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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1481/482 Press
Mis.

Dated 29-10-1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
29th October 1869.*

No. 123. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, (Public,) to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Simla, 22nd July 1869, No. 3407.

The question of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages among Europeans in India, has recently been under the consideration of the Government. As regards marriages, sufficient provision appears to have been made by Act V. of 1865, the Circular Orders passed under it on the 5th April and 21st July of that year. Some arrangements have also been made, though not under any law, for the registration of burials, at least of interments in regular burial-grounds. Even as regards burials at isolated places, and in unconsecrated ground, an attempt has been made to provide for their registration, in the Orders contained in the Circular of the 20th July 1867.

2. But the point on which existing arrangements are most imperfect is the registration of births. Although this matter is not wholly neglected, and attempts are now being made to institute a general system of registration of all births throughout India, yet this last system is at present in its infancy, the results hitherto obtained are imperfect and incomplete, and it will be long before they can be made fully trustworthy. Better arrangements are no doubt in force for the registration of the baptism of all children whose parents belong to the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, or the Church of Rome. But there is no provision for this work among Christians of other denominations, and it is accordingly very imperfectly done.

3. On the whole, the present arrangements for the registration of births and deaths are not as satisfactory as could be desired, considering the importance of the objects to be attained. The registry of baptism and burial is not a trustworthy record of the actual number of births and deaths; moreover it is preferable, for legal and administrative purposes, to register natural, rather than what may be called ecclesiastical events. Births and deaths should, therefore, be registered, and not baptisms and burials. It has been said above that the subject is one of importance. References are now often made to the Secretary of State and to the Governments in India for conclusive proof of age, of marriages or of deaths, on which questions of much interest to individuals depend, involving frequently rights to property of considerable extent. In an economical point of view, moreover, it is very desirable to have accurate statistics of European life in India; there seems accordingly good reason to justify the enactment of a law for the registration of European births and marriages based on principles similar to those enforced in England.

4. But while considering that it would be altogether insufficient to regulate by legislation the registration of baptisms and burials, the Governor-General in Council is not sure that the Chaplain may not ordinarily be the best person to register births and deaths. He is always an European, and generally has sufficient leisure for the duty. He has already some experience of keeping a register, and would, it is believed, be usually willing to undertake additional duties, not inconsistent with his ecclesiastical functions, for a small fee in addition to his salary.

5. The proposed measure might take the form of an enactment permitting the local Governments to declare any district, or part of a district, to be a circumscription for the purpose of the registration of European births and deaths. It should

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
29th October 1869.*

contain a provision for the appointment of Registrars, who *might* be the Chaplains for the time being, and it should make it the duty, under penalties, of every person of European extraction within the circumscription in whose house, or in whose presence, the birth or death of a person of European extraction takes place, to announce the same, together with certain particulars, to the Registrar, who himself should be subject to penalties for irregular registration. The machinery of the Act might be that of the English Registration Acts in a simplified form.

6. I am accordingly desired to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council will take the subject into his consideration, and favour the Government of India with his opinion, with as little delay as possible.

No. 124.

ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1869, No. 1481.

With reference to the foregoing letter, the Government observe that, as regards the Presidency Town of Madras, provision has already been made in (Madras) Act No. IX. of 1867, (Sections 218 to 224 inclusive,) for the registration of births and deaths among all classes of the community, including Europeans; and that, in respect to places in the Mofussil, it is not improbable that a similar provision will be introduced into a Bill which will shortly be laid before the local Legislature having for its object the amendment of the Towns' Improvement Act X. of 1865. The Government are, therefore, of opinion that, so far as this Presidency is concerned, no special legislation seems necessary for the purpose of regulating the registration of births and deaths among Europeans.

2. Adverting to the proposal contained in paragraph 4 of the letter above recorded, relative to the appointment of Chaplains to the office of Registrar of births and deaths; it appears to Government that in this Presidency as there are many places in the Mofussil where Europeans reside, at which there are no resident Chaplains, a more feasible arrangement in this respect will be, to require the President of the Municipal Commission of each station to furnish the Government with annual returns of births and deaths.

3. The following letter will be addressed to the Government of India.
(Here enter dated 29th October 1869, No. 1482.)
(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Legislative Department, for information.

Exd. J. Wright.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 1482.

FROM

THE HON. R. S. ELLIS, C.B.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date the 23rd July last, No. 3407, requesting the opinion of this Government on the question of the registration of births and deaths among Europeans in India.

2. In reply, I am to intimate that, as regards the Presidency Town of Madras, provision has already been made in (Madras) Act No. IX. of 1867, (Sections 218 to 224 inclusive,) for the registration of births and deaths among all classes of the community, including Europeans; and that, in respect to places in the Mofussil, it is not improbable that a similar provision will be introduced into a Bill which will shortly be laid before the local Legislature having for its object the amendment of the Towns' Improvement Act X. of 1865. The Madras Government are, therefore, of opinion that, so far as this Presidency is concerned, no special legislation seems necessary for the purpose of regulating the registration of births and deaths among Europeans.

3. With reference to the proposal contained in paragraph 4 of your letter under acknowledgment relative to the appointment of Chaplains to the office of Registrar of births and deaths, I am to observe that in this Presidency as there are many places in the Mofussil where Europeans reside, at which there are no resident Chaplains, a more feasible arrangement in this respect will be, to require the President of the Municipal Commission of each station to furnish the Government with annual returns of births and deaths.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
29th October 1869.

Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Source 1869 Reg 1

From the Government of
Port St. George.

Dated 29th Oct. 1869. } No.
R. } Enclosure
} Spare copies

D. No.	Proc.	{ D. No.
L. No. 1482.		

OCTOBER.
Nos. 128-126.

Communicating the opinion of this Government
on the question of the registration of births and
deaths among Europeans in India.

1
any

No. 3407

FROM
E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,
Secretary to the Govt. of India,

To

Home Dept.
Public.

The Secy to the Govt of Lord M. George

SIMLA, the 22 July 1869.

SIR,

THE question of the registration of births, deaths and marriages among Europeans in India, has recently been under the consideration of the Government. As regards marriages, sufficient provision appears to have been made by Act V. of 1865, the circular orders passed under it on the 5th April and 21st July of that year. Some arrangements have also been made, though not under any law, for the registration of burials, at least of interments in regular burial grounds. Even as regards burials at isolated places and in unconsecrated ground, an attempt has been made to provide for their registration, in the orders contained in the circular of the 20th July 1867.

2. But the point on which existing arrangements are most imperfect is the registration of births. Although this matter is not wholly neglected, and attempts are now being made to institute a general system of registration of all births throughout India, yet this last system is at present in its infancy, the results hitherto obtained are imperfect and incomplete, and it will be long before they can be made fully trustworthy. Better arrangements are no doubt in force for the registration of the baptism of all children whose parents belong to the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, or the Church of Rome. But there is no provision for this work among Christians of other denominations, and it is accordingly very imperfectly done.

3. On the whole, the present arrangements for the registration of births and deaths are not as satisfactory as could be desired, considering the importance of the objects to be attained. The registry of baptism and burial is not a trustworthy record of the actual number of births and deaths, moreover it is preferable for legal and administrative purposes to register natural rather than what may be called ecclesiastical events. Births and deaths should therefore be registered, and not baptisms and burials. It has been said above that the subject is one of importance. References are now often made to the Secretary of State and to the Governments in India for conclusive proof of age, of marriages or of deaths, on which questions of much interest to individuals depend, involving frequently rights to property of considerable extent. In an economical point of view, moreover, it is very desirable to have accurate statistics of European life in India; there seems accordingly good reason to justify the enactment of a law for the registration of European births and marriages based on principles similar to those enforced in England.

4. But while considering that it would be altogether insufficient to regulate by legislation the registration of baptisms and burials, the Governor General in Council is not sure that the Chaplain may not ordinarily be the best person to register births and deaths. He is always an European, and generally has sufficient leisure for the duty. He has already some experience of keeping a register, and would it be believed, be usually willing to undertake additional duties, not inconsistent with his ecclesiastical functions, for a small fee in addition to his salary.

Govt. of India

PUBLIC.

To

THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Dated October, 29th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 29th October 1869, No. 1481.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 123-125.

Considering a special legislation unnecessary for the purpose of regulating the registration of births and deaths among Europeans, so far as this Presidency is concerned.

6. I am accordingly desirous to request that *His High the Govr. in Council* will take the subject into *his* consideration, and favor the Government of India with *his* opinion, with as little delay as possible.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient Servant,


Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Letters from the Secretary
to the Government of India

Memo for Orders

{ Dated 22^d July 1869. H. 3407.

+
ss 218 to 224
Scherder, K.
L -

With reference to the fore-
going letter, it is observed
that (Madras) [†] Act IX of 1867
provides for the registration
of births and deaths in the
Town of Madras among all
classes of the Community;
and it is believed that the

I have not at all minute
my mind & purpose
1; that I have say
it will be prepared in
Committee -

AD

Honorable Mr. A. J. Delano
proposes to introduce a simi-
lar provision in the revised
Laws' Improvement Act.

This will, it is thought,
render special legislation,
as regards Europeans, unne-
-cessary.

As there are many places
in the Magasin where
Europeans reside, at

which there is no resident
Chaplain, the Presidents
of the Municipalities might
be required to make a yearly
return of Births & Deaths.

Yes. I think so

A. J.

W. O. G.

13
am
Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Secretary to the Govt. of India, Home Dept (Public)
(New letter 22^d July 1869. N^o 3407)
Order 29 Oct-69 no 1487.

With reference to the
forging letter, the Government
observe that, as regards the
Presidency of Madras,
provision has already been made
in (Madras) Act IX of 1867
S. 1. 218 to 224 inclusive)
for the registration of births
and deaths among all classes
of the Community, including
Europeans, and that, in re-
spect to places in the Madras
-it, it is ^{not improper to} in consequence
that ~~it is in consequence~~ a similar provi-
sion ~~is in consequence~~ in a Bill which is
shortly to be laid before the

28/10.
R.B.
C. 20/10
12/11

local legislature having for
its object the amendment
of the Town Improvement
Act X of 1865. The Govern-
ment, therefore, of opinion
that, so far as this Presi-
dency is concerned, no special
legislation seems necessary
for the purpose of regulating
the registration of births
and deaths among Europeans.

2. Adverting to the pro-
posal contained in para. 4
of the letter above
referred, relative to the
appointment of Chaplains
to the office of Registrar
of births and deaths, it
appears to Government that
in this Presidency as there
are many places in the
Mofussil where Europeans
reside, at which there are
no resident Chaplains,
a more feasible arrangement

in this respect will be, to re-
quire the President of
the Municipal Commission
of each station to furnish
the Government with annu-
al returns of births and
deaths.

3. The following letter
will be addressed to the
Government of India.
(Enclosure dated
1/2/71).

The Legislative Dept (for infor-
mation) 140-24

17
Public Department.

No. 1482.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,

Home Department.

Sir,
I am directed
to acknowledge the re-
ceipt of your letter under date
the 22nd July last, 1867,
requesting the opinion of this
Government on the question
of the registration of births
and deaths among Europeans in
India.

2. In reply, I am to in-
form that, as regards the
Presidency Town of Madras,
provision has already been made
in (Madras) Act No. 12 of 1867
(S. 218 to 224 inclusive) for
the registration of births and
deaths among all classes of
the Community, including

WON

Govt. of 1867 Madras.

Public

To

The Legislative Dept.

Dated 22nd July 1867 }
Recd. 1867, No. 1482

108. 123/125

In sending a special
regulation in consequence
of the foregoing &
regulating the registration
of births and deaths
among Europeans, as
per the Act, No. 12
of 1867.

Europeans; and that, in
respect to places in the
Mofussil, it is ~~in~~ ^{not impossible that}
~~possible to introduce a simi-~~
~~lar provision into a Bill~~ ^{will be introduced}
which will shortly be laid
before the local legislature
having for its object the
amendment of the Towns
Improvement Act of 1866.
The Madras Government are
therefore of opinion that, so
far as this Presidency is
concerned, no special legislation
seems necessary for the pur-
pose of regulating the regis-
tration of births and deaths
among Europeans.

3. With reference to the
proposal contained in para.
4 of your letter under ac-
knowledgment relative to
the appointment of Chaplains
to the office of Registrar
of births and deaths, I

am to observe that in this
Presidency as there are many
places in the Mofussil where
Europeans reside, at which
there are no resident Chap-
lains, a more feasible ar-
rangement in this respect
will be, to require the Presi-
dent of the Municipal
Commission of each station
to furnish the Government
with annual returns of
births and deaths.

Fort St. George
29 Oct/69.

M

106

The first report
of the Committee
on the death of
General Sherman in
1861

Curly
1866
Epiphany

No. 1481-2
To
29-10-69
The Secretary to the
Government of
Department.

Dated 1866