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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 712. Press / Mis.

157-159.

Dated 9-1-37 1837.

859

157-159

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
29th May 1872.

Read the following papers:—

No. 157. From J. FISCHER, Esq., to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Shevagunga, 15th December 1871.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Collector of Madura in regard to the desirability of introducing the Towns' Improvement Act into the town of Shevagunga.

2. In connexion with the second of the two drawbacks which may influence Government against the introduction of the Act into this town I trust I may be permitted to offer the following suggestions:—

(*a.*) The revenue and magisterial charge of the district is at present apportioned as follows:—

Taluqs, &c.	Revenue charge.	Magisterial charge.
Madura	Deputy Collector, General Duties.	Assistant Magistrate and Deputy Collector, General Duties.
Tirumungalum	Do. do. do.	Do. do. do.
Mayloor	Assistant Collector.	Assistant Magistrate.
Periacolum	Collector.	Joint Magistrate.
Dindigul	Sub-Collector.	Do.
Palni	Do.	Do.
Ramnad and Shevagunga Zemindaries	Head Assistant Collector.	Head Assistant Magistrate.

(*b.*) If the Deputy Collector, General Duties, were invested with the full powers of a Magistrate, the Assistant Collector might be relieved of the appeal work of both the Madura and Tirumungalum Taluqs.

(*c.*) He would then have the revenue and magisterial charge of the Mayloor Taluq only, which is adjacent to this zemindari, the revenue and magisterial charge of which might, without any public inconvenience, be added to him.

(*d.*) The Ramnad Zemindari could then be entrusted either to the Sub-Collector, or to the Special Assistant Collector recently appointed to this district.

3. In the hope that under the above arrangements Government will not consider it presumption on my part to ask that a European Magistrate be located at Shevagunga, I have, &c.

From J. FISCHER, Esq., to the Collector of Madura, dated Shevagunga, 7th December 1871.

I have the honour to bring to your notice the desirability of introducing the Towns' Improvement Act into the town of Shevagunga.

It is the chief town in this zemindari, is compactly built, and contains more than 5000 inhabitants, the generality of whom, as in all large towns, are poor.

And, although the Act cannot but be—as it has always been wherever it has been introduced, and as it ever will more or less be—unpopular, its introduction cannot but be attended with the best results.

So far as I can see there are only two drawbacks at present which may influence Government against the introduction of the Act into this town.

The first is that there are only four residents who are in the service of Government—the Sub-Magistrate, the Police Inspector, the Deputy Postmaster, and the Taluq Overseer.

The official element can, therefore, be represented by only three of these residents, as the Sub-Magistrate can under no circumstances be nominated a Commissioner.

The second difficulty which presents itself is as to the nomination of the Vice-President, and of the two this is the greater difficulty.

Both the Ramnad and Shevagunga Zemindaries are at present under the charge of the Head Assistant Collector, whose head-quarters are at Ramnad, a larger and much more important town.

It is quite true that the Head Assistant Collector visits Shevagunga occasionally; but, if he were nominated Vice-President here, circumstances would require his making this place his head-quarters.

Then, the question is likely to arise as to whether the town of Ramnad also might not be constituted a Municipality, in which case the Head Assistant Collector would be more or less permanently located there.

Considering that this is a zemindari town where the people are not quite so accustomed to orderly government as in towns immediately under official management, a European Magistrate acting as Vice-President is absolutely essential.

If, therefore, Government could permanently locate an Assistant or Deputy Collector here, or so re-arrange the division of labour amongst your Assistants as to include Shevagunga within the limits of one of them, this difficulty would at once be met.

The official element will then muster four members, or, strictly speaking, five, since the Vice-President will have two votes whenever he presides at any meeting.

There are a great many non-official residents in every way eligible to serve as Municipal Commissioners; but I will content myself in naming only the following:—

1. Vencatasawmy Naick, the sub-lessee of this estate.
2. Desika Aiyengar, Manager to the ex-Zemindar.
3. Choudapan, Sheristadar to the sub-lessee.
4. Sunkerien, Manager of the Ranee's Devastanams and Chuttrums.
5. Sunkerien, the Ranee's Karbar.
6. Kathavaroyen Shervey, Manager to the sub-lessee.
7. Palanyandy Pillay, the Ranee's Fouzdar.
8. Seenevasiengar, Tahsildar of Shevagunga.
9. Teagaraja Pillai, a landholder.
10. Palanyandy Pillay, Dresser at the Ranee's Dispensary.

If Government resolve to introduce the Act here, I would respectfully beg to suggest that the tax on arts, trades, and professions be *not* imposed for two years, that is, until the people get better accustomed to the requirements of the Act.

I would also beg to suggest that the house-tax be imposed at the rate of three per cent. at first, and that the rate be increased only once every two or three years until it reaches five per cent.

I do not think that the other provisions of the Act would bear heavily upon the people provided they are introduced gradually and cautiously and the Vice-President and Commissioners act with tact and judgment and not with harshness and rigour.

It would be well, as I have already observed, if a European Magistrate were appointed at first to be the Vice-President.

But if Government had sufficient confidence in the Commissioners they appoint they might allow them to choose their own Vice-President subject to the approval of the President.

I have only to add, in conclusion, that if Government desire me to introduce the Act into this town I shall do everything in my power to meet their wishes and to endeavour to secure the confidence and good will of the people.

My family have taken an interest in Shevagunga for a great many years past; I am now the Ranee's Agent, and have extensive landed property in this zemindari.

But in this case I shall have to solicit Government to grant me two months' leave to be absent from Salem, as I hold the post of Vice-President of the Local Fund Board there.

Begging you to forward this letter to Government accompanied by your remarks.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
29th May 1872.

Referred to the Collector of Madura for report.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
25th December 1871. *Chief Secretary.*

Referred to the Head Assistant Collector for his remarks with reference to the letter on the same subject already referred to him.

PERIACOLUM, (Signed) W. McQUHAE,
8th January 1872. *Acting Collector.*

No. 158. From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madura, 19th April 1872, No. 741.

With reference to the enclosed letter* addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government by Mr. James Fischer and referred† to me for report, I have the honour to state that I cannot recommend the introduction of the Towns' Improvement Act into the town of Shevagunga.

* 15th December 1871.
† Under date the 25th December 1871.

2. It has been decided by the Board of Revenue, in their Proceedings dated 23rd March 1872, No. 488, that the Act should not be introduced into Ramnad, and the reasons on which this decision was based apply with greater force to Shevagunga.

3. Shevagunga contains less than 2000 houses and less than 8000 inhabitants. The house-tax could scarcely produce Rupees 1,500, and as there are no roads there can be no tolls. Mr. Fischer is opposed to imposing the tax on trades and professions, and if it were imposed it would produce little.

4. I also doubt whether qualified persons could be found to work the Act. Mr. James Fischer is no longer the Ranee's Agent, and he cannot be considered a resident in Shevagunga.

5. Shevagunga will soon be made a Local Fund Union, and if the Police Act be properly enforced its sanitary condition can be sufficiently attended to without the creation of a Municipality.

No. 159. ORDER THEREON, 29th May 1872, No. 712.

The Government concur with the Acting Collector.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Madura.
,, J. Fischer, Esq.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE ACTING COLLECTOR OF MADURA,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 29th.

Read.

Ent.

G. O., 29th May 1872, No. 712.

MAY.

Nos. 157—159.

Expressing concurrence with the Acting Collector for in considering it undesirable to introduce the Towns' Improvement Act into the town of Shevagunga, in the Madura District.

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57

Shevagunga 15 December 1871

The Honorable W S Ellis C B

Chief Secretary to Government

Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Collector of Madura, in regard to the desirability of introducing the Towns Improvement Act into the Town of Shevagunga.

In connection with the second of the two drawbacks which may influence Government against the introduction of the Act into this Town, I trust I may be permitted to offer the following suggestion.

(a) The Revenue & Magisterial charge of the District is at present apportioned as follows.

Taluqs &c	Revenue charge	Magisterial charge
Madura	Deputy Collector General duties	Assistant Magistrate and Deputy Collector General duties
Tiroomungulum	—— do ——	—— do ——
[illegible]	Assistant Collector	Assistant Magistrate
[illegible] gal	Collector	joint Magistrate
Palany	Sub Collector	—— do ——
Ramnad and Shevagunga Zemindaries	—— do ——	—— do ——
	Head Assistant Collector	Head Assistant Magistrate

(b) If the Deputy Collector general duties were invested with the full powers of a Magistrate, the Assistant Collector might be relieved of the Appeal work of both the Madura and Tirumungulum Taluqs.

(C) He would then have the Revenue and Magisterial charge of Mayloor Taluq only, which is adjacent to this Zemindary, the Revenue and Magisterial charge of which might without any public inconvenience be added to him.

(d) Ramnad Zemindary could then be entrusted either to the Rev. Collector or to the Special Assistant Collector recently appointed to this District.

In the hope that under the above arrangements Government will not consider it presumption on my part to ask that a European Magistrate be located at Shevagunga

I have the honor to be.

Sir

Your obedient Servant

No. 741. Madras Castle, Fort
19th April 1872

From

W. Chas Dukes Esquire
Acting Collector of
Madura

To.

W. Hudleston Esquire
Acting Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

15 December 1871. With reference to the enclosed letter addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government

Under date the 25 Dec 1871. by Mr. James Fischer and referred to me for report, I have the honor to state that I cannot recommend the introduction of the Town's Improvement Act into the Town of Shevagungah.

2. It has been decided by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings dated 23rd March 1872 No 180 that the Act should not be introduced into Ramnad and the reasons on which this decision was based apply with greater force to Shevagungah.

3.

Referred to the Collector of Madura for report.
W. Hudleston
Chief Secy
Fort St George
25th Dec. 71

Public Dept
Collector of Madura
Shevagungah
Town
Introduction of Act
Recd 28th Dec 1871
Answered 19th April 1872
No. 2616.

3. Shevagungah contains less than 2000 houses and less than 8000 inhabitants. The house tax could scarcely produce Rs 1500 and as there are no roads there can be no tolls. Mr Fischer is ~~opposed to~~ imposing the tax on trades and professions and if it were imposed it would produce little

4. Sahib doubt whether qualified persons could be found to work the Act. Mr James Fischer is no longer the Rance's Agent and he cannot be considered a resident in Shevagungah.

5. Shevagungah will soon be made a Local Fund Union and if the Police Act be properly enforced its sanitary condition can be sufficiently attended to without the creation of a Municipality.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obed. Servant

W. M. Lushington
Acting Collector

1872 Finl. Department

From

The Collector of
Madura

To The Chief Secty to
Govt.
Madras

No. 821.

Dated 19th & 23 April/72
Recd 23 April/72

No. 741.
Rec'd 1 pet.

Reporting under the circumstances herein stated that the Town improvement Act cannot be introduced into the Towns of Shevaganga.

With an Order

Read Nov 28th 1872 No. 821.

29th May 1872 No. 741.

The Sec. Canara with the Collector's Report

Collector of Madura.
J. Pricker Esqr

Finl

2/5

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

Financial

To

The Collector of Madura.

Dated May. 29.

Read.

Encl.

G. O. 29 May, 1872, No. 412.

Nos. 157. 159.

Expressing concurrence with the Coll. in considering it undesirable to introduce the Towns' Improvement Act into the Town of Sheveganga in the Madura Dt.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

Financial

To

The Collector of Madura.

Dated May. 29.

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 29. May. 1872. No. 712.

Nos. 157. 159.

Expressing concurrence with the Coll^r in considering it undesirable to introduce the Town Improvement Act into the Town of Sheveganga in the Madura Dt.