

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1119

Press
Mis. —

95A-95B

Dated 9. 9

1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 95A. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Simla, 21st August 1867, No. $\frac{55}{8764}$.

Home Department.

Recent experience has made it abundantly manifest, that serious epidemic disease is very generally engendered among the large multitudes of people who periodically assemble at the various centres of pilgrimage in India, and that the pilgrims not only suffer largely, but propagate disease throughout the country on their return journey.

2. Indeed, the Medical Conference, which assembled last year at Constantinople, believes it to be established that cholera at least emanates from India only, and the Conference indicates the large periodical assemblages at fairs and pilgrimages as one of the most probable sources of its origin, and the most ready means of its propagation.

3. Careful sanitary measures may to some extent serve to mitigate the evil, but such measures require extreme vigilance, entail considerable expense, and frequently cause much inconvenience, not only to the pilgrims themselves, but to the people of the districts through which they pass. And after all, such measures are rarely, and only under exceptionally favorable conditions, wholly successful. It becomes, therefore, necessary, not only in the interests of the people of India, but of other nations, to consider how far preventive measures may be practicable.

4. When epidemic disease already prevails in any locality in which pilgrims are about to assemble, it is of course the plain duty of the Local Governments to prevent their collection by every means in its power.

5. But the Governor General in Council believes that more than this may be attempted, and although nothing is further from his wishes than to interfere in any way with the religious feelings of the people, His Excellency nevertheless thinks that, if it be possible, the people of the country generally should be made aware of the serious risk which they run, and should be dissuaded and discouraged, as far as is practicable, from making pilgrimages, on the ground that they entail largely exposure, disease, and death, and lead often to much demoralization.

6. I am desired, therefore, to suggest that His Excellency in Council will, after careful consultation with Native Gentlemen of character and intelligence, favor the Governor General with an expression of opinion as to what may be practicable in this direction.

7. At any rate, His Excellency desires that some system may be devised under the orders of Local Governments, whereby, at all places of pilgrimage, and at all large fairs, sanitary arrangements should be invariably made and carefully supervised in order to check, as far as may be possible, the outbreak and propagation of epidemic disease.

8. It will probably be possible to meet the cost of such arrangements by levying a small tax, or toll, upon pilgrims, and His Excellency in Council would suggest for consideration the best mode of doing this. In some cases it may perhaps best be done at the place of pilgrimage; in others by the issue of licenses to the pilgrims at their homes, and before they start on their journey.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
9th September 1867.*

No. 95B. ORDER THEREON, 9th September 1867, No. 1119.

Communicated to the Committee appointed under G. O., No. 216, 27th February 1867, to report on the arrangements to be made for giving practical effect in this Presidency to the recommendations and suggestions of the British Cholera Commissioners.

(True Extract).

A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

To R. S. Ellis, Esq., C. B., Sanitary Commissioner.
To the Inspector General, Medical Department.
To Colonel A. C. Silver.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

*Public 1867 Dept
No 1119
Proceedings of Govt.
Date 9th Sept 1867
H. J. N. 300*

Recd of 21 Sept.

*Pub. L. to Eng. 30.
Nov. 28 of 1868
Reply to 17th March 1869 Sanitary*

*Public 1867 Dept
Nov. 9th 1867
Recd Govt of Madras
H. J. N. 300
No 58
37/14*

*2/21 Aug
Ry 12 Sept
79th 1832-*

No 1440.

*As to for an opinion as to
the means to be taken for
preventing the assembly
of pilgrims at fair &c
which is believed to be a
fertile means of propagating
disease*

95A. 95B.

With an Order

No. 55.

37/11/67

FROM

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of India.

TO

*The Secy to the Govt
of Fort St George.*

Home Dept.

SIMLA, the 21st August 1867.

SIR,

RECENT experience has made it abundantly manifest, that serious epidemic disease is very generally engendered among the large multitudes of people who periodically assemble at the various centres of pilgrimage in India, and that the pilgrims not only suffer largely, but propagate disease throughout the country on their return journey.

2. Indeed, the Medical Conference, which assembled last year at Constantinople, believes it to be established that cholera at least emanates from India only, and the Conference indicates the large periodical assemblages at fairs and pilgrimages as one of the most probable sources of its origin, and the most ready means of its propagation.

3. Careful sanitary measures may to some extent serve to mitigate the evil, but such measures require extreme vigilance, entail considerable expense, and frequently cause much inconvenience, not only to the pilgrims themselves, but to the people of the districts through which they pass. And after all, such measures are rarely, and only under exceptionally favorable conditions, wholly successful. It becomes, therefore, necessary, not only in the interests of the people of India, but of other nations, to consider how far preventive measures may be practicable.

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5. But the Governor General in Council believes that more than this may be attempted, and although nothing is further from his wish than to interfere in any way with the religious feelings of the people, he nevertheless thinks that, if it be possible, the people of the country generally should be made aware of the serious risk which they run, and should be dissuaded and discouraged, as far as is practicable, from attending pilgrimages on the ground that they entail large expense, disease, and death, and are often to much demoralization.

6. I am desired, therefore, to suggest that *His Excellency in Council* will, after careful consultation with Native Gentlemen of character and intelligence, favor the Governor General with an expression of opinion as to what may be practicable in this direction.

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8. It will probably be possible to meet the cost of such arrangements by levying a small tax, or toll, upon pilgrims, and His Excellency in Council would suggest for consideration the best mode of doing this. In some cases it may perhaps best be done at the place of pilgrimage; in others by the issue of licenses to the pilgrims at their homes, and before they start on their journey.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. P. Clarke

Secretary to the Government of India.

9th September 1867 No. 1119.
Communicated to the Government.
Approved under G.O. 216. 27th Feb 67
It refers to the arrangements in the
made for giving practical effect to the
The recommendations and suggestions of the
Public Health Commission
In the 3rd Vol
of the Commission
Chief Secretary
16th September 1867