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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 804

Press
Mis.

Dated

28-6

19

1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
28th June 1870.*

No. 102. Read the following letter from the Acting Magistrate of the Madras District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Sydapet, 13th June 1870, No. 118 :—

I have the honour to forward the report of Mr. Chamberlain on the sanitary arrangements adopted on the occasion of the late annual festival at Conjeveram.

2. There was a great falling off in the attendance of pilgrims this year. Mr. Chamberlain estimates their number at only 33,000, whereas last year the strangers visiting Conjeveram during the festival were computed to amount to nearly 130,000. This result is to be attributed to the notices which were circulated all over the country warning persons against attending the festival on account of the scarcity of water and the likelihood there was of the re-appearance of cholera, which had been lurking about the town for several months previously.

3. Notwithstanding that all that was possible was done in the way of carrying out sanitary and police arrangements, I regret to say that cholera broke out on the 13th ultimo, and that between that date and the 22nd, the day on which the feast terminated, fifty-seven cases were reported, of which forty-one proved fatal. The disease has not yet subsided, and a report of the progress up to the 8th instant has been given in my letter to Government of the 10th instant, No. 116.

4. Great credit is due to Captain Cunliffe for his active supervision of the police arrangements, which were most effective. Mr. Chamberlain took a great interest in the duty assigned to him on this occasion, and discharged it very efficiently. The Tahsildar Sami Naidoo was most zealous in promoting the work of sanitation, and the Apothecary Mr. Chadwick, and his assistant, exerted themselves to the utmost to prevent the spread of cholera.

5. The total expenditure amounted to Rupees 1250, which is Rupees 3-5-1 less than last year. Of this the Municipality contributed Rupees 600, and the Pagoda Church-wardens Rupees 50, leaving a balance of Rupees 600, for which sanction is requested.

—

From G. K. CHAMBERLAIN, Esq., Assistant Magistrate of the Madras District, to the Acting Magistrate of the Madras District, dated Sydapet, 6th June 1870.

I have the honour to report that the annual festival at Conjeveram came to a conclusion on the evening of the 22nd ultimo, and to submit the following account of the sanitary measures, &c., adopted upon the occasion :—

2. WATER-SUPPLY.—Owing to the extreme drought and heat of the season a great number of the tanks and wells both in Upper and Lower Conjeveram were dried up, and it was with the greatest difficulty that a sufficient supply was set apart for the various purposes of drinking, ablutions, &c.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH.—As you are aware cholera has been prevalent off and on in the town for the last seven months. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at that the disease should have made its re-appearance during the festival. From the 13th to 22nd inclusive fifty-seven cases were reported; of these sixteen recovered, and the remaining forty-one died. In most instances the victims were pilgrims who had either contracted the disease on their journey, or from their fatigued and debilitated condition were fit receptacles for the contagious poison which appears to have been lurking in the town. It is, I think, a circumstance worthy of observation that, notwithstanding the crowded condition of the town, and the fact that the above-mentioned cases were

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28th June 1870.

widely scattered throughout the whole place, the disease never became seriously epidemic until all the pilgrims had departed, and the sanitary restraints, imposed during the continuance of the festival, had been taken off. The Police Force at the disposal of the Municipality is not sufficiently strong to enforce conservancy, and, therefore, I consider it highly probable that the great increase of cholera, after the festival was over, may be traced, in a great measure, to the indiscriminate use of water, to which access was forbidden during its continuance. This favourable result was owing, in a great measure, to the exertions of the Overseers and others who had the charge of the sanitary arrangements; also to the promptitude and diligence displayed by the Medical Officers.

4. CART-STANDS.—For cart-stands eighteen sites were selected.

5. LATRINES.—Of latrines there were altogether thirty-seven situated in various parts of the town. Several sites occupied for this purpose last year were abandoned on the present occasion, as it was found that they were not resorted to.

Two large latrines were erected, one in Upper and one in Lower Conjeveram. The expense attendant on the construction of large latrines, together with the necessity for having a considerable number so situated as to admit of easy resort from the various quarters of the town, rendered it desirable, in my opinion, to adopt the smaller scale for the remaining number. They were extensively used both by the inhabitants and by strangers; and by dint of careful supervision, and a more liberal supply of scavengers and bandies than were employed last year, they were kept perfectly clean and inoffensive. The contents were carted away morning and evening, and dry earth supplied to the ditches, &c. I should observe that, of the thirty-seven latrines mentioned above, five are permanent having been erected by the Municipality.

6. GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF TOWN.—The streets and lanes were swept twice a day, the rubbish being carted off to receptacles outside the town. There were altogether sixty-four carts and eighty-five scavengers; these carts and scavengers were employed for two days, after the conclusion of the festival, in sweeping up and clearing away all remnants of rubbish, &c., in the streets and open ground within the limits of the town, so that the increased virulence of the cholera after the festival is not attributable to any neglect on this score. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the requisite number of scavengers, although arrangements were made for recruiting them from Madras some ten days before the commencement of the feast.

This was said to be due, in a great measure, to the protective policy naturally adopted by the Madras Municipal Commissioners.

7. WATERING OF STREETS.—The streets in Lower Conjeveram were well watered, but it was found extremely difficult to procure sufficient water to lay the dust in the upper portion of the town. Through the exertions of the Tahsildar, and by the employment of a large number of hands, this object was, however, so far attained, as to prevent any great inconvenience from being felt during the progress of the processions.

8. POLICE FORCE AND CRIMES.—The police arrangements were most effectual, and the constant and unwearied personal supervision exercised by the Superintendent, Captain Cunliffe, enabled us to carry out our sanitary arrangements with great success.

There were 231 cases of nuisance and other minor offences. Of these 190 were convicted. Of theft there were twenty-four cases reported. Of these twenty-two were convicted.

9. RULES.—Copies of the same Sanitary Rules as were sanctioned last year were distributed throughout the town.

10. CONDUCT OF OFFICERS.—The Assistant Apothecary Mr. Chadwick, together with the native assistant sent from Madras on my application by the Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, were most indefatigable in their exertions to check the spread of cholera, and, as I have previously observed, with such success that, although the sporadic appearance of the disease in almost every quarter of the town might reasonably have been expected to result in a general outbreak, the precautions which were taken to burn or otherwise purify the clothes, &c., of the patients, and the

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28th June 1870.

removal, when practicable, of those attacked to Hospital tents, erected in a locality selected by Mr. Chadwick, happily averted this calamity.

The Tahsildar Sami Naidoo is also deserving of great praise for the hearty and energetic manner in which he threw himself into the work of sanitation.

I have already mentioned the valuable services rendered by Captain Cunliffe, for which I am sure you will be glad to express your thanks.

11. ATTENDANCE OF PILGRIMS.—In consequence of the great heat of the season, and the scarcity of water, together with the prevalence of cholera from time to time in Conjeveram previous to the festival, both of which facts were widely notified in this and the surrounding districts, the attendance of pilgrims this year has been very scanty. I have estimated it at about 33,000, which exhibits a great falling off as compared with last year. The measures which were taken with regard to the issue of tickets by the Railway Company no doubt greatly contributed to this result.

The returns of passengers by the tramway show only 3000 persons, and by the toll-gates only 30,000 are reported to have entered the town during the festival.

The daily returns of persons who passed the Municipal toll-gates are herewith enclosed.

12. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.—The total expenditure, of which an account is enclosed, amounted to Rupees 1250, being Rupees 3-5-1 less than last year. To this the Municipality contributed Rupees 600, and the Pagoda Church-wardens Rupees 50. The amount placed by you at my disposal on behalf of Government Rupees 600, making a total of Rupees 1250.

13. The detailed account of Police charges and Magisterial cases is shown by the enclosed statement.

No. 103. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1870, No. 804.

The Government learn with regret that cholera in a sporadic form appeared in Conjeveram before and during the festival. Although the disease assumed a malignant type, the number of persons attacked, fifty-seven, was comparatively small; of these forty-one died. The measures taken to prevent the spread of the disease in the Town of Conjeveram were very judicious and successful, although unfortunately cholera was conveyed by the returning pilgrims to many places in the Sub-division. The thanks of Government are due to Mr. Chamberlain, the Assistant Magistrate, and to Captain Cunliffe, the Superintendent of Police, to Mr. Apothecary Chadwick, and to the Tahsildar Sami Naidoo, for the manner in which they carried out, with so great a measure of success, the rules prescribed for the protection of the public health at festivals.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of the Madras District.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Inspector-General of Police.

„ Accountant-General.

Rsd. J. Wright.

N^o 118

Madras District Magistrate's
Office
Sydapat 13th June 1870
54

From,

W. J. Blair Esq^{re}

As Magistrate, Madras Dist

To,

The Honorable R. S. Ellis. C.B

Chief Secretary to Government

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
the report of Mr. Chamberlain on the
sanitary arrangements adopted on
the occasion of the late annual festival
at Conjeeveram.

2 There was a great falling off in
the attendance of pilgrims this year.
Mr. Chamberlain estimates their number
at only 33,000, whereas last year the
strangers visiting Conjeeveram during
the festival were computed to amount
to nearly 130,000. This result is to
be

Govt. of 1870

PUBLISHED.

To

THE MAGISTRATE OF THE MADRAS
DISTRICT.
Etc., Etc., Etc.

Dated June, 28th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 28th June 1870, No. 801.

JULY

NO. 102-103.

Passing orders on the report of the Assistant
Magistrate of the Madras District, of the sanitary
arrangements adopted by him on the occasion of
the annual festival at Conjeeveram.

be attributed to the notices which were circulated all over the Country warning persons against attending the festival on account of the scarcity of water and the likelihood there was of the re-appearance of Cholera, which had been lurking about the town for several months previously.

3 Notwithstanding that all that was possible was done in the way of carrying out sanitary and police arrangements, I regret to say that Cholera broke out on the 13th Ultimo, and that between that date and the 22^d, the day on which the feast terminated, 57 cases were reported of which 41 proved fatal. The disease has not yet subsided, and a report of the progress up to the 8th Instant has been given in my letter to Government of

of the 10th Instant No 116. 14

4 Great credit is due to Captain Cunliffe for his active supervision of the police arrangements, which were most effective. Mr Chamberlain took a great interest in the duty assigned to him on this occasion, and discharged it very efficiently. The Tahsildar, Sami Aidos, was most zealous in promoting the work of sanitation, and the apothecary Mr Chadwick and his assistant exerted themselves to the utmost to prevent the spread of Cholera.

5 The total expenditure amounted to Rs 1250, which is Rs 3..5..1 less than last year. Of this the Municipality contributed Rs 600 and the

the Pagoda Church - warden Rs 50,
 leaving a balance of Rs 600,
 for which sanction is requested.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most Obedt Servant

W. M. M.

As Magistrate

the first time with effect that withstanding
 children in a spirit of form advanced in Congress
 before and during the festival. Although
 the disease appeared a malignant type -
 the number of cases considerably increased
 attacked of one comparatively much of the
 41 died. The reason taken to prevent the spread
 of the disease in the town of Mysore was very
 judicious & successful although unfortunately the
 was interrupted by the returning pilgrims to many places in
 the district. The number of cases due to the
 April, 1890, is 15 cases. The total of 15 cases - 15 in April & May

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Govt. of {1870} Madras.

Public

To
The Magt. of the Madras St.
per

Dated June 28.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 28 June 1870, No. 864

Nos. 102. 103.

Passing orders on the report
of the Asst. Magt. of the
Madras St., of the Sanitary
arrangements adopted by
him on the occasion of the
annual festival at Conjee-
naw.