Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th October 1872.

No. 251. Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner in charge of the Census Office, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 9th October 1872, No. 253:—

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of Government the condition in which the Census tabulation for the Town of Madras was left when the late Mr. C. E. Gover died.

2. On the 26th of April 1872 Mr. Gover submitted to the President of the Municipal Commission an abstract of the results of the Census of the Town, showing merely the gross number of each great section of the community resident in the several districts of the Town. In this report the gross population of Madras was shown to be 397,552 souls.

3. The tabulation of the results of the Town Census was nearly complete and ready for the printers at the date of Mr. Gover's death. An establishment as per margin has been employed for nine months for the tabulation. Mr. Clark, the Manager, yesterday reported to the Census Committee of the Municipality, of which I am a member, that the abstract tables remaining to be done can all be finished within the present month. On this standing the Committee directed the completion of the tabulation. The tables, therefore, will be ready by 1st November.

December 1871.
1 Manager.
2 Superintendents.
80 Clerks.
5 Peons.
January 1872.
1 Manager.
1 Superintendent.
110 Clerks.
6 Peons.
1 Duffadar.
February 1872.
1 Manager.
20 Clerks.
March 1872.
1 Manager.
20 Clerks.
April 1872.
1 Manager.
1 Clerk.
May 1872.
1 Manager.
3 Clerks.
June 1872.
1 Manager.
1 Clerk.
July 1872.
1 Manager.
1 Clerk.
August 1872.
1 Manager.
4 Clerks.

4. The expenses of the Town Census up to date (omitting cost of printing) have been about Rs. 22,000. A sum of Rs. 25,000 was originally sanctioned for the work, a moiety of which was borne by Government.

5. In connection with the Census of the Town the late Mr. Gover prepared what appears to me to be a very complete and elaborate report on the history and present state of education in Madras. This report, intended, I believe, as an appendix to the general Census Report for the Town, is a lengthy document of 87 pages of printed matter, besides several appendices. 500 copies of it have already been struck off; and as Government may wish to have the educational results communicated to their servants and others employed in educational work, I venture to solicit instructions whether a limited number of copies of this document may be bound up for immediate distribution. It is believed in the office that the late Mr. Gover intended to supply Government with 100 copies of the educational report separately bound up.

6. In regard to the *report* on the general results of the Town Census, this, I regret to say, has been left incomplete. The preliminary remarks have been written and printed, as also a very able historical sketch of the origin and growth of the Town from 1640 down to near the close of the eighteenth century. Whether Mr. Gover had intended continuing the record of progress and change

down to the present day I can form no opinion. The work is complete so far as it goes, and brings the history of the growth of the Town down to a period since which no very important additions to its limits have been made.

7. The report thus far has been printed in the Government Press, and the work still remaining to be done is the printing of the detailed tables, and the writing of the portion of the report based on the tables, bringing into prominence the main features of the Town-population in regard to sex, caste, occupation, religion, etc.

8. For his labours in connection with the Municipal Census, including the preparation of the report, the late Mr. Gover was drawing a monthly stipend of Rs. 150 from the Municipality. At the meeting of the Census Committee yesterday it appeared to me that the Commissioners were unwilling to incur any further expenditure for the completion of the report beyond the establishment pay for the current month. The printing charges all through have been borne by Government (I notice that some maps, illustrating the educational report and lithographed diagrams, have been executed at private presses).

9. The completion of the Town Census Report is a work which, in my opinion, must be carried out. The fact of the Town constituting a separate revenue district of the Presidency renders it essential that the results shall be arranged in such a form as to compare with the figures of the other revenue districts.

10. There appear to be two courses open for adoption in the disposal of this question; either to print the bare tables and Mr. Gover's introduction without further remark, or to entrust the tables to some one who may be able to complete the report, not as well perhaps as Mr. Gover would have done, but still practically completing it so as to make the tables intelligible to the general reader and lover of statistics.

11. My own view is that the latter course should be followed; all my experience of facts, recorded in bare figured statements, goes to prove that they fly over the heads of nine readers out of ten, and that the facts of any tabular form can best be brought home to the intelligence of the reader by written explanations or remarks in the form of commentaries on the table. While so much trouble and expense have been incurred to obtain accurate information on many points connected with the well-being and progress of the people, it seems a pity that the information should not be made to assume a somewhat popular form.

12. The suggestion I have to make in regard to the completion of the report is that it shall be placed in my own hands to do the best I can with when the tables are quite ready. The Municipality are disinclined to spend any more money on the work, but they probably will not object to the pay of one or two Clerks, as may be found necessary to assist in the extraction of data from the tables, for the period of two or more months the report will take to complete. I make the suggestion, because, although I have already more than enough of work on my hands, the examination of the Madras Town tables may by-and-by facilitate the preparation of the general Census Report of the whole Presidency; the time employed on it will not be wholly diverted from the duty which Government have assigned to me.

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26th October 1872.

(2)

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1872, No. 1,490.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are much indebted to Dr. Cornish for his offer to complete the work connected with the Madras Town Census, which the late Mr. Gover left unfinished, and gladly avail themselves of his services for the purpose.

2. His suggestions in paragraphs 5 and 12 are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To W. R. Cornish, Esq., F.R.C.S.
,, the President of the Madras Municipal Commission.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.