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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1707	Press MIS.
Dated 16-12-1936	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
14th December 1869.*

No. 56. Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 24th September 1869, No. 100.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, a letter, dated 17th September 1869, No. 197, from the Sub-Collector regarding the sanitary measures taken at Kanoth, Manatana, and Kottiyur, during the festival at the latter place commencing on 23rd May and terminating on 18th June.

2. The attendance was considerable, and far in excess of the estimated numbers, 21,000 persons having congregated on the 1st June.

These persons halted at Manatana on the night of the 31st May, and again on their return from Kottiyur, spending the middle of the day at Kanoth.

It will be observed that their stay at Kottiyur did not extend over one night.

At Kanoth the sanitary arrangements consisted in clearing and marking off certain portions of the river for drinking and bathing purposes, respectively.

3. At Manatana the Dresser was stationed. A few large huts were constructed, but were inadequate for the number of persons requiring shelter.

Water was procured from wells belonging to Nairs in the vicinity.

Mr. Logan suggests that, in future, instead of building huts, it will be better to clear the jungle, so as to allow the people to take shelter under the few large trees there are in the vicinity.

4. At Kottiyur huts were erected, the river banks were marked out, a temporary bridge was thrown across the river, and latrine arrangements were enforced. There is a fine grove of trees at this place, under which the people find ample shelter.

No epidemic sickness occurred among the visitors to the shrine, but two Police Constables who were on duty have since died of fever, believed to have been contracted while there. Mr. Logan's suggestions as to the frequent change of the Constables have been communicated to the Superintendent of Police.

5. The cost of carrying out the sanitary measures above recorded was Rupees 366-1-10, of which Rupees 300 were most liberally contributed by the Cherakal Rajah,

In G. O., 8th May 1869, No. 596.

who owns the shrine, leaving a sum of Rupees 66-1-10 out of the sanctioned grant of Rupees 500 to be paid by Government.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Malabar, to the Officiating Magistrate of Malabar, dated Manantoddy, 17th September 1869, No. 197.

As requested in your Memorandum, No. 1857, dated 28th August 1869, I have the honour to report to you the result of the sanitary measures taken at Kanoth, Manatana, and Kottiyur on the occasion of the assemblage of visitors to the Kottiyur shrine in May and June last. This report would have been submitted sooner had not the feast terminated while I was in Wynaad inquiring into Turnbull's case, and a special report on the subject been then submitted by the Kottayam Tahsildar to Mr. Thomas.

2. The shrine is chiefly resorted to by people from the country about Tellicherry. A few come down from Wynaad by what is known as the Smugglers' Pass, and some come from the country west of Manatana.

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3. The distances from Tellicherry are as follow :—

	Miles.
I.—Tellicherry to Kanoth	16
II.—Kanoth to Manatana	12
III.—Manatana to Kottiyur	10

4. The feast lasted twenty-seven days, from 23rd May to 18th June, and the visitors numbered 41,489 according to a rough account that was kept.

5. You will observe from the statement herewith sent
* 21,175. that *more* than half* of the visitors went to the shrine on the 1st June.

6. These people, chiefly Tiyars, spent the night of 31st May, and most of them the night of 2nd June at Manatana. They spent the night of 1st June at Kottiyur itself, and most of them halted for a short time in the middle of the day of 31st May and 2nd June at Kanoth.

7. Sanitary measures were taken at Kanoth, Manatana, and Kottiyur.

8. The arrangements at Kanoth were very simple, and consisted in clearing and marking off certain portions of the river bank for drinking and bathing-purposes, respectively. Another space was cleared and set aside as a latrine. The expenditure was Rupees 8-15-8.

9. At Manatana the Dresser was stationed, and he was put in sanitary charge of the place. Some large huts of very simple construction were run up. These were crowded by the people on the 31st May, and were quite insufficient to afford shelter from the rain and sun to more than a small portion of the crowd. The regulations regarding drinking and bathing water and latrines were enforced generally. Good water is at that time of the year scarce, so the Nayers who live there were persuaded to allow water to be taken from their wells for the Tiyars and other low-caste people. An establishment of coolies was entertained for a few days during the visit of the Tiyars to clean up the place.

10. At Kottiyur huts were also erected; the river banks were marked out, and the place was cleaned up. The water and latrine arrangements were enforced, and a temporary bridge was thrown across the stream.

11. A Head Constable and four Constables kept order at Kottiyur during the time the feast lasted.

12. The Inspector and eight Constables were on duty on the route from 30th May to 4th June, and the Tahsildar and six peons were also present during that time. I visited Manatana on the 31st May.

13. There was no cholera or small-pox.

14. One man died at Kottiyur of fever: a number of local complaints (none of a very serious character) had been treated by the Dresser when I visited the temporary hospital on 31st May.

15. There was no crime.

16. I regret to say that one or two casualties have since occurred among the Police Constables from fever supposed to have been caught while on duty. Both Kottiyur and Manatana are situated close under the Wynaad Hills, and are considered very feverish, particularly at the commencement of the rains when the feast occurs. Arrangements should be made next year to relieve as often as possible the men on duty.

17. Of the Rupees 500 put at my disposal, Rupees 250 were spent. The Cherikal Rajah who has acquired the Uralars' rights over the shrine liberally offered Rupees 300 in addition to the Government contribution; of this Rupees 116-1-10 were spent. The total expenditure was, therefore, Rupees 366-1-10 as shown in the accompanying statement.

18. As the attendance of people was nearly treble what was anticipated, the hut accommodation was insufficient on the days when the crowds of Tiyars came to the shrine. It would have

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been impossible to provide sufficient accommodation for them except at a large cost. Several showers of rain fell while I was at Manatana on the 31st May. The ground about is overgrown with thick thorny scrub jungle, and the people were sitting out in the open in the rain. There are no very large trees at Manatana, but I think if the scrub jungle were cleared away the people would make use of the shelter of the trees that are there. I would, therefore, propose that next year, instead of erecting huts, the jungle should be cleared, which could be done at a small cost in the hot weather.

19. At Kottiyur there is a large grove of very fine trees affording ample shelter; the people sleep there protected by their umbrellas on large flat stones taken from the river bed.

20. I consider the question of providing shelter of some importance as jack fruit and mangoes are ripe just at the time when the feast occurs, and I saw many of the people eating the former. Diarrhoea and perhaps cholera might be brought on by cold and a drenching with rain after eating the fruit, and it should also be remembered that the people who resort to the shrine fast for ten or twelve days before starting.

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1869, No. 1707.

It is gratifying to Government to learn that, notwithstanding the large number of visitors to the Kottiyur shrine, and the long duration of the festival there held in May and June last, there was no outbreak of any epidemic.

2. The Government sanction the expenditure, Rupees 66-1-10, incurred from public funds in carrying out the sanitary arrangements on the occasion referred to, and appreciate the liberality of the Cherikal Rajah in contributing the sum of Rupees 300 towards that purpose.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar.

- „ Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department.
- „ Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ Inspector-General of Police.
- „ Board of Revenue.
- „ Accountant-General, with the Memorandum.

Exd. J. Wright.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the

Offg Collector of Malabar.
(H. E. 24. to Sept. 1869, No. 100).

Order thereon No. 1707 - 14 Dec/69.

It is gratifying to Government to learn that notwithstanding the large number of visitors to the Kottayur shrine and the long duration of the festival there held in May and June last, there was no outbreak of any epidemic.

2. The Government sanction the expenditure Rs 66-1-10 incurred from public funds in carrying out the sanitary arrangements.

MA

30th of 1869

PUBLIC.

The COLLECTOR of MALABAR.

Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated December, 14th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 14th December 1869, No. 1707.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 16-17.

Sanctioning Rupees 66-1-10, being expenditure incurred on the occasion of the recent festival at Kottayur, and appreciating the liberality of the Cheralai Rajah in contributing Rupees 200 towards that purpose.

arrangements on the
occasion referred to, and
appreciate the liberality
of the Cherakhal Rajah
in contributing the
sum of Rs. 500 towards
that purpose.

ML

To the Collector of Malabar
" Inspr. Genl. S. Mico. Dist.
" Sambar Comp.
" Inspr. Genl. P. P. P.
" P. P. P. P. P. P.
" P. P. P. P. P. P.

Cont. of 1186 } Edmunds.

Pelle

To

The Collector of Customs,
San Francisco.

Dated Dec 14 }
Recd. 1869, No. 1707.

Nos. 58 & 57.

Transmitting to 58-1-10,
being separate license issued
on the occasion of the recent
petition at Monterey, and
approving the license
of the character required in
conducting the two firms
that produce -

22/12
21/12