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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Financial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1863 Press Mis.

174-175.

Dated 20-12-1873.

24/25

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

No. 174. Read the following letter from H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Chellumbrum, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cuddalore, 3rd November 1873, No. 7 :—

I have the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of Government, a copy of the Proceedings of the Commissioners for the town of Chellumbrum at a meeting held on the 23rd ultimo. I also enclose copies of Minutes recorded by P. Venugopal Naidoo, the Presiding Member, and M. Venkatasoobiah and C. Aroonachella Iyer, Commissioners, with reference to the proposal to reduce the tax on houses from five to three per cent. and to make up the deficiency in the municipal income by the establishment of tolls under Section 77, Act III. of 1871. This proposal, it will be observed, was carried by a majority of seven to one, the dissentient being the Presiding Member.

2. It is quite true, as stated by the proposer, that the Commissioners have not had an opportunity until now of stating their views in regard to the rate to be imposed on houses for the purposes of the Act. In submitting proposals for the establishment of a municipality at Chellumbrum I had at the same time to furnish an estimate of receipts and disbursements for the current half year, and under the former head I entered "Rates on Houses and Lands" at five per cent., which is the rate levied in Cuddalore. The proposer and seconder declared this (and they carried the meeting with them) to be burdensome on the people, "the majority of whom belong to the agricultural class, and who have to pay a number of taxes which they complain they cannot bear." The dissenting Member ruthlessly demolishes this statement by an appeal to the figures of the Census, which show that out of a total population of 18,607 souls only 880 are classed as agriculturists, the remainder being principally weavers and tradesmen; and in paragraph 12 of his Minute he further shows that house property in Chellumbrum is far better able to bear taxation than it is in Cuddalore. In regard to the establishment of tolls there is something in the idea of making the large number of travellers and pilgrims who flock to Chellumbrum during the festivals contribute towards the advantages conferred by municipal arrangements; but, as pointed out by the Presiding Member, the state of the roads by which Chellumbrum is approached and the proximity of the unbridged Vellar would make the levy of tolls a very unpopular measure with the outside public. It may, however, be argued that it only devolves on the Municipal authorities to maintain the roads within their limits in good order, and that if this is done they give a *quid pro quo* to travellers paying tolls on entering the town. When a step has been made in this direction the propriety of establishing toll-gates may again come up for consideration; but, as the municipal roads at present are in much the same condition as the roads outside, I cannot recommend Government to accord their sanction to the measure.

3. I think the Government will agree with me that, considering this municipality only came into existence on the 1st October, it shows signs of considerable vitality. Inclusive of the President and Sub-Collector, who are *ex officio* Members, there are only three Europeans on the Board, and only one (the Rev. Mr. Wolffe), has up to the present assisted at the meetings, whilst the attendance of the native Members has been large. I avail myself of this opportunity to ask the attention

* Has since been disposed of.

of Government to my letter, dated 6th October 1873,* recommending the appointment of P. Venugopal Naidoo as Vice-President.

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*At a Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held on the 23rd Instant.*

*Present.*

M. R. Ry. P. Venugopal Naidoo Garoo, Presiding Member.
Rev. Mr. A. F. Wolffe.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkatasoobiah Garoo.
,, C. Aroonachella Iyer.
,, Nattoo Devoroya Pillay.
,, Venkatasoobboo Chettiar.
Mer Khader Buksh Sahib.
M. R. Ry. Ambalavana Moodelliar.
Meer Kajim Ally Rezene.

*Absent.*

Three Members.

Read and confirmed the Proceedings of the last meeting with the exception of the resolution passed on the selection of tanks for drinking-purposes. A Minute was read by M. R. Ry. M. Vencatasoobiah Garoo that Nagacherry and Gnanaprakasam be relieved from our restrictions as they are held to be sacred and some others be chosen instead.

Resolved that Omakulam and Palamankulam be secured for drinking-purposes in lieu of Nagacherry and Gnanaprakasam.

The proposal was put to vote and carried by a majority of seven against one, the dissenting vote being that of the Presiding Member.

Adverting to the subject of "Assessment on houses and buildings, &c.," M. R. Ry. M. Venkatasoobiah Garoo raised an objection that five percentage be reduced to three and toll-gates be established to make up the difference, and this was seconded by C. Aroonachella Iyer.

This proposal was put to vote and carried by a majority of seven against one, the Presiding Member.

The proposal of introducing toll-gates was next put to vote and carried by a majority of seven against one, the Presiding Member.

The Minutes of Venkatasoobiah and Aroonachella Iyer and the Opinion of the dissenting Member thereon are appended.

Resolved that the sand-bank near Pulichamedu, at the southern extremity of the town, the plain on the north side of Nagacherry, and the Peramboke land to the north of Pichavaram Road, be places for depositing rubbish.

Resolved that the owner of Sunta Tope be requested to let it to the Commissioners for its being converted into a vegetable-market.

Resolved that the Sanitary Inspector be directed to select a suitable place for a slaughter-house and report the same to the Commissioners.

Resolved that the meat and fish-market be allowed to remain where it is, but that orders be issued for keeping it clean.

Read and disposed of sundry petitions.

CHELLUMBRUM,
*23rd October* 1873.

(Signed.) P. VENUGOPAL,
*Presiding Member.*

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Before confirming the Proceedings of the last meeting I wish to redirect the attention of the Commissioners to the subject of "tanks." The murmur since our last resolution on the subject



has been too general to escape our notice. The restrictions we have to impose on Nagacherry and Gnanaprakasam are objected to on religious grounds. They are held sacred, and, as such, are resorted to by people for bathing on certain days of the year; we cannot, therefore, interfere with these without going against the prejudices both of the greater part of the townspeople and of the pilgrims who come from without. The tanks in question are periodically supplied with fresh water and are besides too large to suffer by bathing. I therefore think that people may be allowed to use these tanks for bathing as well as drinking-purposes, while they may be prevented from committing any other nuisance in them, such as washing clothes, dipping twists, and the like.

2. The next point to which I wish to draw your attention is the house-rate. The Commissioners do not appear to have had the opportunity of stating their views as to the percentage of house-rate that shall be levied in this municipality. The rate now fixed upon is, in my opinion, higher than can fairly be imposed on the inhabitants of this town. A very large number of them are of the agricultural class. Taking into consideration the taxes they have to pay on lands, vehicles, and animals, the five per cent. rate of tax intended to be levied on their houses will press very heavy on that section of the townspeople, who contribute besides by far the greater portion to the Imperial exchequer. I would, therefore, propose to request the Government to permit us to levy tolls on carriages, carts, and animals entering these municipal limits at such rates as we may deem proper to prescribe. The rates given in Schedule C. being maximum rates we are at liberty to fix upon such rates as the existing circumstances fairly warrant. I submit for your consideration the following rates:—

| | | RS. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| For every four-wheeled carriage on springs | | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Do. | two- do. do. do. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Do. | jutka, hackery on springs, or cart drawn by men, buffaloes, bullocks, horses, ponies, asses, or mules laden | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Do. | do. do. do. not laden | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Do. | horse laden or ridden | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Do. | do. not laden or ridden | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Do. | pony or ass laden or ridden | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Do. | elephant | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Do. | camel | | | |

3. This will yield Rupees 4,000 clear of charges, so that, if the house-rate be reduced from five to three per cent., the gain, on the whole, is twofold. Besides the popularity of the measure the municipality will, according to the present estimate, have at its disposal Rupees 2,000 more, which, together with the sum set apart in the budget for communications, will afford ample means for getting almost all the important roads metalled within a few months. The objections urged against levying the tolls I have alluded to seem to be chiefly the ferry toll levied at the Vellar and the roads in and about Chellumbrum not being metalled. With regard to the first, I submit that the town of Chellumbrum has no more to do with the ferry toll at the Vellar than it is to do with the tolls levied at the municipal gates of Mayaveram or Cuddalore. If the toll collected at the Vellar, instead of being credited to the Local Funds, be possibly credited to our Municipal Fund, we can very well dispense with toll-gates. Since, however, that cannot be demanded, there is no reason for urging it as an objection against levying tolls at our municipal limits.

4. The second objection never had weight with other municipalities in at once giving effect to Sections 77 to 84 of the Towns Improvement Act. At Mayaveram and Combaconum, for instance, toll-gates had been in existence long before a single road was laid with metal. When we consider the many important items of expenditure to be met with out of our limited means we will not for some years to come have better roads unless we have the means to set about them. If it be said that until we make the better roads we can levy no tolls at our limits, it must, on the other hand, be also said that until we levy such tolls we can have no better roads. One of these two

things must be done. Let us, therefore, choose that which, besides affording us the means of improving our roads, has the advantage of securing to it popularity. The persons who have to pay these tolls are, for the most part, travellers and pilgrims, who do not generally pass through this town twice in the same year. They will not feel the payment of a few Annas and, in some cases, a few Pies as much a burden as the inhabitants of the town, on whom a high rate of house-tax has to be levied.

23*rd October* 1873.

(Signed) M. VENKATASOOBIAH,
*Commissioner.*

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After what our friend has said on the necessity of levying tolls and reducing the percentage of house-tax I have got very little to say on the point. I wholly agree with him, and, by way of seconding, would only beg leave to draw the attention of the Commissioners to this important fact. It is not unknown to you that this town, being far famed for its religious sanctity among Siva Sthalams, is constantly resorted to by pilgrims and travellers from distant places. Besides the biennial festivals well known as ஆனித்திருமஞ்சனம் and ஆருத்திரு தரினம், which attract a large number of people to this place, there is the தலாமாச உத்ஸவம் at Mayaveram, also one great Siva Sthalam. People from remote places such as Benares, &c., go to Rameswaram, and Chellumbrum is on the way. All these are forced, by the sanctity of this place, to stay here a couple of days or two; carts waiting for them here commit great nuisance. Let us consider why tolls are ever levied. It is not only for covering the expenses of metalling roads, but also for clearing away the nuisance that carts not registered within the municipality commit within it, so that I do not see the slightest objection to introducing this element into our municipality. I may add that by so doing we may reduce the percentage of tax intended to be levied on houses. The majority of the people here belong to the agricultural class, and have to pay a number of taxes which they complain they cannot bear.

2. If we really carry out the intention of levying the five per cent. rate of house-tax our municipality will be too heavy a pressure on the people. By the reduction proposed we may considerably lighten the pressure on their slender means. I do not think that the objection mentioned in our friend's proposal carry any weight with them since they are in the very face untenable. It is my opinion that with the reduced rate of tolls and house-tax proposed the municipality will be very acceptable and gain for it the good-will of townsmen, for the working of whose benefit we have been appointed Commissioners. I hope, therefore, that these considerations will persuade the Commissioners to arrive at an unanimous conclusion on the subject.

23*rd October* 1873.

(Signed) C. AROONACHELLA IYER,
*Commissioner.*

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*Opinion of P. Venugopal Naidoo, a dissenting Member in the Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held on the 23rd instant.*

I, as a dissenting Member to the measures proposed by M. R. Ry. M. Venkatasoobiah Garoo and seconded by others in confirming the Proceedings of last meeting, respectfully beg to submit my opinion with regard to the resolutions arrived at by them against the reservation of tanks and the rates of assessment.

1. With regard to the restrictions placed on Nagacherry and Gnanaprakasam Tanks, M. R. Ry. M. Venkatasoobiah objects to their reservation on religious principles and it is seconded by all the other Members assembled.

2. I, as a Hindoo connected with the same sacred ties as some of my other colleagues are, and having at heart the same respect for religion, venture to give my independent opinion with regard to the so-called religious tanks.

3. These tanks are not within the precincts of the pagoda to call them sacred. It is true that the idols are taken to them once or twice a year-in the same manner as the Vishnu idol at Trivandhipuram and other places near Cuddalore are taken to the sea, the Pennar River, and the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,*
*20th December* 1873.

tanks at Karamanykooppam and Nellicooppam once a-year. The reservation of such for drinking-purposes cannot interfere at all with religion. The day on which the idols are taken to them may be a free day, and every freedom might be allowed to the people to bathe if they chose to bathe on that day. The defilation caused by such bathing will not affect the tanks so much as they will otherwise do in setting them free around the whole year

4. It would not be out of place here to give the history of these tanks so far as I know of them. They are in the heart of the town, and, if reserved for drinking-purposes alone, will be a great boon to the people.

5. The Nagacherry Tank was dug out by one Laul Khan Sahib, one of the late Mussulman Chiefs in this town, for the convenience of the section of the people who inhabit the western part of the town. He not only dug this tank out but also excavated the canal from the Veeranam Tank to Porto Novo Bar. The late Improvement Committee spent upon the tank hundreds, if not thousands, of Rupees in erecting steps and improving it. The fish-rent of this tank is enjoyed by Dadameah Sahib, the present Municipal Overseer, a descent of the late Laul Khan, who did not make the least objection to its present reservation, but, on the other hand, is glad that the very wholesome water of this tank is reserved for the drink of the people.

6. With regard to the Gnanaprakasam Tank, I would respectfully submit that it is a public one constructed by some Jaffna people, who also built several Madams around it for the convenience of the travellers.

7. The Commissioners propose to take Omakulam and Palamankulam instead of the above two tanks.

8. Omakulum has more a religious aspect than any one of the above two tanks. Nanda, a low caste-man, is said to have purified his caste and birth by bathing in this tank, and, as such, is held in great reverence by the people; why, then, abandon the Nagacherry and take Omakulam in its stead? The former is within the town, and the latter just out of it. A man can go a little distance to wash himself, but not for a drink. Nearer a wholesome water for drinking-purposes, the better for the convenience of the people, and, moreover, I would, as a resident of this town for the last eight years, safely say that the Omakulam water is not so salubrious as that of the Nagacherry. The same objections for unwholesomeness and distance exist for the Palamankulam Tank.

9. The Commissioners lay much stress on the rate of assessment, *i. e.*, five per cent., and toll-gates introduced to make up the difference.

10. The grounds on which they base their opinion are that the rate-payers are chiefly agricultural classes, who already contribute by far the greater portion to the Imperial exchequer.

11. The population of this town, according to the last Census, amount to 18,607 people; of this large number the agricultural population is only 880.

12. The other population consists chiefly of weavers and tradesmen with also a few officials of the Court and Cutcherry. Do they all contribute to the Imperial exchequer? The rate of five per cent. is introduced, I believe, in the Cuddalore Municipality. Let me, then, draw a contrast between rents of houses and bazaars paid by the residents in both places. The house, for instance, in which this office is held can be had in the Cuddalore Municipality for a rent of couple of Rupees, whereas Rupees 6 is paid here. Again, the Courthouse, the Dispensary, and the Post Office are rented buildings; they pay severally Rupees 5, 7, and 3½ a-month, whereas in the other municipality they can be got for half the amount, if not less. The officials who occupy rented buildings in this town also pay dear rates.

13. Now, let me take the bazaars. The rents fixed by the owners are treble and quadruple the rates obtained in the Old Town and Tripapalore, in the Cuddalore Municipality. The bazaars here are rented out from Rupees 5 to 7 a-month in ordinary days, but during two annual festivals the owners get extra rent for the use of the pavements and verandahs of the bazaar streets by itinerant tradesmen.

14. From the above it will be observed that the five per cent. rate is not an exorbitant one, which can be demanded from the people of this town for purposes of expenditure to keep them clean and healthy.

15. While the other municipality, where the rent-value of the houses and shops is less than here, pays a rate of five per cent., why not this pay the same rate, if not more ?

16. I will be the last person to entertain the least idea for oppression on the people of the town, of whom I also am a member, and the proposed reduced rate will also benefit me ; but, with a clear conscience of surrounding circumstances, I cannot give my opinion otherwise.

17. The introduction of the toll-gates will be a rather premature measure. The poor cartman cannot, in the absence of good made-roads, be made to pay for the convenience of the people in the town. Of course, toll-gates must be established, but not now, when the cart or other vehicle-driver is put to a world of annoyance in crossing a dangerous unbridged river, where he has to pay very dear to get to the other bank and has to move the vehicles with difficulty in heavy, sandy roads. When the roads are macadamized and the Vellar River bridged from the Local Funds, which, it is expected, will shortly be done, toll-gates can be fairly introduced.

18. It is stated that in the neighbouring Mayaveram Municipality toll-gates are established although there are no metalled roads. I would respectfuly urge that the case is quite different. It is true that there are no metalled roads there, but the soil is different and all streams are bridged. The same heavy sand and the difficulty of crossing a dangerous river do not exist there.

19. All that we can now do is to apply to the Local Fund Board of the Circle to make arrangements for the early completion of the metalling of the trunk road and the Vellar Bridge in view to the introduction of the proposed toll-gates.

CHELLUMBRUM,
*23rd October* 1873.

(Signed) P. VENUGOPAL,
*Managing Commissioner.*

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No. 175. ORDER THEREON, 20th December 1873, No. 1863.

With the letter above recorded the President of the Chellumbrum Municipality submits for the orders of Government a copy of the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners, dated 23rd October 1873, from which it would appear that a resolution was passed to the effect that the house-tax should be reduced from five to three per cent. and the deficiency in the income caused thereby should be made good by the imposition of a toll on the traffic entering the municipal limits.

2. The Governor in Council declines to sanction this proposal as no reasons have been adduced to show that the circumstances of Chellumbrum are exceptional or that the sanctioned rate of five per cent. will be felt more by the people there than in other places where a similar rate is levied. The tax must, therefore, remain as it is.

3. As to the establishment of tolls which the Commissioners advocate, the Government observe that as the requirements of the municipality increase there may arise a necessity for further taxation and that it will then be matter for consideration whether the additional revenue required should be raised by the imposition of tolls ; but, under any circumstances, the levy of tolls cannot be assented to until the roads of the town are put in good order and until good and convenient loop-lines for the free passage of goods, not intended for local consumption, are provided.

(True Extract.)

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Chellumbrum.

*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of {1873 Madras.

# FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
*Chellumbrum.*

*Dated December, 20th.*

*Read.*

Read.

*G. O., 20th December 1873, No. 1863.*

**DECEMBER.**
**Nos. 174-175.**

*Chellumbrum Municipality.*—The proposal of the Commissioners to reduce the house-tax from five to three per cent. not acceded to, and consideration of the question of the establishment of tolls deferred until good roads are provided for the town.

4

At a meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held on the 23rd Instant.

Present

M. R. Ry. P. Venugopal Naidoo Garoo Presidency Magistrate

Revd Mr. A. F. Wolffe

M. R. Ry. M. Venkatasoobiah Garoo

" C. Arroonachella Ayyer

" Pattoo Devatoya Pillay

" Venkatasoobiah Chetty

" Meer Khader Buksh Sahib

" Ambalavana Moodeliar

" Meer Kapur Ally Brizne

Absent

3 Members

Read and confirmed the Proceedings of the last meeting with the exception of the resolution passed on the selection of tanks for drinking purposes. A minute was read by M. R. Ry. M. Venkatasoobiah Garoo that Nagaicherry and Cumaraprakasam be retained from our restrictions as they are held to be sacred and some others be chosen instead.

instead.

Resolved that Ouakulam and Palamankulam be secured for drinking purposes in lieu of Nagacherry and Cumaraprakasam.

The proposal was put to vote and carried by a majority of 7 against 1 the dissenting vote being that of the Presiding Member.

Adverting to the subject of "Assessment on houses and buildings vide" A. R. Ry Venkatasoobiah gave notice that he would move that 5 per centage be reduced to 3 and Toll Gates be established to make up the difference and this was seconded by Arunachella Iyer.

This proposal was put to vote and carried by a majority of 7 against 1 the Presiding Member.

The proposal of introducing Toll gates was next put to vote and carried by a majority of 7 against 1 the Presiding Member.

The minutes of Venkatasoobiah and Arunachella Iyer and the opinion of the dissenting member thereon are appended

Resolved

4 5

Resolved that the sand bank from Pulicharedu at the southern extremity of the town, the plain on the north side of Nagacherry and the Puramboke land to the north of Pichavaram road be placed for depositing rubbish.

Resolved that the owners of Simta tope be requested to take it to the Commissioners for its being converted into a vegetable market.

Resolved that the Sanitary Inspector be directed to select a suitable place for a slaughter house and report the same to the Commissioners.

Resolved that the meat and fish market be allowed to remain where it is, but that orders be issued for keeping them clean.

Read & disposed of sundry petitions.

Municipal Office
Chidambaram
23rd October 1873.

P Veerappah.
Presiding Member

Opinion of L. Venugopal Naidu a dissenting Member in the Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held on the 23d. Instant.

I as a dessenting Member to the measures proposed by the L. Dy. A. Venkalasoobiah Garu and Seconded by others in Confirming the Proceedings of last Meeting, respectfully beg to submit my Opinion with regard to the Resolutions arrived at by them against the reservation of Tanks and the rates of Assessment

1. With regard to the restrictions placed on Aragacherry and Gnanaprakasam Tanks the L. Dy A. Venkalasoobiah objects to their reservation on religious principles and it is seconded by all the other Members assembled.

2. I as a Hindu connected with the same Sacred ties as some of my other Colleagues are and having at heart the same respect for religion, I venture to give my independant opinion with regard to the so called Religious Tanks.

3. These Tanks are not within the precincts of the Pagoda to call



Fort. 20th Dec. 1875

No 20. Dec. 23. 1875

it sacred, it is true that the idols are taken to them once or twice a year in the same manner as the Vishnu idol at Tiruvandiyaram and others place near Cuddalore are taken to the sea, the Periar river, and the tanks at Karaikudy Koppam and Nallicoppam once a year, the reservation of such for drinking purposes cannot interfere at all with religion, the day on which the idols are taken to them may be a free day, and every freedom might be allowed to the people to bathe if they choose to bathe on that day.

The defilation caused by such bathing will not affect the tanks so much as they will otherwise do in setting them free around the whole year.

4. It would not be out of place here to give the history of these tanks so far as I know of them, they are in the heart of the town and if reserved for drinking purposes alone will be a great boon to the people.

5. The Araycherry tank was dug out by one Lal Khan talike one of the late Mapalmen Chiefs in this town for the Convenience of the section of the people who inhabit the western part of the town. He not only dug this Tank out but also excavated the canal from the Parrankany Tank to Periyapatnam. The late improvement Committee spent upon the tank hundreds if not thousands of rupees in erecting steps and improving it. The fish rent of this tank is enjoyed by Dadamiah talike the present Municipal Chairman, a descent of the late Lal Khan who did not make the least objection to its present reservation but on the other hand is glad that the very wholesome water of this tank is reserved for the drink of the people.

6. With regard to the Gunapeakasam tank I would respectfully submit that it is a public one constructed by some Jaffna people who also built Chuttrams Madams around it for the convenience of the travellers.

7. The Commissioners propose to take Vonakulam and Palamankulam instead of the above two tanks.

8. Vonakulam has more a religious aspect than any one of the above

above two tanks, Nanda a low caste man is said to have purified his caste and birth by bathing in this tank. and as such is held in great reverence by the people. Why then abandon the Pagacherry and take Vonakulam in its stead?

The former is within the Town and the latter just out of it. A man can go a little distance to wash himself but not for a drink. To earn a wholesome waters for drinking purposes, the latter for the convenience of the people and moreover I would as a resident of this town for the last 8 years can safely say that the Vonakulam water is not so salubrious as that of the Pagacherry. The same objections for want wholesomeness and distance exist for the Palamanu Kulam tank.

9. The Commissioners lay much stress on the rate of assessment i.e. 5 per cent and Lt0 gates introduced to make up the difference.

10 The grounds on which they base their opinion are that the rate payers are chiefly agricultural classes who already



already contribute by far the greater portion to the Imperial Exchequer.

11. The population of this Town according to the last Census Amounts 18607 people. Of these large number the agricultural population is only 880.

12. The other population consists of Chiefly weavers and tradesmen with also a few Officials of the Court and Cutcherry. Do they all contribute the Imperial Exchequer? The rate of 5 per cent is introduced I believe in the Cuddalore Municipality. Let me then draw a contrast between rents of houses and bazars paid by the residents in both places, the house for instance in which this Office is held can be had in the Cuddalore Municipality for a rent of couple of rupees whereas rupees 6 are paid here. Again the Court House, the Dispensary and the Post Office are rented buildings. They pay severally Rs 5-7-8 & 3½ a month whereas in the other Municipality they can be got for half the amount if not less. The Officials who occupy rented buildings in this town also pay dem rates.

13. Now let me take the bazars. The rents fixed by the owners are treble and quadruple the rates obtained in the old Town and Triplicane in the Cuddalore Municipality. The bazars here are rented out from Rs 5 to 7 a month in ordinary days but during two annual festivals the owners get extra rent for the use of the pavements and verandahs of the bazar streets by itenerant tradesmen.

14. From the above, it will be observed that the 5 per cent rate is not an exorbitant one, which can be demanded from the people of this town for purposes of expenditure to keep them clean & healthy.

15. Unlike the other Municipalities where the rent value of the houses and shops is less than here pays a rate of 5 per cent why not this pay the same rate as not here.

16. I will be the last person to entertain the least idea for oppression on the people of the town of whom I also am a member and the proposed reduced rate will also benefit me but with a clear conscience of surrounding circumstances, I can not give my opinion otherwise.

17 The introduction of the Toll gates will be a rather premature measure, the poor cart man can not in the absence of good made roads be made to pay for the convenience of the people in the town. Of course Toll gates must be established but not now, when the cart or other vehicle driver is put to a world of annoyance in crossing a dangerous unbridged river where he has to pay very dear to get to the other bank and has to move the vehicles with difficulty in heavy sandy roads. When the roads are increased metzed and the vellar river bridged from the Local Funds which it is expected will shortly be done, Toll gates can be fairly introduced.

18 It is stated that in the neighbouring Municipality Toll gates are established although there are no metalled roads. I would respectfully urge that the case is quite different. It is true that there are no metalled roads there but the soil is different and all streams are bridged. The same town

Land

No. 721

From

M. E. Sullivan Esquire

President to the Municipal Commission

Chillambrum

To

Honorable F. Hudleston Esquire

Chief Secretary to Government

Cotacamund.

Sir

I have the honor to

submit for the consideration and orders

of Government a copy of the Proceedings of

the Commissioners for the town of

Chillambrum at a meeting held on the

23rd instant. I also enclose copies of

minutes recorded by P. Venugopal Avadoo

the Presiding Member and M. Venkatasubbiah

and C. Poonachella Aiyan Commissioners with

reference to the proposal to reduce the

tax on houses from 5 to 3 per cent and

to make up the deficiency in the Municipal

income

sand and the difficulty of crossing a dangerous river do not exist there.

19. All that we can now do, is to apply the Local Fund Board of the Circle to make arrangements for the early completion of the metalling of the trunk road & the Vellar bridge in view to the introduction of the proposed Toll gates.

Municipal Office
Chillambrum
23 October 1873.

P. Venugopal
Managing Commissioner

P.C. 24 in Oct. P.P. No. 174-175
Encl. 2 and 1/3

income by the establishment of Sec under Section 77 Act III of 1871. This proposal it will be observed was carried by a majority of 7 to 1, the dissentient being the Presiding Member.

2. It is quite true as stated by the proposer that the Commissioners have not had an opportunity until now of stating their views in regard to the rate to be imposed on houses for the purposes of the Act. In submitting proposals for the establishment of a Municipality at Chittambrum I had at the same time to furnish an estimate of Receipts and Disbursements for the current half year and under the former head I entered "Rates on houses & Lands" at 5 per cent which is the rate levied in Cuddalore. The proposer and seconder declared this (and they carried the meeting with them) to be burdensome on the people "the majority of whom belong to the agricultural Class

assisted at the meetings to which the attendance of the Native members has been large. I avail myself of this opportunity to ask the attention of Govt to my letter dated 6th October 1873 recommending the appointment of P. Gungopal Naidoo as Vice-President.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

G. Lucas
President

Cuddalore
3rd November 1873.

X Has since been imposed

"Class and who have to pay a number
of taxes which they complain they cannot
bear". The dissenting Member nevertheless
demolishes this statement by an appeal
to the figures of the Census which show
that out of a total population of 18,602
souls only 880 are classed as agriculturists;
the remainder being principally, farmers
and tradesmen and in para 12 of his minute
he further shows that land property
in Chillambrum is far better able to
bear taxation than it is in Cuddalore. In
regard to the establishment of tolls there
is something in the idea of making the large
number of travellers and pilgrims who
flock to Chillambrum during the
festivals contribute towards the
advantages offered by Municipal arrangements
but as pointed out by the Presiding
Member the state of the roads by
which Chillambrum is approached
and the proximity of the embridged Vellar
would

would make the levy of tolls a very unpopular measure with the outside public. It may however be argued that it only devolves on the Municipal authorities to maintain the roads within their limits in good order and that if this is done they give a good pro quo to travellers paying tolls on entering the town. When a step has been made in this direction the propriety of establishing toll gates may again come up for consideration but as the Municipal roads at present are in much the same condition as the roads outside I cannot recommend Government to accord their sanction to the measure.

3. I think the Government will agree with me that considering this Municipality only came into existence on the 1st Instant it shows signs of considerable vitality. Inclusive of the President and Sub Collector who are Ex officio members there are only three Europeans on the Board and only one (the Revd. Mr Wolfe) has up to the present assisted

Before confirming the Reso. of the last meeting I wish to redirect the attention of the Commissioners to the subject of "tanks." The murmour since our last resolution on the subject has been too general to escape our notice. The restrictions we have to impose on Nagascherry & Kumaprakasam are objected to on religious grounds. They are held sacred and as such are resorted to by people for bathing on certain days of the year. We cannot therefore interfere with these without going against the prejudices both of the greater part of the Town's people and of the pilgrims who come from without. The tanks in question are periodically supplied with fresh water and are besides too large to suffer by bathing. I therefore think that people may be allowed to use these tanks for bathing as well as drinking purposes, while they may be prevented from committing any other nuisance in them such as washing clothes dipping wicks and the like.

The next point to which I wish to draw your attention is the house rate.

The

The Commissioners do not appear to have had the opportunity of stating their views as to the per centage of house-rate that shall be levied in this municipality. The rate now fixed upon is in my opinion higher than can fairly be imposed on the inhabitants of this town. A very large number of them are of the agricultural class. Taking into consideration the taxes they have to pay on lands, vehicles & animals the fine per cent rate of tax intended to be levied on their houses will press very heavy on that section of the towns-people who contribute besides by far the greater portion to the Imperial Exchequer. I would therefore propose to request the Government to permit us to levy tolls on Carriages Carts and animals entering these municipal limits at such rates as we may deem proper to prescribe. The rates given in Schedule C being maximum rates we are at liberty to fix upon such rates as the existing circumstances fairly warrant. I submit for your consideration the following rates.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| For every four wheeled Carriage on Springs | Rs. A. | 10 |
| Do two wheeled Do on Do | " — | 4 — " |
| For every Jutka, Hackery or Springs or Cart drawn by men, buffaloes, bullocks, horses, ponies, asses, or mules laden | " — | 2 — " |
| Do Do Do not laden | " — | 1 — " |
| Do Bullock or buffaloe laden | " — | " — 6 |
| Do Horse laden or ridden | " — | 2 — " |
| Do Do not laden or ridden | " — | 1 — " |
| Do pony or ass laden or ridden | " — | 1 — " |
| Do Elephant | " — | 8 — " |
| Do Camel | " — | 4 — " |

This will yield Rs 4000 clear of Charges. So that if the house rate be reduced from 5 to 3 per Cent the gain on the whole is two fold. Besides the popularity of the measure the Municipality will according to the present estimate have at its disposal Rs 2000 more — which together with the sum set apart in the Budget for Communications will afford ample means for getting almost all the important roads metalled within a few months. The objections urged against levying the tolls I have alluded to seem to be chiefly the ferry toll levied at the Vellar and the roads in and about Chillambrum not being metalled.

With

With regard to the first I submit that the town of Chillambrum has no more to do with the ferry toll at the Villian than it is to do with the tolls levied at the Municipal gates of Nayaneram or Cudalore. If the toll collected at the Villian instead of being carried to the Local Funds be possibly carried to our Municipal Fund we can very well dispense with Toll gates. Since however that cannot be demanded there is no reason for urging it as an objection against levying tolls at our Municipal limits.

The second objection I mean had weight with other Municipalities in at once giving effect to Sections 77 to 84 of the Towns' Improvement Act. At Nayaneram and Combaconum for instance toll gates had been in existence long before a single road was laid with metals. When we consider the many important items of expenditure to be met with out of our limited means we will look for some years to come have better roads unless we have the means to set about them.

If it be said that until we make the better roads we can levy no tolls at our limits it must on the other hand be also said that until we levy such tolls we can have no better roads. One of these two things must be done. Let us therefore chose that which besides affording us the means of improving our roads has the advantage of securing to it popularity. The persons who have to pay these toles are for the most part travellers and pilgrims who do not generally pass through this town twice in the same year. They will not feel the payment of a few annas and in some cases a few rice as much a burden as the inhabitants of the town on whom a high rate of house-tax has to be levied.

23 October 1873

(Signed) M. Venkatasoobiah
Commissioner

After what our friend has said on the necessity of levying tolls and reducing the percentage of house tax I have got very little to say on the point. I wholly agree with him and by way of secondary I would only beg leave to draw the attention of the Commissioners to this important fact. It is not unknown to you that this town being far famed for its religious sanctity among Siva Sthalams is constantly resorted to by pilgrims and travellers from distant places. Besides the biennial festivals well known as ஐப்பசி மகம் & தைப்பூசம் which attract a large number of people to this place there is the திருவிழா at Mayaveram also one great one Sthalam. People from remote places such as Bannes வே go Rameshwaram and Chillambrum is on the way. All these are forced by the sanctity of this place to stay here a couple of days or two. As waiting for them here commit great nuisance. Let us consider why tolls are even levied. This

end

not only for covering the expenses of
metalling roads but also for clearing away
the nuisance that carts not registered
within the municipality commit within it.
So that I do not see the slightest
objection to introducing this element into
our municipality. I may add that by so
doing we may reduce the per centage of
tax intended to be levied on houses. The
majority of the people here belong to the
agricultural class and have to pay a number
of taxes which they complain they cannot bear.
If we really carry out the intention
of levying the 5 per cent rate of house-
our municipality will be too heavy a
pressure on the people. By the reduction
proposed we may considerably lighten
the pressure on their slender means.
I do not think that the objection
mentioned in our friend's proposal
carry any weight with them since they
are in the very face untenable. It
is my opinion that with the reduced
rate of tolls and house tax proposed
the Municipality will be very acceptable
and gain for it the good will of
townsmen for the working of whose
benefit we have been appointed Commissioners.
I hope therefore that these considerations
will persuade the Commissioners
to arrive at an unanimous conclusion
on the subject.

/Signed/ C. Broomachelady
Commissioners

23 October 1873.

39

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the President Chellumbrum Municipality dated 3rd November 1873 No 9.

Order thereon 20th Dec 1873, No 1865

With the letter above recorded, the President of the Chellumbrum Municipality solicits for the orders of Government a copy of the Proceedings of the Mun.l Commissioners dated 23rd October 1873, from which it would appear that a resolution was passed to the effect that the House tax should be reduced from 5 to 3 per cent and the deficiency in the income, caused thereby

thereby should be made good by the imposition of a toll on the traffic entering the Municipal limits.

The Governor in Council declines to sanction this proposal ~~as no reasons~~ as no reasons have been advanced to shew that the circumstances of Chellumbrum are exceptional ~~and~~ or that the sanctioned rate of 5 per cent will be felt more by the people there than in other places where a similar rate is levied. The tax must therefore remain as it is.

As to the establishment of tolls which the Commissioners advocate, the Govt observe

Financial Department.

No. 2056

From The President, Chellumbrum Municipality

Dated 3rd Nov 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

I think that the Government should negative this proposal. The rate on Houses is shown to be reasonable and by no means heavy - and as compared with other towns, the tax-payers' means are good. The fact is that house property is everywhere valued by Native Assessors far below its real value and the ostensible rate is much in excess of the real charge.

However for other reasons the Municipality has become a kind of proscribed thing in the Country against which a cry can be raised however unreasonably, and these shop-keepers are only too anxious to

to save their own Exchequer at the expense of the trade of the Country and to transfer their City obligations to general tolls.

I believe that there is nothing in taxation more wrong than this permission to town population to tax at an enormously advancing rate the trade of the Country and they should be abolished everywhere.

Tolls are intelligible in rural circles where long stretches of road have to be maintained but that Towns which perhaps have but a mile or two of Trunk road - half city street half road - to keep up should be allowed to levy between £30,000 & £40,000 (to save their professional or house tax) in order to pay their lighting and school bills is simply preposterous - not much less than 20 per cent of any of all the Municipal income of our Madras Town is probably thus unjustly levied on trade

H. Fell



I concur as to the inexpediency of sanctioning a reduction of the House Tax - if the deficiency is to be made good by a tax on traffic - challenging on the high road - and consequently much through traffic better through it - which ought not to be thus taxed.

I would inform the Court that in current sanction till under the circumstances stated - but in the Court not only but their own roads in

Cheltenham Borough Police

post order - but
beside by post
& conveniences &
both lines for the
free passage of
goods - but intended
for local con-
sumption

Lot

I would decline
to agree to the
proposal -
The sum I can afford
to be reminded
on account, & 16d/Stand
remainder -
It is requisite
since - there were no
more - than the Constables at
Hon Br Sim - C14-11 R 19/11 present - their Wards in order / then with the
H.E. Governor - C 26/11 A 1/12 raise much
C 8-11 A 10- other towns had act - do so.

45 16

observe that as the requirements of the Municipality increase, there may arise a necessity for further taxation and that it will then be matter for consideration whether the additional revenue required should be raised by the imposition of tolls. I hope at present that under any circumstances, the levy of tolls cannot be permitted to, until the roads of the town are put in good order and until good and convenient bye-laws for the free passage of goods, not intended for local consumption, are provided

By order

The Pres. M.C. Cheltenham
dispatch 22/Sept 1911
35/P

AD

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Presdt. Muni. Commrs.
Chellumbrum

Dated Dec 20 } 1873, No.
Recd. } 1863.

Nos. 174. 175

Chellumbrum Munn. The proposal of the Commrs to reduce the House tax from 5 to 3 per ct not accepted for consideration of the question of the Estabt of tolls deferred until good roads are provided for the town