

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1964 m

DATED ^{at} 25 November 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition.

Informing Koyakutty Khatib and others, Kalvetti,
that their request to allow their houses to be thatched
cannot be complied with.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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INDEXED.

Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT. G.O., DATED 25-11-95 No. 1964/M.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition

Informing Koyakatty Khaki
 + others. at Kalluvetti, that
 their request to allow the
 houses to be thatched, can
 be complied with.

HEAD AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT
189 , No

ACK

G.O.

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BACK PAPER, No.

OF 119

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ENCLOSURES.

G.O.

CURRENT No

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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Examined by

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Local & Municipal Dep

CURRENT No.

3405 M

From

M. Koyakooty Khatieb and others

Muhammadans residing at

Kalvetti, British Cochin

No.

Dated 29.10.95

Received 2.11.95

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Protesting against the order of the
Cochin Municipal Council prohibiting
thatched roofs over petitioners'

hcd
min

Order No 1964 min 25.11.95

The petitioners' request
cannot be complied with.

100
22/11/95

hcd
22/11/95

The Petitioners. Dated 27/11/95

ACK

Date.

To

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL
FORT ST. GEORGE,

MADRAS.

The humble petition of the undersigned Mahomedan subjects of Your Excellency, residing at Kalvetti, British Cochin.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

In addition to the troubles which the petitioners have been suffering since their total ruin caused by the oppression of the Local Municipality has now become a source of the greatest misery to them.

Several petitions have been presented to the Municipal Council and in obedience to their orders, to the Government, the petitioners humbly beg to bring to your Excellency's benign consideration that they deem it their fortune in not being favoured, as yet, with a reply from your Excellency's most merciful Government which is the prominent and well-ruling Power in the now known world to their grievances which they have been suffering for the last six years. On the first of this petition will meet with your Excellency's august presence and kind consideration the petitioners will be redeemed from the misery which they are groaning under, they beg to bring to the account of their misfortune at your Excellency's feet.

On their addressing the Municipal Council for the amelioration of their miserable state, the Council seem to withdraw any effect to their supplication, by the mere plea, that the Council have no other remedy to carry out the order of Government. On petitioning the Government with the same responsibility is placed on the Council and thus petitioners finding no remedy in the ocean of grief.

From time immemorial which had been covered with jungle intersected by canals and swamps had been the petitioners' ancestors at great cost and trouble and they built houses and lived there in possession for 3 or 4 generations paying Revenue tax for the properties; and petitioners' descendants have been living in the said houses paying Municipal tax, as well as thatching their houses till 1889.

Owing to the fire of the European firms who started business here, a few years ago, the whole of Kalvetti was destroyed, petitioners having had a narrow escape from it and nothing but their lives were saved from the fire.

By the aid of charity men who are non-Mahomedans, petitioners in a manner repaired the ruins of their houses to themselves and families.

At this stage, i.e., because by the fire could cease, the Local Municipality issued notices forbidding the petitioners' houses under sec. 179 of the Towns Improvement Act which does not apply to the petitioners' houses. Ever since petitioners are undergoing the greatest misery and distress shedding tears owing to their being subject to diseases and deaths by exposure to sun as well as by paying fines.

The fire of 1889 of the easily combustible articles such as cocoanut fibre and coir yarn &c. that were scattered on the premises of the European firms; if the agent had not shut up the gate of the firm, the petitioners have no doubt been put out immediately by petitioners who are close neighbours and had run to the scenes of fire to render every aid in extinguishing the fire; but the door they had no other remedy than to stand out of the gate and view the cause. By this time the fire spread in the whole firm and the wooden wedges stopping of oil casks flew up and set fire to the neighbouring houses of petitioners to a distance of half a mile and consumed the vicinity of Kalvetti wholly. Petitioners beg to bring to your Excellency's benign consideration that it was nothing but divine mercy that saved the firm the women and children of Kalvetti from death by fire. From the above you will observe that the fire originated not from petitioners' houses but from the firms. It is had been well insured, buildings grander than the first have been recently erected on the sites while the poor petitioners are undergoing the greatest misery.

Before the fire broke out the godowns of the firms were all thatched, but as a precaution against future accidents the European Merchants have now reconstructed their godowns covered with tiles. Consequently, in case of any future accidents by fire happen to the firm, the petitioners are not in any danger of meeting with any damage to their firms themselves and destruction of their houses. Some of the walls of the houses are made of earth and some with stone. Now being rainy season in these houses are tumbling down by being wet. Petitioners fear that the walls of their houses may likewise fall down and cause danger.

to Petitioners and their children beg humbly to submit that if your Excellency take their case into your Excellency consideration your Excellency will find that the amount of loss and the danger to which exposed are unbearable to them.

Adjoining the Europe the public road and the houses on the road sides are all tiled; while the houses of pe all in the interior and isolated; even if one of these houses were to catch fire thence whatever of its spreading and doing harm to the firms as there is the shelter of ben shrubs all round and many neighbours who could easily put down such a small fire there is no instance whatever of a fire having spread from petitioners' quarters as yet.

All the fires from 18 originated from the firms. Petitioners beg humbly to state that if the severe order of pality prohibiting the thatching of their houses, had been passed prior to the fire of 18 they would gladly have tiled their houses having then had the means to do so and won freed from the necessity of laying this petition before your Excellency.

The three destructive also originated in the firms and not from petitioners' houses. Before the gates of the be closed oil casks were prevented from catching fire by the exertions of petitioners and thus Kalvetti was saved from further destruction.

The protection afforded kindness shown to every one of the subjects under your Excellency's rule are the same for them is also the same. The Municipal Council first defined a limit prohibiting herein from being thatched and now modified same by permitting a few houses within the area, standing close by and in the midst of petitioners' houses, to be thatched. A Sub-Committee from among the Councillors to reinvestigate the prohibited portion lastly arrived some members of the Committee recommended the exemption of a part of the prohibited area, and another member reported that a smaller portion than the above should be exempt. These reports were placed before the Council and lost by a majority of votes protesting the exemption.

It is a matter of great regret that the Municipal Council have discarded the recommendations of the Sub-Committee that the houses aforesaid within the limit of the first prohibition, have been thatched. Petitioners are placed in endless grief.

Petitioners therefore and respectfully pray that Your Excellency's benign Government in its wonted desire to suffering humanity will be most graciously and condescendingly pleased to protect them and family from oppression and consequent loss of life and issue an order to exempt poor, innocent and law abiding Subjects of Her Majesty from having their houses tiled but to have their miserable houses covered and so save them from the inclemencies of the weather. For which act of benevolence justice petitioners shall

EVER PRAY.

Cochin, 29th October

Goshree Vilasam Press

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189 ,

DATED

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