

(1) Number of pages 4
(2) Date of repair 28.8.65
(3) Initials of the Referencer S

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	156	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29.5.1872	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

156

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
14th May 1872.

No. 102. Read the following letter from the Acting Inspector-General of Police, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 26th April 1872, No. 1491:—

I have the honour to forward the Annual Report on Murders, Homicides, Suicides, and Accidental Deaths for 1871. The figures below the lines represent Return for 1870.

2. $\frac{268}{237}$ murders were committed during the year, viz., $\frac{151}{132}$ males and $\frac{117}{105}$ females. The districts of North Arcot $\frac{27}{24}$, Bellary $\frac{24}{22}$, and Malabar $\frac{21}{14}$, show the largest number.

Murders.

3. There were $\frac{97}{105}$ cases of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, $\frac{64}{74}$ males and $\frac{33}{34}$ females being the victims. The districts of Madura and Malabar have each eleven cases.

Culpable homicide.

Justifiable homicide.

4. The deaths of three males in Bellary and of one in Salem are returned as justifiable homicide.

5. $\frac{1607}{1329}$ suicides are reported during the year, viz., $\frac{600}{539}$ males and $\frac{1007}{800}$ females. The total increase is thus 278 cases, mostly in Ganjam (69), Vizagapatam (33), Canara (29), Tinnevely (25), Cuddapah (21), and North Arcot (16).

Suicide.

6. Of the 1607 suicides, 1055 occurred by drowning, and of these 806 were males; of 482 by hanging, 309 were males; ten males and 21 females took poison; and 22 males used some deadly instrument or other.

7. Godavery again heads this list with 145 cases, of which 110 are returned as of females by drowning. 98 women were reported as self-destroyed in the same way last year, so that they would seem to avail themselves of the exceptional facilities which the district offers in its numerous channels and water-courses.

8. $\frac{8456}{7698}$ accidental deaths are reported, being an increase of 758 over 1870,

Accidental deaths.

principally in the districts of Cuddapah (186), Malabar (144), Trichinopoly (103), and South Arcot (80). Of this number nearly 6000 were by drowning. 247 were killed by wild beasts, 585 by snake-bite, 15 by the railway, and 1611 from other causes.

9. North Arcot again heads this list with $\frac{859}{800}$, viz., 395 males and 464 females.

Accidental deaths in North Arcot.

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1866 ...	311	416	727
1867 ...	309	415	724
1868 ...	321	331	722
1869 ...	298	337	635
1870 ...	360	440	800

It is a singular fact that this district always takes the lead in this matter. The statistics for five years are given in the margin. Of the 859 accidental deaths in North Arcot, 722 are by drowning, 298 males and 424 females. This loss of life, if accurate, seems to demand special attention. In the Godavery District the accidental deaths by drowning are 225.

10. The loss of life, $\frac{247}{236}$, from wild beasts is somewhat more than in 1870.

Deaths by wild beasts.

Of this number, 160 males and 29 females were destroyed by tigers, principally in the Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Jeypore, Kurnool, and Coimbatore Districts. The other details will be found in the Return.

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Snake-bites. 11. Deaths from snake-bites have risen from 307 to 585. The district of Nellore leads here with 101 cases, Bellary second with 70.

Want and neglect. 12. Deaths from want and neglect are still painfully numerous in Malabar and Canara.

No. 103. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1872, No. 738.

With this letter are forwarded the Returns for 1871 of Murders, Homicides, Suicides, and Accidental Deaths. The totals as compared with the year 1870 are as follow:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Murders	31	...
Culpable homicides	...	11
Justifiable do.	1	...
Suicides	278	...
Accidental deaths	758	...
Found dead, cause unknown	...	14
Deaths from drinking	12	...
Do. from neglect or want	191	...
Do. from exposure	...	30
Do. from other causes	20	...

2. The suicides in the Godavery District are noted as more numerous than in any other, viz., 145, of which 110 are suicides by women, who drowned themselves. This is attributed to the "exceptional facilities which the district offers in its numerous channels and water-courses." It is observed, however, that in Godavery ... 1,584, 179. Cuddapah, which has a considerably smaller population and is exceptionally ill-watered, as many as 90 women sought their deaths in the same way; while in Tanjore, where there is certainly no lack of water, the figure given is 2 only. The right explanation must, therefore, be sought for in some other direction.

3. Turning to the accidental deaths, the totals under each head as compared with last year are—

	Increase.	Decrease.
By wild beasts	11	...
By snakes	278	...
Railway accidents	...	3
Drowning	438	...
Other causes	34	...

4. No less than 585 persons died of snake-bites during the year, being as $2\frac{1}{3}$ to 1 compared with the number (247) of those who fell victims to the ravages of wild beasts. In a recent Order of Government in the Revenue Department the district of Tanjore and the town of Madras were selected as the localities in which the experiment of giving a trifling reward (2 Annas) for every deadly snake killed should be first tried.

G. O., 19th January 1872, No. 119.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
14th May 1872.

It would seem that the selection must have proceeded on Returns very different from those furnished by the Police for the last two years, viz.:—

	1870.	1871.
Deaths in Madras Town from snake-bites	1	3
Do. in Tanjore	...	...

During 1871 the greatest mortality occurred in the Nellore District (101). The necessary orders will be issued in the Revenue Department for extending the system to the districts of Nellore, Bellary, North Arcot, and Chingleput, in which the deaths from snake-bite are most numerous.

5. The total number of deaths by drowning stands at 5998. In North Arcot the total is 722 against 638 for the preceding year, both figures being greatly in excess of those for any other district. Endeavours should be made to have this explained. During the current year the cases should be carefully divided into drowning in wells, in rivers, in inundations by breaches in tanks or overflowing of streams, &c. This should be done for North Arcot and the contiguous district of Salem, where the death-rate from this cause stands second in the list, and the conclusions reported. Further, in all future Returns the sufferers under each head of crime, self-destruction, and accident should be described as male adults, female adults, and children.

6. The Magistrates of Malabar and South Canara will state how it comes to pass that out of 354 deaths throughout the Presidency from "fever" as many as 322 occurred in their two districts, viz., Malabar 90, South Canara 232. The casualties in these districts under the same head for 1870 were less numerous; the sufferers were described by Major Hearn as "chiefly coolies from the coffee plantations on the ghauts, who, having been attacked with fever or dysentery, perished while endeavouring to re-gain their homes." The Magistrates will state whether the sufferers in the present Returns succumbed in the same way, and, if so, what has been done in communication with the Planters for promoting the safe return of sick coolies to their villages, to which attention was directed in G. O., 15th July last, No. 959.

(True Extract.)

Cham
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
" Revenue Department.
" Magistrate of the several Districts.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

18-5-90
Faintly written text, possibly a date or reference number.

14th of the Odd of New York, 14 June 1872

Memorandum
of 1804

Govt. of 1872

JUDICIAL.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.

Filed May 1872

Recd. 28th

G. O. 14th May 1872 No. 728

MAY.
Nos. 102-103.

Reviewing the Returns for 1871 of Murders, Suicides, and Accidental Deaths.

Chs 156-29 May 1872
Well ordered

9.156.

Count of the 180 of New York
with anticipations to the
of Sullivan: killing
Knox & through put the
the sanctioned by law
inward for killing
Lakes is extended to
three to three
29th May 1872