

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

526

Press
Mis.

Dated

28-4-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

23-2-37

No. 198. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Hospett, 8th April 1870, No. 42:—

The festival at Mailar, in the Taluq of Huvinhadgali in this district, was held on the 17th, 18th, and 19th of February last, and the Deputy Collector in charge of the Division in which the taluq is situated, L. Vencatappaya, was directed to be present and superintend all sanitary arrangements. I beg to enclose his report describing them, and giving an account of his proceedings. A sum of Rupees 200 was sanctioned by Government in their Proceedings, No. 1683, dated 9th December 1869, of this only Rupees 23-1-1 have been expended.

From L. VENCATAPPAYA, General Deputy Collector, Hurpunhully Division, to the Acting Collector of Bellary, dated Kudlighi, 15th March 1870, No. 39.

I have the honour to report on the sanitary measures adopted, and the expenses incurred, during the festival held at Mailar in this district on the 17th, 18th, and 19th February last.

2. Being engaged in the settlement of Jummahbundy in the Hospett Taluq, I could not proceed to the place till the 14th ultimo, but the Tahsildar of Huvinhadgali Taluq who was, as appointed by me, on the spot on 8th idem, commenced the laying out of the camping ground, clearing away stubble from the fields, &c., in which a fair progress was made before my arrival. Between the 14th and 16th the remaining works, such as building two latrines, a police station-house, a shed for hospital, &c., were completed, and the streets of the village which were very dirty cleared.

3. The feast was held on a small hill called "Maridi," situated within half a mile from the village, between which and the river Tungabadra, the pilgrims halted, occupying about two to three square miles of ground quite unconnected with the village.

4. The river Tungabadra was the only source of drinking water for the pilgrims, though a small pond in the middle of the camp contained sufficient quantity of water though of an inferior quality, which was used for all other purposes. There was no necessity to keep any watch to permit the river water from being fouled, as the stream was very rapid and would allow nothing which was offensive to collect. A number of round holes, about a yard in diameter, were dug around the pond in question, and water was let into these holes, from which alone the people were permitted to take the water; and they were strictly prohibited from setting their feet in the pond itself, an arrangement by which the water was found after the festival was over, as clean as it was before its commencement, notwithstanding it was used by nearly 10,000 people daily. At each hole, a number of round earthen pials about two feet high were built, over which troughs were fixed for the purpose of watering cattle, and coolies were employed to keep these troughs constantly filled. Many pilgrims preferred to water their cattle at this pond which was right in the middle of their tents, to taking them to the river, a distance of from half to one mile.

5. A street thirty yards broad was marked through the middle of the camp extending from the river to the "Maridy," where the festival was held, and several others of twelve to fifteen yards broad were laid out parallel to this on each side. At right angles to these one wide road twenty yards broad was made cutting the camp through its whole breadth.

6. The pilgrims began to arrive on the morning of the 16th, before which nearly all the merchants came and pitched their tents; during the 16th and 17th there was nothing but an incessant flow of bandies and people from all directions, especially from the Darwar side. Assisted by the Tahsildar and the Police Inspector of Hadgally Taluq, I found no great difficulty to keep the streets, originally marked out, perfectly free from encroachments, and the whole place when fully occupied looked like the camp of a well-disciplined British troop, the bandies of the pilgrims standing in one line and the bullocks in another in their front on each side of the several streets. A

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large tent cloth was spread over two or three bandies standing in a line, under which the owners that were not provided with regular tents were put up.

7. By the 17th February all had arrived, and on the 18th, which was the principal day of the feast, there was hardly a new arrival. On the night of the 18th, pilgrims began to return, and on the night of 19th there was not a single bandy to be seen in the whole camp, except a few that belonged to the merchants, who generally remain two or three days longer than the pilgrims.

8. In accordance with an engagement previously entered into, the ryots of Mailar very carefully kept the place clean by constantly removing the cowdung and other rubbish, which is a very valuable manure for their fields. Formerly it appears that the village Reddy and a few influential ryots only took all the manure deposited by the pilgrims, but this time the whole of the ryots were called in, and were told that they were at liberty to take it, provided they kept the place clean. They were very glad to do so, and we had thus the ryots of the whole village together with their agricultural servants to sweep the place all day long, without the least expense to Government. The Medical Officer at first suggested that cattle should be kept separate from their owners, but I could not accede to this, as the owners would thereby experience a great deal of inconvenience, while, on the other hand, the cleanliness of the place could be perfectly preserved without any additional trouble or expense on this account.

9. Two latrines were built, but they were not much used; the Medical Officer who attended the festival agreed with me in thinking that it was better that they were not used, as in the absence of toties to clean them they would create more offensive smell in the camp, than the nuisance committed here and there in the open places. There were no toties procurable, I therefore employed some chucklers to cover over human excretion wherever seen in the vicinity of the camp. This I found to be the best and the only means available to keep the camp free from offensive smell. There are several large and deep channels within a few hundred yards of the camp, through which the drainage of the country finds its way into the river; and these channels were chiefly resorted to by the pilgrims for purposes of nature. With the small number of Police (twenty men of all ranks) that was at my command, I could not do more than placing a couple of Constables at each of the high spots adjoining the camp, to prevent the people from going to the channels on the windward, and to direct them to go out to the furthest channel in the opposite direction. It is, however, satisfactory to find that we were able to keep the extensive camp sufficiently clean as to preserve the good health of the great multitude of people without the least necessity for the Apothecary that was in attendance to open his medicine box.

10. The bandies and the cattle were counted while standing in the camp by all the Taluq Goomastahs, each taking a number of streets for his share on the evening of the 18th, before the pilgrims began to depart, with the following results:—

Bandies.

Large bandies, each drawn by six to twelve bullocks...	3,170
Ordinary carts.....	1,487
	4,657
Bullocks.....	22,984
Horses and Tattoos.....	300

The number of pilgrims was estimated as follows:—

Persons.

At eight persons in each large bandy	25,360
At six do. in each ordinary cart.....	8,922
Foot passengers.....	10,000
Total...	44,282

These figures cannot be said to be very correct, except so far as to furnish as a basis on which to frame an estimate as accurate as possible, and I am inclined to think that the number of pilgrims has not differed materially from that of the last year, which was estimated at 40,000.

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11. The number of Police present was one Inspector, two Deputies, and seventeen Constables, supplemented by fifty Cuttubadies, but in an extensive camp like this, the force was entirely inadequate for the various duties connected with the feast. I am glad to say, however, that only four cases of petty theft involving a total loss of twelve rupees were reported, of which two cases were detected.

12. The following is the statement of expenditure incurred on the account:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Building Latrines.....	5	1	0
Do. Police Station and Hospital.....	5	10	4
Laying out Streets and levelling Grounds.....	6	0	6
Price of Water-Troughs and Pots.....	1	5	3
Filling in water in Troughs for Cattle at the Pond.....	3	0	0
Covering places of nuisance.....	2	0	0
Total...	23	1	1

13. On the day following that of my arrival at Mailar, I received information that the Reddy of the village and certain others were in the habit of extorting money at the rate of one to two rupees per shop, from the merchants that attended the feast in previous years, and that they were attempting to do the same this year. It appears that if any merchant refused to pay the rate, his shop would be removed to a corner, where he could not sell his articles so readily and so advantageously as in that from which he was removed; the merchants were, therefore, obliged to submit to the practice. It was further reported that the above persons also exacted fruits, sweetmeats, &c., under the designation of "Pasghy" from each shopkeeper selling those articles. The first charge was denied by the accused, but the second was partially admitted. The Reddy and Curnum asserted that they had a right to receive the "Pasghy," and that it was mentioned in the "Revazuputti," (a list showing the rates of fees which the village authorities are entitled to receive from the inhabitants,) as one of the sources of their emoluments. They, however, declared that it was perfectly voluntary on the part of the traders.

14. I sent for the "Revazuputta" from the taluq, and found in it, among others, the following entry, "Bazaar vartana, Rupees 1-8-0." This the village authorities say was understood to include the "Pasghy" received from the shopkeepers during the feast, but I consider that it applies only to the shops kept by the inhabitants of the villages throughout the year. These village authorities, however, did not dare to insist on their right to the "Pasghy;" on the contrary, they readily agreed to resign it, saying that they would lose very little by doing so. Thereupon I personally went round the camp and informed all the merchants and shopkeepers that they need not pay any thing to the village or other authorities on any account. At this order the merchants, especially the poorer shopkeepers, were greatly rejoiced, and they looked as if they were released from a taxation to which they were previously subjected. The village authorities said that they only received "Pasghy" as it was voluntarily paid by the shopkeepers, but it was never so understood by the people at large, and the merchants took it for an authorized tax. As such a misconception is likely to prevail in other similar festivals, I would suggest that a Proclamation of the kind, alluded to in Government Order, No. 3220, dated 21st December last, may be published in all future festivals of this sort.

15. As for the charge of extorting money in previous years, I wished to prosecute the parties concerned, but the merchants would not come forward to complain, and I did not summon them for the purpose, as the chances of conviction appeared to be too poor.

No. 199.

ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1870, No. 526.

The Government consider the arrangements made for the protection of the health of the large number of pilgrims attending at Mailar, in the Bellary District,

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28th April 1870.*

most satisfactory and creditable to the Deputy Collector, Venkatappaya, and the
Tahsildar of Huvinhadgali.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Bellary.

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

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

No. 42

Date,

Camb Ramandray Taluk
Hospett 5th April 1870

From,

J. H. Master Esquire, J.

COLLECTOR OF
BELLARY,

To,

The Honorable E. L. Ellis C. B.
Chief Secretary to Government
C. Madras

Sir,

The festival at Mykon in the Taluk of Mysur has gone in this district was held on the 17th, 18th and 19th of February last, and the Deputy Collector in charge of the division in which the Taluk is situated, L. Venkatakraya was directed to be present and superintend all sanitary arrangements. He is to forward his report of the festival, and give an account of his proceedings. A copy of the report was forwarded by the Mysur Taluk on the 23rd of this inst. Express 23rd 1. I have been instructed.

I have the honor to be
Your most Obedient Servant
J. H. Master
Collector

Govt. of 1870

PUBLIC.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF BELLARY.

&c,

&c,

&c,

Dated April, 28th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 28th April 1870, No. 526.

APRIL.

Nos. 198-199.

Considering the arrangements made for the protection of the health of the large number of pilgrims attending at Mysur in the Bellary District, to be most satisfactory and available to the Deputy Collector, Venkatakraya, and the Tahsildar of Mysur.



SEITZ

Dated, 8th April 1870 No. 42

To,

To
The Secretary to
the
Executive
Committee

Indonesian

Received, *Atty. Gen.*

10572

Concerning the report of
 the Bishop of Exeter and
 others to the Committee
 of the House of Commons
 relative to the
 proposed alterations in
 the law relating to
 the property of
 the poor -
 I have the honor to
 acknowledge the receipt
 of your letter of the
 10th inst. and in reply
 to inform you that the
 Committee have not yet
 had time to consider
 the report, but will do so
 as soon as possible.

no 526. 28 April / 70.

The Government considers the arrangements
 made for the protection of the dead for
 the large number of persons attending at
 the service in the city of London and especially
 in the City of London.

Mr. Henry
 Huntington
 Pres of the
 Nat of Ind
 9/15-

22/4.

198-2861

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

Public

The Collector of Bellary

Dated April 28

Recd.

Encl.

O. O. 28 April 1870, No. 526

Nos. 497

Considering the arrangements
made for the protection of the
health of the large number of
pilgrims attending at the
in the Bellary district as the
factory, & as the
St. Peter's Venkateswara and
the Talukdar of the district.

The Government is
made for the protection
the large number of
pilgrims attending at the
factory, & as the
St. Peter's Venkateswara and
the Talukdar of the district.

6/2/70
Mr. Bellary
Collector
Bellary
1/2/70

J. D.