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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1532	Press Mis.
Dated	6-12-	191867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1867.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 48. From the Acting Magistrate of Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Trichinopoly, 7th November 1867, No. 72.

Adverting to the Proceedings of Government, Public Department, dated 19th ultimo, No. 1300, I have the honor to annex, for the consideration of the Government, an extract from a communication upon the subject, addressed to me by Mr. Ranking.

Extract from a letter from Surgeon Major J. L. RANKING, in charge of Office of Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, Southern Division, dated 31st October 1867, No. 2065.

* * * *

20. Lastly, I may remark that I understand it is in contemplation to open the Erode line of extension of the Railway just before the feast, for the express purpose of bringing as many people as possible to the gathering. If the Government is desirous to discourage these agglomerations of the people, it may consider it advisable to delay the opening of the extension till after the feast. The question is, however, overlaid with grave financial considerations, and bears so closely upon the interests of the Railway Company that I do no more than allude to it.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. VANS AGNEW,
Acting Magistrate.

Referred to the Committee appointed to report on the arrangements to be made for giving practical effect in this Presidency on the recommendations and suggestions of the British Cholera Commissioners.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
11th November 1867.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 49. From the President and Members of the Cholera Committee, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 29th November 1867, No. 639.

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memorandum, dated 11th current, referring to us for report letter, No. 72, dated 7th idem, from the Acting Magistrate of Trichinopoly to your address.

2. In returning the same, we beg, for the information of Government, to state our opinion that the proposed delay in the opening of the Erode extension of the Great Southern of India Railway is not a measure worthy of the countenance of Government.

3. It appears to us that such a measure would indicate an hostility on the part of Government to the agglomeration at Sreerungum of people who have hitherto been allowed free access to the place; and, as it is not improbable that Government may find it necessary hereafter to exercise a certain amount of control over pilgrimages and fairs, it would perhaps be likely to excite an undue amount of hostility on the part of the Native population if they were debarred from the use of a mode of conveyance now becoming rapidly popular among them for its comfort, cheapness, and rapidity.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1867.*

4. It is beyond our province to discuss how far the Government is in a position to interfere with the financial prospects of the Railway, by preventing its coming into receipt of income on the line being declared fit to be opened for traffic.

5. We would also observe that, although, undoubtedly, the concourse of people may be somewhat increased, the people will arrive at Sreerungum in a condition far more favorable to their health than they would do were they compelled to travel to the feast in country carts, while the absence of these from the place of congress will undoubtedly diminish the difficulty and expense of proper conservancy.

6. The only experience before us on the subject of the influence of railways upon festivals, &c., is afforded by the following extract from the report of the Medical Officer in charge of Conjeveram during the years of 1864 and 1865. In the former of these years the pilgrims travelled from varying distances in the ordinary conveyances along the public roads; the journey from Madras probably occupying two or three days, during a portion of one of which the journey was by rail to Arcunum. In 1865 the journey was made in less than half the time by rail from Madras to Arcunum, and thence by tramway to Conjeveram. Mr. Chadwick, in noticing this alteration in the mode of transit, remarks on the actual effect observed on the amount of population present during the festival:—"To the opening of the tramway also must be attributed the less
" dense population of the town on any given day, as several came to be present only
" at some particular procession, and left the town immediately after, so that, while
" there was an influx in one direction on any day, the departure of hundreds on
" the same day would tend to maintain the number in the town at nearly the same
" standard."

7. We forward the foregoing remarks in anticipation of the report called for from us in Government Order, No. 266, dated 21st September 1867, which shall be submitted to Government in a few days.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1867, No. 1532.

The Governor in Council sees no sufficient reason for delaying the opening of the extension of the Great Southern of India Railway from Erode on account of the annual pilgrimage to Sreerungum.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the President and Members of the Cholera Committee.

„ Magistrate of Trichinopoly.

„ Public Works Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

11th Dec 1867
 The President and Members
 of the Cholera Committee
 Sir,
 I am in reply acknowledging
 your communication
 of the 1st Dec 1867
 dated 14/12/67
 enclosing 1/11/67
 The information on the
 extension of the Great Southern
 India Railway
 of the railway

With an order

Read the following letters:-
 From the Magistrate of Trichinopoly, dated 27th Nov 1867
 From the Cholera Committee, dated 29th Nov 1867
 6th December 1867 R 4532
 The Governor in Council sees no
 sufficient reason for delaying the opening
 of the extension of the Great Southern of
 India Railway, from Erode, on account of
 the annual pilgrimage to Srerungum.
 At the President and
 Members of the Cholera Committee
 Magistrate of Trichy
 P. H. Department
 M. M. J.
 Chief Secy
 23 Dec 67

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