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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Ecclasiastical. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	229	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-9-1878	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

16-17

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

17th September 1878, No. 229.

Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Read the following paper—

No. 6. *Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Ecclesiastical), dated Simla, 29th August 1878, No. 300.*

Read again—

Public Proceedings for 24th July 1869, No. 55.

{ Home Department Circular, Nos. 3407-3416
dated the 22nd July 1869.

Replies to the abovementioned Circular—

From Madras Government, No. 1482, dated the 29th October 1869.

From Bombay Government, No. 1563, dated the 4th July 1870.

From Bengal Government, No. 46, dated the 7th January 1870.

From North-Western Provinces Government, No. 2011A, dated the 13th October 1869.

From Punjab Government, No. 2440, dated the 13th August 1869.

Public Proceedings for 24th September 1870, Nos. 88 to 101.

From Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 4960, dated the 3rd November 1869.

From Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces, No. 2412-268, dated the 7th August 1869.

From Chief Commissioner of British Burma, No. 535-2, dated the 9th August 1869.

From Chief Commissioner of Coorg, No. 452-46, dated the 20th August 1869.

From Resident at Hyderabad, No. 45, dated the 20th August 1869.

Home Department, to Legislative Department, No. 4290, dated 23rd September 1870.

Public Proceedings for February 1874, Nos. 334 and 335.

From Rev. G. H. Rouse, Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Conference, dated the 16th January 1874. (Received by transfer from the Legislative Department.)

To Rev. G. H. Rouse, Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Conference, No. 668, dated 26th February 1874.

From Rev. G. H. Rouse, Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Conference, dated 18th March 1874.

Public Proceedings for April 1874, Nos. 61 and 61A.

To Rev. G. H. Rouse, Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Conference, No. 1096, dated 9th April 1874.

From Mr. G. O. Beeby of Calcutta, dated 27th April 1874.

From Rev. J. Ross, Minister, Union Chapel, Calcutta, dated 29th April 1874.

From Mr. G. O. Beeby, dated 30th April 1874.

Ecclesiastical T. S., January 1876, Nos. 6 to 10.

From Mr. G. O. Beeby, dated 5th January 1875.

From Rev. H. Heinig and other Baptist residents of Benares, dated — January 1875.

To Rev. H. Heinig and other Baptist residents of Benares, No. 50, dated 9th February 1875.

Public Proceedings for March 1874, Nos. 84 and 85.

From Government of the North-Western Provinces, No. 384, dated 17th February 1874.
To Government of the North-Western Provinces, No. 761, dated 7th March 1874.
From Government of the North-Western Provinces, No. 761, dated 28th March 1874.

Read again also—

Ecclesiastical Proceedings for August 1876, Nos. 22 and 23.

From Archdeacon, Calcutta, No. 416, dated the 18th April 1876.

Home Department Circular to Local Governments, Nos. 5—291-98, dated the 12th August 1876.

Read also—

From Venerable Archdeacon of Calcutta, No. 543, dated the 28th November 1876.
From Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 2941, dated the 18th October 1876.
From Chief Commissioner of British Burma, No. 2589-391, dated the 28th October 1876.
From ditto ditto, " 293-182, dated the 17th February 1877.
From Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 1627, dated the 4th July 1877.
From Government of the Punjab, No. 2804, dated the 18th August 1876.
From Government of the North-Western Provinces, No. 1762, dated the 9th October 1876.
From Chief Commissioner of Oudh, No. 4831, dated the 14th November 1876.
From Resident at Hyderabad, No. 89, dated the 18th November 1876.
From ditto ditto, " 12B, dated 23rd April 1877.
From Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 3102-145, dated the 8th August 1877.
From Chief Commissioner of Mysore, No. 8354-G44, dated 22nd December 1877.
From Secretary, Baptist Mission Conference, dated 21st August 1877.
From ditto ditto, dated 21st November 1877, and enclosure.
From Rev. J. E. Payne, Missionary of the London Missionary Society, dated 29th November 1877.
To Registrar of the Diocese of Calcutta, No. 405, dated 6th December 1877.
From ditto ditto, dated 13th December 1877.
To Secretary, Baptist Mission Conference, No. 461, dated 22nd December 1877.
From ditto ditto, dated 7th January 1878.

Read also—

Memorandum by Mr. J. O'Kearney, dated the 12th January 1878, with remarks thereon by Mr. Beeby and Rev. Mr. Robinson and Rev. Mr. Wenger.

RESOLUTION.

The question of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages among Europeans in India has been under consideration for a long time. On the 22nd July 1869, the Government of India issued a circular to the Local Governments and Administrations, requesting their opinion on the subject. In this circular it was observed that, as regards marriages, sufficient provisions had been made in Act V of 1865 and the orders issued under it; but that the existing arrangements for the registration of births and deaths were not as satisfactory as could be desired—the registry of baptism and burial, as ecclesiastical events, not being a trustworthy record of the actual number of the natural events, viz., births and deaths. Considering the importance of the subject generally, and having regard to the fact that references were frequently made to the Secretary of State for India, and to the Governments in India for conclusive proof of age, of marriages, or of deaths, in connection with questions involving large individual interests, such as rights to property of considerable extent, the Government of India thought it would be desirable to enact a law for the registration of European births and deaths, based on principles similar to those enforced in England. It was proposed that such a law might contain the following provisions:—

- (1.) The Local Government to be permitted to declare any district or part of a district to be a circumscription for the registration of European births and deaths.

- (2.) Registrars to be appointed, and the Chaplains, for the time being, to be eligible for the appointment.
- (3.) Every European within the circumscription in whose house or presence the birth or death of a European takes place, to be bound, under penalties, to report the occurrence with certain particulars to the Registrar.
- (4.) The Registrar to be subject to penalties for irregular registration.

2. Replies received from the Local Governments and Administrations to the circular of the 22nd July 1869, disclosed almost an unanimous opinion in favor of the proposed legislation. The Government of Madras alone thought that, as the Presidency Town of Madras had been provided for by the Municipal Acts, and as it was in contemplation to provide for the interior of the Presidency by local legislation, nothing more was needed for that Presidency. The Government of Bengal held that, as the existing arrangements for the registration of births and deaths under the Calcutta Municipal Act were working satisfactorily in the town of Calcutta, there was no necessity for any interference with those arrangements.

3. As regards the Agency to be employed and other matters, the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces was of opinion that the Chaplain, where there was one, might well be appointed District Registrar as regards Europeans; but that where there was no Chaplain, some other agency would have to be employed. He said that in the Central Provinces the District Superintendent of Police would be the fittest person, as he was already employed in registering births and deaths among the native population. The Chief Commissioner of Coorg was of opinion that the work should be entrusted to District Officers, as it was desirable to avoid the scruples of the Chaplains to register such occurrences in the case of persons not belonging to their communion; and also the scruples of persons not belonging to the Church of England to effect registration through a Chaplain of that Church. For similar reasons the Resident at Hyderabad expressed himself in favor of employing a Civil rather than an Ecclesiastical functionary for the registration of births and deaths among the European or quasi-European community. In the opinion of the Government of the North-Western Provinces, the Civil Surgeon would be the most suitable Registrar, where there was a Civil Surgeon. It appeared from the papers submitted by the North-Western Provinces Government, that the Settlement Officer, Furruckabad, feared that if Chaplains were to report infractions of the law to the Magistrate, they would be placed in a painful position with respect to their congregations. The Magistrate of Agra went so far as to doubt whether Chaplains would be willing to undertake the duty of registration, if they were required to find out and prosecute defaulters.

4. As stated above, the Madras Government did not think any legislation necessary for that Presidency. With reference to the proposed appointment of Chaplains to be Registrars, the Madras Government reported that, as there were many stations in Madras where Europeans resided, but where there were no Chaplains, a more feasible arrangement would be to require the President of the Municipal Commission of each station to undertake the registration of births and deaths. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal thought that the best plan would be to make the circumscriptions coterminous with the existing districts and sub-districts of the Department of Registration of Assurances; and to appoint the officers of that Department to be Registrars of Births and Deaths. The Government of Bombay also thought the Registration Department to be the best fitted to undertake the proposed duties.

5. Some of the replies to the circular of the 22nd July 1869 contained suggestions as to the definition of the term "European;" the mode of remunerating Registrars of Births and Deaths; the levy of searching fees, &c. The Chief Commissioner of British Burma was of opinion that the proposed law should include persons of American as well as of European extraction. The Magistrate of Cawnpore suggested that the words "European extraction" should be held to include East Indians as well. The Chief Commissioner of Oudh thought that the law should be made compulsory on Europeans, but only permissive with respect to others. The Chief Commissioner also remarked that if non-registration were made penal, it would be necessary to

provide an agency of registration within easy access wherever there might be a European resident.

6. The papers were sent to the Legislative Department with an expression of opinion that legislation was desirable to provide for the registration of births and deaths among Europeans in India. But the matter has not till lately received further consideration.

7. In January 1874, the Legislative Department transferred to this Department for consideration a memorial from the Baptist Missionary Conference held in Calcutta. The Conference prayed that an Act might be passed, making it compulsory on Christian parents to register the births and names of their children. The ground of the application was that although books of registry were kept in connection with many Baptist Churches, yet as infants were not baptised among Christians of that persuasion, such books would not be accepted as evidence in Courts of Law. The Conference referred to an English Act, providing for the registration of births that had taken place previous to the passing of that Act; and requested that similar provisions might be made in the proposed Indian law. The memorialists were informed, in reply, that the Government of India had no objection to consider the subject of their representation, but that it was not an easy matter to determine what penalties should be imposed for omission to register, and how such penalties should be enforced. Moreover it was anticipated that there might be some difficulty in framing a definition of the classes on whom registration should be made compulsory. It was observed that a law of the kind proposed would be of personal application, not extending to any town or territorial limits, but to certain classes or denominations: and it was added that the views of the Conference on these points, if stated at length, might possibly assist the Government in their determination.

8. The Reverend Secretary to the Baptist Missionary Conference rejoined that the proposed law should be made generally applicable to all India, and he was informed that any written statement of the views of the Baptist community would receive consideration, as the plans of the Government had not then reached any definite shape.

9. Mr. G. O. Beeby, of Calcutta, and the Rev. Mr. Ross, Minister of the Calcutta Union Chapel, thereupon addressed several letters to the Government of India, expressive of their views on the subject of the registration of births. After expressing his objections to the existing state of things, the Rev. Mr. Ross offered, among others, the following suggestions in order to remedy the evils complained of:—

- (a.) That every minister licensed to solemnize marriages, and every Marriage Registrar be also authorized by Government to register births when requested to do so.
- (b.) That this registry be made in a book similar to that in which marriages are registered.
- (c.) That registration of births be made compulsory.

10. Mr. Beeby also stated several objections to the existing system. He added that as Native Christians were gradually increasing in numbers, and acquiring property, their descendants would find it difficult to prove their pedigree and genealogy without some legal and authorized system of registration.

11. In January 1875, the Rev. Mr. Heinig and others submitted a representation in behalf of certain Christian residents of Benares, praying that a general law might be passed providing for the compulsory registration of births and names of infants, whether among Baptists or other denominations of Europeans, Eurasians, or Native Christians. Mr. Heinig was informed, in Home Department orders of the 9th February 1875, that the question had already been under the consideration of the Government of India; and that the point on which further information was thought particularly desirable was, whether the existing system of registration involved any real legal difficulty, as shown in actual cases that had occurred in Courts of Law.

12. In February 1874, the Government of the North-Western Provinces submitted copy of a letter from the Pastor and Deacon of the Baptist Church at Benares, enclosing for registration a list of children whose births had been

recorded in the Church Register from June 1865 to April 1873, and inquired whether any steps were likely to be taken for legislating on the registration of European births and deaths.

13. In the Home Department letter of the 7th March 1874, the North-Western Provinces Government was informed that there was no immediate prospect of legislation being undertaken in the matter. A copy of the letter to the Baptist Missionary Conference, dated the 26th February 1874, was sent to the North-Western Provinces Government, and it was added that any suggestions which the Lieutenant-Governor might wish to make on the points mentioned in that letter would be considered by the Government of India before forming any final conclusions on the subject. In reply the Lieutenant-Governor expressed his concurrence with the Supreme Government in thinking that there would be some difficulty in legislating in the matter. Registration could not, in His Honor's opinion, be extended to Natives; and the only legislation possible was for Europeans alone, for which His Honor did not see any urgent need.

14. In April 1876, at the instance of the Secretaries to the Church Missionary Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Venerable the Archdeacon of Calcutta requested that instructions might be issued for the supply of registers of births, deaths, and marriages to the settled Native Christian Congregations of the Church of England that had Churches of their own and a resident ordained Minister, Native or European. It was stated that among these Native Christian Congregations the practice of registering births, marriages, and deaths was universal.

* Except Bengal.

A circular was thereupon issued to all Local* Governments and Administrations

in the Bengal Presidency, under date the 12th August 1876, inquiring what rules had been made under the revised Marriage Act of 1872, in respect to the supply of registers and preparation and submission of returns. It was requested that where Native Christian Congregations of the kind described by the Archdeacon were not already in possession of registers, complete sets might be supplied to them, the first set being given free, and subsequent supplies being paid for by the congregations. The Government of India also expressed an opinion that the registration of baptisms and burials among Native Christians should be kept up under the same rules as were applicable to marriages; and called for a report showing the prevailing practice in this respect in each province.

15. The replies to the circular of the 12th August 1876 show that sufficient arrangements are in existence in respect of the supply of marriage registers. As regards the registration of births and deaths, the system varies in the different provinces. In some provinces baptisms and burials are regularly registered among the Native Christian community: in others, deaths of Native Christians are only registered when happening within Municipal limits, along with the deaths of other persons.

16. Several communications have since been received on the subject, commencing with one dated the 21st August 1877, from the Secretary to the Baptist Mission Conference. These communications led to a conference being held between the late Officiating Secretary in the Home Department and certain representatives of the Baptist community at Calcutta; and the result of that conference is explained in Mr. O'Kinealy's Memorandum, dated the 12th January last.

17. As to the registration of European births, the Baptist community seem to urge that the present form of registration of births has not the authority of any law, but is based solely on an executive order; and that it would be, therefore, necessary to enact with reference to the past that private registers, certificates, and copies of entries from books kept up by the several Dissenting Ministers should be admissible in evidence. As to the future, the Baptists consider it advisable to appoint Ministers to be Registrars of Births in the same manner as they are now appointed Marriage Registrars, and to make their registers, certificates, and copies from their books admissible in the same way as proposed with reference to the past, the same course being applicable in both cases to those dissenting bodies who do not follow the practice of infant baptism.

18. The representatives of the Baptists desire that a similar law should be passed in regard to the registration of deaths; and that provision should be made that when a European is not buried in a recognised cemetery, and there is no Minister of religion present at the burial, the Magistrate of the district should perform the duties of Registrar.

19. In the matter of marriages, the existing law is considered by the Baptist community to be sufficient so far as mere registration is concerned. But it is argued that the registers are simply kept in deposit instead of being indexed in a proper manner and rendered easy for reference: and that under such a system it would, after the lapse of a few years, become extremely difficult to obtain the evidence of any particular marriage. Mr. Beeby and others suggest that an index should be at once prepared of the marriages already registered under the Indian Marriage Act; and that such an index should be maintained for each province in regard to all marriages registered in future.

20. Mr. Beeby and others also represent the necessity of establishing a Central Office for each Presidency for the deposit as public records of all registers of marriages, as well as those of births and deaths.

21. The same measures are also suggested for adoption in respect to Native Christians as regards births, marriages, and deaths.

22. Some of these requests seem to be reasonable. The Government of India are, however, of opinion that the existing agency of District Registrars of Assurances might be advantageously utilized in the work of registering births and deaths, more especially if the proposed enactment is made applicable to Native Christians, the District Registrars being required to send an alphabetical index with the returns, which they may forward, yearly or half-yearly, as may be determined upon, to the Central Office at the Presidency, in the event of such an office being established at the headquarters of each Local Government.

23. But no legislation seems to be necessary in regard to marriages. Documentary evidence of all marriages registered under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, is by the provisions of that Act placed in the hands of the Secretary to the Local Government; or in the case of marriages in Native States in the hands of such officer as the Governor-General in Council appoints: and under Section 80 of the Act, the person entrusted with the custody of any such documentary evidence is empowered to grant certified copies which shall be received as evidence of the marriage. All that seems to be required is that some arrangements should be made for the preparation in each local Secretariat, and in case of marriages in Native States, under the officer appointed by the Government of India, of an index to facilitate reference, and for the keeping up of such an index. Possibly, legislation may be required if it is finally settled, with a view to greater security, to collect the records of all mofussil towns and villages at the three Presidency towns.

24. As regards marriages registered under Acts in force previous to the passing of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, these marriages are placed in this respect by Section 2 of that Act on the same footing as marriages under it.

25. To provide for the systematic and compulsory registration of European births and deaths, a legislative enactment would certainly be required. Legislation would also be required to make marriage registers, which have not been kept under any Act, legal evidence in a Court of Law. Before, however, determining what form the proposed legislation should take, the Government of India desire to receive from each Local Government and Administration a description and history of any marriage registers of this sort existing in the territories under its administration. Similar particulars should also be given regarding the births and deaths registers hitherto kept up in each province, so as to enable the Government of India to decide whether, in any law that may be passed regarding the registration of births and deaths among Europeans and Native Christians in India, suitable provisions should be inserted in order to give legal authority to entries in such registers.

26. Pending the final determination of the questions now under consideration, Local Governments and Administrations are requested to make such arrangements for the supply of books and forms for the registration of births and deaths among Europeans, East Indians, and Native Christians as they deem best suited to the requirements of the case.

No. 4-301.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the several Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance.

Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Bishop's Chaplain for the information of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, and for any remarks and suggestions which His Lordship may wish to offer: and that a copy be forwarded to the Secretary to the Baptist Mission Conference, and to the Rev. Mr. Heinig for information.

Ordered, also, that a copy of this Resolution, together with a copy of the replies to the circular of 12th August 1876, be forwarded to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Calcutta for information, and for any remarks and suggestions which he may wish to offer on the several points discussed in the Resolution.

(Signed) C. BERNARD,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 7.

ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1878, No. 229.

In the foregoing Resolution the Government of India review the correspondence which has taken place on the question of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages among Europeans in India, and desire to receive from each Local Government and Administration a description and history of any marriage registers, and of registers of births and deaths, hitherto kept up in each province to enable them to decide whether, in any law that may be passed regarding the registration of births and deaths among Europeans and Native Christians in India, suitable provisions should be inserted in order to give legal authority to entries in such registers.

2. Pending the final disposal of the matter Local Governments and Administrations are requested to make such arrangements for the supply of books and forms for the registration of births and deaths among Europeans, East Indians, and Native Christians, as they deem best suited to the requirements of the case.

3. From the wording of the Resolution it appears that the Government of India were not aware of the Rules issued by this Government under date the 14th March 1874, and notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 14th March 1874, for securing the registration of European and Native Marriages, under the Indian Christian Marriage Act No. XV of 1872, and also for the submission of Quarterly Returns of Baptisms, Births, and Burials of Christians of European birth or descent, or of mixed European and Native descent.

4. The Rules provide for the supply gratis of the first full set of registers and forms relating to marriages; and as regards baptisms, births, and burials the supply gratis of all forms of returns on application.

5. Subsequently on the representation of the Vicars Apostolic of Madras, Pondicherry, and Madura, it was determined that the Clergymen of the Church of Rome should be supplied gratis with all forms of notices, certificates, and registers necessary to enable them to carry out the provisions of the Indian Christians Marriage Act.

6. Copy of the Rules and of the Proceedings of Government, dated 8th January 1875, No. 5, referred to will be forwarded to the Government of India for information, pending preparation of the description and history of marriage registers, and of returns relating to births and deaths retained in this Presidency.

7. Inquiry will be made of the Inspector-General of Registration on the opinion expressed by the Government of India in paragraph 22 of their Resolution that the existing Agency of District Registrars of Assurances might be advantageously utilized in the work of registering births and deaths.

8. The Board of Revenue and Sanitary Commissioner will be requested to state whether the agency now employed for the registration of births and deaths could carry out what the Government of India desire, without the intervention of the Registration Department.

9. The Sanitary Commissioner will further be requested to furnish the description and history of the registers kept up regarding births and deaths.

10. The Venerable the Archdeacon, the Right Reverend the Vicars Apostolic, the Very Reverend the Vicar-General of Saint Thomé; the Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland; the Secretaries and Senior Ministers of the several Christian Mission Societies, and the Ministers of the Baptist denomination, will be requested to favor Government with their opinion on the general question referred to in the Resolution of the Government of India.

11. The description and history of marriage registers, and an index of marriages will be prepared in the Record Department of the Government Office; and as regards Native States the Resident in Travancore and Cochin and the Political Agents will be requested to arrange for the preparation and maintenance of the required index.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Registration, ✓

„ Board of Revenue. ✓

„ Sanitary Commissioner. ✓

„ Venerable the Archdeacon. ✓

„ Right Reverend the Bishop and Vicar Apostolic of Madras, ✓

and for communication to the several Vicars Apostolic exercising
Episcopal jurisdiction within the Madras Presidency.

„ Vicar-General of St. Thomé. ✓

„ Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland. ✓

„ Secretaries of the several Christian Mission Societies
(including the Baptist Missions). ✓✓✓✓✓

„ Resident at Travancore and Cochin. ✓

„ Political Agent, Pattukotai. ✓

„ „ Sandur. ✓

„ „ Banganapalle. ✓

No. 230.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department, for information, with copy of the Rules and Proceedings of Government cited.

Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 283.

From The Govt. of India, Home Dept.
29th August 1878, N. 300.

The suggestions in this
Memo may be adopted -
It will be seen we in Madras
have long taken measures to provide
the information required regarding
European births & deaths.

D.V.
9/9/8.

FOR ORDERS.

In the Resolution
herewith circulated the
Government of India
review the correspondence
which has taken place
on the question of the
registration of births, deaths,
and marriages among
Europeans in India, &c.
and conclude their remarks
as follows:-

MD
12/8

Govt. of {1878} Madras.
ECCLESIASTICAL.

To THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF
REGISTRATION,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 17th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 17th September 1878, No. 229.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 6-7.

Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.—
Orders passed on a Resolution of the Govern-
ment of India on the question of the registration
of births, deaths, and marriages among Europeans
in India, and copy furnished to the Government
of India.



To provide for the systematic and compulsory registration of European births and deaths, a legislative enactment would, certainly, be required. Registration would also be required to make marriage registers, which have not been kept under any Act, legal evidence in a Court of law. Before however determining what form the proposed legislation should take, the Government of India desire to receive from each Local Government and Administration a description and history of any marriage registers of this sort existing in the territories under its administration. Similar particulars should

should also be given regarding the births and deaths registers hitherto kept up in each province, so as to enable the Government of India to decide whether, in any law that may be passed regarding the registration of births and deaths among Europeans and Native Christians in India, suitable provisions should be inserted in order to give legal authority to entries in such registers. Pending the final determination of the questions now under consideration, Local Governments and Administrations are requested to make such arrangements for the supply of books and forms for the registration of

of births and deaths among Europeans, East Indians and Native Christians as they deem best suited to the requirements of the case."

2. Judging from the Resolution, the Govt. of India do not appear to be aware of the Rules framed by this Government in 1874 - under Act XV of 1872. for securing the registration of European and Native marriages - also of the Rules for the submission of quarterly Returns of Baptisms and Burials of European Christians, but not of Native Christians.

3. These Rules provide for

for the supply gratis of the first full set of Registers and forms relating to marriages; and as regards Baptisms and Burials the supply gratis of all forms of Returns without reservation.

4. By Order dated the 8th January 1875, N^o 5 forms of Notices, Certificates and Registers of Marriages are supplied gratis to all Roman Catholic Ministers.

5. By an order of the 5th July 1858, Ministers of the Baptist denomination were requested to furnish "Returns of Baptisms of Members", but there have not been supplied - Recently an Extract from the Register of Births was sent in by the

the Deacon of the Baptist Church New Town Madras.

He was informed that the
+ Extract was not necessary.

6. The Rules and Pro-
ceedings adverted to may
be forwarded to the
Government of India for
information, pending prepa-
ration of the description
and history of Marriage
Registers retained in this
Presidency - and of Returns
regarding Births and deaths.

7. Inquiry may also be
made of the Inspector
General of Registration on
the opinion expressed by the
Government of India that
the existing Agency of District
Registrars of assurances might
be advantageously utilized

+ Note -

This will be corrected
now, as by the Rules framed
in 1874, "Ministers of the Baptist
denomination" are required to
furnish "registers of Births in
line of Baptism."

para: 22.

in the work of registering
births and deaths.

8. The Board of Revenue
and Sanitary Commissioners
may be asked whether
Agency which is now employed
in the Registration of Birth
and Deaths, might not carry
out what the Government
of India desire, without
the intervention of the
Registration Department.

9. The Venerable the Arch-
deacon, the Senior Chaplain
Church of Scotland, the
Secretaries of the various
Missionary bodies, the Vicar
Apostolic of the Roman
Catholic congregations and
the Vicar General of Saint
Thome, may be asked
to favor Government with
their

their opinion on the general
question referred to in the
Resolution of the Government
of India.

10. As regards the
preparation of an Index
of marriages, the work
in the Secretariat must
be done in the Record
Department, where all the
Registers of Marriages are,
now secured; and as regards
Native States the Residents
and Political Agents
must be asked to make
arrangements for preparing
and keeping the required
Index.

Order requested
C. C. C.

Thank certified copies
of Marriage Registers
are sent to the Indian
Office / 11/

Registration of Births & Deaths

Report of births & deaths

58
10
Ecclesiast. Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ *Resolution*

of the Government of India, Home Dept.,
D^y 29th August 1878, N^o 300.

Order thereon 17 September 78 N^o 229

In the foregoing
Resolution the Government
of India review the corres-
pondence which has taken
place on the question of
the registration of births
deaths and marriages
among Europeans in India,
and decide to receive from
each Local Government
and Administration a
description and history of
any marriage registers,
and registers of births
and

FOR ORDERS.

Respassed

G.O. 17th Sept 1878 N^o 779

10-9-78
13/9

and deaths, hitherto kept
up in each province to
enable them to decide
whether, in any law
that may be passed
regarding the registration
of births and deaths
among Europeans and
Native Christians in
India, suitable provisions
should be inserted in
order to give legal
authority to entries in
such registers.

2. Pending the final
disposal of the matter
Local Governments and
administrations are
requested to make
such arrangements for
the

68
the supply of books and
forms for the registration
of births and deaths
among Europeans, East Indians
and Native Christians
as they deem best suited
to the requirements of the
case.

3. From the wording
of the Resolution it ap-
pears that the Government
of India were not aware
of the Rules issued by
this Government under
date the 14th March 1874,
and notified in the
Fort St. George Gazette 3,
14th March 1874 for
securing the Registration
of European & Native
Marriages, under the Indian
Christian marriage Act

N^o. XV of 1872, and also
for the submission of
quarterly Returns of Baptisms,
Births, and Burials of
Christians of European birth
or descent, or of mixed
European and native descent.

4. The Rules provide
for the supply gratis of
the first full set of
Registers and forms
relating to Marriages;
and as regards Baptisms,
Births & Burials the
supply gratis of all forms
of Returns on application.

5. Subsequently on the
representation of the Vicars
Apostolic of Madras, Pondicherry
and Madurai, it was
determined that the clergymen
of the Church of Rome should

be

G.O. N^o. 78 of 8 January 1875.

78
be supplied gratis with all
forms of Notices, Certificates
and Registers necessary to
enable them to carry out
the provisions of the Indian
Christians Marriage Act.

6. Copy of the Rules and
of the Proceedings of Government
of 8th January 1875, N^o. 5,
referred to will be forwarded
to the Government of India
for information, pending
preparation of the description
and history of Marriage
Registers, and of Returns relating
to births and deaths
retained in this Presidency.

7. Inquiry will be made
of the Inspector General of
Registration on the opinion
expressed by the Government
of India in para. 22 of
their

their Resolution that the existing Agency of District Registrars of Assurances might be advantageously utilized in the work of registering births & deaths.

8. The Board of Revenue and Sanitary Commissioners will be requested to state whether the agency now employed for the registration of births and deaths could carry out what the Govt. of India desire, without the intervention of the Registration Department.

9. The Sanitary Commrs. will further be requested to furnish the description and history of the registers kept up regarding births and deaths.

80
10. The Venable the ~~Arch~~ Archdeacon, the Right Rev. the Vicar Apostolic, the Very Rev. the Vicar Genl. of Saint Thome; the Seneschaplain of the Church of Scotland; the Secretaries and Senior Ministers of the several Christian Mission Societies, and the Ministers of the Baptist denomination, will be requested to favor Government with their opinion on the general question referred to in the Resolution of the Government of India.

11. The description and history of marriage Registers, and an Index of Marriages will be prepared in the Record Department of the Government office; and

as regards Native States
 the Resident in Travancore
 and Cochin and Political
 Agents will be requested
 to arrange for the prepara-
 tion and maintenance of
 the required Index.

(From Orders)

CCU

- ✓ Inspector General of Registration 26
- ✓ Board of Revenue 15
- ✓ Sanitary Commissioners 6
- ✓ Double the Archdeacon 21
- Despts 9/10 The Rt. Rev. the ^{Bishop} Vicar Apostolic of
 Madras - and for co-
 Do. - Vizapattam
 Do. - Madras
 Do. - of Malabar Hannan
 Do. - Morimbatore
- To The Vicar Genl. of St. Thome 11
- To Senior Chaplain, Church of Scotland 11
- Despts 11/10 The Secretaries of the several
 Christian Mission Societies 135
 (including the Baptist Mission)
- Resident Trav. Cochin 6
- Political Agent, Pudukkotta 3
- Despts 9/10 do do - Sandur 3
- do do - Bangalore 3
- Record Paper 2000 - 110

communication to the several Vicars apostolic
 exercising Episcopal jurisdiction within
 the Madras Presidency -

N. 230

Cpy to the Govt. of India. Admin Department.
 for information - with copy of the Rules. - } Despts 9/10
 Pass: of Govt. order. 2000 -

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26-6-47 ✓
10-7-79-30

Cash. of 1877

Cash

To



Dated 17 Decr 1878, No. 219
Recd. 220

Nos. 6-7

Report of the
Committee on

Public Affairs on a
Report of the
Committee on
Public Affairs
and on the
State of the
Union.