

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

510

Press

Mis. —

Dated

27-4-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th April 1870.*

No. 175. Read the following letter from the Acting Magistrate of Tinnevely, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trichendoor, 15th April 1870, No. 212.

I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, reporting on the sanitary arrangements made during the annual Masi Tirunal festival* in the month of February last, and to request sanction for the disbursement of Rupees 33-10-0, being a portion of the amount expended, *i. e.*, Rupees 197-2-0, the balance having been made good by contribution from the Pagoda, and by the sale of materials.

2. I am now taking steps, as suggested in the last paragraph of Mr. Grigg's report, to secure a new site of 50 acres for future encampments.

From H. B. GRIGG, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, to the Acting Magistrate of Tinnevely, dated Ottapedaram, 1st April 1870, No. 51.

I have the honour to report on the Masi Tirunal festival lately held at Trichendoor.

2. The festival began on the 7th February, and lasted until the 18th, but the great days were Sunday and Monday, 13th and 14th idem.

3. I proceeded, as instructed by you, to the place on the 7th, and remained there until the end of the feast, when all the pilgrims and most of the bullocks brought for sale had left the town.

4. Owing to the adverse nature of the season, and the lateness of the crop, the number of pilgrims was not so great as last year. On the night of the 7th day, there were 25,000 pilgrims in the town. On the 6th day, there were between 7000 and 8000 present. Probably altogether about 40,000 persons arrived.

5. The total number of bandies bringing pilgrims was 2000. The cattle brought for sale numbered about 7000.

6. I am happy to report that not a single case of sickness occurred, and though my dresser was in attendance, with necessary medicines at a chuttrum in the middle of the town, there was no need of his services. He was, however, useful as a Sanitary Inspector. More than a month has now elapsed, and no cases of sickness have been reported, excepting two cases of a mild form of cholera. I, however, do not attribute the outbreak of cholera in some villages in the Tenkarei Taluq between Tuticorin and Trichendoor in any way to the festival. It probably had its origin in the town of Yeral on the Tambrapurni, chiefly inhabited by Shanars, and always excessively filthy.

7. The absence of sickness at the festival is remarkable, as the season was very unfavourable owing to the excessive rains. The broad plain used last year as a camping ground could not be used this year on account of the dampness of the soil on part of it, water was still lying. However, we were able to picket the cattle brought for sale on the ridge or bank which is in the plain, and also allowed the people to dig trenches and throw up earth for standing ground. But the pilgrims and their bandies were kept on the high ground near the Vallicolam tank.

8. There was an extra Police force present, and I am glad to report the almost total absence of crime. Two cases only of a somewhat serious nature were reported. The Kuravers seemed to have been scared from the place. The Divisional Police Inspector, assisted by the Head-quarters Head Constable, carried out my instructions with energy and success. Before the pilgrims arrived I had the town thoroughly cleaned and all rubbish burnt. The same was done after the feast. Not a backyard was permitted to remain filthy. The people, it was pleasing to observe, seemed to appreciate the wisdom of such sanitary precautions, and in most cases did the work themselves.

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10000
11.8

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th April 1870.*

Only a few cases of neglect were brought to my notice. In carrying out this thorough cleansing of the town, I was much assisted by Sooriyaamoorthy Pillai, the District Salt Deputy Collector, whilst the Sub-Magistrate, Sheik Ibrahim Sahib, was untiring in his efforts to make and keep the town clean. There were nine large latrines erected this year against six in last, and eighteen toties employed. They were placed in convenient places to the south, west and north of the town, and with one exception were well-frequented. I found it most necessary to compel the pilgrims and others to go to them. Every one caught committing nuisance was arrested and proceeded against under Section 48, Act XXIV. of 1859. Persons* were punished in small fines, amounting in all to Rupees 170-4-0.

* 273.

9. I submit, for your consideration, whether it would not be desirable to set apart money realized in this way at this and other festivals in this district towards defraying the expenses of sanitary arrangements.

10. As the place was plentifully supplied with water, it was only necessary to erect two water pandals, one at the Uchini Makalliamankovil, and another at the Pilliarkovil. There were four last year.

11. Though the number of latrines was greater by three than last year, and the total cost (Rupees 187-2-0) against Rupees 187-13-6 of last year, yet the balance due, after the sale of materials, and for which I now beg the sanction of Government may be obtained is rather less, viz., Rupees 33-10-0 to Rupees 35-2-6 of last year. (The account is herewith enclosed.) The Pagoda Trustees subscribed, as last year, Rupees 110.

12. The rules notified to be observed were the same as last year. They were posted in various parts of the town.

13. I regret to have to report that the peace of the town was in danger of being disturbed by a riot between the right and left-hand castes. It appears that some of the leading Shanars not having been treated with due respect at the last festival, not only refused to attend the temple, but threatened to banish from their caste any one who went to the temple or presented an offering there. Under pretence of raising subscriptions for the repairs of the Matam, which stands in the high street leading to the temple, they waylaid every pilgrim that passed and compelled him to pay them his offering. I endeavoured to mediate between the parties, but finding after two days that it was hopeless, I had to forbid their extorting money in this way, and as they had erected an offensive awning in the street, through which the procession had to pass, also to order its removal, to prevent a breach of the peace. I fear this dispute will only continue. I was loath to remove the awning, but as it was only to put up as an insult, and would indubitably have led to a riot, there was no other course open. I should mention that of these leading Shanars of the neighbourhood only one persisted and, I believe, still persists in this course.

14. Before concluding this report, I have to draw your attention to the necessity of reserving a site for a camping ground in future festivals. The southern channel of the Strivycuntam Anicut joins the sea at Trichendoor, and will pass through part of the present camping ground, much of which will probably be taken up by ryots for paddy cultivation. Of the fifty acres or thereabouts which are now used, about nine acres is puttah land. It would be quite possible to reserve the whole, and grant to the Puttahdars lands elsewhere as compensation. I would, however, submit that this site is not a good one. It was too damp for camping this year, and when the adjoining land is placed under wet cultivation, as will undoubtedly be the case, it would probably be much better than at present, as the surplus water in the fields will find its way to the plain. I would, therefore, propose that about fifty acres should be reserved on the south side of the tank near the town. Most of the land is, I learnt from the Superintending Engineer, on too high a level for irrigation. This will be a much more healthy situation, and far probable for the sanitary purposes, as well as the convenience and comfort of the pilgrims. Most of the land is held on puttah, but the Government demand is very low, and I apprehend there would be little difficulty in assigning the Puttahdars lands elsewhere. I beg, therefore, that you will consider favourably the propriety of this course.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th April 1870.*

No. 176. ORDER THEREON, 27th April 1870, No. 510.

His Excellency the Governor in Council considers the arrangements carried out by the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Grigg, on the occasion of the pilgrimage to Trichendoor very satisfactory. The expenditure of Rupees 33-10-0 is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Tinnevely.

- „ Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ Board of Revenue.
- „ Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department.
- „ Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

right hand side reserved. money 40000 rupees

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC.

THE MAGISTRATE OF TINNEVELLY
S. J. & Co.,

Dated April 27th
Recd.

G. O. 27th April 1870. No. 510.

APRIL.
Nos. 175-176.

Sanctioning Rupees 38-10-0, being part of the
sum expended for sanitary arrangements during
the Masi Tirunal festival at Trichendoor.

about 40,000 persons arrived.

N:57.

Sinnerly Head of Magistrate Office
Camp Ottapadaram 1st April 1870.

From Henry B. Grigg Esqre
Of Head Assistant Magistrate
To C. J. Longley Esqre
Of Magistrate
Sinnerly

Sir,

1. I have the honour to report
on the Masi Tirunal festival lately
held at Trichendur.

2. The festival began on the 7th February
and lasted until the 18th, but the great days
were Sunday and Monday, 13th & 14th idem.

3. I proceeded, as instructed by you,
to the place on the 7th, and remained there
until the end of the feast, when all the
pilgrims and most of the bullocks brought
for sale, had left the Town.

4. Owing to the adverse nature of the
Season and the lateness of the Crop, the
number of pilgrims was not so great as
last year. On the night of the 7th day,
there were 25000 pilgrims in the Town.
On the 6th day, there were between seven or
eight thousand present. I saw by the
about 40000 persons.

6. The total number of bandies bringing pilgrims was 2000. The Cattle brought for sale numbered about 7000.

6. I am happy to report that not a single Case of Sickness occurred, and though my Doctor was in attendance with necessary Medicines at a Chultrani in the middle of the Town, there was no need of his services. He was, however, useful as a Sanitary Inspector. More than a month has now elapsed and no Cases of Sickness have been reported, excepting two Cases of a mild form of Cholera. However do not attribute the outbreak of Cholera in some Villages in the Sankar Saluz between Sateorin and Trichendur in any way to the festival. It probably had its origin in the town of Yerai on the Tambapurni, chiefly inhabited by Shanars and always excessively filthy.

1. The absence of sickness at the festival is remarkable, as the season was very unfavourable owing to the excessive rain. The broad plain used last year as a camping ground could not be used this year on account of the dampness of the soil. A part of it, water was still lying. However we were able to pick the cattle brought for sale on the ridge or bank.

which is in the plain, and also allowed
the people to dig trenches and throw up
earth for standing ground. But the pilgrims
and their bandies were kept on the high
ground near the Vallisalam tank.

8 There was an extra Police force present, and I am glad to report the almost total absence of Crime. Two Cases only of a somewhat serious nature were reported. The Thieves seemed to have been scared from the place. The Divisional Police Inspector assisted by the Head Quarters Head Constable, carried out my instructions with energy & success. Before the pilgrims arrived, I had the town thoroughly cleaned & all rubbish burnt. The same was done after the feast. Not a backyard was permitted to remain filthy. The people, it was pleasing to observe, seemed to appreciate the wisdom of such Sanitary precautions and in most Cases, did the work themselves. Only a few Cases of neglect were brought to my notice. In carrying out this thorough cleansing of the town, I was much assisted by Govindamoorthy Pillai, the District Salt Deputy Collector, while the Sub Magistrate Shri K. Srinivasulu Reddy, was

6. untiring in his efforts to make and keep
the town clean. There were 9 large latrines
erected this year against 6 in last, and
618 laties employed. They were placed in
convenient places to the South, West & North
of the town, and with one exception were
well frequented. I found it most ne-
cessary to compel the pilgrims and others
to go to them. Every one caught committing
nuisance was arrested & proceeded against
under Section 48 Act XXIV of 1859. Persons
were punished in small fines, amounting
in all to Rupees 170. 4. -

*273.

9. I submit for your consideration
whether it would not be desirable to set
apart money realized in this way at this
and other festivals in this District towards
defraying the expenses of sanitary arrangements.

10. As the place was plentifully supplied
with water, it was only necessary to erect
two water pandals, one at the Uchini
Mahalliammankovil and another at the
Pillanankovil. There were four last year.

11. Though the number of latrines was
greater by three than last year, & the total
cost (Rupees 187. 2. -) against (Rupees 178. 13. 6)
of last year, yet the balance due, after the
latrines were paid for, was only Rs. 10. 10. 0.

the sanction of Government may be obtained
is rather less, viz Rupees 33. 10. - to Rs. 35. 2. 6
of last year (The account is herewith
enclosed). The Pagoda trustees subscribed
as last year Rupees 110.

12. The rules notified to be observed were
the same as last year. They were posted
in various parts of the town.

13. I regret to have to report that the
peace of the town was in danger of being
disturbed by a riot between the right &
left hand Caste. It appears that
some of the leading Shanars not having
been treated with due respect at the
last festival, not only refused to attend
the temple, but threatened to banish from
their caste any one who went to the temple
or presented an offering there. Under pretence
of raising subscriptions for the repair
of the Matam, which stands in the
high street leading to the temple, they
way-laid every pilgrim that passed and
compelled him to pay them his offering.
I endeavoured to mediate between the
parties, but finding after two days that
it was hopeless, I had to forbid their
extorting money in this way, and as they had
created a great deal of mischief, I had to

through which the procession had to pass, also to
order its removal, to prevent a breach of the peace.
I fear this dispute will only continue. I was loath
to remove the awning, but as it was only to put
up as an insult and would indubitably have
led to a riot, there was no other course open.

I should mention that of these leading sha-
nars of the neighbourhood only one persisted
& I believe still persists in this course.

14. Before concluding this report, I have
to draw your attention to the necessity of
reserving a site for a camping ground
in future festivals. The Southern Channel
of the Shivepantam Anicut joins the sea
at Trichendur and will pass through
part of the present camping ground,
much of which will probably be taken up
by Ryots for paddy cultivation. Of the
50 Acres or thereabouts which are now used,
about 9 acres is puttah land. It would
be quite possible to reserve the whole
and grant to the puttahdars, land
elsewhere as compensation. I would
however submit that this site is not
a good one. It was too damp for
camping this year, and when the adjoining
land is placed under wet cultivation,
as will undoubtedly be the case, it

would probably be much wetter than at
present, as the surplus water in the
field will find its way to the plain.
I would therefore propose that about
50 Acres should be reserved on the south
side of the tank near the town. Most
of the land is, I learnt from the
Superintending Engineer, on a too high
a level for irrigation. This will be a
much more healthy situation, and far
preferable for sanitary purposes,
as well as the convenience & comfort
of the pilgrims. Most of the land is
held on puttah, but the Government
demand is very low, & I apprehend
there would be little difficulty in
assigning the puttahdars' land elsewhere.
I beg therefore that you will con-
sider favourably the propriety of
this course.

I have the
Signed Henry B. Grigg
H. B. Grigg
(True Copy)

C. J. Lawrence
12/10/1891

Account of Expenses incurred in connection with the Masi Festival at Trichendur

Particulars

	Receipt	Disburse
Value of materials for building Latrines and water Sandals	Rs. 20	Rs. 20
Coolies employed in building Latrines and water Sandals		95 3
Men employed in water Sandals and value of pots &c		21 9
Men employed in cleaning Latrines		18
Savings for to clean streets		31 8
Leaving bullock and brandy stand		22 14
Contributed by the Pagoda		8
Value of materials sold	110	
	53 8	163 8
	Balance due	33 10

(True Copy)

Signed, Henry B. Griggs
Off Head of District Magistrate.
C. J. Longley Esq.
Off District Magistrate.

at Trichendur
Benhami Sahib

No 212. Sinnerelly Magistrate's Court at Trichendur 15th April 1870.

From C. J. Longley Esq.
Off District Magistrate.
To The Honourable R. S. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir, I have the honour to forward, copy of a letter from the Off Head of District Magistrate reporting on the Sanitary arrangements made during the annual Masi Festival in the month of February last, and to request sanction for the disbursement of Rupees 33.10. being a portion of the amount expended i.e. Rupees 197.2., the Balance having been made good by contribution from the Pagoda and by the sale of materials. I am now taking steps as suggested in the last para of Mr. Griggs' report to secure a new site of 50 acres for future encampments.

I have the honour to be
Your most obedient servant
C. J. Longley
Off District Magistrate

Propts of testimony
deposited - 13th Nov. 1870
by J. Smith - and paid

J. A. J.

No. 510 27 of 1870
The following information in journal contains
the arrangements carried out by the City
Headmaster Mr. King in the occasion of
of the pilgrimage to Buckhams very satisfactory
The expenditure of Rs. 83. 83. 10 is somewhat

1870

Public Dept

From

The Dy District Magistrate
to
The Chief Secretary

to Government

For visit long

Date 15th

Recd 21

He 212.

No 5208

Requesting sanction

for the disbursement

Rs 83-10- being a portion

the amount expended

under several heads
at Buckhams for
copy of a letter from
of Head of a Brigade
the subject.