M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 154 Press Mis. 206-20

Dated 27-1- 1875.

10/11

Not to be folded or roughly handled

CTK

Municipal Act.

No. 106. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 28th December 1874, No. 110:—

The resolution of Government not to institute Union Schools by local taxation has postponed a reform which I hoped to see arising therefrom in respect of the surplus fund which would have remained after the school wants had been provided.

2. I believe that the compulsory lumping up of entire districts into unions, chiefly for educational purposes, would have given dissatisfaction, and that the progress of education is as fast as it can be, that is, schools are opened wherever masters can be had, and these are produced in increasing numbers every year.

3. But it is in respect of Village Sanitation that I regret the abolition of a prospective fund derived from the House-tax which would have been the germ of self-improvement.

4. I presume I need not inform Government how deplorable the sanitary state of the country is. It is in this respect that the people are least civilized. If it were possible to court disease the means are taken. I need not go into detail; every species of surface and drainage pollution accumulated in and round villages, the pigs and buffaloes the sole scavengers, stagnant pools after rain, rubbish and other disease producing ingredients are the rule and not the exception; the native when he builds a house excavates a hole close by, out of which his foundations, basement, and walls are constructed. This forms a permanent cesspit to every house. It serves no useful purpose to dwell on sights and smells that shock the senses, but it is important to note that these are the rule, and that there are no exceptions except when municipal action has remedied the evil.

5. Municipal action, however, has been restricted to towns; and, although no exact limit of population has been laid down, it probably does not extend to places with fewer than 8,000 to 10,000 inhabitants.

6. A Collector may go about his district and create a temporary interest in sanitary improvement; promises of aid are made; but unless a regular organization of detail follows, and the measure has a legal sanction of enforcement, the beneficial results are only temporary.

7. In this district, with but one exception which I hope soon to remove, every Taluq chief town has its Medical officer, and from accounts received I hear that the appreciation of the aid of European science is gradually but steadily increasing.

8. I would wish in similar manner that each Taluq Cusbah should have its Municipality. Three taluqs are already so provided, and will demonstrate to the villager coming to the Cusbah Town the advantages of cleanliness and good order.

9. Each Taluq Cusbah Town possesses the elements of local self-government in well-paid and intelligent native officers and some leading well-to-do merchants.

10. I do not intend to propose any elaborate string of bye-laws; the object is by introducing the Act to regulate the collections and management, and to give permanency to local improvement.

11. Number of bye-laws applicable to large towns would be quite inapplicable to the Cusbah chief village or town. The only essential law would be to ensure against nuisance and enforce sanitation.

12. With these preliminary remarks, I propose to suggest that the Cusbah Town of Pulladam should be constituted a Municipality. Though small, it is the cusbah of a very important and large taluq, and is the centre of a considerable cotton trade. The Madras Cotton-Cleaning Company have their factory there. There are other cusbahs which, if my suggestion is favored, I would also propose.

13. It would be very desirable indeed if some shorter and more simple Act than the "Towns Improvement" were passed for the sanitation of villages, involving no seals of office, voluminous forms of accounts, and publications of uninteresting local details, when the main object is to have the scavenger abroad and plying his useful trade.

14. The Local Fund Board set apart a due proportion of their funds for the all-important object of preserving the health of the people, but they cannot do everything; all they can do is by grants-in-aid to stimulate local exertion, but this often being least, when most wanted, by itself will not suffice. We require legal sanction to collect our rates, and to dispose of such expenditure to the best advantage.

15. A great deal of criticism of an unfavorable nature greeted the establishment of Municipalities. The Commissioners were tyrannical and incompetent, and deliverance from their yoke was demanded in native papers and petitions, but the steady and beneficial results of the two Municipalities, formerly established in this district, are now acknowledged, and I have no doubt that the newly-established Municipality of Caroor will not be an exception.

16. With my proposed scheme of trench latrines and cinerators, the sanitation expenses will be very moderate.

17. The accounts of collection and expenditure would be kept by a Clerk, under the supervision of the local Vice-President. The Division Officer might preside, and the Collector exercise only the duty of supervision; as a rule he cannot effectually preside at any Municipal Board but that of his Headquarter Town, and the Taluq Presidents could submit their accounts and reports through him to Government.

18. The importance of taking the general sanitation of the country into consideration is so great that I deem it my duty to make the above suggestion to Government. Municipal action is the only legal and permanent means of carrying out such measures, and it has the greatly-to-be-desired advantage of introducing a permanent local self-action, instead of intermittent and spasmodic efforts.

19. The greatest cause of mortality in this district is fever, usually of a typhoid character, the admitted result of insanitation, and therefore preventible, being 47 per cent. of all causes, including old age. Our local taluq medical men with supplies of effective medicine will in some measure aid the sufferers and save many lives, but prevention of sickness is more effective and useful than its cure. The Union School system would have provided to some extent a remedy, but that means not being available, I have proposed what seems the alternative.

20. It will give the Chief Officer of the district the benefit of coadjutors to assist him in some measure in bearing the heavy burden of responsibility in providing for the welfare of the people under his charge, and afford the hope of effectual progress.

No. 107. ORDER THEREON, 27th January 1875, No. 154.

The Government appreciate the warm interest taken by Mr. Wedderburn in the welfare of the inhabitants of his district, but they are not prepared to adopt any general measures of the kind suggested by him. They will however be glad to consider proposals for the introduction of the Municipal Act in any individual Cusbah Town on receipt of full particulars and estimates.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The COLLECTOR of COIMBATORE.

Dated January, 27th.

Read.

G.O., 27th January 1875, No. 154.

JANUARY.

Nos. 206-207.

Towns Improvement Act.—The proposals of the Collector of Coimbatore for the introduction of this Act into any particular town promised consideration on receipt of full particulars and estimates.

5"

Financial DEPARTMENT.

No. 2758

From the Collector of Coimbatore.

Dated 28th December 1874. No 110.

FOR ORDERS.

The answer may be as follows

for constituting Bullock Drawn

that the Collr. may indicate

in to Municipalities - but

he cannot beg it down as

a general rule applicable to

the whole Presidency that

the Taluk Centres should be

Municipalities.

A Libaral Act for Villages would be useful were it not that whenever the Municipal Act is revised, the Legislature might take away or exempt such places from particular provisions of the General Act

Sos. Leg.

Mr. Wadsworth thinks he

told that at first, a benevolent interest in the welfare of the inhabitants of his District.

Only we have full discretion hereafter in carrying out any proposal to establish a new Municipality -

Mr. Wadsworth - Mr Maddenbrun appears to propose a general reduction of assessments, viz. by taxation, & collection in the county - For my part I am

Proposed alteration of Municipal Act to admit Cantonments towns

not in the Cart prescribed by any such measure, which would be a work of supererogation as it would be burdensome and odious to the people

14/1

I caused proper Plans to be made of the Civil Station of Coimbatore. I have sent the Plans to the Bd of Rev with instructions for full particulars as indicated & I shall make a report. 1871

C.B. 2/4/1.

No. 110 Coimbatore Collectors Office 28th December 1874.

From,

A. Wedderburn Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore.

To,

The Hon: D. F. Carmichael
Actg Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

The resolution of Government not to institute Union Schools, by local taxation, has postponed a reform, which I hoped to see arising, therefrom, in respect of the surplus fund, which would have remained after the school wants had been provided.-

2. I believe that the compulsory lumping up of entire Districts into unions, chiefly for educational purposes, would have given dissatisfaction, and that the progress of education is as fast as it can be, that is, schools are opened, wherever masters can be had, and these are pro-duced in increasing numbers, every year.

3. But it is in respect of village sanitation, that I regret the abolition of

a prospective fund, derived from the house tax, which would have been the germ of self improvement.—

4. I presume I need not inform Government how deplorable the sanitary state of the country is.— It is in this respect, that the people are — least civilized. If it were possible to court disease, the means are taken. I need not go into detail — every species of surface and drainage pollution, accumulated in, and round villages, the pigs and buffaloes the sole scavengers, stagnant pools after rain, rubbish and other disease producing ingredients, are the rule and not the exception; the native, when he builds a house, excavates a hole close by, out of which his foundations, basement and walls are constructed.— This forms a permanent cess pit to every house.— It serves no useful purpose to direct our sights, and smells that shock the senses, but it is important to note, that these are the rule, and that there are no exceptions, except when Municipal action has remedied the evil.—

5. Municipal action, however, has been restricted to towns, and although no exact limit of population has been laid down, it probably does not extend to places with fewer than 8 to 10,000 inhabitants.—

6. A collector may go about his District and create a temporary interest in sanitary improvement.— promises of aid are made; but unless a regular organization of detail follows, and the measure has a legal sanction of enforcement, the beneficial results are only temporary.—

In this District, with but one exception, which I hope soon to remove, every Taluq Chief town has its medical officer, and from accounts received, I hear that the appreciation of the aid of European Science, is gradually, but steadily increasing.—

8. I would wish, in similar manner, that each Taluq Cutcherie should have its municipality.— Three Talugs are already so provided, and will demonstrate to the villager coming to the Cutcherie Town, the advantages of cleanliness & good order.—

9. Each Taluq cutcherie Town possesses the elements of local self Government, in well paid and intelligent native officers and some leading well-to-do merchants.-

10. I do not intend to propose any elaborate string of bye-laws; the object is, by introducing the act, to regulate the collections, and management, and to give permanency to local improvement.-

11. Number of bye-laws applicable to large towns would be quite inapplicable to the Cutcherie chief village or town. The only essential law would be to censure against Nuisance, and enforce sanitation.-

12. With these preliminary remarks, I propose to suggest that the Cutcherie Town of Pulladam should be constituted a Municipality.- Though small, it is the Cutcherie of a very important, and large Taluq, and is the centre of a considerable cotton trade.- The Madras Cotton Cleaning Company have their factory there. There are other Cutcheries, which if my suggestion is favoured, I would also propose.-

13. It would be very desirable indeed, if some shorter and more simple act, than the "Town's Improvement" were passed, for the Sanitation of villages, involving no seals of office, voluminous forms of accounts, and publications of uninteresting local details, when the main object is to have the scavenger abroad, and plying his useful trade.-

14. The Local Fund Board set apart a due proportion of their funds for the all important object of preserving the health of the people, but they cannot do everything, all they can do, is, by grants-in-aid to stimulate local exertion,- but this often being least, when most wanted, by itself will not suffice.- We require legal sanction to collect our rates, and to dispose of such expenditure, to the best advantage.-

15. A great deal of criticism of an unfavourable nature greeted the establishment of Municipalities.- The Commissioners were tyrannical, and incompetent, and deliverance from their yoke was demanded in native papers, and petitions, but the steady and beneficial results

=sults of the two Municipalities, formerly estab=
=blished in this District, are now acknowledged,
and I have no doubt that the newly establish=
=ed Municipality of Labour will not be an
exception.—

16. With my proposed scheme of trench
latrines, and cinerators, the sanitation
expenses will be very moderate.—

17. The accounts of collection and
expenditure would be kept by a clerk,
under the supervision of the local Vice
President. The Division Officer might
preside, and the Collector exercise only
the duty of supervision; as a rule he
cannot effectually preside, at any Mu=
=nicipal Board, but that of his Head
Quarter Town, and the Taluq Presidents
could submit their accounts, and re=
=ports, through him, to Government.—

18. The importance of taking the
general sanitation of the country into
consideration is so great that I deem
it my duty to make the above suggestion
to Government. Municipal action is
the only legal, and permanent, means
of carrying out such measures, and it

has the greatly to be desired, advantage of
introducing a permanent local self action,
instead of intermittent and spasmodic, ef=
=forts.—

19. The greatest cause of mortality in
this District is fever, usually of a typhoid
character— the admitted result of insanitation
and therefore preventible being 47 per cent
of all causes, including old age.— our local
Taluq Medical men with supplies of
effective medicine will, in some measure,
aid the sufferers, and save many lives, but
prevention of sickness is more effective and
=tew would have provided, to some extent, a
remedy, but that means not being avail=
=able, I have proposed what seems the
alternative—

20. It will give the Chief Officer of the
District, the benefit of Coadjutors to assist
him, in some measure, in bearing the
heavy burden of responsibility, in pro=
=viding for the welfare of the people, under
his charge, and afford the hope of
effectual progress.—

I have

Financial 1874 December

From (Municipal)

The Collector of
Coimbatore

No 2738

To

The Sg. Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

Dated 28th
Despd. 29th } December 1874.
Received 31st
No 110

Proposing that the Town Improvement Act be extended to all Cudatal Towns, or that a simpler Act be passed for the permanent sanitation of villages.

with Order

C 23/1.
2 26.

Financial Dept. 28th Dec. 1874.

Read the letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 28th instant, in which he submits certain proposals for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the Municipal Towns in the Province.

Resolved that the Government are not prepared to undertake legislation on the subject at present, but that the Collector be informed that the Government will be glad to receive from him a detailed report on the working of the Municipal Act in the Municipalities under his control, and that he be requested to submit such suggestions as he may think fit for the amendment of the Act.

Draft Letter

Financial Dept. 28th Dec. 1874.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 28th instant, in which you submit certain proposals for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the Municipal Towns in the Province.

2. In reply I am to inform you that the Government are not prepared to undertake legislation on the subject at present, but that they will be glad to receive from you a detailed report on the working of the Municipal Act in the Municipalities under your control, and that you be requested to submit such suggestions as you may think fit for the amendment of the Act.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
[illegible]
for Chief Secretary.

Collector of Coimbatore. by Post
3/2/75
256 140

Town Dn. 2/1 Pvt. 2/1

Pvt. No. 24 Annually

Govt. of {187 } Madras.

Jail

G. O., 27 Jany, 1875, No. 154

Nos. 2067

Towns Impt Act. The proposals of the C.M.C. of Coimbatore for the introduction of this Act into any particular Town, promised Consd. on receipt of full particulars & Estt.