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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Revenue DEPARTMENT

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3981/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

29th June 1877, No. 413.

Cochin.

Read the following paper:—

No. 52. From H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Acting Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Quilon, 5th May 1877, No. 37.

I have the honor to transmit the report* of the Diwan Peishcar in charge on the Administration of the State of Cochin for the year M. E. 1051—A. D. 1875-76.

* In original.

FINANCIAL INCOME.—The year opened with a balance of Rupees 4,70,307, and the income from all sources during the twelve-month under report amounted to Rupees 12,72,751, the total sum available for expenditure being Rupees 17,43,058. The amount actually disbursed was Rupees 12,28,240, leaving a cash balance of Rupees 5,14,817 to be carried forward.

(a.) *Land Revenue*.—Under this head there is an increase of Rupees 12,072, which is accounted for by a more successful cultivation of the Trichoor lake lands.

(b.) *Customs*.—Under this head there is a falling off to the extent of Rupees 6,256 regarding which no explanation is offered.

(c.) *Abkari and Opium*.—Both these items show a trifling increase, which does not call for any special remark.

(d.) *Salt*.—The decline in revenue in respect to this article continues and is assuming serious proportions. In the previous year the falling off amounted to Rupees 8,307, and in the year under report to Rupees 30,102. In G.O., dated 2nd August 1876, No. 465, Political Department, the Resident was directed to take measures for ascertaining the true facts of the case. The subject had Mr. Macgregor's serious attention, and it is to be regretted that his sudden departure prevented him from recording his views on a question so nearly affecting the interests of the Cochin State. It is at present a mystery difficult to elucidate. Several theories have been started but only to be more or less demolished when brought face to face with facts. The hypothesis that, since the enhancement of the cost of western salt, markets, which were formerly supplied from this coast, now draw their stocks by rail from the east is disproved by the fact that the sales at the eastern depôts have not appreciably increased. The Diwan's opinion recorded last year and reiterated this year, that the decline is due to the enhanced price forced on the State under the Interportal Convention, appears at first sight to be hardly tenable in face of the fact that in Travancore, where the same restriction is in force, this branch of revenue has steadily increased under the Convention. Mr. Macgregor thought at one time that the development of the illicit manufacture, which has for years been carried on in the adjacent taluq of Chowghaut in Malabar, was the cause; but inquiry has shown that at the salt depôts in Cochin, most likely to be affected by this sort of competition, the sales have, as a rule, not fallen off, and in some instances the quantity sold is in excess of the sales of five years ago. How then is the fact to be accounted for that the sales throughout the territory, which a dozen years ago averaged 200,000 maunds, have now dwindled down to 70,000 maunds? I am inclined to agree with the Members of the Salt Commission (vide paragraph 338 of the report,) in thinking that the falling off in Cochin sales is in a great measure due to the loss of a market in Malabar resulting from the equalization of prices. It must be remembered that the restrictions imposed by the Convention

did not, as pointed out by the Salt Commissioners, bear so heavily on Travancore as on Cochin, inasmuch as in the case of the latter the monopoly price was doubled at a stroke, whilst in the former it was only advanced 7 Annas. The Convention seems to have dealt a blow to the industry in Cochin which at first almost crushed it. The average sales for the five years preceding the Convention exceeded 200,000 maunds; in the year following they had dwindled down to 34,000, and the average for the ten years succeeding the Convention was under 80,000. Travancore on the other hand, though staggered a little at first, soon recovered the blow, and the average sales of the ten years succeeding the Convention are in excess of the average of the five years preceding. It is difficult to understand why the two countries should have been so variously affected except on the hypothesis that the low priced salt of Cochin found a readier sale in British territory previous to the Convention than the comparatively costly article produced in Travancore. I may observe here that occasionally the figured returns show results which it is impossible to account for. For instance in 1869, the year when the price was raised to Rupees 2 per maund, the sales in Cochin were the highest on record since the Convention and exceeded the average sales for ten years subsequent to the Convention by upwards of 13,000 maunds. In the same year the sales in Travancore and Malabar declined to a considerable extent!

(e.) *Timber*.—The increase under this head is due to enhanced sales.

(f and g.) *Judicial Receipts and Miscellaneous Revenue*.—No explanation is afforded of the fluctuations under these heads, which it may be assumed are due to the usual causes.

EXPENDITURE.—There has been an increase in expenditure under all heads except Pensions and Miscellaneous Expenses. The saving under the latter head is owing to no contract having been made for the supply of salt, the quantity in store being sufficient for the requirements of the year. The enhancement of expenditure under other heads is fully explained in the Diwan Peishcar's report, paras. 186—194 and calls for no remark.

JUDICIAL CIVIL JUSTICE.—Mr. J. C. Ponnen, Barrister-at-Law, was appointed 2nd Judge of the Anjekaimal Zillah Court during the year under report.

ZILLAH AND MUNSIFS' COURTS.—As compared with the preceding year the out-turn of work was generally less in both the Zillah and Munsifs' Courts, notwithstanding that towards the close of the year an additional Judge was appointed to the Anjekaimal Zillah Court. Exception must, however, be made in favor of the Munsifs of Ernacollum and Irinjalacodah, who have creditably disposed of very heavy files. On the other hand the Chittoor Munsif had a balance of undisposed suits at the end of the year almost equal to that of the Irinjalacodah Munsif whose file is twice as heavy.

APPEAL COURT.—The out-turn of work in the Appeal Court does not compare favorably with that of the preceding year. Only 220 suits were decided against 363 disposed of in 1050. The Diwan Peishcar points out in extenuation that the balance of cases pending at the end of the year is less by 41; but as the file for the year under report was lighter by 189 suits, I do not think the excuse can be admitted.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.—In the year under report 239 persons, charged with being concerned in 89 cases, were brought before the Criminal Courts, and the percentage of acquittals was 68. The figures for the previous year were—

Cases	..	..	..	..	..	91
Prisoners	..	..	..	..	..	210
Acquittals	..	..	..	..	..	64 per cent.

There were no cases of Capital punishment.

JAILS.—The number of persons confined in Jail during the year was 446, being 89 less than the preceding year. The cost of dieting and guarding the prisoners and repairs to buildings was Rupees 12,926. The health of the prisoners was very good, only two deaths having occurred during the year.

POLICE.—The detective powers of the force are not of a high order. Of 4,479 persons arrested or charged, only 944 were convicted. Under the head of Grave offences there were 3 murders and 1 case of culpable homicide, but no convictions were had.

REGISTRATION.—The operations of this department are extending, the value of the property registered being Rupees 46,76,950, against thirty-six lakhs worth in the preceding year. After deducting cost of establishment, &c., there remained a net balance from fees of Rupees 11,824.

EDUCATION.—The progress of education will be found fully described in paragraphs 130—142, of the report. It will be seen that Mr. Sealy, the Head Master of the High School, has, in addition to his other duties, been appointed Director of Education, and as he is now ably assisted by Mr. Cruikshank, the Second Master, he will be able to devote a portion of his time to visiting the District Schools.

PUBLIC WORKS.—The expenditure under this head was Rupees 2,31,481, against Rupees 1,87,151 expended in the preceding year. This betokens increased activity on the part of the department, but the expenditure is still well within the allotment for the year. The increased expenditure is mainly on roads and canals and public buildings.

The other heads of the report do not call for any special remark.

No. 53.

ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1877, No. 413.

The financial position of the Cochin State during the year 1875-76 has already been considered in Proceedings of Government, dated 12th March 1877, No. 186.

2. The opinion expressed by the Salt Commission that the falling off in the Cochin sales is in a great measure due to the loss of a market in Malabar resulting from the equalization of prices, is probably the correct explanation of the fact, in which case Mr. Macgregor was right in hesitating to attribute it to a decreased consumption of salt by Cochin subjects. The Government believe that there is little or no salt manufactured in the Cochin State.

3. The increase in Registration is satisfactory.

4. In connection with the working of the Police, it is to be regretted that it should have been necessary to arrest or charge so many as 4,479 persons, of whom only 944 were convicted.

5. The report submitted by the Diwan Peishcar in charge is very full and complete, and the Government have perused it with much interest, more especially the epitome of the political history with which it commences.

(True Extract.)

Signed J. Sturrock
Under Secretary to Govt.

(True Copy)

To the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.

Revenue Dept.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Communicated to the Board
of Revenue

8/11/77

2. To the Bd of Revenue 16-7-77

14 July 77

17/6/77

Revenue Receipt

No 3241

Govt. of 18771 Madras.

POLITICAL.

To
THE RESIDENT IN TRAVANCORE
AND COCHIN.

Dated June, 29th

Amount

Rs

12 paise

and

G.O., 29th June 1877, No. 418.

Griff 14-7-77 M 3944

JUNE.

Nos. 52-53.

Cochin.—Administration Report of the Cochin
State for the year 1871 (1875-76), reviewed.

W. H. M. S.