Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. ~~4408~~ 4508.

DATED 27th Aug: 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Proc of the Local and Municipal Dept regarding improvement in the Registration of Vital Statistics in the Madras Presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O	No.	Department.	Date.

Government {1897} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

27/8/97

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G.O., No. 1503 L., 5th August 1897.

G.O. this No. 44080 & 27-8-97.

Recorded

27/8/97

AUGUST.

List.
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27/8/97

Vital Statistics.

Communicating to the Sanitary Commissioner, all Municipal Councils and the Municipal Commissioners of Madras, Government Order, Revenue Department, passing orders on papers relating to the question of improving the registration of — in the Madras Presidency.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

G.O., No. 513, Revenue, dated 1st July 1897.

Read—the following paper: —

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 89, dated 2nd February 1897.

Read—G.O., No. 476, Revenue, dated 21st September 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on papers relating to the question of improving the registration of vital statistics in this Presidency.

Resolution—No. 89, dated 2nd February 1897.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Government Order the Collectors are requested to furnish the Sanitary Commissioner in their B returns such information as he may require in order to enable him to carry out the orders of Government.

3. The attention of Collectors is drawn to paragraph 9 of the Government Order and paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 506, dated 30th November 1894, and they are requested to see that the duty of registering births and deaths is transferred to the village heads wherever such a course is feasible. In the case of large villages, the work should be distributed in the manner indicated in paragraph 10 of the Government Order.

4. The Board has already in its Proceedings, No. 71, dated 18th March 1895, issued orders with a view to ensure close attention on the part of the Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors to the registration of vital statistics. The instructions contained in paragraph 12 of the Government Order read above regarding the examination of the registers of births and deaths by these officers should be carefully attended to.

5. With reference to paragraph 13 (v) of the Government Order the Board submits a draft notification regarding the proof of age to be furnished by candidates for the public service. The draft is merely provisional and may have to be modified partially or in *toto* in accordance with the decision of Government on the points to be presently noticed. In the first place, the Board is not aware of the exact meaning attached by Government to the expression "public service," *i.e.*, whether it is meant to comprise all or only some of the services mentioned in the notification regarding re-vaccination published at page 1022 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th September 1894. It would be better to enumerate the services to which the rule is intended to apply. In the draft submitted by the Board, the rule is provisionally limited to candidates for Government service.

G.O., No. 609, Public, dated 18th August 1894.

6. Secondly, neither the registers of births maintained in municipalities nor those compiled by village officers in rural areas make mention of the name of the child whose birth is registered, and probably could not be made to do so within a reasonable time after birth on account of the diversity of practice obtaining in various communities as to the time of naming a new-born child. Extraneous evidence has, therefore,

to be admitted in order to establish the identity of the person producing the extract with the individual described in it; and the draft notification provides for the admission of such evidence.

7. Thirdly, as desired by Government, the notification distinguishes candidates born within municipal towns from those born in rural tracts. So long as this distinction exists, however, it is to be feared that candidates from whom certificates are required would, in many cases, be tempted to deny that they were born within a municipality, either because their real age happened to be over twenty-five, or because the production of a certificate was for some other reason inconvenient to them. As a partial check on this state of things, the notification provides that any such denial as aforesaid shall be supported by a suitable declaration signed by two respectable householders. The check, however, can be only partially effectual and is applicable only to candidates who were born in their own villages or under such circumstances that their birth would necessarily have attracted the attention of neighbours and would be remembered by them.

8. The defects in the proposed rules noticed in the last paragraph would disappear if the rules were made applicable to all candidates for the public service whether they were born within municipal limits or in rural areas. In this connection it would be as well perhaps to clear a misapprehension that possibly underlies the opinion expressed in paragraph 13 (v) of the Government Order, viz., that the extension of the rule to rural tracts would lead to the falsification of registers. Falsification would, no doubt, have to be expected if the village officers were the custodians as well as the compilers of the registers. But this is not the case. The instructions on this subject in the manual of village accounts require the register of births in every village to be submitted to the taluk at the end of each fasli and to be filed *in the taluk*.

9. Such being the case any person who desires an extract from a birth register would have to apply for it at the Taluk office, and there is no reason to suppose that taluk establishments would fail to discharge faithfully their duties in this respect; but supposing that, in the present connection, they would be exposed to special opportunities of corruption, it has still to be remembered that the alteration of a date of birth could only be effected by interpolating a fresh line in a different part of the register and, as the register would by hypothesis be from twenty to twenty-five years old, the chance of the interpolation escaping detection would be very small. Such a chance would be still further diminished, in regard to registers subsequent to the passing of G.O., No. 3899, dated 30th September 1896, by the present rule which requires consecutive number to be prefixed to each entry of birth.

10. The only real objection at present to the framing of a rule of universal applicability in regard to certificates of birth is the fact that, under the present orders * of Government, registers of births in rural areas are preserved only for twenty years and are afterwards destroyed. But there would be no inconvenience in extending the period of retention to twenty-five years; and the space to be provided in the taluk records for the registers of five additional years would be justified by the use made of such records by the public, the more so if the rule was extended as proposed in paragraph 11 below to school boys. No extracts from the register of births need be required in the case of candidates for the public service who are by their own admission over twenty-five years of age and who were born in rural tracts. Such cases are exceptional and the candidates would probably be able to produce other evidence of a satisfactory character in proof of their age.

* G.O., No. 367, dated 15th June 1895.

11. School boys are not referred to in the draft notification submitted by the Board. The application of the rule to them brings into operation a different set of conditions, and the Board considers that the Director of Public Instruction is the proper authority for working out those conditions and for framing a suitable notification. A rule requiring the production of an extract from the register of birth in the case of every boy and girl, on his or her first admission to a recognized school, will, the Board believes, be productive of the best results for developing and improving the registration of vital statistics. In the first place, considering that the time at which

such an extract would be required would ordinarily be only from seven to ten years removed from the date of the child's birth, it is evident that the extract could, in all ordinary cases, be easily procured and attested, whether the child was born in a municipality or in a rural area. Secondly, there would be no inducement to falsify such an extract, and even if there were, the fabrication could be brought home more easily than in the case of adults. Thirdly, it would not be necessary to renew the record during the subsequent career of a child in school or college, since he could be made to carry it with him as a part of his leaving certificate to every fresh institution to which he might be transferred. Fourthly, under suitable precautions, this record could be admitted as evidence of age for Government examinations as well as those held by the University, for which no proof of age is now required, and also for entrance into the public service. *Lastly*, as regards boys *already* in school, there is no reason why they should not be required to produce extracts from their birth register, accompanied by certificates of identity, to entitle them to admission to public examinations or to Professional or Arts Colleges.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To all Collectors.
" the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" " Director of Public Instruction.

ANNEXURE.

DRAFT NOTIFICATION.

Notice is hereby given that every person entertained on or after the 1st April 1897 in any branch of the Government service and in any appointment, whether permanent or temporary, and whether substantive or officiating, shall, at the time of such entertainment, produce in addition to the certificate of vaccination, referred to in the notification published at page 1022 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th September 1894, *one* of the following certificates, *i.e.*, (*a*) or (*b*) in regard to his age:—

(*a*) If he was born within the limits of a municipality in the Madras Presidency—
an extract relating to his birth from a register of births maintained by such municipality together with a declaration signed by two respectable house-holders and certifying from their own knowledge as to his identity with the individual described in the extract.

(*b*) If he was not born within the limits of a municipality situated in the Madras Presidency—
a declaration signed by two respectable house-holders and certifying from their own knowledge as to the place where he was born.

Order—No. 513, Revenue, dated 1st July 1897.

Miscellaneous.

On a careful consideration of the difficulties brought to notice in working the proposal contained in paragraph 13 (v) of G.O., No. 476, dated 21st September 1896, Government does not consider it possible to insist, at present, upon the production of attested extracts of birth registers from candidates for the public service born in municipalities. The absence of a name in the registers in the entries prior to 1896 will make it necessary, even when an extract is produced, to require evidence of identity. Such evidence it is easy to manufacture and difficult to test, and as the cases will be numerous (most being appointments to unimportant posts at the bottom of the service), it will only be tested perfunctorily. Moreover, nearly all the candidates will be able to refuse the production of extracts, if so disposed, on the plea that they were born in rural tracts. The proposal will therefore be dropped for the present.

2. It was ordered in G.O., No. 313 M., dated 22nd February 1896, that in the register of births maintained in municipalities, if the child has been named, the name should be entered in column 3, but if a name is given to the child after the original date of registration it may be entered in the remarks column, under the informant's signature and the registrar's initials, the entry being duly dated. It is not understood why the name of the child should not in every case be entered in the register of births simultaneously with the other particulars regarding birth. The reason generally given is that the naming ceremony does not take place till some time has elapsed after the birth. This is the case in England also, but there the name of the child is decided on immediately after the birth. It is believed the same practice prevails in this country also, if so, the name should be ascertained and entered in the register at the same time with the other details connected with the birth. If the [illegible] of births maintained in rural tracts is to be of any use, it is necessary that the name of the child should be entered therein also as in the case of municipal registers. The Board is requested to report on this matter.

3. The question of the measures to be adopted for improving the registration of vital statistics will be considered further on receipt of a reply from the Director of Public Instruction to paragraph 11 of the Board's Proceedings regarding the expediency of school boys being required to produce attested extracts of birth registers in proof of age.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Educational Department.

ORDER—No. 1503 L., dated 5th August 1897.

Communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner, all Municipal Councils and the Municipal Commissioners of Madras.

(True Extract.)

for *Secretary to Government.*

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
" all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
" all Collectors.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Revenue Department.

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
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