

1. Number of pages. 1
2. Date of repair. 7-1-37
3. Initials of Referencer

M.R.O. 1-30,000-10-10-37

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

948

Press

Mis.

Dated

12-7-

1937

Not to be folded or roughly handled

[Signature]

1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th July 1869.

No. 64. Read the following letter from the Officiating Magistrate of Madura, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Periacolum, 16th June 1869, No. 151.

Adverting to paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of Government, Public Department, dated 9th April last, No. 460, I have the honour to report that I deputed Mr. LeFanu, the Assistant Magistrate, to superintend and carry out the requisite sanitary arrangements during the late Chittra festival at Madura. I beg to forward a copy of his report (and of its enclosure) on the subject.

One copy of the report.
One copy of a statement of expenditure.

2. A saving of Rupees 194-5-0 out of the amount sanctioned by Government has been effected, chiefly by the employment of convict labour for digging trenches in the latrines, for sinking wells, &c., under authority of Government accorded in paragraph 2 of the Government order quoted in the preceding paragraph.

3. It is gratifying to observe that no disease of any kind prevailed during the festival. There were only nine cases of petty theft and eight of nuisance. Eight of the former were detected, and the prisoners concerned in seven of them were convicted and punished.

4. Mr. LeFanu has fully described the details of the arrangements made during the festival.

From W. J. H. LEFANU, Esq., Assistant Magistrate of Madura, to the Officiating Magistrate of Madura; dated 27th May 1869, No. 145.

With reference to your instructions embodied in the Government Order, dated 9th April 1869, No. 460, I have the honour to submit a report upon the measures adopted for the sanitation of the town of Madura during the late Chittra festival.

2. The festival commenced on the 23rd and ended on the 28th April 1869; but the cattle fair began on the 22nd, and lasted till the 30th idem.

3. The rules for observance this year were identical with those published last year, with this exception that no collection was made from the owners of bandies halting during the festival in the places appointed by the Magistrate. The fees so collected last year were appropriated to a fund for the maintenance of Cavalgars to guard the bullocks. It occurred to me that this might, perhaps, be the reason why the people did not avail themselves of the halting-places appointed in the town, but preferred halting in the pettahs. I did not, however, find that the number of persons occupying these appointed halting-places increased in consequence of this alteration, and as it will appear below, the private arrangements entered into by the visitors with the Cavalgars have resulted so happily that any interference on the part of the authorities would have been wholly uncalled for.

4. Bullocks for sale were kept, as usual, in the waste land near the tamkom.

5. Carts with their bullocks halted as in last year in the river bed, in the bandy-pettahs, in the places round the pagoda, and in the main-guard. The number of bandy-pettahs this year in the town is twenty-two against twenty in the last year. *

6. Sixteen temporary latrines were constructed this year, *i. e.*, two in excess of last year, the Acting Police Superintendent having represented that they were required at Sandapettah and Teppacolam.

7. Sixteen toties, (*i. e.*, one for each latrine,) were employed this year. Last year one toty was required to attend two latrines, which was a piece of mistaken economy. The latrines were kept tolerably clean, which was as much as could be expected. Any one who has had experience of such matters will admit that tolerable cleanliness is the most that can be attained.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th July 1869.*

8. The latrines were completed with the trenches dug out therein by the convicts on the 22nd, a day previous to the commencement of the festival.

9. The Sub-Magistrate in his report leads me to understand that he did not meet with such support from the Municipality as was desirable. In the absence of the Vice-President, I shall make no further remark than to say that, without active cooperation on the part of the Municipal establishment, it is impossible that sanitary arrangements can be carried out on a large scale. The Municipality have in hand carts of special construction suitable for scavenging, which cannot be obtained elsewhere in Madura, and it appears to me that it would be a mistake to suppose, that, because a certain sum had been appropriated by Government for sanitary purposes, the Municipal establishment was thereby relieved from making unusual exertions during the festival.

10. The size* of the several latrines was the same as in last year. Trenches were dug in them by convicts. Each latrine had a partition in the centre to separate the part set aside for males from that assigned to females. The walls and partitions were constructed of cocoanut leaves and bamboos. The latrines, as in the last year, had small pictures painted to distinguish the latrines for males from those for females. The trenches dug in the bed of the river were seven instead of six as in last year. Each trench was hundred feet in length, twenty-one feet in breadth, and seven feet in depth. Of these trenches four were set apart for human beings, and three for cattle. Besides these, ten ring-wells were dug in the river, five near the cattle-market, and the other five near Vaudyar.

11. Three water-pandals were erected, and Brahmins were appointed to distribute water. Rain fell on the days noted in the margin, and the temperature was somewhat cooler than before. The tanks and ponds, at a short distance from the cattle-market, had a small supply of water, consequently the demand for drinking water was not so great as in last year.

12. The health of the people and cattle during the festival was good; no disease of any kind prevailed.

The following statement shows the number of cases charged and disposed of :—

Nature of cases.	Number of cases charged.		Convicted.		Discharged.		Balance.	
	Cases.	Persons.	Number of cases.	Number of persons.	Number of cases.	Number of persons.	Number of cases.	Number of persons.
Theft ...	9	10	7	8	1	1	1	1
Nuisance. ...	8	45	8	45	...	...	...	...

13. The Sub-Magistrate estimates the number of bullocks brought for sale this year at 15,000. The figure is, I am inclined to think, greatly exaggerated. One of the best authorities (the headman of the Cavalgars) estimated the number at about 5000. I reported last year that about 10,000 bullocks came for sale, but I have since thought that this number was excessive. In this, however, is not included the draught-bullocks which came in bandies. It is satisfactory to be able to report that not a single case of cattle theft occurred during the festival. It will be recollected that last year one pair of bullocks was stolen. The whole loss this year was one bullock which is admitted to have strayed away. The Cavalgars, however objectionable in a certain light the black mail levied by them may be, have certainly performed their self-imposed duties with the most creditable fidelity. It is much to be regretted that such services cannot be made more generally available for the custody of property.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th July 1869.*

14. The accounts rendered by the several toll-gates show that 7833 bandies entered the town during the festival. The Sub-Magistrate says that his inquiries have led him to believe that this is under the mark, in which again I do not agree with him, as, on one day of the festival, all bandies in the town leave it over night and return the next morning. I would infer, therefore, that a large number of the bandies were reckoned twice, if not oftener.

15. The Sub-Magistrate thinks that the visitors were 100,000. Here, again, I disagree with him. Last year 60,000 was considered a fair margin, and on the great morning of the festival this year, I had an opportunity of comparing the crowd with that assembled last year, and I have no doubt that the number of visitors was less this year than it was last. On the morning in question last year, the causeway was impassable for some two or three hours, as also were all the approaches to it, whereas on the same morning this year, I was able to drive across without interruption. This, no doubt, was partly due to the exertions of the police, and partly to the heavy rain which fell on the previous night, which deterred many from attending.

16. The expenditure on sanitation amounts to Rupees 307-3-0, (as shown in the statements submitted herewith,) falling short of the charges incurred last year by Rupees 171-4-8. This decrease is mainly attributable to the fact of convict labour having been placed at our disposal by Government. The saving thereby effected would have been still greater, had it been permitted to make use of their services during, as well as previous to, the festival. This, however, was impossible, owing to the crowded state of the streets, and the danger of the convicts escaping.

17. I feel it to be my duty, in concluding this report, to state that, however, satisfactory sanitary arrangements on such occasions may be, they are, as far at least as this country is concerned, in their infancy as yet. I am the more constrained to say this, as, on a former occasion, when entrusted with similar arrangements, I was led to express a too sanguine belief in the results produced : a belief which I have subsequently seen reason to question.

18. The habits of the natives are, as a rule, entirely at variance with the rules prescribed for their guidance; and the police, as might naturally be expected, do not look upon offences against sanitary laws as of a very heinous nature. The result of this is that, as mentioned above, only eight cases (involving forty-five individuals) were tried during the festival. I could at any time have arrested fifty persons for committing nuisance within a quarter of an hour. The waste ground in every direction was one mass of filth, and as I walked up towards the cattle-market, the fields on either side were covered with excrementitious matter, and dotted over here and there with natives in a sitting posture. This was within a hundred yards of the large latrine and in the immediate vicinity of the chief camp. I saw every reason then to anticipate the outbreak of an epidemic; but, fortunately, a violent storm came on from the north-west with a deluge of rain, which, to a great extent, purified the polluted atmosphere. This, however, could not have been calculated upon, and I have no doubt that it was the means of averting disease. In writing this, I do not wish in any way to reflect upon the police, for such a state of things is only to be expected. Sanitary precautions being the offspring of enlightenment, those who do not understand their object can hardly be blamed for lacking zeal to enforce them. No doubt in course of time this will improve. But I have felt bound to bring the fact forward, as, in such reports as these, the great temptation is to dwell only on the bright side of the case.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1869, No. 948.

It is satisfactory to learn that, notwithstanding the large concourse of people who attended the late Chittra festival at Madura, there was no out break of disease.

2. The Government notice, with regret, the want of active cooperation, on the part of the Municipality, in aid of the public efforts made for the sanitation of the town during the late festival. It is obviously the duty of all Municipal bodies, on such occasions, to contribute to the extent of their means, and this was exemplified in the case of the Municipality of Conjeveram at the last annual festival there held, when a grant of Rupees 600 was made from its funds.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th July 1869.

3. The expenditure incurred, viz., Rupees 307-3 0, as per statement submitted, is sanctioned.

4. A copy of Mr. LeFanu's report will be communicated to the Inspector General of Police with reference to paragraphs 17 and 18, from which it would seem that greater activity should have been shown by the police in the prevention of nuisances.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Magistrate of Madura.

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

Ed. J. Wright.

Cost of 1869 Madura.

PUBLIC.

To

THE AGT MAGISTRATE OF MADURA
Secy. &c. &c.

Dated July 1869.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 12th July 1869, No. 948.

JULY.
Nos. 64-65.

Expressing satisfaction at the non-prevalence of disease at the late Chittan festival at Madura, noting, with regret, the want of cooperation, on the part of the Municipality, in aid of the efforts made for the sanitation of the town, and sanctioning the expenditure incurred on the occasion, viz., Rupees 307-3-0.

4) 7 ster
len
Public Department
n
nee

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

from the
Offg. Magistrate of Madras.

(Here enters 16 June 1894 No. 157)

Order thereon. 12th July 1894 No. 940.

non

It is satisfactory
to learn that, notwith-
standing the large con-
course of people who
attended the late Chittur
Festival at Madras, there
was no outbreak of disease.

2. The Government note
with regret the want of
active co-operation on the
part of the Municipality
in aid of the public
efforts made for the

Sanitation

of the Town during the late Festival. It is obviously the duty of all Municipal bodies, on such occasions, to contribute to the extent of their means, and this was exemplified in the case of the Municipality of Conjevaram at the last annual Festival there held, when a grant of Rs. 600 was made from its funds.

3. The expenditure incurred viz. Rs. 307-3- as per Statement submitted, is sanctioned.

4. A copy of Mr. Le Pan's report will be communicated to the Inspector General of Police with reference to Paras 17 & 18, from which it

5) it would seem that greater activity should have been shown by the Police in the prevention of nuisances.

W/ The As. Magistrate of Madura
Accountant General with the Statement
Inspector General of Police
Sanitary Commissioner
Inspector General of Mad. Hosp.
Board of Revenue -

Cont. of 186 } **Madras.**

Part No.

To
The H. H. H. of Madras
for

Dated July. 12. } 1869, No. 428.
Recd

Nos. 64. 65

Apr 1894 2368

Expressing satisfaction
of the non-fulfillment of
the order of the late Council
of Madras, noting
with regret the want of
co-operation on the part of
the Municipalities and of
the H. H. H. of the Madras
for the year, the H. H. H.
of the Madras for the year 1869.