



Report
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF TRAVANCORE
FOR THE YEAR M.E. 1044—A.D. 1868-69.

JUDICIAL.

THE Judges of the Sudr Court have sent in a full and interesting report on the administration of justice during the year, and in the following paragraphs of the report they review the operations of the Civil tribunals.

“ We have the honor to submit our usual Returns, 13 in number* for the past official year 1044, showing the

operations in the several Courts of the Sircar.

“ The marginal Table compares the year under report with the year preceding, in reference to the Original Civil work of the whole Department.

“ With a balance of 16,557 suits, which is near 19 per cent. in excess of that for 1043, the whole original file for the year was 40,172, that is less by 2,840 or 6½ per cent. than that for the former year.

Courts.	1043					1044				
	Pending.	Filed, with re-admitted suits.	Total.	Disposed of.	Balance.	Filed, with re-admitted suits.	Total.	Disposed of.	Remaining.	
Zillah Courts.	1,943	1,799	8,702	1,836	1,866	1,583	3,449	1,586	1,563	
Moonsiff's Do.	11,965	27,325	39,310	24,619	14,691	22,032	36,723	27,177	9,546	
Total	13,908	29,034	43,012	26,455	16,557	23,615	40,172	28,763	11,109	

It will be seen that the number registered during the year itself was less than that shown against the year preceding, and litigation was thus reverting to its natural proportions, the new Statute of Limitation which came into operation from the beginning of 1044 having brought into the Courts almost all the older claims in the course of the year preceding.

" Commencing, as the year did with a balance of 37 per cent. of the total work remaining undisposed of in the Moonsiff's Courts, it ended with 25 per cent. in that item; giving to each of the 20 Moonsiffs, roughly, an average disposal of 13 per cent. in excess of that for the previous year.

" This average as well as the reduced percentage of pending suits is creditable to the industry of this class of Courts.

" The appeals bear to the appealable decisions passed by these Courts in the year under review, a ratio of 6½ per cent. This, though greater than the rate of last year (about 3 per cent.) is, by no means, so large as to be an argument against the general satisfaction with which their Judgments are received by the litigants.

" Out of 1,193 appeals preferred, 735, or near 62 per cent., were confirmations; 175 or about 15 per cent., modifications, and the remaining 23 per cent., reversals.

" The average duration of suits in the Moonsiff's Courts, taken as a whole, is nearly double the period shown in the last year's returns; though in particular Courts, we have the means of knowing that the period is much less. This is due to the fact that, of the total work these tribunals had for the year, nearly one half was the balance that remained at its commencement, and each Moonsiff had on an average, more than 500 suits coming in, in the closing month of 1043, which could be simply received on the file in that year, and for which processes &c.. had to issue only in the succeeding one.

" The whole Civil work, both original and appeal, of the several

Zillah Courts, during the year, is particularized in the margin; and the figures show the very remarkable progress made in all these Courts generally, in getting through the mass of their business. The percentage of balance has been reduced from 45 in 1043, to about 34 in the current year.

" The Pudmanabapoorem Court has, it will be seen, done the greatest proportion of its work, having more than doubled their disposals as compared with the preceding year; the percentages of disposals to the total number on the file for the two years being 45 & 75 respectively.

1044	(1) Pending	(2) Disposed of	(3) Total of col. 2 & 3	(4) Filed	(5) Balance
1043	822	933	1,755	812	445
	496	408	904	497	447
	434	707	1,141	500	443
	419	1,136	1,555	577	708
	1,701	3,214	4,915	2,776	2,139
Courts.	816	773	1,589	816	773
	883	438	1,321	883	438
	1,011	470	1,481	1,011	470

Year.	No. of suits.
1,034	149
1,035	288
1,036	181
1,037	222
1,038	308
1,039	302
1,040	253
1,041	252
1,042	236
1,043	234
	10)2425
	242

the average of the ten years immediately preceding.

"The increased disposals by the Subordinate Courts seem sufficiently to account for this somewhat unusual augmentation to the file of the Sudr.

"Only 262 of these, or about 43 per cent., were disposed of, and the average time taken up from institution of an Appeal to its final settlement, (5 months 20 days) is greater than is shown by the returns of the year before (4 months and 5 days.)

"It cannot be said that this is as much as the Sircar might expect to have been done. We must however explain the causes which have, more or less, prevented greater speed.

"During the year there was a much larger number than usual, of applications for the admission of Special Appeals, which according

Years.	No. of applications.	Disposed of			Balance
		Admitted.	Rejected.	Total.	
1043	96	49	46	95	1
1044	185	86	65	151	34

to practice have to undergo preliminary hearing by the Judges themselves before being brought on the file, or rejected as not

disclosing legal grounds to justify their admission. This hearing, though sometimes ending in the rejection of the applications, takes up, not unfrequently, as much time as the more regular disposal of the cases after admission. The marginal note gives an idea of the work done under this head, though labour of this description finds no place in the usual returns, which only record applications taken on the file.

"Add to this, the Criminal work got through during the year, which has been unusually heavy, and of which mention will be made in the proper part of this paper.

"Besides, the bulk of work in the year reported on, as well as in the four years preceding, was performed by full bench sittings or at least by the majority, allowing for occasional and unavoidable absences. Cases of importance either from the magnitude of the interests involved, or from the character of the points raised, often came under discussion, and it has been as much the wish of the Judges as of the parties that these should have the benefit of that full consideration which an interchange of views amongst all the members of the Court was calculated to secure. It will be conceded then, that the fact that the Court is composed of 4 Judges is no ground for the expectation that the numerical results will be quite proportionate to this number. If the whole Court sat over a case, it is as far as quantity goes, the same as if there was but one Judge. Greater accuracy of conclusion may, it is hoped, be the result; but greater speed is far from being a necessary consequence."

2. The several Judicatories appear to have discharged their functions in a satisfactory manner, whether the quantity, quality or speed of the work performed be considered.

3. The introduction of licensed Vakeels to plead cases, seems to have proved highly beneficial on the whole. It has greatly stimulated the diffusion of legal knowledge; it has assisted both parties and Judges in the cause of Justice.

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convicted by the Magistracy; 3,222 were discharged on compromise; 9,781 were acquitted; and 154 were released on security for good behaviour.

24. Of the 31,581 persons charged before the Magistracy, 2,070 were females. This proportion is about the same as in the preceding year, viz. 6 per cent.

25. There was only one female, of the oil-monger class, charged with culpable homicide amounting to murder. The victim of the alleged crime was her own child, but it was found that the act was committed under mental derangement.

26. The 542 persons committed for trial to the Zillah Criminal Courts, as being involved in the graver crimes, belonged to the following classes.

Hindus	363
Christians	122
Mohammedans	57

27. The following table shows the percentages for 3 years of the several classes to the total committals.

Class.	Year		
	1042	1043	1044
Hindus	75	75	67
Christians	15	14	22
Mohammedans	10	11	11

28. Of the 31,581 persons charged in all the cases, 978, or 3 per cent., were under 16 years of age; 15,933, or 50 per cent., were between 16 and 30 years; and the rest were above that age.

29. The number of persons sentenced by the Magistracy to criminal punishments was 16,651, of whom

15,227	were sentenced to fine only.
925	to imprisonment only.
38	to whipping only.
43	to whipping and imprisonment.
413	to imprisonment and fine.
5	to imprisonment, fine and whipping.

30. Of the 1,386 persons sentenced to undergo imprisonment, 230 were sentenced to hard labor.

31. Out of the 86 persons sentenced to whipping, 65 were those convicted of theft.

32. The total amount of fines awarded by the Magistracy, during the year under report was 43,248 Rupees, of which, fines to the amount of 12,466 Rupees were commuted to imprisonment; and 31,150 Rupees were recovered during the year, including arrears; and 405 Rupees remained unrecovered at the end of the year.

33. Out of the total number of persons charged before the Magistracy, 1,296 were placed in confinement preparatory to their trial, which gives about the same percentage as in the preceding year, namely 4 per cent.

34. Of these 1,296 persons, 731 were in confinement for periods not longer than 5 days; 243 for periods not longer than 10 days; 100 for periods not exceeding 15 days; 52 for periods not exceeding 20 days; 104 for periods

APPENDIX.



