

1. Number of pages. 1
2. Date of repair. 4-
3. Initials of Reference

M.B.O. 1-82,400-22-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	10/3	Press Mis.
Dated	8-7-	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

8th July 1871.

No. 68. Read the following letter from the Acting Magistrate of Chingleput, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Sydapet, 3rd July 1871, No. 158:—

I have the honour to forward the Acting Joint Magistrate's report regarding the late festival at Conjeveram; it calls for no special remarks. The falling off in the number of visitors is chiefly owing to the ease with which Conjeveram can be reached by railway at any time of year, and partly to apprehension of cholera breaking out.

2. The arrangements appear to have been efficiently carried out, and it is satisfactory that not a single case of cholera occurred. I also note with pleasure Mr. Crole's remarks at paragraph 11 with reference to municipal and sanitary arrangements for the town.

3. Precautions will be taken to prevent the recurrence of accidents similar to the one described at paragraph 16, which resulted in the death of one of those assisting, by having the car carefully inspected before being moved at future festivals.

4. I think the suggestion contained in paragraph 7 a good one, and worth trying; if the Hindoo public know that there is a boundary beyond which they can go without fear of interference, the prescribed limits may probably be respected, and the backyards less used.

5. The cost of the arrangements amounted to Rupees 1,127-4-2, or Rupees 122-11-10 less than the last year's; deducting from this the municipal grant of Rupees 600 and Rupees 50 contributed by the pagoda, there is a balance of Rupees 477-4-2, which, I request, may be sanctioned.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate, to the Acting Magistrate of Chingleput, dated Vandalore, 26th June 1871, No. 47.

I have the honour to report that, in obedience to G. O., dated 17th May 1871, No. 77, I personally superintended the arrangements at the late grand festival at Conjeveram.

2. The festival commenced on the 30th May and ended on the 8th June.

3. The heat was great for several days, but latterly some slight showers and a cool wind moderated it considerably.

4. Cholera had been sporadically prevalent in a virulent form throughout the sub-division for some time, but shortly before the feast it had greatly decreased. It had not, however, disappeared from several of the surrounding districts, and, during the festival, it was reported to be prevalent in the town of Madras, in Sydapet, and in certain villages in the Striperatur Division of the Conjeveram taluq. Fortunately there has not been a single case in the town either during the festival or since. There was no other disease.

5. The visitors this year came principally from Madras and from the villages round Conjeveram; 7,000 persons came by the railway, and 12,000 passed the toll-bars. These numbers show a considerable falling off in the attendance. I find, for instance, that in 1869, in which year even the crowd was insignificant compared with former occasions, the corresponding numbers were 10,852 and 117,037. I have heard this decrease ascribed to the effect of sanitary regulations, but the result of personal inquiries made on the spot warrants me in asserting that this cause has had little or nothing to do with it. There is nothing in the measures adopted at Conjeveram to which exception is taken by visitors. Just the reverse. I have reason to believe, moreover, that, at festivals at a distance from Madras, the attendance remains unimpaired in spite of

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
8th July 1871.

restrictions which persons, who were able to compare them with those in force at Conjeveram, described to me as much more severe. At Conjeveram, it has always been a rule during the last four years to interfere as little as possible. The falling off may much more reasonably be ascribed, first, to the Hindoo religion, as finding expression at festivals at all events, gradually losing its hold on the people. The neighbourhood of the Presidency town might naturally be expected to be first infected with this decay. Conjeveram, of course, feels the effect before Chellumbrum or Madura; second, respectable people, who come for the performance of vows or out of curiosity, find that, now the railway is opened, it is more convenient and safe to visit the temple at their convenience during the year when the town is not crowded; and third, the pomp and show attending the festival has of late years been much curtailed.

6. The water supply was abundant. Tanks were reserved for drinking purposes, for bathing, and were reserved for washing clothes. I satisfied myself that these selections were made with due regard for the convenience of the public.

7. There were eighteen latrines set apart for males and twenty for females. Thirty-three of them were temporary. Dry-earth was used, and they were well looked after. The great mass of the public, however, preferred their backyards and the fields outside the town. The Hindoo does not like latrines, and I am not certain whether it would not be advisable, on future occasions, to flag off a certain distance round the town beyond which people might follow their own inclinations in this respect. The configuration of Conjeveram is long and narrow.

8. There were thirteen cart-stands, eight of which are the permanent ones set apart by the Municipality.

9. The streets were watered as usual.

10. The Conservancy Establishment, inclusive of the municipal carts and servants, consisted of fifty carts, eighty-nine toties, seventeen overseers, and twenty-three peons. It was efficient.

11. The state of the town reflects considerable credit on the Municipal Commissioners. When the festival commenced, the ordinary establishment, owing to being kept in good working order, had left nothing to be done in the way of clearing up. This made things much easier. Rubbish pits were dug on the north, north-east, and north-west of the town. The contents of the carts were daily deposited in them. At the close of the festival they were thoroughly covered with earth.

12. The usual sanitary rules were printed and placarded.

13. The Police force consisted of one hundred and thirty-eight men of all ranks. This was sufficient.

14. There were twenty-nine cases of theft, theft in a building, and house-breaking, of which nineteen were detected, and in which the property lost was Rupees 595-1-9, and that recovered Rupees 319-9-9. There were also one hundred and thirty-four cases in breach of the Police and Municipal Acts. It should be observed, however, that Kepmaris or professional thieves were in unusual force.

15. The car performed its journey in forty hours, a novel feature being the number of Brahmins who were pulling at the ropes. It appears to share the neglect of the festival. When it was turning a corner, one of the wooden images, being rotten, tumbled off, and broke the head of a respectable man who was helping to move the wheels. He died. Next year, the car will be inspected by a competent officer before it leaves its place.

16. Major Cunliffe, the Superintendent of Police, as usual, was present and assisted greatly.

17. The Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Ramanatayyar, is a very earnest man, and was unremitting in his exertions. The other officers also did well.

18. The expenditure amounted to Rupees 1,127-4-2 against Rupees 1,250 in 1870. An account is appended. The pagoda contributed Rupees 50.

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1871, No. 1013.

The net charge of Rupees 477-4-2 against Government is sanctioned.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
8th July 1871.

2. The arrangements appear to have been very good, and the result eminently satisfactory in the absence of disease.

3. The Government note with pleasure the testimony borne to the efficient working of the Municipal Establishment.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Magistrate of Chingleput.
„ Acting Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Statement of Receipts for the Grand Festival of Thavarajaswamy in the year 1871.

Description	Amount
Contribution from Government	600
from the Municipality	600
from the Thumakartha	50
Total Rs.	1250

Signed Murlunserodeen
Tahsildar

Statement of Charges incurred during the Grand Festival of Thavarajaswamy in the year 1871.

Particulars	Amount
(a) Temporary Poles Males 253 at 5 Rs each for 10 days	225
(b) Temporary Poles Males 604 Rs for 8 days	24
(c) Deduct fines	6
Watering Streets	243
Refuse Carts employed 33 at 9 annas per diem for each cart for 10 days	185
Deduct the hire of 8 Carts which were absent for a whole day	48
Pons 23 at 2 1/2 Rs each for 10 days	57
Overseers 10 at 7 Rs each for 10 days	70
" 9 " 5	45
" 2 " 2	6
Deduct fines	4
Excavating pits for depositing filth	120
Water supplied to latrines	5
Printing boards to denote distribution of Tanks &c	20
Temporary latrines 2 large at 25 Rs each	6
31 small 7 1/2 Rs each	232
Pots, Baskets, brooms, &c	282
Twine	14
Telegram to the Assistant Collector & reply from him	2
Remuneration to the Permanent Overseer and Scavenger of the Municipality	5
Total	25
Balance on hand unexpended	1127 4 2
Total	1250

Signed

M. M. M. M.

By the

Signed Murlunserodeen
Tahsildar

No 158

Chingleput Magistrate's office
Saidapet 2 July 1871 99

From

R. W. Barlow Esquire,
Ag Magistrate of Chingleput.

To

W. Huddleston Esquire,
Ag Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
the Acting Joint Magistrate's report regard-
ing the late festival at Conjeeveram;
it calls for no special remarks. The falling
off in the number of visitors is chiefly
owing to the ease with which Conjeeveram
can be reached by Railway at any
time of year, and partly to apprehensions
of Cholera breaking out.

2. The arrangements appear to have
been efficiently carried out, and it is
satisfactory that not a single case of
Cholera occurred. I also note with pleasure
Mr. Brodie's remarks at para 11 with reference
to

Also letter from Mr. Brodie
Mag of Conjeeveram dated 27
July 1871. P. 100

Chingleput

P.C. 88 July 1871

26 13 July 68

P. 57. 8

See No 1597

to Municipal and Sanitary arrangements for the town.

3. Precautions will be taken to prevent the recurrence of accidents similar to the one described at para 16, which resulted in the death of one of those apid. ing, by having the car carefully inspected before being moved at future festivals.

4. I think the suggestion contained in para 7 a good one, and worth trying, if the Hindu public know that there is a boundary beyond which they can go without fear of interference, the prescribed limits may probably be respected, and the back-yards less used.

5. The cost of the arrangements amounted to Rs 1127-4-2 or Rs 122-11-10 less than the last year's deducting from the Municipal grant of Rs 600 and Rs 50 contributed by the Pagoda, there is a balance of Rs 477-4-2,

which, I request, may be sanctioned.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

M. J. S. S.

Ag Magistrate

End
18/1

Cert. of 1871 Madras.

Public

By the Magistrate of
Chingleput &c &c.

Dated 8 July 1871

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 8 July 1871, No. 200

Nos. 18 & 19

Sanctioning the
charge of Rs 477-4-2 on
account of sanitary arrange-
ments made at the late
festival at Bayanamm.