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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

29th August 1877, No. 506.

Travancore.

Read the following paper :—

No. 47. *From H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Acting Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Trevandrum, 7th June 1877, No. 43.*

I have the honor to transmit the annual report on the administration of the State of Travancore for the year M.E. 1051, A. D. 1875-76.

2. LEGISLATION.—One Enactment Regulation 1 of 1051 was passed during the year, its object being the prohibition of unauthorized lotteries.

3. Three Royal Proclamations having the force of law were promulgated. The subjects were the constitution of an appellate authority from the decisions of Special Magistrates; the definition of the jurisdiction of the ordinary Courts in cases of contempt of Court by European British subjects, and an enunciation of the policy of the State in regard to the schism in the Syrian Church.

4. CIVIL JUSTICE.—The subjoined figures show the transaction of business in the Munsifs' Courts, during the year under report, as compared with the preceding year :—

	1050.	1051.
Suits pending and filed	29,982	31,728
Disposed of	26,096	27,800
Balance ..	3,886	3,928

5. The average duration of suits was two months and seven days, being less than the time occupied in the previous year by eleven days.

6. EXECUTION OF DECREES.—The apparent apathy evinced by decree-holders in suing out execution continues a noticeable feature. I have little doubt that, as pointed out in the last Administration Report, this is mainly due to the want of a special agency for the purpose. At present the duty of executing the decree devolves on the Judge who has passed it—a procedure which does not lend dignity to the Judicial office, and which at the same time causes great delay. There is clearly quite work enough to warrant the entertainment of a Nazir in each Court, and the propriety of making this addition to the Judicial Establishment will be urged upon His Highness' Government. In other respects, the administration of civil justice seems generally progressive and satisfactory.

7. CRIMINAL JUSTICE.—The above remark can hardly be applied to this portion of the administration. In the Zillah Courts, with the exception of those at Allepey and Ahlwe, where a marked improvement is observed, the delay in the disposal of cases seems to be on the increase. In Trevandrum itself, in 1050, the average duration of a trial was four days; in 1051, it had run up to thirty-four days; and in Nagercoil and Quilon the delay is very much in excess of the preceding year. In the Sadr Court the time occupied in the disposal of criminal cases had doubled the average of the previous year. A careful consideration of the matter, and a conference with the First Judge of the Sadr, has led me to the conclusion that to the system at present in force must be attributed this unsatisfactory state of affairs, rather than to an apathetic

discharge of their functions on the part of Judicial officers. The subject is receiving the attention of His Highness' Government, and several measures of reform are in contemplation. One is the institution of monthly sessions for the disposal of all cases committed to the Courts, and another, a very important one, embracing the extension of the jurisdiction of the lower Courts under the provisions of the new Criminal Procedure Code, which is now in a forward state of preparation, and will soon be submitted for the approval of the Maharaja.

8. Of 42,877 persons brought before the Courts, 11,717 were convicted, and 7,803 acquitted. Four persons suffered capital punishment, four were imprisoned for life—one for ten years, and sixteen for seven years. The others were awarded terms of imprisonment of three years and under, 66 were flogged, and 108 fined. It is not quite clear how the other persons charged were disposed of; but it would appear that a number of cases were compounded and others struck off the file on account of the non-attendance of complainants.

9. POLICE.—No information is to be found in the report as to the organization of the Police force, or of the manner in which they performed their duties; but, judging from the number of convictions as compared with acquittals, detection appears to have been satisfactory.

10. JAILS.—The death-rate amongst the prisoners reached $6\frac{1}{2}$ per-cent., being $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in excess of the mortality of the previous year. This is accounted for by the prevalence of cholera during part of the year.

11. REGISTRATION OF ASSURANCES.—The number of instruments registered, the amount of income and expenditure, and the excess of the former over the latter are all in advance of the preceding year. The department is said to have worked very satisfactorily, and its operations are being gradually extended.

12. LAND REVENUE.—Owing to the unfavorable nature of the season, there is a deficiency under this head to the extent of Rupees 79,185. No land was sold for coffee planting during the year. The question as to whether the land-tax should be raised in consequence of the abolition of the export duty on coffee, as provided in the rules, is still under consideration. It is believed that the planters would prefer the reimposition of the export duty to the augmentation of the land-tax, which would bear heavily on such portions of the estates as are not under crop. Besides, the land held under the ordinary light-tax tenure there are 10,400 acres held under old grants, and 40,000 purchased under the rules. A great deal of this is still unplanted, and but a comparatively small extent is in bearing.

13. CUSTOMS.—The point noticed in the report under this head are (1) the assimilation of the tariff to the revised tariff in British India; (2) the revision of the valuation of timber for fiscal purposes; (3) the exclusion from the export tariff of numerous petty articles in addition to the abolition of the export duty on coir-matting. The financial results exhibit a falling off for 1051 as compared with the preceding year of Rupees 6,783, which is more than accounted for by the abolition of the export duty on coffee. This but slightly affected the revenues of the preceding year, as the measure only came into operation during the last quarter of it. A comparison of the revenues of the two years, omitting the coffee duty in both, shows an increase, under the head of Customs, of about Rupees 18,000 for the year under review, which clearly indicates a development of commercial enterprise.

14. SALT.—There was a slight falling off in the amount sold as compared with 1050, in which year the highest sales on record were effected in anticipation of the enhanced prices* which were to come into operation at the commencement of the year under report. Owing to the augmentation of price the revenue, notwithstanding the diminished sales, shows an increase of Rupees 43,228. Reforms of abuses among the executives of the department have been vigorously carried out to the great advantage of the public revenues. It is stated that the formerly much-coveted appointments in the department are now going begging, and that those employed are most anxious to be transferred to other branches of the service.

* Rupees 2-2-0 for home-made, and Rupees 2-5-0 for foreign.

15. ABKARI AND OPIUM.—There is an increase under this head of Rupees 7,863 arising from a resale of certain farms the leases of which had expired. At para. 138 of the report an account is given of the manner in which the monopoly of opium is worked in the State. The Contractor, it appears, gets a portion of the drug direct from Bombay, which, including charges, costs him Rupees 12 per lb. (Dutch), and a portion, which is distinguished as Madras opium, from the Cochin Contractor, which costs Rupees 10 per lb. in Travancore. An explanation was asked as to what Madras opium was, as the drug is not manufactured in the Presidency; and the Dewan states, in reply, that "whatever opium comes from Madras side is so called," and explains that the difference in price is in consequence of its inferiority to Malwa opium. The Dewan states that the poppy is grown at Palmanair and other places in North Arcot, and largely in Mysore; but so far as I am aware the manufacture of the drug is not licensed in either locality. The article brought to Cochin from the Madras side must therefore be carried for a long distance overland; and, unless the quality is very inferior, it is difficult to understand, except on the supposition that it is smuggled, how it can undersell the seaborne commodity from Bombay.

16. TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCE.—Under the first head there was a slight falling off, but under the latter, there appears an increase of Rupees 85,820. Although the price of cardamoms was unprecedentedly low, a larger quantity was offered for sale than in the preceding year, and there was a slight increase in the amount realized by the sale of minor forest produce.

17. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE.—Under this head there is a falling off of receipts to the extent of Rupees 30,000, the cause of which is not explained in the report.

18. TOTAL REVENUE.—In reviewing the Administration Report for 1050, Mr. MacGregor observed that the revenue of that year was the highest ever realized in the State, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in excess of the average of the five years preceding. It will be seen from the report now under notice that the revenue of 1051 has exceeded that of the preceding year by Rupees 60,243. The subjoined statement exhibits, at a glance, the different heads under which an increase or decrease appears as compared with the preceding year:—

INCREASE.							RS.
Judicial Fees	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,905
Arrack and Opium	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,134
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,973
Salt	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,228
Cardamoms, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	83,193
Interest	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,029
Arrears collected	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,815
Total							1,85,277
							1,25,034
Net Increase.							60,243
DECREASE.							RS.
Land Revenue	..	..	..	..	..	..	79,185
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,023
Customs	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,754
Timber	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,072
Total							1,25,034

As regards expenditure, the fact that, notwithstanding extraordinary charges, amounting to three lakhs, having to be met, in addition to remission of revenue, to the extent of one lakh, the excess of disbursements over income was only Rupees 3,000, proves that the financial administration of the State has been ably and economically conducted. The principal items of extraordinary expenditure were the cost of the Maharaja's tour, amounting to Rupees 1,30,395, and the expenses of the Morajapum ceremony, which were Rupees 1,82,000.

19. PUBLIC WORKS.—The total expenditure on public works, including the Maramut Department, amounted during the year to Rupees 8,94,065, as compared to Rupees 9,24,765, the expenditure of the preceding year. No new works were undertaken, and the expenditure has therefore been on works already under construction, and the usual maintenance and repairs; Rupees 53,000 were expended on the construction of the main road between Trevandrum and Cottyam; Rupees 50,000 on the Suspension Bridge at Poonalur on the Quilon-Shencottah Road; and Rupees 76,235 on the Warkullay Barrier Junction Canal. This last work has not perhaps been prosecuted so vigorously as might have been wished; but, all things considered, it is hardly to be wondered at that His Highness' Government should have taken time to deliberate before providing more funds for this most useful, but very costly, project. It is stated in the report that the Government have determined on completing it, and this being the case, it will be expedient, on the ground of economy, to do so with as little delay as possible. A work requiring special supervision, and appliances, becomes more expensive every year that it is delayed. With the experience gained in the construction of Tunnel No. 1, it may be hoped that the estimate for No. 11, nearly four lakhs of rupees, will prove more reliable than the preceding ones. Although the outlay has been heavier than was anticipated, the work when completed will prove such a boon to the water-borne traffic of the country that the money will be well sunk, and if a small toll is levied on goods passing through the tunnels, which would be a very legitimate charge, a fair rate of interest on the outlay might be realized.

20. In connection with the Public Works Department, paragraph 168 of the report would seem to indicate the necessity of arrangements being made by the Government for the regular control and audit of Public Works Expenditure.

21. Before passing on to another subject, I may here observe that Mr. MacGregor's remarks, contained in paragraphs 40 to 47 of his letter, printed with the Proceedings of Government dated 16th November 1876, No. 729, have my entire concurrence. When each year's returns demonstrate the advancing prosperity of the country, the policy of locking up large sums of money and thereby starving public works, to which so much of it is due, is more than questionable. Due provision having been made to meet all possible contingencies, the surplus should undoubtedly be devoted to one of two objects—either the further development of the resources of the country, or the reduction of taxation. In Travancore the first has not yet been attained, and never will be if the available capital of the State is not utilized towards that end. It has been shown that twenty lakhs as a working balance and reserve would more than meet all possible requirements, and any surplus over and above ought to be set free for expenditure on works of public utility. In accordance with the instructions conveyed in the Order of Government on the report for last year, I have begged the Sirkar to give the matter serious consideration, and I hope that this disposition to hoard up the public income unnecessarily may gradually be overcome.

22. EDUCATION.—The progress of the High School and College at Trevandrum is marked, the number of pupils for the year under report being 1,026 against 960 for the year preceding, the principal accession being in the Preparatory School. Thirty-seven candidates passed the Matriculation examination, twenty-two took the F. A. degree, and all who went up for the B. A. degree, nine in number passed. The numbers for the preceding year were.—

Matriculation.	First of Arts.	Bachelor of Arts.
29	17	9

so that the year 1051 contrasts very favorably with its immediate predecessor, as it does also with the average of preceding years.

23. The education of the younger Princes, aged 12 and 9 years, respectively, was, at the commencement of the year, entrusted to N. Runga Row, B.A., First Assistant in the College, and the progress made by them under his tuition is reported to be creditable.

24. The position of Female Education in Travancore was alluded to, in laudatory terms by Mr. MacGregor in reviewing the last report, and I quite agree with him that the success, attained must, in a great measure, be attributed to the personal encouragement

afforded to it by His Highness the Maharaja. Ample money provision is made for those schools which are maintained at the cost of the State, and other schools receive grants-in-aid. In addition, His Highness makes a point of presiding at the distribution of prizes at the English Girls' School at Trevandrum, and this of itself affords encouragement to both pupils and teachers.

25. In the English District Schools the average daily number on the register was 936, and average daily attendance, 773. In the Vernacular Schools the attendance was—

	RS.
Village Schools	8,398
District do.	2,321
Total	10,719

being 567 in advance of the numbers in the year preceding.

26. The charges of the department amounted to Rupees 51,423, being Rs. 4,091 in excess of the previous year. The principal item of increase is under the head of Masters' Salaries. The fees realized amounted to Rupees 15,516 against Rupees 13,635 realized in 1050, leaving the net charges to be borne by the State at Rupees 35,907 against Rupees 33,697, the net charges of the year before.

27. The year under report saw the introduction of grants-in-aid to Elementary Vernacular Schools. The rules under which these grants can be obtained are at once liberal and judicious. They are available for all schools where the vernacular is taught up to a certain standard. To meet the charge a provision of Rupees 15,000 had been made. During the year under report, Rupees 8,686 were distributed amongst 218 schools; and, as the liberal intentions of the Government become more generally known, it is probable that other schools will avail themselves of them. The rules of course provide for Government Inspection.

28. THE MUSEUM AND PUBLIC GARDENS.—The Museum collection is temporarily placed in a small building near the public offices pending the completion of the handsome building in the public gardens destined ultimately to receive it. This is in a forward state of progress, and the improvements in the public gardens were advanced during the year.

29. GOVERNMENT GARDEN AT PEERMADÉ.—As the expenditure on the Government experimental garden at Peermadé continues to be largely in excess of the receipts, and as the experiment was merely intended to pioneer the way for the cultivation of tea, cinchona and other special products, it is now proposed to abandon it, and to leave the development of the capabilities of these hills to private enterprise, which has been attracted to them in considerable force.

30. MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—The expenditure under this head was Rupees 85,360 against Rupees 90,696 in the previous year. At the capital, where the various institutions are under the immediate supervision of Dr. Houston, the Durbar Physician, the working of the department leaves little to be desired; but for lack of such supervision the same cannot be said of the out-station hospitals, seventeen in number. Those hospitals are admirably found in medicines and surgical appliances; but the late Deputy Surgeon-General Stewart found that many of the medical subordinates in charge were ignorant of the use of them. This is much to be regretted, and I shall take an early opportunity of conferring with the Sirkar in view to measures being taken towards increasing the efficiency of the department in this direction. A Medical School at the capital suggests itself as an obvious remedy; but it would be simply impossible for Dr. Houston to undertake such a charge, in addition to his other duties, without assistance. If this were provided, not only would some such arrangement be feasible, but, with the permission of His Highness, Dr. Houston might be able from time to time to visit the outlying stations.

31. MARINE DEPARTMENT.—This is administered as efficiently as ever by Captain Crawford, in addition to his other duties as Commercial Agent to the Sirkar. This energetic officer, whose name has been identified with the prosperity of the port of

Allepey for upwards of a quarter of a century, combines the functions of Master Attendant with those of the Port Engineer. Of his abilities in the latter capacity the lighthouse built by him some seventeen or eighteen years ago is a lasting memorial; his rough and ready wooden pier is of the greatest service both to the Sirkar and to private traders; and the conservancy of the canal which connects the port with the line of back-water communication is very satisfactory.

32. The tonnage visiting the ports of Allepey and Colachel, as compared with the preceding year, is shown below:—

	1050.		1051.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steamers	86	62,506	90	57,282
Square-rigged vessels	87	27,846	61	28,337
Small crafts	140	7,555	207	11,989

33. The report shows, I think, that the State of Travancore is in an eminently prosperous condition, and this satisfactory state of affairs is unquestionably due, in a degree, to the able administration of the Dewan, Seshiah Sastri, and to the support accorded to his measures by His Highness the Maharaja. Judging from previous reports much has been done in the way of reforming abuses and improving the efficiency of the administrative agencies; and, whilst entitled to view the retrospect complacently, it is satisfactory to observe that both His Highness and his Minister are fully alive to the fact that much yet remains to be done, and I am aware that several important measures, which when matured will materially promote good government and the public welfare, are now under consideration.

No. 48.

ORDER THEREON, 29th August 1877, No. 506.

In his letter above recorded, the Acting Resident of Travancore submits a careful and exhaustive review of the Administration Report of that State for the year 1875-76, and His Grace the Governor in Council fully concurs with Mr. Sullivan in the opinion expressed in the concluding paragraph of his letter to the effect that the report shows the State of Travancore to be in an eminently prosperous condition. He learns with much satisfaction that His Highness the Maharaja has now under consideration several important measures which will tend still further to promote good government and the public welfare.

2. The Acting Resident's remarks in connection with the execution of Civil Decrees, the improvement of Criminal Justice, the extension of expenditure on Public Works under a regular system of audit and control, and the adoption of measures for increasing the efficiency of the Medical Establishment, have the full approval of Government.

3. The attention of the Board of Revenue will be directed to Mr. Sullivan's remarks on the importation of so-called "Madras opium."

(True Extract.)

S. J. Sullivan
Chief Secretary.

To the Resident of Travancore and Cochin,
" Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department. ✓

Exd. J. Wright.

58 Jan 1878

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Revenue Office
No 4004

Obdt. of 1877

POLITICAL.

To

THE RESIDENT IN TRAVANCORE

AND COCHIN,

&c,

&c,

&c.

Dated 4 April, 2894

Forward

Recd

15 September

Ind

G.O., 29th August 1877, No. 803.

AUGUST.

NO. 47-48.

Form No. — Administration Report of the
Treasurer for the year 1876-77, reviewed

2595455
Dodgson

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