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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	880	Press Mis.
Dated	29-6-	1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1

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

No. 163. Read the following letter from the Magistrate of the Madras district, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Sydapet, 19th June 1869, No. 134.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, the reports of the Joint Magistrate and of the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. McIver, on the arrangements for preserving the peace and the health of the people at the late annual festival at Conjeveram.

2. The total expenditure amounted to Rupees 1253-5-1, being Rupees 55-5-5 less than last year. Of this the Municipality contributed Rupees 600 leaving the balance of Rupees 653-5-1.

8. The Pagoda Church-wardens, I am sorry to say, positively refused to give more than 50 rupees towards the expenses, and as I am not aware of any law by which we can compel them to pay anything at all, I am of opinion we ought to accept what they are willing to give, and for the balance I request the sanction of Government.

4. The attendance of pilgrims seems to have greatly diminished this year; but the information which was telegraphed up the country, in different directions, regarding the probable great heat that they would have to experience, the scarcity of water, &c., &c., may have deterred many from setting out at all, and sent back even some to their homes.

5. The Government will, I am sure, be glad to observe that there was no epidemic or sickness of any kind during the whole period of the feast, a result no doubt due, in a great measure, to the sanitary precautions that were taken, and which in regard to this great festival have been year by year improved and each successive year apparently more and more successful, a great improvement this year over last seems to have been in the police arrangements which for all purposes were quite complete, and for which Captain Cunliffe, the Superintendent, and all under him deserve great credit.

6. Mr. McIver, the Assistant Magistrate, although quite a late arrival in India, seems to have entered into the work I assigned to him "*con amore*," and was, I am told, most influential in keeping everything straight.

7. The Municipal Commissioners seem also to have done all, and more even than was their duty, and Mr. Apothecary Chadwick, as Health Officer of the Commission, appears to have been of the greatest assistance.

8. The assigning certain tanks for drinking purposes and certain ones for ablution, &c., appears to me so useful a sanitary measure, that I propose keeping up the distinction always in Conjeveram, and calling upon the police in the various other towns in this district that have been or are to be brought under Act XXIV. of 1859 to similarly select, wherever possible, some tanks for drinking and others for ablution according to circumstances and position.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate, to the Magistrate of Madras; dated Chingleput, 10th June 1869, No. 34.

I have the honour to submit the usual report on the conclusion of the May festival at Conjeveram, and to forward a letter from the Assistant Magistrate together with statistics and accounts.

2. *State of season.*—Owing to the peculiar nature of the season, and a report that water was scarce and food dear, I found it necessary to go to Conjevcram, where I remained from the

18th ultimo until the evening of the 25th, the day after the 3rd and great day of the feast. I found that the state of things was not so bad as had been represented, but deemed it proper to advise that Magistrates of neighbouring districts should be informed of it by telegraph, so that pilgrims being warned might come with their eyes open.

3. *Duration of Feast.*—The feast commenced on the 22nd, and closed on the 31st May 1869. The days on which the crowd was greatest were the 24th May (the Garuda Utsavam), and the 28th, the Car festival.

4. *Temperature.*—The heat was, especially at first, excessive, even for Conjeveram in May.

5. *Number of pilgrims and reason of decrease.*—The crowd was this year comparatively insignificant. The total number of passengers by the tramway during the ten days was 10,852, (quite equal to the usual number,) and that of travellers who passed the toll-bars 117,037. The absence of people from a distance formed a marked feature of the gathering; and as very many even of those who came by road returned to their homes, which were in most cases the villages in the vicinity, during the night of the day on which they arrived, the town was at no time overcrowded. I do not think that on any one day there could have been more than 30,000 strangers, while last year the concourse on some of the days was reckoned at from 150,000 to 200,000. Opinion is concurrent that, during the last five years, the crowd has steadily decreased, but the sudden falling off in the attendance at the late festival attracted more than ordinary attention. It was variously computed at from one-half to four-fifths. I presume that the Government will require some explanation of this. Three solutions are offered: first, poverty induced by the late adverse seasons, and reported scarcity of water at Conjeveram; second, dislike of the people to the restrictions imposed owing to sanitary arrangements and the interference of the police; third, moribund state of religious feeling. I confess that I see little force in any but the last. In former days, when in the best of years the ryot was not half so prosperous as he is now even after two successive bad seasons, people used, in seasons bad and good alike, to brave pestilence and plunder on the road, epidemics at the feasts, privations and discomforts of all kinds at the shrine, and on their way back to homes, which, when reached, they too often only reached to die. Such considerations far from being deterrents to pilgrimage rather formed incentives to courting a death which secured salvation to its victim. If the same spirit prevailed in these days, the first solution offered would not account for the change. As to their dislike of sanitary rules and police, I can confidently state that generally speaking this is a myth. It is true that sanitation is yet in its infancy, but I have heard many persons congratulate themselves on the introduction of measures for this purpose, and in especial point to the good effect on the drinking water of tanks, produced by a few days' exemption from the dirt of clothes and human ordure. Besides this the people are not blind to the advantages of comparative immunity from pestilence, unknown in former times, which is the result of conservancy during festivals, nor of that protection to person and property which is guaranteed by the presence of an ubiquitous police force under the immediate superintendence of the magistracy and its district head. A murmur now-a-days is unheard, and the people generally submit to the restrictions imposed, apparently recognising their necessity and the good they effect. I cannot, however, say quite as much for the authorities of the pagoda which is the cause of this assemblage. Whether it arises from ignorance, the usual dislike of priestly bodies to innovation, or an idea that they possess a vested right to reign supreme in the town, amid the license, filth, disease, and death which used formerly to mark the recurrence of these gatherings, it would be hard to tell; but I regret to say that there seem to have been signs on their parts of obstructiveness and want of cooperation with the authorities in matters in which enlightenment and a recognition of their own real interests would have dictated another course. I recognise the discovery of the cause of the smallness of the crowd at the late festival, then, in the moribund state of faith in Hindooism. This is proved by the almost total cessation of pilgrims from remote parts of the presidency, and from countries beyond; by the smallness of the attendance of persons else at hand; and by the entire absence of all enthusiasm or religious fervour, as my own observations and that of others on this occasion abundantly testified. The absence of delay in drawing

the car round the town tends if any thing to support this view, as there is reason to believe that it was mainly effected by means of hired coolies.

6. *Water-supply.*—Water was scarce in the higher parts of the town, low in all the tanks, but abundant in the wells of Little Conjeveram. Great care was taken in this as in every other measure, while adopting the advice of the Health Officer, Mr. Chadwick, to interfere with convenience or religious prejudice as little as possible. Distributed throughout the town were twenty-three tanks reserved for ablution, twelve tanks for drinking purposes, while the use of six was forbidden. The wells were not interfered with. The depth to which the water had sunk rendered it quite beyond the reach of superficial influences.

7. *Public Health.*—The health of the town was exceptionally good. No disease, epidemic or otherwise, was reported. There were also no accidents.

8. *Police Force and crimes.*—In obedience to the suggestion contained in paragraph 6 of the Order of Government, No. 656, dated 27th May 1868, every effort was made to throw a sufficient police force into the town. There were 206 men of all ranks. The result was eminently satisfactory. Sanitation was rendered effectual, and the operations of the bands of thieves (Kepmaries) who, as usual, visited the town professionally, were paralysed. There were 351 reported cases of nuisance and other minor offences (last year there were seven), and seventeen convictions for theft, leaving only five or twenty-five per cent. of reported cases among the latter undetected. No other crime occurred, which, considering the circumstances, is satisfactory. A comparison with former years would be unavailing, this being the first occasion on which adequate provision in this respect has been made. Great credit is due to Captain Cunliffe, the Superintendent, for the effective disposition of the force at his command.

9. *Cart-stands and camping grounds.*—For cart-stands seventeen sites were selected, and for cart stands sixteen.

10. *Latrines.*—Of latrines there were altogether forty-four, the contents of which were carted off twice a day. These were calculated to accommodate 500 persons each as an experiment. They were so much more resorted to, and, owing to the concentration of establishment, were kept so much cleaner than the smaller ones, that I have no hesitation in supporting Mr. McIver's recommendation for their general adoption on future occasions. The dry-earth system was well carried out, and in consequence worked satisfactorily. Latrines for males and females were, of course, distinct. The difficulty experienced in enforcing their use last year was hardly felt during the festival under report.

11. *General sanitary condition of town.*—The general cleanliness of the streets was unexceptionable. I have never seen a native town so clean and unoffensive as Conjeveram after 10 A.M. during the late festival. Streets and lanes were swept twice a day, and the refuse carted off to receptacles provided outside the town. There were altogether seventy-two rubbish carts and eighty-two scavengers. Steps should, however, be taken in future by engaging these servants earlier, to secure a larger number than it was found possible this year to draft from Madras and its neighbourhood.

12. *Watering of streets.*—The streets were watered as usual.

13. *Rules.*—Copies of the same sanitary rules as were sanctioned last year were freely distributed about the town.

14. *Conduct of Officers.*—Having thus described the arrangements and the manner in which they have been carried out, I have the honour to refer you for supplementary information to Mr. McIver's report, and to hope that you will be able to see reason for satisfaction at the results. That these were due in a great measure to Captain Cunliffe I have already pointed out. The

other officers, however, were not behind him in their efforts to contribute to them. The Assistant Magistrate, Mr. McIver, who was deputed to assist me on the occasion, performed his duty with that energy and moderation with which it should be performed. The Tahsildar, Sami Naidoo, was active and industrious; and Mr. Assistant Apothecary Chadwick gave much time and unwearied attention to general work and to details, both in his capacity of Health Officer and Municipal Commissioner. He might be very useful in Conjeveram.

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15. *Receipts and Expenditure.*—The total expenses, of which an account is enclosed, amount to Rupees 1253-5-1, being Rupees 55-5-5 less than last year. To this the Municipality contributed Rupees 600, leaving Rupees 653-5-1 to be made up from other sources. The pagoda formerly contributed a fair share, and for obvious reasons, I think that one-fourth of the total is their proper contribution. This would be Rupees 313-5-3. Mr. McIver and the Tahsildar told me that the church wardens had offered Rupees 50. I directed the Tahsildar to inform them that it was so inadequate that I could not sanction its receipt without your orders. Their other expenses have not, as far as I can discover, been allowed to diminish, and I fail to see any reason why they should retrench in this particular item. This, however, is a matter for your decision. Supposing that the above Rupees 50 is accepted, there remains a balance of Rupees 603-5-1, for the disbursement of which the sanction of Government must be requested.

From L. McIVER, Esq., Assistant Magistrate, to the Acting Joint Magistrate of the Madras district; dated Conjeveram, 4th June 1869, No. 34.

I have the honour to report that the annual festival, the Brahma Utchavam, in this place terminated on Tuesday the 1st instant. The pilgrims have all departed, and the town has resumed its ordinary appearance. The number of strangers, who visited Conjeveram during the continuance of the festival, is variously computed at from 100,000 to 140,000. The daily returns of the tramway passengers, and of the persons who passed the municipal turnpikes, I enclose herewith. By the tramway 10,852 persons in all were conveyed to the town, 117,037 are reported to have entered by the toll-gates; making nearly 130,000 accounted for.

2. The results of the sanitary and general arrangements were very satisfactory. No case of cholera or other epidemic was reported, and the general health of the inhabitants was not affected by the visitation. Although the town was infested with gang of Kepmaries, the number of reported thefts was proportionately trifling. The car was in the streets for an unusually short time, and no accident occurred during its progress, or at any other procession.

3. The usual conservancy precautions were observed. As you are aware all the temporary latrines, thirty-nine in number, were completed before the third day, which is the real commencement of the festival. They were very largely used, in this respect, differing from all previous occasions. I am informed that they were used by almost all the strangers, except the higher classes, who seem to have an unconquerable aversion to this innovation. The resident population made little or no use of them. From the daily reports of the several Latrine Overseers, I calculated that from twenty-five to thirty per cent. of the strangers made daily use of them, and even this computation is probably below the mark. Success in this respect is, I am convinced, almost entirely owing to the activity displayed by the police in arresting for nuisance. Some 200 convictions for this offence in the first few days speedily prevented its repetition.

4. The latrines were built, as on former occasions, of cocoanut leaf keets and bamboos, with the usual trenches and supplies of dry earth. They were placed in pairs on the sites hitherto used and on some new ones. To each of the permanent latrines was added a temporary one. The former being reserved for females, the latter for males. Of the thirty-nine erected thirty-six were of the usual dimensions averaging forty feet by thirty feet. The remaining three were made on a plan drawn out, and on sites selected and marked off by you. They were each about one hundred yards in length and fifty-eight yards in breadth, and their size appeared to render them so popular that more of the same dimensions might be put up with advantage at future festivals. They are cheaper in erection, and can be more efficiently and economically worked than a proportionate number of smaller ones. The deodorized deposits from all the latrines were removed, twice a day, to pits dug at a suitable distance from the town, and provided with supplies of dry earth, and with Overseers who checked the journeys of the carts.

5. The removal of rubbish from the street was performed by the temporary toties and thirty-four hired carts, under the superintendence of municipal and temporary Overseers; and, considering the difficulty experienced in collecting toties from the other taluqs, the work was fairly done.

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29th June 1869. 5

6. The watering of the streets was allotted in piece-contracts, which were well-executed in Chinna Cunchi, and the low-lying parts of the town. I cannot say the same of the upper town, where, owing probably to the scarcity of water, the work was poorly done.

7. The various public tanks and ponds were inspected previously to the commencement of the festival, and assigned for the several purposes of drinking, bathing, and watering cattle. Notice Boards and a Police Constable at each secured attention to these restrictions, which appeared very acceptable to the people. The supply of water was, I understand, much below the average, but the tanks and wells of Conjeveram are so numerous that any serious inconvenience could scarcely have arisen.

8. The police arrangements are worthy of all praise. A body of 208 men of all ranks, most ably disposed, and under the immediate orders of the Superintendent, contributed in a very great measure to the successful result of the feast. The streets, tanks, latrines, and roads outside the town were amply provided with constables, and all the ceremonies were conducted under the care of a strong detachment of police.

9. Having regard to the experience of previous years, the numerous prosecutions for nuisance, and the quantity of other crime especially of undetected crime, with the complete absence of accident at the late festival, show at once, the necessity and the advantage of a large body of police at these gatherings. The police and other Government servants very properly abstained from using their influence to induce the people to pull the car. Much credit is due to the temple people for having got it back to its station within thirty hours.

10. The enclosed statements will show the detailed account of police charges and magisterial cases during the ten days. There were twenty-four cases of theft reported from which resulted nine-teen charges and seventeen convictions. Three hundred and forty-nine charges under Section 48 of the Police Act produced 312 convictions. The difference between the numbers arising from the release of several bandymen, without punishment. Of the above cases, 215 charges were for nuisance terminating in 209 convictions. One

Clause 7.

case of supposed grievous hurt is still pending in the Sub-Magistrate's Court. I have much pleasure in informing you that since your departure the Tahsildar and Mr. Chadwick, Apothecary in charge of the Dispensary, have been indefatigable in forwarding the sanitary arrangements.

11. I am assured you will be glad to thank Captain Cunliffe for the share he has taken in the proceedings.

12. Hereto is subjoined a detailed account of the expenditure. The Municipal Commissioners contributed Rupees 600 towards the expenses. The Collector sanctioned an equal expenditure on account of Government. The wardens of the Chinna Cunchi Vishnu Pagoda decline to give more than 50 rupees towards defraying the expense of the festival.

13. I have followed the custom hitherto observed of paying small gratuities to such of the regular municipal employees as have had their work greatly increased by the festival. The Village Moonasiffs were of considerable service in beating up extra coolies, at a time when we were unable to procure any. The sums paid in this way are lower than on former occasions, but were still, I think, sufficient. I could find no precedent for allowing an item of 75 rupees for water and butter-milk pandala, and felt, therefore, obliged to strike it out of the account.

14. As you are fully informed of the circumstances under which the latrines were built, and of the manner in which the contractor performed his undertaking, I have left it for your consideration whether any further sum should be paid to him or not. You will see, by the accounts, that he received Rupees 151 as an advance in addition to 40 rupees for digging trenches. Eleven enclosures accompany this letter.

15. All receipts and vouchers will be sent to the Collector.

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

No. 163. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1869, No. 880.

The Government are gratified to learn that the sanitary arrangements adopted during the annual festival recently held at Conjeveram were so eminently successful, as evidenced by the immunity of the town from any epidemic or sickness, notwithstanding the long duration of the feast and the large attendance of pilgrims.

2. The result reflects much credit on the exertions of Mr. Crole and Mr. McIver, the Acting Joint and Assistant Magistrates, ably aided as they were by Captain Cunliffe, Superintendent of Police, whose judicious arrangements, no doubt, contributed greatly to the preservation of the public health and to the maintenance of order within the town.

3. The expenditure incurred on the above account amounted to Rupees 1253-5-1; towards meeting which, it is observed, the Municipality of Conjeveram contributed Rupees 600. It is hoped that other Municipalities will consider it equally their duty to afford similar aid on like occasions. Deducting, therefore, the sums noted in the margin, the Government sanction the disbursement of the balance, viz., Rupees 603-5-1.

Total expenditure.....	Rs.	As.	P.
Deduct—	1,253	5	1
Municipal contribution.....	600		
Pagoda Church Wardens.....	50		
	650	0	0
Total...	603	5	1

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of the Madras district.

- „ Inspector General of Police.
- „ Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department.
- „ Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ Accountant General.
- „ Board of Revenue.
- „ President of the Municipal Commissions in

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE MAGISTRATE OF THE
MADRAS DISTRICT.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 29th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 29th June 1869, No. 880.

JUNE.
Nos. 162-163.

Expressing satisfaction at the successful sanitary arrangements adopted during the annual festival recently held at Conjeveram, and sanctioning the payment of Rupees 603-5-1 towards defraying the expenses incurred on the occasion.

14

Public Department.

19

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Magistrate of the Madras
(Maiden 19th June 1869-1870)

Order thereon 29 June 1869-1870

A. A. W. W.

The Government
are gratified to learn
that the Sanitary arrange-
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Fest

Fast and the large attendance of pilgrims.

2. The result reflects much credit on the exertions of Mr. Cole and Mr. Butler, the Acting Joint, and Assistant Magistrates, ably aided as they were, by Captain Cunliffe, Superintendent of Police. The judicious arrangements, no doubt, contributed greatly to the preservation of the public health and to the maintenance of order within the town.

3. The expenditure incurred on the above ~~was~~ amounted to Rs 603-5-1, towards meeting which, it is observed, the Municipality of Coimbatore

Total Expenditure — Rs 603-5-1
 Deduct
 Municipal Contribution — 600-
 Subsidy — 50 650-
 Repaid Churchwardens — 50 600-
 Balance — Rs 3-5-1

contributed Rs 600. It is hoped that other Municipalities will consider it equally their duty to afford similar aid on like occasions. Deducting therefore the sums voted in this margin, the Government sanction the disbursement of the balance viz. Rs 603-5-1.

To the Mag. Coimbatore District.
 " Insp. Genl. of Police
 " Insp. Genl. & Secy. to Govt.
 " Sanitary Commissioner
 " Accountant General
 " Board of Revenue
 " President of the M. Commission in all Districts

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