Eccl. 2
200—25-7-96

Ecclesiastical (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 59

DATED 27th May

UNDATED

24 24

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council — Recording proceedings &c. &pt. Communicating for information & guidance copy of the Questions put & the answers given at the meeting of the —— held on the 13th instant.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

200—18-9-06.

Ecclesiastical (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 146

V.E

Order

From The Legislative Dept.

Memo. No. 1058

Dated
Received } 6-5-8.
Registered

Enclosures One

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwg: Question XVI to be asked at the meeting of the Leg: Council to be held on the 13th inst. by the Hon. P. Rathnasabhapathi Pillai and requesting to forward the draft answer so as to reach us by the 9th inst.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

QUESTIONS proposed to be asked at the Meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 13th May 1898 by the Honourable P. Ratnasabhapathi Pillai.

Ecclesiastical Department.

XVI 14. Will Government be pleased to state whose property St. John's Church at Pondicherry is, and whether there is any reasonable doubt as to its proprietorship?

(*b*). Whether Government has authorized the D. P. W. to execute certain repairs to the above Church at a cost of between 13,000 and 14,000 rupees from the budgeted savings of the department, and if the question of its ownership was in doubt, what were the reasons which influenced Government in sanctioning this expenditure?

(*c*). Whether, in order to place the question of its ownership beyond a doubt, Government will be pleased to order an enquiry as to when, and by whom the Church was built, and as to the details of its subsequent management?

Current

250—8-11-97

VERY URGENT.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Memorandum. 1058

THE accompanying copy of a question * which will probably be put at the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on the 13 instant is forwarded to the Ecclesiastical Department for favour of the preparation of a draft answer with a note of such other information as may be deemed necessary.

It is requested that the draft answer may be forwarded so as to reach the undersigned before 5 pm on Monday the 9 instant

* Question No. XVI. ~~of the Hon'ble~~

Ootacamund
~~FORT ST. GEORGE,~~
6 May 1898.

H Tremenheere

Secretary to Government.

To

The Ecclesiastical Department.

P.S.—It is requested that the draft answers together with the notes, if any, may be written only on one side of the paper.

Encls. No 1
to Ecl. C.N. 146

VERY URGENT.

[G. / 25]
1,000 -22-11-97.

Eccl. DEPARTMENT

C. No. 146

CS

~~HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.~~

~~THE HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.~~

~~THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

SUBJECT.

Legislative questions

HW

FOR ORDERS.

Note.
The previous papers have been called for from Madras

X a. Will Government be pleased to state whose property St. John's Church at Pondicherry is, and whether there is any reasonable doubt as to its proprietorship?

Please see the notes at A in Go. No. 14 Eccl. 31-1-98

Reply
The church was originally built about 1846 by private subscriptions raised both in England and in this country and the repairs have as a rule been carried out by the B.C. agent Pondicherry and the Congregation themselves ~~The church is not Govt property and is~~ vested in the Bishop and the Archdeacon as trustees ~~presumably because it is in French territory~~. Though Govt has from time to time recognised the church in various ways it has not been considered advisable to add it to the list of Govt churches repaired by the P.W.D. ~~[illegible]~~

The following reply is submitted:—

It is not asked who has executed the repairs hitherto JG

up to the year 1866 it was vested in private trustees when by a deed of transfer it

It is not asked who was proprietor in former time. JG

It is not asked JG

AH

~~2746 W~~ ~~7 Oct 91~~ ~~The following answer may it is subd. be given.~~

~~Answer. St. John's Church at Pondicherry is private property vested in the Bishop and Archdeacon of Madras as trustees.~~

(b). Whether Government has authorized the D. P. W. to execute certain repairs to the above Church at a cost of between 13,000 and 14,000 rupees from the budgeted savings of the department, and if the question of its ownership was in doubt, what were the reasons which influenced Government in sanctioning the expenditure?

Suggested Reply

~~The present~~ Repairs estimated to cost between thirteen and ~~hundred~~ fourteen hundred rupees have been ordered to be carried out ~~[illegible]~~ as a special case by the P. W. Dept. ~~[illegible]~~ as the trustees have not the requisite funds ~~[illegible]~~ for approval.

Why did Mr Bell him that it was authorized as a special case? If so, we ought to say what was special about it. AA

Answer. As a special case the D. P. W. has been authorized to carry out the necessary repairs estimated to cost between thirteen and fourteen hundred rupees from the budgeted savings of the department.

(c). Whether, in order to place the question of its ownership beyond a doubt, Government will be pleased to order an enquiry as to when, and by whom the Church was built, and as to the details of its subsequent management?

~~[illegible]~~

Suggested Reply There is no doubt about the ownership of the Church.

MA

Cmd
7-5-98

Think the answer had better be in the following terms —

a. It is property vested in the Bishop & Archdeacon as trustees. There is no reasonable doubt as to the ownership.

b. Govt. sanctioned the execution of the repairs ~~[illegible]~~ by the DMW at a cost of between Rs 1300 & Rs 1400. ~~not a~~ The question of ownership was not in doubt when the sanction was given

c The Hon. Member is referred to the answer to the first part of his question.

JG
8/5/98

G.
74
300—30-7-96

Qu XXIII

H.M. has clearly overlooked this. Vide the addition F Wh. can be brought to notice in Council.

ASA
9.5.98

NOTE FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

It is respectfully subd. that Hon's ~~second~~ reply to clause (b) of the question does not ~~point~~ bring out ~~that~~ the fact that ~~[illegible]~~ whereas the Hon'ble Rahiasabapathi Pillai ~~states~~ ~~that repairs~~ asks about repairs costing between 13,000 and 14,000 rupees, the repairs ~~[illegible]~~ contemplated by Govt. ~~are~~ are to ~~[illegible]~~ cost between 1300 and 1400 rupees, please see para 1(a) of the Archdeacon's letter No. 4211 dd 25.1.98 on page 1 of G.O. No. 14 Ecclesiastical dd 31.1.98 and para 2 of that order

CMS
8/5/98

No. 1081 dd 9.5.98

To. Legislative ~~Com~~. Dept. u.o

CMS
9.5.98

ASA 9.5.98

Ecclesiastical (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 164

N

From

The Legal Dept.

Order No. 59. dy 27th May 1898.
Mis

Recorded.

No. 31

H
25.5

8 8 2
25.5.98

Dated 16/5/98
Received } 23-do
Registered
Enclosures one
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Comg copy of Qns & answers at the meeting of Council held on the 13. instant

Pub. cl. th
Mo.
23/5

Due go might be put in the Mis 8 [illegible] [illegible] facility

H
25.5

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON FRIDAY, THE 13TH DAY OF MAY 1898.

(1) *Additional Members.*

The Secretary reported that the following gentlemen took their seats as additional Members of Council:—

The Hon'ble S. SHUNGRASOOBYER AVARGAL, C.I.E.
" " MR. H. T. ROSS.
" " V. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR AVARGAL, C.I.E., Diwan Bahadur.
" " MR. J. STURROCK.
" " THE RAJA OF BOBBILI, K.C.I.E.
" " MR. C. S. CROLE, C.I.E.

(2) *Questions.*

With the permission of His Excellency the President—

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR asked the following questions:—

I. Will the Government be pleased to state whether Major (now General) Fischer, R.E., had investigated and projected a scheme for irrigating a large extent of land in the Bellary district from the Tungabhadra river as a protection against famine, and whether General Sir Arthur Cotton, the projector of the Gódávari irrigation system, had approved the said scheme of General Fischer for the irrigation of Bellary district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

I. The several projects connected with the irrigation of the Bellary district from the Tungabhadra river though included in the original scheme of the late Madras Irrigation Canal Company appear first to have been taken up by the officers of Government in the year 1854 and investigations were conducted under the orders of Colonel A. T. Cotton and the immediate directions of Captain Fischer during the years 1857–58 and 1859. The papers connected with these investigations appear to have been lost shortly after they were completed and cannot now be found.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR:—

II. Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which General Fischer's scheme or any similar one has not been adopted for the protection of Bellary district till now, though this district, being situated in the heart of the famine zone, is subject to frequent and most serious devastations of famine?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

II. The Government has for many years past endeavoured to work out a satisfactory scheme for the improvement of the irrigation of the Bellary district, but hitherto has been unable to recommend any scheme for sanction on account of the enormous cost of the works and the small returns to be expected.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

III. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the said scheme of General Fischer and the results of subsequent investigations, if any ?

(*b*) Will the Government be also pleased to request General Fischer, if necessary, to re-submit his scheme with any modifications he may deem fit to make, before his departure to England ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

III. (*a*) From the papers marginally-noted, which will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member, it will be seen that several proposals made for the improvement of the Bellary irrigation have been already fully considered. What is believed to be Colonel Fischer's scheme is amongst those recently re-investigated. A report regarding it is now before Government and will be published when orders are passed.

Chief Engineer's Office Memo. 32 B.L., dated 13th June 1877.
P.W.D. No. 955 I., dated 13th November 1885.
P.W.D. No. 521 I., dated 29th October 1889.

(*b*) General Fischer retired from the service many years ago, and Government has no control over him.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

IV. (*a*) Is it a fact that besides the Tungabhadra project, another scheme to irrigate the Bellary and adjacent taluks from the Hagari river was also projected ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which this project also was not given effect to, and also place on the table the papers relating to this scheme if available ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

IV. (*a*) The Hagari-Rayadrug project is probably what is referred to. This project was investigated in 1858 probably under the orders of Lieutenant (now General) Fischer and provided for a weir across the Hagari not far from the Mysore frontier with a channel 45 miles long on the left and 100 miles long on the right. The project was anticipated to cost Rs. 47¼ lakhs and yield a return of one per cent.

(*b*) The project was abandoned owing to the precariousness of the water-supply in the Hagari. The orders noted on the margin discussing the project will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member. The scheme has also been recently reconsidered and is discussed in the report before the Government.

Revenue G.O., No. 523, F. R., dated 30th January 1878.
Revenue G.O., No. 118, dated 8th February 1890.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

V. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if any measures have been adopted or are in contemplation to provide Bellary town with a free and copious supply of drinking-water ?

(*b*) If any general scheme of water-supply is impracticable at present, will the Government be pleased to adopt measures to extend the present reservoir at Alipore, so as to retain a larger storage of water, as was proposed in a scheme submitted to Government by Colonel (now General) Fischer in or about 1880 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

V. (*a*) & (*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 1463 M., dated 21st June 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' table.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

VI. (*a*) Is it a fact that the present hospital building at Bellary has been condemned as unsuited for hospital purposes ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what effect has been given by the Municipal or other authorities to the remarks made by His Excellency the Governor in the Hospital Visitors' Book, during his last visit to Bellary, that a separate building should be provided for the purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

VI. (*a*) The Surgeon-General has taken exception to the building as being unsuited for use as a hospital.

(*b*) A provision of Rs. 15,000 was made in the budget for 1897–98 for the construction of a new building; but the allotment has not been utilized as the question of selecting a suitable site for the building is still under the consideration of the Municipal Council.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

VII. (*a*) Is it a fact that frequent representations were made to the Board of Revenue in the year 1891 and once in the same year to Government by the ryots of Angadu, Kummanur Sirviam, Orakkadu, and adjacent villages in the Ponnéri taluk, Chingleput district, which are irrigated by the Sholavaram tank, complaining about the irregular and scanty supply of water to their lands by reason of competition of the ryots of numerous other villages situated nearer the sluice of the tank, and praying for the settlement of a scheme for the regular and equal supply to all the villages situated under the tank?

(*b*) Was a scheme for regular and equal distribution of water proposed by the Taluk or District authorities in 1892 and the same approved and notified in all the villages irrigated by the said Sholavaram tank, to be strictly adhered to on pain of prosecution for disobedence?

(*c*) Is the Government aware that beyond notifying the scheme for distribution in the villages, nothing further has been done to carry out the order in spite of repeated representations to the Taluk and District authorities in regard to the continued scanty and irregular supply?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to order enquiries to be made into the matter, and issue such directions as it may deem fit to remedy the long-standing grievances of the ryots of the above-mentioned villages?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes—

VII. (*a*) to (*d*) The Government has no information on the subject. A copy of the question will be sent to the Board of Revenue for such inquiry and action as may be necessary.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

VIII. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it has received any communications regarding the question of the right of interpellation to be exercised by the Municipal Commissioners for the city of Madras?

(*b*) And, if so, what orders have been passed on the subject?

(*c*) If the question admits of any doubt, will the Government be pleased to have recourse to legislation at an early date, with a view to granting the privilege as it was done in the case of District Municipalities by Act III of 1897?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

VIII (*a*). Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*). The Municipal Commissioners have been informed that in the absence of an express provision in the City of Madras Municipal Act I of 1884, as amended by Madras Acts VII of 1884 and II of 1892 conferring on them the privilege of interpellation, it could not be

created by a resolution of the Commissioners and that the propriety of amending the Act so as to empower the Commissioners to exercise this right would be considered on the next suitable opportunity.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

IX. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) In how many municipalities in this Presidency have Secretaries been till now appointed in accordance with the provisions of Act III of 1897 ?

(*b*) How many of them have been in the service of Government at the time of their appointment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

IX. In eight municipalities.

(*b*). Five.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

X. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) If there is any examination held for admission into the subordinate grades of the Accounts Department of the Public Works Department, and if so, who conducts the examination ?

(*b*) Has the Government appointed a Board of Examiners for conducting the examination, as it is the case with examinations for other branches of the public service ?

(*c*) And what are the general educational qualifications prescribed for candidates appearing for the Account Tests ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

X. (*a*) to (*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the rules on the subject in Volume I of the Public Works Department Code issued by the Government of India.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XI. Will the Government be pleased to state the rules, if any, for the recruitment of the subordinate grades of the Account Branch of the Public Works Department in this Presidency, and also if these rules have been adhered to strictly during the last four years ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the orders, if any, either of this Government or of the Government of India in the matter of the recruitment of this branch of the service ?

(*c*) If there have been deviations from the rules and orders as to the appointments or promotions in this branch of the service, will the Government be pleased to state the number of such deviations within the last four years and the reasons therefor ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

XI. (*a*) & (*b*) The rules will be found in G.O., No. 1802 W., dated 10th July 1883, a copy of which will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member.

(*c*) The information is not available in the Government office. It has been called for and will be made available to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XII. Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of revenue realized by the Commissioner of Police on licenses granted for the use of music in processions of Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the city of Madras during the year 1897-98 ?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that till 1888 no license fees for performing music were charged for applications from Hindu temples and Muhammadan religious institutions, that in 1888 a fee of 4 annas only was charged for the whole period of an occasional festival lasting for several days, and that subse quently a fee of 4 annas was collected for each day of a festival lasting for more than a day?

(*c*) Is the Government also aware that from 1888 fees were charged only on the occasion of special festivals as described above, and that till 1895 no license fee was required for daily customary ceremonies accompanied with music, and that since April 1895 a daily license fee of 4 annas is levied for the daily customary ceremonies and also additional fee of 4 annas for every day of an occasional festival?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state, if all the various collections of fees from temples and other religious institutions stated in clauses (*b*) and (*c*) *supra* are in pursuance of orders of Government or any other authority, and will the Government be pleased to place on the table all orders in connection with the collection of such fees?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to place Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the matter of music in the same position as they were before 1888, by exempting such institutions from the payment of any fees and granting free licenses when required?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XII. (*a*) to (*e*) The Government is not at present in possession of complete information on the subject, but a report has been called for. The Hon'ble Member is requested to repeat his questions at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR:—

XIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if its attention has been drawn to a communication, regarding the Public Works Department of Madras, containep in the issue of the *Hindu Newspaper*, dated 15th March 1898, making suggestions for a complete re-organization of the department by a reduction of 6 circles into 3 and 25 ordinary divisions to 17, thereby affecting a saving of nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees?

(*b*). Will the Government be pleased to consider the practicability of effecting savings in this direction without impairing the efficiency of the department?

The Hon'ble Sir H. Bliss—

XIII. (*a*) & (*b*) Yes. The Government considers that the Public Works establishment cannot be reduced without impairing its efficiency, and is not at present prepared to move in the matter.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XIV. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following notification o fthe Collector of Coimbatore published in the District Gazette, dated 5th March 1898, and have the terms of the notification the entire approval of Government?

NOTIFICATION.

1. "It has been brought to the notice of the Collector that there is a tendency on the part of the ryots to interfere with the arrangements made by Government for the proper distribution of water from channels and tanks, by causing injuries to sluices, regulators or dams provided for the regulation of water from irrigation works in this district, with the object of obtaining an unfair supply of water for their fields. The subject has recently been considered by Government which has passed orders declaring that in cases where such damages has been caused, penal assessment should be levied upon all the lands benefited by the damage done.

2. "The public are therefore warned that persons who receive 'an unusual supply' of water to their lands in consequence of damage done to sluices, regulators or dams, will be held to have participated in causing such damage, and will be punished by the imposition of heavy penal rates upon their lands.

3. "Village officers are responsible for seeing that sluices are in good order, and cases of interference must be promptly brought to notice in order that the offenders, if known, may be prosecuted. Village officers will publish this notice by beat of tom-tom in their villages."

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to cause a revision of the terms of the notification in order that persons who are not responsible for the mischief directly or indirectly, may be safe?

(*c*) Is there any authorized scale for the levy of penal assessments, and if not, will Government be pleased to frame one, with due regard to the gravity of the mischief, and the benefit resulting to the mischief-doer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose—

XIV. (*a*) The Government has seen the notification referred to which was issued in pursuance of its orders.

(*b*) These orders were issued as cases of mischief of this kind were becoming very general in Coimbatore and as it was found impossible to detect or trace the actual offenders. The presumption is that these whose lands are benefited by the damage are responsible for the damage. It will be open to any person to adduce evidence to satisfy the Collector to the contrary. In order to make the intention more clear, the notification will be recast.

(*c*) The Government has not laid down any fixed scale for the levy of penal assessments and does not propose to do so. The matter is one which must be left to the discretion of the local authorities subject to appeal to superior authority.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XV. (*a*) Is it a fact that Burmese convicts in jails are allowed rice diet, while Indian convicts, whatever their previous position in life may have been, and although their customary diet has been rice, are invariably put upon ragi diet?

(*b*) Is it a fact that even pure Indians with English names and European costumes are placed on a footing of equality with Europeans, Eurasians and East Indians in the matter of jail diet, and allowed bread, butter and coffee, &c.?

(*c*) Is Government aware that change of customary diets in jails has resulted frequently in deaths, and will Government be pleased to state the extent of the loss of convict life brought about by the above cause during the last ten years?

(*d*) If Government is not in possession of the above information, will it be pleased to obtain statistics in the matter, and place the same on the table?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to undertake a revision of the Jail Code in view to convicts being allowed in jails the same food to which they have been accustomed previous to their admission into the jail?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

XV. (*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to diet scales B & C in Rule 428 of the Jail Code, a copy of which he can see in the office.

(*b*) Pure Indians may occasionally pass themselves off successfully as Europeans and so get Eurasian diet; but it is not believed that this happens often.

(*c*) The answer to the first part of the question is 'No.' With reference to the second part, the Government has no reason to believe that there has been any loss of life from this cause.

(*d*) The Government does not consider that any useful object will be served by undertaking the elaborate task of endeavouring to collect statistics on the subject.

(*e*) The Government regrets that it cannot accept this suggestion.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XVI. (*a*) Is it a fact that Government has made it obligatory upon parties and suitors transacting business with the Revenue offices to use water-marked paper of a particular make each sheet of which, which corresponds to half a sheet of the ordinary foolscap, is to be sold for quarter of an anna by the Stamp-vendors ?

(*b*) Whether the circumstance that the paper prescribed by Government costs As. 12 per quire (while the same quantity of the foolscap paper hitherto in use, costs only As. 2) does not work as a real hardship upon the people, and whether Government will be pleased to rescind the order ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose—

XVI. (*a*) The answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative. But the compulsory character of the order will be further considered.

(*b*) As it is found that the petitions and other documents filed in the various offices in the Presidency are often written on paper unfitted for the purposes of record which sometimes leads to fraud and sometimes to the destruction of valuable documents, and that these results are due partly at any rate to the difficulty which persons in outstations especially experience in procuring paper of good quality in small quantities at a moderate cost, it is thought desirable to remedy the evil as far as possible.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XVII. (*a*) Whether it is a fact that the Chief and Second Engineers, suffering from small-pox, of the steam ship *Purnea* which came into the Madras Harbour in the beginning of April last, were refused admittance into the General Hospital, and whether the officers had therefore to be taken to the Segregation Camp at Royapuram ?

(*b*) Whether Government will be pleased to invite the attention of the Madras Municipality to the want of a Municipal contagious diseases hospital in Madras, in view to the want being supplied at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

XVII. The Government has called for a report on the subject.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XVIII. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the water-works system in Adóni, has been a success ?

(*b*) Whether the Nellucheruvoo tank, which is the reservoir of the system, became dry during the past year, and people had to resort to old and disused wells which had to be cleaned out for the occasion ?

(*c*) Whether the water taken from the filter beds of the Nellucheruvoo tank has been tested, and found to be of good quality ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

XVIII. (*a*) & (*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Inspection notes of the Sanitary Engineer printed in G.O., No. 230 M., dated 16th February 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' table.

(*b*) The tank became dry last year. For keeping up the water-supply three wells were sunk in the bed of the tank. The Government has no information about people having had to resort to old and disused wells.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XIX. (*a*) Whether Government has received a Memorial from the Madras Trades Association complaining of the official connection with the Madras Lawrence Asylum Press, and its competition with private trade ?

(*b*). Whether Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of making the Lawrence Asylum Press a purely Government branch and prohibiting it from taking private work ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes—

XIX. (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question is under consideration.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XX. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a correspondence headed "Tinnevelly Collectorate" in the *Madras Standard* of the 23rd March 1898, which implicates certain native Revenue officials of the district in taking up a dharkust land and partitioning it among themselves ?

(*b*) Is there any truth in the statements made in the above correspondence ?

(*c*) If Government is not in possession of any information in the matter, will it be pleased, in the interests of the officials referred to, to order an enquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose—

XX. (*a*) The attention of Government was not drawn to the letter headed 'The Tinnevelly Collectorate' till this question was asked.

(*b*) The Government has no information on the subject.

(*c*) It is stated in the letter that the Collector was taking steps to make a searching inquiry, so Government sees no reason to issue any order on the subject.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XXI. (*a*) Is it the intention of Government to make arrangements to send up to the Paris Exhibition of 1,900 Indian products of industry in weaving, metal work, ivory, marble-carving, agriculture, &c. ?

(*b*) Whether any, and what arrangements have been made in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes—

XXI. No. No official intimation regarding the exhibition has been received.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XXII. Whether Government has passed final orders on the recent resolution of the Senate of the Madras University cancelling the rule in regard to the compulsory attendance of the failed B.A. Candidates at a college ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

XXII The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to questions Nos. V and XXXII at the meetings of the Council held on 9th April 1897 and 1st February last, respectively.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XXIII. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whose property St. John's Church at Pondicherry is, and whether there is any reasonable doubt as to its proprietorship ?

(*b*) Whether Government has authorized the Public Works Department to execute certain repairs to the above Church at a cost of between 13,000 and 14,000 rupees from the budgeted savings of the department, and if the question of its ownership was in doubt, what were the reasons which influenced Government in sanctioning this expenditure ?

(*c*) Whether, in order to place the question of its ownership beyond a doubt, Government will be pleased to order an enquiry as to when, and by whom the Church was built, and as to the details of its subsequent management ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose—

XXIII. (*a*) It is property vested in the Bishop and Archdeacon as trustees. There is no reasonable doubt as to the ownership.

(*b*) Government sanctioned the execution of the repairs by the Public Works Department at a cost of between Rs. 1,300 and Rupees 1,400. The question of ownership was not in doubt when the sanction was given.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to the first part of his question.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XXIV (*a*) Whether the system of recruitment to the Subordinate Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department instituted by the Government of India, and the probationary training prescribed therein have been carried out in this Presidency ?

(*b*) How may vacancies occurred in the Accounts Establishment since the issue of orders by the Government of India on the system of recruitment, and in how many instances was the India Government Order complied with, and in how many instances was it departed from ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel—

XXIV. The Government is not in possession of the information asked for, but has called for it and will communicate it to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XXV. In reference to the Order of the Government that "no plaint, petition, or similar document" should be received, from and subsequent to the 1st of April last, in any Revenue Court or by any Revenue Officer in this Presidency excepting the district of the Nilgiris, unless the same documents were written upon the new water-marked paper referred to in the order and supplied by the Government, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether, before issuing this Order, it had invited opinions as to the desirability of passing such an order and if so, from whom ?

(*b*) Whether it had taken the opinion of the Advocate-General or the High Court as to the legality of the order ?

(*c*) What is the law under the provisions of which the Government acted in issuing this order ?

(*d*) Whether, before issuing the order, the Government considered the great hardship to which agriculturists seeking redress from Government and parties in Revenue Courts would be put to in consequence of the great price of the paper, *viz.*, twelve annas per quire, while the best paper in the bazaar is to be had at about two annas a quire ?

(*e*) At what rate is the paper supplied to the Government by the Tilaghur Paper Mills Company at Calcutta ?

(*f*) What are the circumstances under which the district of the Nilgiris has been exempted from the operation of this order ?

(*g*) Whether, except for the purposes mentioned in the order, the Government has directed the use of this paper in any of its departments, and if so, in what departments ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose—

XXV (*a*). Government consulted the Administrations of Bengal, the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces, Assam and the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and as it found that the use of a special plain paper for documents intended for record in Courts had been approved by the Government of India in 1872 and arrangements similar to those now in force had been adopted or were in contemplation in all those places, it resolved to introduce those arrangements as an experiment.

(*b*) The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

(*c*) Government acted under no law, nor in contravention of any law.

(*d*) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question XVI.

(*e*) The paper is supplied at the rate of Rs. 3–1–0 per ream plus transit charges.

(*f*) The Nilgiri District was exempted from the operatinn of the rule in view of the fact that the people generally are not concentrated in towns and villages in the same way that they are on the plains, and would be put to great inconvenience if they had to resort to stamp-vendors who are stationed in the district only in a very few localities.

(*g*). The answer to this part of the question is in the negative.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XXVI (*a*). Will the Government be pleased to state what precautions it is taking in view to minimise the chances of the plague breaking out in this Presidency?

(*b*) Has the Government authoritative information from Calcutta or any other place that rats carry infection of the plague? Has the Sanitary Commissioner made a report on this subject ? In view of the statement made in Calcutta and of the general belief that rats import infection, will the Government be pleased to adopt measures for the destruction and burning of these animals in all large towns and railway stations and in as many other places as the Government deems fit in this Presidency ?

(*c*) Whether in view to prevent risk of infection and in view of sanitation, the Government would modify its Order No. 1002, Revenue, dated 30th November 1897, relating to the disposal of unclaimed corpses by directing that these be burnt instead of being buried ?

The Hon'ble Sir H. Bliss—

XXVI (*a*).

(1) Quarantine is enforced against all vessels arriving from plague-infected ports.

(2) Steps are taken when necessary to prevent the attendance at festivals and fairs of persons from infected areas.

(3) The bringing of used apparel and bedding (except when carried as the personal baggage of travellers), rags and waste-paper from plague-infected parts and other places has been prohibited.

(4) Inspection stations have been provided under competent medical officers at the three railway frontier stations of Hospet, Tungabhadra and Kondapalli and also at Podanúr, Arkonam and Perambur at which persons arriving from infected areas are medically examined and detained if they are not able to satisfy the medical officer that they are healthy or that they are proceeding to any fixed place of residence.

(5) The two districts of Bellary and Kurnool which are nearest to the plague-infected provinces have been placed "under observation" under the Additional Regulations published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 1st March 1898.

(6) All persons arriving from infected parts are kept under observation for ten days.

(7) For other precautionary measures, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the Plague Regulations published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd August 1897, 18th December 1897, and 1st March 1898.

(*b*) Wherever there has been plague, it has been the general experience that rats get infected first and spread the infection. The Sanitary Commissioner's opinion that rats are liable to infection and act as conveyers of plague is embodied in the note prefixed to the Rules for combating plague issued under the District Municipalities Act and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, Part I-A, dated 16th March 1897. In G.O., No. 274-M., dated 23rd February 1897, the attention of all Collectors, Presidents of District Boards, and Chairmen of Municipal Councils and of the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, was drawn to the part taken by rats in the dissemination of plague, and instructions were issued for their destruction. G.O., No. 93-P., dated 26th February 1898, with which the Additional Plague Regulations were issued, requires the destruction of rats in areas declared infected and authorizes the grant of rewards for dead rats. As an experimental measure and on the advice of the Sanitary Commissioner rats are now being destroyed in two of the frontier villages in the Kurnool District and a reward of 2 pies given for each rat. The destruction of rats is so simple a precaution that the people themselves ought to take it for their own safety and no further measures on the part of Government ought to be necessary.

(*c*) With reference to the impossibility of prescribing cremation in the case of corpses which happen to be the corpses of Muhammadans, and of meeting subsequent claims of relatives and to the danger that cases of unnatural death may be concealed, cremation cannot be ordered. But an instruction will be added to the order that in the case of a person who has died or is suspected to have died of plague, the corpse shall be wrapped in a cloth soaked in a strong solution of a suitable disinfectant and be buried six feet deep.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR:—

XXVII. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is in possession of reliable information regarding the results of inoculation according to Professor Haffkine's system?

(*b*) Whether it is in a position to state if Professor Haffkine's prophylactic is a safe and efficient vaccine against the plague. And if so, whether it thinks it possible to adopt measures at once to introduce into this Presidency and to encourage the practice of inoculation according to this system as a precautionary measure?

The Hon'ble Sir H. Bliss—

XXVII (*a*) & (*b*). Mons. Haffkine's report on preventive inoculation in the epidemic of plague at Undhera Taluk a Baroda has now been received and will be placed on the Editors' table. A note by the Officiating Director of the Indian Medical Department on anti-plague inoculation appears in the *Gazette of India* of the 7th instant which will be taken into consideration immediately. If people desire to be inoculated with Professor Haffkine's prophylactic, there will be no difficulty in arranging for inoculation without delay and the Government is prepared to give every encouragement to such persons.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XXVIII. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Under what circumstances it was thought necessary to obtain the services of the Special Medical officers who have recently arrived from England in this Presidency ?

(*b*) Whether these Officers have been appointed on the understanding that they were to be employed in connection with plague duty and their services would be dispensed with when no longer necessary in that connection, or generally for temporary duty ?

(*c*) Whether it would place on the table a statement showing the special qualifications, educational and otherwise, of these Officers ?

(*d*) Whether in view of the educational qualifications and experience of the Assistant Surgeons as well as their knowledge of the languages and manners of the people of this Presidency, the Government would consider the desirability of employing these Officers on plague duty, so as to cause the least annoyance and irritation to the people in discharge of this difficult duty ?

(*e*) Under what circumstances it was that some of these new Medical Officers have been appointed as District Medical and Sanitary Officers ?

(*f*). Whether in view of the educational qualifications, experience and popularity of the Assistant Surgeons, the Government would take their claims for promotion into consideration and permanently throw open to them the Civil stations and a fixed number of District stations to which they are often appointed as Acting Officers ?

The Hon'ble Sir H. Bliss—

XXVIII (*a*). The temporary medical officers were obtained to fill the vacancies caused by the absence on military duty of officers of the Indian Medical Service, and in view of the fact that in the event of the advent of the plague, additional medical assistance would be needed.

(*b*) They have been engaged for temporary plague and general duty.

(*c*) The information required by the Hon'ble Member can be obtained from the Medical Directory of Great Britain and Ireland.

(*d*) The Government considers it necessary that plague duties should as far as possible be carried out by Commissioned Officers or by gentlemen of similar professional attainments who will be assisted by medical subordinates acquainted with the languages and customs of the Presidency. Such duties will be assigned to Assistant Surgeons as their educational qualifications and experience may justify.

(*e*) Because they were the best qualified medical men available.

(*f*) Six Civil Surgeoncies, as well as the Office of Additional Medical Officer on the Nilgiris, are already open to Assistant Surgeons provided that no commissioned medical officers are without appointments. Government has under consideration the question of permanently reserving some of these appointments for Assistant Surgeons.

(3) *Petitions, &c.*

The Secretary reports that the following papers have been communicated to the Select Committee on the Bill to further amend Madras Act V of 1884 :—

Petition from the Jagirdar of Arni, dated 21st March 1898.

G.Os., Nos. 22 and 26, Legislative, dated 16th and 26th April 1898.

(4) *Bill to amend the Madras City Police Act*, 1888.

The Hon'ble SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E., moves that the Bill be passed into law.

(5) *Madras Tenancy Bill.*

The Hon'ble MR. H. T. ROSS introduces the Bill and moves that it be read in Council.

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Government of Fort St. George.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

—

NOTICES

FOR THE

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

On Friday, the 13th day of May 1898.