

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 2358.

Dated 16th Nov. 1895.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

DASSARA AT NELLORE.

Recording, with remarks, report of the District Superintendent of Police, Nellore, on the relations between the Hindus and Muhammadans in Nellore during the--.

met.

District Police Office, Mellore,
Dated 8th October 1895.
Despd 11th Do.

N^o 937.

From

George J. Egan Esq,
District Superintendent of Police,
Mellore,

To

The Inspector General of Police,
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to your Endorsement,
N^o 570, dated 30th September 1895 on copy
of Proceedings of the Madras Government,
J. D., N^o 1058, dated 26th idem, I have the
honor to submit the following report.

2. During the Mohurram of 1892, Cholera
of a virulent type broke out in Mellore
Town when the Hindus, living in the Potters
Street, devised different modes of worship
to their goddesses with a view to appease
their wrath. The mahamadaas assumed
an aggressive attitude and insulted
the Hindus. This offensive tendency
was manifested in other parts of the
Town where the Hindus were having
similar

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Ind
 (1895) DEPARTMENT.

FROM

M. HAMMICK, Esq., I.C.S.,

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,

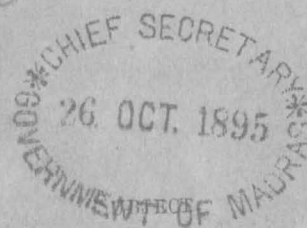
Madras,

TO

THE Chief Secretary
 to Govt.
 Fort St. George.

No. 5381

Dated 25th } October 1895
 Received 20th }



Submits copy of Mr. Egan's report on the relations between the Hindus and Mahomedans in Nellore Town.

MR 20/10
 4/31/10

20/9/95
 15/95
 pushy
 20/10

(over)

1058 D 26.9.95 R.
 1974 D 20.9.95 mis
 2371 D 16.11.93
 2015 D 27.9.95
 896 D 1.5.95

Mr. Egan

For order

Mr. Egan's report on the last Sasara in Nellore is submitted for perusal & orders.

It is probable he no way back to follow out his suggestion at its close to the satisfaction of either party. The Dr. Wright has already tried.

MR 15/95 7/11/95

I don't see what can be given - The fact has no power to lay down such "clear & definite" rules as to the rights of the two communities as Mr. Egan asks for.

MR 8/11/95

I do not understand what Mr. E. means as matters which ought to be laid down perhaps he will drop what he proposes.

MR 11/10/95

This is a matter for the Collector & Supdt. of Police to arrange between them.

MR 20/10/95

13 Nov

similar emblems invoking the divine aid at this crisis. Strings of margosa leaves called "Thoranam" were tied across the streets and Mahammadans protested that they should be removed to allow of their Mohurram processions passing along the streets. The then Superintendent had these "Thoranam" accordingly removed. Just about that time, the wife of Mr. Rungiah Nayudu, Treasury Deputy Collector, died and this gentleman was performing her obsequies and passing through a public street with large temple umbrellas and flags. These the Mahammadans objected to and assaulted the processionists, causing injuries. There could not have been the slightest provocation for this aggressiveness. Offenders were fined. The Hindus rightly or wrongly resolved not to wear any vestments or disguises during Mohurram but that they should do so during "Dassara" a Hindu feast. The feast having followed the Mohurram, the Hindus carried their resolution into effect by wearing light disguises &c. Still everything passed off quietly that year

year i.e. in 1892.

3. During the Mohurram of 1893, the Hindus, true to their resolution, referred to in para I supra, kept aloof as one man. There was perceptible diminution in the grandeur of the Mohurram celebration and the Mahammadans, as a matter of fact, felt greatly piqued and left no stone unturned to throw as many obstacles as they possibly could in the way of the Hindus celebrating their "Dassara" in their own way. Accordingly, a little before the advent of Dassara, the Mahammadans for the first time petitioned the District Magistrate, Mr. Maclean, that Hindus should be allowed to wear no disguises and no procession of any kind should pass through the streets of Malabar. The District Magistrate summoned and heard some Hindus and then passed Proceedings, No 2010, dated 10th October 1893. It is given below in extenso -

"Read (a) petition from the Mahammadans of Malabar Town to the District

District Magistrate of Mallore, dated 29th July 1893, and received on 31st July 1893.

(b) petition from Muhammadammad Imamud-din of Mallore Town to the District Magistrate of Mallore, dated 3rd August 1893.

(c) Mallore Taluk Magistrate's Report, on the petition dated 31st July 1893, No. 6915, dated 28th September 1893 and received on 30th September 1893 together with its enclosures.

(d) petition from the Hindus of Mallore Town, dated 6th October 1893, and received 7th October 1893 and

(e) agreement tendered by the Hindus on 9th October 1893.

Parties heard on 9th October 1893.

1. For a long time past, Hindus in this Town have been joining with Muhammadans in making processions and other demonstrations at the Mohurram festival. On such occasions some of them have put on disguises similar to those of the Muhammadans, and no objection has been taken to it. It has not been the custom in this Town till quite lately, to wear such disguises at the Hindu Dassara festival.

2. Dassara has been, of late years, following

following Mohurram in point of time.
3. At the Mohurram of 1891 things went on as usual but at the succeeding Dassara the Hindus to a certain extent put on disguises similar to what they had worn at Mohurram. No notice appears to have been taken by the Muhammadans.

4. At the Mohurram of 1892 things also went on as usual but at the succeeding Dassara, disguises were put on by Hindus in an increasing degree. It is understood that the Muhammadans telegraphed to Government but they lodged no complaint in this office.

5. In the present year the Hindus abstained entirely from taking part in the Mohurram demonstrations of July, thus diminishing its importance, and reserved their arrangements for their own festival, which is now imminent in October. The Muhammadans complained about this immediately after their Mohurram by petition to the District Magistrate and they were heard on the subject on 1st August 1893. This petition was referred at once to the Mallore Taluk Magistrate and, after making extensive enquiry, he reported in a report received on the 30th

September

September 1893. The Hindus made a counter petition on 7 October 1893. Both parties were then heard again at length by the District Magistrate on 9 October 1893.

6. The Muhamadans object to the wearing of any disguises at Dassara. That their motives are somewhat mixed in the matter appears from the fact that they are glad of the support of the Hindus in doing the same at Mohurram. Put most briefly, however, their contention is that the wearing of disguises at Dassara is a caricature of the Muhamadani demonstrations.

7. The Hindus say that they have a right to wear what disguises they think fit at Dassara. They deny that they wish to caricature. Put most briefly, their contention is that the disguises they wish to adopt belong as much to their religion as to the Muhamadani religion and are so to speak, common to both.

8. The particular disguises complained of by the Muhamadans appear to be the following:- tiger or a man painted as a tiger; Majnun or a representation of Persian hero; Pandaram or a man dressed as an ascetic;

Punjab

Punjab, a term used generally for banners representing Muhamadani Emblems and Taboot or the representation of the mausoleum of Husain.

9. I do not consider that tiger and Pandaram can be held to be necessarily special to a Muhamadani celebration. The Hindus state that they do not wish to perform Majnun. To carry Punjab or Taboot would, in my opinion, be a direct provocation to the religious feelings of Muhamadans, and the Hindus have given in an agreement saying that they will not use these.

10. Though it is a matter of regret that any innovations have come about, yet in the circumstances above set forth, I do not consider that there is reasonable cause for serious objection, and as the matter is before me, there are no grounds for an injunction under the Criminal Procedure Code under the head of wearing disguises at the ensuing Dassara. The application for interference must therefore be rejected.

11. Parties taking part in the Dassara demonstration

demonstrations are warned that their processions will be subject to the control of the Police acting under Section 49, Act XXIV of 1859.

4. On the 16th day of October 1893 the District Magistrate, Mr. Maclean, passed another Proceedings, No 2020 ^{mag.} under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which is as follows:—

"Whereas it has been made to appear to me that you and certain other Hindus are about to make processions along the main Bazar street, Mallore, and that processions are likely to lead to a riot or an affray, I do hereby prohibit any procession of whatever nature from passing through the said street, to wit, from the Telegraph office to the Building known as "Rahmatulla's Mahal", during the ensuing two weeks and strictly warn and enjoin you not to take any part in such processions."

5. The last order caused great dissatisfaction among the Hindus; about the middle of Dasseera a stone idol called Koneti Rayudu placed in a small temple in Danduvari street was on a night so daubed with human excreta and this act very probably or without a doubt, was done by Muhammadans. This

most

1. 11. 93

most offensive mischief riled the Hindus. The year 1893 passed away leaving apparent signs of discontent in the native community.

6. The Mohurram of 1894 was uneventful and the Hindus adhered to their former resolution. Their Dasseera fell in the month of October and Muhammadans repeated their efforts to prevent the Hindus from wearing disguises and carrying processions, but the then District Magistrate, Mr. Wynne, permitted the Hindus wearing all disguises except Tiger or anything resembling it and threw open the main Bazar street for processions.

A Hindu evaded this order by wearing quite a new disguise, that of a lion, he was arrested and charged and the Head Assistant Magistrate convicted him. The conviction was appealed against but the High Court upheld it. This convicted Hindu has filed a suit for damages in the District Munsiff's Court of Mallore against the Police for illegal arrest and it is pending.

7. This year there was no change for the better in the attitude of the Hindus and Muhammadans, and their old feud continued; as was done in the years 1893 and 1894, the Reserve was mobilized this

year

year for Dassara and the Town force was strengthened and each procession had 2 and 3 constables to take it unmolested. Three days before the close of Dassara, a small party of Processionists going along Dykes Road were taken by surprise by Muhammadians, who taking advantage of night, attacked them and inflicted a severe wound on a boy. He was immediately taken to the hospital where he is fairly progressing. Now the intention of the Muhammadians to assault the Hindus being publicly known extra measures were adopted to prevent recurrence. The District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police were on the spot for three nights consecutively and saw all the processions pass through without any hitch whatever; all the processions were brought together and with sufficient number of armed Police were taken through undisturbed. Pickets were placed in convenient centres, where an affray or riot was expected and this was a new feature in the Police arrangements of this year.

8. It is, however, much to be regretted

regretted that there exists tension of feelings between the Hindus and Muhammadians and it seems impossible to bring about reconciliation between them so long as the former continue to celebrate their national festival in the way they have been doing for the past three years. It is certain that the Muhammadians take objection to everything that the Hindus wish to do during their festivities without reference to its propriety, and until the Government lay down definite and workable orders, which would define the rights and privileges of each community on festive occasions, it is feared that the disturbances in this District will not cease.

I have seen.

(sd) George J. Egan.

Superintendent of Police,
Bellary St.

True

N:5381

Chief office of the Inspr Genl of Police
Madras 25th October 1895.

True copy submitted to Govern-
ment, with reference to G.O. No 1058,
Judicial, dated 26th September 1895.

H.C. Carr.

Asst. Inspr Genl of Police
For Inspr Genl of Police.

[G.]
24
500-20-0-94.

Ind. DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G. O., dated

189 , No.

Again G. O., dated

189 , No.

Current No.

of 189 , dated

from

Current No. 5056 .

of 189 , dated

from

ORDER. 16th November 1895 No 2358

Recorded .

2 .

With refce to the last

sentence of Mr. Egan's report it is

observed that the Govt. has no

legal authority to adopt the

course suggested by him.

W. A. V. G.

(from orders)

To Lg. & Judge - G

15/11/95
19/11

RECEIVED

Dacara at

Miller.

Ch. (from order)

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 189
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____ DATED _____
189 ,

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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