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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1.2.68

Press
Mis.

Dated

22-12-1886 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

28
Eleventh Board of Directors
MADRAS.

My dear Mr. Belcher
I have just received
your letter of the 11th inst.
and am very glad to hear
that you are so much
interested in the
construction of the temple
in which large number of
people are temporarily col-
lected, and it seems to me
that it may, perhaps, be
of service if I were
able to see in a few

and at any time I
should be able to
be of help to you in
your little laboratory
which you are so
careful.

There was to be a
dinner performance
at the Yellow Railway
and to go on for 2
or 3 weeks in a large
and specially constructed
the occasion. Having
chance of a lunch
I went right to the spot
with the lot of music.

(a) That I might be able
to find a place
near the house of the
house I had - this was
to prevent the fire from
sparks from the
other place.

(b) That the door by which
the operators entered the
pandal should be double,
each half door 5 feet wide,
opening outward. This
was to ensure its opening
easily either on a rush
from inside.

(c) That in the pandal
there should be
on each side, an aperture

to be tied up with cords
from inside.

(2) That during the fire
and every night a
provided with a lamp
should be placed inside a
pandrol beside each of the
closed apertures, so that
then till the audience be
perceived.

(3) That, in the event
of an alarm of fire be
raised, each man should
with his knife to be

48
the end of the up
the fire it a
each side of the
fire should be a
door open, at each side,
for the people to rush out
at.

(4) That there should be
no naked light allowed
under any pretext, inside
the pandrol.

(5) That every lamp should
be provided with an iron
or tin screen, being hung
over the chimney, above,
as is especially to prevent

sparked rising out
the importance of
leaving a mark of the Past.
That was all -
The Proprietors at first re-
fused. but, as soon as I
told them that if they did
not do as I desired them
to do in no performance
that was in Northbrook
they agreed. I went &
had the building fixed, &
then went down in the

58
people were sure
the people were that
to do. There was no
accident in alarm, but
and then here I know
very well the whole body
of speculators would
have been safe in the
open air in one min-
ute. Had there been
any very cheap
precautions been taken
in Times like the terrible
loss of life would not

19TH OCTOBER 1886, No. 2323, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From S. K. WYNNE, Esq., Acting District Magistrate, Tinnevely, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Pápanasam, 31st August 1886, No. 25 Camp.

In reply to G.O., No. 2073, dated 6th August 1886, Judicial, I have the honor to refer to my letter, No. 973, dated 16th August 1886, forwarding, with comments, a full report of the police investigation.

2. The bye-law relating to the matter is No. 48 (G.O., No. 2253, dated 16th December 1878), which runs: "No license will be granted for the erection of temporary structures on account of theatres, unless the Commissioners are satisfied that sufficient care has been taken to ensure the safety of the public, and that, in case of accident occurring, sufficient means of egress have been provided." I have already described and criticised the manner in which the application for license was dealt with (paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 860, dated 29th July 1886). I consider that the report of Mr. T. Muttayyar, the divisional councillor, showed that he had not performed the duty imposed upon him with sufficient care. The report does not deal with the points which were essential; and I am also of opinion that the position of the proposed pandal was, from its being surrounded by thatched buildings, and thatched itself, unsafe. For the reasons given lower down in the same paragraph of my letter, and referred to in my comments on the Police Superintendent's report, I hesitate to hold that there was an obvious difficulty of egress such as should have led to the license on that account being refused.

3. This report being defective, I consider that it should not have been accepted by the officer in charge (under section 15 of the Act) of the duties of chairman, viz., Mr. T. Varad Row, Probationary Assistant Collector. The report said nothing about the safety of the structure, or about the sufficiency of egress. It should have been returned for further particulars.

4. I should add, however, that the number of petitions presented to the chairman daily is very large indeed, and that a similar performance was held for six months in a similar pandal in the same pettah in the previous year. The opening of the doors inwards was due to the requirements of the law. This provision seems to me to be useless and ill-advised.

5. There is no provision of law requiring a magisterial license for holding performances in pandals such as this, but it is a common practice to apply to magistrates for permission to carry out performances of various kinds, and this is convenient because a prohibition might issue under section 144, Civil Procedure Code. In this case application was made to the Taluk Magistrate. The municipal license had already been obtained, and the municipal council is entrusted with the supervision of these structures both under the bye-law quoted and under sections 179 and 180 of the Act; the attention of the magistrate was more particularly directed to the questions of the preservation of the peace, nuisance to neighbours from the music, &c. He, however, inspected the pandal, and his permission was not given without consideration. I have dealt with this matter in paragraph 4 of my letter quoted, and have nothing to add to what is therein contained.

I enclose a letter, which has been addressed to me by Mr. T. Muttayyar in explanation of his action, with comments.

have ordered of the
to my request
and I would respectfully
recommend that the
order be not issued pro-
hibiting any public per-
formance in any Pand
unless such arrangements
are made before hand

for the same
W. T. Muttayyar

7. Nothing has been elicited in the police investigation, in the magisterial investigation (inquest), or in the inquiries made by me personally, to throw any light whatever on the immediate cause of the conflagration, which must therefore be held to be accidental.

8. The number of deaths officially reported is now 176.

Telegram from the District Magistrate, Tinnevely, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Amr. Sahadram, 6th September 1886.

Please suspend orders on my letter No. 25 Camp, dated 31st ultimo, pending further communication.

From S. H. WYNNE, Esq., Acting District Magistrate, Tinnevely, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Tinnevely, 18th September 1886, No. 1123.

I have the honor to report in continuation of my letter, No. 25 Camp, dated 31st August 1886, as follows:—

2. On 20th August a petition was presented to me, stating that one Ganapati Chetti had, a few days previous to the fire, written to the chairman of the municipality warning him that the pandal was in a dangerous position and that performance should be stopped till it is protected against danger. The petitioner added that he had lost two sons in the fire, and his grief had prevented his giving me the information before.

3. The chairman at the time was C. Anantanarayanaiyar, who, having been elected, and approved by Government, was instated on 14th July 1886, and still holds that post. He also is the Taluk Magistrate referred to in my former letters.

4. I therefore sent him this petition and asked him if the petition named in it had been received, and what had been done on it.

5. He replied that no such petition had ever been received.

6. At the same time that this reply reached me, I received another (anonymous) petition stating that the petition to the chairman in question had been destroyed, and the page in the register containing an entry of it removed, and a re-written page with a different entry substituted.

7. I had the register immediately examined and statements taken from all likely to know anything about the matter, including Ganapati Chetti, who stated that he had sent the petition as alleged.

8. I have no doubt whatever that the register has been tampered with by the removal of a sheet and the insertion in its place of another freshly written. The register is forwarded herewith.

9. The sheet in question contains in one opening entries of petitions Nos. 110 down to 118, and in the corresponding opening at the other end petitions 560 to 569. I call attention to the entry against petition 118, which is not finished on this sheet and is continued in the next in quite a different ink and written with a different pen. Turning to the other opening, we find the same change of pen and ink between the entries 559 and 560, though these bear the same date. Petition 563 is supposed to be the substituted entry, that number having originally been given to the suppressed petition. It is the registry of an application for leave by one of the clerks, and the application is forwarded. There are these fatal facts, first, that there is a separate register for applications for leave (forwarded) and no other leave application has ever been entered in the petition register; and second, that the same clerk's previous applications were written in English. The leave application register is kept in English; the petition register in Tamil. It was necessary in order to perpetrate this fraud with any chance of success that the petition to be substituted should be from some one in the office cognisant of the fraud, and that it should be in Tamil. Hence the entry of this application.

10. There is a further proof of the suppression. Two lists are made of the petitions "passed" at the meeting of the board (next after the date of their disposal by the chairman). One is pasted in the petition register, and the other is kept separate

and filed in the office. In both the lists for meeting of August 3rd, 563, the number of this petition, has been added at the bottom in a different ink—an evident interpolation. It was therefore presumably not placed before the meeting, and the number has been added subsequently. The meeting in question was August 3rd, or a week after the fire. Leave applications are not placed before meetings, these matters being under the sole control of the chairman. Any petition about the fire would have at such a time at once attracted attention. The conclusion seems irresistible that the petition dated July 20th entered in register on July 23rd (three days before the fire) had no attention paid to it. After the fire it was suppressed and not placed before the Board. Its number was subsequently added to the list as if it had been passed, and finally the register was altered and another petition was substituted for it.

11. What the petition was we have no means of determining exactly. There is every reason to believe it did relate to the pandal, though the description now given of it has very likely been colored by subsequent events. Nor is there anything to show who tampered with the register, or when. But as the chairman only could be interested in the fraud, the presumption is that it must have been done by him or under his directions.

12. His statement is sent herewith. He says the petition was never received and the difference of ink, &c., is an accident.

13. The fact that he had received such a petition would not, I think, have compromised him very seriously under all the circumstances. It was only registered 3 days before the fire. The show had then been running about a month in a site used the previous year. License had been granted by his predecessor and he had inspected the place himself. The folly of tampering with the records under such circumstances is great, but is not so incredible as to rebut the presumption raised by the facts that it was done by him.

14. The receipt of the petition I look upon as a trifle compared with the subsequent transactions, but as the whole affair reflects on the conduct of the district officials in connection with the fire, I thought it well that it should be disposed of at the same time, and therefore telegraphed requesting the stay of orders on my letter of which this is a continuation.

From G. BIDIE, Esq., M.B., C.I.E., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 20th September 1886, No. 232.

I have the honor to forward, for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, copy of a letter from the District Surgeon, Tinnevely, and a nominal roll of persons who were under treatment for burns received in the late fire, with results.

2. Of 90 cases treated, 66 died, the majority of them being young persons and chiefly Brahmins.

ENCLOSURE

From S. B. PATRAO, Esq., Acting District Surgeon, Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated Palamcottah, 8th September 1886, No. 364.

With reference to my letter, No. 309, dated 27th July 1886, regarding the burn cases in the late fire occurred in the pandal erected for theatrical purposes in Tinnevely, I have the honor to forward herewith a statement showing the total number of cases treated, and their results. It will be seen that out of 90 cases treated, 66 proved fatal. All the cases that proved fatal had been severely burnt to a 3rd and 4th degree, and the majority of them were young and male, chiefly Brahmins.

Petition from Ganapathiappa Pillai, Chockalinga Pillai, and others, inhabitants of the town of Tinnevely, dated 2nd September 1886.
Petitions from Sivananiutha Perumal Madaliar, residing at Tinnevely, dated 11th and 23rd September 1886.

ORDER—dated 19th October 1886, No. 2823, Judicial.

The foregoing papers refer to the disastrous fire which took place at Tinnevely on the 26th July last. The occurrence was first reported by telegram on the 27th July, and fuller reports were received dated the 28th and 29th July, but in view of the great loss of life which had occurred, the Government directed a most searching enquiry into the causes of the fire to be instituted by the Collector, and the result of this enquiry is submitted in the first of the foregoing papers.

2. As to the actual cause of the fire itself nothing whatever has been elicited, and the Government concur in the District Magistrate's opinion that it must therefore be held to have been accidental. No motive for, nor evidence of, incendiarism has been brought forward. The cause of the great loss of life which occurred was mainly panic, which produced a blind struggle to get to the door, though other means of egress were available. But it is also clear that the enclosure in which the theatre was erected was unfitted for such a purpose, both by the fact that its door opened inwards and for other reasons, and the Government regret that the local officers did not take more care to ascertain the suitability of the locality for the erection of a building for dramatic performances, before granting a license.

3. The District Magistrate has stated, it is observed, in a former letter recorded in G.O., 6th August 1886, No. 2073, that the doors of the enclosure opened inwards in accordance with the requirements of section 167 of the Madras District Municipalities Act. That section, however, leaves full discretion to the council as to the use of the powers conferred. The Government are of opinion that a set of simple rules should be framed for the guidance of Municipal councils in the licensing of sites or structures for, and in the precautionary measures to be observed in the regulation of, public entertainments. This subject will be considered in the Financial Department, and a letter from Mr. Whiteside, C.S., on this subject, giving the result of his experience in North Arcot, will be communicated at the same time to all Presidents of Municipal bodies.

4. In the report of the Superintendent of Police, it is stated that, except in Madras Town, it is not the custom to depute any special force of police to superintend public gatherings and entertainments. The Government consider that change in this respect is called for, and the proposal of the Superintendent to frame certain rules for the guidance of the police in future is approved, and the Inspector-General will, after revision, submit the rules for the consideration of Government, in view to their being issued for the guidance of the police in all districts.

5. With regard to the circumstances detailed in the letter of the District Magistrate, No. 1123, dated 18th September 1886, the Government are of opinion that, though there is reason to suspect that some tampering with the records of the Municipal office did occur, there is not sufficient evidence adduced for any action being taken against the Taluk Magistrate.

6. The petitioners will be informed that the Government, having considered a special report from the Collector on the subject of the fire at Tinnevely, decline to order further investigation.

(True Extract.)

H. E. S. S.
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the District Magistrate, Tinnevely, with enclosures.

" Inspector-General of Police.

" Financial (M.) Department, with Mr. Whiteside's letter.

" Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

Paragraph 6 to petitioners.

Copy to Mr. Whiteside.

" all District Magistrates.

Ed. A. Reitt.

Financial Department
CURRENT No. 1802

Gobt. of (1886) Madras.
JUDICIAL

Issued
Recd. Encl.
G.O., 19th October 1886, No. 2823.

OCTOBER.

Fire at Tinnevely.

Passing orders on papers referring to the disastrous — on the 26th July last.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 1886, No. 19th October from the Judicial Department.
Current No. 1800 of 1886, dated 19th October from

The objection raised by the Chief order to some of these rules seems perfectly valid, but I will go further. I think Rule 2 is also ultra vires for a similar reason. When once a licence has been given under Sec 180 the Council is functus officio, & is no longer entitled to interfere, except to prosecute under Sec 263 for a breach of the conditions of the licence. It seems to me however that the whole order is ultra vires, or at least a straining of the powers of the Council. I may make rules for the guidance of the Council (Sec 180) but they must not do their work for them. If we look at the other clauses of § 250 we find they all relate to the mode in which things are to be done, & the qualifications to be required of the authority who is to do them. It is not for the Council to act, but to make bye laws for the purpose of making them themselves. It is not for the Council to do this or that, but to make bye laws for the purpose of making them themselves. It is not for the Council to do this or that, but to make bye laws for the purpose of making them themselves.

The first three paragraphs of the G.O. read above together with Mr Whiteside's letter referred to therein will be communicated to all Chairmen of Municipal Councils for information and guidance.
2. The annexed rules for the guidance of Municipal Councils will be framed under Section 250 (1) (m) of the Act and the following Notification published in the Fort St George and District Gazette.
Notification.
The following draft rules framed under Sections 250 (1) (m) of the District Municipalities Act of 1884 are, under Section 256 (1), published for general information and

and notice is hereby given that any objection or suggestion in respect of these rules made by persons interested therein will be considered on or after the 1st of March 1887:-

Draft Rules

(1) Temporary buildings for theatrical and other public performances ~~should not be erected~~ ^{except} in open spaces, so as to avoid the risk of fire ~~to~~ ^{by} sparks from adjacent houses.

(2) Before any public performance can take place, the building ^{shall} be inspected by at least 2 Municipal Councillors (one of whom should generally be the Chairman) who must certify in writing that all needful precautions against fire and other accidents have been taken. In the case of long continued performances frequent inspections should be made ^{periodically} ~~regularly~~.

(3) The main doors of these buildings should be double, each half

by the Chief Secretary, & then require the Councils to make by laws under the new clause. There would however be no objection to the circulation of the first four pages of the G.O. of Mr. Whitelocke's letter suggesting that in granting licences Councils should insist on

The Municipal Councils shall not ordinarily grant licences under Act 180 for the construction of

such conditions as laid down in Act 180 (3) & 4, until the amendment of the law enables them to do more

The circulated

half being not less than 5 feet wide and opening outwards.

(4) In addition to the ordinary means of egress, there must be at least 1 special exits, one on each side of the building, capable of being at once utilised in an emergency. In the case of pandals, such exits could be conveniently afforded by moveable ladders tied on the inside.

There is no provision of law under which rule 5 can be made or enforced. Section 250 gives power to make rules in the guidance of the Commission for carrying out the Act, and accordingly rules to guide them in granting licences under Act 180 may properly issue. The draft rules 1-4 come under this category. Rule 5 refers to the use of the building after it is constructed & has no connection with Section 180. Nor is there any provision of the Act under which it can be brought. The Councils have no power to regulate theatrical performances or to interfere except in certain defined ways, none of which cover this case, for the health or security of the people. The last Secretary has suggested that the

(5) No naked light should be allowed inside the building or within 5 yards outside.

(6) Before the performances commence, the Police should be communicated with in view of obtaining the attendance of a police guard to preserve order. See that these rules are observed, and render assistance in case of accident.

(7) Failure to fulfil the above conditions after issue of a licence will subject the offender to the forfeiture

forfeiture of the license and to
a ~~prosecution~~ under section 263
of the District Municipalities
Act.

188
188/188

I am ~~to~~ to construct
a ~~building~~ in front of the
party will open to view only
covered lights. I submit
that such a condition, which
has no connection with the
subject matter of sec 180,
could not be put into
effect regarding the law? in
working that section. At any
rate no court would permit
a man under the penalty clause
for breach of such condition.
I see no way in which the pro-
posed rule can be made legally
binding. I submit that it must
be omitted. Rule 6 of similar
nature must also be left
out, but it can be put into
a ~~code~~ some rule for police
officers in their duties now
expected from the Inspector Genl.

The defect in the Act could of course
be remedied by legislation. The simplest
way seems to be to give municipalities
power to make by-laws (sec 180)
(iii) for regulating & controlling
the kind of other buildings for
public performances.

Members of Municipal Councils
the Collectors concerned
all Collectors
The Judicial Department

Papers to be read in Proceedings:-

Again G.O. dated 22nd Oct 1886, No. 2823
Current No. 1886 of 1886 dated 14th Oct from

Current No. of 1886 dated from

The first 3 paragraphs
of the report above,
together with the letter
referred to therein,
will be submitted
to the Chairman of Council
for information &
opinion. The District
Municipalities Act as
it at present stands
gives the Council no
power to regulate &
control theatrical & other
public performances,
but early steps will be
taken to supply this
omission. On the
other hand Councils
do well to insist on some
such conditions in the
following before licensing
temporary erections for
public performances
under s. 180.

Such buildings
are erected in open spaces
as to avoid the risk
of fire through sparks

from a person's house
 (b) The main door of
 the building should be
 made each half being
 4 ft 6 in. thick & 5 ft wide
 & opening outwards
 (c) In addition to the or-
 dinary means of egress
 there should be at least
 2 special exits, one near
 side of the building capable
 of being at once utilized
 in an emergency
 In case of a fire
 it can be immediately
 opened by means of a
 lever tied in the inside
 from outside hall
 top

Sept. 7. 87
 All Chairs & Stands
 for the College Council
 The President, M.C. Madras

22ND DECEMBER 1886, No. 1268 M., FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

Extract paras. 1 to 3 of G.O., dated 19th October 1886, No. 2823, Judicial.

Read—the following papers:—

- From the Acting District Magistrate, Tinnevely, dated Pápanásam, 21st August 1886, No. 25 Camp.
- Telegram from the District Magistrate, Tinnevely, dated Ambásamudram, September 1886.
- From the Acting District Magistrate, Tinnevely, dated Tinnevely, 18th September 1886, No. 1123.
- From the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated Fort St. George, 20th September 1886, No. 232.
- Petition from Ganapathiappa Pillai, Chockalinga Pillai, and others, inhabitants of the town of Tinnevely, dated 2nd September 1886.
- Petitions from Sivananintha Perumal Madaliar, residing at Tinnevely, dated 11th and 23rd September 1886.

Order—dated 19th October 1886, No. 2823, Judicial.

Para. 1. The foregoing papers refer to the disastrous fire which took place at Tinnevely on the 26th July last. The occurrence was first reported by telegram on the 27th July, and fuller reports were received dated the 28th and 29th July, but in view of the great loss of life which had occurred, the Government directed a most searching inquiry into the causes of the fire to be instituted by the Collector, and the result of this inquiry is submitted in the first of the foregoing papers.

2. As to the actual cause of the fire itself, nothing whatever has been elicited, and the Government concur in the District Magistrate's opinion that it must therefore be held to have been accidental. No motive for, nor evidence of, incendiarism has been brought forward. The cause of the great loss of life which occurred was mainly panic, which produced a blind struggle to get to the door, though other means of egress were available. But it is also clear that the enclosure in which the theatre was erected was unfitted for such a purpose, both by the fact that its door opened inwards and for other reasons, and the Government regret that the local officers did not take more care to ascertain the suitability of the locality for the erection of a building for dramatic performances, before granting a license.

3. The District Magistrate has stated, it is observed, in a former letter recorded in G.O., 6th August 1886, No. 2073, that the doors of the enclosure opened inwards in accordance with the requirements of section 167 of the Madras District Municipalities Act. That section, however, leaves full discretion to the council as to the use of the powers conferred. The Government are of opinion that a set of simple rules should be framed for the guidance of Municipal councils in the licensing of sites or structures for, and in the precautionary measures to be observed in the regulation of, public entertainments. This subject will be considered in the Financial Department.

a letter from Mr. Whiteside, C.S., on this subject, giving the result of his experience in North Arcot, will be communicated at the same time to the Presidents of Municipal bodies.

(Sd/-) H. E. STOKES,

Ag. Chief Secy.

To the District Magistrate, Tinnevely, with enclosure.

Inspector-General of Police.

Financial (M.) Department, with Mr. Whiteside's letter.

Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

Paragraph 6 to petitioners.

Copy to Mr. Whiteside.

all District Magistrates.

Enclosure.

Demi-official from W. S. WHITESIDE Esq., to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 4th August 1886.

The recent tragedy at Tinnevely may very possibly result in orders being issued regulating the construction of the pandals in which large crowds of people are temporarily collected, and it occurs to me that it may, perhaps, be of service if I now write to you in a few words the arrangements that I made five or six years ago as Magistrate of North Arcot to prevent a similar catastrophe, and which were perfectly successful.

2. There was to be a Dandia Vilasam performance close to the Vellore Railway Station, to go on for a month or five weeks, in a huge pandal specially constructed for the occasion. Foreseeing the chance of a terrible disaster, I went myself to the spot with the tahsildar and insisted—

- (a) That the pandal should be erected on a maidan near the village of Katpudi that I selected: this was to prevent risk of fire from sparks from adjacent cooking places.
- (b) That the door by which the spectators entered the pandal should be double, each half-door five feet wide, and opening outward. This was to ensure its opening readily and widely on a rush from inside.
- (c) That in the pandal itself there should be, on each side, an aperture 6 feet high and 18 feet wide. This aperture to be closed by tatties fixed on a light split bamboo frame that was to be tied up with coir twine from inside.
- (d) That during the performance every night a man provided with a sharp knife should be placed inside the pandal beside each of the closed apertures, and to remain there till the audience dispersed.
- (e) That in the event of an alarm of fire being raised, each man was with his knife to cut the cord holding up the tatty, and give it a push, and in one moment there would be a wide door open at each side, for the people to rush out at.
- (f) That there should be no naked light allowed under any pretext inside the pandal.
- (g) That every lamp should be provided with an iron or tin screen depending over the chimney above, so as effectually to prevent sparks rising on to the inflammable leaves and mats of the pandal.

That was all. The proprietors at first objected, but as they would not do as I desired, there would be no performance that year in North Arcot, they agreed. I went and had the tatties tied, and then cut down in my presence, to make sure the people knew what to do. There was no accident or alarm, but, had there been, it is very well the whole of the spectators would have been safe in the open air in one minute. Had these very simple and very cheap precautions been taken in Tinnevely, the terrible loss of life would not have occurred. That we may be quite sure, and I would respectfully recommend that standing orders be now issued prohibiting any public performance in any pandal unless such arrangements are made beforehand.

Order—dated 22nd December 1886, No. 1268 M., Financial.

The first three paragraphs of the Government Order read above, together with Mr. Whiteside's letter referred to therein, will be communicated to the Chairmen of Municipal Councils for information.

2. The District Municipalities Act, as it at present stands, gives the municipal council the power to regulate and control theatrical and other public performances, but the Government will be taken to supply this. In the mean time, councils would do well to insist on some such conditions as the following before licensing temporary erections for public performances under section 180—

- (a) Such buildings should be erected in open spaces, so as to avoid the risk of fire through sparks from adjacent houses.
- (b) The main doors of the building should be double, each half being not less than 5 feet wide, and opening outwards.
- (c) In addition to the ordinary means of egress, there should be at least one special exit—one on each side of the building—capable of being at once opened in an emergency. In the case of pandals, such exits can be conveniently afforded by moveable tatties fixed on the inside.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To all Chairmen of Municipal Councils,
through the Collectors concerned.
the Judicial Department.
the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

Gobt. of (1886) Madras.
FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 22nd Dec. 1886, No. 1268 M.

DECEMBER.

Theatrical Performances.

Communicating, for the information of the
Chairmen of Municipal Councils, the first three
paragraphs of the Government Order, Judicial
Department, relating to the occurrence of fire at
Tinnevely, and directing that certain condi-
tions be insisted on before licensing temporary erections.

CURRENT No. 187 - Intimate marked A.
(Held) current & passed 3/4
Luo's one - a

PRESS

4th Div. DEPARTMENT
G.O. DATED 22nd Dec/86
No. 1288 W

First copy sent to Press

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Theatrical performances
Comm. for the informa-
tion of the Chairman
Municipal Councils
The first three para-
graphs of the 4th para-
graph relating to the
accusation of per-
jury & fraud & direct-
ing that the same be
referred to the
before the
for any or other