[L. & M. 1,700—10-4-06.]

Local & Munl. (1896.) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 267 L

DATED 10th February 1896.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fairs and Festivals.

Recording with remarks, report on the Arogya-mata festival held in September 1895 at Velanganni Tanjore district.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

28

C.S.
P.S

Order No. 2675 Dy 10-2-96

Recorded.

2. The Taluk Boards attention will be drawn to the suggestions of the reporter and the Sanitary Commissioner.

3. ~~The President of the District Board shall after perusal signed by the Inspector of the conduct of the Hospital Assistant after taking his explanation and making any further enquiry which may be necessary~~

4. The formal endorsement on the report forwarding it to the Sanitary Commissioner has not been signed by the Collector

I.R.
4/2/96

W.W.S
5.ii.96

S/5/2/96

To

The President, Taluk Board, Negapatam, thro' the Presdt.
" Distt. Board, Tanjore
" President, Distt. Board, Tanjore
" Collector of Tanjore
" Sanitary Commissioner
Editors' Table.

Dupd 26/2/96

Local and Municipal DEPARTMENT.

Local & Municipal Dept.
From CURRENT No. 36762

SURN.-LT.-COL. W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.
SANITARY COMMISSIONER FOR MADRAS,

To
THE Chief Secretary
to Government
Local and Municipal

No. 2353
S

Dated 14th
Despatched 14th } December 1895.
Received

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
17 DEC 1895
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

ENCLOSURES. 2.

Subject.

Forwarding report on the Arokia Mathra festival at Velangannie Negapatam Tq Tanjore Dt.

Pass

Please put this in type and send 3 copies soon

18/1

200—16-11-95.

2672
10/12/96

Copy of a Communication from the Tahsildar of Nelapatam to the Head Assistant Collector of Tanjor, dated 9th October 95 Reference No. $\frac{4009}{Rev}$ of 95

In obedience to your Reference No. $\frac{4290}{Rev}$ of 95, I beg to submit the explanation of the Deputy Tahsildar of Nelapatam Town, and to add as follows:

1. The Hospital Assistant reports, that the two sides of the sheds were exposed to Cold draughts. But the Deputy Tahsildar of Nelapatam Town, writes to say, that the openings were partly closed. I hear that one Mr. D' Cruz was occupying one of the sheds, and that one Mr. Pereira a resident of Nelapatam had occasion to visit it. On a reference made to him on the subject, he has sent a reply, that the side facing the Sirtu, was half closed

against

against wind by Kattis, and the other half which was used as door way, was screened. Mr Pereira is travelling Auditor in the South Indian Railway, and has no Conceivable motive to utter a falsehood. He and the Deputy Tahsildar Carroborate each other, as against the Hospital Assistant, and no further proof is necessary to shew, that the sides of the sheds, wherever they were exposed to the strong Southern winds, were closed as much as Convenience required. I would have however made a reference to Mr D'cruz but he is far away in the Salem District, and my report is already overdue.

2. It is true that as he writes, no Cooks, Cook-room etc were provided. They were never provided ever before, and neither the Hospital assistant, nor the

4B

the District Medical and Sanitary officer, who visited the place at the Commencement of the festival, Suggested the same either on the spot, or in his letter to you $\frac{29}{C.O}$ 30.8.95. The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, visited the place on the last day of the festival, and it was too late then, to attend to his remarks. Happily there was no necessity for the provision.

3. The District Medical and Sanitary officer's recommendation, for a large number of pilgrim and water sheds, Could not be Carried out, as no funds were sanctioned for the purpose. It is almost impossible to accommodate all the 30,000 people, that assembled for the festival, and the 7 additional sheds recommended by him, even if they were put up, would be a drop in the ocean.

4.

4. The Hospital assistant reports, that there were no trenches around any of the sheds, except the Hospital shed. The Deputy Tahsildar of Nellapatam Town, who was deputed to look after the Sanitary arrangements, reports that he found the trenches dug round the sheds. I myself proceeded to the place on the 1st instant, without previous notice and inspected the Sites. I found clear and distinct traces of the trenches around 6 pilgrim sheds, and one Cholera shed. Their weather beaten appearance strongly convinced me, that they must have existed before the sheds were pulled down, and that the report of the Hospital assistant on this point, is either false or culpably incorrect. They are still open to inspection and verification.

5. The Hospital assistant writes, that there was no watchman appointed to look after the tank in the Compound of the old Chapel, and that the Deputy Tahsildar's order to post a watchman, was not attended to by the Contractor. Strangely enough, the Deputy Tahsildar himself does not complain of the alleged indifference of the Contractor, but on the Contrary makes a positive statement that there was a watchman for the purpose.

6. It has never been the case in any year, to make provision for dust Carts. But the purpose was fulfilled however, by digging out Square holes in the ground, and burying the refuse in them. The District Medical and Sanitary officer too, has not suggested, that dust Carts should be provided.

7. The Hospital assistant again states, that he requested the Vicar of the Church to have the 3 wells attached

attached to it deepened, but that he was not kind enough to do so. I made a reference to the Vicar, and he informs me in writing, that no such request was made to him, but, that notwithstanding, the wells were deepened as usual on the occasion of the festival.

8. It is true that no provision was made for supplying water, in the night time. But the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam, who was on the spot states, that he himself noticed some people taking water from a certain water shed in the night time, and assures me that arrangement had been made by the Contractor, to supply water whenever it was required.

9. It is true that the Hospital assistant requested me to address the authorities, to have

to have the head sluice of the Vellayar, kept open for the festival. By the time I could communicate it to you, you yourself received letter No. $\frac{29}{C.O}$ 30.8.95 from the District Surgeon, Tanjore, making the same suggestion and I therefor took no action thereon.

10. This requires no explanation, but the remarks of the Deputy Tahsildar on this point, are pertinent.

11. The Hospital Assistant writes that no night coolies were engaged by the Contractor, except on 6th 7th and 8th September 1895. If such is true, he could have complained of it then and there to the Deputy Tahsildar, who was on the spot, but on the other hand, the Contractor assures me, that coolies were provided according to the estimate for working in the night time.

12. The Hospital Assistant Complains that the Sanitary Contractor Tajamadha Pillai never does his work properly, and that he has heard that he (Sanitary Contractor) maliciously lodges Com-plaints, or instigates others to Complain against the Medical Subordinates. With reference to this, the Deputy Tahsildar writes that the Contractor did attend to his work Carefully, and did Carry out the works according to the Estimates. He further asserts, that the Hospital Assistant made no Complaints to him of any defects, in the Exe-cution of the works by the Sanitary Contractor.

I beg to add that the Hospital Assistant's remarks on the Public and Private Character of the Contractor, are both false and uncalled for. I have known him for the last 5 years. He is a

a respectable Christian Gentleman of Velangani. He is the Son of a respectable native Catechist, and has received his education in a Christian institution. He descends from a family, which had once possessed Complete Control over the Chapel, and its extensive revenues, and I have heard it said, that in the time of his ancestors, they used to measure out Gold Coins, in the same scale, with Tamarind and Brinjals. I have never heard of a Single instance of his ever making Complaints, against medical Subordinates, or of his ever instigating the same and the Hospital Assistant's remarks to the Contrary, are most reckless and unworthy of being recorded in a public document. He has gone, far out of the way in making his remarks on the Contractor and

and I beg that his report may be ordered to be revised, before it is submitted to Government.

13. The Hospital Assistant says, that there was only one stretcher, but the Deputy Tahsildar saw 2 stretchers.

14. Lastly the Hospital Assistant remarks that a Servant of the Chapel while distributing earthern vessels to the public, threw them over the heads of the people, and thereby caused bleeding wounds. But the Deputy Tahsildar who was in the Village all the time, did not hear of it. The Hospital Assistant further states, that he requested the Vicar to put a stop to the practice, but that he did not do so. In explanation of this, the Vicar informs me, that no accident took place in distributing earthernware to the public, and that the Hospital Assistant never spoke to him on the subject at all. The Vicar adds, that he saw the Hospital assistant but twice, once with me which was at the Commencement of the festival, and the second time on the 9th September, after the festival was over. On the first occasion I was myself present and distinctly remember, that the Hospital Assistant made no reference, either to the throwing of pots, or to the bleeding of wounds, while on the second occasion the festival being over, no request Could have been made to the Vicar to stop the practice, and it is unmeaning to say, that the Vicar did not Comply

15. On the whole the Hospital assistant's

repo

report deserves no credit. It Contains several false statements. It is false to say that the two sides of the sheds were exposed to Cold draughts. It is false to say that no trenches were dug out. It is false to say that no watch man was posted by the Contractor, and that the Contractor did not carry out the orders of the Deputy Tahsildar, to post a watchman. It is false to say that he requested the Vicar to have the 3 wells of the Chapel deepened and that he did not Comply with the request. It is false to say that the Contractor refused to supply water in the night. It is false to say that there was only one stretcher, while actually there were two. Lastly it is false to say that any accident happened in the distribution of earthern Vessels

to the Public, and that the Vicar did not stop a practice, which the Hospital assistant found to be pernicious. I have no time to investigate the motive, which must have induced the Hospital assistant to draw up a report, regardless of truth and official decorum. I beg however to suggest that the falsehoods above enumerated may be expunged from the report, and the same rendered tolerably true and deserving perusal. I beg also that he may be called upon to furnish his explanation, for all that I have pointed out to be unfounded and false.

16. As to the Suggestions made by the Hospital assistant, I think they are necessary and

that

they may be adopted, if sufficient funds are forthcoming.

—

For as Collector
12. 11 95

Rd

D.R.

2/3676/95

Copy of a Communication from the Asst Addl —

Assistant Collector of Tanjore, to the Collector of Tanjore

dated 30th October 1895 Reference No 4290 of 95
Rev

—

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Hospital Assistant deputed on Special duty at the Velangani festival.

2. The Hospital Assistant makes a general onslaught on the arrangements proposed and the manner in which he alleges they were Carried out.

3. Firstly, with regard to the arrangements: I have the honour to report that the amount allotted for the festival this year was as usual

350

350 Rs. Last year an exceptionally large number of people were expected and the allotment was as a special Case doubled. Estimates were framed accordingly and sent to the District Surgeon. All the recommendations with one Exception were adopted and Embodied in additional Estimates and a further Sum of Rs 295. 14. 0 was spent in Carrying them out. The one exception was when the District Surgeon wanted beds provided in the hospital shed. No such provision had been made hitherto and to make it would have Cost a good deal: so mats only were substituted.

6. During the Course of the festival some additional Suggestions were made by the District Surgeon, which, as will be seen from the records sent herewith were Carried out as far as possible, Consideration being had at the time it would take to Carry them out and the period the festival had still to run.

5. Secondly, with regard to the Carrying out of the arrangements. The Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam was in charge of these and the Tahsildar also was present during the festival. Both these officers Categorically deny the Hospital assistants allegations. If the Hospital Assistant really found all these irreg

it was his duty to have reported the matter either through the District Surgeon or to the President of the Taluk Board direct and had them remedied. His omission to do so Coupled with the reports of the Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar seriously detract from the value of his report.

6. No Complaint of any kind reached this office until the report hereinto forwarded was received.

7. With regard to the Hospital assistants recommendations, I have distinguished them by the letters a, b, c &c and would remark as follows

(a) There was a watchman for this purpose. 128

(b) I do not understand what is meant. The District Surgeon made a similar proposal and his recommendation was forwarded to the Executive Engineer Negapatam Division for Compliance if possible. The Executive Engineer has made no reply.

(C) This means practically establishing a hospital for 11 days. I should have imagined that a Hospital Assistant would bring a medicine Chest. I Certainly do not see what use he would be without one. To Carry out this suggestion would Cost probably about 500 Rs over and above the 700 otherwise sanct-

(c) There is of Course no reason why this Sum should not be Spent if the Board only had ~~Local~~ funds.

(d) This will be done.

—

For a/Collector
12. 11 95

A.R.

3676/95

R.D. Approved

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 3676 L

No.

Forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Collector.

TANJORE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Camp
Dated 28

No. 2353/S
Forwarded to Government.

W. E. Innes.
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
17th December 95

From C. R. Varma avl entrm Sain Head Assistant Who was on Sft. Festival Duty
V. Valangunny.

To Head Assistant
The Collector of
~~TANJORE.~~
Negapatam.

No. 76

Dated 20th
Despatched 22nd } September 95.
Received

Rect 6 Regn. Jahr. 4280/25 1895

REPORT on the Brokin Matta ~~Feast~~ Festival
at Valankanny, Negapatam Taluq
Tanjore District.

Report on the *Arokia Mathah* Fair / Festival at *Vailankanny, Negapatam.* Taluq Tanjore District.

1 District.	2 Name of Reporter.	3 Name of Festival and where held.	4 Date of Festival.	5 Number assembled.	6 Accommodation and sanitary arrangements made.	7 Water supply.	8 Conservancy.	9 Epidemics.	10 General health.	11 Recommendations.	Remarks
Tanjore.	C. K. Carunanautham Pillai Hospl. Assistant	Arokia Mathah Festival at Velankanny Negapatam Taluk	From 29th August to 8th September 1895.	about 30 thousands.	There are 2 tiled sheds & 6 temporary sheds against 12 last year were also erected having the 2 sides exposed to cold draughts and 1 small Hospl. Shed, 2 Cholera sheds, with no Cots, Cook-room, Cotts, beds, blankets, Table & Stool as remarked by the Sanitary Commissioner Madras, who was here on the 8th Inst:— The Dist. Medl. & Sanitary	There were 4 water sheds only against 12 last yr. to supply water to drink with & 16 Springs against 8 last year (of which I rejected 3 for being brackish & unwholesome) to supply to water-sheds with spring water as there is no other source for the same this year. Besides there are 3 wells belonging to the Chapel which contained little or no water & I requested the priest to have them deepened for public good; but he was not kind enough to do so. The people therefore could not help using this dirty water in as much as there was much scarcity for water this year especially. The Contractor also refused to supply water into water sheds during nights in the place, there is no provision for it but the Estimate does not corroborate his statement. I further requested the Tahsildar Negapatam to immediately address the Engineer to have the head sluice of Vettaiyar River opened till festival closes; but all to no purpose: hence the sufferings of the people this year for water for drinking & cooking purposes was really indescribable & pitiable	There were ... just returned to new Chapel where many ... to work for 11 days from 29th ultimo in which the ... and Sweepers to 212 at an average of 19 per day, to work for 11 days from 29th ultimo ... I could hardly know to exact no: the festival began. These were not placed under my disposal hence I could hardly know the exact no. who actually worked daily. but sufficient work was exacted from them by me daily in having the town as clean as possible. Further no night-soil ties were engaged by the Contractor as per Estimate except on 6, 7 & 8th. The night soil was burried then & there into the trenches dug out daily for the purpose, far away from premises, which I noticed during my night inspection. The Sanitary Contractor Jaganatha Pillai of this place takes always the advantage of the influence he has & hence he never does his work properly & what the estimate bids him to do, but, if the Hospl. Assts. who are deputed on similar duties observe strictly as to the improper completion of his work done, he is, I hear, more careful in lodging complaints, if not, instigating others to do the same, against the Medl. Subordinates who do not co-operate with him. He did not properly carry out his work when I was on the same duty in April last at Ettugudy festival in this Taluk.—	As suggested in para 2 (9) of letter No. 2503 of 95 of Dist. Medl. & Sanitary Officer Tanjore, there was only one stretcher out of 2 and no peons out of 4 were told off for the removal to Hospl. or Cholera Shed of patients, as per Estimate, if there would have been any patients, except the one for the Hospl. Shed as watchman.— Fortunately there was no Epidemic of any kind.—	The General health is good.— There were few cases of fever & bleeding wounds on the head, which the latter was caused by a servant of the Chapel when he distributed Earthern vessels to the crowds by throwing them over the head of crowds; we both Hospl. Assts: requested the priest that the custom of so-throwing the vessels over the head of the people, should be done away with, lest they cause bleeding wounds; but he was not kind enough to do so.—	On similar occasions, there should necessarily be a watchman over the Tank referred to in Column 6 to prevent the people using the water, so as much as there is much scarcity for water in this place especially provisions should be made for it by the authorities concerned.) (The Head Sluice of Vettaiyar River runs close by the Chapel may be kept opened for the time being) (Provisions should also be made for more no. of [1]Latrines, [2]Sheds, [3]water-sheds, [4]2 Sanitary Inspectors, [5]Table & Stool, for Hospl. [6]Medicine chest, [7]Cooks, [8]Cook-room [9]dust carts, for deepening the wells belonging to the Chapel [10]permanent advance, [11]Cotts, [12]beds, [13]Cumblies, [14]Toties & peons for Chora sheds [15].) There is spring near the festival bazar street which the Contractor dug out this year the water of which is copious & exceedingly good. Provisions may therefore be made [17] to sink a well here.) The Sanitary Commissioner has also, noticed the same and suggested the things numbered 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13 & 17	

Officer who was here on the 30th ultimo also recommended for same no: sheds & water-sheds which were not carried out. hence the people suffered a good deal for accommodation & water and therefore took shelter under the canopy of green avenues.—

Sanitary arrangements. No trenches were dug out around all the sheds except around the Hospl. Shed, as suggested by the Dist: Medl. & Sanitary Officer & as per Estimate thereon by the Contractor to drain the water away, which fact is well known to the Officer above referred to and the Sanitary Commissioner. No watch-man was posted by the Contractor till festival closed over the tanks in the old Chapel Compound as per Estimate to prevent the people using the water which is quite unfit for drinking purposes even in spite of 2nd special recommendations made by the Dist: Medl. & Sanitary Officer & order thereon given to Contractor by the Dy: Tahsildar Negapatam.— The springs 13 in no: surrounded by fencing were carefully watched by watch-man one for each from being defiled and waters baled out frequently.— Articles unfit for eating & drinking purposes were condemned then & there. As no provision was made for dust carts to carry away the sweepings etc I caused to dig out square holes in the ground in many centres where people cooked so to enable them to throw the rubbish & in to these holes. & these were finally covered by new earth. The town was as clean as possible. The Contractor rendered great assistance in causing these holes to be dug out & covered by new earth though the same was not sanctioned.— The Police Force small though 30 in no: exerted themselves much in preventing the commission of nuisance & other crimes. 6 constables were posted, at the 4 water-sheds, Cholera Shed & Hospl. Shed one for each & others in different parts.—

Camp *Vailcain*
Dated *20. 9. 95*

Name of Officer re[porting]

Designation of

1001

No. 267 L., 10TH FEBRUARY 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

REPORT on the Arokia Mata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

[Statement.

1001

No. 267 L., 10TH FEBRUARY 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

REPORT on the Arokia Mata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

[Statement.

REPORT on the Arokia Mata festival at Vélán

1	District.	Tanjore.
2	Name of reporter.	C. R. Carunanandham Pillai, Hospital Assistant.
3	Name of festival and where held.	Arokia Mata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk.
4	Date of festival.	From 29th August to 8th September 1895.
5	Number assembled.	About thirty thousand.
6	Accommodation and sanitary arrangements made.	There are two tiled sheds, and six temporary sheds, against twelve last year, having the two sides exposed to cold draughts and one small hospital shed, two cholera sheds, with no cooks, cots, beds, blankets, table and stool as remarked by the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, who was here on the 8th instant. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, who was here on the 30th ultimo, also recommended for more number of sheds and water-sheds which were not carried out; hence the people suffered a good deal for accommodation and water and therefore took shelter under the canopy of green avenues. *Sanitary Arrangements.*—No trenches were dug out around the hospital shed, and all the sheds except as per estimate thereon by the contractor, as suggested by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and above referred to and to Sanitary Commissioner. No watchman was posted by the contractor till festival closed over the tank in the old chapel compound as per estimate to prevent the people using the water which is quite unfit for drinking purposes, even in spite of second and special recommendations made by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and order thereon given to contractor by the Deputy Tahsildar, Negapatam. The springs, thirteen in number, surrounded by fencing, were carefully watched by watchmen, one for each, from being dirtied and waters baled out frequently. Articles unfit for eating and drinking purposes were condemned then and there. As no provision was made for dust-carts to carry away the sweepings, &c., I caused to dig out square holes in the ground in many centres where people cooked so to enable them to throw the rubbish, &c., into these holes and these were finally covered by new earth. The town was as clean as possible. The contractor rendered great assistance in causing these holes to be dug out and covered by new earth though the same was not sanctioned. The police force, small though thirty in number, exerted themselves much in preventing the commission of nuisance and other crimes. Six constables were posted at the four water-sheds, cholera-shed and hospital-shed, one for each, and others in different parts.	There were four water-sheds only against twelve last year to supply water to drink with and sixteen springs against eight last year (of which I rejected three for being brackish and unwholesome) to supply the water-sheds with spring water as there is no other source for the same this year. Besides, there are three wells belonging to the chapel, which contained little or no water. I requested the priest to have them deepened for public good, but he was not kind enough to do so, the people therefore could not help using this dirty water inasmuch as there was much scarcity for water this year especially. The contractor also refused to supply water into water-sheds during nights on the plea there is no provision for it, but the estimate does not corroborate his statement. I further requested the Tahsildar, Negapatam, to immediately address the Engineer to have the head sluice of Vellaiyár river opened till festival closes, but all to no purpose; hence the sufferings of the people this year for water for drinking and cooking, &c., purposes were really indescribable and pitiable.
8	Conservancy.	There were this year ten privies against twelve last year in only two groups and two more were still wanting to tope just behind the new chapel where many and many took shelter under the trees. The sanctioned number of toties and sweepers is two hundred and twelve at an average of nineteen per day to work for eleven days from 29th ultimo on which date the festival began. These were not placed under my disposal, hence I could hardly know the exact number who actually worked daily. But sufficient work was exacted from them by me daily in having the town as clean as possible. Further, no night toties were engaged by the contractor as per estimate except on 6th, 7th and 8th instants which I noticed during my night inspection. The night-soil was buried then and there into the trenches dug out daily for the purpose, far away from privies. The sanitary contractor, Jagannadha Pillai, of this place takes always the advantage of the influence he has and hence he never does his work properly to what the estimate bids him to do; but if the hospital assistants who are deputed on similar duties observe strictly as to the improper completion of his work done, he is, I hear, more careful in lodging complaints, if not instigating others to do the same, against the medical subordinates who do not co-operate with him. He did not properly carry out his work when I was on the same duty in April last at Ettigudi festival in this taluk.
9	Epidemics.	As suggested in paragraph 2 (*g*) of letter, No. 2503 of 1895, of District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Tanjore, there was only one stretcher out of two, and no peons out of four were told off for the removal to hospital or cholera shed of patients, as per estimate, if there would have been any patients, except the one for the hospital shed as watchman. Fortunately there was no epidemic of any kind.
10	General health.	The general health is good. There were few cases of fever and bleeding wounds on the head, which the latter was caused by a servant of the chapel when he distributed earthern vessels to the crowds by throwing them over the head of crowds; we both hospital assistants requested the priest that the custom of so throwing the vessels over the heads of the people should be done away with, lest they cause bleeding wounds, but he was not kind enough to do so.
11	Recommendations.	In similar occasions, (A) there should necessarily be a watchman over the tank referred to in column 6 to prevent the people using the water, inasmuch as there is much scarcity for water in this place especially provision should be made for it by the authorities concerned. (B) The head sluice of Vellaiyár river runs close by the chapel may be kept opened for the time being. (C) Provision should also be made for more numbers of—(1) latrines, (2) sheds, (3) water-sheds, (4) two sanitary inspectors, (5) table and (6) stool for hospital, (7) medicine chest, 8) cooks, (9) cook-room, (10) permanent advance, (11) cots, (12) beds, (13) cumblies, (14) toties or peons for cholera sheds, (15) dust-cart, (16) for deepening the wells belonging to the chapel, (D) There is sprinkling of lime-powder in the trenches contractor dug out this year the water of which is copious and exceedingly good. (17) Provision may therefore be made to sink a well here. The Sanitary Commissioner has also noticed the same and suggested the things numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 17.
12	Remarks by the Sanitary Commissioner.	I personally inspected the arrangements at this festival and consider they were very inadequate. The total number of pilgrims is reported at 30,000 against 40,000 of last year, yet the taluk board reduced the allotment to Rs. 350, against Rs. 342 realized as *direct profit from the bazaar*. With inadequate funds it is not surprising that the results were incomplete. The arrangements for water-supply were crude and unsuitable, those for conservancy (ten sweepers, ten toties and ten latrines on the day of my inspection) were "impossible." In reference to the equipment of the hospital, beyond a bare shed nothing was prepared for the receipt of the sick. Beds are by no means essential, but medical comforts, blankets, bottles, &c., certainly are. But, even if beds were granted, Rs. 500 need not be spent on this head as suggested by the Head Assistant Collector. Country charpoys or "chen-u" (bamboo) cots would have sufficed. Either a number of pot wells surrounded with clay or concrete should be sunk in suitable spots, or Norton's tube well should be sunk temporarily at each festival. Not less than Rs. 1,200 should be provided by the taluk board for the festival next year. (Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col., *Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.*

VALLAM,
20*th September* 1895.

ganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

(Signed) C. R. CARUNANANDHAM PILLAI,
Hospital Assistant.

COPY of a communication from the Tahsildar of Negapatam to the Head Assistant Collector of Tanjore, dated 9th October 1895, Ref. on Cur. No. 4009-Rev.

In obedience to your Ref. on Cur. No. 4290-Rev., I beg to submit the explanation of the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam town, and to add as follows:—

1. The hospital assistant reports that the two sides of the sheds were exposed to cold draughts. But the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam town writes to say that the openings were partly closed. I hear that one Mr. D'Cruz was occupying one of the sheds, and that one Mr. Pereira, a resident of Negapatam, had occasion to visit it. On a reference made to him on the subject, he has sent a reply that the side facing the south was half closed against wind by keeths, and the other half which was used as door-way was screened. Mr. Pereira is travelling auditor in the South Indian Railway and has no conceivable motive to utter a falsehood. He and the Deputy Tahsildar corroborate each other as against the hospital assistant, and no further proof is necessary to show that the sides of the sheds, wherever they were exposed to the strong southern winds, were closed as much as convenience required. I would have, however, made a reference to Mr. D'Cruz, but he is far away in the Salem district and my report is already over-due.

2. It is true that, as he writes, no cooks, cook-room, &c., were provided. They were never provided ever before, and neither the hospital assistant nor the District Medical and Sanitary officer, who visited the place at the commencement of the festival, suggested the same either on the spot or in his letter to you, No. 29-C.O., dated 30th August 1895. The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras visited the place on the last day of the festival, and it was too late then to attend to his remarks. Happily there was no necessity for the provision.

3. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer's recommendation for a large number of pilgrim and water sheds could not be carried out, as no funds were sanctioned for the purpose. It is almost impossible to accommodate all the 30,000 people that assembled for the festival, and the seven additional sheds recommended by him, even if they were put up, would be a drop in the ocean.

4. The hospital assistant reports that there were no trenches around any of the sheds except the hospital shed. The Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam town, who was deputed to look after the sanitary arrangements, reports that he found the trenches dug round the sheds. I myself proceeded to the place on the 1st instant without previous notice and inspected the sites. I found clear and distinct traces of the trenches around six pilgrim sheds and one cholera shed. Their weather-beaten appearance strongly convinced me that they must have existed before the sheds were pulled down, and that the report of the hospital assistant on this point is either false or culpably in correct. They are still open to inspection and verification.

5. The hospital assistant writes that there was no watchman appointed to look after the tank in the compound of the old chapel, and that the Deputy Tahsildar's order to post a watchman was not attended to by the contractor. Strangely enough, the Deputy Tahsildar himself does not complain of the alleged indifference of the contractor, but on the contrary makes a positive statement that there was a watchman for the purpose.

6. It has never been the case in any year to make provision for dust-carts. But the purpose was fulfilled, however, by digging out square holes in the ground and burying the refuse in them. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, too, has not suggested that dust-carts should be provided.

7. The hospital assistant again states that he requested the vicar of the church to have the three wells attached to it deepened, but that he was not kind enough to do so. I made a reference to the vicar, and he informs me, in writing, that no such request was made to him, but that, notwithstanding, the wells were deepened as usual on the occasion of the festival.

8. It is true that no provision was made for supplying water in the night time. But the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam, who was on the spot, states that he himself noticed some people taking water from a certain water-shed in the night time, and assures me that arrangements had been made by the contractor to supply water whenever it was required.

9. It is true that the hospital assistant requested me to address the authorities to have the head sluice of the Vellaiyár, kept open for the festival. By the time I could communicate it to you, you yourself received letter, No. 29-C.O., 30th August 1895, from the District Surgeon, Tanjore, making the same suggestion and I therefore took no action thereon.

10. This requires no explanation, but the remarks of the Deputy Tahsildar on this point are pertinent.

11. The hospital assistant writes that no night toties were engaged by the contractor except on 6th, 7th and 8th September 1895. If such is true, he could have complained of it then and there to the Deputy Tahsildar, who was on the spot, but on the other hand the contractor assures me that toties were provided according to the estimate for working in the night time.

12. The hospital assistant complains that the sanitary contractor, Jagannadha Pillai, never does his work properly, and that he has heard that he (sanitary contractor) maliciously lodges complaints or instigates others to complain against the medical subordinates. With reference to this, the Deputy Tahsildar writes that the contractor did attend to his work carefully and did carry out the works according to the estimates. He further asserts that the hospital assistant made no complaints to him of any defects in the execution of the works by the sanitary contractor. I beg to add that the hospital assistant's remarks on the public and private character of the contractor are both false and uncalled for. I have known him for the last fifteen years. He is a respectable Christian gentleman of Vélánganni. He is the son of a respectable native catechist, and has received his education in a Christian institution. He descends from a family which had once possessed complete control over the chapel and its extensive revenues, and I have heard it said that in the time of his ancestors they used to measure out gold coins in the same scale with tamarind and brinjals. I have never heard of a single instance of his ever making complaints against medical subordinates or of his ever instigating the same, and the hospital assistant's remarks to the contrary are most reckless and unworthy of being recorded in a public document. He has gone far out of the way in making his remarks on the contractor and I beg that his report may be ordered to be revised before it is submitted to Government.

13. The hospital assistant says that there was only one stretcher, but the Deputy Tahsildar saw two stretchers.

14. Lastly, the hospital assistant remarks that a servant of the chapel while distributing earthern vessels to the public threw them over the heads of the people and thereby caused bleeding wounds. But the Deputy Tahsildar, who was in the village all the time, did not hear of it. The hospital assistant further states that he requested the vicar to put a stop to the practice, but that he did not do so. In explanation of this the vicar informs me that no accident took place in distributing earthernware to the public, and that the hospital assistant never spoke to him on the subject at all. The vicar adds that he saw the hospital assistant but twice—once with me which was at the commencement of the festival, and the second time on the 9th September after the festival was over. On the first occasion I was myself present and distinctly remember that the hospital assistant made no reference either to the throwing of pots or to the bleeding of wounds, while on the second occasion, the festival being over no request could have been made to the vicar to stop the practice, and it is unmeaning to say that the vicar did not comply.

15. On the whole, the hospital assistant's report deserves no credit. It contains several false statements. It is false to say that the two sides of the sheds were exposed to cold draughts. It is false to say that no trenches were dug out. It is false to say that no watchman was posted by the contractor and that the contractor did not carry out the orders of the Deputy Tahsildar to post a watchman. It is false to say that he requested the vicar to have the three wells of the chapel deepened and that he did not comply with the request. It is false to say that the contractor refused to supply water in the night. It is false to say that there was only one stretcher, while actually there were two. Lastly, it is false to say that any accident happened in the distribution of earthern vessels to the public, and that the vicar did not stop a practice which the hospital assistant found to be pernicious. I have no time to

investigate the motive which must have induced the hospital assistant to draw up a report regardless of truth and official decorum. I beg, however, to suggest that the falsehoods above enumerated may be expunged from the report and the same rendered tolerably true and deserving perusal. I beg also that he may be called upon to furnish his explanation for all that I have pointed out to be unfounded and false.

16. As to the suggestions made by the hospital assistant, I think they are necessary and they may be adopted if sufficient funds are forthcoming.

Copy of a communication from the Acting Head Assistant Collector of Tanjore, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 30th October 1895, Ref. on Cur. No. 4290-Rev.

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the hospital assistant deputed on special duty at the Vélánganni festival.

2. The hospital assistant makes a general onslaught on the arrangements proposed and the manner in which he alleges they were carried out.

3. Firstly, with regard to the arrangements, I have the honour to report that the amount allotted for the festival this year was, as usual, Rs. 350. Last year an exceptionally large number of people were expected and the allotment was, as a special case, doubled. Estimates were framed accordingly and sent to the District Surgeon. All the recommendations with one exception were adopted and embodied in additional estimates and a further sum of Rs. 295–14–0 was spent in carrying them out. The one exception was when the District Surgeon wanted beds provided in the hospital shed. No such provision had been made hitherto and to make it would have cost a good deal, so mats only were substituted.

4. During the course of the festival some additional suggestions were made by the District Surgeon, which, as will be seen from the records sent herewith, were carried out as far as possible, consideration being had to the time it would take to carry them out and the period the festival had still to run.

5. Secondly, with regard to the carrying out of the arrangements, the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam was in charge of these and the Tahsildar also was present during the festival. Both these officers categorically deny the hospital assistant's allegations. If the hospital assistant really found all these irregularities, I think it was his duty to have reported the matter either through the District Surgeon or to the President of the Taluk Board direct and had them remedied. His omission to do so, coupled with the reports of the Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar, seriously detract from the value of his report.

6. No complaint of any kind reached this office until the report herewith forwarded was received.

7. With regard to the hospital assistant's recommendations, I have distinguished them by the letters (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), *&c.*, and would remark as follows:—

(*a*) There was a watchman for this purpose.

(*b*) I do not understand what is meant. The District Surgeon made a similar proposal and his recommendation was forwarded to the Executive Engineer, Negapatam Division, for compliance if possible. The Executive Engineer has made no reply.

(*c*) This means practically establishing a hospital for eleven days. I should have imagined that a hospital assistant would bring a medicine chest. I certainly do not see what use he would be without one. To carry out this suggestion would cost probably about Rs. 500 over and above the Rs. 700 otherwise spent. There is, of course, no reason why this sum should not be spent if the board only had funds.

(*d*) This will be done.

No. 2353-S.

Forwarded to Government.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

17*th December* 1895.

Order—No. 267 L., dated 10th February 1896.

Recorded.

2. The taluk board's attention will be drawn to the suggestions of the reporter and the Sanitary Commissioner.

3. The President of the District Board has, it is presumed, inquired into the conduct of the hospital assistant.

4. The formal endorsement on the report forwarding it to the Sanitary Commissioner has not been signed by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

for *Chief Secretary.*

To the President, Taluk Board, Negapatam
(through the President, District Board, Tanjore).
„ President, District Board, Tanjore.
„ Collector of Tanjore.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.
Editors' Table.

T/B/
H/A/

xd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of {1896} Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

For A.S.

Proof for approval

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., No. 267 L., 10th Feb. 1896.

FEBRUARY.

Fairs and Festivals.

Recording, with remarks, report on the Arokia Mata festival held in September 1895 at Vélánganni, Tanjore district.

No. 267 L., 10TH FEBRUARY 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

REPORT on the Arokia Mata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

[Statement.

REPORT on the Arokia Mata festival at Vélán

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
District.	Name of reporter.	Name of festival and where held.	Date of festival.	Number assembled.	Accommodation and sanitary arrangements made.	Water-supply.
Tanjore.	C. R. Carunanandham Pillai, Hospital Assistant.	Arokia Mata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk.	From 29th August to 8th September 1895.	About thirty thousand.	There are two tiled sheds, and six temporary sheds, against twelve last year, having the two sides exposed to cold draughts and one small hospital shed, two cholera sheds, with no cooks' cook-room, cots, beds, blankets, table and stool as remarked by the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, who was here on the 8th instant. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, who was here on the 30th ultimo, also recommended for more number of sheds and water-sheds which were not carried out; hence the people suffered a good deal for accommodation and water and therefore took shelter under the canopy of green avenues. *Sanitary Arrangements.*—No trenches were dug out around the hospital shed, as suggested by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and as per estimate thereon by the contractor, to drain the water away, which fact is well known to the officer above referred to and to Sanitary Commissioner. No watchman was posted by the contractor till festival closed over the tank in the old chapel compound as per estimate to prevent the people using the water which is quite unfit for drinking purposes, even in spite of second and special recommendations made by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and order thereon given to contractor by the Deputy Tahsildar, Negapatam. The springs, thirteen in number, surrounded by fencing, were carefully watched by watchmen, one for each, from being dirtied and waters baled out frequently. Articles unfit for eating and drinking purposes were condemned them and there. As no provision was made for dust-carts to carry away the sweepings, &c., I caused to dig out square holes in the ground in many centres where people cooked so to enable them to throw the rubbish, &c., into these holes and these were finally covered by new earth. The town was as clean as possible. The contractor rendered great assistance in causing these holes to be dug out and covered by new earth though the same was not sanctioned. The police force, small though thirty in number, exerted themselves much in preventing the commission of nuisance and other crimes. Six constables were posted at the four water-sheds, cholera-shed and hospital-shed, one for each, and others in different parts.	There were four water-sheds only against twelve last year to supply water to drink with and sixteen springs against eight last year (of which I rejected three for being brackish and unwholesome) to supply the water-sheds with spring water as there is no other source for water or no water. I requested the priest to have them deepened for public good, but he was not kind enough to do so, the people therefore could not help using this dirty water inasmuch as there was much scarcity for water during nights on the plea there is no provision for it, but the estimate does not corroborate his statement. I further requested the Tahsildar, Negapatam, to immediately address the Engineer to have the head sluice of Vellaiyár river opened till festival closes, but all to no purpose; hence the sufferings of the people this year for water for drinking and cooking, &c., purposes were really indescribable and pitiable.

VALLAM,
20*th September* 1895.

ganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

8	9	10	11	12
Conservancy.	Epidemics.	General health.	Recommendations.	Remarks by the Sanitary Commissioner.
There were this year ten privies against twelve last year in only two groups and two more were still wanting to tope just behind the new chapel where many hundred and many took shelter under the trees. The sanctioned number of tolies and sweepers is two hundred and twelve at an average of nineteen per day, to work for eleven days from 29th ultimo on which date the festival began. These were not placed under my disposal, hence I could hardly know the exact number who actually worked daily. But sufficient work was exacted from them by me daily in daily in having the town as clean as possible. Further, no night tolies were engaged by the contractor as per estimate except on 6th, 7th and 8th instants which I noticed during my night inspection. The night-soil was buried then and there into the trenches dug out daily for the purpose, far away from privies. The sanitary contractor, Jagannadha Pillai, of this place takes always the advantage of the influence he has and hence he never does his work properly to what the estimate bids him to do; but if the hospital assistants who are deputed on similar duties observe strictly as to the improper completion of his work done, he is, I hear, more careful in lodging complaints, if not instigating others to do the same, against the medical subordinates who do not co-operate with him. He did not properly carry out his work when I was on the same duty in April last at Ettigudi festival in this taluk.	As suggested in paragraph 2 (*g*) of letter, No. 2503 of 1895, of District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Tanjore, there was only one stretcher out of two, and no peons out of four were told off for the removal to hospital or cholera shed of paticnts, as per estimate, if there would have been any patients, except the one for the hospital shed as watchman. Fortunately there was no epidemic of any kind.	The general health is good. There were few cases of fever and bleeding wounds on the head, which the latter was caused by a servant of the chapel when he throwing them over the head of crowds; we both hospital assistants requested the priest that the custom of so throwing the vessels over the heads of the people should be done away with, lest they cause bleeding wounds, but he was not kind enough to do so.	In similar occasions, (A) there should necessarily be a watchman over the tank referred to in column 6 to prevent the people using the water, inasmuch as there is much scarcity for water in this place especially provision should be made for it by the authorities concerned. (B) The head sluice of Vellaiyár river runs close by the chapel may be kept opened for the time being. (C) Provision should also be made for more numbers of—(1) latrines, (2) sheds, (3) water-sheds, (4) two sanitary inspectors, (5) table and (6) stool for hospital, (7) medicine chest, (8) cooks, (9) cook-room, (10) permanent advance, (11) cots, (12) beds, (13) cumblies, (14) tolies or peons for cholera sheds, (15) dust-carts, (16) for deepening the wells belonging to the chapel. (D) There is spring near the festival bazaar street which the contractor dug out this year the water of which is copious and exceedingly good. (17) Provision may therefore be made to sink a well here. The Sanitary Commissioner has also noticed the same and suggested the things numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 17.	I personally inspected the arrangements at this festival and consider they were very inadequate. The total number of pilgrims is reported at 30,000 against 40,000 of last year, yet the talk board reduced the allotment to Rs. 350, against Rs. 342 realized as *direct profit from the bazaar*. With inadequate funds it is not surprising that the results were incomplete. The arrangements for water-supply were crude and unsuitable, those for conservancy (ten sweepers, nothing was prepared for the receipt of the sick. Beds inspection) were "impossible." In reference to the blankets, bottles, &c., certainly are. But, even if beds were granted, Rs. 500 need not be spent on this head as suggested by the Head Assistant Collector. Country charpoys or "chenea" (bamboo) cots would have sufficed. Either a number of pot wells surrounded with clay or concrete should be sunk in suitable spots, or Norton's tube well should be provided by the talk board for the festival next year. Not less than Rs. 1,200 should be provided by the talk board for the festival next year. (Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col., *Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.*

(Signed) C. R. CARUNANANDHAM PILLAI,
Hospital Assistant.

COPY of a communication from the Tahsildar of Negapatam to the Head Assistant Collector of Tanjore, dated 9th October 1895, Ref. on Cur. No. 4009-Rev.

In obedience to your Ref. on Cur. No. 4290-Rev., I beg to submit the explanation of the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam town, and to add as follows:—

1. The hospital assistant reports that the two sides of the sheds were exposed to cold draughts. But the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam town writes to say that the openings were partly closed. I hear that one Mr. D'Cruz was occupying one of the sheds, and that one Mr. Pereira, a resident of Negapatam, had occasion to visit it. On a reference made to him on the subject, he has sent a reply that the side facing the south was half closed against wind by keeths, and the other half which was used as door-way was screened. Mr. Pereira is travelling auditor in the South Indian Railway and has no conceivable motive to utter a falsehood. He and the Deputy Tahsildar corroborate each other as against the hospital assistant, and no further proof is necessary to show that the sides of the sheds, wherever they were exposed to the strong southern winds, were closed as much as convenience required. I would have, however, made a reference to Mr. D'Cruz, but he is far away in the Salem district and my report is already over-due.

2. It is true that, as he writes, no cooks, cook-room, &c., were provided. They were never provided ever before, and neither the hospital assistant nor the District Medical and Sanitary officer, who visited the place at the commencement of the festival, suggested the same either on the spot or in his letter to you, No. 29-C.O., dated 30th August 1895. The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras visited the place on the last day of the festival, and it was too late then to attend to his remarks. Happily there was no necessity for the provision.

3. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer's recommendation for a large number of pilgrim and water sheds could not be carried out, as no funds were sanctioned for the purpose. It is almost impossible to accommodate all the 30,000 people that assembled for the festival, and the seven additional sheds recommended by him, even if they were put up, would be a drop in the ocean.

4. The hospital assistant reports that there were no trenches around any of the sheds except the hospital shed. The Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam town, who was deputed to look after the sanitary arrangements, reports that he found the trenches dug round the sheds. I myself proceeded to the place on the 1st instant without previous notice and inspected the sites. I found clear and distinct traces of the trenches around six pilgrim sheds and one cholera shed. Their weather-beaten appearance strongly convinced me that they must have existed before the sheds were pulled down, and that the report of the hospital assistant on this point is either false or culpably in correct. They are still open to inspection and verification.

5. The hospital assistant writes that there was no watchman appointed to look after the tank in the compound of the old chapel, and that the Deputy Tahsildar's order to post a watchman was not attended to by the contractor. Strangely enough, the Deputy Tahsildar himself does not complain of the alleged indifference of the contractor, but on the contrary makes a positive statement that there was a watchman for the purpose.

6. It has never been the case in any year to make provision for dust-carts. But the purpose was fulfilled, however, by digging out square holes in the ground and burying the refuse in them. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, too, has not suggested that dust-carts should be provided.

7. The hospital assistant again states that he requested the vicar of the church to have the three wells attached to it deepened, but that he was not kind enough to do so. I made a reference to the vicar, and he informs me, in writing, that no such request was made to him, but that, notwithstanding, the wells were deepened as usual on the occasion of the festival.

8. It is true that no provision was made for supplying water in the night time. But the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam, who was on the spot, states that he himself noticed some people taking water from a certain water-shed in the night time, and assures me that arrangements had been made by the contractor to supply water whenever it was required.

9. It is true that the hospital assistant requested me to address the authorities to have the head sluice of the Vellaiyár, kept open for the festival. By the time I could communicate it to you, you yourself received letter, No. 29-C.O., 30th August 1895, from the District Surgeon, Tanjore, making the same suggestion and I therefore took no action thereon.

10. This requires no explanation, but the remarks of the Deputy Tahsildar on this point are pertinent.

11. The hospital assistant writes that no night toties were engaged by the contractor except on 6th, 7th and 8th September 1895. If such is true, he could have complained of it then and there to the Deputy Tahsildar, who was on the spot, but on the other hand the contractor assures me that toties were provided according to the estimate for working in the night time.

12. The hospital assistant complains that the sanitary contractor, Jagannadha Pillai, never does his work properly, and that he has heard that he (sanitary contractor) maliciously lodges complaints or instigates others to complain against the medical subordinates. With reference to this, the Deputy Tahsildar writes that the contractor did attend to his work carefully and did carry out the works according to the estimates. He further asserts that the hospital assistant made no complaints to him of any defects in the execution of the works by the sanitary contractor. I beg to add that the hospital assistant's remarks on the public and private character of the contractor are both false and uncalled for. I have known him for the last fifteen years. He is a respectable Christian gentleman of Vélánganni. He is the son of a respectable native catechist, and has received his education in a Christian institution. He descends from a family which had once possessed complete control over the chapel and its extensive revenues, and I have heard it said that in the time of his ancestors they used to measure out gold coins in the same scale with tamarind and brinjals. I have never heard of a single instance of his ever making complaints against medical subordinates or of his ever instigating the same, and the hospital assistant's remarks to the contrary are most reckless and unworthy of being recorded in a public document. He has gone far out of the way in making his remarks on the contractor and I beg that his report may be ordered to be revised before it is submitted to Government.

13. The hospital assistant says that there was only one stretcher, but the Deputy Tahsildar saw two stretchers.

14. Lastly, the hospital assistant remarks that a servant of the chapel while distributing earthern vessels to the public threw them over the heads of the people and thereby caused bleeding wounds. But the Deputy Tahsildar, who was in the village all the time, did not hear of it. The hospital assistant further states that he requested the vicar to put a stop to the practice, but that he did not do so. In explanation of this the vicar informs me that no accident took place in distributing earthernware to the public, and that the hospital assistant never spoke to him on the subject at all. The vicar adds that he saw the hospital assistant but twice—once with me which was at the commencement of the festival, and the second time on the 9th September after the festival was over. On the first occasion I was myself present and distinctly remember that the hospital assistant made no reference either to the throwing of pots or to the bleeding of wounds, while on the second occasion, the festival being over no request could have been made to the vicar to stop the practice, and it is unmeaning to say that the vicar did not comply.

15. On the whole, the hospital assistant's report deserves no credit. It contains several false statements. It is false to say that the two sides of the sheds were exposed to cold draughts. It is false to say that no trenches were dug out. It is false to say that no watchman was posted by the contractor and that the contractor did not carry out the orders of the Deputy Tahsildar to post a watchman. It is false to say that he requested the vicar to have the three wells of the chapel deepened and that he did not comply with the request. It is false to say that the contractor refused to supply water in the night. It is false to say that there was only one stretcher, while actually there were two. Lastly, it is false to say that any accident happened in the distribution of earthern vessels to the public, and that the vicar did not stop a practice which the hospital assistant found to be pernicious. I have no time to

investigate the motive which must have induced the hospital assistant to draw up a report regardless of truth and official decorum. I beg, however, to suggest that the falsehoods above enumerated may be expunged from the report and the same rendered tolerably true and deserving perusal. I beg also that he may be called upon to furnish his explanation for all that I have pointed out to be unfounded and false.

16. As to the suggestions made by the hospital assistant, I think they are necessary and they may be adopted if sufficient funds are forthcoming.

Copy of a communication from the Acting Head Assistant Collector of Tanjore, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 30th October 1895, Ref. on Cur. No. 4290-Rev.

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the hospital assistant deputed on special duty at the Vélánganni festival.

2. The hospital assistant makes a general onslaught on the arrangements proposed and the manner in which he alleges they were carried out.

3. Firstly, with regard to the arrangements, I have the honour to report that the amount allotted for the festival this year was, as usual, Rs. 350. Last year an exceptionally large number of people were expected and the allotment was, as a special case, doubled. Estimates were framed accordingly and sent to the District Surgeon. All the recommendations with one exception were adopted and embodied in additional estimates and a further sum of Rs. 295–14–0 was spent in carrying them out. The one exception was when the District Surgeon wanted beds provided in the hospital shed. No such provision had been made hitherto and to make it would have cost a good deal, so mats only were substituted.

4. During the course of the festival some additional suggestions were made by the District Surgeon, which, as will be seen from the records sent herewith, were carried out as far as possible, consideration being had to the time it would take to carry them out and the period the festival had still to run.

5. Secondly, with regard to the carrying out of the arrangements, the Deputy Tahsildar of Negapatam was in charge of these and the Tahsildar also was present during the festival. Both these officers categorically deny the hospital assistant's allegations. If the hospital assistant really found all these irregularities, I think it was his duty to have reported the matter either through the District Surgeon or to the President of the Taluk Board direct and had them remedied. His omission to do so, coupled with the reports of the Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar, seriously detract from the value of his report.

6. No complaint of any kind reached this office until the report herewith forwarded was received.

7. With regard to the hospital assistant's recommendations, I have distinguished them by the letters (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), &c., and would remark as follows :—

(*a*) There was a watchman for this purpose.

(*b*) I do not understand what is meant. The District Surgeon made a similar proposal and his recommendation was forwarded to the Executive Engineer, Negapatam Division, for compliance if possible. The Executive Engineer has made no reply.

(*c*) This means practically establishing a hospital for eleven days. I should have imagined that a hospital assistant would bring a medicine chest. I certainly do not see what use he would be without one. To carry out this suggestion would cost probably about Rs. 500 over and above the Rs. 700 otherwise spent. There is, of course, no reason why this sum should not be spent if the board only had funds.

(*d*) This will be done.

No. 2353-S.

Forwarded to Government.

17*th December* 1895.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Order—No. 267 L., dated 10th February 1896.

Recorded.

2. The Taluk Board's attention will be drawn to the suggestions of the reporter and the Sanitary Commissioner.

3. The President of the District Board has, it is presumed, inquired into the conduct of the Hospital Assistant.

4. The formal endorsement on the report forwarding it to the Sanitary Commissioner has not been signed by the Collector.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the President, Taluk Board, Negapatam
(through the President, District Board, Tanjore).
„ President, District Board, Tanjore.
„ Collector of Tanjore.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.
Editors' Table.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of {1896} Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., No. 267 L., 10th Feb. 1896.

FEBRUARY.

Fairs and Festivals.

Recording, with remarks, report on the Arokia Mata festival held in September 1895 at Vélánganni, Tanjore district.

rst copy sent to Press.

turned for signature.

espatched in print.

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED. { Order complete. / Letter only. / Order complete with Letter.

AD AGAIN G.O., No. DATED 189 .

URRENT No.

NCLOSURES TO G. No.

RDER OF GOVERNMENT

ETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

TATEMENT WITH RITTO.

APERS NOT FILED UP BEING MEANT FOR RECITATION ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.