

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT NOTES.

INTERNAL—A, AUGUST 1901.

Nos. 6—8.

DEATH OF THE ELAYA RAJA, HEIR-APPARENT, AND THE SENIOR RANI,
OF TRAVANCORE. PRESENT POSITION IN REGARD TO THE
SUCCESSION.

EXTRACT FROM THE "PIONEER," DATED THE 9TH JUNE 1901.

Trivandrum, 7th June 1901.

His Highness the Elaya Raja, heir-apparent of the Travancore Musnad, died somewhat suddenly yesterday evening. The cause of death is believed to be diabetes. The remains were cremated with royal honours late last night amid striking demonstrations of public sorrow. The deceased Prince was a popular favourite, and respected and loved by all classes for his good deeds and many amiable virtues. His illness was kept a secret till yesterday. His death leaves the throne without a male heir, the succession passing on to the eldest of the two princesses recently adopted into Royal Family. The public institutions throughout the State will be closed for three days as a mark of respect. The Prince leaves a wife and three female children.

The *Civil and Military Gazette* of the 19th June reports the death of the Senior Rani on the 15th June.

No report has come from Madras about this. We should perhaps enquire with regard both to the Elaya Raja and the Senior Rani; and also whether Madras have reported the events to the Secretary of State?

W. S.,—20-6-1901.

T. C. EDWARDS,—21-6-1901.

Apparently Madras have never been told to telegraph such reports; but the omission is rather curious. I think circular instructions to report occurrences of this nature by telegram seem desirable. In the present instance no report to the Secretary of State seems to be required; but I think we might telegraph to Madras as in the draft below, especially as His Excellency visited Travancore so recently.

H. DALY,—21-6-1901.

A
The Madras Government should have reported these occurrences. I will take up that matter afterwards and prepare if necessary a draft circular* asking for reports by telegram in regard to personal incidents affecting Native Princes so that we may be able to send reports home as desired in the Secretary of State's telegram of 3rd November 1898. Meanwhile if Your Excellency approves the draft telegram below may issue. I think the death of the heir-apparent in Travancore is of sufficient importance to be telegraphed home.

* *Vide* Internal A, August 1901, No. 9.

Deposit I., November 1899, No. 19.

H. S. BARNES,—22-6-1901.

B
I have already telegraphed privately to the Maharaja of Travancore the expression of my sympathy at the death of the Elaya Raja. It is hardly necessary to repeat it over the death of the Senior Rani.

The Secretary of State should be informed about the former. Madras should be addressed

† Done separately—*vide* Internal A, August 1901, No. 9, as proposed—or rather a draft circular† should be prepared.

C[URZON],—22-6-1901.

TELEGRAM TO HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE, No. 2467-I.A., DATED THE 26TH JUNE 1901. Pro. No. 6.

Reports the Elaya Raja's death on the 6th June 1901.