

Legislative (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 85

DATED 21-7-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording progo Public department
on the report on the work done under
the Malabar Marriage Act IV of 1896,
during the year 1898-99.

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G.O., No. 750, 7th July 1899.

JULY.

Malabar Marriage Act IV of 1896.

Recording report on the work done under the — during the year 1898-99.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RAJARATNA MUDALIYAR, Diwan Bahadur, Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 16th June 1899, G. No. 371.

I have the honour to submit a brief report on the work done under the Malabar Marriage Act IV of 1896 during the year ending 31st March 1899.

2. As anticipated in my last report, there was a further fall in the number of notices of intention to register Sambhandams; only 14 notices having been presented during the year as against 24 in 1897-98, and 36 in 1896-97. The mass of the people continue to regard the Marriage law with aversion and suspicion, and even the educated members of the community, who are in favour of the measure, shrink from taking advantage of it, from fear of offending the elder members of their Tarwads and the all-powerful Nambudris and other great landlords. The Registrar of Calicut also points out that the power conferred by the Marriage law to make provision for one's wives and children has hitherto acted as some inducement to

persons to register their Sambhandams, but as the new Testamentary law,* which came into force from 2nd September 1898, enables the followers of Marumakkattayam law to attain this object without registering their Sambhandams, and thus "unnecessarily curtailing their liberty of action and risking the chances of a divorce proceedings", he thinks it unlikely that registrations under the Marriage law would increase in future.

3. The number of notices received during the year, the number of Sambhandams registered and the number pending disposal are exhibited in the subjoined statement :—

Districts.	Number of notices pending disposal at the end of the previous year.	Number of notices received during the year.	Total.	Number of Sambhandams registered.	Number of notices struck off [section 8 (4)].	Number pending disposal at the end of the year.
Madras	..	1	1	1	..	..
South Canara	..	4	4	1	..	..
Tellicherry (North Malabar)	..	2	2	2	..	3
Calicut (South Malabar)	5	7	12	9	3	..
Total for 1898-99	5	14	19	13	3	3
Total for 1897-98	26	24	50	41	4	5

As in the previous year, the largest number of notices were received and disposed of by the Marriage Registrar of Calicut.

4. Most of the notices were from Government officials, chiefly Nayers, as will be seen from the annexed statement :—

Districts.	Caste.				Profession.					
	Nayars.	Tiyas.	Others.	Total.	Government servants and pensioners.	Vakils, editors and medical practitioners	Ryots and landlords.	Merchants.	Others.	Total.
Madras	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
South Canara	..	..	4	4	3	..	..	..	..	4
Tellicherry	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	2
Calicut	7	..	..	7	3	1	2	..	1	7
Total for 1898-99	8	2	4	14	8	1	2	..	3	14
Total for 1897-98	21	3	..	24	12	5	4	1	2	24

* Three Billavas, one Bunt. † Student. ‡ Unemployed. § Schoolmaster in a private school.

5. No objections were received in any of the cases registered, and no suit has been filed for cancellation of registration.

6. Considering the peculiar customs and prejudices of the people, the results obtained appear to me to be fairly satisfactory. Since the introduction of the Act in January 1897, 64 Sambhandams have been registered.

7. The subjoined statement shows the receipts, remittances and expenditure during the past two years :—

Years.	Total fees collected.	Attendance fees retained by Registrars.	Amount disbursed to process-servers.	Balance.	Amount remitted during the year.	Expenditure on account of notice boards.
1897-98	RS. A. P. 248 3 0	RS. A. P. 119 8 0	RS. A. P. 23 2 0	RS. A. P. 114 9 0	RS. A. P. 119 5 0	RS. A. P. 6 12 0
1898-99	95 4 0	46 0 0	9 12 0	39 8 0	39 8 0	2 0 0

* Includes Rs. 4-12-0 collected in 1896-97.

8. The departmental accounts were compared with the figures furnished by the Accountant-General, and found to agree.

9. With reference to paragraph 10 of G.O., No. 1292, Public, dated 8th December 1896, I beg to suggest that the question of appointing Adhigaris as Marriage Registrars and of allowing process-servers and clerical assistance to Marriage Registrars may be dropped for the present.

ORDER—No. 750, Public, dated 7th July 1899.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
for Chief Secretary.

To the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
" the Collector of Malabar.
" the Collector of South Canara.
" M.R. C. Sankaran Nayar Avargal.
" the Legislative Department.

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

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