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REPORTS ON NATIVE NEWSPAPERS FOR THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY 1884.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of Publication.	Editions.	Number of Copies issued.
<i>Tamil.</i>				
1	Vettikkodiyon (26th January 1884) ..	Madras ..	Weekly ..	250
2	Tatvavivechini (27th January 1884) ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	350
3	Swadesamitra (31st January 1884) ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	1,500
4	Dravidavartamani (27th and 31st January 1884).	Do. ..	Bi-weekly..	632
<i>Telugu.</i>				
5	Vivekavarthani	Rajahmundry ..	Weekly ..	300
6	Sri Sanmargadarsani	Pittapore ..	Monthly ..	200
<i>Malayalam.</i>				
7	Kirala Mitram	Cochin ..	Tri-monthly.	200

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REPORT ON NATIVE NEWSPAPERS FOR THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY 1884.

Report on Tamil Newspapers for the Week ending 2nd February 1884.

The editor of the *Vettikkodiyon* considers that it is the duty of the Local Fund Board of Chingleput to dig out wells of pure water for drinking purposes in Saidápet. Cholera is rampant among the poorer classes of people at Saidápet, and there appears no other cause for so great a mortality than this; that the poorer classes use the water from the Saidápet river for domestic purposes. The water in the river is, as is well known, made brackish by the influx of sea-water from the Adyár, and the washermen also continue to foul the water of the river by washing dirty clothes therein.

2. A correspondent, writing from Tanjore to the editor of the *Swadesamitra*, says that it is but justice, considering the multifarious duties devolving on village officers, to increase their emoluments, for they find it hard to get on with their hard work and scanty pay.

MADRAS,
4th February 1884.

(Signed) T. WEIR,
Tamil Translator to Government.

Report on Telugu Newspapers for the Month of February 1884.

An article in No. 5 of the *Vivekavarthani* states that the passing of the Ilbert Act has caused more satisfaction to Natives than to Europeans, as the latter have not gained any other advantage by it, except that of being tried by European jurors. But as half of the jury is to be chosen from Hindus, the Natives of India have, nevertheless, gained a great privilege.

2. Another article in the same number states that a certain missionary lady, belonging to the zenana at Barrackpore, has converted the daughter of a respectable Hindu to Christianity. As this event causes bad feeling among the natives of this place, Christian ladies should avoid educating Hindu females in their homes.

3. In another article lower down, it is stated that Native women are also given to drink. Europeans have done much good to this country, but yet they have introduced inebriety. The number of shops where European liquors are sold have increased in almost all the towns of this country. One can understand that ignorant persons indulge in drink, and thus squander their money; but even educated men, who should know the evil results of drinking intoxicating liquors, cannot restrain their passion and ruin themselves and their families. No encouragement should be given to the trade of European liquors.

4. An article in No. 6 of the *Vivekavarthani* states that a barrister, while pleading before a Poona Magistrate, fell out with a pleader of his opposite party and struck him so severely in his face that he wounded him. The Magistrate inflicted a fine of fifty rupees on him, but a more severe punishment ought to have been inflicted, for, if educated men behave in this manner, a very bad example is set to the lower classes.

5. *Sri Sanmargadarsani*, Nos. 4 and 5, states that since the issue of the Karnams Bill, No. 6, several objections have been made by zemindari Karnams against its passing into an Act. Government should allow six months' time before passing this Bill for the good of landed properties with large income.

6. In another article of the same paper, the following reduction of rates in some sections of the Local Boards Bill are suggested, viz. :—

- (1) That the rates mentioned, in clause 1, section 57, are to be reduced to half of the present rate.
- (2) That the fees mentioned in clause 3 be not levied, as they will impoverish the people.
- (3) That the taxes on houses, mentioned in clause 2, those in schedule B, clause 4, and the taxes on carriages on springs be reduced to half of the present rate.
- (4) That it is unjust to levy taxes on palanquins, for, with the same reason, boats should be taxed. Palanquins are taxed as the persons carrying them are said to injure the roads. The boatmen similarly injure the roads when anchoring their boats by planting poles on road sides, frightening, moreover, the bullocks of the bandies that pass, by the noise they make when anchoring, so that they occasionally upset the bandies. The boatmen injure, moreover, the trees of the avenues that are situated close to the anchoring place by using their wood as fuel for cooking purposes.
- (5) Fees in clauses 5 and 6 be cancelled.
- (6) That ferries, pounds, and fisheries, which are under local management, ought to be made over to the Local Boards.
- (7) The fixing of the Local Fund cesses under section 63 seems to have given rise to complaints. In order to fix the assessment on inam and channel lands for five years, the average assessment of the previous five years should be taken into account. (The Telugu is very badly worded.) And when on dry lands wet crops are raised, Local Fund cess should only be fixed on terva-jasti, but in the case of dry crops, the assessment itself should be the basis of the tax. Moreover, whenever water, which has been supplied since time immemorial, is cut off from any land on the supposition that the land is dependent on other resources, a tax on such a land is unjust.
- (8) When arrears are due, and the owner has not received the outstanding balance within the time notified in the gazette, that amount under section 87 should be credited to the Local Fund.
- (9) Whenever schools are examined by the inspecting schoolmasters or deputy inspectors of schools in the presence of karnams, heads of villages, or punchayetdars, the inspection report should be made in the vernacular, and a copy of it should be handed over to the village authorities, another to the higher authorities, and a third to the taluk board. The examiners should on each occasion give to the teachers instructions and finally explain to them the advantages of education, unity, zeal, perseverance and industry. If this were done, people will have a regard for teachers, and the boys will appreciate the advantages of education. The head of the village, the karnam or a punchayetdar may occasionally examine a school, and send a report to the taluk board and to the deputy inspector of schools, noting, at the same time, whether the teacher was present or not. If the village munsif, karnam, or punchayetdar neglects, or from partiality omits, to examine a school and overlooks, whether the teachers are attending or not, any inhabitant of the village can report it to the deputy inspector or taluk board. Teachers, if proved to have been absent, should be punished, and the village authorities should be fined. If this is not done, irregularities will never cease. Should examiners, who fail to give model lessons and explanatory lectures, be not reduced, no improvement in education be effected.

MADRAS,
13th March 1884.

(Signed) GUSTAV OPPERT,
Telugu Translator to Government.

Report on Malayalam Newspapers for the Month of February 1884.

Kirala Mitram.—The first leading article disapproves of the alteration the original Ilbert Bill had to undergo before it was passed, and thinks it would have been better if Government had withdrawn the Bill altogether than passed it in its present shape. The second article gives a brief account of the new organisation of police in the Cochin State, and notices, with pleasure, the wisdom of that Sirkar in having separated the magistracy from the police. The third article describes the advantages of literary societies, and hopes that the educated natives of the Cochin State will form one. The fourth article dwells on the same topic, and mentions, in detail, the benefits other countries have derived from the formation of such societies. The fifth article reports the prevalence of small-pox, causing immense mortality in the town of Cochin.

2. Referring to a recent case of theft of certain attached property, consisting of money and jewels in the custody of the Ernakulam Zilla Court, a correspondent regrets that no attempt has been made either to detect the offenders or to recover the stolen property.

MADRAS,
8th March 1884.

(Signed) J. W. F. DUMERGUE,
Malayalam Translator to Government.

Report on Hindustani Newspapers examined during the Month of February 1884.

Nothing deserving of notice.

MADRAS,
15th March 1884.

(Signed) C. D. BAYNES, Lieut.-Colonel,
Persian and Hindustani Translator to Government.

Public No. 655, Miscellaneous.

Copy forwarded to the Under-Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India in the Departments noted below, and to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy :—

Home.
Foreign.
Finance and Commerce.
Revenue and Agriculture.

Public Works.
Military.
Legislative.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, }
18th February 1884. }

1st April

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

February 1884

No. 655

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Contributed
4/4/84

H. R. Bantleman