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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rule DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1266.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19. 9 1881	197 .

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

19th September 1881, No. 1266.

Sanitation.

Read the following paper :—

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

Statistics and Commerce. INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
No. 19 [Current No. 1927]. 25th August 1881.

SIR,—I forward herewith for your information a copy of a memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the sanitary and other arrangements made at the annual festivals held in Madras Presidency in 1880.

2. I am glad to observe that these gatherings continue to be so satisfactorily conducted.

I have, &c.,
HARTINGTON.

His Excellency the Honorable
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

MEMORANDUM of the Army Sanitary Commission on Reports from the Government of Madras on Sanitary arrangements made at Annual Festivals held in that Presidency during 1880.

These reports refer to fairs and festivals held at the following places in Madras Presidency :—

Name of Place.	District.
Dermastola	South Canara.
Srirangam	Trichinopoly.
Sabramonia	South Canara.
Tiruvannamalai	South Arcot.
Mylar	Bellary.
Kotappa Konda	Kistna.
Anternadi	Godávári.
Kollur	South Canara.
Humpi	Bellary.
Conjeeveram	Chingleput.
Ponnoor	Kistna.

We have arranged the names with the districts in order to arrive at the relative prevalence of cholera over the country where these fairs were held.

No cholera deaths were registered in South Canara where three of the festivals, Dermastola, Sabramonia, and Kollur were held. Bellary District within which two festivals, Mylar and Humpi, were held also escaped cholera. Trichinopoly District in which the Srirangam festival was held registered 40 cholera deaths.

South Arcot within which Tiruvannamalai festival was held had 118 cholera deaths. Kistna District within which the Kotappa Konda and Ponnoor localities are situated was under the influence of a considerable cholera epidemic which carried off 2,389 people, and Godávári in the same region where Anternadi fair was held registered 9,014 cholera deaths. Cholera was present in Chingleput District within which Conjeeveram is situated, but only 6 deaths were registered from it.

1266
2

2. Madras fairs and festivals have for a number of years been placed under sanitary control, and the usual measures adopted are conservancy carried out by a staff of sweepers, provisions of latrines under sanitary regulation, cleansing the towns or villages about, white-washing houses, protection of water sources, or providing better water where necessary, prevention of surface overcrowding by people, animals and carts, but the chief measure is persistent cleanliness so long as the fair lasts.

Usually there is some temporary hospital accommodation provided, and a Native Hospital Assistant is placed in charge to attend to any diseases or accidents that may present themselves. These measures appear to have been enforced at all the fairs in districts where there was cholera as well as in districts where it did not exist as an epidemic.

3. The following numbers were present at the fairs:—

Dermastola	8,000
Srirangam	25 to 30,000
Sabramonia	Not stated.
Tiruvannamalai	48,000
Mylar	78,000
Kotappa Konda	100,000
Anternadi	25,000
Kollur	12,000
Humpi	60,000
Conjeeveram	100,000
Ponnoor	5,000

4. It will give a sufficient idea of the current sanitary staff and measures in use at these festivals to extract those adopted at the Conjeeveram festival where the crowding was very great.

Temporary leaf latrines	30
Toties for do.	35
Rubbish carts	43
Sweepers for do.	35
Cart-stands	17
Drinking tanks	8
Drinking springs in river	3
Bathing tanks	21
Tanks for cattle	6

Watering Streets.

Overseers	16
Peons	16

Police.

Inspectors	3
Sub-Inspector	1
Head Constables	16
Constables	119

The sanitary staff above stated was in addition to the ordinary Municipal Establishment of—

- 1 Nuisance Inspector.
- 2 " Peons.
- 34 Sweepers.
- 7 Latrines with 2 toties.

The latrines were provided with trenches filled with sand and the night soil was buried in deep pits in the field. The street sweepings were carted away to the municipal depôts outside the town.

This is what it is possible to do even at a great Indian festival. But to render such measures thoroughly effectual it should be a generally adopted principle for all Indian fairs that sanitary measures should be in complete working order before the people arrive.

5. What then was the result of these proceedings to health? At not one of the great gatherings of people collected, many of them from districts where cholera was present, was there a single case of cholera, or of any other epidemic disease. When cases came before the local Medical Officer, they were of the customary slight kind generally, or of accidents during the fairs.

6. We have already shown from the district cholera returns that the liability to cholera was not the same at all the fairs, because cholera was either absent or existed in very scattered

cases, but fairs were also held in districts where cholera was more active; and in Kistna and Godavari where it existed as a severe epidemic, the fairs escaped the disease as completely as if there had been none in the country.

7. The lesson from the whole year's experience is the old one, that cleanliness and good water will diminish or prevent predisposition to cholera, and the results afford as strong a case as possible for extending similar measures to all native towns and villages. At present a carefully regulated Indian fair is a much safer place for people than are their own villages even when cholera is in the district.

22nd July 1881.

ORDER THEREON, 19th September 1881, No. 1266.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, the Sanitary Commissioner, and all Collectors.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Chief Secretary.

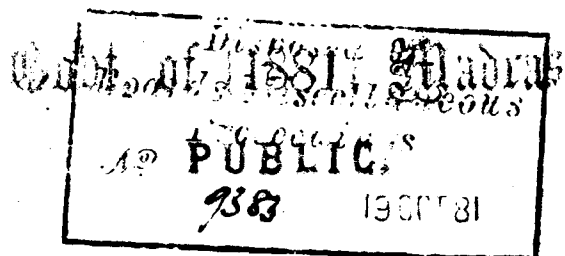
To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ all Collectors.
„ the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

[Signature]

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

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The BOARD OF REVENUE

(2)

BOARD'S GOVT. REG. NO. 322/OF/1881

Dated September, 19th.

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3 Oct

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G.O., 19th September 1881, No. 1266.

SEPTEMBER.

Sanitation.—Communicating despatch from Secretary of State forwarding copy of a memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the sanitary and other arrangements made at the annual festivals held in this Presidency in 1880.

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