October 1865, No. 417.

With reference to my letter, No. 364, of the 18th ultimo, stating that I wished to inspect the piece of ground mentioned in Government Order, No. 23, of 7th January 1865, previous to giving an opinion upon your suggestion, (contained in letter, No. 189, of the 15th September,) that the Potters' kilns should not be removed, I have the honor to inform you that I have since inspected the spot in question.

2. This piece of ground is that referred to in paragraph 4 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 5631, of the 12th September. I do not think that the object in view would be attained by congregating the potters of Islampett, Meersaibpett, and Cosapett in this spot, which lies just south of the Ice House road,

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22nd December 1865.

and is not far removed from the existing kilns at Islampett and Meersaibpett. The nuisance, if nuisance there be, might be lessened, but would not be overcome, and a slight increase of the town in that direction would bring dwelling houses again up to the Potters' kilns. Moreover, it must not be forgotten, that by amalgamating the three colonies of potters, the actual volume of smoke which causes the nuisance will be much increased.

3. The purchase of the piece of ground, alluded to in Order of Government, No. 673, of 23rd June 1865, has been prevented by the exorbitant price demanded by the owner, and I confess that I think it would have been a hardship to compel the Cosapett Potters to carry on their trade at a spot one mile distant from their houses, whereby night watching of property would have been rendered necessary, besides other serious inconveniences.

4. I have further inspected the spot of ground alluded to by Colonel Wilson, in paragraph 4 of his letter quoted in Proceedings of Government, dated 23rd June 1865. This spot appears to me to be the best qualified of all for the purpose in view, since it is distant from any public road or assemblage of houses, and has room for the whole of the potters; but unfortunately a Roman Catholic Chapel (with Clergyman's house adjoining) stands close by, and from this quarter a reasonable protest might doubtless be made.

5. In fact, although it may seem simple enough to transplant three colonies of potters from the ground where they have practised their trade for so many years, yet practically great difficulties are found to exist. No single spot could probably be selected, within a reasonable distance from Madras, where some few persons might not find cause to complain that a nuisance had been brought near their door, and complaints would come with greater force from such persons than from those who have chosen to locate themselves near the long established kilns.

6. There is no doubt that the smoke of the Islampett kilns has at times proved exceedingly disagreeable to Colonel Colbeck, who resides close by. But the nuisance does not seem to extend far. It does not reach the Club, which stands in direct prolongation of the line from the kilns to Royapettah Police Court; and at no great distance from the latter I find, on inquiry, that the Victoria Hotel does not suffer from the smoke, neither does the Royapettah Dispensary, which is close to the Meersaibpett kilns. I have also inquired from European residents in the vicinity with the same result. Moreover, it would appear that the smoke has no great density, except during two or three annual festivals, when, owing to the great demand for earthen vessels, all the kilns are set burning together. The potters will probably refrain from this wholesale manufacture, in future, from fear of injunctions.

7. The smoke from the Islampett kilns, which are situated in the midst of a populous locality, must doubtless cause occasional inconvenience to the neighbours. But whether the nuisance is so oppressive as to call for the stringent measure of removal is still, I think, open to question. The native residents who surround the kilns raise no objection. I doubt if any extensive nuisance is caused by the Meersaibpett and Cosapett Potters, save to the Mussulman gentleman whose house was deliberately built (as you observe) in close proximity to existing kilns. It would seem that the potters, on whom injunctions have been served, have not availed themselves (probably through ignorance) of the right to petition for a Jury,

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22nd December 1865.

accorded to them under Section 310, C. P. C. The close investigation of such a jury (of whom one of the members nominated by the Magistrate would probably be an intelligent medical officer) would be of great value in deciding this matter. The decision might prove favorable to the potters, or adverse to those of Islampett only, in which case there would, at all events, be no necessity to remove the other two colonies.

8. Meanwhile I agree with you, that it would seem unadvisable to undertake the expense and difficulty of this wholesale removal.

Submitted for the information and orders of Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th September 1865, No. 5631.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary.

To W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.

Transferred to the Public Department.

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Ag. Under Secy. to Govt.

11th December 1865.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1865, No. 1300.

No. 78.

It appears that no site can be found to which the Potters' kilns of Meersaibpett, Islampett, and Cosapett can be removed, or to which the objections now made to the present locality would not equally apply. The Governor in Council has therefore no alternative but to allow the Potters in question to retain the site now occupied by them.

(True Extract.)

H. J. Crampton
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Revenue Department.

Commissioner of Police.

Senior Magistrate of Police, Royapettah.

Erd. J. H. Burns.

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Proceedings of the
Board of Education in the
County of Worcester.

Noted 22.9.1892/63
Received 3^d July/63.
Rs. 1300.

Allowing the
powers of Melchizedek,
that Sampson and
Baalsham to receive their
Kiln at the place now
occupied by them.

No 191 4792

With our orders
21099. 15th Aug

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue for their
information.

66.44

2. The Board of Revenue - with Encl. 1000
1800 & 1816 Jan'y

1st. Day. / 66

1200 Dec 15 Jan