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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 747. Press ~~Mis.~~

1—2.

Dated 1—5— 1874.

19/20

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
1*st May* 1874.

No. 1. Read the following letter from J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector and President of the Municipal Commissions, Vizagapatam, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vizagapatam, 11th April 1874, No. 519 :—

I have the honour to forward, for the consideration and orders of Government, the following Resolution of the Municipal Commissioners of Bimlipatam :—

" *Extract from Minutes of Meeting of Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Bimlipatam held on Monday, 6th September* 1873.

PRESENT.

Mr. Ripley.	Mr. R. Pernon.
,, Graves.	,, Perreaux.
,, O'Flynn.	Suraj Oodeen.
,, E. Pernon.	

" Resolved *nem. con.* that unless a Hospital Committee be appointed on the basis of Resolution of 23rd October 1869, by which Resolution the Municipality is to select three Commissioners to be on the Committee, the present monthly grant of Rupees 25 be withheld.

" Copy of Resolution to be forwarded to the President."

2. The Municipal Commissioners withdrew their subscription because they were of opinion that the dispensary was not properly managed, and they determined to consider no management satisfactory unless the Managing Committee were five in number and three of the members were taken from the members of the Municipal Commission.

3. I must briefly give the history of the dispensary and its establishment in order to enable Government to understand the meaning of the Resolution and other questions at issue.

4. The building was erected in 1862, Government paying half and private contributors the other half (G. O., No. 1376, 24th November 1862), and the services of an Apothecary were granted by Government to the institution, and subsequently in 1864 (G. O., No. 824, 19th July 1864), Government agreed to pay Rupees 50 per mensem as the salary of the Medical Subordinate in consideration of medical aid to be rendered to Government servants. Subsequent applications were made without success to Government for increased aid.

5. When the Government withdrew contributions from Provincial Funds for such institutions they directed the Local Fund Board to pay Rupees 25 and the Municipality Rupees 25 as the Government subscription. It is this contribution of Rupees 25 which the Municipal Commissioners now refuse to pay.

6. The dispensary was originally under the management of the old Municipal Commission ; this was legally constituted in 1866.

7. The separate Committee was appointed to look after the affairs of the hospital by a Resolution of the Commissioners dated 23rd October 1869:—

"*Copy of Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal Commissioners held on Saturday, 23rd October* 1869.

PRESENT.

Mr. A. Hyslop, *Vice-President.*	Mr. Perreaux.
,, H. M. Graves.	,, Quinn.
Captain J. H. Graves.	

"In the opinion of this Commission it is desirable that the subscribers to the hospital be represented on the Committee, it is hereby

"1. Resolved that the management of the hospital be placed in the hands of a Committee of five; that three members of this Commission be placed on this Committee; and that the subscribers to the hospital be requested to appoint two members to join this Committee.

"The Committee will appoint their own Chairman.

"2. Resolved that the affairs of the hospital be kept distinct from the Municipal Commission.

"3. Resolved that the members of the Committee hold office for one year only and be eligible for re-election.

"4. Resolved that Mr. H. M. Graves, Captain J. H. Graves, and Mr. A. Hyslop be appointed by this Commission."

8. By this the affairs of the hospital were to be kept distinct, managed by a Committee of five, three of whom were to be Municipal Commissioners and the remaining two elected by the body of the subscribers. Since that date the dispensary has been, and is, distinct from the Municipal Commission; the terms of the Resolution in regard to the constitution of the Committee has never been acted upon.

9. Since that time on several occasions it has been proposed at meetings of the Dispensary Committee that the management should be handed over to the Municipality, but the proposition has been always negatived by the majority.

10. As the affairs of the hospital were not in a prosperous state a general meeting of the subscribers was called on 23rd August 1873 and it was resolved that a Committee of six be appointed and two must be Municipal Commissioners. This was carried, but the two Municipal members elected refused to serve unless the Committee were formed on the basis of the Municipal Resolution of 1869, and thereupon the subscribers elected a Committee independent of the Municipality.

11. Both parties appealed to me, and I endeavoured to effect a compromise by suggesting the formation of a new Committee, the members to be appointed by the different public and private subscribers in proportion to their subscriptions. The Municipal Commissioners assented, but I found that if my suggestion were acted upon the number of the Committee would be swelled to an inconvenient number—too great for practical purposes.

12. Several letters have passed on this subject, but as no settlement had been effected I informed the Commissioners that I did not approve of their Proceedings

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
1*st May* 1874.

and thought the subscription ought to be paid. They have, therefore, requested me to forward the case for the orders of Government.

13. The question is whether the Municipal Commissioners were empowered, without previous reference to Government, to withhold a subscription which Government had directed them to pay, and there arises another point whether there were reasons in the present case which Government would consider sufficient.

14. That the affairs of the dispensary were, and are, in an unsatisfactory condition I acknowledge; the principal source of embarrassment is want of funds. At the meeting of 23rd August 1873, the subscribers, by the appointment of a new Committee, endeavoured to inaugurate a new régime—two of the six were Municipal Commissioners, and this appears to me a very fair proportion considering the subscription of the Municipality: these two were elected as Commissioners. Other members on the Commission might be appointed in their private capacity by the subscribers.

15. The demand of the Commissioners that the Committee should consist of five, three of whom must be members of the Commission, was, in my opinion, unreasonable. It was grounded on an old Resolution of their own which had never been acted upon, and would not be binding on the Hospital Committee; it was dictation which must naturally be resented. It simply implied handing over the dispensary to the Municipality. A proposition to do this had been frequently put forward at hospital meetings but always vetoed.

16. Both parties profess to have the good of the institution in view, but the withdrawal of the subscription seems to me a doubtful means of effecting it. The object of the Commissioners is, of course, to compel the election of a Committee of which they approve, but any attempt at coercion must have exactly the opposite effect. Had the dispute been free from all personal feeling no doubt a compromise might have been effected; but now nothing but a definite order from Government to pay or to withhold can settle the matter.

17. On the 10th of February the Hospital Committee passed a Resolution to the effect that unless the Municipal subscription be paid up they would refuse medical aid to Government servants. This Resolution appeared to me both unwise and unnecessary; it is assuming, without reason, a hostile attitude towards Government, and as yet Government have not refused their subscriptions. The Resolution was passed in the absence of the Chairman, who probably would not have approved of it. There will be a new Municipal Commission and a new Hospital Committee elected for the next year, and I hope that they will work in harmony together, otherwise I think Government would be justified in taking over the hospital under Section 35 of Act III. of 1871. I would not, however, recommend this course until it be seen how the new bodies work together.

18. It is, however, necessary that Government should pass an order regarding the arrears of subscription now withheld. The Vice-President argues that, as the Local Fund Board of Dindigul recently decided to reduce their grant to the dispensary, a Board must also have the right to withhold it.

19. I do not question that the Board have a right to control their expenditure and adapt it to their means, but in the present case I think they have withheld it for reasons which are not satisfactory.

20. I enclose copies of the letters received at first from the Vice-President and the Chairman of the Hospital Committee ; none of the other letters affect the point at issue.

P.S.—After I had written the above I received a letter from the Vice-President informing me that a general meeting of the subscribers to the dispensary had voted that it be made over to the Municipality so I deemed it unnecessary to forward this letter to Government. I have, however, this day received another letter from the Vice-President from which it appears that the Acting Chairman, who was absent from the first meeting, returned, called another and reversed the vote of the first meeting, consequently matters remain as they are. This letter, copy of which is enclosed, shows, I think, that the only means of preventing the ruin of the institution is for Government to exercise the powers vested in them by the Municipal Act and to take over the management of the dispensary.

From G. RIPLEY, Esq., Vice-President, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector and President of the Municipal Commission, Bimlipatam, dated Bimlipatam, 13th September 1873, No. 35.

I have the honour to enclose extract from Proceedings of Municipal Commissioners at a meeting held on the 8th instant together with copy of Minutes of meeting of 23rd October 1869.

2. You will observe that we have for the present thought fit to withhold the Municipal grant to the local hospital, and in justification of this step it is necessary that I should enter into a few brief particulars.

3. The hospital was projected in the year 1862, Government making a grant towards the building of Rupees 2,660 and the old Municipal Association during the years 1862—66 laying out on the institution Rupees 5,097-14-0. From September 1864 to the present time Government has contributed, either through imperial or local sources, Rupees 50 monthly, and since December 1869 the Maharajah of Vizianagram, through the representations of your predecessor, Mr. Minchin, has made a monthly donation of similar amount.

4. In the year 1866 the Municipality became legally constituted and received charge of the hospital from the old Association and continued to have charge of it till 1869, when Mr. Hyslop being Vice-President it was made over to a Committee of Management of which this gentleman was Chairman, and so long as he remained so the Commissioners deemed it well that the Resolution of 1869 should be dormant. But in the last few weeks Mr. Hyslop has resigned his post and left the management in the hands of a Committee of five (composed of three native gentlemen and two Europeans, one of whom was a resident of Vizagapatam and the other of Chettevalasah). The management appearing to the Commissioners extremely loose—among other things I may mention that the original hospital costing Rupees 6,000 has been turned into private quarters for the Apothecary—we resolved to put in force the Resolution of 1869, or, pending reference to you, to withhold the grant. It is to be observed that this Resolution was supported by the whole of the European members of the Commission including the Medical Officer in charge of the station, and I cannot doubt, looking to the facts to which I have drawn attention, that the course pursued will meet with your approval and support.

5. At a meeting of subscribers held yesterday a new Committee was named three of whose members were on the former one. But with the large amount of public money spent on the institution, and with the monthly grants from the Maharajah, the Local Fund Board and the Municipal, we maintain that no Committee should be considered satisfactory that is not based on the Resolution of 1869.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
1st May 1874.

6. In conclusion, I would beg to refer to Proceedings of the President of the Municipal Commissions of this district, dated 13th April 1871. Under the head of "Bimlipatam" this note appears :—

2. *Bimlipatam.*—On account of medical attendance and medicines in dispensary, Rupees 900.*

* *Note.*—This is for the Civil Dispensary which being now partly maintained by Government will, as long as that aid continues, have to be managed under the Act.

This (Rupees 900) is for the Civil Dispensary.

From C. MINCHIN, Esq., Chairman of the Hospital Committee, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam and President of the Municipal Commission, Bimlipatam, dated Bimlipatam, 22nd October 1873, No. 1.

I am requested by the Committee of the Bimlipatam Hospital to address you on the subject of the enclosed copy (marked A) of correspondence with the Vice-President of the Bimlipatam Municipal Commission.

The Committee are of opinion that in the face of G. O. of 16th October 1871, No. 1557, it is not competent to the Municipal Commissioners to pass any such Resolution as that which they have communicated ; but, as the question between the two bodies is of more importance than appears on the surface, I am requested to enter into it fully in order that you, as President, may understand the actual situation and be in a position to take intelligent action in the matter.

I. With regard to the step actually taken by the Municipal Commissioners,

(1.) It appears to the Committee evident, on the face of it, that the intention of the Municipal Commissioners was to take advantage of the struggle for existence which they well know this institution has to maintain, and to attempt to coerce the town, regardless of the public vote, into adopting a Resolution of their own, dating from five years back, which would place the management virtually into their own hands, by threatening a withdrawal of their support if the majority of the Committee were not elected from among their number.

(2.) I have the honour to append in document B extracts from Minutes of meetings, both general and of the Managing Committee, from which it will be understood that this question has been often raised and as often decidedly negatived by the popular vote, the general wish being that, while the Municipality is represented by the presence of a sufficient number of the Commissioners on the Committee, the management shall be distinct and separate.

(3.) It will also be clear to you that the body of subscribers have honestly endeavoured to elect a Committee composed of the proportion of Municipal and private members resolved upon ; but, when the Commissioners passed their hostile Resolution of the 8th September, and member after member of the Municipal body refused to serve the hospital except in accordance with the terms of that Resolution, subscribers had no option left to preserve hospital affairs from falling into chaos but to put its management into the hands of a Committee altogether independent of the Municipality, unless they would submit to be dictated to.

(4.) The Committee, therefore, feel that the Municipal Commission has only itself to thank if the end of the struggle has been to deprive it of all voice in the management of the hospital ; but they none the less deplore the fact, and request me to remonstrate strongly against the unseemly attitude which the Municipality has thus assumed.

(5.) The hospital is an institution of vital importance to the town and owing its very existence to public subscription and support ; the Municipality is a body organized by Government to administer funds raised in the town by tolls and taxation with special reference to the sanitary welfare of the people, and one of its first efforts as well as duties one would suppose would be to foster and encourage such an institution rather than raise a factious party-spirit.

(6.) The Committee request me further to express, what they believe to be the feeling of a large majority of the supporters of the institution, their sense of the injury done to its interests in being debarred from the benefit of the counsel, in its management, of the older residents who originally founded it and who happen to be on the Municipal Commission, and being restricted to

that of less experienced and younger residents, and their hope that, by a judicious interference on your part, matters may be restored to a position more befitting the dignity of the Municipality.

II. With regard to the amount of the Municipal subscription now withheld—

(1.) The enclosed copy (C) of an official communication addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government by the Chairman of the late Hospital Committee will perhaps best explain how the Commission became chargeable with the contribution.

(2.) Government originally subscribed 50 Rupees a-month to the hospital on the condition that free medical aid was extended to all Government servants in the place; but after the Local Funds Act was passed all such charges were transferred from Imperial to Local sources, and Government, in their Order above referred to, ordered Rupees 25 to be contributed out of Local and Rupees 25 out of Municipal Funds.

(3.) Apart from the question whether the Municipality ought not to contribute much more largely without the necessity for a Government order, it is clear that if this is now withheld the institution will be left without any fixed support either from Government or the Municipality beyond the Rupees 25 paid out of Local Funds—a state of things at which the Committee considers itself justified in feeling aggrieved.

(4.) Should there be any cause unforeseen by the Committee which would operate to prevent your disposing of the question under your own authority as President, I am directed to request that this appeal may be laid before Government.

III. The Chief Secretary has taken no notice of Mr. Hyslop's communications, probably on the ground that such an application ought to have been made through the Collector. Should this be the case I have the honour to solicit the favour of your forwarding it on again to Government with such support as you may be able to give it. I would especially draw attention to those parts of the letter which bear upon the demands made upon the time and attention of the Medical Officer by the Police Corps and ask whether some more direct contribution from that department of the public service is not due to the institution.

From G. RIPLEY, Esq., Vice-President, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector and President of the Municipal Commissions, Vizagapatam, dated Bimlipatam, 3rd March 1874, No. 56.

I have the honour to own receipt of your letter of the 26th February and now beg to confirm my letter of 26th February and to enclose copy of Resolution in regard to the dispensary, from which you will see that the Commissioners wish the question submitted to Government.

2. It is with great reluctance we put Government and yourself to this trouble. I can scarcely doubt but what the question might have been very easily settled at the outset by your favouring us with a half-hour's visit—a visit which it was not too much to look for seeing that during the three years now expiring the President has been amongst us but on one solitary occasion.

3. If it should prove, as you anticipate, that Government will disapprove the course pursued on this occasion, I am sure they will not judge the matter harshly bearing in mind that all we have had in view was to secure the efficient working of an institution in which the Municipality has taken great interest and laid out a great deal of money, and that, moreover, it is the first time during thirteen years that we have found ourselves called upon to trouble Government on any such question.

4. I said in my original letter on this subject that the management of the hospital had been loose, and, in our opinion, loose it is still, the expenditure outrunning the income, and no fewer than three Chairmen having been in charge in less than five months; and apart from our acting rightly or wrongly in withholding the Municipal grant it seems time to ask Government to put in force Section 35 of the Act and to place the hospital management in subordination to this Commission.

5. In submitting a statement of the case to Government I have the honour to request you will be so good as to allow this letter to accompany the statement.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
1st May 1874.

From G. RIPLEY, Esq., Vice-President, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector and President of the Municipal Commissions, Vizagapatam, dated Bimlipatam, 9th April 1874, No. 66.

I have the honour to own receipt of your letter of the 8th instant and regret to say that there is still a hitch about the hospital.

2. Mr. Harden, the Acting Chairman, called a general meeting of subscribers for the 25th March, at which the Resolution was passed making over the management to the Municipality. Mr. Harden was absent from the meeting, and subsequently called for a second meeting to cancel the proceedings of the first. This was held on the 31st ultimo, and the proceedings, of which I enclose a copy, resulted in the one meeting ignoring the Resolution of the other. At the first meeting the subscriptions of attendant members amounted to Rupees 98 monthly; at the second meeting, although the actual number of members was greater, their subscriptions (after deducting the minority votes) amounted altogether to Rupees 22.

3. It is not right that a valued institution should be jeopardized by the caprices of subscribers of 1 Rupee a-month. At the second meeting it is to be observed that *Messrs. Minchin and Co., Minchin Brothers and Co., and J. Harden* were represented by Mr. J. Harden. Not a single member of a European firm attended the meeting. The Superintendent of His Highness the Maharajah has now withdrawn his subscription of Rupees 50 monthly until the Resolution of the 25th March be carried out. Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., subscribing Rupees 30 monthly, are going to do the same. Of course, with some Rupees 1,500 or 2,000 on hand the Committee can keep the hospital afloat for some time, but the policy they are now pursuing is simply suicidal. If you are of like opinion perhaps a letter to the Hospital Committee expressive of your views would lead to a settlement of the question.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1874, No. 747.

The payment of the amount sanctioned in the Budget as a contribution to the dispensary must be continued regularly until the orders of Government have been obtained sanctioning the withdrawal of the contribution.

2. The reason assigned for the proposed discontinuance of the contribution savours of dictation as stated by Mr. Daniel; but the Government observe that a similar determination is said to have been come to by the Superintendent of the Maharajah of Vizianagram and Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. with reference to their subscriptions, and, as the management of the dispensary is a question regarding which the Commissioners are well qualified to form an opinion, the Government hesitate to impose their veto on the Resolution.

3. Before coming to a final decision, however, the Government desire to know whether the President has endeavoured to bring about a compromise by means of a visit to Bimlipatam as suggested in paragraph 2 of the Vice-President's letter, dated 3rd March 1874, No. 56; if not, the step should be taken without delay and the result reported.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Bimlipatam.
,, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of 1874 Works.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Bimlipatam,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 1st.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 1st *May* 1874, *No.* 747.

MAY.
Nos. 1-2.

Bimlipatam Municipality.—Orders passed relative to the refusal of the Commissioners to pay their monthly contribution to the dispensary.

9A

No 35.

Bimlipatam 1st September 1869
Office of Municipal Commissioners

To

The Collector & President
Municipal Office.

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose Extract from Proceedings of Municipal Commissioners at a meeting held on 8th Instant, together with copy of minutes of meeting of 23rd October 1869.

2. You will observe that we have for the present thought fit to withhold the Municipal Grant to the Local Hospital and in explanation of this step it is necessary that I should enter into a few brief particulars.

3. The Hospital was projected in the year 1862 Government making a Grant towards the building of Rs 2660, and the old Municipal Association during the years 1862-66 paying out of the Institution Rs 6097-14-0 - From October 1864 to the present time Government has contributed either through imperial or Local resources, Rs 50 monthly, and since December 1869 the Maharajah of Vizianagram through the representation of your predecessor Mr. Minchin, has made a monthly donation of similar amount.

4. In the year 1866 the Municipality became legally constituted, and received charge of the Hospital from the old Association and continued to have charge of it till 1869, when Mr. Tyler being Vice President, it was made over to a Committee of management of which the Gentleman was Chairman and so long as he remained so the Commissioners, deemed it well that the Revolution

Resolution of 1869 should be dormant. But in the last few weeks Messrs Nyholt have neglected their post and left the management in the hands of a Committee of 5 (composed of 3 native gentlemen and 2 Europeans one of whom was a resident of Vizagapatam and the other of Cuttack).
The management appearing to the Commissioners extremely loose among other things I may mention that the original Hospital costing Rs 6000 has been turned into private Quarters for the apothecary respectively to put in force the Resolution of 1869 or pending reference to you, to withhold the Grant. It is to be observed that the Resolution was supported by the whole of the European members of the Commission including the Medical Officer in charge of the Station. And I cannot doubt, looking to the facts to which I have drawn attention that the Course pursued in connection with your approval and Sanction.

5. At a meeting of Subscribers held Yesterday a new Committee was named 3 of whose members were on the former one. But with the large amount of public money spent on the Institution and with the monthly grants from the Maharajah, the Local Fund Board and the Municipal, we maintain no Committee should be considered satisfactory that is not based on the Resolution of 1869.

6. In conclusion I would beg to refer to Proceedings of the President Municipal Commissioners of this Station dated 13th April 1871. Under the head

of

11 A

of Dimlipatam this No to appear;

2 Dimlipatam:

Note: This is for the first Dispensary which being now hereby maintained by Government will as long as that aid continues have to be managed under the Act.	On account of Medical Attendance and Medicines in Dispensary No 900 — " —

This Rs 900 is for the first Dispensary

I have &c

(Signed) G. Ritchey
Vice President.

(True copy)

Edwards

Acting Collector and
Pres. Dn. Commr.

13 A 8

Bimlipatam
22 October 1873

No. 1.

To

J. R. Daniel Esqre
Acting Collector of Vizagapatam
and President
Bimlipatam Municipal Commission

Sir

I am requested by the Committee of the Bimlipatam Hospital, to address you on the subject of the enclosed copy, marked A, of correspondence with the Vice President of the Bimlipatam Municipal Commission.

The Committee are of opinion that in the face of G. O. of 16th October 1871 No 1557, it is not competent to the Municipal Commissioners to pass any such Resolution as that which they have communicated, but as the question between the two bodies is of more importance than appears on the surface, I am requested to enter into it fully in order that you as President may understand the actual situation and be in a position to take into Legent action in the matter.

I. With regard to the Step actually taken by the

S. O. No. 747 of 1874.

From
The Collector & Commissioner of Vizagapatam
To
The Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort St George

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith the Proceedings of the Bimlipatam Municipal Commissioners dated 22nd October 1873 regarding the Hospital Committee's application for a grant of Rs 500 from the Municipal Funds.

Bimlipatam
2 November 1874

J. R. Daniel
Collector

the Municipal Commissioners.

1. It appears to the Committee evident on the face of it, that the intention of the Municipal Commissioners was to take advantage of the struggle for existence which they well know this Institution has to maintain, and to attempt to coerce the Town, regardless of the public voice, into adopting a Resolution of their own, dating from 5 years back which would place the management virtually into their own hands; by threatening a withdrawal of their support if the majority of the Committee were not elected from among their number.

2. I have the honor to submit in document B, extracts from minutes of meetings both general, and of the Managing Committee; from which it will be understood that this question has been often raised, and as often decidedly negatived by the popular voice - the general wish being that while the Municipality is represented by the presence of a sufficient number of the Commissioners on the Committee, the management shall be distinct and separate.

3. It will also be clear to you that the body of Subscribers have been lately summoned to elect a Committee composed of the proportion

of

15A

of Municipal and private members respectively, but when the Commissioners passed their hostile Resolution of the 8th September and member after member of the Municipal body refused to serve the Hospital except in accordance with the terms of that Resolution, Subscribers had no option left, to preserve Hospital affairs from falling into Chaos, but to put its management into the hands of a Committee altogether independent of the Municipality - unless they would submit to be dictated to -

4. The Committee therefore feel that the Municipal Commission has only itself to thank, if the end of the struggle has been to deprive it of all voice in the management of the Hospital - but they now the less deplore the fact, and request me to remonstrate strongly against the unseemly attitude which the Municipality has thus assumed.

5. The Hospital is an institution of capital importance to the Town and owing its very existence to public subscription and support. The Municipality is a body organized by Government to administer funds raised in the town by tolls and taxation, with special reference to the sanatory - one [illegible] of the people and one of its first efforts as well as duties,

one

me would perhaps would be to foster and encourage such an Institution rather than raise a factious party spirit.

6. The Committee request me further to observe, what they believe to be the feeling of a large majority of the supporters of the Institution, their sense of the injury done to its interests, in being debarred from the benefit of the counsel, with management, of the elder precedents who originally founded it, and who happen to be on the Municipal Commission, and being restricted to that of less experienced and younger precedents - and their hope that by a judicious interference on your part matters may be restored to a position more befitting the dignity of the Municipality -

II. In the regard to the amount of the Municipal Subscription now withheld.

1. I have the honor to enclose copy of an Official Communication addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government by the Chairman of the late Hospital Committee, with the Committee became chargeable with the contribution

2. Government originally subscribed 50 Rupees a month to the Hospital on the condition that free medical aid was extended to all Government servants in the place - but after the Local Funds Act was passed, all such charges were transferred from Imperial to Local sources, and Government in their Order above referred to ordered Rs 25 - - to be contributed out of Local and Rupees 25 — out of Municipal Funds.

3. Apart from the question, whether the Municipality ought not to contribute much more largely, without the necessity for a Government Order, it is clear that if this is now withheld, the Institution will be left without any fixed support, either from Government or the Municipality beyond the Rs 25 - - - paid out of Local Funds a state of things at which the Committee consider itself justified in feeling aggrieved.

4. Should there be any cause unforeseen by the Committee, which would prevail to prevent your disposing of the question under your own authority as President - I am directed to request that their appeal may be laid before Government.

III. The Chief Secretary has taken no notice of the Hospital Communication probably on the ground that such an application ought to have been made through the Collector - Should this be the case, I have the honor to request the favor of your forwarding it on again to Government with such support as you may be able to give it. - I would especially draw attention to those parts of the letter which bear upon the demands made upon the time and attention of the Medical Officer by the Police Force and as to the same were direct contribution from that department of the Public Service is not due to the Institution -

I have &c.

(Signed) Thos Minchin

Chairman Hospital Committee

A true copy

Recd

Ans to letter and Enclosure

Dispatch
from Colombo No 2
to
Sir a Letter from the
Sec to Collector and
Principal Civil Officer
Commissioner Batticaloa
dated 26th February 1874
Received 27th March 1874
C.O. No. 74

Extract from the Clerk
of the Privy Council
dated 27th March
1874

Rec'd March 31st
Pub. March 31st

No 56

Office of Municipal Commission
Point Pedro 30th March 1874

To
The Colonial Secretary
Municipalities
Colombo

Sir.

I have the honor to own receipt of your letter of 26th February and now beg to confirm my letter of 26th February and to enclose copy of Resolution in regard to the Dispensary from which you will see that the Commissioners wish the question submitted to Government.

2. It is with great reluctance we put Government and Yourself to this trouble. I am sure you will doubt but what the question might have been very easily settled at the outset by your favouring us with a half hour's visit which it was not too much to look for seeing that during the 3 Years now expiring, the President has been amongst us but on one occasion only.

3. Yet should prove, as you anticipate that Government will disapprove the course pursued on this occasion, I am sure they will not judge the matter harshly, bearing in mind that all we have had in view was to secure the efficient working of an institution in which the Municipality has taken great interest, and laid out a great deal of money, and that, moreover, it is the first time, during 13 Years that we have found ourselves called upon to trouble Government on any such occasion.

4. I said in my original letter on this subject

that

that the management of the Hospital
has been loose, and in our opinion, loose it
is still, the expenditure outrunning the income,
and no less than 5 changes having been made
in less than 5 months and at last from not
acting rightly or wrongly in withholding the
Municipal Grant, it seems time to ask the
Government to put in force Section 35 of the Act
and to place the Hospital management in
subordination to their Commissioners.

5. In submitting a statement of the case to
Government, I have the honor to request
you will be so good as to allow this letter
to accompany the Statement.

I have &c.

(signed) J. G. Richey
Vice President.

I Sec Asst.

Inclosure

Acting Collector and
Resident Commissioner

16

Office of Municipal Commission
Bimlipatam 9th April 1874

To
The Acting Collector
Vizagapatam

Sir

I have the honor to own receipt of
Your letter of 8th instant, and regret to
say there is still a hitch about the
Hospital

2 Mr Harden, the Acting Chair=
man called a general meeting of Sub=
scribers for 25th March, at which the
Resolution was passed making over
the management to the Municipality.
Mr Harden was absent from the meeting
and subsequently called for a second meet=
ing to cancel the Proceedings of the first
This was held on 31st ultimo - and
the Proceedings of which I enclose a
copy - resulted in the one meeting ig=
noring the Resolution of the other. At
the first meeting the subscriptions of
attendant members amounted to Ru=
pees 98 Monthly - at the second meet=
ing, although the actual number of
members was greater, their subscrip=
tions (after deducting the minority votes)
amounted altogether to Rupees 22

3 It is not right that a valued
institution

Enclosure 1874
No 3
From a letter from the
Ag Collector of Bimlipatam
Recorded in Proceedings
Dated 11th April 1874
No 579.

A. R. S. Ag Sec

Enclosing Copy of Proceedings in regard to the Bimlipatam Hospital

From Chairman Municipality
Bimlipatam
Dated 9th April 1874
Rec'd 10th April 1874

institution should be jeopardized by
the caprices of Subscribers of four Ru-
pees a Month. At the second meeting
it is to be observed that Messrs Smiehin
& Co Smiehin Brothers & Co and I Harden
were represented by Mr I. Harden. Not a
single Member of a European firm at-
tended the meeting. The Superintendent
of A. A the Quaka Rajah has now
withdrawn his subscription of Rupees 50/
Monthly until the Resolution of 25th
March be carried out. Messrs Arbuth-
not & Co subscribing Rupees 30 Monthly,
are going to do the same. Of course
with some Rupees 4000 or 5000 on
hand the Committee can keep the
Hospital afloat for some time, but the
policy they are now pursuing is simply
suicidal. If you are of like opinion
perhaps a letter to the Hospital Com-
mittee expressive of your views would
tend to a settlement of the question

I have &c &c
(Signed) G. Ripley
Vice President

(True Copy)

W Daniel
Acty Collector and
Presidy Magistrate

519.

Vizagapatam April 11th 1874

From,

I. R. Daniel Esquire,
Ag. Collector & Presdt. Municipal Commrs.

To,

The Honble D. F. Carmichael
Ag. Chief Secretary to Government
Ootacamund

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for the consideration and Orders of Government the following resolution of the Municipal Commissioners of Bimlipatam

"Extract from minutes of meeting of Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Bimlipatam held on Monday 6th September 1873

"Present Messrs Ripley, Graves, O. Flynn, E. Perron, R. Perron, Perreau and Suraj Dodeen.

"Resolved nem con that unless a Hospital

1874
Dec 11
Read Letter from the
Ag Collector & President
Municipal Commissioners dated
11th April 1874 forwarding
Resolution of Municipal Commissioners
S. O. No. 519

Madras Medical Service
Civil & Military Establishment
The Bimlipatam Hospital

Assist. Surgn. Maples
Fwd 20/5/74.

"Hospital Committee be appointed
"on the basis of Resolution of 23d October
"1869, by which Resolution the Munici-
"pality is to select 3 Commissioners to be
"on the Committee, the present monthly
"grant of Rs 25 be withheld. Copy of
"Resolution to be forwarded to the Resi-
"dent."

2. The Municipal Commissioners withdrew their subscription because they were of opinion that the Dispensary was not properly managed, and they determined to consider no management satisfactory unless the Managing Committee were five in number and three of the members were taken from the members of the Municipal Commission.

3. I must briefly give the history of the Dispensary and its Establishment in order to enable Government to understand the meaning of the Resolution and other questions as it is put.

4. The building was erected in 1862. Government paying half and private Contributors the other half (G.O. No. 1376, November 24th 1862) and the services of an Apothecary were granted by Government to the Institution, and subsequently in 1864 (G.O. No 824, July 19th 1864) Government agreed to

to pay Rs 30 per mensem as the salary of the Medical Subordinate in consideration of medical aid to be rendered to Government Servants. Subsequent applications were made without success to Government for increased aid.

5. When the Government withdrew contributions from Provincial Funds for such institutions they directed the Local Fund Board to pay Rs 25 and the Municipality Rs 25, as the Government subscription. It is this contribution of Rs 25 which the Municipal Commissioners now refuse to pay.

6. The Dispensary was originally under the management of the old Municipal Commission - this was legally constituted in 1866.

7. The separate Committee was appointed to look after the affairs of the Hospital by a resolution of the Commissioners dated October 23d 1869.

"Copy of Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal Commissioners held on Saturday 23d October 1869.

"Present - A Hyslop, Vice President, the
"Revs A M. Graves, J H. Graves, Perreaux
"and Quinn.

"In the opinion of this Commission it is desirable that the Subscribers to the "Hospital be represented on the Committee

it

"it is hereby
"1. "Resolved that the management of
"the Hospital be placed in the hands
"of a Committee of five, that three Mem-
"bers of this Commission be placed on this
"Committee, and that the subscribers to
"the Hospital be requested to appoint
"two members to join this Committee
"2. "The Committee will appoint their
"own Chairman.
"3. "Resolved that the affairs of the
"Hospital be kept distinct from the
"Municipal Commission.
"4. "Resolved that the Members of the
"Committee hold office for one year only
"and be eligible for Reelection.
"5. Resolved that H. M. Graves, Cap
"tain J. H. Graves and A. Hyslop be ap-
"pointed by this Commission".

8. By this the affairs of the Hospital were to be kept distinct managed by a Committee of five, three of whom were to be Municipal Commissioners and the remaining two elected by the body of the subscribers. Since that date the Dispensary has been and is distinct from the Municipal Commission, the terms of the resolution in regard to the constitution of the Committee has never been acted upon.

9. Since that time on several occasions it has been proposed at meetings of the Dispensary Committee that the management should be handed over to the Municipality, but the proposition has been always negatived by the majority.

10. As the affairs of the Hospital were not in a prosperous state, a General meeting of the subscribers was called on August 23d 1873, and it was resolved that a Committee of six be appointed and two must be Municipal Commissioners - this was carried, but the two Municipal Members elected refused to serve unless the Committee were formed on the basis of the Municipal Resolution of 1869, and thereupon the subscribers elected a Committee independent of the Municipality.

11. Both parties appealed to me and I endeavoured to effect a compromise by suggesting the formation of a new Committee - the members to be appointed by the different public and private subscribers in proportion to their subscriptions, the Municipal Commissioners assented, but I found that if my suggestion were acted upon the number of the Committee would be swelled to an inconvenient number - too great for practical purposes.

12. Several letters have passed on this subject, but as no settlement had been effected,

I

I informed the Commissioners that I did not approve of their Proceedings and thought the Subscription ought to be paid. They have therefore requested me to forward the case for the orders of Government.

13. The question is whether the Municipal Commissioners were empowered with out previous reference to Government to withhold a Subscription which Government had directed them to pay - and there arises another point whether there were reasons in the present case which Government would consider sufficient.

14. That the affairs of the Dispensary were and are in an unsatisfactory condition I acknowledge - the principal source of embarrassments is want of funds - At the meeting of August 23d 1873 the Subscribers by the appointment of a new Committee endeavoured to inaugurate a new regime - two of the six were Municipal Commissioners, and this appears to me a very fair proportion considering the Subscription of the Municipality; these two were elected as Commissioners - other members on the Commission might be appointed in their private capacity by the Subscribers.

15. The demand of the Commissioners that the Committee should consist of five - three of whom must be members of the Commission seems in my opinion unreasonable - it was grounded on an old resolution of their own which had never been acted upon, and would not be binding on the Hospital Committee - it was a dictation which must naturally be resented. It simply implied handing over the Dispensary to the Municipality - a proposition to do this had been frequently put forward at Hospital meetings but always vetoed.

16. Both parties profess to have the good of the institution in view, but the withdrawal of the Subscription seems to me a doubtful means of effecting it. The object of the Commissioners is of course to compel the election of a Committee of which they approve, but any attempt at coercion must have exactly the opposite effect - had the dispute been free from all personal feeling no doubt a compromise might have been effected, but now nothing but a definite order from Government to pay or to withhold can settle the matter.

17. On the 10th of February the Hospital Committee passed a resolution to the effect that unless the Municipal Subscription be paid up they would refuse medical aid to Government servants: this resolution appeared to me both unwise and unnecessary; it is a seeming

with

without reason a hostile attitude towards Government, and as yet Government have not refused their subscriptions. The Resolution was passed in the absence of the Chairman who probably would not have approved of it. There will be a new Municipal Commission and a new Hospital Committee elected for the next year and I hope that they will work in harmony together, otherwise I think Government would be justified in taking over the Hospital under Section 35 of Act III of 1871. I would not however recommend this course until it be seen how the new bodies work together.

18. It is however necessary that Government should pass an order regarding the arrears of subscriptions now withheld. The Vice President argues that as the Local Fund Board of Dindigul recently decided to reduce their grant to the Dispensary a Board must also have the right to withhold it.

19. I do not question that the Board have a right to control their expenditure and adapt it to their means, but in the present case I think they have withheld it for reasons which are not satisfactory.

20. I enclose copies of the letters received at first from the Vice President and the Chairman of the Hospital Committee, none of the other letters affect the point at issue.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obdt. servant.

Monnet
Ag. Collector & Resdt. Mr. Commr.

P.S. After I had written the above I received a letter from the Vice President informing me that a general meeting of the subscribers to the Dispensary had voted that it be made over to the Municipality, so I deemed it unnecessary to forward this letter to Government. There however this day received another letter from the Vice President from which it appears that the Acting Chairman who was absent from the first meeting, returned called another and reversed the vote of the first meeting. Consequently matters remain as they are. This letter copy of which is enclosed, shows I think that the only means of preventing the ruin of the Institutions is for Government to exercise the powers vested in them by the Municipal Act and to take over the management of the Dispensary.

Monnet
Ag. Collector & Resdt. Mr. Commr.

1874 747

Financial Department
From The Secretary to Govt
Municipal Commission
Vizagapatam

To, The Chief Secretary
to Government
Ootacamund

Dated 11th April 1874
Rec'd 18th

No 379.

No 898 Enclosure

Submitting for the orders of Government the cost of withholding Subscription to the Dispensary by the Municipal Commission

Ootacamund 1st May 1874 No 747.

The payment of the amount sanctioned in the budget as a contribution to the Dispensary must be continued regularly until the orders of Govt have been obtained sanctioning the withdrawal of the contribution.

The reason assigned for the proposed discontinuance of the contribution savours of dictation as stated by Mr Daniell but the Govt observe that a similar determination is said to have been arrived at by the Supreme Council of the Nabob of Vizianagram and Respt Achuthanda & Co with reference to their subscriptions and as the management of the Dispensary is a question regarding which the Commissioners are well qualified to form an opinion, the Govt hesitate to oppose their veto on the resolution.

Before coming to a final decision however the Govt desire to know whether the President has endeavoured to bring about a compromise by means of a visit to Municipal Commissioners as suggested in para 2 of the Vice President's letter dated 3rd March 1874 No 56. - If not the steps should be taken without delay and the result reported

No 182.
C28/4 R30/4.

The Chief Secretary's Letter dated 1/5/74 Read & Ordered