Archives I - 10,006 - 16-8 77.

(1) Number of pages 14

(2) Date of repair 22-11-1982

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	756	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	22-3-1878	19 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

12th March 1878, No. 433.

Fairs and Festivals.

Read the following paper:—

No. 60. *From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bellary, 8th March* 1878, *No.* 150.

In forwarding copy of a letter, No. 4, dated the 28th ultimo, received from Special Deputy Collector C. Raghava Rao reporting the arrangements he made at the festival lately held at Mylar, in the taluq of Hadgally, I have the honor to state that he appears to have superintended matters most satisfactorily.

Enclosure No. 1.

From C. RAGHAVA RAO, Special Deputy Collector and Magistrate, to the Collector and Magistrate of Bellary, dated Hadgally, 28th February 1878, No. 4.

I have the honor to report upon the sanitary and other arrangements made during the Mylar festival this year.

2. The feast commenced on the 9th and lasted till the 20th instant. I and the Tahsildar reached the village on the 15th and till the 17th no pilgrims came, but on that evening carts and people began to flow in by hundreds and thousands, and on the 18th they covered an area of three miles around the village. The 19th was the principal festival day and arrangements were made to take the census of the pilgrims and carts on that night; eight men were employed from 8 P.M. to 4 A.M. on the work and their returns showed their numbers to be 66,000 people and 5606 carts, as particularized in the subjoined statement.

3. The assemblage was very large and far greater than that of the last five years. Nearly five-sixths of the pilgrims came from Dharwar villages and the Nizam's territories and the remaining fraction from this and neighbouring taluqs of our district. As the condition of the country on the other side of the river Toombadra is far better than what it was during the last two years, and as many of the devotees of this Mylar temple have not attended the festival for the past three years, they seem to have come in this year all in large crowds.

4. From general information I expected a larger assemblage this year than in the last, when it numbered only 4715, and on the 17th instant completed all necessary arrangements for the occasion and marked out encamping-grounds and bazaar lines in the open plain outside the village and had all the stone and rubbish cleared from it and laid out a broad and spacious track for carts to and from the river.

5. Two sheds for Police outposts and another for hospital and dispensary for the sick and six latrines at convenient places for the people were built and as usual every precaution was adopted for the convenience and comfort of the pilgrims.

6. But on the 18th I found the assemblage far exceed my estimate and we had therefore to enlarge our arrangements and to clear and mark out much more ground for camps and to form three more spacious latrines.

7. Four hundred and sixty-one sweepers and seventy-six scavengers were employed under [illegible]t supervision to keep the village, the encamping-grounds, the bazaar lines, and the latrines clean constantly, and these men and Police were so arranged as to prevent nuisance in or near the encamping-grounds and to send the people off to the latrines and to distant places for purposes of necessity.

8. The water-supply was very good. The wells in the village and the "Houdam" had an abundant supply in them and a watch was kept on the latter to prevent contamination of its

water. The upper portion of the stream in the river was reserved for drinking purposes and the lower for bathing and washing, and a Police guard was placed at a commanding centre on its bank to preserve order and to check nuisance.

9. The Police arrangements were excellent. The Hollal Station with a strength of one Head and three Constables was transferred to Mylar; four Constables came from Hadgally Station, eight from Harpanhally, and six from Kudlighi. They have had a most arduous work to perform. They had to patrol both night and day over an extent of three miles among an assemblage of 66,000 people and 5606 carts besides keeping a close watch over the batch of professional pickpockets who came with the pilgrims. Inspector Chennakristnama Naidoo though new to the department managed the Police arrangements well and displayed energy equal to the occasion. To aid him I called in the Police Inspector Cothanda Rao of Harpanhally, and he has rendered useful service in carrying out my sanitary arrangements and in preventing nuisance. I detained him for the three principal days and sent him back to his division.

10. Twenty-one petty thefts have been reported, but in five only the criminals were arrested. Better detection was impossible with so small and hard-worked Police party in a very large boisterous assemblage, and the old Revenue peons were most useful in tracing out and hunting after the pickpockets and in keeping them under close watch.

11. The weather was exceedingly hot, and heavy winds were blowing with thick clouds of dust and the people were exposed to them in large groups; still I have the pleasure to report that no sickness whatever appeared among the pilgrims. I was much afraid that any epidemic may break out among them, but luckily there was nothing of the kind, and they enjoyed good health and returned to their homes. Not a grain of any medicine was spent and not a soul sought the hospital-shed. The Taluq Vaccinator, Abdul Khadar, was present during the festival, but showed no work. He and the Hospital Assistant Iyavoo Pillay came on the 17th and returned to Hadgally on the 23rd.

12. In proportion to the assemblage the shops that came in were few in number and the disappointment of the previous years seems to have deterred several from coming. But even the shops that came did not enjoy much sale as from the poor and limited purchases they had to carry back a great portion of their goods. Neither was there any appreciable income to the temple. In good seasons with a similar assemblage its collection would have ordinarily amounted to nearly 1,000 Rupees, but this year it amounted to only 200 Rupees. These facts show the poverty of the pilgrims in general, who though rich in number are not so in their means and condition.

13. The food-grains were sold dear, but most of the pilgrims brought their provisions with them and returned to their villages after four days' stay. On the 24th the few remaining shop-keepers closed their stalls and left the village.

14. Fodder was plentiful and no hardship whatever was felt by the crowd in any respect, and everything passed off most satisfactorily and without any complaint or accident.

15. The subjoined statement shows the estimated number of pilgrims, shops, carts, animals, &c., that came for the festival:—

Pilgrims, 66,000; of these about 11,000 belong to this and our adjacent taluqs and the rest to the Dharwar districts and to the Nizam's villages.

Carts.

Big with solid wheels	2,101
Small or ordinary	3,500
Spring carriages	5
Total	5,606

Animals.

Bullocks belonging to carts	19,616
Pack bullocks	560
Bullocks brought for sale	600
Buffaloes	48
Horses	87
Asses	69
Total	20,980

Shops.

Sweetmeat, rice, &c.	211
Vegetable and fruit	98
Bangles	46
Brassware	6
Ironware	30
Cloth	58
Scents	18
Betel	23
Sugar-cane	33
Sundries	40
Total	563

16. The annexed memorandum furnished by the Tahsildar shows the particulars of expenditure incurred in making necessary arrangements:—

	RS.	A.	P.
1. Constructing sheds and latrines	32	1	8
2. Laying out roads and streets and clearing them and encamping-grounds of stone and rubbish	42	11	4
3. Cost of sweeping—76 toties and 461 sweepers	45	15	8
Total	120	12	8

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1878, No. 438.

The report will be communicated to the Board of Revenue, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, and Sanitary Commissioner.

2. The Special Deputy Collector C. Raghava Rao appears to have carried out the sanitary arrangements very successfully.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Inspector-General of Police.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Revenue Depte

No 1269.

Govt. of 1878 Madras.

To PUBLIC.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 12th.

Issued — 2 0

Recd. 20 March Bot.

G.O., 12th March 1878, No. 438.

MARCH.

Nos. 60-61.

Fairs and Festivals. — Communicating report on the arrangements made by Special Deputy Collector C. Raghava Rao at the recent festival at Myinc, Dollary District.

No 756

Lodged

22d March 78