

(1) Number of Pages 6.
(2) Date of repair 10.2.66
(3) Initials of the Referencer M/S

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Res DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.		Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated <u>16.6.1966</u>		<u>1873</u> 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department.

7th June 1873.

No. 67. Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Magistrate of South Canara, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Mangalore, 20th May 1873, No. 725:—

I have the honour to reply to the marginally-noted Order of Government regarding the necessity for the construction of a Powder Magazine in the town of Mangalore, for which the Municipality has provided an allotment of Rupees 2,000 in their Budget.

2. From the returns kept in my office, it appears that the average quantity of gunpowder, imported into the town of Mangalore annually, is about 3000 lbs. more or less, calculated on the actual imports for the last three years, but this quantity is liable to fluctuation according to the actual demand for the article in the local market, and in one year (1869-70) it rose to as much as 6023 lbs. This quantity is exclusive of another 1000 lbs. imported annually for the use of the time-gun.

3. The quantity imported by the merchants on private account is stored by them in casks or wooden boxes in common rooms of their warehouses in the bazaar (all of which are, however, tiled), with usually no more precaution than is taken for the safety of other goods in a warehouse. The quantity stored in each varies from 50 to 100 and 600 lbs. It appears that the powder is usually imported in tin canisters of various sizes, and to this fact is probably to be attributed the general absence of any accidents hitherto; but, as the town does not enjoy immunity from fires, explosions are not impossible, and in that case the destruction of life and property would be great.

4. To guard against such a danger, I agree with the Municipal Commissioners that it is desirable to have a separate storehouse in which all gunpowder imported by native dealers can be stored, and that such powder should not be allowed to lie in the bazaars as it now does. Sections 521 and 528 of the new Criminal Procedure Code certainly empower the Magistracy to enforce better care and precaution in storing such dangerous substances, but the Magistracy cannot always be expected to watch every little storage in the bazaar, much less to anticipate a prospective danger such as may suddenly arise from the outbreak of fire in the town. Very recently a large warehouse in which firewood was stored was destroyed by fire in close proximity to several other shops in which gunpowder is kept for sale, and, had not the fire been seasonably extinguished by the fire-engines of the Municipality, the conflagration would have been very extensive and serious. In the face of such accidents, I am of opinion that the proposal of the Municipal Commissioners should meet with the approval of Government. I apprehend no difficulty in inducing the dealers to store their powder in a common Magazine under such arrangements as may be made for the purpose, the provisions of Sections 521 and 528 of the Criminal Procedure Code being resorted to in the case of those who refuse to do so.

5. But, while fully supporting the Commissioners' proposal for a separate Magazine for the town, I am not at all confident that they would be able to make satisfactory arrangements for guarding and securing it from accidents or any mischievous explosion of its contents. The place where they propose to locate the

2. Feb. 2nd 1879

Revenue Dept.
 Bal. of 1873 \$107.25

FINANCIAL
Nov 10
 THE PRESIDENT OF THE
 MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
 Washington, D.C.

Total Dec. 7th
 Paid 16

E. O. 7th June 1873 No. 802

JUNE
 Nos. 67-68.

Respectfully the members of the Municipal
 Finance Commission, in the city prepared, with of
 the Collector's Office.

2. 97. 16 June 1879

Wm. H. Wood