Local & Munl. (189) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 2220 L

DATED 21-11-96

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fairs and Festivals

Recording, with remarks, report on the Arokyamata festival at Velanganni in the Tanjore distt.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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Government (1896) of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

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G.O., No. 2220 L., 21st November 1896.

NOVEMBER.

Fairs and Festivals.

Recording, with remarks, report on the Arokiamata festival at Vélánganni in the Tanjore district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

Report on the Arokiamata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

Report on the Arokiamata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

District.	1	Tanjore.
Name of reporter.	2	Hospital Assistant S. David Pillai.
Name of festival.	3	Arokiamata festival, Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk.
Date of festival.	4	29th August to 8th September 1896 (both days inclusive).
Number assembled.	5	The total number of visitors was about 35,000, but these were never all assembled at one time.
Accommodation and sanitary arrangements made.	6	A few found accommodation in the church buildings, two permanent tiled sheds of the church and eight purposely erected decent thatched sheds (30 feet × 15 feet), but the majority took shelter under the trees. An hospital shed and two cholera sheds were put up, besides condemned cumblies from sub-jails were secured for the patients. Two hospital assistants were deputed on duty. The Head Assistant Magistrate was in camp in the village throughout and readily remedied the many-suggested sanitary defects. The advice of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer during his visit to the place, the willing co-operation of the Sub-Magistrate, the watchfulness of the police and the readiness of the contractor, have assisted me much in my duty. 1. People were given sanitary instructions by tom-tom frequently. 2. Unwholesome articles were prohibited from being sold. 3. Sanitation was looked after, all ailments treated and good water was supplied. 4. Medicines were supplied to the value of Rs. 60.
Water-supply.	7	The chief sources of water-supply are from three wells in the church premises, nine water-sheds and fourteen specially-dug springs. Water from some of the springs proved to be brackish, and consequently a supply was brought by boats (1 to 3) from a distance of three miles. Water-sheds were supplied with four carts. Eighteen to 27 coolies worked in distributing water. Eighteen watchmen were posted in all and fencing was provided to every spring. The quality is good and quantity sufficient, but very expensive and troublesome to get for immediate necessity.
Conservancy.	8	The conservancy establishment worked under my immediate supervision. More than two-thirds of the pilgrims being illiterate and mendicants, it is very hard to persuade them to adopt the Jewish method. Hence only the "dry earth" system was tried. Two to four carts were in work to supply sand to the latrines and two carts of sand were always kept in reserve. There were twenty such latrines, cleaned and looked after day and night by 25—40 toties and a maistry. Night-soil was removed and buried in deep trenches dug far away from human habitations. There were eight street sweepers, one shelter-shed sweeper and a maistry. The streets were swept twice daily and rubbish collected in about a dozen dust-bins made of date tatties. The sweepings were daily carted away by two carts and buried at a distance.
Epidemic.	9	*Nil.*
General health.	10	Good.
Recommendations.	11	1. As the three pucka wells belonging to the church are very shallow, and as numbers of people draw water themselves from them with all kinds of vessels and dirty ropes, &c., the parish priest be requested to deepen the wells and construct cisterns provided with taps and to fill up by pumping on future occasions. This prevents pollution and contamination. 2. Sixteen more temporary sheds at least are required, considering the number of pilgrims. 3. Prickly pear within half-a-mile radius from the church be removed. 4. Some medicines for treating ordinary diseases are also required. 5. Movable dust-bins be borrowed for use from the unions and municipality of Negapatam through the President. 6. Lights are absolutely necessary from the main road to the church gate. 7. Gravelling is indispensable for the road leading from Gnanadika Taver's choultry to the church gate. 8. Instead of letter signboards figures be substituted for latrines. 9. To save trouble of getting water by boats from a distance, it is better to sink six Norton's tube wells in places where the springs yielded good water. 10. As most of the pilgrims who walk the distance through the beach from Negapatam complained to me of the offensive stench on their way, it is necessary to post some constables along the beach.
Remarks by the Sanitary Commissioner.	12	The matter of accommodation of the pilgrims is of very minor importance to that of water-supply and conservancy. In both the latter respects, there was an improvement compared with last year's arrangements. It is a mistake to assume that the tube wells are beyond the taluk board's means. Ten two-inch wells would probably suffice. The depth is so shallow that very short pipes would be requisite. Any respectable engineering firm would give the taluk board particulars on making enquiries. Considering the uncertainty of getting "sweet" water in certain spots, this mode is economical. 19th October 1896. (Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col., *Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.*

Tanjore,
11th September 1896.

(Signed) S. DAVID PILLAI,
Hospital Assistant.

Fn. No. 2223.

Forwarded to the President, Taluk Board, Negapatam.

2. The conservancy and water-supply of the village received due attention, and suitable measures were adopted.

3. The provision of largely-increased hutting accommodation as a prophylactic measure against the possible outbreak of epidemic disease is one that the board may well hesitate to undertake, especially as the crowding of beggars and filthy individuals in such sheds is more calculated to breed disease than otherwise.

18th September 1896. (Signed) D. GNANAM PILLAI, Asst. Surgeon,
for *District Medical and Sanitary Officer.*

Cur. No. 1968-Eng.

Forwarded.

2. The great difficulty is to provide a sufficient water-supply during the last three or four days of the festival. Norton's tube wells are expensive and a number would be required.

3. I quite agree with the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and am strongly opposed to the proposal that the board should put up a large number of sheds for all the Pariah toties and diseased beggars to herd in.

4. That the board has been able to do what it has done this time is due largely to the liberal assistance of the Bishop of Mylapore.

2nd October 1896. (Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Head Assistant Collector.
To the Collector of Tanjore.

Endorsement on Cur. No. 1968-Eng.

Forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras. The remarks of the Head Assistant Collector and those of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer are embodied in the accompanying enclosure.

9th October 1896. (Signed) J. ANDREW,
Ag. Collector.

No. 2018-S.

Forwarded.

Fort St. George,
28th October 1896. (Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Order—No. 2220 L., dated 21st November 1896.

Recorded.

2. The attention of the taluk board will be drawn to the recommendations of the reporter and the remarks of the District Medical Officer and the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

M 3/12/96

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Raitt.

Cur. no. 2918c/96

Pupil

No. 2220 L., 21 November 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

Report on the Arokiamata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

Jan 22 10 L.8411

Report on the Arokiamata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

1	District.	Tanjore.
2	Name of reporter.	Hospital Assistant S. David Pillai.
3	Name of festival.	Arokiamata festival, Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk.
4	Date of festival.	29th August to 8th September 1896 (both days inclusive).
5	Number assembled.	The total number of visitors was about 35,000, but these were never all assembled at one time.
6	Accommodation and sanitary arrangements made.	A few found accommodation in the church buildings, two permanent tiled sheds of the church and eight purposely erected decent thatched sheds (30 feet × 15 feet), but the majority took shelter under the trees. An hospital shed and two cholera sheds were put up, besides condemned cumblies from sub-jails were secured for the patients. Two hospital assistants were deputed on duty. The Head Assistant Magistrate was in camp in the village throughout and readily remedied the many-suggested sanitary defects. The advice of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer during his visit to the place, the willing co-operation of the Sub-Magistrate, the watchfulness of the police and the readiness of the contractor, have assisted me much in my duty. 1. People were given sanitary instructions by tom-tom frequently. 2. Unwholesome articles were prohibited from being sold. 3. Sanitation was looked after, all ailments treated and good water was supplied. 4. Medicines were supplied to the value of Rs. 60.
7	Water-supply.	The chief sources of water-supply are from three wells in the church premises, nine water-sheds and fourteen specially-dug springs. Water from some of the springs proved to be brackish, and consequently a supply was brought by boats (1 to 3) from a distance of three miles. Water-sheds were supplied with four carts. Eighteen to 27 coolies worked in distributing water. Eighteen watchmen were posted in all and fencing was provided to every spring. The quality is good and quantity sufficient, but very expensive and troublesome to get for immediate necessity.
8	Conservancy.	The conservancy establishment worked under my immediate supervision. More than two-thirds of the pilgrims being illiterate and mendicants, it is very hard to persuade them to adopt the Jewish method. Hence only the "dry earth" system was tried. Two to four carts were in work to supply sand to the latrines and two carts of sand were always kept in reserve. There were twenty such latrines, cleaned and looked after day and night by 25—40 toties and a maistry. Night-soil was removed and buried in deep trenches dug far away from human habitations. There were eight street sweepers, one shelter-shed sweeper and a maistry. The streets were swept twice daily and rubbish collected in about a doren dust-bins made of date tatties. The sweepings were daily carted away by two carts and buried at a distance.
9	Epidemic.	*Nil.*
10	General health.	Good.
11	Recommendations.	1. As the three pucka wells belonging to the church are very shallow, and as numbers of people draw water themselvss from them with all kinds of vessels and dirty ropes, &c., the parish priest be requested to deepen the wells and construct cisterns provided with taps and to fill up by pumping on future occasions. This prevents pollution and contamination. 2. Sixteen more temporary sheds at least are required, considering the number of pilgrims. 3. Prickly pear within half-a-mile radius from the church be removed. 4. Some medicines for treating ordinary diseases are also required. 5. Movable dust-bins be borrowed for use from the unions and municipality of Negapatam through the President. 6. Lights are absolutely necessary from the main road to the church gate. 7. Grávelling is indispensable for the road leading from Gnanádika Taver's choultry to the church gate. 8. Instead of letter signboards figures be substituted for latrines. 9. To save trouble of getting water by boats from a distance, it is better to sink six Norton's tube wells in places where the springs yielded good water. 10. As most of the pilgrims who walk the distance through the beach from Negapatam complained to me of the offensive stench on their way, it is necessary to post some constables along the beach.
12	Remarks by the Sanitary Commissioner.	The matter of accommodation of the pilgrims is of very minor importance to that of water-supply and conservancy. In both the latter respects, there was an improvement compared with last year's arrangements. It is a mistake to assume that the tube wells are beyond the taluk board's means. Ten two-inch wells would probably suffice. The depth is so shallow that very short pipes would be requisite. Any respectable engineering firm would give the taluk board particulars on making enquiries. Considering the uncertainty of getting "sweet" water in certain spots, this mode is economical. *19th October 1896.* (Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col., *Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.*

TANJORE,
11th September 1896.

(Signed) S. DAVID PILLAI,
Hospital Assistant.

Lm 3 2220 L d/21/11 Prpd

Fn. No. 2223.

Forwarded to the President, Taluk Board, Negapatam.

2. The conservancy and water-supply of the village received due attention, and suitable measures were adopted.

3. The provision of largely-increased hutting accommodation as a prophylactic measure against the possible outbreak of epidemic disease is one that the board may well hesitate to undertake, especially as the crowding of beggars and filthy individuals in such sheds is more calculated to breed disease than otherwise.

(Signed) D. GNANAM PILLAI, Asst. Surgeon,
for District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

18*th September* 1896.

Cur. No. 1968-Eng.

Forwarded.

2. The great difficulty is to provide a sufficient water-supply during the last three or four days of the festival. Norton's tube wells are expensive and a number would be required.

3. I quite agree with the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and am strongly opposed to the proposal that the board should put up a large number of sheds for all the Pariah toties and diseased beggars to herd in.

4. That the board has been able to do what it has done this time is due largely to the liberal assistance of the Bishop of Mylapore.

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Ag. Head Assistant Collector.

2*nd October* 1896.

To the Collector of Tanjore.

Endorsement on Cur. No. 1968-Eng.

Forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras. The remarks of the Head Assistant Collector and those of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer are embodied in the accompanying enclosure.

(Signed) J. ANDREW,
Ag. Collector.

9*th October* 1896.

No. 2018-S.

Forwarded.

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

FORT ST. GEORGE,
28*th October* 1896.

P.S.

Order. No. 2220 L d/21-11-96

Recorded.

2. The attention of the Taluk Board will be drawn to the recommendations of the reporter and the remarks of the District Medical officer and the Sanitary Commissioner.

VR
20/11/96

To

The President, Taluk Bd. Negapatam,
through the President, Distt. Bd., Tanjore.
" Sanitary Commissioner
" Collector of Tanjore.
Editor's Table.

Desp. 10/12/96.

23/11

L&M. 2220 L.

Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 2921 L

CHIEF SECRETARY
28 OCT. 1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Order

From

The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras

No. 2078/S

Dated 28th October 1896.

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SUBJECT

Forwarding report on the Arokiamatha festival held at Velanganni Negapatam Taluq Tanjore Dt.

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J.L.
6/11/96

for Dist. Medl. & Sany.

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

3/

C.N° 1868/Genl of 96.

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Endt on cur no. 5646/Rev. of 96.

Forwarded.

2. The great difficulty is to provide a sufficient water supply during the last 3 or 4 days of the festival. Norton's tube wells are expensive and a number would be required.

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L. E. Marjoribanks
1.10.96

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Iw 1/10

To the Collector of Tanjore

D[illegible] 2 OCT. 96

2981/96

Enter this to Rev. Side

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Fn. No. 2223/18-9-96

Forwarded to the President, Taluq Board, Negapatam.

J. I 3 - OCT.

2. The conservancy and water supply of the village received due attention, and suitable measures were adopted.

3. The provision of largely increased hutting accommodation as a prophylactic measure against the possible outbreak of epidemic disease is one that the Board may well hesitate to undertake especially as the crowding of beggars and filthy individuals in such sheds is more calculated to breed disease than otherwise.

[illegible]
for Asst. Surgeon
Dist. Medl. & Sany. O.

Iw 3.10

Report on the Arokiamatha ~~Fair~~ Festival at Valangaṉi, Negapatam Taluq Tanjore District. 18

District.	Tanjore
Name of Reporter.	Hospital assistant S. David Pillay
Name of Festival and where held.	Arokiamatha Festival, Valangaṉi - Negapatam Taluq:
Date of Festival.	29th August to 8th September 96 (both days inclusive)
Number assembled.	The total number of visitors was about 35,000. but these were never all assembled at one time
Accommodation and sanitary arrangements made. / Water supply.	A few found accommodation in the church buildings, 2 permanent tiled sheds of the church and 8 purposely erected decent thatched sheds (30 ft × 16 ft.). but the majority took shelter under the trees. An hospital shed and two cholera sheds were put up besides condemned cumblies from Sub-jails were secured for the patients. Two Hospital assistants were deputed on duty. The Head Assistant Magistrate was in camp in the village throughout and readily remedied the many suggested Sanitary defects. The advices of the District Medical & Sanitary officer during his visit to the place, the willing cooperation of the Sub-Magistrate, the watchfulness of the police and the readiness of the contractor have assisted me much in my duty. 1. People were given Sanitary instructions by tom-tom frequently. 2. Unwholesome articles were prohibited from being sold. 3. Sanitation was looked after, all ailments treated and good water was supplied.
Conservancy.	The Conservancy establishment worked under my immediate supervision. more than ½ of the pilgrims being illiterate and mendicants, it is very hard to persuade them to adopt the Jewish method. Hence only the "Dry Earth" System was tried. 2 to 4 carts were in work to supply sand to the latrines and 2 carts of sand was always kept in the reserve. There were 20 such latrines, cleaned and looked after day & night by 25-30 totis and a maistry. Night soil was removed and buried in deep trenches dug far away from human habitation. There were 8 street sweepers, 1 shelter shed sweeper and a maistry. The streets were swept twice daily and rubbish collected in about a dozen dustbins made of kerosene tins. The sweepings were daily carted away by 2 carts and buried at a distance.
Epidemics.	Nil.
General health.	Good.
Recommendations.	1. As the 3 pucka wells belonging to the church are very shallow and as numbers of people draw water themselves from them with all kinds of vessels and dirty ropes & the Parish priest be requested to deepen the wells and construct cisterns provided with taps and to fill up by pumping on future occasions. This prevents pollution & contamination. 2. 16 more temporary sheds at least are required considering the numbers of pilgrims. 3. Privies [illegible] a [illegible] radius from the church be [illegible]. 4. Some [illegible] for [illegible] ordinary [illegible] are also required. 5. Movable dustbins be [illegible] for use from the [illegible] through the President. 6. Lights are absolutely necessary from the main road to the church gate. 7. Gravelling is [illegible] for the road leading from [illegible] to the church gate. 8. Instead of [illegible] figures be [illegible] for [illegible], it is better to [illegible] by [illegible] from a distance [illegible] good water. 9. To save trouble of getting water [illegible] in places where the springs yielded good water. 10. The most of the pilgrims, who walk the distance through the beach from Negapatam complained to me of the offensive [illegible] on their way. it is necessary to post some constables along the beach.
Remarks by the Sanitary Commissioner.	

[illegible]

Camp Tanjore.
Dated 11th September 96.

Name of Officer reporting S. David Pillay
Designation of do. Hospital assistant.

Government {1896} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.	1896.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 2220 L., 21st November 1896.

NOVEMBER.

Fairs and Festivals.

Recording, with remarks, report on the Arokiamata festival at Vélánganni in the Tanjore district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

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Report on the Arokiamata festival at Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk, Tanjore district.

District.	Name of reporter.	Name of festival.	Date of festival.	Number assembled.	Accommodation and sanitary arrangements made.	Water-supply.	Conservancy.	Epidemic.	General health.	Recommendations.	Remarks by the Sanitary Commissioner.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Tanjore.	Hospital Assistant S. David Pillai.	Arokiamata festival, Vélánganni, Negapatam taluk.	29th August to 8th September 1896 (both days inclusive).	The total number of visitors was about 35,000, but these were never all assembled at one time.	A few found accommodation in the church buildings, two permanent tiled sheds of the church and eight purposely erected decent thatched sheds (30 feet × 15 feet), but the majority took shelter under the trees. An hospital shed and two cholera sheds were put up, besides condemned cumblies from sub-jails were secured for the patients. Two hospital assistants were deputed on duty. The Head Assistant Magistrate was in camp in the village throughout and readily remedied the many-suggested sanitary defects. The advice of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer during his visit to the place, the willing co-operation of the Sub-Magistrate, the watchfulness of the police and the readiness of the contractor, have assisted me much in my duty. 1. People were given sanitary instructions by tom-tom frequently. 2. Unwholesome articles were prohibited from being sold. 3. Sanitation was looked after, all ailments treated and good water was supplied. 4. Medicines were supplied to the value of Rs. 60.	The chief sources of water-supply are from three wells in the church premises, nine water-sheds and fourteen specially-dug springs. Water from some of the springs proved to be brackish, and consequently a supply was brought by boats (1 to 3) from a distance of three miles. Water-sheds were supplied with four carts. Eighteen to 27 coolies worked in distributing water. Eighteen watchmen were posted in all and fencing was provided to every spring. The quality is good and quantity sufficient, but very expensive and troublesome to get for immediate necessity.	The conservancy establishment worked under my immediate supervision. More than two-thirds of the pilgrims being illiterate and mendicants, it is very hard to persuade them to adopt the Jewish method. Hence only the "dry earth" system was tried. Two to four carts were in work to supply sand to the latrines and two carts of sand were always kept in reserve. There were twenty such latrines, cleaned and looked after day and night by 25—40 toties and a maistry. Night-soil was removed and buried in deep trenches dug far away from human habitations. There were eight street sweepers, one shelter-shed sweeper and a maistry. The streets were swept twice daily and rubbish collected in about a dozen dust-bins made of date tatties. The sweepings were daily carted away by two carts and buried at a distance.	*Nil.*	Good.	1. As the three pucka wells belonging to the church are very shallow, and as numbers of people draw water themselves from them with all kinds of vessels and dirty ropes, &c., the parish priest be requested to deepen the wells and construct cisterns provided with taps and to fill up by pumping on future occasions. This prevents pollution and contamination. 2. Sixteen more temporary sheds at least are required, considering the number of pilgrims. 3. Prickly pear within half-a-mile radius from the church be removed. 4. Some medicines for treating ordinary diseases are also required. 5. Movable dust-bins be borrowed for use from the unions and municipality of Negapatam through the President. 6. Lights are absolutely necessary from the main road to the church gate. 7. Gravelling is indispensable for the road leading from Gnanadika Taver's choultry to the church gate. 8. Instead of letter signboards figures be substituted for latrines. 9. To save trouble of getting water by boats from a distance, it is better to sink six Norton's tube wells in places where the springs yielded good water. 10. As most of the pilgrims who walk the distance through the beach from Negapatam complained to me of the offensive stench on their way, it is necessary to post some constables along the beach.	The matter of accommodation of the pilgrims is of very minor importance to that of water-supply and conservancy. In both the latter respects, there was an improvement compared with last year's arrangements. It is a mistake to assume that the tube wells are beyond the taluk board's means. Ten two-inch wells would probably suffice. The depth is so shallow that very short pipes would be requisite. Any respectable engineering firm would give the taluk board particulars on making enquiries. Considering the uncertainty of getting "sweet" water in certain spots, this mode is economical. (Signed) W. G. KING, Surgn.-Lieut.-Col., *Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.* *19th October* 1896.

Tanjore,
11th September 1896.

(Signed) S. DAVID PILLAI,
Hospital Assistant.

Fn. No. 2223.

Forwarded to the President, Taluk Board, Negapatam.

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for *District Medical and Sanitary Officer.*

18th September 1896.

Cur. No. 1968-Eng.

Forwarded.

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4. That the board has been able to do what it has done this time is due largely to the liberal assistance of the Bishop of Mylapore.

(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Head Assistant Collector.

2nd October 1896.

To the Collector of Tanjore.

Endorsement on Cur. No. 1968-Eng.

Forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras. The remarks of the Head Assistant Collector and those of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer are embodied in the accompanying enclosure.

(Signed) J. ANDREW,
Ag. Collector.

9th October 1896.

No. 2018-S.

Forwarded.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
28th October 1896.

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

ORDER—No. 2220 L., dated 21st November 1896.

Recorded.

2. The attention of the taluk board will be drawn to the recommendations of the reporter and the remarks of the District Medical Officer and the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Raitt.

First copy sent to Press. 21-11-96

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espatched in print. 10-12-96

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