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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1884 Press
206-207 Mis.
Dated 26 - 12 - 1873.

9/10

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
26th December 1873.

No. 206. Read the following letter from J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector and President of the Municipal Commissions, Vizagapatam, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vizagapatam, 27th October 1873, No. 1599 :—

I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Senior Assistant regarding the Municipality of Palcondah.

2. In my report to Government I mentioned that the Municipality had long been working in a most unsatisfactory manner, and that it would probably be necessary to request Government to sanction its abolition. Shortly after that, I received a letter from the Senior Assistant, in which he reported the result of his examination into the affairs of the Municipality: the Secretary was incapable; none of the Commissioners took the slightest interest in its management; and, therefore, nothing at all was done. He recommends the dismissal of the Secretary and the appointment of a new one. I felt satisfied that the change of Secretary would not remedy the evil, and requested him to let me know his opinion regarding its continuance. He is strongly of opinion that it should be abolished, and I can find no reason, except its actual existence, to recommend its continuance.

3. The Municipality was established by Government in their Proceedings, dated April 20th, 1869, at the instance of the renters of the taluq, Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., whose head-quarters are at Palcondah, and Mr. Mackie, their Agent, was made Vice-President. All the Commissioners resigned in 1870 and the present Commissioners appointed, and none of those at whose application the Commission was introduced have anything to do with it. The institution has never been a success; it has carried a languid existence. When the new Municipal Act came into operation, the Senior Assistant became Vice-President, but his head-quarters are at Parvatipur, forty miles away, and from there he cannot exercise more than bare supervision. Unless there be some one there who takes an interest in it, and is both able and willing to carry on the affairs in his absence, the institution must fail. None of the inhabitants take the slightest interest in it or desire its continuance, and, therefore, it seems scarcely right to appoint an officer who will carry on the Municipality whether the people care about it or not.

4. The source from which the funds of the Municipality are obtained is the toll-tax on the High Road. This is not, I think, a legitimate source of revenue for the Municipality; it belongs to the Local Funds if any toll is considered necessary.

5. If Government sanction its abolition, a proposal will be laid before the Local Fund Board to take over the hospital, and the town would be entitled equally with the other towns to a grant for sanitary purposes from the general funds of the district.

6. I hope that the Government will accede to my proposal. The Municipality cannot go on as it is now, and there are no means of improving it; the people take no interest in it; its funds are derived from an illegitimate source; these are not properly spent; and it is unfair for the people to pay taxes without giving them some benefit in return.

From J. B. JONES, Esq., Acting Senior Assistant Collector and Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Palcondah, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector and President of the Municipal Commissions, Vizagapatam, dated Vizianagram, 9th September 1873, No. 293.

In reply to your inquiry as to whether it would not be well to abolish the Municipality of Palcondah, I have the honour to inform you that I consider that such a step would he highly desirable, and would give general satisfaction to the inhabitants.

2. Palcondah is an overgrown village containing about 8,000 inhabitants or a little more. The population is purely agricultural. Its importance is derived from its being the head-quarters of the renters of the taluq, Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., and the depôt for their indigo business; but in wealth and trade it cannot be for a moment compared with the towns of Parvatipur Salur, Bobbili, Gajapatinagram, &c.

3. The Municipality was established in 1869, when Mr. Minchin was Collector, at the request of Messrs. Arbuthnot's Manager, Mr. Mackie. Mr. Minchin at the time was strongly of opinion that the introduction of the Municipal Act there was premature, and he had the liabilities under which it would place the inhabitants carefully explained to them, but I believe that they insisted on having a Municipality established in spite of his cautions, and the Act was brought into force. Mr. Mackie was made Vice-President. In 1870 he went to Bimlipatam, and, in consequence of dissensions which arose amongst the Commissioners as to who should be elected as Vice-President, almost all of them resigned. New Commissioners were appointed in their place, and several other changes have since been made, whether for better or worse I cannot say, not knowing how matters were conducted formerly; but the present Commissioners appear to take no interest in the affairs of the Municipality, nor does it seem possible to find persons who would. At a municipal meeting, as it passes off at present, there never is any discussion if the Vice-President is present, his opinion being accepted by every one without discussion. If a meeting is held in his absence, the ignorance of the Secretary and the Commissioners of the provisions of the Municipal Act get affairs of the Municipality into inextricable confusion. The impossibility of procuring a Secretary on such pay as the institution can afford to give is another serious difficulty. The incapacity of the present Secretary is a cause of continual annoyance and trouble to the Vice-President. The place is an out-of-the-way one, and the appointment affords no chance of either promotion or pension to the incumbent; and, in consequence, no one capable of doing the work properly and setting the Commissioners right on any points which they do not understand can be procured.

4. The inhabitants of the town are, I believe, almost universally anxious to have the institution abolished. I have been told that many have left it in consequence of the tolls and taxes, and live out in the fields; but whether this is true or not I cannot say. I should suggest that a meeting of the householders be held to ascertain their opinion about the matter. The only strong point in favour of the Municipality is that, financially, it is a success; for, last year, the receipts amounted to Rupees 7,700 against an expenditure of Rupees 5,500. Of this sum, however, Rupees 4,650 were collected from tolls; and for the present year the tolls have been sold for Rupees 5,325. The largeness of this sum is due to the fact that Palcondah is situated on the road from Parvatipur to the Nowpada salt-pans in Ganjam, and an enormous amount of traffic from the Central Provinces passes through it. The road from Kimedy to Vizianagram also passes through the town; and the amount of tolls levied on this traffic may be estimated from the fact that when the Collector issued an order during the prevalence of cholera last year that no bandies simply passing along the road should go through the town, a comparison of the toll contractor's books for the period during which the order was in force (three months) showed a difference of Rupees 519 out of a total of Rupees 850. Money which ought by right to belong to the Local Fund Board is thus being every year misappropriated to the benefit of the inhabitants of an overgrown agricultural village.

5. The only serious loss which the inhabitants would sustain from the abolition of the Municipality would be that of the hospital, but the Local Fund Board might be got to take it over. The Board at present pays Rupees 410 towards its support, and private subscriptions to the amount of Rupees 330 were last year collected. The Board would be put to some further expenses for education and sanitary measures; but this would be but trifling, while a Local Fund toll bar established on the roads through Palcondah ought to produce over Rupees 3,000. The town now, as far as roads and water supply is concerned, is in very good order, and, with a very small expenditure from the Local Funds, might be kept so; and, as the abolition of the Municipality would place at least Rupees 3,500 per annum or more at the disposal of the Board, they could well afford to spend enough on the place to keep what has been done in the way of improvement from going to ruin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
26th December 1873.

No. 207. ORDER THEREON, 26th December 1873, No. 1884.

In his letter above recorded, the President of the Vizagapatam Municipalities recommends the abolition of the Palcondah Municipality on the ground that it "cannot go on as it is now, and there are no means of improving it; the people take no interest in it; its funds are derived from an illegitimate source; these are not properly spent; and it is unfair for the people to pay taxes without giving them some benefit in return."

2. The town of Palcondah was not one of those originally selected in 1866 as suited for the establishment of a Municipality, but the Act was subsequently introduced on the application of the people themselves. The principal promoter of the application was appointed Vice-President, but, on his leaving the town in 1870 and a successor being appointed, the original Commissioners resigned in a body on grounds with which the Government could have no sympathy. The success of the Municipality appears at any time to have been problematical, and the picture drawn by the President of its present condition leaves no room for doubt that the experiment has been a failure.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves, accordingly, to direct that the Municipality of Palcondah be abolished from the close of the official year 1873-74. The toll on the High Road will be continued by the Chicacole Local Fund Board, who will provide for the maintenance of the hospital and include the town within the general educational and sanitary schemes of the circle.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Accountant-General.
,, Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
,, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, Director of Public Instruction.
,, President of the Local Fund Boards, Vizagapatam.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Govt. of [1873] Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF VIZAGAPATAM,
&c.,
&c.,

Dated December, 26th.

Read.

G.O., 26th December 1873, No. 1884.

Encl.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 206-207.

Palcondah Municipality.—The abolition of the Municipality from the close of the official year 1873-74 directed, and certain instructions issued, regarding the levy of the toll on the High Road and the maintenance of the hospital at Palcondah.

No. 293

Camp Vizianagram, 9th September 1873.

To,

The Acting Collector and Resident, N. C.
Vizagapatam District,
Vizianagram.

Sir,

In reply to Your enquiry as to whether it would not be well to abolish the Municipality of Palcondah, I have the honor to inform you that I consider that such a step would be highly desirable and would give general satisfaction to the inhabitants.

2 Palcondah is an overgrown village containing about 8,000 inhabitants or a little more. The population is purely agricultural. Its importance is derived from its being the Head Quarters of the Renters of the Taluq Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. and the Depôt for their indigo business; but in wealth and trade it cannot be, for a moment, compared with the towns of Parvatipore, Salûr, Bobbili and Vijayanagram.

3 The Municipality was established in 1869 when Mr. Minchin was Collector at the request of Messrs. Arbuthnot's Manager Mr. Mackie. Mr. Minchin, at the time, was strongly of the opinion that the introduction of the Municipal Act there was premature and he had the liabilities under which it would place the inhabitants carefully explained to them, but I believe that they insisted on having a Municipality established in spite of his cautions and the Act was brought into force. Mr. Mackie was made Vice President. In 1870 he went to Bimlipatam and in consequence of dissentions which arose amongst the Commissioners as to who should be elected as Vice President — almost all of them resigned. New Commissioners were appointed in their place, and several

several other changes have since been made whe=
=ther ~~whether~~ for better or worse. I cannot say not
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the present Commissioners appear to take no interest
in the affairs of the Municipality, nor does it seem pos=
=sible to find persons who would. At a Municipal
meeting as it passes off at present, there never is
any discussion if the Vice President is present, his
opinion being accepted by every one without discussion.
If a meeting is held in his absence the ignorance of
the Secretary and the Commissioners of the provi=
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of continual annoyance and trouble to the Vice Presi=
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appointment affords no chance of either promotion
or pension to the incumbent; and in consequence no
one capable of doing the work properly and setting
the Commissioners right on any points which they
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4 The inhabitants of the town are, I believe, al=
=most universally anxious to have the institution abolished.
I have ~~I~~ told that many have left it in consequence of
the tolls and taxes and live out in the fields; but whether
this is true or not I cannot say. I should suggest that a
meeting of the householders be held to ascertain their
opinion about the matter. The only strong point in
favor of the Municipality is that financially it is a
success. For last year the receipts amounted to Rs 7700
against an expenditure of Rs 5,500. Of this sum, however,
Rs

Rs 4,650 were collected from tolls; and for the present
year the tolls have been sold for Rs 5,325. The large
=ness of this sum is due to the fact that Palcondah
is situated on the road from Parvatipore to the Vow=
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of traffic from the Central Provinces passes through
it. The Road from Kimidy to Vizianagramaloo passes
through the town; and the amount of tolls levied on this
traffic may be estimated from the fact that when the
Collector issued an order during the prevalence of cholera
last year that no bandies simply passing along the road
should go through the town, a comparision of the toll
Contractor's books for the period during which the
order was in force (three months) shewed a difference
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is thus being every year misappropriated to the bene=
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village.

5 The only serious loss which the inhabitants would
sustain from the abolition of the Municipality would be
that of the hospital: but the Local Fund Board
might be got to take it over. The Board, at present,
pays Rs 410 towards its support and private sub=
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collected. The Board would be put to some further expen=
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and water supply is concerned, is in very good order,
and with a very small expenditure from the Local

Funds

Funds might be kept so, and as the abolition of the Municipality would place at least Rs 3,500 per annum or more at the disposal of the Board, they could well afford to spend enough on the place to keep what has been done in the way of improvement from going to ruin.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. A. Willock

Actg for Sr Senior Asstt Collector & Vice President.

(True Copy)

Rdaniel

Actg Collector &
President

1873
Despatch No
Enclosure No
In a letter from the
Collector of Vizagapatam
dated 27th October 1873
Subject Estate.

G.O. No. 1881 dated 31st December 1873
Copy of a letter from
the Senior Asst Collector
and Vice President Vizagapatam
regarding abolition of Municipality
of Palconda
Re Fund 20/8/73

No. 1599

Vizagapatam October 27th 1873

From

I. R. Daniel Esquire
Actg Collector & President &c.

To,

The Honble W. Hudleston,
Chief Secretary to Government
Ootacamund

Sir,

I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Senior Assistant regarding the Municipality of Palconda.

2. In my report to Government I mentioned that the Municipality had long been working in a most unsatisfactory manner and that it would probably be necessary to request Government to sanction its abolition: shortly after that I received a letter from the Senior Assistant in which he reported the results of his examination into the affairs of the Municipality, the Secretary was unable; one of the Commissioners took the slightest interest in its management and therefore nothing at all was done, he recommends the dismissal of the Secretary and the appointment of a new

new one. I felt satisfied that the change of Secretary would not remedy the evil and requested to know his opinion regarding its continuance. He is strongly of opinion that it should be abolished and I can find no reason except its actual existence to recommend its continuance.

3. The Municipality was established by Government in their Proceedings dated April 20th 1869 at the instance of the Renters of Messrs Arbuthnot & Co's whose head quarters are at Palendah, and Mr Mackie their Agent was made Vice President: all the Commissioners resigned in 1870 and the present Commissioners appointed and none of those at whose application the Commission was introduced have anything to do with it. The institution has never been a success, it has carried a languid existence. When the new Municipal Act came into operation the Senior Assistant became Vice President, but his head quarters are at Parantipore 40 miles away and from there he cannot exercise more than bare supervision. Unless there be found another who takes an interest in it and is both able and willing

willing to carry on the affairs in his absence the institution must fail. None of the inhabitants take the slightest interest in it or desire its continuance and therefore it seems scarcely right to appoint an officer who will carry on the Municipality whether the people care about it or not.

4. The source from which the funds of the Municipality are obtained is the toll taxes on the High Road. This is not I think a legitimate source of revenue for the Municipality, it belongs to the Local Funds if any toll is considered necessary.

5. If Government sanction its abolition a proposal will be laid before the Local Fund Board to take over the hospital, and the town would be entitled equally with the other towns to a grant for sanitary purposes from the General Funds of the District.

6. I hope that the Government will accede to my proposal. The Municipality cannot go on as it is now, and there are no means of improving it: the people take no interest in it, its funds are derived from an illegitimate source, they are not properly spent, and it is unfair for the people to pay taxes without giving them some benefit in return.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

W Oswald

Ag Collector & President Mc

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the President, Municipal Commission, Vizagapatam, dated 27th October 1873, No 1599.

to

Order thereon, 26 December 1873 No 1884

In his letter above recorded, the President of the Vizagapatam Municipalities recommends the abolition of the Palconda Municipality on the ground that it cannot go on as it is now, and there are no means of improving it; the people take no interest in it, its funds are derived from an illegitimate source; these are not properly spent, and it is unfair for the people to pay taxes without giving them some benefit in return".

The town of Palconda was not one of those originally

Read 8 Encl. Petn. dated 18th Oct. 1873.
Petitioners pray &c. &c.
Read Rule 30 Page 42 Vol. 2 Book.
Read Rule 13 Page 21 Vol. 2 Book.
Read Rule 19 Page 44 Vol. 2 Book.
Read Rule 101-105.
Read Rule 100-101.

18/73
Financial Department
Town,
To Collector Vizagapatam

No 1884 Dated 26 December 1873

From The Chief Secretary to Government
To The Commissioner of Salt Revenue and Abkaree

Dated 31st October, 1873
Read the following

No 1599
Enclosure
Recommending the abolition of the Municipality of Palconda.

G.O. 26 Dec. 1873 No. 208

Coll. 26 Dec. 1873 No. 208

Mad 2012

I prefer the one at the End as I think it is for Consideration to know me before that if they wish to help themselves they must not expect aid from this Govt

Mad 2012

Govt will add its approval hereto

21/12

1st

originally selected in 1866 as suited for the establishment of a Municipality, but the Act was subsequently introduced on the application of the people themselves.

The principal promoter of the application was appointed Vice President but on his leaving the town in 1870 and a successor being appointed the original Commissioners resigned in a body on grounds with which the Government could have no sympathy. The success of the Municipality appears at any time to have been problematical and the picture drawn by the President of its present condition leaves no room for doubt that the experiment has been a failure.

His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves, accordingly, to direct that the Municipality of Palendah be

be abolished from the close of the official year 1873-74. The toll on the High Road will be continued by the Chicacole Local Fund Board who will provide for the maintenance of the Hospital & include the Town within the general Educational and Sanitary Schemes of the District.

J.D.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam
Public Works Department
Board of Revenue
Revenue Department
Accountant General
Sanitary Commissioner
Surgeon Genl. & Inspr. Med. Dept.
Director of Public Instruction
President of the Local Fund Bd. Vizagapatam

103-DEO

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Collector of Vizagapatam

Dated Dec^r 26
Recd. } 1873, No. 1884.

Nos. 206 - 207

Palcondah Mutta. The abolition of this Mutta from the Close of the Offl year 1873-74, directed — certain instructions issued to the Chicacole L. F. B^d regarding the levy of the toll on the high road & the maintenance of the Hospl at Palcondah.