

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

India DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	442	Press
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Dated	1-4	1864

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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P. No. 128-9
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st April 1864.*

No. 7. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Magistrate of South Arcot; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trikalore, 1st March 1864, No. 14.

I am now in a position to acknowledge the Orders of Government under date the 17th September last, No. 1495.

2. In those orders, the Government directed that any petitions against the Municipal Act must be inquired into, and full information was required as to the number of objectors and the nature of the objections; also whether these objections extended to all or only to parts of the Act.

3. My movements for many months past have been too migratory to admit of my actively entering on any inquiry into the objections to the introduction of the Act; but recently, when in Cuddalore on other matters, I sent for some of the petitioners in view to carrying out the instructions of Government, and on my informing those who appeared before me that their objections would at once receive attention, they immediately represented that opposition on their part no longer existed, and that in the interval they had come to the conclusion that the introduction of the Act was a measure conducive to the good of all, and consequently that they wished to withdraw their previous petition.

4. About 20 persons, I think, attended before me, and when expressing my gratification at their change of mind, I explained to them that if such change were really a fact it was necessary that they should formally withdraw their original petition, as the Government would not allow the introduction of the Act, even if only a few were opposed to it; and therefore it was imperative that all who signed the opposing petition should, in like manner, now come forward and in equally express terms give in their adherence to the proposed measure. I added that, unless this was done, I had no alternative than to inquire personally or through one of my Assistants into their original difficulties on the subject, in order, if possible, to disabuse their minds of any erroneous impression as to the working of the Act in question. As I was then leaving Cuddalore for the annual settlement of the District, and having no wish to subject the parties to needless inconvenience, I desired my Assistant, Mr. Roberts, to give his attention to the matter and to receive from the parties their proffered acquiescence in writing for the introduction of the Act.

5. I had already stationed Mr. Roberts in Old Town to look after its sanitary condition, which required the temporary presence of a European officer, and thus the people of Old Town were afforded every facility for preferring objections and for conducting inquiry, and they had the opportunity of coming forward on the spot either for or against the contemplated measure.

6. Mr. Roberts received from me all needful instructions on the subject, and I have now the pleasure to state that all opposition and objection have been entirely withdrawn, and that too in the most voluntary form, a result which, I presume, has been greatly owing to the influence of their neighbours and fellow towns-men who took the initiative in the move, and who throughout have been almost clamorous for the introduction of municipal and sanitary reform.

7. Quoting from Mr. Roberts's report of the 26th February to my address, it appears that "All those who signed the first petition with the exception of eight, have now signed the second petition; of these eight, four have gone (names given) to other villages, and four (names given) cannot be found, nothing being known of them." Mr. Roberts adds: "The inhabitants of the town may therefore be considered unanimous in favor of the introduction of the Act, as at the most, there cannot be more than four persons residing in the town who have expressed themselves adverse to it, and who have not subsequently withdrawn their opposition, and it is very probable that if those men could be found they would be as willing to sign the second petition as any of the rest have been." Mr. Roberts concludes with expressing the hope "that the Collector will consider all opposition to the Act at an end and, that he will bring it into operation at the earliest opportunity."

8. If Government be now satisfied that all objection to bringing the Act into effect in Old Town, Cuddalore, has ceased, I will be prepared immediately to submit a list of the gentlemen whom I propose as Commissioners for the purpose, as originally called for in the Government Proceedings, under date the 20th May 1863, No. 771.

Remarks made by Mr. Reade

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st April 1864.*

9. In their Orders of the 17th September last, which are under my immediate acknowledgment, the Government observe in paragraph 3 that, for the reasons given, my proposition therein referred to is clearly impracticable, and that the result would be that the objectors would get all the benefits of the introduction of the Act without paying for it. With all deference, I must demur to this opinion. From the experience I have had of municipal action in other places, where, despite much opposition and many objectors, the projected measures of sanitary and municipal reform in those places were carried out successfully by the minority, I can but think that the plan pursued elsewhere would have been attended with like results in Cuddalore, and ultimately that all opponents and objectors would have joined in the move and have given to it their cordial support and adherence. I allude particularly to Vizagapatam where, notwithstanding very serious difficulties at the outset, my efforts in the important cause, fortunately for the people, have eventuated in complete success.

No. 8.

ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1864, No. 442.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council is prepared to authorize the introduction of the Municipal Act into Old Town, Cuddalore. The Collector will submit a list of persons to be appointed Commissioners for carrying out the provisions of the Act.

2. Adverting to the remarks made by Mr. Reade in the 9th paragraph of his letter, the Governor in Council observes that the case of a town in which a voluntary Municipal Association has been formed is quite different from the case of a town to which it is proposed to apply the Municipal Act, the provisions of which, when once declared applicable, are compulsory upon all the residents.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Judicial Department.

the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

The following letter from the
to of South Arcot.

under 1st March 1864. No. 14.

Thereon 1st April 1864. No. 442.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council is prepared to authorize the introduction of the Municipal Act into Old Town Cuddalore. The Collector will submit a list of persons to be appointed Commissioners for carrying out the provisions of the Act.

2. Adverting to the remarks made by Mr. Reade

Read in the 9th paragraph
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To
The Magistrate of South Africa
J. P. 4/4

7-8.
Introduction of the
Municipal Act
into Old Town Cuddalore

Archival 1864. Department.

No. 442

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 1st April 1864

C/18-1864
12th March