

Speeches and Interpellations

OF

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. G. Ahmed Thambi Maracayar,

General Merchant and Dubash

OF

Messrs. MADURA Co., Ltd.,

NEGAPATAM.

During the Sessions of

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

The Govt. of Fort St. George

MADRAS.

From January 1913 till April 1915.



Madras Legislative Council, 1913-14.

PART I.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Meeting dated Madras, 2nd April 1913.

Question.—1. (a) Is the Government aware that on the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Ghaznavi, the Government of Bengal has been pleased to grant 2 hours' leave to all Muhammadans employed in the public offices to say their Friday prayers?

Prayer leave for
Muhammadans on
Fridays.

(b) Will the Government of Madras also be pleased to extend the same concession to Muhammadans employed in the public offices and grant them 2 hours' leave to enable them to say their Friday prayers?

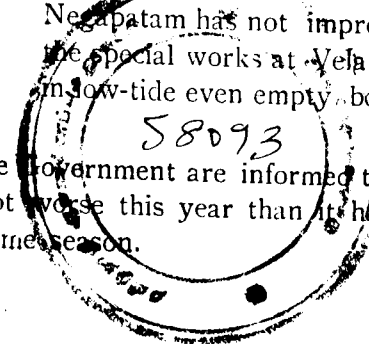
Answer.—The Government have asked the Government of Bengal whether such an order, as is described, has been issued. When the reply is received the matter will be further considered.

Ques.—2. (a) Is the Government aware that the bar at Negapatam has not improved in spite of the special works at Velanganni and that in low-tide even empty boats cannot cross the bar?

Silting up
of Negapatam Bar.

Ans.—The Government are informed that the condition of the bar is not worse this year than it has been in former years at the same season.

PRINTED AT THE
"EDWARD PRESS," NEGAPATAM,
1915.



Ques.—(b) Will the Government be pleased to take early steps to prevent the constant silting up of the bar until such time as the proposed dredger arrives?

*Ans.—*The new Dredger is expected to commence work in May next and meanwhile the Dredger now in use has been repaired and will be kept constantly in operation.

Ques.—3. (a) Is the Government aware that in areas inhabited by a large Muhammadan population their interests are not adequately represented in local bodies by a representative of theirs being elected?

Representation of
Muhammadans on
local bodies.

(b) Will Government in order to safe-guard their interests, be pleased to reserve a fixed proportion of nominated seats to Muhammadans?

*Ans.—*The Government have no reason to believe that speaking generally the Muhammadan Community is inadequately represented on local bodies. It is well understood that the existing powers of nomination should be utilised so as to safe-guard the interests of minorities which cannot secure representation through the process of election, but, the Government are not prepared definitely to reserve a fixed proportion of the nominated seats for any one section of the Community.

Meeting dated Ootacamund, 16th May 1913.

Ques.—4. (a) With reference to my question No. 1 (a) and the answer given thereto, in the meeting held on 2nd April last regarding leave for Muhammadan employees to say their Jumma prayers, is the Government aware of the answer (in reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Ghaznavi) of the Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock on behalf of the Government of India in

Prayer leave for
Muhammadans on
Fridays.

their meeting held on the 11th March 1913 in the following terms:—“As regards Muhammadan employees in Government of India Secretariats the Governor-General in Council will be pleased to allow the concession asked for and “the desirability of action on similar lines will be commanded to “local Governments”?

(b) Will the Government now be pleased to favourably consider the feasibility of granting two hours' leave for Muhammadans to say their Jumma prayers in this Presidency?

*Ans.—*Since the answer on this subject was given to the Hon'ble Member at the meeting of 2nd April the Government have, as promised, further considered the matter and have caused enquiries to be made as to the practice of private employers in this regard. They are not satisfied that in this presidency there is need for the concession referred to in the answer to which the Hon'ble Member draws attention.

Ques.—5. (a) Is the Government aware that the Bombay Government have declared the Bar-a-wafat, The Ramzan-id and the Bakrid as holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act in addition to the Moharrum which is usually notified under the Act?

Muhammadan
Public Holidays.

*Ans.—*The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Will the Government of Madras be pleased to declare at least four holidays for the Bakrid, Ramzan-id Bara-Wafat and Moharrum as holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act instead of one, i.e., for Ramzan as at present?

*Ans.—*The Government will consider the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Member.

Ques.—(b) If, on that account high landing charges have been paid to one firm in spite of lower charges made by another firm at the cost of the Municipal tax-payers?

(c) If the answer to *(a)* is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to furnish information as to the quantity landed and the rates paid thereon for the different consignments?

*Ans.—*The Government have no information, but will enquire.

Ques.—11. (a) Is it a fact that an additional District Munsif's Court is to be opened in the Tanjore District?

Additional District
Munsif's Court,
Tanjore District.

*Ans.—*A proposal to establish another permanent District Munsif's Court in the Tanjore District is now before the Government.

(b) If so (1) Will the Government be pleased to locate the Court at Nannilam, the head-quarters of the largest revenue paying taluq of the District? (2) If not will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of locating the Tiruvalur Court, which has jurisdiction over the Nannilam Taluq, at Nannilam which is centrally situated in the Taluq?

*Ans.—*The location of District Munsifs' Courts is determined by the High Court under Section 5 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873.

Ques.—12. (a) Is the Government aware that the Port establishments in the mufassal are disallowed overtime fees since 1905 while the same is allowed in the Customs?

Overtime in
Mufassal ports.

*Ans.—*The question does not state the facts correctly. The rates of overtime fees payable to Port Establishments

were revised in 1905 in accordance with the principles applied to the Customs Establishment in 1904. In neither kind of establishments are overtime fees ordinarily allowed to the clerical, accounts, or supervising staff.

Ques.—(b) If the answer is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to reconsider the order and allow the usual overtime fees to Port Establishments in consideration of their hard work during Sundays and other Government Holidays?

*Ans.—*The Government see no reason to reconsider the existing orders.

Ques.—13. (a) Have the Government received a memorial from the Muhamadan inhabitants of Mudukalathur, in Ramnad District, about the exhumation of the body of a Muhammadan female who died on 12th September last?

Exhumation of the
body of a Muham-
madan woman in
Mudukalathur Ram-
nad District

*Ans.—*The Government have received the memorial referred to by the Hon'ble member.

Ques.—(b) Is the Government aware that the body was exhumed by low class men (pariahs)?

(c) Is the Government aware that the post-mortem of the body was held by a medical man and not by a woman?

(d) Is the Government also aware that after the post mortem was held, the local officials refused to deliver the body to the relatives of the deceased in spite of their repeated requests?

(e) If the above facts are true, will Government be pleased to institute enquiries and do the needful to safeguard the interests of Muhamadans without wounding their religious feelings?

*Ans.—*The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Meeting, dated Madras, 27th January 1914.

Ques.—14. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the drainage scheme for Negapatam has been finally approved by Government and when final orders sanctioning the scheme can be expected to be issued?

Negapatam
drainage.

(b) In view of the present insanitary condition of the town which is infected also with plague and the unsatisfactory removal of sewage, will Government be pleased to begin the carrying out of the drainage works early and provide sufficient funds for the work to be begun in 1914-1915?

Ans.—The Government have decided that in Negapatam an underground system of drainage will be preferable to the open system for which estimates were originally prepared. The Sanitary Engineer has been requested to submit plans and estimates accordingly and to give the scheme an early place on his programme so that it may be sanctioned and funds allotted if possible in 1914-1915.

Ques.—15. Will Government be pleased to state if the Tuticorin-Tinnevely water supply scheme has been finally decided on and if so when the work can be expected to be started?

Tuticorin and
Tinnevely water
supply.

Ans.—The joint scheme for the supply of water from the Tambraparni river to the Municipalities of Tuticorin, Palamcottah and Tinnevely is estimated to cost 35.24 lakhs and is therefore beyond the means of the three councils even if taxation be raised to the maximum now permissible by law and a half grant be given from provincial funds. In view however, of the pressing need for the better drinking water in Tuticorin the possibility of designing and financing a separate scheme for this town alone is now under the consideration of Government.

Ques.—16. (a) With reference to my question No. 3 in its meeting held on 2nd April 1913 and with reference to the question asked by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mir Asad Ali Khan in the Imperial Legislative Council in its meeting held on 9th September 1913 and the answer given thereto will the Government be pleased to consider favourably the question of setting apart separate elective seats on local bodies for Muhammadans?

Representation of
Muhammadans on
local bodies.

Ans.—The Government cannot make any pronouncement on the subject until they are in possession of the views of the Government of India upon it.

Ques.—(b) If it is found inconvenient to do so will the Government be pleased to reserve at least some nominated seats for the Muhammadans according to the population in all the local bodies of the Madras Presidency?

Ans.—The Government have nothing to add to the answer to question No. 3 asked by the Hon'ble member at the meeting of the 2nd April 1913.

Ques.—17. (1) Will the Government be pleased to state:—(a) The number of Civil Courts which are now in the Tanjore District?

Muhammadan
employees in Civil
Courts, Tanjore
District.

Ans.—1 District Court, 5 Subordinate Judges' Courts and 11 Munsifs' Courts.

Ques.—(b) The total number of clerks, amins, and head ministerial officers employed in all such courts?

Ans.—The numbers are 149, 141 and 17 respectively.

Ques.—(c) the number of Muhammadans employed as clerks and amins in such Courts?

Ans.—The Government do not possess the information.

Ques.—(2) Will the Government be pleased to direct heads of departments to appoint Muhammadans for posts

on Rs. 20 who are fit to discharge the duties of clerks and amins in proportion to the other classes employed in such Courts?

Ans.—The power of appointment to posts which the Hon'ble member appears to refer is regulated by Sections 22 and 23 of the Madras Civil Courts Act 1873 under which the control of the power vests in the High Court. The Hon'ble the Judges of the High Court are aware of the wishes of the Government with regard to the distribution of appointments which are represented by the instructions contained in Board's Standing Order No. 128.

Meeting dated Madras, 2nd April 1914.

Ques.—18. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of deaths due to Cholera during the years 1911, 1912 and 1913 at the following places in the District of Ramnad, viz., Ilayangudi, Pudur, Saliyur, Ayur, Sottukudi and Karunjuti?

Ans.—The subjoined statement gives the figures approximately.

Names of villages.	Number of deaths from cholera in		
	1911	1912	1913
Ilayangudi	25	20	107
Saliyur	No separate figures are available; this village forms part of Ilayangudi town.		
Pudur	...	20	...
Ayur (Kilayur locally known as Ayur)	16	...	30
Sottukudi	47	...	...
Karunjuti	2	...	7

Ques.—(b) Will the Government be pleased to inquire into the reason for the increased number of deaths in this particular taluq?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to take such steps as they may deem necessary to remedy the evil?

Ans.—Various causes are assigned for the increase in 1913 in the number of deaths in Ilayangudi and Kilayur. It has been proposed to supply former with a protected well fitted with pump.

Ques.—19. (a) Are the Government aware that the dead body of a Muhammadan was burnt by the authorities at Tanjore evidently on suspicion of plague?

(b) Is it a fact that there were no circumstances to warrant the presumption that it was a suspected case of plague?

(c) Are the Government aware that the burning of the dead body of a Muhammadan is sacrilegious?

(d) Were the authorities justified in not arranging for the observation of the following religious ceremonies?

- (1) Bathing the body;
- (2) Covering it with a new cloth;
- (3) Offering of prayers;
- (4) Burial.

(e) Will the Government be pleased to call for a full report in the matter and place it on the table?

Ans.—The Government have no information but have called for a report on the subject.

Payments of salaries to local fund teachers in Negapatam taluq.

Ques.—20. (a) Is it a fact that the Government have received a memorial from 11 teachers of the Negapatam Taluq Board Local Fund schools regarding the irregular payment of their wages?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—(b) If the answer is in the affirmative will Government be pleased to take up the matter and arrange for regular payment of poorly paid teachers?

*Ans.—*The Hon'ble member is referred to G. O. No. 275-L dated 11th February 1914 already placed on the Editors' table in which instructions have been issued to secure more prompt disbursement of the salaries and capitation allowances of teachers of Board Elementary schools.

Meeting, Dated Ootacamund, 19th May 1914.

Exhumation of the body of a Muhammadan woman in Mudukulatur, Ramnad District.

Ques.—21. With reference to my question No. 13 at the meeting held on 11th November 1913 and the answer thereto will the Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points:—

(a) Was there a trial of the husband of the deceased for the alleged offence to the wife; if so, what was the result?

*Ans.—*The deceased woman's husband was tried for and acquitted of under offences under section 304 and 316 Indian Penal Code.

Ques.—(b) What was the result of the post mortem examination? Did it disclose any injury or violence?

*Ans.—*It is stated in the judgment of the Sessions Judge that two injuries were found on the deceased—one on the hand caused by a sharp weapon and the other on the abdomen caused by a blunt one.

Ques.—(c) Was any notice taken of the conduct of the Village Munsif who reported to the Sub Magistrate? Who was the informant on whose information the Village Munsif acted?

*Ans.—*The Government are not aware that any notice was taken of the Village Munsif's conduct or indeed that it merited notice. They have no information regarding the identity of the Village Munsif's informant.

Ques.—(d) Will the Government now be pleased to issue necessary orders that bodies of Muhammadans should be exhumed if necessary only by Muhammadans and by relatives if possible?

(e) If any post mortem is to be held on females will Government be pleased to direct that a Lady Sub Assistant Surgeon should be deputed to attend?

*Ans.—*The Government consider that the procedure to be adopted in any particular case must be left to the discretion of the local officers and they are not prepared to issue orders to the effect suggested.

Landing of materials for Negapatam Water Works.

Ques.—22. With reference to my question No. 10 at the meeting held on 11th November 1913 and the answer given thereto will the Government be pleased to place on the table the result of the enquiry regarding the landing of materials for the Negapatam water works?

*Ans.—*The Government are not prepared to lay the papers on the table. They are satisfied that the action taken by the Port Officer was quite correct.

Cremation of a Muhammadan dead body in Tanjore.

Ques.—23. With reference to my question No. 19 at the meeting held on the 2nd April and the answer given thereto regarding the cremation of a Muhammadan dead body at Tanjore—

(a) Are the Government aware that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer of Tanjore admitted in his letter No. 65 of 9th March to the Secretary, Anjumani-Azum of Tanjore that the cremation of the body was advised in the interests of public safety?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—(b) Will the Government be pleased to issue the necessary orders that in future no Muhammadan dead bodies should be burnt?

Ans.—The Hon'ble member's attention is invited to G. O. No. 246-P dated 18th April 1914 which has been placed on the Editor's table.

Ques.—24. Will the Government be pleased to state why the South Indian Railway Company buildings alone were not assessed to water tax in the Negapatam Municipality. Is it a fact that the sanction of the Government of India was applied for long ago, if so, when was it applied for and why was it not secured in time? Is there any special reason why the Railway Company alone should be free when the burden has to be borne by the owner of all buildings within the Municipal limits?

Ans.—The Railway property in Negapatam cannot be assessed to water and drainage tax without the previous sanction of the Government of India. The Municipal Council applied for such sanction in June 1912 and correspondence followed with that body and the South Indian Railway Company. Meanwhile general questions regarding local taxation of Railway property had arisen and these have been referred to the Government of India pending whose orders thereon the subject of taxing such property in Negapatam and certain other towns is standing over.

Ques.—25. (a) With reference to my question No. 16 asked at the meeting of the 27th January 1914 and the answer given thereto, are the Government aware that the special representation in setting apart separate elective seats on the Rangoon Municipal Council is in vogue under section 7 of the Burma Municipal Act of 1884?

Representation of Muhammadans on local bodies.

Ans.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Ques.—(b) Will the Government now be pleased to consider favourably and order separate election for Muhammadans on local bodies?

Ans.—As the Hon'ble member has already been informed this Government cannot take any action in the matter until they are in possession of the views of the Government of India regarding it.

Ques.—26. Will the Government be pleased to release the Moplah State prisoners who are now detained in various places under orders of the Government?

Release of Moplah State prisoners.

Ans.—No Moplah State prisoner is now in confinement. All are at large under police surveillance. The Government have recently permitted one of the prisoners who is in feeble health to return to Malabar. They are not prepared to pass a similar order in the case of the remainder.

Ques.—27. (a) Is it a fact that the Government called for proposals from various Municipal Councils some years back for amending the rules for election with special reference to the qualification of voters?

Committee to amend rules for election to Municipal Councils.

Ans.—The answer is in the affirmative.

Ques.—(b) Will the Government be pleased to appoint a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials

including some of the experienced chairmen of the Presidency to report on the proposals and to offer their suggestion for the modification of the existing rules?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to take early action in the matter?

Ans.—Any modifications that the Government may desire to make in the election rules in consequence of suggestions received from Municipal Councils will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for public criticism under Sec. 256 (1) of the District Municipalities Act 1884. The Government do not therefore consider it necessary to appoint a special committee for the purpose suggested by the Hon'ble member.

Ques.—28. Will the Government be pleased to appoint a Muhammadan to one of the two judgeships recently sanctioned in the High Court of Madras?

Appointment of temporary Judges, High Court.

Ans.—The function of the Madras Government in regard to these temporary judgeships as the Hon'ble member is no doubt aware is to lay recommendations before the Governor-General and in so doing His Excellency the Governor will always be ready to consider the claims of Muhammadans for such advancement.

In this instance the recommendations were made after full consideration and the appointments have now been made.

Ques.—29. (a) Is it a fact that the Government have received a memorial from the landlords, cultivating tenants, agricultural labourers and other inhabitants of the Kasargode Taluq in the District of South Canara about 6 months ago regarding their relief in reclosing the bar cut in the river near Katukacherri?

Opening the bar at the mouth of the Nileshwar river South Canara.

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to have the bar closed in the interest of the landholders. If the closing of the bar is impossible, will the Government be pleased at least to arrange to take necessary steps to prevent damages by erecting embankments, &c.?

Ans.—No such memorial can be traced. The Hon'ble member is however referred to the answer to question No. 15 (It appears that the persons affected have addressed the Board of Revenue. If they are dissatisfied with the orders of that authority, they can address the Government on the subject. The Government see no need to institute inquiries at this stage).

Ques.—30. (a) Are the Government aware that some of the Mission and private schools and colleges insist upon payment of full school fees from Muhammadan boys?

School fee for Muhammadan boys in Mission and private institutions.

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—(b) Will the Government be pleased to issue necessary orders that all schools and colleges in the Presidency should collect only half school fees from Muhammadan boys as per G. O. No. 404—Educational, dated 10th May 1912 to encourage education in the Muhammadan Community?

Ans.—The Government have offered Managers of aided schools an inducement to give effect to the rule by so amending Article 32 of the Grant-in-Aid-Code as to increase the grants ordinarily admissible to such schools by half the amount of the fee income foregone by the grant of the concession.

Meeting, dated Madras, 20th November 1914.

Ques.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state

(a) the number of Muhammadan inspectors in the Police department in 1904, and the number in each grade?

Muhammadan officers in police department.

(b) the corresponding numbers in 1914?

Ans.—The figures are given below:—

Class of Inspector.				Number of Muhammadan Inspectors in		
				1904	1914	
I	...	...	...	1	...	2
II	...	...	...	16	...	4
III	...	...	...	12	...	7
IV	...	...	...	14	...	10
The total number of Inspectors was 388 in 1904 and 292 in 1914.				43	...	23

Ques.—(c) the number of Muhammadan sub-inspectors who are fully qualified for the post of Inspector?

Ans.—Seven.

Ques.—(d) The number of Muhammadan Sub-Inspectors who were disallowed by the Inspector-General of Police, in 1913 and 1914 from appearing for examinations with a view to qualify themselves for the Inspector's grade; and

(e) The number of Hindu sub-inspectors who were in the corresponding period allowed to appear for the same examination and thus to qualify themselves?

Ans.—Two Hindu sub-inspectors were permitted to appear for the Criminal Lower test in 1913. In 1914, eight Muhammadan sub-inspectors were recommended by Superintendents for permission, of whom three were allowed and five refused. The corresponding figures for Hindus were 89, 20 and 69.

Ques.—(2) Will the Government be pleased to issue necessary orders with a view to maintain a fair proportion of Muhammadans in the higher ranks of the Police?

Ans.—On a population basis, the Muhammadans have more than their share of inspectorships.

Ques.—32. (a) Have the Government received a memorial from the Islamic Society, Mowbray's Road, Royapettah, Madras, requesting an exemption of the encroachment of the Batairy mosque, situate on Peter's Road, Royapettah?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, has the attention of Government been drawn to certain instances quoted in that memorial which are exempted?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider favourably in respect of this mosque also and grant exemption to the same?

Ans.—No such memorial from the society appears to have been received by Government who have no information on the subject referred to.

Ques.—33. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article headed "Moslem Girl Education" in the *Indian Patriot*, dated 14th July 1914?

Hobart's
Muhammadan girls
school Madras.

Ans.—The Government have now perused the article.

Ques.—(b) Is it true that the Government received a memorial from the Members of the Moslem Society, Madras complaining of the headmistress's interruption during the prayertime of students of the Hobart's Muhammadan girls' school on the 28th March 1914?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—(c) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if any steps have been taken in

regard to the headmistress who stood in the way of religious prayers ?

Ans.—The matter is under reference to the Director of Public Instruction.

Ques.—34. (a) Are the Government aware of the various criticisms made in several newspapers recently regarding the appointment of an official President in the Taluk Board of Negapatam ?

President of the
Negapatam Taluk
Board.

Ans.—The Government have seen certain criticisms of their order referred to.

Ques.—(b) If so will the Government be pleased to restore the privileges already granted to that Board or allow the Board to elect its president ?

Ans.—They are not prepared to alter it at present.

Ques.—35. With reference to G. O. No. 1910 M. dated 3rd October 1914 will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken in regard to the remarks passed by the Collector of Tanjore in his endorsement on the Negapatam Municipal administration report regarding the bribery prevalent at Municipal elections ?

Corrupt practices
in Negapatam
Municipal elections.

Ans.—The necessity of legislating to check corrupt practices at elections generally is now under the consideration of Government.

Ques.—36. With reference to the answer given by Government to my question No. 25 (a) dated 19th May 1914 will Government be pleased to state whether the views of the Government of India regarding the special representations by setting apart elective seats of Muhammadans on local bodies have been received ?

Representation of
Muhammadans on
local bodies.

Ans.—The views of the Government of India on the subject have not yet been received.

Ques.—37. With reference to my question No. 26 and the answer given thereto by Government at the Council meeting held on 19th May 1914, will Government be pleased to allow the Moplah State prisoners to return their places and keep them under Police surveillance till such time as Government think it proper to release them ?

Treatment of
Moplah state
prisoners.

Ans.—The Government are not prepared to permit any of the Moplah state prisoners to return to Malabar at present.

Ques.—38. With reference to my question No. 30 dated 19th May 1914 and the answer given thereto regarding the levy of half school fees for Muhammadan boys will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in the matter and are the Government aware that private schools and colleges are still insisting upon payment of full school fees for Muhammadan boys ?

School fees for
Muhammadan boys
in private
institutions.

Ans.—No further action appeared to be called for with reference to the question and answer referred to by the Hon'ble member and none was therefore taken by the Government. Under Rule 93 of the Madras Educational Rules the rates and levy of fees in institutions under private management are largely left to the discretion of the Managers.

Ques.—39. With reference to the rules fixing the levy of a fee of Rs. 10 for advice on local inspection by the department of industries will the Government be pleased to exempt bona fide applicant for advice, provided such applicants are recommended by a Revenue Divisional Officer or Collector ?

Fees for advice
charged by
department of
industries.

Ans.—The Hon'ble member is referred to the note to Rule 2(1) of the Published Rules for the levy of fees for work done by the department of Industries, which, authorises the Director to remit fees wholly or in part in cases where the levy of fees is likely to operate as an undue burden on the slender resources of applicants. The Government do not consider it necessary to make any further provision for exemption from the payment of the prescribed fees.

Ques—40. In view of the increased demand for Mechanical artisans and labourers and the large openings available in the local workshops and in the District, will the Government be pleased to open an Industrial school at Negapatam for the training of boys?

Industrial school
for Negapatam.

Ans.—There is at present a Government Technical Institute at Madura, a scheme for the development and reorganization of which has been approved by the Government and will be introduced when the new buildings which are shortly to be constructed for the Institute are completed. The Government have also under consideration a proposal to develop the Saint Francis Xavier's Industrial School, at Tanjore. More schools for the Southern Districts are not for the present contemplated. The Institute at Madura and Tanjore should serve the needs of Negapatam also.

Ques.—41. With reference to my budget speech dated 2nd April 1914 will Government be pleased to state if the programme of the public works department for a period of five years has been ordered to be made out?

Programme of
public works.

Ans.—The Government were unable to accept the Hon'ble member's suggestion.

Ques.—42. (a) Is it a fact that the inhabitants of Keelakarai submitted a memorial to Government on 31st October 1914 praying for the formation and maintenance of a road from Ramnad to Keelakarai?

Opening a road
from Ramnad to
Keelakarai.

Ans.—The memorial referred to has been received.

Ques.—(b) If the answer is in the affirmative will Government be pleased to issue necessary orders, as the inhabitants of Keelakarai are put to much inconvenience and loss on account of the want of a good road?

Ans.—The Government cannot move such a matter which is one for the local board concerned to deal with.

PART II.

SPEECHES.

Council Meeting dated 13th March 1913.

Revised Financial statement:—

In seconding the resolution of the Hon'ble Mr. T. Zainulabidin Sahib, the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Maraicair said:—

"Your Excellency":—"I respectfully beg to second the resolution which has been proposed by my friend the Hon'ble Mr. T. Zainulabidin Sahib. This is a resolution, I am sure, which the Government will extremely sympathise with and I hope that in view of the backward condition of the Moham-madan Community in the matter of education especially secondary education they will kindly set apart a sum of Rs. 50,000 for secondary education for Mohammadans."

Council Meeting dated 2nd April 1913.

Budget Speech:—

"Your Excellency":—"I would begin by offering my hearty congratulations to the Hon'ble the finance member for the clear and interesting budget which has been presented to this Council. We should be highly thankful to the Government of India for the liberal grants to this Presidency. I would invite Your Excellency's kind attention to the following few points which deserve consideration at your Excellency's hands.

"The Government of this Presidency have been very liberal in regard to grants to local bodies for improving the sanitation of towns and rural areas. The Government of India have been kind enough to sanction a recurring assignment of 6 lakhs for expenditure on sanitation with effect from 1913 to 1914. A provision of 56 to 98 lakhs has been provided

for special grant to local bodies but in details I find that whereas a sum of 11 lakhs goes to the District Boards for roads, bridges and causeways, no aid is given to Municipalities. I beg to suggest that in the case of such of the Municipalities whose toll income is small and who have natural disadvantages for metalling the roads and for keeping the roads in a proper condition aid may be given by Government after investigation if necessary.

"In regard to Police I do not know if sufficient time has elapsed for the Government to be able to say whether the abolition of several stations and the creations of circles with fewer Police Stations have proved a success. My own opinion in regard to this matter is that dacoities have and will become more frequent and the investigation of serious offences will be less prompt. This is however a matter in which the Government will be best able to judge after some lapse of time. The pay of the Police Constable should be raised to at least Rs. 12 as on the ruling scales of pay it is no wonder that many constables try to supplement their scanty pay by illegal means.

"Further, I beg to point out that a small Marine Police force may be employed at the Ports where there are large number of cases remain unreported and undetected and for this reason it will be found on reference to statistics that the trade of the British Ports is decreasing as compared with that of the neighbouring French Ports. The outcry of the groundnut shippers especially at Cuddalore, Porto Novo and Negapatam is very great as the out-turn at destination are very disappointing. This is entirely due to pilferage between shore and the steamer during shipments, which could be avoided by the establishment of a special Police Force.

"In regard to Hospitals Government has in G. O. No. 114-M dated 20th January 1913 rightly pointed out that the

employment of properly trained nurses would add greatly to the facilities now provided for the treatment of Inpatients. I beg to suggest that arrangements might be made by Government to induce a large number of women to undergo training by grants of scholarships etc., and if possible a special training school may be opened by Government. In the case of Hospitals in which accommodation for at least 40 patients is available and at least 40 inpatients are treated at a time, the employment of a nurse should be insisted on and their pay should be borne by Government as the local bodies who maintain the hospitals are not in most cases able to bear the cost of nurses.

"In regard to the expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department, I do not know if a programme of works for five years in advance is made out by each Executive Engineer or by each of the Sub-Divisional Officers. The expenditure of each division depends largely on the interests and capacity evinced by the officers in charge of divisions. Apart from works of a specially large nature which will show expenditure a comparison of figures under the head repairs will show marked variations and it cannot be said that any particular division stood in need of repairs only during the time of a particular officer. I beg to suggest that a standing programme may be formulated in consultation with select representatives of landholders and if this were done many of the masonry irrigation works which are badly in need of repairs would have been repaired long ago, and if the landholders are taken into the confidence of the officers the complaint that the want of agricultural labour retards the progress in the works will disappear.

"Under the heading of grants to Municipal Works, I find only a budget estimate of 4.51 for 1913-14. In the details given I do not find any provision for the Negapatam

drainage scheme or the Tinnevely-Tuticorin Water-supply scheme. The two schemes are equally important and I should be grateful to be advised why the schemes investigated two years back have not yet been sanctioned by Government and the necessary funds allotted.

"I also wish to suggest that in big Mahomedan centres such as Trichinopoly and Madras where there are good educational institutions liberal grants be given towards the construction and maintenance of hostels intended exclusively for Mahomedans in whose education Government has always taken an abiding interest.

"I also request that your Excellency will ask the District heads to convene a conference of selected representatives for the purpose of elaborating a workable system of village panchayats.

"The extension of the Tanjore District Board Railway and the construction of District Board lines in Tinnevely Madura, South Arcot and other places have been hanging on for the past several years and it is high time that some definite understanding be come to between the Boards and the Railway system who have to construct the lines and work them so that the Railways may be accomplished facts within your Excellency's regime.

"One other subject and I shall have done. The important towns and Taluk centres are becoming congested day by day as people are taking to town life. The miserable plight in which the officers of Government are placed when they are transferred to any station for want of good accommodation is inconceivable. I have known of several instances in which Indian Officers such as Subordinate Judges, District Munsiffs, Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and Sub Magistrates have been obliged to live in Choultries or illventilated and insanitary

buildings situated in a most unhealthy and congested portion of the town and I, believe, the Government will only be doing its duty to these hard worked officers of Government if it provides suitable quarters for such officers and deduct rent from their pay as is done in the case of Revenue Divisional Officers, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police and Assistant Commissioners of Salt and Abkari. I may mention that it is not merely the class of officers that I mentioned above but other officers such as Police Inspectors, Collectors of Customs, Civil Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons are subjected to considerable hardships and annoyances before they are able to secure decent residences for themselves. I hope Government will make a beginning and provide buildings in such places where the inconvenience is most pressing."

Meeting dated 5th April 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. D. Jackson replied:—

"Your Excellency, while I am a little reluctant to add to the length of this debate there are a few matters on which I should like to make a few remarks. Some of them have already been referred to by previous speakers. The Hon'ble Mr. Marakayar referred to the need which exists for more efficient Police supervision at Coast ports to prevent the very extensive pilferage of cargo which at present goes on at some of these ports. It is not too much I think to say that the extent of this pilferage at present constitutes a grave scandal and is calculated to seriously affect the credit of Madras coast exporters in the European markets. The steps which are necessary to put a stop to it, as I understand beyond the resources of the local authorities and the Madras Chamber of Commerce has recently made a representation on the subject to your Excellency's Government. I hope I am afraid I cannot get away from a phrase that has become very

familiar to us all, I say I hope that the representation will receive the sympathetic consideration of your Excellency's Government."

"Both the Hon'ble Mr. Marakayar and the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma referred to Railway development in this Presidency and the latter gentleman also associated with it the question of the Vizagpatam harbour scheme. I will only say that these are matters which the Madras Chamber of Commerce has very much at heart and I am glad to think that active steps which I know are being taken by Government are likely to result before long in some real progress being made in the desired direction."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Sivasawmi Iyer's reply.

"The Hon'ble Mr. Marakayar wished to know the present stage of Negapatam drainage scheme and the Tinnevely-Tuticorin water supply scheme. As regards the Negapatam Drainage Scheme I may inform him that the Sanitary Engineer has been called upon to submit rough estimate of the cost of different systems of drainages for the town in order that the financial aspects of the works may be considered. As regards the Tinnevely-Tuticorin water supply scheme the technical aspect of the scheme is now under the scrutiny by the Chief Engineer and the financial aspect is also under consideration. We desire to ascertain whether it is possible to reduce the cost without affecting the efficiency of the scheme. One of the last orders passed on the Tinnevely-Tuticorin scheme is that sanctioning an estimate of Rs. 1,050 for the Tambravarni river. That would be a necessary preliminary to the sanctioning of the scheme. Then with reference to the District Board Railways the Hon'ble Mr. Marakayar wanted to know in what position they stood. An agreement with the South Indian Railway

Company has been very nearly concluded and the Mannargudi-Nidamangalam and the Vedaranyam-Tiruturaipundi lines will be taken up. The Hon'ble Harold Stuart will refer to this question in more details. I may assure the Hon'ble member that the Government have not been letting the grass grow under their feet with regard to this matter. We have taken every possible step to expedite the execution of these Railway schemes."

The Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart.

"There are only a few matters upon which I shall trouble the Council. Hon'ble members will understand that the points upon which I do not reply are not necessarily neglected for as the Hon'ble Sir John Atkinson explained we do examine the speeches at a later stage and consider whether any action is needed. First, I will take the subject of Police. As an old Inspector-General it rejoices me to find that once again there are no complaints in this Council about the conduct of the Police. I have no doubt that in a year or two we shall have Hon'ble members actually singing the praise of the Police staff. There are however it is true complaints not about the action of the Police, but in one or two cases about the increase of crime. It has been stated that owing to the reallocation of our Police stations by which we have greatly increased the area under one station and diminished the number of outposts dacoity has increased. Well, Your Excellency, we make special enquiries into the allegations of that nature in the South Arcot district. We find that the allegation were based on surmise and so far as figures went there is no increase in crime and those who brought forward those allegations were obliged to fall back, on the hypothesis that dacoity was committed but not reported. I believe, as a matter of fact there has been no increase of dacoity owing to our re-allocation of police stations. Dacoity is due in most part to the spread of the criminal tribes and we are dealing

with that question. We are dealing with the crime at its source and we have arranged for the settlement of as many as possible of these unfortunate people. I say, unfortunate people, because, they become criminals largely owing to their occupations having gone. We are trying to arrange settlements for these tribes so that they will be able to earn an honest livelihood and no longer prey upon their countrymen.

"Another small matter in connection with the police was mentioned by the Hon'ble Mr. Jackson who complained of the pilfering at small ports. We have had complaints as regards one Port Cuddalore. The complaint was sent by the Chamber of Commerce and we have forwarded it to the Inspector General of Police who will report on it at an early date.

"I come now My Lord to the subject of the District Board Railways to which my Hon'ble friend Mr. Sivaswami Iyer has already referred. The position as regards individual lines is this. The line from Nidamangalam to Mannargudi is under construction. The line from Tiruturaipundi to Vedaranyam will be started soon, if it has not been already started. The link between these two will also, I hope, be started before long, but in connection with that there is a claim by the South Indian Railway on the ground that the line will short-circuit their system and that claim is being examined."

Meeting dated 11th November 1913.

Resolution.

1. "That this Council recommends the Governor in Council may be pleased to declare at least four holidays for "Bakrid, Ramzan-id, Bari-wafat and Moharrum, as holidays "under the Negotiable Instruments Act in addition to one "day, i.e., Ramzan at present."

2. "That this Council recommends the Governor in Council be pleased to order that at least one hour's leave be granted to all Muhammadan servants of Government to say their jumma prayers on Fridays."

His Excellency's Speech.

His Excellency :—"These resolutions stand in the name of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Thambi Marakayar. Both he and the Hon'ble Mr. Ramanuja Chariar have informed the Secretary that they are unavoidably prevented from attending to-day and have asked that their resolutions may stand on the paper in their places. That I propose to allow. They will stand in their places on the paper for discussion to-morrow."

12th November 1914.

The Hon'ble Shifaulmulk Zainul-abidin Sahib :—"With your Excellency's permission I should like to move the resolution which stands in the name of the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Thambi Marakayar."

His Excellency the President :—"The Secretary to the Council has received a communication from the Hon'ble gentleman in whose name the resolution stands stating that he wishes it to be postponed till the next meeting. So we are obliged to comply with that request unless the Hon'ble gentleman has received other instructions."

The Hon'ble Shifaulmulk Zainul-abidin Sahib :—"With your Excellency's permission I mean to send a telegram to the Hon'ble Mr. Marakayar asking him to give me permission to move the resolution."

His Excellency the President :—"I think we must in the meantime comply with the request made by him and the resolution must stand over till the next meeting." Then the resolutions were made to stand over.

13th November 1913.

The Hon'ble Sir, John Atkinson :—"I had intended Your Excellency, to announce the fact in connection with resolution No. XI (1) which was to have been moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Ahamed Thambi Marakayar that the Government intended to appoint a committee to consider the question dealt with in that resolution. Then I noticed resolution No. XVIII which is now moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Seshagiri Ayyar and it seemed to us that it would be convenient that the question raised in the present resolution which has been now moved, and the other raised in the other resolution might apart from the question of its being contained in the resolution, be referred to a public committee constituted as far as possible to represent all interests concerned and that on their report the Government should in due course pass orders.

Circular No. 1.

Circular letter sent by me regarding the grant of one hour's leave to Muhammadan Employees in Government Offices as per G. O. given below.

NEGAPATAM,
1st December 1913.

DEAR BROTHER,

You are aware that I have been requesting the Government for the grant of one hour's leave to the Muhammadan employees to say their Juma prayers on Fridays, which request is granted as per copy of G. O. given below.

Government of Madras.

Public Department.

Order No. 1408, Public, dated 14th November 1913.

The Governor in Council is pleased to direct that leave of absence for one hour shall be granted on Fridays to such

Mohammadan employees of Government as apply for it in order to say their Juma prayers.

2. The hour during which the concession shall be allowed will be fixed by the head of each office concerned with reference to the time at which prayers are usually said in the local mosques.

(True extract). (Sd.) W. O. HORNE,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

Circular letter No. II.

Circular Letter dated 6th April 1914 in regard to the Cremation of a Muhammadan dead body at Tanjore.

DEAR BROTHER,

I beg to bring to your kind notice the attached G. O. intimating the local authorities will pay due regard to the religious susceptibilities of the community affected in accordance with the interpellation put in by me at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 2nd April 1914 regarding the cremation of a Muhammadan dead body at Tanjore.

Government of Madras.

Local and Municipal Department.

Order No. 246-P., dated 18th April 1914.

Read the following papers:—

Question No. 16 put by the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmed Thambi Marakayar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd April 1914, and the answer given by the Government.

Question 16.—(a) Are the Government aware that the dead body of a Muhammadan was burnt by the authorities at Tanjore, evidently on suspicion of plague?

(b) Is it a fact that there were no circumstances to warrant the presumption that it was a suspected case of plague?

(c) Are the Government aware that the burning of the dead body of a Muhammadan is sacrilegious?

(d) Were the authorities justified in not arranging for the observation of the following religious ceremonies?

- (i) Bathing the body.
- (ii) Covering it with a new cloth.
- (iii) Offering of prayers.
- (iv) Burial.

(e) Will the Government be pleased to call for a full report in the matter and place it on the table?

Answer.—The Government have no information but have called for a report on the subject.

II

Letter.—From R. B. Wood, Esq., I. C. S., Collector, of Tanjore.

To—The Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department.

Dated—The 28th March 1914.

No.—R. C. 524—P.

Abstract.—Reporting on the cremation of the body of a Muhammadan who died of plague at Tanjore on the 12th February 1914.

ORDER—No. 246 P., dated 18th April 1914.

Recorded.

2. It appears that the body was cremated by the Municipal authorities of Tanjore on the advice of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and with the consent of the brother of the deceased. The Government agree with the Collector of Tanjore that cremation was unnecessary in this instance and trust that in all such cases the local authorities will pay due regard to the religious susceptibilities of the community affected.

(Sd.) FRANCIS,
Secretary to Government.

Abstract of G. O. No. 53, dated 12th January 1914.

HOLIDAYS.

Public Department.

Read the following papers :—

Question asked by the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Marakkayar Sahib Bahadur at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on 16th May 1913 and the answer given thereto:

Question No. 54. (a) Is the Government aware that the Bombay Government have declared the Baraiwafat, the Ramzani and the Bakrid as holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act in addition to the Moharrum which is usually notified under the Act. Will the Government of Madras be pleased to declare at least 4 holidays for the Bakrid, Ramzanid, Baraiwafat and Moharrum as holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act instead of one for Ramzan as at present?

Answer.—The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government will consider the suggestion made by the Hon'ble member.

II.

Official Memorandum No. 2340—1

Public, dated 2nd June 1913.

Copy of question No. 54 asked by the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Maricair Sahib Bahadur at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on 16th May 1913 regarding the Muhammadan holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act together with the answer given thereto is forwarded to the Board of Revenue with the request that the Board will be so good as to favour Government with its views on the proposal.

2. The attention of the Board is invited to the discussions on the subject in the Imperial Legislative Council republished on pages 306 to 313 of Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette* dated 8th April 1913.

(By Order)

C. S. ANANTARAMAIYAR,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

III.

Letter.—From the Chief Secretary to Government

To the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
President, Southern India Chamber of Commerce.

Madras.

Dated.—the 2nd June 1913.

No.—2926-2.

I am directed to forward herewith copy of a question asked by the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Marakkayar, Sahib Bahadur at a meeting of the Legislative Council held on 16th May 1913 regarding the Muhammadan holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act and of the answer given thereto and to request that the Chamber will be so good as to favour Government with its views on the proposal.

V.

Letter —from the Vice-Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

To—the Chief Secretary to Government.

Dated—27th June 1913.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2526-2, dated the 2nd instant forwarding copy of a question asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held

on 16th May 1913 regarding Muhammadan holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act and requesting the Chamber to favour Government with its views on the subject.

In reply I have the honour to inform you that in the opinion of the Chamber the Muhammadan holidays in question could only be granted by the cancellation of other holidays already on the list. The members of the Chamber are of opinion that conditions in this Presidency do not justify such a change.

VI.

From—Rao Bahadur P. Theagaroya Chetti, B.A., President, Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras

To—The Chief Secretary to Government.

Dated—the 4th July 1913.

No. D. 161.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2526-2 dated 2nd June 1913 regarding the Muhammadan holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

My Committee have considered the suggestion contained in the question sent as an enclosure to your letter and are of opinion that the following three days may be notified as holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act in addition to the Ramzani which is already enjoyed as a holiday *under the act viz* :—(1) Baraiwafat, Moharrum, and (3) Bakrid

VII.

No. 30 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) Mis. No. 3092 dated 12th August 1913.

Read the following papers :—

Memorandum from Government, Public Department.

No.—2526—1, dated 2nd June 1913.

(ii)

Board's reference thereon No. 1243 G. T. 13—1, dated 16th June 1913.

(iii)

Letter—from R. F. Austin, Esq., I. C. S., Collector of Madras.

To—The Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Dated—the 1st August 1913.

No.—D. Dis. 1375.

In reply to the Board's reference No. 1243 G. T. 13—1 dated 16th June 1913, I have the honour to report that the Chamber of Commerce has been consulted by the Government direct and has expressed its opinion that the proposed extra holidays are not justified by the conditions of this Presidency and could only be granted by eliminating as many existing holidays. My own opinion is that there is no extensive body of mercantile Muhammadan opinion in favour of the proposal and that the proposal like some others recently made is merely a bid for popularity by way of an appeal to the religious sentiments of the less educated classes of Muhammadans.

Resolution—Mis. No. 3092 dated 12th August 1913.

In reply to Government Memorandum No. 2526—1, public dated 2nd June 1913, regarding Muhammadan holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act the board submits copy of a letter received from the Collector of Madras which embodies the views of the Madras Chamber of Commerce on the subject. The Board agrees with that body in deprecating an addition to the total number of holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act and considers that the question whether the number of holidays now

allowed to Muhammadans cannot be increased by eliminating some other existing holidays might appropriately be referred to a small committee.

(True Extract)

(Sd.) W. G. McFARLAND,
Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government.

VIII.

Official Memorandum No. 2926-3,

Public, dated 23rd October 1913.

The Deputy Director of the Madras Observatory is requested to be so good as to report at a very early date how many of the Hindu festivals usually notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act and how many of the Muhammadan festivals, viz, Bakrid, Ramzanid, Baraiwafat and Moharrum (last day) will in the ensuing five years coincide with each other or other statutory or declared public holidays.

(By Order)

C. S. ANANTARAMA IYER,
Under Secretary to Government.

To
The Deputy Director,
Madras Observatory.

IX.

Letter—from the Officiating Deputy Director, Madras Observatory.

To—the under Secretary to Government, Public Department.

Dated—27th October 1913.

No.—300—M.

In reply to Memorandum No. 2926-3 dated 23rd October 1913, I have the honour to state that in years 1914 and 1917,

the Tamil New Year's day will coincide with Easter holidays, the former occurring on 13th April in both years and the latter from 10th to 13th April in 1914 and from 13th to 16th April in 1917. With this exception no other holidays will coincide with each other during the next five years.

X.

Letter—From the Hon'ble Mr. W. O. Horne, C. S. I
I. C. S., acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To { The Chairman, Madras Chamber of Commerce,
The President, Southern India Chamber of Commerce,
The Chairman, Madras Trades' Association.

Dated—the 14th November 1913.

No.—Ref. 2926-4.

(With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter ^{dated 27th June 1913} No. 161-D. dated 4-7-1913 I am directed to inform you that the Government have decided to appoint a small committee to examine and if necessary to revise the list of holidays to be notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act in special reference to the terms of the two resolutions submitted to the Legislative Council copies of which are enclosed.

I am to request that ^{your Chamber} ^{your Association} will be so good as to nominate a representative who is willing to serve on the Committee.

XI.

Letter—From the President, The Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

To—The Chief Secretary to Government.

Dated—the 25th November 1913.

No.—D. 254.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2926-4 dated 14th November 1913 asking this Chamber to nominate a representative to serve on the Committee in connection with the revision of the list of Holidays to be notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act and to state that my Committee have at a special Meeting held on Friday the 21st instant, nominated me to serve on the proposed Committee.

I have the honour to request for information regarding the time and place of the Meeting of the Committee. I shall be thankful for any further particulars or official papers relating to the subject.

XII.

Letter—from the Chairman, The Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

To—The Chief Secretary to Government.

Dated—the 28th November 1913.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2926-4 dated the 14th November 1913 intimating that the Government have decided to appoint a small Committee to examine and, if necessary, revise the list of holidays to be notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act and requesting this Chamber to nominate a representative who will be willing to serve on the Committee.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the Chamber has nominated Mr. Gordon Frazer, of Messrs. Best & Co., Ltd., Vice-Chairman of the Chamber, as its representative to serve on the Committee.

XIII.

Letter—from the Secretary, Madras Trades' Association.

To—The Chief Secretary to Government.

Dated—28th November 1913.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2926-4 Public, dated 4th instant, to the address of the Chairman of this Association, and in reply I am directed to inform you that at a Meeting held on the 27th instant, it was resolved by the Members of this Committee to nominate Mr. J. H. Thonger, of Messrs. Spencer and Co, Ltd., to serve on the Committee to be appointed by Government to examine and if necessary to revise the list of holidays to be notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

XIV.

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. W. O. Horne C. S. I.
I. C. S., Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To—The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Thambi Marakayar

Dated—13th December 1913.

No. Ref. 2926-5

I am directed to state that the Governor in Council has decided to appoint a Committee to examine and revise if necessary the list of Holidays now notified under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. 1881, and to enquire whether you are willing to serve on it.

XV.

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmed Thambi Marakayar, Additional Member of The Madras Legislative Council.

To—The Chief Secretary to Government,

Dated—Negapatam, 17th December 1913.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2926-5 of 13th instant, and beg to inform you that I shall be very pleased indeed to serve on the Committee to examine and revise the list of Holidays.

ORDER—No. 53, Public, dated 12th January 1914.

The Governor in Council is pleased to appoint the undermentioned Gentlemen to form a Committee to examine and if necessary, submit recommendations for the revision of the list of Holidays now notified by Government under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 :—

Committee:—

M E M B E R S { The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. Buckley, I. C. S., *President*.
Gordon Fraser Esq. Vice-Chairman. Madras Chamber of Commerce,
Rao Bahadur P. Thyagaraya Chetti Garu, President Southern India Chamber of Commerce,
J. H. Thonger Esq., Messrs. Spencer and Co., Ltd.,
The Hon'ble Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Iyer.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmedthambi Marakayar.
The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur, L. D. Swamikkannu Pillai Avl.

2. The Committee is requested to give its special consideration to the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Thambi Marakayar, and the Hon'ble Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Iyer in their resolutions submitted to Government on the occasion of the Meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 11th November 1913.

3. The Committee is also requested to favour Government with its views whether the practice now, in vogue of granting an extra holiday for a festival which falls on a Sunday or a day which is already a holiday should continue.

(Sd.) C. S. ANANTARAMA IYER,
For Chief Secretary.

(D. O. Letter from the Hon'ble Mr. L. E. Buckley I. C. S., President, Holidays Committee).

Dated—7th February 1914.

To—the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Maricair.

With reference to G. O. No. 53—Public, dated, 12th January 1914, appointing you a Member of the Committee to revise the list of Holidays I suggest that we should have a preliminary Meeting to decide how we are to proceed. I suggest an early day next week. Will you kindly let me know whether Tuesday or Wednesday will suit you? If so, at what hour? and what place will be most convenient for you?

I suggest either the Council Chamber or my room in the Office of the Board of Revenue. My own up-country engagements will take me away from Madras from 19th to 25th February inclusive and from 1st to 10th March inclusive and the Legislative Council Meeting will take the 13th and 14th March.

It may be possible to arrange a formal Meeting (after the preliminary Meeting) before the 18th February or we might select 26th, 27th or 28th February.

Letter—From the Hon'ble A. T. G. M. Ahmedthambi Marakkayar,

Dated—Negapatam, 11th February 1914.

To—The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. Buckley, I. C. S., Board of Revenue Madras.

Your letter No. 1 of 7th inst., reached here on the 9th and only came to my notice on 10th as I was away on the 9th. I know that you desire to hold a preliminary Meeting either on Tuesday or Wednesday, before you leave for up-country. I also received your telegram of Yesterday's date asking me to attend the preliminary Meeting to discuss the matter of revision of holidays.

In reply, I beg to confirm my telegram of yesterday reading as under :—

“Received telegram regret unable attend tomorrow's Meeting owing to pressure of work pray postponement “18th February.”

And as requested I hope that postponement would have been arranged.

In consequence of the short notice given by you I am sorry I was unable to leave here so suddenly for fear of important work falling into arrears. Hoping to hear from you as to the time fixed to enable me to make arrangements for attending same.

Letter.—from the Hon'ble Mr. L. E. Buckley, I. C. S.,
To.—The Hon'ble A. T. G. M. Ahmedthambi Marakkayar
Dated.—Madras, 13th February 1914.
No.—D. O. 6.

The preliminary Meeting of the Holidays Committee was held at 11 A. M. on Wednesday the 12th when it was decided that the views of the leading representative associations and Trade houses, should be invited and that evidence may be taken from Gentlemen selected from different castes and creeds. The Meeting of the Committee has been adjourned to Saturday the 28th instant., and it has been arranged to Meet at 11 A. M. on that date at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George.

I trust you will find it possible to attend.

Letter.—From the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmedthambi Marakkayar.
To.—The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. Buckley, I. C. S., Holidays Committee President.

Dated.—Negapatam, 15th February 1914.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your D. O. No. 6 of 13th inst., advising me that a preliminary Meeting was held on 12th inst., and the Meeting of the Committee has been adjourned to Saturday the 28th inst., at 11 A. M. and I hope that I will be able to attend same.

Extract of G. O. No. 774, dated 4th July 1914.

Read the following papers :—

G. O. No. 53, Public dated 12th January 1914—Abstract.

Appointing a Committee to examine and revise, if necessary, the list of Holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

II.

Letter.—from the Hon'ble Mr. L. E. Buckley, I. C. S.
 President, Holidays Committee.
To.—The Chief Secretary to Government.
Dated.—Chepauk, the 1st April 1914.

I have the honour to submit a report of the Committee appointed by the Government in their order No. 53, Public, dated 12th January 1914, to examine and revise, if necessary, the list of holidays now notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

2. The enclosures received with G. O. No. 53—Public dated 12th January 1914, are herewith returned.

Enclosures—Abstract :

The Committee appointed by Government in their Order No. 53—Public dated 12th January 1914 submits its report.

The Committee was appointed to examine and if necessary to submit recommendations for the list of holidays now notified by Government under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act of 1881. The Committee has also been requested to give its special consideration to certain suggestions

made by the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmedthambi Maricair and the Hon'ble Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Iyer (now Justice) and to favour Government with its views whether the practice now in vogue of granting an extra holiday for a festival which falls on Sunday or a day which is already a holiday should continue.

The following statement shows, the existing holidays now granted in the Madras Presidency; at the foot is exhibited a list of holidays which it is suggested should be added to the existing holidays :—

Muhammadans.

<i>Statutory.</i>	<i>Non-Statutory.</i>	<i>Sectional.</i>
Ramzan ... 1.	Nil.	Muhurram ... 4
...	...	Shababarat ... 1
...	...	Ramzan—(in addition to 1 under the Act) 1
...	...	Bakrid ... 2

3. The following statement shows the number of holidays enjoyed by Muhammadans in each province so far as it has been possible to obtain the information. It will be seen from this that Madras has fewer statutory and general holidays than the rest of India :—

	<i>Statutory.</i>	<i>Non-Statutory but general.</i>	<i>Sectional.</i>
Bombay ...	4	...	2 & 2
Central Provinces	7	...	...
Bihar & Orissa ...	...	6	...
Bengal ...	3	2	...
Burma ...	...	...	...
United Provinces	7	2	...
The Punjab ...	6	...	Left to discretion of Heads of Departments.
Madras ...	1	...	8

4. Proposed Holiday :—*Muhammadans.*

... Barawafat—1.

5. It will be convenient to deal in the first place with the Statutory holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act. The opinion of those engaged in Commerce and Trade, is very strongly against any increase in the number of these holidays and the Committee accepts this opinion. With regard to the proposal that is made by the Muhammadan Community that 3 days should be declared as Statutory holidays for the Barawafat, the Bakrid, and the Mohurram the Committee finds that the desire for this step being taken is universal amongst Muhammadans and considers that the claim is reasonable. It therefore recommends for the favourable consideration of Government that these three days should be notified as Statutory Holidays under the Act. The days to be notified are :—

For the Bara-Wa-fat—the 12th day of Rabi-ul-avval.

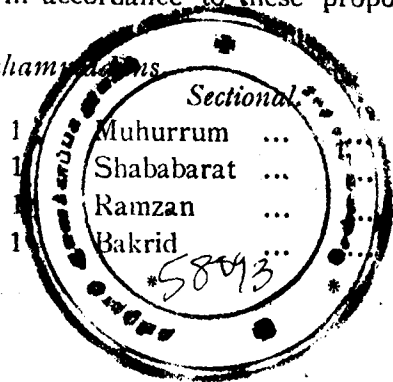
For the Bak-rid—the tenth day of Zil-hijja.

For the Muhurram—the tenth day.

In order to provide for these three holidays being granted without increasing the number of statutory holidays the committee is of opinion that Wit Monday and Mahasivarathri should no longer be notified as statutory holidays under the Act.

If the above recommendations are accepted the number of Sectional holidays granted to Muhammadans for the Muhurram will be reduced to 3 and for the Bakrid to 1. The holidays as revised in accordance to these proposals will be as follows :—

<i>Statutory.</i>	<i>Muhammadans</i>	<i>Sectional.</i>
Muhurram ... 1	Muhurram ... 3	
Barawafat ... 1	Shababarat ... 1	
Ramzar ... 1	Ramzan ... 1	
Bakrid ... 1	Bakrid ... 1	



The Committee is unanimous on all points.

ORDER—No. 774 Public dated 4th July 1914—Abstract.

In G. O. No. 53 Public dated 12th January 1914, the Governor in Council appointed a Committee representative of all interests to examine and, if necessary submit recommendations for the revision of the list of statutory and non-statutory holidays. His Excellency in Council has given His careful consideration to the recommendations made by the Committee read above and accepts them.

The Orders will come into force with effect from 1st January 1915.

The thanks of the Government will be conveyed to the President and Members of the Committee for their advice and assistance.

A. BUTTERWORTH,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

Circular No. III.

From *Dated 6th August 1914.*

The Hon'ble A. K. G. Ahmedthambi Marakayar,

NEGAPATAM.

DEAR BROTHER,

I am glad to be able to inform you that as a result of my question No. 54 asked at the Meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th May 1913, and the appointment of a Committee thereon, including myself, Government, in their G. O. No. 774 of 4th July 1914 were kind enough to grant 3 more holidays for us, namely, Bakrid, Muharrum, and Barawafat under the Negotiable Instruments Act. This will take effect from 1st January 1915.

A. T. MARICAIR.

From—The Honourary Secretary, Cholia Muslim Association, Rangoon,

To—The Hon'ble A. K. G. Ahmedthambi Marakayar, Avl., Negapatam.

Dated—the 8th September 1914.

DEAR BROTHER,

I am directed by the President and Members of the Cholia Muslim Association of Rangoon to convey to you on behalf of the Cholia Community of Rangoon their heartfelt gratitude and thanks for your noble effort, and untiring labours in the Council of His Excellency the Governor, of *Fort St. George Madras*, and especially for obtaining for the Muhammadan community the privilege of 3 more holidays *viz.*, Bakrid, Moharrum, and Barawafat under the Negotiable Instruments Act, as conveyed by the *Government of Fort St. George*, in their G. O. No. 774 of 4th July 1914. Our congratulations are due to you for the bold stand you made, as our representative in the Council and for championing the cause of your co-religionists and countrymen in particular, and the cause of Justice, and of righteousness, in general. As and by way of the recognizance of all your valuable services we, your co-religionists, and countrymen raise our hands and hearts in one long endless prayer to Allah to bless you with Long life, Peace, Plenty, and Prosperity in order that you may Long be spared to espouse our cause and fight for right.

We have this day sent a message to the Governor of *Fort St. George*, thanking them for the kindness and consideration shown to the religious sentiments of the Mahomedan community in granting three more holidays as mentioned above.

(Sd.) KADER GUNNY.

From—The Members of the Indadul Islam Association,
Tellichery.

To—The Hon'ble A. K. G. Ahmedthambi Maricair,
Negapatam.

Dated—29th January 1915.

(*Barawafat.*)

DEAR BROTHER,

We, the Members of the Indadul Islam Association, nay, Muslim Community as a whole, offer our thanks from the very bottom of our heart for the service you have done for our community. May God shower upon you His choicest blessings, a long useful life of health, wealth, and happiness.

In deference to your wish all notices were issued in towns and villages, and accordingly they celebrated the auspicious day with solemn pomp and ceremony.

To day at 10 a.m. we have wired to the Government congratulating them for the benefit they have conferred upon us.

May God enable you to do still greater service to Islam.

(Sd.) IBRAHIM COOTY.

Council Meeting dated 29th day of January 1914.

Committee on the Improvement of Cattle in the Presidency:—

"In seconding the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Chidambaranatha Mudaliar, I beg to say a few words. I think, it is absolutely necessary that a Committee of this kind should be appointed as in my experience, I have known very heavy mortality in India among cattle, *e.g.*, the importation of cattle into Port Swettenham was prohibited owing to rinderpest among cattle and thereby trade has seriously suffered. I am quite sure that if a Committee of the kind

asked for be appointed it will help not only the owners of cattle here, but also do a great deal to help traders generally."

Council Meeting dated 4th April 1914.

Budget Speech.

"With Your Excellency's permission, I shall say a few words: The Hon'ble the Finance Member deserves congratulation on the prosperity budget he has put forward. I wish to invite the attention of Government to the following points:—

"The thanks of the District Boards are due to Government for their proposal to treat all the Boards equally in the matter of dividing the contribution in proportion to their land-cess by proposing to give them exactly one-fourth of their landcess. The Boards will then know what they will get each year, and they will be able to budget for on a surer basis. I may herein be permitted to repeat my request that such of the Municipal Councils as are not able to maintain their roads, in an efficient state for want of funds may be financially aided, in a manner similar to that in which the Government assists the Boards. The total mileage, the incidents from tolls, the cost of material and labour are points which may be considered in giving the aid. Government can through their Collectors easily ascertain what each Council deserves. I fail to see why the Councils should be treated differently from the Boards.

"I have also to thank the Government for their generosity in relieving the local bodies, of the recoveries which have hitherto been made for services rendered on their behalf by officers of Government.

"I also feel it my duty to bring to the notice of the Government the desirability of Government bearing all

charges in connection with the outrage of epidemics such as plague or cholera. Local bodies are not in a position to meet cases for extraordinary expenditure under these heads at short notice. I am not unmindful of the fact that Government is prepared to come to the aid of those bodies whose resources are crippled by such unforeseen expenditure. What I beg to press on the attention of the Government is that local bodies whose purse is short are inclined to hesitate in sanctioning the necessary expenditure as they are not sure of the extent to which they will be reimbursed by the Government. It is therefore the duty of Government to undertake all such expenditure and relieve local bodies of this responsibility though in regard to imported cases local bodies can always manage. If Government are not prepared to meet the whole of these charges at once, I suggest that as a beginning at least 50 percent may be given as contribution.

"Government has, on the recommendation of our able Surgeon-General, approved the establishment of an up-country nursing service but proposes to ask local bodies to bear the cost. This is an expenditure which I consider the local bodies cannot bear. During recent years medical expenditure has been growing by leaps and bounds due to a great extent to the large additions made to hospitals by the bounty of the Government. The medical institutions have been growing in popularity and consequently the local bodies have had to increase their establishments and incur large expenditure in the purchase of medicines, equipment and furniture. A comparison of the expenditure for the last four years will amply bear out my statement. Under such circumstances it is a great hardship to these bodies to bear an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 per annum. In the interest of efficient medical aid it is the duty of the Government to entirely provincialise this expenditure.

"Government is aware that the town of Tuticorin has been suffering long without a water-supply. The scheme has been under investigation for a long time and yet has not reached the stage of sanction. No provision is made in the budget for the combined scheme for Tuticorin, Tinnevely and Palamcottah or Tuticorin alone, as promised. Though Government has been kind enough to direct recently that the drainage scheme of Nepapatam should be begun in 1914-15, I do not find any provision for the scheme in the current year's budget. I hope Government will give their immediate attention to these two schemes.

"Government has been pleased to approve of the employment of marine police for the ports of Negapatam and Cuddalore. They have, however, directed that the cost of the establishment should be borne by the landing and shipping dues committee. In view of the landing and shipping dues at Negapatam having to be considerably increased to meet improvements at that port, an additional increase to meet the upkeep of a marine police force would be a great hardship on merchants and I respectfully suggest for the consideration of Government if this force should not be paid for by Government as is done in the case of ordinary police.

"I beg to take the liberty of suggesting that till Government actually employ the marine police, the local police may be invested with power under section 65 of the Madras City Police Act. (Act III of 1888.)

"Government has liberally provided for the expansion of elementary education. I do not find much provision for education. The opening of Industrial Schools in important trading centres is a necessity which is felt by employers of technical labour. The large workshops of the railways and the great number of mills opened all through the country can give work to an unlimited number of skilled workmen.

Experience has shown that applications for employment pour in for clerks' post but a mechanic, a carpenter, or a smith is hard to get. It therefore behoves Government to open Industrial Schools in certain selected locality or at least to ask the local bodies to do so by promising them to bear all expenditure of maintaining such schools. I find that the industrial department demands fees when their advice is sought in industrial concerns. I should suggest that this advice be given free. If Government should think that there would be too many calls on them in season and out of season Government may provide proper safeguards to avoid numerous calls by asking that each application should be supported by a revenue divisional officer.

"Last year I suggested the desirability of providing quarters for Indian Officers. The demand for residence in towns is steadily on the increase. Villagers are giving up their rural pursuits in favour of works in the towns where they can demand higher wages and as a result the towns are becoming more and more congested and insanitary. The cost of the materials and labour has increased to such an extent that private persons are very chary of entering on new constructions for housing purposes. The lot of these officers who cannot find ready accommodation is pitiable in the extreme. It is hardly necessary to say that the judicial officers should not be placed in the position of accepting houseroom as a bounty of a private individual. It is hoped that Government will make a beginning by providing quarters in at least such places as where the difficulty is most keenly felt."

The Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart:—"If no other Hon'ble Member wishes to address this Council I should like to reply."

The Hon'ble Mr. Sivasami Iyer:—"The Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Thambi Marakayar asked for grants to Municipal

councils for the purpose of enabling them to maintain their roads in proper efficiency. That is not a purpose for which it would be possible for the Government to maintain grants. We cannot recognise any obligation to make grants to Municipal Councils to enable them to maintain their road in proper repair. It is a purpose which should legitimately fall upon the Municipal revenues themselves.

"Then the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmad Thambi Marakayar asked that the charges incurred in connection with the outbreak of epidemics should be wholly provincialized. There again we cannot accede to that suggestion. If in any particular case the charges were so heavy that they were beyond the resources of a municipal council, we went in the past to the help of the municipal council and made them grants in aid of their resources, but we cannot possibly agree to the proposal to provincialize the expenditure in regard to the outbreak of epidemics in municipalities.

"He then wanted to know in what stage the Tuticorin water supply scheme was. I may mention that the Government have referred the matter to the municipal council for the purpose of ascertaining whether it would be possible to obtain any income by sale of water to the mills established in Tuticorin. At present, according to the calculations made in the office in regard to the financing of the scheme we find that the cost of the scheme is beyond the resources of the municipal council. If however it is possible for the Municipal Council to obtain some income by the sale of water to the mills, it would go some way towards rendering the financing of the scheme easier.

"Then, again he wanted to know in what stage the Negapatam drainage scheme was. Proposals were first of all sent for an open drainage scheme but that was condemned by our expert advisers and we are now asking for a closed drainage scheme and we are awaiting proposals,

"Then the Hon'ble gentleman requested that the cost of the marine police at Negapatam should be borne by the Government and not out of the landing and shipping dues. The difficulty experienced at Negapatam is not one peculiar to Negapatam, but is one which is experienced in Cocanada and Cuddalore, and in both these ports the same course is adopted. It was considered that there was no good reason for charging provincial revenues with the cost of the marine police and that the expenditure ought to fall upon the landing and shipping dues of the port. There is no reason for differentiating the case of Negapatam from those of Cuddalore and Cocanada with regard to which similar orders have been issued. He also suggested that Section 65 of the City Police Act should be applied to Negapatam. That is a proposal which has been fully considered and the Government have not found it possible to accede to that suggestion."

Meeting, dated Madras 22nd November 1914.

Resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. B. V. Narasimha Iyer
on Working Hours in Public Offices.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmed Tambi Marakayar:—"I beg to second the resolution which has been proposed. I know instances of clerks going to office in the morning and not returning till 9 or 10 o'clock at night. Of course working overtime will tell upon their health and more especially the disease diabetes is due to overwork. Especially in Customs and Port Offices they are working overtime and it helps business a great deal. Of course the question of granting overtime will no doubt help clerks who are working overtime by recouping their health in taking good nourishment and in this connection my opinion is either to stop working overtime or see that some provision is made for granting overtime fees to those clerks who are working after working hours and on Sundays."

Resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Rama Aiyengar on Dindigul,
Pollachi and Palghat Railways.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakayar:—"Your Excellency—I am sorry that I am unable to support this resolution, as it is a well-known fact that the District Boards in question have no funds to provide and that for the Government to grant a loan is a thing which requires great consideration. I understand that arrangements are already being made that Messrs. Binny & Co. should take up the business. In my opinion we should leave the business entirely in the hands of Messrs. Binny & Co. who are in a better position to start the work so as to avoid further delay in extending the Railway line as an early construction is badly needed. I am not against District Boards undertaking this kind of Railways but the question ought to have been taken up earlier and it is too late to discuss the matter."

Circular No. IV.

NEGAPATAM,
10th November 1914.

From

The Hon'ble A. K. G. Ahmedthamby Maricair,

NEGAPATAM.

BRETHREN,

I have been considering for a long time to bring to the notice of the Government the question of Marumakkathayam and Makkathayam among the Mappilahs of Malabar. It has given me a great pleasure to notice in the "*Madras Mail*" that some of the leading Mappillah gentlemen have approached His Excellency The Governor with this question during His Excellency's recent visit to North Malabar. I shall be glad if you will kindly intimate your wishes as to whether you require a Legislation for *Makkathayam*

(Mohamedan Law). On hearing from you I shall endeavour to introduce a bill in the Legislative Council in the matter.

An early reply is earnestly solicited.

Yours Sincerely,

A. K. G. AHMED TAMBI MARAKAYAR.

Levy of Half-School fees for Muhammadan boys :

Letter—from The Hon'ble A. K. G. Ahmedthamby Maricair, Negapatam.

To—The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone, M. A., F. R. H. S.,
C. I. E., Director of Public Instruction, Madras

Dated—the 9th July 1914.

With reference to my question No. 42 in the Meeting held at Ootacamund on 19th May and the answer given thereon regarding half school fees for Muhammadan boys in mission and private institutions reading :—

(a) "Are the Government aware that some of the mission and private schools and colleges insist upon payment of full school fees from Muhammadan boys?"

(b) "Will the Government be pleased to issue necessary orders that all the schools and colleges in the presidency should collect only half school fees from Muhammadan boys as per G. O. No. 404—Educational, dated 10th May 1912, to encourage education in the Muhammadan community?"

Answer (a) "Yes";

(b) "The Government have offered Managers of aided schools an inducement to give effect to the rule by so amending article 32 of the Grant-in-aid Code as to increase the grant ordinary admissible to such schools by half the amount of the fee income foregone by the grant of the concession."

I have communicated the answer of Government to the National High School, Negapatam, for which I received the following answer :—

"With reference to your letter dated 10—6—14 to the President of this school, I have the honour to state that our school is not as yet financially in a sound condition. So I regret that we are not able to allow wholesale concessions to Muhammadan boys as you seem to desire. But if you recommend deserving cases we shall gladly do what we can in their cases. Further we have not been receiving anything in the shape of teaching grants till now from the Government although the school has been working at a deficit ever since its commencement. If we should receive such grants from the Government we shall be very glad to make concessions in the case of Muhammadan boys as you desire."

I think the Correspondent of the school is not justified in giving me such a vague answer on the face of the distinguished answer of the Government. I do not want to make any distinction between one Muhammadan boy and the other in payment of schools fees.

I have the honour therefore to request you will kindly take up the matter with the school in question and do the needful.

In this connection I take the opportunity of reporting you the injustice done by this school in teaching religion. They give more attention to the teaching of Sanskrit religion but not the Muhammadan. I hope you will kindly also take up this matter in advising the Manager of the School to arrange for Muhammadan religious teaching during the school hours.

(Sd.) A. T. MARICAIR.

(Mohamedan Law). On hearing from you I shall endeavour to introduce a bill in the Legislative Council in the matter.

An early reply is earnestly solicited.

Yours Sincerely,

A. K. G. AHMED TAMBI MARAKAYAR.

Levy of Half-School fees for Muhammadan boys :

Letter—from The Hon'ble A. K. G. Ahmedthamby Maricair, Negapatam.

To—The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone, M. A., F. R. H. S., C. I. E., Director of Public Instruction, Madras

Dated—the 9th July 1914.

With reference to my question No. 42 in the Meeting held at Ootacamund on 19th May and the answer given thereon regarding half school fees for Muhammadan boys in mission and private institutions reading :—

(a) "Are the Government aware that some of the mission and private schools and colleges insist upon payment of full school fees from Muhammadan boys?"

(b) "Will the Government be pleased to issue necessary orders that all the schools and colleges in the presidency should collect only half school fees from Muhammadan boys as per G. O. No. 404—Educational, dated 10th May 1912, to encourage education in the Muhammadan community?"

Answer (a) "Yes";

(b) "The Government have offered Managers of aided schools an inducement to give effect to the rule by so amending article 32 of the Grant-in-aid Code as to increase the grant ordinary admissible to such schools by half the amount of the fee income foregone by the grant of the concession."

I have communicated the answer of Government to the National High School, Negapatam, for which I received the following answer :—

"With reference to your letter dated 10—6—14 to the President of this school, I have the honour to state that our school is not as yet financially in a sound condition. So I regret that we are not able to allow wholesale concessions to Muhammadan boys as you seem to desire. But if you recommend deserving cases we shall gladly do what we can in their cases. Further we have not been receiving anything in the shape of teaching grants till now from the Government although the school has been working at a deficit ever since its commencement. If we should receive such grants from the Government we shall be very glad to make concessions in the case of Muhammadan boys as you desire."

I think the Correspondent of the school is not justified in giving me such a vague answer on the face of the distinguished answer of the Government. I do not want to make any distinction between one Muhammadan boy and the other in payment of schools fees.

I have the honour therefore to request you will kindly take up the matter with the school in question and do the needful.

In this connection I take the opportunity of reporting you the injustice done by this school in teaching religion. They give more attention to the teaching of Sanskrit religion but not the Muhammadan. I hope you will kindly also take up this matter in advising the Manager of the School to arrange for Muhammadan religious teaching during the school hours.

(Sd.) A. T. MARICAIR.

Letter—From the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone, M. A.,
F. R. H. S., C. I. E., Director of Public In-
struction, Madras.

To—The Hon'ble A. K. G. Ahmedthamby Maricair Avl.,
Negapatam.

Dated—the 28th November 1914.

No.—R. C. 8023 of 14.

In continuation of my letter R. C. No. 6286/14, dated 31st July 1914 I have the honour to inform you that instructions have been issued to the Correspondent of the National High School Negapatam that he may allow Muhammadan pupils and pupils belonging to backward classes or castes reading in the school to pay fees at half the standard rates and that a teaching grant equal to half the amount of fee income foregone from such pupils will be sanctioned for his school. I may, however, remark that according to rule 98 of the Madras Educational Rules the rates and levy of fees in schools under private management is left to a large extent to the discretion of the managers.

Supplement to Part I.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Meeting dated 2nd February 1915.

Ques.—43. (a) Are the Government aware that there is a difference of Re. 1 between the rate of tax levied for a bicycle in Madras and in the mufassal?

Tax on bicycles in municipalities.

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—(b) Will Government be pleased to consider the matter fully and fix the rate at Rs. 2 equally in all parts of the Presidency?

Ans.—The matter is being considered in connection with the amendment of the District Municipalities Act, 1884.

Ques.—44. With reference to the memorial submitted by the Mappillas of Malabar during the time of His Excellency's visit there regarding the introduction of Muhammadan law (Makkattayam instead of Marumakkattayam) and with reference to the sympathetic answer given by His Excellency and in accordance with the reply given by the Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, to my letter dated 18th December 1914, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of an early amendment?

Muhammadan law for Mappillas in Malabar.

Ans.—Steps have been taken to ascertain how the proposed amendment of the law would be regarded by those concerned and a report from the Collector of Malabar is awaited.

Ques.—45. (a) Is it a fact that Government received a memorial from Mr. T. S. Abd-ul-qadir Sahib, Honorary Magistrate, Madras, on behalf of the Muhammadans of Georgetown objecting to the proposal of the Corporation of Madras to utilize the site adjoining the mosque at Parish Venkatachala Ayyar street, Georgetown, and suggesting the desirability of acquiring the site for the construction of the Government Muhammadan secondary school which is at present situated in a rented building?

Ans.—The memorial has been recently received.

Ques.—(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to consider the matter favourably and acquire the land under question and construct the Muhammadan school?

Ans.—The matter will receive due consideration.

Ques.—46. (a) Have Government received a memorial from the people of Mannargudi, Negapatam, Tiruvalur, Tirutturaippundi and the surrounding villages and also from the Indian Christian Association, Madras, requesting sanction to the affiliation of the Findlay College, Mannargudi, in group V of the B.A. course of the Madras University?

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—(b) Will Government be pleased to accord sanction to the recommendation of the Senate?

Ans.—The matter is under consideration.

Ques.—47. With reference to the resolution passed by the Negapatam Municipal Council at its meeting held on 22nd September 1914 regarding the evacuation of East Chetti hamlet on account of plague having broken out from that

quarter last year, will the Government be pleased to consider, in view of the fact that plague has not occurred this year, the desirability of retaining the houses by analysing streetwar and removing such houses as are found necessary in congested places so as to avoid inconvenience to the sea-borne trade?

Ans.—The matter will be considered.

Ques.—48. (a) Will Government be pleased to direct the Industrial department to issue bulletins regarding the various industrial enterprises, discussing the relative merits of various machinery and recommending the use of particular oil or steam engines and particular kinds of machinery for industries, with an estimated cost of each installation, to enable the public to go in for the best and approved machinery?

Ans.—The matter will receive consideration in connection with the Bureau of Industrial Information.

Ques.—(b) Will Government be pleased to publish in book form all the bulletins hitherto issued by the Agricultural department and distribute the same gratis or sell them at cost price?

Ans.—Five kinds of publications are issued by the Agricultural department, viz. (i) books. (ii) annual reports, (iii) bulletins on particular subjects, (iv) leaflets on matters of agricultural interest and (v) the Agricultural Calendar.

The first three are printed in English and are issued at cost price. Leaflets are issued in English and in the vernacular languages and are distributed free of cost. The Agricultural Calendar is issued in vernaculars and very widely distributed; it is also on sale at railway bookstalls and elsewhere.

Lists of publications by the department are given in the Calendar and can also be obtained on application from agricultural officers, while bound copies of the bulletins can be procured on application to the Director of Agriculture, Chempauk, Madras, on payment of the cost price of publication and binding charges.

Ques.—49. Will the Government be pleased to state

**Reservation of
seats for Muham-
madans in the
Salem Municipal
Council.** (a) whether the Salem Municipal Council has a strength of 24 councillors, 18 elected and 6 nominated;

Ans.—Yes.

Ques.—(b) whether any of the 24 are now Muhammadans;

Ans.—A Muhammadan has recently been appointed as a councillor.

Ques.—(c) whether the Muhammadan Association of Salem and others have sent up two *mahazars* to the Collector of Salem and one to the Government recommending their nominee;

(d) whether such recommendation has been hitherto ignored and the Chairman has recommended another person;

(e) whether the Government will be pleased to consider favourably the recommendation of the Muslims of Salem in the matter; and

Ans.—The Government have no official information as to whether memorials were submitted to the Collector. A petition from some of the Muhammadan ratepayers regarding the appointment of a Muhammadan councillor was received by Government and duly considered.

Ques.—(f) whether the Government would be pleased to modify the constitution of the Salem Municipal Council

so as to reserve one seat (for instance, the Fort seat) for Muhammadan candidates only?

Ans.—The Government see no reason to modify the constitution of the municipal council as suggested by the Honourable Member.

Ques.—50. (a) Is it a fact that the Muslims of Tuticorin have sent up a memorial to Government dated 17th January 1915 praying that the burial of the Muhammadan dead should be permitted as usual within the local masjid compound?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to consider the matter favourably and accord sanction to utilize the local masjid ground as usual?

Ans.—The memorial referred to has been received and will be duly considered by Government.

Ques.—51. With reference to my budget speech, dated 4th April 1913, regarding quarters for Government officials, will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken in regard to providing such quarters?

Ans.—The suggestion made in the Honourable Member's speech was carefully considered and it was decided that the provision by Government of quarters for officials might be undertaken without objection in localities in which private residences are not available and there is no reasonable expectation that private enterprise will be forthcoming to provide such quarters. Quarters have thus been provided at such places as Dhone, Nandyal, Dharmavaram, Venkata-puram, Harur, Namakkal and other places, but each case must be considered on its merits and no general undertaking to provide quarters can be given.

Ques.—52. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article headed "Compounders" in the *Hindu* of 22nd July last and in *New India* of 5th January 1915?

Pay of
compounders.

(b) Is it a fact that in recognition of their duties and responsibilities compounders were formerly allowed to draw pay up to Rs. 18 when other unpassed men in the public service were forbidden to draw more than Rs. 14 and that after the maximum pay of the latter had been raised from Rs. 14 to Rs. 20 the maximum pay of the compounders was raised from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 and not to Rs. 25, the proportionate increase on their maximum salary, as recommended by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras and approved by the majority of the local bodies in the year 1910?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider the case of the compounders favourably in virtue of the nature and importance of the responsible work they have to perform and the increased qualifications they have to possess under the Government technical examination scheme and render their condition more satisfactory?

Ans.—The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 67. (The maximum pay of these officers was raised from Rs. 18 to 20 per mensem in 1911, compensation for dearness of provision being granted in addition. The Government do not at present contemplate further revision, but if compensation for dearness of grain is abolished the total emoluments will probably be somewhat increased.)

Meeting dated 29th March 1915.

Ques.—53. (a) Are the Government aware that the Tiyyas of Tellicherry took a procession with the aid of some of the native volunteers and passed through the main road of the town with beat of drums at 8 p. m. on the 27th

Hindu Muhamma-
dan disturbances,
Tellicherry.

February 1915, and beat the drums before the mosques during the time of "Esha Namaz"?

(b) Are the Government also aware that on the 4th March the Tiyyas again attempted to beat their drums in front of the mosques and on the local authorities having taken steps the riot which seemed likely to arise was stopped?

Ans.—The Government have seen a newspaper report of the incidents mentioned in the question, but they have no official information.

Ques.—(c) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to issue orders that the beating of drums for 50 yards on either side of mosques should be prohibited?

Ans.—The Government are not empowered to issue an order of the kind suggested.

Ques.—54 (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether maximum and minimum rates have been proposed in sanctioning an increase of pay to their servants on civil establishments, in lieu of the grain compensation allowance they now draw?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider favourably, with reference to the answer to my question No. 52, dated 2nd February 1915, the advisability of granting the maximum increment to compounders in recognition of their duties and responsibilities?

Ans.—The question of abolishing grain compensation allowances is still under consideration and until it is

decided the Government do not propose to revise the pay of compounders.

Ques.—55. (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India have issued a circular, dated 2nd May 1914, providing for the inclusion of books containing Islamic stories in the curricula of the studies at schools?

School books suitable for use in Muhammadan Schools.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct to the Educational department to take the necessary steps for the inclusion of books containing Islamic stories in the curricula of the studies at schools where Muhammadan boys are educated?

Ans.—The Government have no information about the issue of a circular as alleged.

Ques.—56. (a) With reference to the answer given by the Government to my question No. 18, dated 2nd April 1914, will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken in the matter of providing a protected well fitted with a pump at Ilayangudi, Paramagudi taluk, Ramnad district?

Protected well for Ilayangudi Paramagudi taluk Ramnad district.

(b) If no action has been taken till now, will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to provide this well to prevent the further spreading of cholera in that locality?

Ans.—The Government have made the District Board grants for wells, but are not aware whether the Board, in whose hands lies the selection of the works, has yet constructed one in Ilayangudi.

Ques.—57. With reference to the answer given by Government to my question No. 33, dated 20th November 1914, regarding the conduct of the Headmistress of the Hobart Muhammadan girls' school, Madras, will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in the matter?

Conduct of Headmistress of Hobart Muhammadan girls' school, Madras.

Ans.—Government have, after considering a detailed report on the subject received from the Director of Public Instruction, declined to intervene. The Honourable Member will be furnished with a copy of the Government Order.

Supplement to Part II.

SPEECHES.

Council Meeting dated 15th March 1915.

Grants to Local Bodies for Construction of Buildings
for Muhammadan Girls' Schools.

Revised Financial Statement 1915-16.

Resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marak-kayar:—"Your Excellency, the resolution which stands in my name runs thus:—

3. "This Council recommends that a sum of Rs. 20,000 be provided under the head Contributions under 45-A. "CIVIL WORKS for allotting grants to local bodies for the construction of buildings for Muhammadan girls' schools in Negapatam and other places and that the provision of Rs 1,00,000 under 26-B, SCIENTIFIC, ETC., DEPARTMENTS, Miscellaneous Experiments (Detailed Account "26Bm.), be correspondingly reduced to Rs 80000."

"During recent years the Government have been very liberal in the matter of grants and subsidies to educational institutions. Year after year new elementary schools have been opened by local boards and municipalities with the aid given by the State. As far as possible the Government have also been urging local bodies to open girls' schools by promising liberal aid and I believe that girls' schools have been growing in numbers; but Muhammadan boys have been slow to appreciate the benefits of education in spite of the various concessions granted by Government to them. It is needless for me to invite the attention of Government to the fact that the condition of the Muhammadan girls in the matter

of education is anything but satisfactory. Last year two schools were opened by the Negapatam Municipal Council, one in Negapatam and another in Nagore, both of which have been growing in popularity. Both these schools have been provided with mistresses trained in the Hobart's Government Training School for Muhammadan Mistresses. I am not unmindful of the subsidy that is being given by Government for the maintenance of these schools, but they are accommodated in rented buildings quite unsuited for the purpose and no better building could be had. I know myself what odds the then Chairman of the Municipal Council had to contend against at the time of the opening of the school and its maintenance for a few months in the beginning, because the co-operation and help of myself as well as other leading Muhammadan gentlemen of the town were requisitioned to induce the Muhammadan population to get over the prejudice that they had in the matter of sending their girls to the school, for they thought that that school was opened with an ulterior object, *i. e.*, of breaking the gosha system among the Muhammadans. However, since people found that the education was given by gosha Muhammadan mistresses, the fear and alarm that the Muhammadan parents had about their girls were dispelled and the school was raising in attendance and in the present day the schools number nearly 200 on their rolls. The increase in the numbers necessitated the requisitioning of additional teachers which, however, the municipality has not given for want of funds. It is the duty of Government to help such schools when they find that these rare schools are, contrary to expectation, growing in popularity. The giving of a local habitation to the two schools will give permanency to them and will at the same time be appreciated by the large Muhammadan population of the town.

Since sending my resolution to Government I have seen a copy of the Government order, communicated to the Negapatam Municipal Council, sanctioning a grant of Rs. 9,000 for providing a Muhammadan girls' school with buildings and Rs. 1,200 as subsidy. The school at Nagore has also to be provided with a building of its own. From the report on public instruction submitted by the Director of Public Instruction to Government, dated 27th October 1914, I find that there are 154 elementary schools for Muhammadan girls and I believe a large number of them do not possess buildings of their own. I have not forgotten the liberal aid of Rs. 30,000 which Government had decided to set apart annually for Muhammadan education; but I should think that the said sum should be largely utilized towards the equipment and improvements of the existing schools. I should like that a sum of Rs. 20,000 should be set apart annually for providing buildings for Muhammadan girls' schools, leaving the 30,000 for boys' schools and subsidies to Muhammadan boys' and girls' schools.

"In making this proposal I do not dislocate the budget by asking Government to reduce any necessary item and I have taken care to point out a source which will least embarrass or inconvenience Government in adjusting its budget. I hope therefore that this Council will unanimously support me in this request."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Achariyar:— "Your Excellency, I have already explained in answer to the Honourable the Zamindar of Polavaram that no portion of the one lakh under 26Bm: Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments will be available. As I have already stated, that money is earmarked. We have already started a number of experiments, and it is feared that the allotment will be barely sufficient to carry us through. In regard to the question

which the Honourable Member has raised about grants to local bodies for the construction of school buildings for Muhammadan girls, it is true that it has not been found possible to make an allotment during 1915—16; but I would point out that this is not a disability peculiar to Muhammadan girls' schools. No allotment has been made either for Hindu or Muhammadan schools—either for boys' schools or girls' schools; and that is due to our financial situation. The Honourable Member admits that the Government have been liberal in this matter during the current year. During the current year, as the Financial Statement will show, we have subsidized local bodies to the extent of 4.24 lakhs for the completion of school buildings already begun, and the repair of existing buildings. We thought that that was a more urgent need than the construction of new buildings. When once the financial stringency passes off, it may be possible to resume the policy of subsidising local bodies for the construction of new buildings. So far as Negapatam is concerned, the Honourable Member himself has referred to the circumstance that we have treated that place with exceptional consideration, for it was only a few days ago we gave them Rs. 9,000 for the construction of a new building for a Muhammadan girls' school at that place. Practically this is the only new school which has been subsidised in the current year. That would convince the Honourable Member that while we are anxious to do what we can with regard to the education of Muhammadan girls, it is not possible to do anything more."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakayar:— "With reference to the remarks just made, I understand from the Honourable Member that there is some saving of a few thousands under 'Miscellaneous.' I hope that at least a sum of Rs. 3,000 may be given to us making a total of Rs. 12,000 for the schools, so that we might build two

schools, each school costing Rs. 6,000. That is not a very large sum; but we must cut our coat according to the cloth available. If, however, Rs. 3,000 is given, we will build two schools, one at Negapatam and the other at Nagore. I request that the Government will be pleased to consider the matter favourably, and give us a grant of Rs. 3,000 more."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Achariyar:—"If he applies to the Director of Public Instruction, it may be possible to meet the Honourable Member's wishes. These applications come to us through the Director of Public Instruction. I am sure that, if he puts his case to the Director of Public Instruction, it may be possible to meet his wishes."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakayar:—"With the assurance given by the Honourable Member, I beg to withdraw the resolution."

With the permission of His Excellency the President, the resolution was withdrawn.

Grants to Ramnad Taluk Board for Ramnad-Kilakkarai Road

Resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakayar:—"Your Excellency, the other resolution which stands in my name is as follows :—

4. "This Council recommends that a sum of Rs. 50,000 "be allotted to the Ramnad Taluk Board for the construction "of a mud road from Ramnad to Kilakkarai and that the "amount of 8.22 lakhs under Grants to Local Bodies for "Sanitary Purposes be reduced to 7.72 lakhs."

"It may seem to the Council that my request is one which ought to be placed before the District Board of Ramnad and not to Government. I may at once state that the President, District Board of Ramnad, whom I addressed last year has intimated to me that there is no road in existence but that the existing cart track is a bad one across swamps and sands and that the road would be an expensive one. He also intimated to me that the Board has no funds even to put its existing roads in proper order and that therefore this road to Kilakkarai was out of the question.

"Kilakkarai, as Government is aware, is a sea-port town inhabited by a large population numbering 15,000 and during the rainy season people have to wade through hip-deep water. Large exports are made from this port to Ceylon. The famous places of Hindu and Muhammadan pilgrimages, namely, Tiruppallani, otherwise called Darbhasayanam, Uttarakosamangai and Yervadi, are situated on the way. On account of want of proper communication the salt manufactured at Morkkulam factory cannot be transported easily and that salt cannot compete with salts manufactured even at distances but carried through railway. The forming of a road will open up that portion of the district which is now a dreary waste. I believe Government has even received a memorial from the residents of Kilakkarai on this subject which gives out the inconveniences and hardships which the people in the portion of Ramnad district are subjected to. Government has, in addition to the usual grants to the district boards given special grants to the Vizagapatam and Koraput District Boards and to the Polavaram Taluk Board. I do not grudge Government aiding these boards, but a perusal of the list of works under annexure A printed in page 71 of the Draft Financial Statement of the Government for 1915-16, will show that the road for which I ask for financial aid is at least as important, if

not more important than the various works mentioned therein. I may refer the Honourable Members to the various small works under the Polavaram Taluk Board, such as the construction of stables, etc., and to the various small roads for which Government have provided Rs. 70,000 as a special case.

"I think, therefore, for this very important road, a beginning should be made to provide a small grant so that the work may be completed in the course of a few years.

"I have also taken the liberty of pointing out a source from which this provision is to be met, viz., the grant for the minor sanitary works. I will be far from asking Government to reduce any grant for minor sanitary works as I know that sanitation is a more important item. A perusal of works printed in annexure C shows that aid is given to various municipalities for the purpose of purchasing dustbins, night-soil iron carts, etc. I believe these are items which the local bodies ought to meet from their normal resources. I do not know if Government was convinced before allotting these grants that the municipalities would not be able to meet these items from their ordinary receipts and I believe Government allotted these grants more on account of the fact that these municipalities got smaller grants in former years or that they were not ready with prepared sanitary schemes in time for getting aid from Government. I will strongly object to the frittering of any sum to such objects as provision of carts, latrines, etc. I also find that no details are given for the allotments of five lakhs to the various district boards and I hope that the district boards will not spend the five lakhs on small objects such as the purchase of the dustbins, etc.

"I believe, therefore, that the Council will agree with my views that such small items should be deleted from the

head of minor sanitary works and that the expected savings from that head may be utilized towards the road for which I ask for provision. If Government should, however, find some other source, I have no objection for the annexure C to stand unamended."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Sivasami Iyer :—"I fully sympathise with the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Tambi Marakayar in his desire to provide the people of Ramnad with better road facilities. The tract of country between Ramnad and Kilakkarai is, I believe, a sandy waste, and one would certainly be anxious to see that part of the country provided with better roads. But I am afraid that it is not possible for the Government to accept this resolution. It will be a most inconvenient precedent if we are to let every member representing any particular district to come forward with proposals for grants to particular roads in his district. This is a matter which should be urged before the local boards themselves and not before this Council. I fully recognize that the people of Ramnad are badly provided with roads, but the proper place for the people of Ramnad to urge their grievance is before the District Board of Ramnad.

"Apart from the expediency of letting resolutions like this to be brought up before the Legislative Council, I would point out that the allotment for sanitary works has been reduced very greatly. A sum of 25 lakhs was provided for the current year; but in the 1915-16 budget it is only 8 lakhs. Another Honourable Member of this Council has brought forward a resolution proposing to increase the amount of the grant for sanitary purposes by 2 lakhs. But the amount of 8 lakhs allotted to sanitary purposes is very much less than what was allotted for minor sanitary works in the current year. It is therefore not possible to reduce it any further.

"In the 14 lakhs grant in aid of the general resources of district boards, the Ramnad District board has received a grant of Rs. 55,675, and in the distribution of the three lakhs grant for bridges, the Ramnad district gets Rs. 23,000. The Ramnad district is one of those that are treated with special consideration on account of their poverty. The Ramnad District Board has therefore got a sum in excess of what it would get if the grants were distributed in proportion to the land-cess. We cannot go any further and make any special provision to meet a special requirement for a particular road in the Ramnad district. We must leave the Honourable Member to advise his constituents to lay their grievance before the proper local authority."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Rama Ayyangar :—"I know, as a matter of fact, that Ramnad is being specially treated by this Government; but that it deserves special treatment appears from the fact that it has 158 miles of road, while all other districts have roads treble or four times that number. It has been remarked by the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart on a previous occasion that the Ramnad portion of Madura has been neglected for a long time, and that is the reason for its present condition. I know that as a fact; but that is just the reason why it should be treated as a special case for a special grant. All that I would plead is—no doubt a few thousands of rupees are given as extra—that an extra rate of payment of the grant in aid may be adopted, say, 5 per cent."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Sivasami Aiyar :—"Are they national concerns?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Rama Ayyangar :—"Yes; they are. As the question is raised, I should certainly ask the Hon'ble Mr. Sivasami Ayyar to remember that that every locality should be brought up to the minimum convenience

is what I urge to be a national concern. That is the point that has been taken up. Till a locality reaches the minimum level of convenience, it is the duty of the parental Government to attend to its wants. It is that distinction that has to be borne in mind. I do not want that principle to be departed from. I want that principle attended to and the resultant drawn correctly. That is my suggestion. I think that if Madura is neglected—the Ramnad portion of it—the Government were also to be blamed. All of us have been negligent in treating that portion very badly, and if it deserves special treatment to bring it up to the lowest level of convenience, it is our duty to treat it as a national concern."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakayar :—"With reference to the remarks which fell from the Hon'ble Mr. Sivasami Ayyar, I may say I am not here to please my constituents. It is a real grievance that I have placed before the Council. I have been to Ramnad and Mandapam where I have had personal experience of the difficulties of the inhabitants of Kilakarai. People have to go through swampy roads to Kilakarai. As regards the question of my moving the taluk board I have already moved the taluk board and district board; but these boards refused to attend to these roads on account of want of funds. If the taluk board is unable to undertake this work for want of funds, it is the duty of the Government, at least as a special case, to give them a small amount to start with. If the Government also refuse to assist the people, I am afraid that the people of Ramnad will suffer a great deal. I would, therefore, request the Government to reconsider their position and agree to give us a supplemental grant in addition to the grant already given."

The resolution was put and lost.

Council Meeting dated 29th March 1915.

Exhumation of and Post-Mortem on, Muhammadans.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmadthambi Marakayar then moved the following resolution:—

5. "This Council recommends that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be pleased to pass orders that

(a) if the bodies of Muhammadans have to be exhumed this should be done only by Muhammadans and by relatives if possible; and,

(b) "if any post-mortem has to be held on the bodies of females a Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeon should be deputised to hold it."

In doing so the Honourable Member said:—"Your Excellency is aware that occasions arise when dead bodies have to be exhumed for purposes of investigation in criminal cases. So far as Muhammadans are concerned it is against their religious principles to disinter dead bodies but since justice will otherwise be defeated it may be necessary to exhume the dead body. I only wish that in order not to wound the religious susceptibilities of the Muhammadan community either relations of the deceased, or, if none such is available, at least some Muhammadans may be employed for that purpose. Your Excellency is also aware that Muhammadans as a class observe the gosha system which would not permit Muhammadan ladies to appear before the public during their lifetime. It is all the more necessary that their privacy should be protected after their deaths.

"I beg to invite the attention of Government to a case which happened at Mudukalattur, about which I interpellated the Government at the meeting held on 19th May 1914. Another instance has come to my notice recently in Aliyur, Tanjore District where the body of a Muhammadan lady was

exhumed for the purpose of an alleged murder, which case was however dropped for want of evidence. In this case I must mention that the District Magistrate of Tanjore has given me information that the body was exhumed only by relations of the deceased. But I find that the post-mortem examination was held by a Male Sub-Assistant Surgeon at Negapatam, though the hospital possesses a Lady Sub Assistant Surgeon. It is true that it may not be possible to secure Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons in time at all places but if your Excellency's Government will only indicate that it is the wish of the Government that wherever the services of a Lady Sub Assistant Surgeon could be made available the post-mortem examination should be held only by the Lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons, there can be no doubt that much annoyance would be saved. Your Excellency's Government has always been known to have due regards to the religious feelings of all communities.

"I therefore hope that your Excellency will accept this resolution without any hesitation and thus safeguard the religious susceptibilities of the Muhammadans."

The Hon'ble Shifa-ulmulk T. Zainalabidin Sahib Bahadur:—

"I beg to second the resolution. I need hardly tell your Excellency that the very idea of exhuming a human body after once it has been laid to rest is revolting to Muhammadan ideas of what is due from the living to the dead. Once death lays its icy hands upon persons, all distinction of creed colour and race disappear and it is the duty of the living to honour the dead. But the exigencies of judicial administration may sometimes require that the body should be exhumed to vindicate the rights of justice. In such a case my Lord, the followers of Islam require this amount of consideration for their feelings, that when a Muhammadan body is exhumed, it should be done by persons who profess the same faith

as the dead man so that the soul's health may not be imperiled by the touch of those who do not share his faith in the Prophet's teaching. It is not necessary to view the question from the standpoint of the dead; but it is due to the living whose faith is the same as that of the dead man, that consideration for his feelings should be shewn. I am sure, my Lord, that not only the Mussalmans in southern India but also throughout the whole of India will feel grateful to the Madras Government if they lay down the rule that the exhumation of Muhammadan bodies should be done by Muhammadans alone and no others.

"I beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to another feature of my coreligionists' feelings towards the dead. We, who are very strict in not allowing our women to be seen by men are very sensitive that the corpse of a woman should not be seen by a man. The very thought of a post-mortem examination is repugnant to our ideas, that it should be conducted on the body of a woman is still more so, and that it should be conducted on the body of a woman by a man is even moral repugnant. With these feelings we suggested that when postmortem examination is to be performed on the body of a Muhammadan female it should be done by a lady doctor and not by a man."

The Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart:—"I regret we are not able to accept the resolution in the terms in which it has been put forward. We cannot go as far as the Honourable Member expects us to go. The resolution asks us to pass orders but the matter is one which is beyond the power of the executive Government. Under the law the Magistrate is authorised to order the exhumation of bodies in certain circumstances and no executive order can deprive him of that power. We are prepared however to advise Magistrates that in the case of exhumation of the bodies of members of the Muhammadan community, the exhumation should be

carried out by a Muhammadan and if possible by relatives. We would also commend to their notice the second part of the resolution but I am afraid it will very seldom be possible for a post-mortem to be held by a lady doctor. But whenever it is possible I have no doubt that the Magistrate in compliance with the advice which we shall give him will order that it shall be done. I trust however that occasions on which such examination will be necessary will be so few that it will not cause any suffering to the community."

His Excellency the President:—"The Hon'ble gentleman understands no doubt that the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart on behalf of the Government has given an assurance that the Government will go as far as they can in advising magistrates to act in the spirit of the resolution wherever circumstances admit. That is what it comes to. The Hon'ble gentleman will probably not wish to press the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmedthambi Marakkayar:—"I thank the Government and beg to withdraw the resolution."

With the permission of His Excellency the President the resolution was withdrawn.

One more hour's Leave for Jumma prayers.

The next resolution on the agenda which stood in the name of the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmedthambi Marakkayar was as follows:—

6. "This Council recommends that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be pleased to order that one more hour's leave should be granted to all Muhammadan employees of Government to say their "Jumma prayers" on Fridays as the one hour's leave granted at present is insufficient to enable them to say their prayers properly."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Cardew:—"With your Excellency's permission I might just say a word on the next resolution. The Government are prepared to issue the orders which have been issued by the Government of Bengal. That is without laying down any hard and fast rule, because the conditions prevailing in different parts of the presidency may differ, it would, in general terms, be notified that it is desirable that reasonable facilities should be granted for the performance of these religious duties, and the Governor in Council will direct that permission should be given to such Muhammadan employees of the Government as ask for it to be absent themselves to say their Jumma prayers up to a maximum of two hours on the understanding that they make up the time by working an extra two hours on some other day. That is the concession given in Bengal and if that will satisfy the Honourable Member we are quite ready to grant that concession here."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakayar:—"The Government have already given one hour without any restriction as to working extra in the next week. My prayer is to give them another hour in addition to what is contained in the Government Order No. 1408—Public of 14th November 1914. If the Government find that it is too hard I have no objection to the Government making such orders as they may please, as to making up the extra one hour by working in the next week but as to the one hour already granted the Government must leave it as it is. The present resolution asks for only one hour more and in regard to that hour there is no objection to imposing this condition. Muhammadan employees will have more time to pray and they will pray for the long life of the British Government. We find it very hard to complete the prayer within one hour."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Cardew:—"The Hon'ble Member is rather looking a gift horse in the mouth. If only one hour is taken, I do not think that the head of offices will exact the pound of flesh from the Muhammadan employee, but if he takes two hours, he will have to make them up. I think we can leave it to heads of offices to decide the question. If they find the distance is great and the man has to go a long way, they will not make it difficult for him to obtain two hours' leave but if they find that the man only gets the leave as a pretext to get away, they will not allow it. We will grant two hours' maximum leave on the understanding that it be made up unless there are reasons to shew that the man has to go a long way to say his prayers."

His Excellency the President:—"The Hon'ble Mr. Cardew on behalf of the Government has stated that the Government are willing that the hour which is already given shall in case of real need be extended to two hours without the necessity of making up those hours. But where one hour is supposed to be sufficient on account of the proximity and convenience then the second hour will have to be made up. I think the Honourable Gentleman might leave it at that and see how it works. Discretion will be left to the head of offices and he might withdraw his resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Maricair:—"In view of the sympathetic assurance of the Government I withdraw the resolution."

With the permission of His Excellency the President the resolution was withdrawn.

Meeting dated 30th March 1915.

**Resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Chidambaranatha Mudaliar
on the reopening of minor ports,**

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmed Tambi Markayar:—"In seconding the resolution, I beg to say a few

words. The outcry among merchants is so very great that the minor ports referred to by my Hon'ble friend have to be re-opened, as in their absence, trade has gone down very seriously. As has been already explained by my Hon'ble friend, the steamer company and the railway company have entered into an agreement whereby the position of the steamer companies is so bad that they could not take steamers to those ports where they are badly needed. Otherwise they are quite willing to take the steamers. As for as Muttupet is concerned, as the Government are aware, the shipping facilities are altogethor impossible, because the river is silted up and there is no communication whatever. Unless the Government take such steps as to cut open the river, communication will be almost impracticable. As for Adirampattanam and Tirumalavasal the shipping facilities are very good, but on account of the difficulties mentioned already, steamers would not call at those ports. In my opinion to safeguard the interests of merchants, the Government should take the necessary steps that they think proper to remedy the evil. With these few remarks, I second the proposition.

Meeting dated 31st March 1915.

Budget Speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marak-kayar:—"With your Excellency's permission I beg to say a few words:—I had been inviting the attention of Government during the last two years to the miserable plight to which the Indian Officers of Government are driven for securing accommodation to their living. I have known various instances in which Subordinate Judges, District Munsiffs, Tahsildars and Deputy Collectors have been obliged to live in Choultries or buildings owned by private individuals. The lot of Judicial officers is all the more hard. Several

Sub Judges and Munsiffs whom I have had the pleasure of meeting have complained to me of their bad and inconvenient accommodation. Touring Officers have at least the advantage of going out of the headquarters and camping in healthy rural parts but Judicial officers are obliged to live in towns in unhealthy buildings. I believe one of the chief reasons put forward by such Officers for their transfer is that that they cannot get proper accommodation. Government has been very liberal in providing quarters for Officers of the Salt and Abkari Departments but nothing has been done in regard to Officers of the grade of Sub Judges, District Munsifs, Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars, Customs Officers and Police Inspectors. I do not find any provision in the budget for such housing accommodation and I regret that my representations on behalf of these Indian Officers have not been sympathetically considered. I hope Government will find some means for providing quarters in at least places where the inconvenience is very pressing.

"Government has this year allotted a larger sum under the heading of Scientific, &c. Departments with the object of providing sufficient funds for the expansion of industries ; but I do not find there is any additional provision towards the industrial education. Employers of technical labour have been finding it difficult to get skilled workmen. Even though it may not be possible to open high grade technical schools like the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute at Bombay, it may be possible to open schools of Intermediate grades where education could be given in mechanical Engineering and driving of oil and steam engines. If Government will take statistics it will be found that rice mills and oil and steam engine installations have been growing in numbers and that many an owner comes to grief on account of the employment of unskilled labour in the

management of the machinery. I believe more than one Honourable Member have addressed Government on this subject and I hope Government will not shelve this most important subject for an indefinite time.

"A perusal of the works provided for under the head of water-supply and drainage schemes shows that the promised water supply scheme to Tuticorin has not even been sanctioned by Government and the drainage scheme for Nega-patam, the execution of which Government expected to begin last year, has not had even the approval of Government.

"I am sure it is not on account of want of provision that the schemes are not carried out, but the non-preparation of the estimates that deal with these schemes. I have been urging the necessity of these two schemes among others and I request Government will be pleased to look to the early sanction of these two schemes so that the works may be started early next year.

"I have been rather unfortunate in eliciting an unfavourable answer from the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Municipal Port Folio in regard to the special grant I asked for the Ramnad District Board but it is my duty to point out that the works for which grants were allotted to the Vizagapatam and Koraput District Boards and the Polavaram Taluk Board are not more important than the one pointed out by me for the Ramnad District Board and in spite of the fact that the Ramnad District Board has expressed its inability to do anything for the Ramnad Kilakarai Road for all times to come, it is very disappointing that Government should not consider the claims of that District Board favourably.

"I wish it to be distinctly understood by the Honourable Members who are interested in the Northern Circars that I do not in the least grudge any amount of grant to the Vizagapatam, &c. boards but that I only invite the attention

of Government that the Ramnad-Kilakarai Road is as important as that of the works for which grant has been allotted for those boards in the budget.

"I regret that my suggestion to ask the Engineering Department to prepare in advance programmes of works for Minor Engineering Works to be decided in consultation with the leading landholders has not been sympathetically considered by Government. Were my suggestion to be acted on, I am sure the difficulties put forward by the Engineering Department in carrying out the works properly will vanish and the landholders themselves will take interest in the matter and no objections or complaints will be made against the Engineering Department."

PART IV.

An Address.

To

The Hon'ble

Mr. A. K. G. Ahmed Thambi Marakayar,

Dubash and Office Manager,

Messrs. Madura Co., Ltd.,

NEGAPATAM.

SIR,

We, the Office staff of Messrs. Madura Co., Ltd, respectfully beg to congratulate you on your recent election as a member of Madras Legislative Council. The fact that you had secured the suffrages of voters in no less than 11 districts, and that you were returned by an overwhelming majority sufficiently bears testimony to your undoubted efforts and indomitable perseverance and vast resources, besides proclaiming to the world the wide range of popularity and esteem you command. No where could a member be so successfully and triumphantly returned as you, Sir, and it is our special pride that apart from our interests which are always committed to your care the interests of your community also now demand your special attention. We feel sure that you will more than doubly justify your choice and that the interests of your community and in fact of the entire body public will be as safe in your hands as our own. We take this opportunity of thanking you most cordially for all your kindness in the past and sincerely hope that you will continue to show your usual generosity towards us.

We beg to give you this small present which please accept with our best compliments.

May the Almighty give you health and strength to undertake arduous duties and may He give you long life

and prosperity to enjoy still higher honours in store for you is our heartfelt prayer.

We remain,

Sir,

Yours ever truly,

OFFICE STAFF,

of Messrs. Madura Co., Ltd.

NEGAPATAM,
12th January 1913. }

An Address.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. G. Ahmed Thambi Maraicar,

NEGAPATAM.

SIR,

At a time when the whole Presidency is congratulating the successful candidates to the Legislative Council, each member thereof, to represent the separate interests, of different sections of the community to co-operate with the Government, we, though late, not the last—would be failing in our duty—if we should be behind the curtain, without pressing our heartfelt joy and approbation of the general election of candidates and especially you, Sir, to represent our community. We do not wish to draw a line of difference between one community and the other, because the aim and interest, the well being of the masses, is eventually the same.

Fortunately for us, you happen to have been yourself a very prominent merchant and now a Manager of the English Firm (Messrs. Madura Company Limited Negapatam) whose pleasant duty is to enable us to transact our business on a large scale and to raise us in the estimation of the world as a "Commercial Nation." We are very glad to remind you, that in your selection, we are have been thankful to your community, Majority of whom are

merchants like the Hindus, and we shall not be out of the way, if we remind you that we have always, and all along been very friendly with each other and not inimical so far as religious differences which disturb the good feelings now and then elsewhere are concerned.

Happily, for us, you happen to be one among us thereby enabling yourself and the Community you are to take the lead of, to freely exchange and ventilate the views and grievances of the Majority of the class here in the Southern Presidency.

The world in general is imbued, with the idea to ridicule the defeats of war or eulogise to the skies the Laurels of Victory of a leader, forgetting the astute fact that it is their hearty co-operation or otherwise which forms the only basis of success.

In your selection Sir, we are one with your community to convey to you our sincere Congratulations and promise our hearty co-operations in all of your works, lying before you in the Legislative assembly of which you are now a member.

THE MEMBERS OF THE MERCANTILE COMMUNITY.

"PENTLAND WARD."

NEGAPATAM,
2nd October 1913.

MY DEAR SIR,

Perhaps you might remember the conversation we had in the Government House garden sometime ago in connection with a Ward I wished to endow in the Negapatam Municipal Hospital for Muhammadan In-Patients which is nearing completion. As already mentioned I wish to

named after His Excellency and I shall esteem it a great favour if you will kindly obtain His Excellency's permission for doing so.

Thanking you in anticipation,

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd: A. T. MARICAIR.

C. B. Cotterell Esq., I. C. S.,

Private Secretary to

H. E. The Governor,

MADRAS.

Reply to above.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MADRAS,
31st October 1913.

No. 2345-2

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of 2nd October I am to say that His Excellency has much pleasure in accepting your invitation to give his name to the ward presented by you to the Municipal Hospital at Negapatam.

The Hon'ble

Mr. A. K. G. Ahmedthambi Maricair,
NEGAPATAM.

Opening of the "PENTLAND WARD".

NEGAPATAM,
21st February 1914.

MY DEAR SIR,

"Pentland Ward".

I am glad to inform you that the Ward which you know have been erecting in the Hospital compound is nearing

Press Comments.

The "Muhammadan" dated 23rd January 1913.

An Entertainment to the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Maricair,

A very pleasant and enjoyable social function took place on the 18th inst., at Nagore in Mr. Adiappa Naidu's spacious gardens in honour of the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Maricair's election to the Council. There was very large attendance of Hindus and Muhammadans.

The proceedings of the evening commenced at 3 p. m. and as the guest and leading gentlemen of the place arrived there was *Conversations* till 6 p. m. when after a short prayer by Hazarath Budruddin Hussain Sahib. Mr. K. S. Krishnasawami Iyengar B. A., B. L., made his opening speech in the course of which he said that the guest was known to them most intimately and it was an honour to him and to them that he was returned to the Council. He had proved himself worthy of the position by his various activities and had endeared himself to the citizens of Negapatam. The various meetings held from time to time both in Negapatam and Nagore bore testimony to his wide popularity and his deservedness to a seat in the Council.

Mr. K. Ramachandra Iyer B. A., B. L., on behalf of the hosts made a short speech in the course of which he congratulated the Hon'ble member on his election and wished that he had secured the Local Board and Municipal seat as it would emphatically prove as in the case of Khan Bahadur Habibullah Sahib, of Vellore, that Hindus and Muhammadans lived together very friendly and that their interests were identical.

Two Muhammadan gentlemen then read addresses in Arabic wishing the guest a useful career. Malim Sahib

completion and will be ready in a few days. It has always been my wish that I should associate the opening with you who has always been evincing a keen interest in the welfare of this town and the popularity of its hospital. I, therefore take the liberty of requesting Mrs. Wood to kindly honour me by opening this Ward which through your kindness has been permitted to be christened after our popular Governor H.E. The Right Hon'ble Lord Pentland. I believe any day between the 20th and 25th March will be convenient to you, except the 23rd March which has been fixed for the District Board Meeting. I therefore request you will kindly intimate to me what date will suit Mrs. Wood and yourself so that I may arrange accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Sd: A. T. MARICAIR.

R. B. Wood Esq., I. C. S.,
TANJORE.

Abstract of Replies to above.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
23rd Feb. and 14th Mar. 1914.

Dear Mr. Ahmed Thambi Marakayar,

Mrs. Wood will be very pleased to open the Pentland Ward for you if we can arrange a date.

* * * * *

I intend coming to Negapatam on the 24th Morning and Mrs. Wood will open your Ward in the afternoon. I have had no reply yet to my application for leave and I do not expect it any rate till the end of this month.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) R. B. WOOD.

Malimiar, a student, made a similar speech in English which was appreciated.

The Hon'ble Mr. Maricair made a suitable reply thanking the friends and well wishers for all they have done him in the past and said that he cannot get through his term of office successfully in the Council unless he had their help and co-operation and complimented them in getting up a grand entertainment. He assured them that he should do his best not only for the Muhammadan community but for the community in general. He spoke highly of the speech by Malim Sahib a student and wished many more students would follow suit. He was extremely indebted to those gentlemen who took the trouble of coming from distant places and while thanking them he requested them to work with him for the uplifting of their condition. (Cheers).

ரேங்கூன் ஸைடில் இஸ்லாம், 30—1—13:—

ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் A. K. G. அகமதுதம்பி மரைக்காயர் அவர்களது வரவேற்பானந்த விருந்து.

அறம், பொருள், இன்பம், வீடு, என்ற நார்பயனுமொருங்கமயப் பெற்றவரும், தென்னிந்தியா முஸ்லீம்கட் கோர் திலகம் போன்றவரும், பொது நலப்பிரியரும், சகல ஸௌபாக்கிய சம்பன்னரும், பிரபல வர்த்தகருமான நாகபட்டணம் கணம் ஏ. கே. ஜி. அகமது தம்பி மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் மதராஸ் லெஜிஸ்லேடிவ் கவுன்சில் மெம்பராக நியமனம் பெற்றார்களென்பது யாவத்பரானந்தருமறிந்த விஷயமே. நிற்க, ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் ஏ. கே. ஜி. அகமது தம்பி மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் முதற்ற டவையாக 4—1—13ல் மதிராசுக்கு மீட்டிங்குக்காக சென்று 6—1—13ல் மீண்டும் தம்பதி வந்தடைந்தார்கள். இக்கண்ணியம் வாய்ந்த புண்ணியரின் வரவையறிந்து ரெயில்வே பிளாட்பாரத்தின் கண்ணின்று எதிர் நோக்கிக்கொண்டிருந்த சுமார் ஆயிரத்திற்குகிகமான சமஸ்த வகுப்பினரின் மனங்குளிர அம்மகான் வந்திறங்கினர். ஏனையோர்களும் மகிழ்வுடன் வரவேற்றார்கள். பின்பு ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் ரெயில்வே ஸ்டேஷனிலிருந்து ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் வரவேற்றார்கள்.

தேங்களுடன் ஊர்வலம் வரப்பெற்றார்கள். வீதிகடோறும் ஜெண்டா வென்னுங் கொடி முதலியவைகள் நாட்டி அலங்கரிக்கப்பெற்றிருந்தது. அஸ்வங்கள் பூட்டி பல பீட்டின்கள் பின்னொடர்ந்து சென்றன. ஊர்வலத்தின் போது ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் மரைக்காயர் அவர்களுக்கு பூமாரிபொழிந்தவாரும் 500, 600 வரை மாலைகள் சூட்டப்பட்டன. அதனை நோக்குமிடத்து புஷ்பாபிஷேகம் செய்ததை யொத்திருந்தன. ஆகவே இத்தகைய சிறப்புடன் ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் ஏ. கே. ஜி. அகமது தம்பி மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் உபசரிக்கப்பட்டு தமதில்லிடம் வந்து சேர்ந்தனர். நிற்க, ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் லெஜிஸ்லேடிவ் கவுன்சில் மெம்பராகத் தெரிந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டு முதல் மீட்டிங்குக்குச் சென்று வந்த சந்தோஷத்தை நாகையிலுள்ள அநேக கனவான்கள் அறுசுவையுடன் கூடிய பல விருந்துகள் மூலம் வெளியாக்கினர். அவர்களில் நாகூர் கணம் ஹஜாத் ஹாஜா அப்துல் ஹமீது சாகிபு அவர்களும், ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் மீதுள்ள அனவற்ற விருந்தொன்றளித்தனர். சுமார் 150 ஜனங்கள் வரை விஜயமாயிருந்தார்கள். அச்சபைக்கு கணம் வா. சின்னமரைக்காயர் மாலிமியார் அவர்கள் செயர்மொனாகவமர்ந்தனர். கணம் ஹஜாத் மு. வாஞ்சூர் பகிர் சாகிபு அவர்களால் அறபி, பார்வா பாகைகளில் பிரசங்கம் செய்து தமிழில் வியாக்கியானம் செய்யப்பட்டது. பிறகு கணம் டி. செய்யிது முகைதீன் சாகிபு மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் எழுந்து வெகு வியாசமாய் உபந்யாசித்தார். இவைகள் முடிந்ததும் ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் சேனினுமினிய மொழிகளால் இவர்களுக்கும் பதிலளித்தமர்ந்தனர். பிறகு சபாநாயக்காவர்களால் சொல்லவேண்டியவைகளை கூறி முடிந்தவுடன் விருந்தியற்றிய கணம் ஹஜாத் ஹாஜா அப்துல் ஹமீது சாகிபு அவர்களால் இவ்விருந்தை மகிழ்வுடனென்று அங்கீகரித்த ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் மரைக்காயர் அவர்கட்கும் அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்கட்கும் விஜயப் புரிந்திருந்த ஏனைய கனவான்கட்கும் வந்தஜோப சாரமளிக்கப்பட்டது. இதன்பின் களரி விளம்பளாயிற்று. புகிப்பதற் காக வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த ஒவ்வோர் வகைத் தீனிகளும் வெவ்வேறு சுவைகளாக சிறந்து காணப்பட்டன. வெகு விளரிசையாய் களரி சபை பூர்த்தியாயிற்று. இதுபோல் எங்கும் அருந்தனில்லியென்று உண்டோர்கள், கொண்டாடிக் கொண்டே தத்தமிருப்பிடம் போய்ச் சேர்ந்தார்கள்.

விருந்துண்டாள்.

102

இரங்குன் ஸுபுல் இஸ்லாம் 22-4-14.

நாகபட்டணம்,

சுனாபிள் கனம் A. K. G. அஹமது தம்பிமரைக்காயர் அவர்
களும், முஹமதியப்பெண் தர்ம ஆஸ்பத்திரியும்

நாளதுஸ்ரூ மார்ச்சுமீ 24ம் தேதி நாகபட்டணம் கௌரவர் தங்கிய
A. K. G. அகமத்தம்பி மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள், வியாதிப்பட்ட மகம்மதிய
பெண்களுக்காக, முனிசிப்பல் ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் ஓர் பெரிய அரையை
7000 ரூபா செலவழித்து கட்டி அதற்கு பெண்ட்லாண்ட் அரை என்று
சென்னை கவர்னர் துரையின் பெயரிட்டு அதை பிரதிஷ்டை பண்ணுகிற
தற்காக அன்றையத்தினம் முனிசிப்பல் ஆஸ்பத்திரியும் அதை சுற்றிலு
முன்ன தோட்டமும் வெகு அலங்காரமாய், ஜோடிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது.
நாகபட்டணம் நாகூர் காரைக்கால் இவ்விடங்களிலுள்ள பெரிய மனு
ஷர்களும் அனேக ஐரோப்பிய துரைமார் துரைசானிமாரும் விஜயமா
யிருந்தனர். சரியாய் 5-30 மணிக்கு எங்களுடைய கலைட்டர் துரையின்
மனைவியாகிய மிவிஸ். உடஅம்மாள் கலைட்டர் துரை, சங்கலைட்டரா
கிய டி. ஆஸ்தின் துரை அவரிஸ்டெண்ட்போலீஸ் சூப்பிரண்டாகிய
இ. ஜெ. ஜான்சன் துரை என்பவர்களோடு வந்து சேர்ந்தார்கள்.

இவர்கள் ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்கு முன்னாலே அழகாய் ஜோடிக்கப்பட்ட பத்
தலில் வந்து உட்கார்ந்தவுடன் சங்கைபொருந்திய மரைக்காயர் அவர்
கள் எழுந்திருந்து கூடிவந்திருப்பவர்களைப் பார்த்து சொன்னதாவது:—

“மேன்மையுள்ள சீமான் சீமாட்டிமார்களே, நீங்கள் இங்கே வந்ததி
னால் எனக்குச் செய்திருக்கும் மரியாதைக்காக உங்களுக்கு நன்றி சொல்
லுகிறேன். மிவிஸ் உட அம்மாளை இப்போது கட்டப்பட்ட அரையை
பிற்புறம் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளு முன்னதாக இதை, நான் கட்டுகிறதற்கு
நேரிட்ட காரணத்தைச் சொல்லவேண்டியது என்னுடைய கடமை
என்று எண்ணுகிறேன். இரண்டுவருஷத்திற்கு முன்னதாக இந்த ஆஸ்ப
த்திரியானது புதிதாக கட்டப்படும் சமயத்தில் நான் இதைப்பார்க்க
வரவேண்டியது நேரிட்டது. அப்போது என்னுடைய சிநேகிதராகிய
முனிசிப்பல் சேயர்மனிடத்தில் மகமதியருக் கென்று பிரத்தியேகமான
அரை ஒன்று நீங்கள் ஏன் கட்டக்கூடாதென்று கேட்டேன், அதற்கு
அவர் சர்க்கார் நாகபட்டணம் முனிசிபாலிட்டிக்காக அதிக பணம் கொடு
க்காதிருக்கிறதினால் அதைக் கட்டவேண்டிய பொறுப்பு என்மேல் இரு
க்கிறதாகச் சொன்னார்.

“அந்தசுநேமே நான் என்னுடையமார்க்கத் தாருக்காக ஆஸ்பத்தி
ரியில் ஓர் பாகம் கட்டவேண்டு மென்று தீர்மானித்துக் கொண்டேன்.
இதைக்கட்டுகிறதில் இந்த ஜில்லாவின் பெரிய டாக்டரும் முனிசிப்பல்
சேயர்மனும் தங்களுடைய ஆலோசனையிலுமும் மற்றும் அனேக விஷய
ங்களாலும் எனக்கு அதிக உதவியா யிருந்தார்கள். இதற்குபெயர்
கொடுக்கிறதில் சொற்ப காலத்திற்குள் தம்முடைய பெருந் தன்மையி
லுமும் ஜனங்கள் மேலுள்ள அனுதாபத்தாலும் ஜனங்களால் சேசிக்கப்
பட்டு நன்கு மதிக்கப்பட்ட நம்முடைய மாட்சிமை பொருந்திய கவர்னர்
துரையவர்களின் பெயரைவிட தகுந்தபெயர் இல்லையென்று அதையே
கொடுக்கலாயினன். அந்தப்பிரகாரம் தங்களுடைய பெயரை இதற்கு
இடுகிறதற்கு எனக்கு உத்தரவு அளித்ததற்காக அவர்களுக்கு நான்
நன்றியறிதலுள்ளவரு யிருக்கிறேன்.

“இதோடு உஷ்ணசால மென்றும் பாராமல் இங்கே வந்து நடக்க
போகிற சம்பவங்களுக்கு முகாள்மையாயிருக்கச் சம்மதித்ததற்காக
மிவிஸ் உட அம்மாளுக்கு என் வந்தனம் சொல்லுகிறேன். இப்போது
உங்களுள்ளாருடைய அனுமதியைக் கொண்டு நான் கொடுக்கும் திறவு
கோலினால் இந்தக் கட்டடத்தை திறக்கும்படியாக மிவிஸ் உட அம்மாளை
தயவாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். “இந்தவார்த்தைகளை மகிமைபொரு
ந்திய மரைக்காரவர்கள் சொல்லி முடித்தவுடன், கலைட்டர் துரை
யாகிய கனம் ஆர். பி. உட துரையவர்கள் எழுந்திருந்து பின்வருமாறு
சொன்னார்.

“மிவிஸ் உட அம்மானுக்கும் எனக்கும் இப்போது இந்தச் சம்பவத்
திற்காக இங்கேவந்தது அதிக சந்தோஷத்தைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறது
இந்தத் தேசத்தில் பெண்களுக்காக ஆஸ்பத்திரி கட்டுகிறது ஓர் புதிய
எண்ணம்தான்; இது ஐரோப்பியருடைய சாஸ்திரங்களைப்படித்ததினால்
உண்டானது. ஆகவே சொற்பகாலத்திற்குள் இந்திய பெண்களுக்கென்று
அனேக வைத்தியசாலைகள் ஏற்படுத்த பட்டுவிட்டது. ஆனால் இப்போ
தாம் கூடிவந்த சம்பவமானது மகமதிய பெண்களுக்கென்று பிரத்தியேக
மாக வைத்தியசாலையின் ஓர்பாகம் கட்டப்பட்டதில் நான் பார்த்த முதல்
சம்பவம் இதுதான். இதைக்கட்டினவரின் ஊக்கம் இதனால் விளங்குகிற
தோடு மற்றவர்கள் அவரை பின்பற்றும்படி ஓர் முன்மாதிரியாகவு யிருக்
கிறார்.

“ஐரோப்பியருடைய வைத்தியசாஸ்திரத்தினால் இந்தியாவில் மற்ற
பெண்கள் உட அம்மாளைப் போலும் நன்மை மகம்மதிய பெண்களுக்கு இது

வரைக்கும் கிடைக்கவில்லை யென்றே சொல்லவேண்டும். ஆனால் இப்போது ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட இவ்வகை வைத்தியசாலைகளால் அவர்களும் நன்மை அடைய ஏதுவாயிருக்கிறதென்பது சந்தோஷமான விஷயமே இதுநீர்க் முனிவர்ப்பல் சேயர்மனும் கவுண்சில் மெம்பர்களும் பிளேக் என்னும் விஷவியாதி தங்கள் ஊருக்கு வராதபடி எடுத்துக்கொண்ட பிரயத்தினம் புகழ்ந்து கொள்ளப்படும் விஷயமே. வாணியம்பாடி கோயமுத்தூர் என்னுமிடங்கள் இதைவிட சிறுபட்டணங்களாயிருந்தபோதிலும், பிளேக் வியாதிரடக்கும்போது மாண தொகையானது அந்த இரண்டு பட்டணங்களிலும் இதைவிட அதிகமாகவேயிருந்தது இதனால் அந்த விஷவியாதி அந்தப்பட்டினத்திற்கு வராதபடிவெகுவாய் தடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்று நாம் அறிகிறோம். இவ்விதத்தைக்கு ஜனங்களும் ஓர் காரணம்தான். அதிகாரிகள் எவ்வளவு கட்டுப்பாடுசெய்தாலும் ஜனங்களுடைய உதவி இல்லாவிட்டால் அவர்களாலும் ஒன்றும் முடியாதுதான். அதிகாரிகள் அந்த வியாதிகண்டவுடன் சுத்தம்செய்கிறதோ அல்லது தனிமையான இடத்திற்கு கொண்டுபோகிறதோ ஆக இவைகளைல்லாவற்றிற்கும் ஜனங்கள் இணங்கி நடந்ததாலேயே அந்தவியாதி அதிகமாய் பரம்பாமற் போய்விட்டது.

“கடந்த பத்துநாட்களுக்குள் ஒரே ஒரு ஆளுக்கு மட்டும் தான் அந்த வியாதி கண்டிருக்கிறதாக செய்தி வந்திருக்கிறது. ஆகவே இன்னும் ஒரு வாரத்திற்குள் இந்த வியாதி முற்றிலும்நீங்கிவிடும் என்று நம்புகிறேன். நல்ல தண்ணீரை பட்டணத்திற்கு கொண்டுவருகிறதற்காக முனிசிபாலிட்டிக்காரர் எடுத்திருக்கும் பிரயாசமானது சிக்கிரத்திற்குள் கைகூடிவருமென்று நம்புகிறேன் இதோடு துறைமுகத்தை பெரிதாக்குகிற வேலையும் நன்றாய் நடந்தேருகிறதற்காக அதிக சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன். எந்த நல்ல காரியத்தை செய்ய ஆரம்பித்தாலும் ஜனங்களில் இரண்டொருவருக்கு அதினால் நஷ்டமுண்டாவதற்கு ஏதுவுண்டாகலாம் ஆனால் ஜனங்களுடைய பொது நன்மைக்காக அப்பேர்ப்பட்ட நஷ்டங்களைப் பொருத்துக்கொள்வதுதான் பெருந்தன்மை. கடைசியாக இந்த முனிசிபாலிட்டிக்காகவும் மேன்மை பொருத்திய மரைக்காயர் அவர்கள் இந்த வயித்திய சாலையின் ஓர் பாகத்தை கட்டுவித்து அதற்கு நமது மாட்சிமைபொருத்திய கவர்னர் துரையின் பெயரிட்டதற்காகவும் அவருக்கு வந்தனம் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

“மிலிஸ் உட் அம்மாள் இங்கே வந்து இந்தச்சமயத்தில் அவர்களை செய்யும்படி கேட்டுக்கொண்ட வேலைக்காக அதிக சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்.”