

23815

23.8.15 ✓

[$\frac{F}{24}$]
1,000—25-7-04

Financial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 227

DATED 11th Mar 1895

INDEXED. 3/4

[Despatch Abstract.]

PUDUKULAM ROAD, TANJORE DISTRICT.-

Sanctioning the grant of Rs 18,420 required for improving the —

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

26TH FEBRUARY 1895, No. 290 M., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From M.R.Ry. K. S. SRINIVASA PILLAI Avargal, Chairman, Municipal Council, Tanjore, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Divisional Officer, Tanjore), dated 17th January 1895, Ml. No. 50.

In forwarding herewith an extract from the proceedings of the municipal council, Tanjore, dated 21st December 1894, I have the honour to submit the following for the favorable consideration of Government.

2. The Government apparently entertains the opinion that Tanjore is a wealthy town (*vide* G.O., dated 30th March 1894, No. 398 M., paragraph 3); but the council begs to represent that whether the district of Tanjore is rich or not the town of Tanjore is certainly not in a flourishing condition. This opinion is based on the actual experience of the councillors who have had ample opportunity of intelligently observing the condition of the people among whom they live and move. The town is not the centre of any important trade or industry, nor can it boast of being the residence of even a small number of rich land-holders. The majority of the more important residence of the town consists of the pensioners and dependants of the royal family as well as of petty tradesmen whose business has been gradually declining. The council desires a reference to the following extract from the concluding portion of paragraph 47, page 26 of volume 13 of the Census report of 1891 in support of this view:—

“Tanjore contains 355 fewer inhabitants than in 1881. In 1871 it was the third largest city in the province, in 1881 it stood fifth, and now it has dropped to eighth and has even ceased to be the largest town in the district to which it gives its name. Between 1871 and 1881 the rate of increase was 4.9 per cent. What the population was in the days of its prime I have not been able to ascertain even approximately, but there can be little doubt that it has declined since the death of the last Raja in 1855. The existence of a court, even though a titular one, exerts a considerable influence upon the population of the town in which it is held, as it attracts numbers of all kinds of professions, and in India still larger numbers of Brahmans. The dispersion of this miscellaneous multitude must have commenced with the death of the Raja, and it has evidently been more rapid since the demise of the princess, his successor. The line of the Tanjore family has now come to an end, and with it has gone a large crowd who depended on its patronage or its alms.”

3. In spite of these facts, the council has been loyally trying to raise the professional tax to the amount of Rs. 13,000 mentioned in G.O. No. 398 M., dated 30th March 1894, though, in comparison with the amounts collected under this head in Kumbakonam and Negapatam, which are decidedly much wealthier and more important, the amount collected here is very high.

4. The original estimate on account of the Tanjore water-works was Rupees 4,29,000 (*vide* G.O., No. 1938 M., dated 5th November 1891), and, in order to meet the working charges and to provide for the payment of the loan and interest, it was calculated that a sum of Rs. 32,495 (*vide* G.O., Mis. No. 1600 M., dated 28th September 1891), should be collected by the council in the shape of additional taxation. The

council has raised the house-tax and this has given it an increase of Rs. 3,000 a year. The land-tax has been enhanced by the sum of Rs. 500 a year. The professional tax, as stated above, would give us Rs. 13,000 a year. Finally, the council has resolved to collect a water-tax which is expected to amount to Rs. 13,000 in round numbers. The total increase which, by resorting to every possible expedient, the council has been able to provide for is, therefore, Rs. 29,500, *i.e.*, about Rs. 3,000 less than the sum which the council according to the original calculation was bound to find. The council has exhausted all its resources and is now obliged to throw itself on the mercy of Government.

5. The position with regard to this question stands thus—

The original estimate of Rs. 4,29,000 was reduced* subsequently to Rs. 3,77,200 and, in order to meet the moiety of this latter sum and its interest, the council has to pay Rs. 9,750 a year, and the working charges on account of the water-works are estimated at Rs. 17,964 a year, *i.e.*, the council has to find Rs. 27,714 a year and the council is afraid that, making due allowance for possible deficits in collections and for possible increase in the working charges, the additional taxation of Rs. 29,500 referred to in the last preceding paragraph would be barely sufficient to meet its demand in accordance with the revised estimate.

G.O., dated 22nd Sep. 1894, No. 1309 M.
" " 1st Dec. " " 1841 M.

The Government orders marginally noted, however, decide that this revised estimate of Rs. 3,77,200 is insufficient and that the works will cost an additional sum of

Rs. 70,220, and, presuming that the municipality will be called upon to accept one half of this sum as a loan, the council has passed a resolution to the effect that the Government should be respectfully requested to relieve it from the payment of any portion of this sum and to make a present of the whole sum to it.

6. The imposition of any additional taxes being found impossible, as already explained there are only two modes of adjusting this affair—the Government should be pleased either to make an absolute gift to the municipality of the whole sum of Rs. 70,220 above referred to as prayed for by the council, or to reduce the rate of interest so that the amount of additional taxation which the council is able to realize may be sufficient to meet the whole of the annual Government demand together with the working charges.

7. The Government will perceive that the council has been obliged to increase the taxation of the town from about Rs. 56,000 in 1891-92 to Rs. 87,210 in 1895-96 including increases under other items, *i.e.*, by over 51 per cent., and this action of the council has caused very considerable hardship to and dissatisfaction among the townspeople.

8. In the circumstances above detailed the council confidently trusts that this representation will meet with favorable consideration at the hands of Government.

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Municipal Council, Tanjore, at a special meeting held at 5 P.M. on Friday, the 21st December 1894, at the Municipal office, Tanjore.

II. Read office memorandum regarding provisions required for the Tanjore water-works on account of the revision of estimates sanctioned by Government.

Read letter No. 2785, dated 6th December 1894, from the Sanitary Engineer, Madras, requesting to make provision for a loan of Rs. 25,900 and for Government grant for Rs. 25,900.

Resolved that representation be made to Government about the condition of the townspeople and the difficulty in raising any additional amount from them for meeting these demands and that application be made to it for making a grant of the whole amount now required.

No. 56 ML.

Forwarded. I am afraid that the council has "exhausted its resources" for the present at least, and there is no question as to the dissatisfaction existing among the people. That may disappear if and when the water-works are proved a success, for I understand they entertain much doubt on the point.

(Signed) J. THOMSON,
TANJORE, Ag. Collector.
25th January 1895.

From M.R.Ry. K. S. SRINIVASA PILLAI Avargal, Chairman, Municipal Council, Tanjore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Tanjore, 2nd February 1895, No. 110.

I have the honour to inform you that the Sanitary Engineer to Government in his letter No. 162, dated 23rd January 1895, writes thus—

"I find from the account current which accompanied your letter No. 3851 of the 18th ultimo, that you have spent up to 30th of November last Rs. 3,124 in excess of what was available for the Tanjore water-works; that bills aggregating to about Rs. 10,000 have been passed and forwarded to you for payment since November 1894; and other bills will be sent. I have the honour to point out the desirability of your drawing the grant of Rs. 64,500 provided for in the Government budget estimate of 1894-95. If this amount is not drawn before the close of the current official year, the allotment will lapse and the council will feel seriously the want of funds to meet the bills of contractors. It is further feared that any delay in settlement of their claim might result in law suits."

And to request therefore that you will be good enough to order early payment of the balance of Government grant Rs. 38,600 as requested in this office letter No. 3901, dated 1st January 1895, together with the amount of Rs. 70,220 as prayed for by the council in its representation to Government in this office letter No. 50, dated 17th January 1895, forwarded through the Collector of Tanjore.

ORDER—dated 26th February 1895, No. 290 M., Local and Municipal.

The Government does not consider that the revision of the estimate for the water-supply project and the raising of its amount from Rs. 3,77,200 to Rs. 4,29,000 form a very real cause for complaint by the council, for the scheme was originally financed upon the supposition that it would cost the latter sum.

2. The necessity of remaking the Pudukulam road, which arose from the damage caused by the floods of November 1893, was not, however, foreseen at the time that the project was originally sanctioned, and the Government resolves to now make a grant to the council of the whole of the sum of Rs. 18,420 required for carrying out this work, the estimate for which was, in G.O., dated 1st December 1894, No. 1841 M., sanctioned for execution as part of the water-supply scheme.

(True Extract.)

for Chief Secretary.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Tanjore.

" Collector of Tanjore.
" Sanitary Engineer.
" Accountant-General.
" Financial Department.

Editors' Table.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Issued

Recd. 7 March /95 Encl. 550
Refd 8/3.

G.O., 26th Feb. 1895, No. 290 M.

FEBRUARY.

Road.

Sanctioning, with remark, the grant to the Tanjore municipal council of the whole of the sum of Rs. 18,420 required for improving the Ludukulam road.

131: 8-2-95 Fml
1107.1107A: 15.12.94 Fml
1841 M: 1-12-94 Fml
1209 M: 1019 R: 22-10-94 Fml
166: 26-2-94 Fml
1297: 21-12-93 Fml &c.
476: 17-5-93 Fml Mui
1061: 10-10-92 Fml Mui

CS
No necessity to trouble H. M. it is thought the papers in L.M. must have been passed
CS

Order 11 March /95
14227

The grant of Rs 18,420
is sanctioned from savings
under 45. Civil Works -
Civil officers.

CS.
10.3.95

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189.

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DIUTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B. -

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.

For the Audit. Genl. (S. C.) {Cope & 11/3
- L.M. Dept. (9/3/95)
10/3/95