M.R.O. 1—77,003—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 8. Press Mis.

14-15.

Dated 5 — 1 — 1894.

18/19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 14. Read 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, 22nd November 1873, No. 00.

ABSTRACT.—Recommending the removal of Commissioners Vencata Soobiah and Aroonachelliar from the Chellumbrum Municipal Board for the irregular conduct displayed by them in the election of a second Vice-President.

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1874, No. 8.

In G.O., dated 28th October 1873, No. 1564, the Government authorized the Chellumbrum Municipal Commissioners to elect a Vice-President, and a meeting was called by the President for the purpose. This meeting is stated by the President to have been held on the 11th November, and the same date is specified in the notice of appointment of a Vice-President forwarded as an enclosure, but the copy of the Proceedings forwarded purports to refer to a meeting held on the 12th, and the voting papers of the members bear the same date.

2. At that meeting, whensoever it was held, nine out of the twelve Commissioners attended, and the President's proposal, sent by letter, that Vengopaul Naidu, Tahsildar of Chellumbrum, should be appointed Vice-President, was put to the vote. In the Minutes of the Proceedings no specific results are given, but it is stated that the votes recorded are appended. In his letter the President gives the results as follows:—

	Votes.
P. Vengopaul Naidu	5
M. Vencata Soobiah	2
Meer Cassim Ali	1

A perusal of the voting papers appended would lead the Government to show the results as under:—

	Votes.
P. Vengopaul Naidu	4
M. Vencata Soobiah	3
Meer Cassim Ali	1

The difference is owing to the President's proxy being omitted as unauthorized either by law or by the Proceedings of the Commissioners, and by including C. Aroonachelliar's Memorandum as amounting to a vote for Vencata Soobiah, though the terms in which it is expressed certainly leave room for doubt as to whether he intended to second Vencata Soobiah's nomination, or merely his proposal that the office of Vice-President should be held by a non-official. Be that as it may, the result was clearly a majority for P. Vengopaul Naidu, who must, therefore, be recognized as Vice-President of the Chellumbrum Municipality. The action taken by some of the Commissioners in proceeding to hold a new election at the next meeting appears from their recorded Proceedings to have arisen from their considering that the nomination of Vengopaul Naidu was virtually negatived by five out of nine Commissioners having expressed a preference for a non-official candidate. This, of course, was a mistake, and, there being no vacancy at the time,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
5th January 1874.

their election of a Vice-President was consequently void. It should be clearly explained to the Commissioners that the person polling the largest numbers of votes at an election cannot be disqualified by the mere fact that an absolute majority of those voting did not vote for him individually, it being impossible to recognize a mere negative majority who have failed to make use of their power by combining to select one individual.

3. The Governor in Council hopes that there will be no need for such action on the part of Government as the President has suggested.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Chellumbrum, with three original enclosures returned.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Cuddalore
November 3rd 1873

To
The Municipal Commissioners
of
Chellambrum

Gentlemen

In circulating for your information the Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department dated 28th Ultimo No. 1564 I have the honor to request that if you decide on availing yourselves of the privilege of electing one of your body as Vice President you will have the goodness to record your votes at a special meeting to be called for the purpose.

2. I avail myself of this opportunity to propose for your consideration the name

of

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

FINANCIAL

To

THE PRESIDENT OF
MUNICIPA

COMMISSN,
Chellambrum.

Dated January, 5th

Recd.

G.O., 5th January 1874, No. 8.

JANUARY.
Nos. 1 & 15.

Chellambrum Municipality.—The President must be recognized as Vice-President, he having polled the largest number of votes at the meeting stated to have been held on the 11th November.

of P. Vengopal Naidoo garr
as a fit person for the honorable
office.

I have to
(Signed) H C. Sullivan
President

(True copy) H Sullivan

Chillambrum Municipality

Notice.

At a meeting held on the 11th instant the Commissioners of the Chillambaram Municipality under the authority conveyed in the order of Government Financial Department dated 28th October No. 1564 of 1873 proceeded to the election of a Vice President.

On the votes being recorded the state of the poll was found to be as follows.

For P. Venugopal Naidoo — 5 votes
" M. Venkatasoobiah — 2 "
" Meer Cassim Ali — 1 "

Of the twelve members forming the Commission nine were present, two of whom abstained from voting for any particular person but recorded minutes to the effect that the

Vice

In a letter from the President of the Chillambrum Municipality Fasli 1283 Rs 500

Receipt Copy 124 Kumbh

Fasli 21988 /83

Vice President ought to be elected from among the non-official members. As the majority of the non-official members are not of this way of thinking P. Vengopal Naidoo, tahsildar of Chellambram, is declared to have been duly elected as Vice President. Of the three absent members, one, the President, voted by proxy.

(Signed) H E Sullivan

President.

Presidents office
November 22nd 1873

(True copy)

H L Sullivan
President

I, a Municipal Commissioner for the Town of Chidambrum, express now the same opinion which I did in the last Meeting- Viz, that M. R. R. Venkatasubba Iyer only should be the Vice President of this Municipality-

20th November 1873 (Signed) Ambalavana Mudaliar

I, a Municipal Commissioner for the Town of Chidambrum, give now the same opinion as I did in the last Meeting- Viz:t, that I wish M R R. Venkatasooboo Iyer only will be the Vice President.

20th November 1873 (Signed) Nallan Devaraya Pillay

As I, one of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Chidambaram, understand that in the last Meeting 5 of the Members were of opinion that a non-Official member only should be appointed Vice President and that only 4 recommended that M R R P. Venugopal Naidoo be appointed to the post - I agreeing with the majority of the votes, give now my opinion that M R R Venkatasoobboo Iyer only should be appointed vice President of this Municipality.

20th November 1873. / Signed) Venkatasoobboo chetty

As I, one of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Chidambaram, understand that in the last meeting 5 of the members were of opinion that a non-official member only should be appointed Vice President and that only 4 recommended that M R R P. Venugopal Naidoo be appointed to the post - I agreeing with the majority of the votes, give now my opinion that M R R Venkatasoobboo Iyer only should be appointed Vice President of this Municipality.

20th November 1873.

/ Signed) Meerkader Burkath Koopais -

/ True Translation /

M R

President

SOUTH ARCOT.

~~COLLECTOR'S OFFICE~~
Cuddalore
22nd November 1873.

No. 60

17

From H. C. Sullivan Esquire
President of Chellambram Municipality
~~Collector of South Arcot.~~

To Honorable W. Huddleston
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

To be printed in abstract

I have the honor to forward herewith Proceedings of Government Financial Department under date the 28th Ultimo No. 1564 authorising the Municipal Commissioners of Chellambram to elect their Vice President under section 10 of Act III of 1871 were duly forwarded by me to that body with my letter dated 3rd Instant (copy enclosed). A special Meeting was called for the 11th idem when, as will be seen from the enclosed copy of Proceedings of that date, the poll

I have a letter from the President of the Chellambram Municipality dated 22nd [illegible] Enclosed [illegible]

Rec'd charges [illegible]

Rec'd 21/12/73

poll stood as follows.

For P. Vengopal Naidoo— 5 votes
" M. Venkata Soobiah — 2 —
" Meer Cassim Ali —— 1 —

Out of 12 members nine were present, two of whom Venkatasoobiah and Aroonachelliar abstained from voting, but recorded a minute to the effect that in their opinion the Vice President should be a non official member. I was one of the three absent members and voted by proxy for P. Vengopal Naidoo, having in fact proposed him. The other two members did not send proxies.

2. P. Vengopal Naidoo who is the tahsildar of Chellambram having polled the greatest number of votes I prepared a notice for the District Gazette declaring him to have been duly elected, but before this was published

I received the enclosed Proceedings of a meeting held on the 20th instant at which six members only were present who were presided over by Venkatasoobiah. The Government will perceive that at this meeting the members, led on by Venkatasoobiah and Aroonachella Iyer, quietly cancel the Proceedings of the Meeting held on the 11th when P. Vengopal Naidoo was elected, and without any notice having been given of their intention Venkatasoobiah proposes Aroonachella Iyer as Vice President who reciprocates the compliment by proposing Venkatasoobiah who is accordingly elected.

3. The Municipality of Chellambram is thus in the anomalous position of having two Vice Presidents, the only difference in their positions being

being that one was regularly elected at a fully attended meeting specially called for the purpose whilst the other was irregularly elected at a thinly attended meeting, no notice having been given of any intention to bring a subject forward which had been finally disposed of a week before. The plain fact is that these two Commissioners have lent themselves to a dummy and unworthy artifice in order to get Venkatasubbiah elected, although only a week previously the sense of a fully attended Meeting had negatived his claim to the post. No confidence can be placed in men who will stoop to a low intrigue of this sort, and for this, and for reasons given below I beg to recommend the removal of their names from the Municipal Board.

4

4. I put off for some time recommending to Government the introduction of Act III of 1871 to the town of Chellambram because it was represented to me that under the influence of the tahsildar efforts had been made by the people and subscriptions raised to keep the streets clean and in order, and I was unwilling to interfere with this voluntary movement. The Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, however, on the occasion of his visit last year reported so strongly on the inadequacy of the arrangements for the sanitation of the town that I had no alternative but to recommend its being brought under Municipal Supervision. An opposition to the introduction of the Act was at once organized, and it was, I am now informed

informed, actively promoted by these two men who since the Act has been brought into operation have thrown every obstacle in the way of its provisions being carried out. Their object is to gain popularity by lessening the incidence of the taxation on the towns people and throwing it on outsiders who resort in large numbers to the town, and to whom its prosperous condition is mainly owing. It was these two Commissioners who proposed that the very moderate rate of 5 per cent on the rent value of houses and lands should be reduced to 3 per cent and Municipal funds supplemented by the levy of tolls, although there is nothing which can be called a road in the town or near it. This of course commands the sympathy of the townspeople, and if these two men

men are allowed to remain on the Board a powerful opposition will be organized by them which will completely prevent the President, who is held responsible by Government, and the better disposed members of the Commission from carrying out the provisions of the Act. It is a matter of little consequence to myself personally as in six or seven weeks I shall be relieved of my present charge, but in the interests of the permanent incumbent of the office I hope that Government will mark with a strong sense of disapproval the irregular action taken by these two Commissioners Vencatasoobiah and Arunachella Iyer.

5. I hope it may be understood that I in no way oppose free discussion in regard to all Municipal

Municipal matters so long as it is prompted by a desire for the public good. We have this at Cuddalore, but at the same time there is a hearty cooperation amongst the members, official and non-official, which is attended with the very best results. I have taken a good deal of personal trouble in introducing the Act into Chithambram and had the Manager and clerks trained in the Municipal office at Cuddalore for sometime previously, so that the Commissioners might have all plain sailing directly it come into operation, but I have purposely abstained from attending the meetings as I wished to see if the native Commissioners would be able to carry out the work themselves. Owing to the disturbing element

element introduced at the very commencement by Venkatasoobiah and his colleague the present state of affairs is one of utter confusion, but if their endeavours to obtain personal popularity at the sacrifice of the public good are summarily checked I do not despair of seeing Chithambaram a well ordered Municipality governed almost exclusively by native non official members. There are in all twelve Commissioners, of which nine are non-official and only one of those nine is a European (the Revd. Mr. Wolff) whilst of the three official Members one is a native myself and the Sub collector being the other two. I do not wish to interfere when it can possibly be avoided but of course when irregularities of the nature brought

brought to notice occur I am obliged to step in.

6. I now await the orders of Government as to whom I am to consider the Vice President, two different persons having been elected at meetings held on different days there being a quorum at each. I enclose a copy of the notice I was about to publish in the District Gazette when the Proceedings of the 20th instant reached me.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt
D Lucciock
President

After first election was stated Mr. Wm Washington[illegible] Whether Second was held

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the President & Chellamburam Municipality dated 22nd November 1873

Order thereon 5 January 74 No 8.

To
The Chairman
Municipality
Chellamburam

In G.O. dated 28th October 1873 No 1266 the Govt authorized the Chellamburam Municipal Commissioners to elect a Vice President and a meeting was called by the President for the purpose. The meeting is stated by the Govt to have been held on the 11th Inst and the same date is specified in the notice of

I D.
22/12

Fin. 1873. No 114.

SOUTH ARCOT.

From The President & Chellamburam Municipality

The Collector of Municipality

South Arcot.

To The Chief Secretary to Government Madras

Dated 22nd November 1873.

Received 28th November 1873.

ENCLOSURE No. 00 to No 2195.

Subject.

80 Dec 8.

Recommending the removal of Commissioner Venkatadrie and Moorthy Chetty from the Chellamburam Municipal Board for the irregularities disclosed by them in the election of a Vice President

Fin. 7 Rev. 3 Rev. 2 Rev. 1 Rev. 24 Aug 73 — 192-193. — 5 Oct 73 — 110-111 Exc

5-12-73. No 114. —

of appointment of a Vice President forwarded as an enclosure, but the copy of the Proceedings forwarded purports to refer to a meeting held on the 9th. and the voting papers of the members bear the same date.

At that meeting a discussion it was held, nine out of the ten Commissioners attended and the President's proposal sent by letter that Vengopaul Naidu Saheb's day of Challumbum should be appointed Vice President was put to the vote. In the minutes of the Proceedings no specific results are given but it is stated that the votes recorded are

are appended. In his letter the President gives the results as follows.

P. Vengopaul Naidu - 5 votes
M. Venkata Seshiah - 2 votes
Meer Cassim Ali — 1 vote

A perusal of the voting papers appended would show the results as under:—

P. Vengopaul Naidu — 4 votes
M. Venkata Seshiah — 3 votes
Meer Cassim Ali — 1 vote

The difference is owing to the President's proxy being omitted as unauthorized either by law or by the Proceedings of the Commissioners, and by including C. Seshachelliar's memorandum as amounting to a vote for Venkata Seshiah, though the terms in which it is expressed contain by clear proof for doubt as to whether he intended

to

to second Venkatachalia's
nomination or merely his
proposal that the office
of Vice President should
be held by a non-official.
Be that as it may the
result was clearly a
majority for P. Vengopaul
Naidu who must therefore
be recognized as Vice-Pre-
-sident of the Chittum-
-bram Municipality.
The action taken by
some of the Commissioners
in proceeding to hold
a new election at the
next meeting appears
from their recorded
proceedings to have
arisen from their consi-
-dering that the nomina-
-tion of Vengopaul Naidu
was virtually negatived
by five out of nine Com-
-missioners having

expressed

expressed a preference for
a non official candidate.
This of course was a
mistake, and there being
no vacancy at the time
their election of a Vice-
President was consequently
void. It should be clearly
explained to the Commission-
-ers that the person poll-
-ing the largest numbers
of votes at an election
cannot be disqualified
by the mere fact that
an absolute majority of
those voting did not vote
for him individually, it
being impossible to recognise
a mere negative majority
who have failed to make
use of their power of combining
to select one individual.
~~for their votes.~~
~~The Govt. should~~
~~express their~~ view on the
circumstances

I think we
send letter by

circumstances to call for any further action by them, or to justify the strong terms used by the President in his proclamation

I

The Govt. hopes that there will be no need for such action on the part of Govt. as the President has suggested.

say merely that we hope there will be no need for such action on their part as the President has suggested.

They seem to have been in this going somewhat I think beyond their

Duplicate

The President & Govt
Cheltenham
with 3 orig enclos rec'd
Aug 11/1

24 - Portfolio

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial

To

The Pres.t Board Comm.rs.
Chellumbrum

Dated Jan.y 5. }
Recd. } 1874, No. 8

Nos. 14. 15.

Chellumbrum Muny. The Pres.t informed that Bungaroo Paidoo must be recognized as Vice. Pres.t he having polled the largest number of votes at the meeting stated to have been held on the 11th Nov.r.