Date taken out.	For what purpose.			Initials of clerk taking the paper or of attender.	Date returned.	Initials of attender.
	Department.	C. No.	Year.			

[L. & M. / 9,000-8-8-96]

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 921/M

DATED 31st May 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Council.

Approving the resolution of the Salem Municipal Council regarding the appointment of a paid chairman and the selection of M.R.Ry.A.Pushpanadha Pillai for the post, and stating that he will be appointed a member of the council to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Dr.Dymott to Madras.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

D. O.

Salem Co

CHIEF SECRETARY
7 APR 1895
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

674/95

Dear Price.

In continuation of my letter of a short time ago. I send you a printed copy of Ganapathi Aiyar's remarks as Govt. may wish to see them.

Yours truly

G. [illegible]

The

REMARKS OF

P. S. GANAPATI AIYAR

ON THE NECESSITY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF

A PAID OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN

FOR THE SALEM MUNICIPALITY

At the Council's Special meeting

ON 2ND APRIL 1895.

THE Town is 3¼ miles long and 2½ miles broad or 8⅓ squire miles in area and has 12,815 houses with 67,710 souls therein. Its total road mileage is 17 miles. I believe it is the second largest Moffusil Municipal Town in this Presidency. It will, therefore, be conceded that the work of the Chairman of this Municipality must be very heavy. To keep the conservancy and other staff up to their work in all the main streets and innumerable lanes of the Town and to inspect the works in progress in different parts, the Chairman must move about a good deal. Even if he is to visit the streets and lanes not oftener than once in a fortnight, I think he will have to devote 3 hours a day to out-door work.

2. Then there are the several Tax-Registers to be scrutinized, the collection of the different taxes to be checked and notices and warrants to be issued to defaulters. The following figures showing the number of assessees under the different taxes will give some idea of the work to be done under this head :—

	No. of assessees.
House Tax	9675.
Arts Tax...	4560.
Land Rates	498.
License Fees	278.

There are besides 4,300 vehicles and animals in the Town to be taxed. The number of notices and warrants issued for taxes &c. in 1893-94 amounted to 14,000.

3. But this is not all. There is the purely office work, of which some idea may be formed when it is stated that the number of letters and petitions received amounted to 2,164 and those disposed of to 3,174. To get through all this work efficiently will take about 4 or 5 hours.

4. Thus if the administration is to be nearly as efficient as is expected or is to be wished, the Chairman must work systematically and regularly for about 7 or 8 hours a day. Of course no Chairman, official, or non-official, has been able to devote so much time till now, and the consequence is that the administration has not been efficient, and year after year, Government has been making unfavourable remarks about it. It is not necessary to tire you with extracts from Government orders on the administration reports, but it may be mentioned that in 1891-92 Government

thought it necessary to warn the Council that, unless there was improvement, steps would have to be taken under section 37 to make the administration efficient. This warning was repeated last year, when strictures on several points couched in very strong language were also made by Government. The majority of the Council thought they were unwarranted. But, speaking for myself, I am sorry I am unable to say that the strictures, at all events most of them, were unwarranted. In fact, after a fairly close observation of the Town, I have been constrained to come to the conclusion that the administration has not been as efficient as the rate-payers and the Government have a right to expect.

5. I have already explained what Government has been remarking year after year on the subject. Any one who cares to examine the state of the office, will see at once that it is not as it should be. I know that a little while ago the present Chairman wished to obtain a list of papers and petitions pending in the office, but was not able to get a complete one.

6. I have also heard the general public say that their complaints against Municipal servants and their representations as to their wants, have not been attended to, Persons who had to build houses have informed me that their applications for permission to build were not disposed of and that they were put to great inconvenience. It is no wonder, therefore, that the more prudent of them built their houses without waiting for the Council's permission. I know that sanctions granted by the Council for the prosecution of persons infringing the law have not been acted upon for a long time. I believe also that sufficient attention has not been paid to the prevention of encroachments upon Municipal lands. I have also always felt, and this feeling has been shared by several others, that, owing to want of sufficient supervision, the Overseers and the Maistries have been left pretty much to themselves. It is true that the revenue has, during recent years, increased considerably, that of 1893-94 exceeding that of 1888-89 by nearly twenty thousand Rupees. But on the important items of Communication, Water-supply and Conservancy, the expenditure during the 5 years ending with 1893-94 was not more than what it was during the preceding 5 years, when the revenue was much smaller. Above all, nothing has yet been done to provide the town with water or drainage, though schemes were proposed long ago and have occasionally been talked about. In short, it is my opinion arrived at after close observation, that the rate-payers of Salem have valid grounds for complaint, that they have not received sufficient return for the money which they have contributed.

7. I do not wish it to be understood that the several Chairmen were greatly to blame for the unsatisfactory state of things described above. I believe that each of them did as much as the limited time left by his other occupations at his disposal enabled him to do. Far from deserving blame, therefore, each of them merits the sincere thanks of the rate-payers for what he did. At the same time, however, it behoves us, as custodians of the interests of the Salem rate-payers, to consider whether we could not remedy the defects and give to the rate-payers some better return for the money, which we know many of them pay with great inconvenience.

8. I consider that the first condition precedent of a better administration is a full-time Chairman. I am perfectly convinced that it will be absolutely impossible for any man, however able he may be, to do any thing like justice to the multifarious work of the Chairman, unless he is prepared to devote about 7 or 8 hours a day to it

9. It cannot also be denied that the Chairman should also be a man of education, ability and experience, as he will have control over such institutions as the Hospital, the College and the Schools and Public Works, Conservancy, &c. &c.

10. Few men in our country possess all these qualifications and are also in a position to give their services without remuneration. What I mean is that we have few rich men possessing the other necessary qualifications and few who possess these other qualifications have sufficient wealth to enable them to dispense with the necessity for their earning their own livelihood and to devote their whole time to any work of public utility without remuneration. If, therefore, we wish to secure a competent man of the stamp required, we should be prepared to pay him. Speaking for myself, I may perhaps be permitted to say that I have very little faith in unpaid service. Even in England, an agitation has been on foot for several years to pay members of Parliament and a Bill with that object has been quite recently read for the first time before that most advanced self-governing body in the world.

I know it has been said that the Municipality cannot afford the expense of the Chairman's salary, but I have no doubt that the expense will be more than recouped by the improved revenue, which will result from better supervision and prompter collection under a full time Chairman.

11. If the views set forth above are accepted. I would strongly urge that an official be appointed as the Chairman. In recommending this course, I mean no disparagement to non-officials. I have no doubt every one will ridicule the idea of a man without a proper professional training being appointed to the office of Doctor of medicine or Judge or any other office requiring such training. I respectfully contend that administration also requires such previous training. I do not in fact see how this proposition can be disputed. At all events, I submit, that other things being equal, one with previous administrative training should be preferred to one without it. Attentive observation of details and strict and effective supervision can be made only by men of special training and wide experience. A learned full-time Chairman without such experience will not be nearly so useful as an experienced man. As the trustees of the rate-payers, we have no right to pay their money to one who is an amateur administrator, but are bound to secure the man best qualified in every respect for the office. I submit that an experienced official of education and ability is likely to make a more satisfactory Chairman than a non-official of equal or even greater education and ability without any administrative training.

12. There are also certain other advantages in appointing an official. Under the law as it now stands, a Councillor once appointed retains his seat for 3 years and no authority on earth can remove him except for,

(*a*) Refusal or incapacity to act.

(*b*) Insolvency.

(*c*) Conviction by a Criminal Court of an offence implying a defect of character unfitting him for the office.

(*d*) Neglect without sufficient excuse to attend the meeting for three consecutive months.

He may also be removed if the Governor in Council considers his continuance on the Municipal Board dangerous to the public peace or order.

13. I need not tell you, Gentlemen, that cases are of every day occurrence, where, while it is impossible that a conviction by a Criminal Court can be obtained, there can be no moral doubt as to the undesirability of retaining certain men in positions of trust, responsibility and power. We have many of us had occasion to regret our inability to bring to justice men *known to us to be corrupt.* The Chairman's duties are defined in the Act, but it is perfectly possible for him to get through those duties without making himself really useful to the people and without incurring public odium. The extent of his usefulness depends entirely upon his capacity and willingness. The best of men, when placed in positions not subject to control, are liable to become tyrants or to become corrupt or to become both. A non-official Chairman, so long as he behaves in such a manner as to give no room for a legal conviction by a Criminal Court, is subject to no control and can afford to snap his fingers at any one. An official Chairman, on the other hand, has a great deal to gain by good work and a great deal to lose by bad work. Good work in the cause of the Municipality will give him a claim for promotion, while bad work will expose him certainly to transfer and probably to loss of promotion in the future or even immediate reduction or dismissal.

14. I beg, therefore, to recommend that the proposal of Government be accepted and a competent official selected.

15. I beg to crave your kind indulgence while I proceed to make a few further remarks.

16. I observe that it has been said that the appointment of a paid official Chairman will be a blow to the cause of Local self-Government, that those who advocate the appointment of an official as Municipal Chairman have been stigmatized as enemies of Local self-Government and sycophants of power and that the official members of this Municipality have received a hint that they should support and carry the measure through. I consider it beneath any honest official's dignity to notice the charge of sycophancy and shall, therefore, ignore it. But I must distinctly and emphatically deny that any hint of the kind has been directly or indirectly given to me by the Collector of this district or any other authority. I claim the benefit of the well known principle of jurisprudence that a man should be presumed to be honorable unless and until he is proved to be otherwise and I ask you as gentlemen to accept this assurance, which I give as a gentleman. The only power that has prompted me to urge this measure is the one Supreme Power which resides in my heart.

17. I cannot also see why Government should be credited with any sinister designs in this connection. They are responsible equally with the Municipal Council for the proper administration of the town and I am sure that, in laying the present proposal before the Council, they were actuated by the best of motives.

18. I must also emphatically repudiate the suggestion that any one advocating the appointment of an official Municipal Chairman is an enemy to the cause of Local Self-Government. I am as ardent an advocate of it as any one else. I do not think, however, that the appointment of an official Chairman will in any way injure or retard the cause. On the contrary, I consider that a competent and trained official Chairman will, by a more efficient discharge of the duties attached to his office, further the cause and contribute to its more rapid development. The Chairman is only the executive agent or instrument of the Municipal Council which is

the real authority. He has only to set in motion the authority of the Council which is bound to exercise a careful check over him. I do not, therefore, see why those, who conscientiously recommend the appointment of an official Municipal Chairman should be stigmatized as enemies of Local self-Government.

19. I do not also see how the appointment of an official as Chairman can be construed as loss of our privilege of electing a Chairman. Government has distinctly left the choice of the man to us. We have, therefore, still the right of election. The sphere of selection is indeed limited, but it seems to me that in view of what I have stated above, it cannot be denied that an official Chairman is absolutely necessary, for some time at all events. The Government proposal, while securing what is desired, involves the least expense.

20. As an Indian to whom India is as dear as she can possibly be to any one else, official or non-official, I deplore the lamentable tendency of some of my countrymen to attribute unworthy motives to every one who ventures to differ from them. I deplore it as much on account of those gentlemen as on account of our dear common country. I am sure it will incapacitate us to do any real good to our country. I deplore also the growing tendency on the part of my non-official countrymen to attribute to their official brethren, apparently for no other fault than that they are officials, motives and actions, which they would indignantly repudiate if imputed to themselves. Such popular institutions as we now have, are of recent origin and it is but very recently that non-officials have been able to take any share in the discussion or the carrying out of practical measures. Till then, it is the official Indians, who, aided by official Anglo-Indians, did all that has made our country what she is now. Why official Indians should be supposed to have suddenly developed themselves into enemies of their own mother country, I have not been able to understand. All I can say is that I deplore this attitude, because it adds to the complications in the conditions of our existence, which require complete cordiality of feeling among all classes and concerted action.

Extract from the Proceedings of a Special meeting of the Municipal Council of Salem held on Tuesday the 2nd April 1895.

Present

Ex-Officio Chairman

Muhammad Azizuddeen Hussain Saheb Bahadur

Official Councillors

M.R.R. P. S. Ganapathi Aiyar Avergal
Surgeon Major D. D. Dymott.
D. S. Mullaly Esqre.
M.R.R. V. Radakristna Aiyar Avergal

Non Official Councillors

Revd. T. Foulkes.
" M. Seegmuller.
M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyar Avgl.
" P. Soondram Avgl. B. A.
" S. Kristnasawmi Mudr. Avgl.
" Chetti Muthiam Chettai Avgl.
" Murari Venkatachellapathi Aiyah Avgl.
Muhammad Saheb.
A. Ahammad Saheb
M.R.R. R. Alagiri Chettai Avgl.
" P. Soobraman ania Chettai Avgl.
" Raghunathasingh Avgl.
Revd. W. Robinson.
Syed Kahdor Saheb.

Read again G. O.
dated

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A. Ahammad Saheb
M.R.R R. Alagiri Chettiar Avl.
" P. Soobramania Chettiar Avl.
" Raghunathasingh Avl.
Revd W. Robinson.
Syed Kahdor Saheb.

Read again G. O.
dated

dated 24th December 1894, No. 2023 M. Mis; requesting the Municipal Council of Salem to consider and report upon the Collector's proposal to appoint a paid official Chairman for this Municipality.

(a) Proposed by M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyar Avgl. and Seconded by Dr. R.R. S. Kristnasawmi Mudeliar Avergal that this subject be adjourned until a copy of the Collector's letter on which the G. O is based, is obtained from the Government. 3 members voted for and 15 against, 1 member not voting. Not Carried.

(b) Proposed by M.R.R. P. Soondram Avl. B.A. and Seconded by Mr. J. S. Mullaly that the Municipal Council is in favour of giving a trial to the proposal of Government to appoint a paid official Chairman for the Salem Municipality.

(c) Amendment proposed by Revd.

T. Foulkes

Revd. T. Foulkes and Seconded by Muhammad Sahib that the following words be added to the above proposition:—

"and that the period for which the official Chairman shall thus be appointed, shall be one year from the date of the appointment." 3 members voted for and 15 against, one not voting. Not Carried.

(d) Further amendment proposed by M.R.R. Chetti Muthian Chettiar Avergal and Seconded by M.R.R. Murari Venkatasubbapathi Aiyah Avergal that the period for which an official Chairman shall thus be appointed be 3 years from the date of the appointment. 18 members voted for and none against, one not voting. Carried.

(e) Proposed by M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyar Avergal that the word "official" be eliminated and that the words "the best qualified man" be substituted. Ruled by the Chairman as out of

order

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(e) Proposed by M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyar Avergal that the word "official" be eliminated and that the words "the best qualified man" be substituted Ruled by the Chairman as out of order, not being an amendment but a negative of the original proposition, of which the word "official" is the essential part. At this stage of the meeting, Surgeon Major D. D. Dymott left the meeting with the consent of the Chairman to attend a professional call

(5) The original proposition as amended was then put to vote and was carried by a majority of 16 against 2; Viz, M.R.R. – S. Krishnasawmi Mudelier Avergal and M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyar Al.

2 Proposed by M.R.R. P.S. Ganapathi Aiyar Avergal and Seconded by M.R.R. V. Radhakristna Aiyar Avergal, that the pay of the official Chairman be fixed at Rs 250 including the pensionary Contribution.

Carried by a majority of 15 votes against 1, 2 members not voting.

3. Proposed by M.R.R. Chetti Muthiani Chettiar Avergal and Seconded by Syed Kahdar Sahib that the Selection of an official to be appointed as Chairman may be adjourned to the next meeting to be held on Tuesday the 9th Instant.

Carried by a majority of 16 against 1, one member not voting.

(True Extract)

Ex. Officio Chairman.

Nos

CR

No. 488

Salem Municipal Office,
Dated 5 April 1895.

FROM Muhammad Azizuddeen Unsudin Sahib Bahadur
~~M. R.~~ Ry.
~~W. VIRASAMI AIYAR AVERGAL~~,
Ex-Officio *Chairman, Municipal Council,*
Salem.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 252 M

To

THE Chief Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Department
through the Collector of Salem.

Enclosure. 1

SIR,

With reference to G.O. dated 24th December 1894 No. 2023 M. Mis:, I have the honor to submit herewith, for the information of Government, a Copy of the resolution of the Municipal Council of Salem passed at its meeting held on the 2nd Instant agreeing to the proposal of Government to have a paid Official Chairman for this municipality on trial for three years on a salary of Rs 250 per mensem, including pensionary Contribution.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Ex-officio Chairman.

To

CA

JH
47

Municipal Department.

Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1252 M

246/Sub

From

THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
SALEM.

To

THE Chief Secretary
to Government,
Local & Municipal Departments
Madras

Thro: The Collector of Salem

Dated, 5th April 1895

No. 48

Chief Secretariat, APR 1895

Salem Treasury Deputy Collector, Received APR. 95

ENCLOSURE 1.

SUBJECT.

Submitting a copy of the Resolution of the Council agreeing to the proposal of Government to have a paid official Chairman for this Municipality on Rs 250/- on trial for 3 years

2.

MRSW

Submitted

Despatched on 8-4-95

No. 246/Sub d 7.4.95.

Endorsement

Submitted to Govt.

The proposal of Govt. has been accepted with a limitation which may be accepted for the present

7-4-95
Collector

To the Chief Secretary to Government Local and Municipal Depts Madras

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To

The Ex-Officio Chairman & the Members of the Municipal Council of
SALEM.

GENTLEMEN,

The consideration of the proposal of Government in G.O. dated 24th December 1894, having been adjourned until after the election of the new members of the Council, I presume that it will shortly be placed before you.

2. This proposal having caused much pain and anxiety to many of the citizens of our town, and to myself amongst their number, it has occurred to me that there may be a way of meeting the object of the Government proposal without putting the town to the extremely painful feeling that a highly valued privilege is being taken away from them, even temporarily.

3. The proposal is that a paid Official Chairman of the rank of a Tahsildar should be selected by the Council in the place of electing a Chairman from amongst our own body, who should devote the whole of his time to the duties of this office, and so be able to apply a remedy for the short-comings, if any, of the present method of conducting the affairs of the Municipality.

4. It appears to me that the principal object sought to be obtained by the above proposal would be sufficiently secured if some one of our own body qualified to fill this office could come forward and devote his whole time to this work; and in the hope of thus substantially meeting the desire of Government without the loss of the present privilege of election possessed by the town, and so without the pain and humiliation which the proposal of Government would inflict upon us,—I feel constrained to offer my services to you without remuneration for the present term of office, if it should be your pleasure to accept them.

5. You are aware that I have sufficient knowledge of the duties of the Chairman of the Council, obtained during the six years in which I have already served as one of its members, namely for 3 years as an elected member, and for another 3 years as a nominated member. You are also aware that I am a member of the District Board of Salem, and that I was a member of the Taluk Board of Salem for 6 years, during 3 of which I was its Vice-President, and that I have held the office of Honorary Magistrate of Salem Town for the last 7 years. You are also aware that my family is one of the oldest in Salem, some member or other of it having held the Zemindary of Annadanapatty, forming part of the town of Salem, since its creation in the beginning of the present century, and which is now my property. You are also aware that my whole life for 35 years past has been spent in this town. I will also add that, should it be your opinion that my membership of the District Board, and the duties of the Honorary Magistrateship, would be incompatible with the duties of the Chairmanship of our Council, I shall be willing to resign them so as to enable me to place the whole of my time at your disposal.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,

Zemindar and elected member of the Municipal Council.

Dated 26th March 1895.

Regr No. 196/mpl of 95

1/1304 mcl 95

Municipal Council, Sale
3rd April 1895

4/4/95
mcl

The resolution that a paid official chairman must be appointed for our Municipality is so important that I feel bound to record in writing my reasons for dissenting from it.

Not to speak of the expense involved, it strikes me that no case has been made out for a departure so much and so very fundamentally opposed to all principles of true Local Self-Government so often and so authoritatively avowed and interpreted by the Madras and Indian Governments

As to the salary itself the sum proposed to be paid, namely Rupees 250 per mensem, might well be utilized in procuring a tolerably decent

[illegible]pital

capital which will greatly pave our way to initiate and work up such a large scheme as for instance the drainage scheme. I state this the more confidently as I see that one, who, in my opinion, is qualified for the place, has generously offered his full-time, without any remuneration to the service of the Municipality, if it only chose to accept ~~them~~ it. ~~thus~~ meeting the objection that no part time Chairman could do the work satisfactorily.

For information, I herewith append a copy of the paper in which the offer, referred to above, was conveyed to me as well as to every other member of the Council.

It also appears to me that the resolution contains in itself a policy of repression and retrogression when

He is either 70 or more & neither physically nor mentally fit for the place.
11/4

when it says that an official and an official alone must be chosen as our Chairman. As laid down by an eminent Anglo-Indian authority on Matters Indian "too much Constraint- too much assistance- however benevolently intended, will but distort the phenomena of progress- disturb its steady Course, and drive the Stream into dangerous channels" It is this sort of "perpetuating dry nursing" that is calculated to do the greatest mischief to the Cause of Local Self-Government. It is an acknowledged principle that in Matters of Local Self-Government what is best for the time is not best in itself ultimately. As it has been well put by an able writer "A short-sighted policy that grasps at the first Material advantage within reach and in its power without regard to rights and thought of ultimate results

is

Small beginnings of independant political life; if they accept loyally and as their own the policy of Government. And if they come to realise that the system really opens to them a fairer field for the exercise of administrative tact and directive energy than the more autocratic system which it supersedes, then it may be hoped that the period of failures will be short and that real and substantial progress will very soon become manifest.

Now, it is the educative influence that we ought to care for most. And if we are to educate ourselves in this matter we ought not easily to throw away the rare privilege and opportunity of training one of ourselves to administer our Municipal affairs.

The following words appear in para 7 of the same Resolution

"And the Governor-General in Council

has no hesitation in stating his Conviction that the only reasonable plan open to the Government is to induce the people themselves to undertake, as far as may be, the Management of their own affairs. And to develope, or create if need be, a capacity for self-help in respect of all Matters that have not for imperial reasons to be retained in the hands of the representatives of Government."

So Early as 1872 Sir Charles Trevelyan, giving his Evidence before the Finance Committee said

I was going to remark on the preparedness of the people India for this development, th by Ancient habit and ecent Cultivation. The undation of Village Society the Village Municipality;

it has been the La
Of India. One forei
Conqueror after another,
Swept over India, but e
Municipalities have st
the soil like their own 'le
grass which they lik
it ~~ha~~ is a kind of gr is
it is impossible to te tim
the roots, because it g ly
in bunches, and they so
the Village Constitution are,
that grass. They have down
nursed in it, it is perf tou
familiar to them, and ty
the large towns, for inst a
Delhi; although there
then no official Munic
yet the people acted in the
Municipal spirit. I saw
the Sahookars coming the
in a body with their the
at their head to make
representation on a Union
wh

Under Compulsion or done for them. . . . .

And it will be a school of Self-Government for the whole of India, the longest step yet taken towards teaching its two hundred millions of people to govern themselves, which is the end and object of our Connection with that Country." Surely I don't think, that it can now be said that we have, in matters political, gone down from the place accorded to us by such an Eminent authority So Early as a quarter of a century ago.

In December 1882, more tha a decade ago, the Madras Native association, under the presidency of the Honorable, the Bashyam Aiyangar gave expression under Compulsion or done for them. . . . .

And it will be a school of Self-Government for the whole of India, the longest step yet taken towards teaching its two hundred millions of people to govern themselves, which is the end and object of our connection with that country." Surely I don't think, that it can now be said that we have, in matters political, gone down from the place accorded to us by such an eminent authority so early as a quarter of a century ago.

In December 1882, more than a decade ago, the Madras Native association, under the presidency of the Honorable, the Bashyam Aiyngar gave

Expression to the following views "The sense of dependence of the people on the official classes is so great that unless the superior European officers sternly repress in their subordinat. any tendency to assume an attitude of indifference or obstruction to the measures in progress, the difficulties in working the scheme will be greatly increased and its success rendered uncertain. If on the other hand, the superior officers of Government do, as the association doubts not they will, give their hearty co-operation to the measures the Association fully believes, that the present efforts will be crowned with success which will for ever redound to the glory of the British name.

I

I would also refer to paras 6 and 18 of the same Resolution of the Government of India. These will render clear the objections to Government officials being made Chairman of Local Boards.

It may be said that some training in official routine is necessary before one could be enabled to discharge satisfactorily the duties of Chairman of a Municipality. My answer to this is that if young Civilians, strangers alike to our language and our habits, could be placed in charge of the Revenue and Criminal administration of divisions of a district and entrusted with powers ~~of~~ ~~life~~ over the person and liberty of the people, if young native gentlemen after passing a

Competative

Competitive Examination, with very little or no experience of the world or of office work could be similarly entrusted with such large powers, I fail to see why one of ourselves living, moving, and having our being in the midst of our people and so in the town, could not satisfactorily discharge the less onerous duties of the Chairman of a Municipal town – in area infinitely small as compared with a Sub-Division, and then he has no criminal powers. To this must be added the fact that there is a safeguard in the case of a Municipal Chairman which is absolutely wanting in the other instances noted namely a representative council, which will always direct its Chairman with its valuable advice, scrutinise his actions with a keen eye, and correct him where he may chance to fall into an error.

Finally, the official reasons for the proposed change have not been laid before the Council. The suggestion of Government on which the resolution is based seems to have been the direct outcome of a letter of the Collector as to the contents of which the Council are yet in the dark. At least, to indicate in what direction the future Chairman should devote his attention, it is absolutely necessary that the Council should have a copy of the Collector's letter. Under these Circumstance, I am forced

in

Res No 196/95

in discharge of my duty to
vote against the resolution,
so far-reaching in its Consequences.
I might also add that the
non-Consideration of the offer
of M.R.Ry. S. Krishnaswamy Mudaliar
Avl and the ruling of the
Chair that my amendment
that the words "best qualified
person" be substituted for the
word "official" was out of order,
are illegal and in my humble
opinion vitiate the resolution
I am voting against

?!!

S. Rameswamy Ayar
Municipal Councillor

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1304 M

Endorsement No. 489.

To,
The Chief Secretary
to Govt.
Local and Municipal
Dept.
Madras
thro: the Collector of
Salem

Respectfully forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Govt., Local and Municipal Dept., in continuation of ~~this~~ No. 488 dated 5th April 95.

2. This is a minute of dissent by Vakil M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyer Avargal, a Municipal Councillor.

3. As regards the observations contained in the last para, I do not think that I need offer any remarks, as M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyer's fight is against the majority.

Ex Officio Chairman
Salem Mpl. Office
9 April 95.

To,

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No 1304/M
SALEM

10 APL 95
HUZUR TREASURY.

From
THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
SALEM.

To
THE Chief Secretary to Govt.
Local and Munl. Dept.
Madras
thro' the Collector of Salem

Dated, 9. April 95
17 APR. 95
No. 485.

ENCLOSURE 12

SUBJECT.

Forwarding, with remarks, the minute of dissent of Mr. R.R. S. Ramasa Aiyar avargal, a Municipal Commissioner of Salem

Despatched on Endorsement No: 2-4 T/95 297/Sub 11.4.95

Sd

Collector

11/4

PTO

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Current Nos 1252 M & 1304 M/95.

From the Chairman, M.C., Salem.

Note. The letter referred to in the Private Secretary's D.O. of the 6th inst: has not yet been received –

FOR ORDERS.

Please see the notes and orders in G.O. dd 24th December 1894, No 2023 M. In para. 3 of this order the municipal council of Salem was requested to consider & report upon the proposal that a trained Government official who could devote his whole time to municipal matters may be appointe to the Chairmanship and shou -it agree to its adoption to select for the place some Gover ment servant of not less than ten years' standing & of the rank of a Tahsildar.

2. With the first of the currents read above, the Chairman forwards a resolution of the municipal council agreeing to the appointment of a paid official Chairman on trial for 3 years and the Collector in forwarding it recommends that this limitation may be accepted.

3. The second current is another letter from the Chairman forwarding the minute of dissent of one of the councillors and an application from another (a Zemindar) offering to take up the honorary Chairmanship expressing his willingness to give his whole time to municipal work.x

x Note.- He is stated by the Collector to be quite unfit for it.

4. Under the circumstances, t is submitted that the muni- ipal council's proposal may e approved.

20/4/95

5. The selection of an official for the place had been adjourned

VR
23/4/95

GT
24/4.

a/6/95

I should not fancy he
will make a strong Chairm
but I think he will tr
& work conscientiously a
not mix himself up in
intrigues.

Yours sincerely

A. Elphinstone Stuart.

1/1445 Mof 95

C1575-Munb-Ship

Extract from the Proceedings of a Special meeting of the Municipal Council of Salem held on Saturday the 20th April 1875.

Present

Ex-officio Chairman

Muhammad Azizuddeen Hossein Saheb Bahadur

Official Councillors

M.R.R. P.S. Ganapathi Aiyar Avl.
" V. Radhakristna Aiyar "

Non-official Councillors

Revd. T. Foulkes.
Revd. M. Seegmuller
M.R.R. S. Ramasawmi Aiyar Avl.
" P. Soondram Avl. B.a.
" S. Kristnasawmi Mudeliar Al.
" Chetti Muthiah Chettiar Avl.
" M. Venkatachellapathi Aiyah Avl.
Syed Kahdar Sahib
Muhammad Sahib
A. Ahammad Sahib
M.R.R. R. Alagiri Chettiar Avl.
" K. Thammanna Chettiar Avl.
" P. Soobramania Chettiar Avl.
" Raghunatha Singh Avl.

1 (a) Proposed by M.R.R. P.S. Ganapathi Aiyar Avergal and Seconded by Revd. T. Foulkes That a reference be made to

Government asking them to enlighten the Council as to whether they insist upon a minimum of 10 years' Service in the Official to be selected for the office of Chairman and also what they mean by the expression "of the rank of Tahsildar", whether it means an officer occupying the position of Tahsildar or whether it includes officers holding positions Corresponding in rank to the post of Tahsildar and if so to be so good as to specify the Classes of appointments which should be regarded as corresponding in rank to the position of Tahsildar and that the selection of Government officer for the post of Chairman be postponed until the wishes of Government are known.

5 voted for and 11 against, ~~and~~ one not voting. The proposition was therefore lost.

(b) Proposed by M.R.R. P. Soondram Avl. B.A.

and

and Seconded by Muhammad Saheb that M.R.R. A. Pushpanatha Pillai, B.A. Acting Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai, be selected for the post of Chairman.

(c) Amendment proposed by M.R.R. P. S. Ganapathi Aiyar Avl. and Seconded by M.R.R. V. Radhakrishna Aiyar Avl., that the following words be added after the word Chairman " The Government making arrangements to transfer him to this District, with a view to his appointment as a Councillor under Section 11 of the Municipal Act."

Two voted for and 11 against, 4 not voting. The amendment was lost.

(d) Proposed by Revd. T. Foulkes that it is not Competant for any person to be proposed as Chairman whose name has not been placed before the Council previous to the meeting so as to give to the Councillors an opportunity of ascertaining his qualifications.

Ruled by the Chairman as out of order, with reference to para 15 of the rules framed by the Council under the Act, not being an amendment, but a direct negative of the original motion.

(e) Proposed by M.R.R. P.S. Ganapathi Aiyar Avgl. and seconded by Revd. J. Foulkes that M.R.R. A. Pushpanatha Pillai having been proposed for the Office of Chairman by M.R.R. P. Soondram Avgl., on the strength of a private letter to him from M.R.R. A. Pushpanatha Pillai, and some at least of the Co-Councillors not having had opportunities for making enquiries about his qualifications, the meeting be adjourned for a fortnight to enable the Councillors to make the necessary enquiries.

5 voted

5 voted for, and 11 against, one not voting. The amendment was lost.

(f) The original proposition was then put to vote and carried by a majority of 11 votes, none against, 6 members not voting.

(Signed) Md. Azizuddeen
Ex. officio Chairman.

(True copy)

Ex. officio Chairman.

Co

CA

2/1445 Mun 95

No. 503

Salem Municipal Office.
Dated 20. April 1895.

From Muhammad Azizuddin Hussain Sahib ~~M. R. Ry.~~ ~~W. VIRASAMI AIYAR AVERGAL,~~ Bahadur.
Ex. officio Chairman, Municipal Council,
Salem.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1445 M

To
THE Chief Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Department
Madras.
through the Collector of Salem.

Enclosure. 1

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith, for the information of Government, a Copy of the Proceedings of a Special meeting of the Municipal Council held on the 20th Instant, and to request that the Government will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements for lending the Services of M.R.R. A. Pushpanatha Pillai Avergal B.A., Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai for the office of Chairman of this Municipality.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
Azizuddin
Ex. officio Chairman

Urgent

Municipal Department.

From Ex Officio
THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
SALEM.

To
THE Chief Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Depart.
Madras
through the Collector of Salem

Dated, 20th April 1895

No. 503.

ENCLOSURE 1

SUBJECT.

Submitting a copy of the Proceedings of the Council dated 20th Instant and requesting to make the necessary arrangements for lending the services of M.R.R. A. Pushpanatha Pillai B.A. Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai for the office of Chairman of this Municipality

Endorsement

Submitted to Government in Continuation of this Office Endorsement No dated , with reference to Government order No 2073. M. Mu. dated 24th December 1894.

2. In this letter the Chairman reports that the Council, at the Special meeting called for the purpose of selecting a Chairman, have selected M. R. Ry A. Pushpanada Pillai Avl B. A. Acting Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai in the South Arcot District, an officer of over 12 years of Service. At this Special meeting, he was the only name proposed, and 11 Councillors out of 17 present voted for him. As in my opinion there is no valid objection to the Council's choice, I recommend it to the acceptance

arranged accordingly with Mr. Stuart, as Government will see from the appended letter. I will complete this transaction without delay.

7. If Government approves of the choice of the Council, I would ask that the appointment of M.R.Ry Pushpanada Pillai to the Council may be gazetted as soon as possible

after
of this [illegible] er his appoint
tted, the
rmans

Chairman will at onc
be able to take steps for
his election as Chairman
under the rules.

Collector.

Salem
Collector's Office
30th April '95

Cno 1252 L/95
Cno 1304 L/95
2023 L 24-12-94.

6000—3-8-94.

~~Local & Municipal~~ ~~Department.~~

Local & Municipal Dep^t.

From the Collector 1445 M

~~and District Magistrate,~~

of Salem.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Local & Municipal
Dept.

Dated 30. april 95
Recd 1-5-95

No.

Enclosure. 1.2

Subject.

Submitting, with remarks, the letter of the Ex-officio chairman of the Municipal Council Salem, regarding the Selection by the Council, at a Special Meeting, of M.R.Ry Pushpananda Pillai Avl B.A. as Chairman

---

To

The Ex-Officio Chairman & the Members of the Municipal Council of SALEM.

GENTLEMEN,

The consideration of the proposal of Government in G.O. dated 24th December 1894, having been adjourned until after the election of the new members of the Council, I presume that it will shortly be placed before you.

2. This proposal having caused much pain and anxiety to many of the citizens of our town, and to myself amongst their number, it has occurred to me that there may be a way of meeting the object of the Government proposal without putting the town to the extremely painful feeling that a highly valued privilege is being taken away from them, even temporarily.

3. The proposal is that a paid Official Chairman of the rank of a Tahsildar should be selected by the Council in the place of electing a Chairman from amongst our own body, who should devote the whole of his time to the duties of this office, and so be able to apply a remedy for the short-comings, if any, of the present method of conducting the affairs of the Municipality.

4. It appears to me that the principal object sought to be obtained by the above proposal would be sufficiently secured if some one of our own body qualified to fill this office could come forward and devote his whole time to this work; and in the hope of thus substantially meeting the desire of Government without the loss of the present privilege of election possessed by the town, and so without the pain and humiliation which the proposal of Government would inflict upon us,—I feel constrained to offer my services to you without remuneration for the present term of office, if it should be your pleasure to accept them.

5. You are aware that I have sufficient knowledge of the duties of the Chairman of the Council, obtained during the six years in which I have already served as one of its members, namely for 3 years as an elected member, and for another 3 years as a nominated member. You are also aware that I am a member of the District Board of Salem, and that I was a member of the Taluk Board of Salem for 6 years, during 3 of which I was its Vice-President, and that I have held the office of Honorary Magistrate of Salem Town for the last 7 years. You are also aware that my family is one of the oldest in Salem, some member or other of it having held the Zemindary of Annadanapatty, forming part of the town of Salem, since its creation in the beginning of the present century, and which is now my property. You are also aware that my whole life for 35 years past has been spent in this town. I will also add that, should it be your opinion that my membership of the District Board, and the duties of the Honorary Magistrateship, would be incompatible with the duties of the Chairmanship of our Council, I shall be willing to resign them so as to enable me to place the whole of my time at your disposal.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
Sd/- Kristnasami Mudeliar

Dated 26th March 1895.

Zemindar and elected member of the
Municipal Council.

To, M.R.Ry. W. Veerasawmy Iyer, Avl

12
7/4/95

To.

The Chief Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Department.
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor, in submitting the enclosed letter to Government, to request that you will be pleased to over-look the several corrections necessitated by the bad printing of the paper at Madras. I am anxious that it should be considered along with the resolution of the Municipal Council and I am afraid if I waited for a clean copy I may be too late. I hope under the circumstances Government will excuse the untidy appearance of the letter.

1st May 1895
Salem

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient and humble
Servant
V. Viswami Aiyar
Late Chairman.
Municipal Council
Salem

2/1458 M of 95

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1458M

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,
MADRAS

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to place this letter before His Excellency in Council at an early date in view to its being considered along with the resolution~~s~~ of the Salem Municipal Council, dated the 20th April 1895, recommending that the Acting Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore District, be appointed as Chairman of the Salem Municipal Council for the next three years. I ~~thus~~ approach His Excellency in Council with this application because I am satisfied that it is the only way of placing the real truth before the Government in justice to the ~~late administration of Salem~~ Municipal Council and in justice to myself as its Chairman for six years.

2. I respectfully beg to offer my humble protest against this resolution and also against the resolution of the same Council, dated 2nd April 1895 in pursuance of G. O., dated 24th December 1894 as being a reflection upon me personally as Chairman of the Salem Municipal Council for the last six years and upon the general administration of Municipal affairs in Salem up to close of 1894. The new measure is also, I submit, uncalled-for by the circumstances of the Salem Municipality, nor is the action of the present Municipal Council as embodied in the two resolutions above alluded to legal and fair.

3. The Salem Municipality is one of the oldest in the Madras Presidency. The Townspeople had the privilege of electing half the number of the Councillors years before the new liberal Act of 1884 was passed. Under this Act this privilege might have been, but was not, extended to the full measure, namely, three-fourths of the number on the roll.

4. In 1888, the Council was granted the privilege of electing its own Chairman. The first Chairman elected was a non-official Mahomedan gentleman. He however vacated office in a few weeks. I was then elected as Chairman in October 1888, and having been re-elected, continued in office till November 1894, when my term as Councillor expired. The Head-quarter Deputy Collector and Magistrate has since been the *ex-officio* Chairman.

5. The administration of the Salem Municipal Council during the six years I was its Chairman was, I must take the liberty to say, a success. The Government, I am thankful to say, throughout accorded its appreciation of my work. In the very first report relating to my administration it says: "The Government trusts that the present Chairman who appears to have worked with much energy will succeed in placing the finances of the Municipality on a satisfactory footing." How far I fulfilled this expectation let the figures speak. The revenue of the Municipality in the official year preceding my election as Chairman, *viz.*, for 1887-88 was Rs. 59,008 : the same for 1893-94 was Rs. 79,094. In other words there was a gradual increase in the revenue until in five years, the increase was over Rs. 20,000, while the sources of income continued to be the same. I need not draw the attention of His Excellency in Council to the amount of time and labour that should have been devoted by me to secure this result.

6. I do not think it necessary here to enter into the details of the administration of the Salem Municipality for the past six years during which I was its Chairman. In the very G. O. of the 24th December 1894 the Government is pleased to accord its unqualified approval of my work. It also says therein that it was pleased to note, the Collector bearing

2/1458 M of 95

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1458 M

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,
MADRAS

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to place this letter before His Excellency in Council at an early date in view to its being considered along with the resolution~~s~~ of the Salem Municipal Council, dated the 20th April 1895, recommending that the Acting Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore District, be appointed as Chairman of the Salem Municipal Council for the next three years. I ~~thus~~ approach His Excellency in Council with this application because I am satisfied that it is the only way of placing the real truth before the Government in justice to the ~~late administration of Salem~~ Municipal Council and in justice to myself as its Chairman for six years.

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2/1458. M 10/9/95

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1458/M

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,
MADRAS

SIR,

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to place this letter before His Excellency in Council at an early date in view to its being considered along with the resolution~~s~~ of the Salem Municipal Council, dated the 20th April 1895, recommending that the Acting Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore District, be appointed as Chairman of the Salem Municipal Council for the next three years. I ~~thus~~ approach His Excellency in Council with this application because I am satisfied that it is the only way of placing the real truth before the Government in justice to the ~~late administration of Salem~~ Municipal Council and in justice to myself as its Chairman for six years.

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6. I do not think it necessary here to enter into the details of the administration of the Salem Municipality for the past six years during which I was its Chairman. In the very G. O. of the 24th December 1894 the Government is pleased to accord its unqualified approval of my work. It also says therein that it was pleased to note, the Collector bearing

testimony to my exertions. In fact, the Government was pleased to admit therein that I did as much good work as a non-official who could not give the whole of his time to Municipal affairs was expected to do.

7. The departure which the G. O. suggests—I advisedly say suggests and it does nothing more although in some quarters it is deemed, by mistake, a mandate from the Government—based upon the probability of a Chairman who could devote the whole of his time to Municipal affairs, proving a greater success, especially if he were a trained Government official of ten years' standing and of the grade of a Tahsildar. It may be observed here that Salem never had for its Chairman or President as he was called before the Act of 1884, one who gave his full time to Muncipal affairs. Up to the middle of 1888, it was presided over by officials, who had a lot of other duties to perform and since then except for a few weeks, I was its Chairman. But since my administration was, I must beg leave to add, not only a success in fact, but was also approved from time to time by the Sanitary Commissioner, Collector, and the Government, the sudden necessity for so great a departure in the policy of the Government to the District Municipalities generally and to the Salem Municipality in particular is far from apparent. I could only imagine that the idea originated somewhere which the Collector of Salem seized and made his own without stopping to consider the pros and cons of acting on it.

8. The action of the subordinate officials in Salem in consequence of the said G. O. of the 24th December as *they interpreted* it and the action of the present Municipal Council as constituted by the recent elections and nominations under their influence, has brought matters to a crisis. I will take their action at the last three meetings of the Municipal Council *seriatim* and not make any allusion to the ways and means by which citizens, who might and ought to have been with advantage both to the people and to the Government, placed on the Municipal Council were got rid off. The first of these meetings by the new Municipal Council was held to consider the G. O., of the 24th December last. It was apparent to those that watched the proceedings that the *ex-officio* Chairman, Mr. Azizudeen Sahib, and his friends and supporters had made up their minds before they came into the meeting. The proceedings were accordingly conducted in an irregular and high-handed way. A very important amendment to the effect that instead of the words "Government servant" in the G. O., the words "the best qualified person" was nervously ruled out of order as being no amendment at all. Then there was the offer of M. R. Ry. S. Kristnasami Mudeliar Avergal, an elected Municipal Councillor, to devote the whole of his time to Municipal affairs, if he were accepted as Chairman. This gentleman is a native of Salem, comes of a very good family, is Zemindar of Annadanaputti and other mittas and a rich and influential man. He is an educated man, knows English well and a man of blameless character as both friends and foes will admit. His offer was made from the purest of motives and would, if accepted, have saved the Government and the Municipality from an unnecessarily embarrassing position and also saved Rs. 3,000 a year. This offer, though made in writing and in time, was not, placed before the Council at all for its consideration. A copy of his application to the *ex-officio* Chairman is herewith submitted. I respectfully submit that the resolution of the majority of the Municipal Council passed under such circumstances is illegal and extremely unfair and should deprive it of all weight with the Government.

9. The next meeting was held a week after for the selection of a competent man as Chairman. Here again it was but too clear that the matter had been previously settled by Mr. Azizudeen Sahib and the nine Councillors, who made up their minds to vote at his beck invariably. There were innumerable applicants for the post. But Mr. Azizudeen Sahib's majority passed a resolution to the effect that M. R. Ry. S. Ramasami Mudaliar Avergal, the Collector's English Head Clerk, who had not applied for the place be selected as Chairman, defeating the minority, who proposed M. R. Ry. Sambaiyar Avergal, Tahsildar of Attoor, who was one of the applicants. Mr. G. Stokes might well have become ~~been~~ sick when he heard of this resolution. But whatever be the cause, M.R.Ry. Ramasami Mudeliar Avergal, the Chairman selected declined the offer, and strange to say M.R.Ry. Sambaiyar Avergal withdrew his application too, evidently with a view to leave the Council free to hold a new meeting, which might not have been legal, if he had not so withdrawn. I need not dwell here on the propriety or otherwise of the selection of M.R.Ry. S. Ramasami Mudaliar Avergal, if indeed it was legal. He is not a Government servant of ten years' standing, he is not a Tahsildar, and he did not ask for the place.

10. The Council proceeded to work again, being summoned to meet at the requisition of the same nine Councillors who had voted for M.R.Ry. Ramasami Mudaliar Avergal and who wished this time to select "a more suitable person" as they phrase it in the letter of requisition, no doubt being angry with him. This more suitable person was found in the person of a Deputy Tahsildar in the Cuddalore District, who is now acting or *sub pro tem* Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai. There was no application by this gentleman before the Council and the Council had no knowledge of his antecedents or qualifications. In spite of the protest of the minority, who at last cried for time, if only to know all about this gentleman, the majority passed a resolution selecting him. The selection is very clumsy. He might decline to accept the appointment. His Collector might decline to part with his services. He is not of the grade of a Tahsildar within the meaning of the G. O. of the 24th December. Above all, it is in the highest degree objectionable as he is not an official of this District, and as Government cannot (*Vide* Sec. 11 of Act IV. of 1884) appoint him a member of the Municipal Council of Salem, without previously transferring him to the official staff of this District, which it can only do by turning out some Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar of this District. Has the majority of the Municipal Council shown any reason why the Government should be called upon to adopt so unusual and circuitous a course in favour of the unknown gentleman of Cuddalore?

11. I have not as yet touched upon the effect produced upon the mind of the public at Salem by the G. O. of the 24th December. If the suggestion in this G. O. is adopted, it involves a withdrawal of the privilege of the Municipal Council to elect its own Chairman granted to it in 1888. There is no other way really to give effect to the G. O. This has been long foreseen by the public and they were sincerely sorry the Government thought it necessary to inflict the severe punishment upon the Town of Salem, admittedly for ~~absolutely~~ no cause ~~shown.~~ This feeling of pain was enhanced from time to time by the by no means creditable manœuvres of the subordinate executive officials both in and out of the Council. Personally I feel strongly in the matter, for over and above the feelings as one of the public, the whole action of the Government, the Collector and the present Municipal Council, cannot but be regarded as a reflection upon my character as Chairman of the Salem Municipality for the last 6 years. There can be no doubt that it is and several facts are pointed to by *bona fide* critics that the reflection was both intended and foreseen by the officials here. One fact is this; they ask why was it that I was not recommended to the Government for re-nomination as Councillor while during the last 9 years I was without any solicitation on my part, thrice recommended for nomination by two Collectors, Mr. MacWaters and Mr. Stokes. Is it necessary in the interests of the Municipality, and is it not fair to me that I should be in the Council, if only to explain what otherwise would not be apparent in the long history of 6 years' administration? I have been blamed for not inaugurating any great work of permanent usefulness. But is this quite a fact or is it only half a truth? If it is only a half truth is it not necessary to know what I really did in that direction if only to apportion the blame. When I accepted office as Chairman I knew that the duties and responsibilities meant not only devotion and energy but also some sacrifice of my income arising if not from the diminution of my practice but certainly from its not increasing. I yet cheerfully accepted this situation not from vanity nor from the least infirmity to obtain praise but from a sincere desire to connect my administration of the Salem Municipality with some marked work of permanent utility that would at once add to the greater health and comfort of the Town. I have been at the drainage and water-supply schemes several times and in

various aspects. The drainage scheme would have been introduced here but for the fact that the Sanitary Engineer's hands are full of other work and because the Government no doubt in conjunction with the Sanitary Engineer would not place it in the forefront of the programme for this purpose for the whole Presidency. All that the Municipality could do has been done in this matter. Levels were taken and the whole Town surveyed and mapped. As regards the water-supply scheme there were several that were thought of, investigated and abandoned either because the water was condemned, the supply was found to be insufficient or the cost prohibitive. I was last investigating a new scheme at the Shevaroy Hills when my term expired. It is my idea that this scheme could be worked to success. The realization of these two important schemes was ever present to my mind and I ~~stirred~~ strained every nerve to place the finances on a solid and satisfactory footing as the steady increase in the Revenue during my administration would show. The discharge of this part of my duty, Government may easily conceive, involved a considerable amount of unpopularity, which I did not shrink from.

12. His Excellency in Council will thus see there has been absolutely no ground shown against me personally or against the Council to warrant the sudden and unexpected departure in ~~its~~ this relations with the Salem Municipality—a departure involving the loss of the much-cherished privilege of the Council electing its own Chairman, which privilege I respectfully submit, has *not* been abused. Neither the Government nor the Collector says that it has been. Is it then unnatural that the Salem people should view with alarm and uneasiness the action of the Government, which feelings are far from being allayed by the action of the executive and of the present Municipal majority quite under the control of the subordinate local executive?

13. ~~The desire to~~ have a Chairman who can devote his whole time to Municipal affairs though it appears very natural is new and not contemplated by the law as embodied in the District Municipalities Act, nor by the views of Government of India from the time of Lord Mayo up to the time of Lord Ripon and which views led to the introduction of more liberal laws for Local Boards. There is hardly any justification for the startling ground that the full-time Chairman should be a Government servant and this step is altogether opposed to the policy of the Government of India and to the policy which that Government has recommended to Local Governments for adoption. In its famous Resolution of the 8th May, 1882, the Government of India says "the Governor-General-in-Council has no hesitation in stating his conviction that the only reasonable plan open to the Government is to *induce the people themselves to undertake as far as may be, the management of their own affairs* and to develop or *create* if need be, a capacity for self-help in respect of all matters that have not for *imperial reasons* to be retained in the hands of the representatives of Government." Further on it says "there is no antecedent improbability in the theory that if non-official auxiliary agency were more thoroughly organised and *more fully* trusted, there would be a speedy and marked improvement not only in its amount but in its efficiency." After pointing out the various advantages of having non-officials as Chairman it says "the Governor-General-in-Council therefore would wish to see non-official persons acting, wherever practicable as Chairman of the Local Boards." It does not rest content with having said that the Chairman should be non-officials wherever practicable. It goes on further and says that the appointment of such Chairman should be by the Boards themselves in as many places as possible. "The Governor-General-in-Council would be glad to see the Boards allowed, in as many cases as possible, to elect each its own Chairman." It is thus clear that what the Government of India impressed upon Local Governments is that the Chairman of Local Boards should be non-officials and that their appointment should be by election by the Boards themselves except where the course is impracticable. There can be no doubt the Government of India was thinking when it speaks of impracticability of the extremely backward parts of the country such as the Agency Tracts of the Circars.

p 597 P.C
29 6 92

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14. The G. O of the 24th December strikes at the root of these two fundamental principles and would at once have a highly paid official as the Chairman of the Salem Municipality and appoint him too itself. Is it impracticable to have a non-official for the Chairman of the Salem Municipal Council? Is it impracticable to leave the Council to elect its own Chairman? Such a plea cannot be advanced for a moment. If not, is this calculated "to develop or create, if need be, a capacity for self-help in respect of all matters that have not for imperial reasons to be retained in the hands of the representatives of Government?" Can any imperial reasons be urged for this course?

15. But one word on the argument about a full time Chairman. I think this ground cannot be long seriously maintained. On the one hand it is urged that Municipal institutions are not native to the Indian soil and the ideas should be driven in to the Indian mind. If this is so, it is necessary that the Chairman should be if possible men who have received an University education. Now in this country men who have received an English education are all absorbed in Government service and in various professions. Very few such there are ~~such~~, who can command and devote the whole of their time to unselfish and public affairs. If the Government will give effect to the resolutions and policy of the Government of India and to the liberal Act of 1884, it cannot call for a full-time Chairman.

16. In Salem however, by shere accident such a man was found in the person of M. R. Ry. S. Kristnasami Mudeliar Avergal, Zemindar, and the ignoring of his noble offer to act as Chairman becomes the more reprehensible therefore.

17. I would also urge that, remembering that the Bar every year receives additions while the country grows poorer, a Pleader in the Mofussil has ordinarily plenty of leisure to devote to public matters I myself worked for hours every day ~~except very rarely~~ and sometimes late in the evening. In fact, I respectfully deny that a full-time Chairman could have done more, or that more time than I devoted was necessary for the administration of the Salen Municipality. If the Collector thought so, he might well have told me so long ago and I would have found more time. As it was, the idea that my time was insufficient was sprung upon me and everybody.

18. If a highly educated man who can devote his whole time to Municipal affairs should be attached to the Municipal Council, I strongly urge that he be attached permanently to the office on a good salary, say from Rs. 100 to 150. He could be called the Secretary and be placed over the present head of the office known as the Manager. This would leave the constitution of the Municipal Council and its privileges unaffected while the development or creation of capacity for self-help in Municipal affairs will go on unchecked. For this purpose no change in the law or the policy of the Government is necessary.

19. In the end I respectfully but firmly deny that the necessity for introducing so great a change as that suggested by the G. O. of the 24th December has been shown. On the other hand this measure has caused a widespread heart-burning and brought matters in Salem to a crisis. It has created bitter factions and it has created a new environment around the executive here. In short, it has quite unnecessarily placed Government in an embarrassing position to the dismay of its loyal citizens here.

20. I would respectfully suggest that the old state of things be left alone as the best remedy for the present state of things caused by taking too zealous an action under the G. O. of the 24th December which state of things was made more and more complicated and painful by the action of the subordinate executive officers and their friends in the Municipal Council.

21. It is a ~~farce~~ delusion to suppose that a Deputy Tahsildar such as M. R. Ry. Pushpanatha Pillay Avergal of Cuddalore, the gentleman selected and M. R. Ry. S. Ramasami Mudeliar Avergal, the gentleman selected once, is likely to know more of Municipal administration than myself who worked hard at it with zeal for six years as Chairman and as Councillor for

three years before I was elected as Chairman. No reason has been shown why I was not renominated at once. Seeing that I have done so much towards the introduction of the water-supply and drainage schemes I expected to be let in. I do beg that the Government will be pleased to renominate me as anyhow a vacancy will have to be created shortly by compulsorily retiring an official Councillor as there is the full number of one-fourth on the roll now.

21. My humble prayer shortly is:—

(1) that under the circumstances stated above, the Government will be pleased to let things alone and thereby calm the popular uneasiness;

(2) that if the Government do not find its way to do so, then to be pleased to accept the services of M. R. Ry. S. Kristnasami Mudaliar Avergal as Chairman without any remuneration;

(3) that if unfortunately the Government insists on having a paid Chairman in order to secure his full time, then it will be pleased to appoint me and thereby give me an opportunity to carrry out my schemes. It is also a piece of simple justice to me as the G. O. based on the recommendation of the Collector is regarded by all as a severe condemnation in effect of my administration and a reflection on my character, to which idea color is also given by the Collector after long keeping the vacancy caused by the expiry of my term did not choose to recommend me for re-nomination. I would submit to any conditions. I am willing to act as before. I am willing to confine my practice to Salem or if appointed as paid Chairman, I am willing to suspend my practice for three years. I only echo the universal opinion that some such remedy in the order in which I have mentioned it above is necessary in the interests of Government, the Collector, the Municipal Council and the people.

I sincerely trust His Excellency in Council will give his most careful consideration to the whole subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
~~M. VIRASAWMI IYAR~~,
Late Chairman, Municipal Council, Salem.

1st May 1895 }
Salem

[9]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1458 M

From W.

W. Veeraswami Aiyar
late Chairman, Municipal
Council, Salem

E

No.

Dated 1-5-95

Received 2-5-95

Enclosures

SUBJECT

Protesting against the resolution of the Municipal Council, Salem recommending that the tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai may be appointed as chairman of the Salem Municipal Council.

Cno 1445 h/5/95
Cno 1359 h/5/95
1601 L.L. 2-11-94
1119 L. 21-8-94
714 L.L. 7-6-94

462 L. 30-4-94
578 L. 5-92
855 L. 18-5-92
18 L. 5-1-92
17 L. 5-1-92
1828 L.L. 23-10-91
1587 L. 28-9-91
277 L.L. 24-3-84

done
P.R.
28/5

TELEGRAPHS. Monthly Number. 1351

From (Office) Ootacamund

Official Instructions.

From (Person) Collector

Telegram
W. Veeraswami Aiyar

... Councils
... them alone pass
... else please delay
... I arrive ...

Telegraph Master.

OOTACAMUND 7 5 95

C. G. P.—No 39 T—25-5-94—40,00,000.

F. C1.

Salem appointment of a paid chairman

Under the circumstances I don't think there is any doubt but what Pushpavanam Pillai's election should be accepted & arrangements be made accordingly

19/5

L and M. DEPARTMENT.

Nos 1445 M and 1458 M.

From the Collector of Salem and

M. R. Ry. Viraswámi Aiyar

I agree W

28 May

Dated 30th April and 1st May 1895.

FOR ORDERS.

If the Council had chosen, in reply to the G.O. of Dec 24, ~~to [illegible]~~ move Govt. to allow them to elect a non-official as Chairman, provided only he were a whole-time man, I don't know that I should have said "no" — Indeed, I think I should have assented — But the Council did not do so, but have proceeded ~~to~~ elect one Pushpavanada Pillai a s.p.t. Tahr. in S. Arct. He does not seem to be an ideal man, but I think that, as he has been elected, his election should be accepted, and the consequent necessary arrangements be made as recommended by the Collr.

I see that the C.S. says that if this is done there will be a considerable storm in Salem. I don't see why — The time for the storm seems to me to be over — There was a storm but the d.o. letters from Mr. Stokes which are in the sealed cover show that the storm, such as it was, demolished the party which was opposed to the whole-time — official — Chairman idea.

As for the re-appt. as a Member of the Council of M. Virasami Ayar, if he is such an able and successful man as he represents he ought to be able to secure election the next time there is a vacancy. Whether he should, in the event of there not soon being a vacancy, be reappd. by Govt. is a matter the Collr. might be consulted

Supposing the [illegible] question, if the Collr.

The papers relating to the appointment of a paid Chairman for the Salem Municipality are submitted for final disposal.

2. In C. No. 1252 M the Council has accepted the suggestion of Government to appoint a trained Government official to carry on the Chairman's work and to pay him for so doing, and their action has been approved by G.O. (vide linked file). In the first of the currents read above the Collector forwards for approval a resolution selecting the Acting Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai for the place. The second current is a petition from the ex-Chairman objecting in the first place to the appointment of a paid Chairman at all and in the second place to the selection of this particular man. This petition is the one referred to in the Private Secretary's d.o. of the 6th April.

3. It will be best to deal with it first. The objections to the course pursued by Government and the majority of the Municipal Council are both general and personal. The general ones have all been raised before and disposed of by the order on C. Nos 1252 and 1304. The personal ones are all met in G.O. No 20 / 24-12 with the exception of the question of the renomination of M. R. Ry. Viraswámi Aiyar as a Municipal Councillor which is for the consideration of Government. The petition concludes with these requests. The first

Salem appointment of a paid chairman

Under the circumstances I don't think there is any doubt that Pushpanadan Pillai's election shd be accepted & arrangements be made accordingly

21/5

L and M. DEPARTMENT.

Nos 1445 M and 1458 M.

From the Collector of Salem and
M. R. Ry. Viraswámi Aiyar

I agree W
23 May

Dated 30th April and 1st May 1895.

FOR ORDERS.

If the Council had chosen, in reply to the G.O. of Dec 24, ~~to~~ to move Govt. to allow them to elect a non-official as Chairman, provided only he were a whole-time man, ~~I don't know that~~ I should have ~~said "no" – Indeed, I think I should~~ have assented – But the Council did not do so, but have proceeded ~~to~~ elect one Pushpanada Pillai, a S.P.C. Tahr. in S. Arcot. He does not seem to be an ideal man, but I think that, as he has been elected, his election should be accepted, and the consequent necessary arrangements be made as recommended by the Collr. I see that the C.S. says that if this is done there will be a considerable storm in Salem. I don't see why – The time for the storm seems to me to be over – There was a storm but the d.o. letters from Mr. Stokes which are in the sealed cover show that the storm, such as it was, demolished the party which was opposed to the whole-time – official – Chairman idea.

As for the re-appt. as a Member of the Council of M. Virasami Ayar, if he is such an able and successful man as he represents he ought to be able to secure election the next time there is a vacancy. Whether he should, in the event of there not soon being a vacancy, be reappd. by Govt. is a matter the Collr. might be consulted [illegible] question, if the Collr.

Order follows

C.S.

The papers relating to the appointment of a paid Chairman for the Salem Municipality are submitted for final disposal.

2. In C. no. 1252 M the Council has accepted the suggestion of Government to appoint a trained Government official to carry on the Chairman's work and to pay him for so doing, and their action has been approved by H. M. (vide linked file). In the first of the currents read above the Collector forwards for approval a resolution selecting the Acting Tahsildar of Tiruvannamalai for the place. The second current is a petition from the ex-Chairman objecting in the first place to the appointment of a paid Chairman at all and in the second place to the selection of this particular man. This petition is the one referred to in the Private Secretary's d.o. of the 6th April.

3. It will be best to deal with it first. The objections to the course pursued by Government and the majority of the Municipal Council are both general and personal. The general ones have all been raised before and disposed of by the order on C. nos 1252 and 1304. The personal ones are all met in G.O. $\frac{4029}{24\cdot12}$ with the exception of the question of the renomination of M. R. Ry. Viraswámi Aiyar as a Municipal Councillor which is for the consideration of Government. The petition concludes with three requests. The first

is that Government will "let things alone" or in other words cancel all its previous orders in the matter which is out of the question. The second is that the offer of one M. R. Ry Krishnaswámi Mudeliar to give his time gratis to the Council and carry on the Chairman's work may be accepted. Mr. Stokes has said that the man is totally unfit for it and this question has been disposed of in the order on no 1252 m. The third is that Government will appoint M. R. Ry. Virasawámi Aiyar himself as paid Chairman of the Municipality. This seems utterly unreasonable, ~~[illegible]~~.

4. The only portion of the petition worthy of serious consideration appears to be the request that M. R. Ry Virasawámi Aiyar should be reappointed as an ordinary member of the Council on a vacancy occurring. In this connection Mr. Stokes's remarks in his d. o. of 30.4.95 deserve attention.

5. The question of the appointment of the Chairman selected by the Council remains for consideration. As Mr. Stokes says, there appears to be no valid objection to the selection and M. R. Ry Pushpanatha Pillai, the man selected, seems to be a fairly suitable person. Before, however, he can be formally elected as Chairman he must be an official of the district (Sec. of the Act) and a member of the Council. Mr. Stokes is already arranging for his transfer to the district and requests that he may be appointed to the Council in the vacancy caused by the transf urgeon-Major Dymott (vide ~~gazette of~~ C. no 1463 in circn) proposes to make other arrangements r placing the new District Medical and nitary officer on the Council.

6. Submitted that the Council's choice approved and that the appointment of M R shpanatha Pillai to the Council may find a place ~~be gazetted in~~ the next gazette, provided Dr. Dymott's transfer ~~[illegible] delay~~. In case the latter should not have from

Appointment of a paid Chairman — Salem Municipality.

H. M. and circ.

(for orders)

* Mr. Stokes very strongly deprecates appointing the peti: as Chairman, and his local knowledge is such as to render his opinion worthy of consideration. There is no doubt however that if the appointment which he supports is made there will be a considerable storm in Salem

[G. / 24.]
6 8-3-95.

Land Rev. DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be re d in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

P Current No. 1252 m of 1895, dated 5.IV.95 from the Chairman M. C. Salem.

P ——— 1304 m ——— 9.IV.95. the Collector of Salem.

O P ——— 1445 m ——— 30.IV.95

Q Current No. 1488 m of 1895, dated 1.V.95 from M. R. Ry Virasawámi Iyer Salem

ORDER. dd 31-5-95 No 921 Mis

The resolutions of the Council, both as regards the appointment of a paid Chairman to the Municipality and as regards the selection of M. R. Ry. Pushpanatha Pillai Avargal B.A. for the post, have the approval of Government.

2. M. R. Ry. Pushpanatha Pillai will be ~~gazetted~~ appointed a member of the Council ~~in~~ ~~the Fort St. George Gazette of the [illegible] instant~~ to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Surgeon-Major D. F. Dymott M.B. to Madras.

3. The Collector will be requested to ~~make the necessary arrangements for~~ intimate when M. R. Ry. P. Pillay has been ~~his appointment as an official of the~~ appointed his appt. in the Salem Distt. in order to the issue of the ~~district~~ and his formal election as necessary notification in the Ft. St. G. Gazette Chairman.

Sd. (for orders)
27/5/95

May the following deferred wise be sent to Mr. Stokes in disposal of his d.o. and telegram?

Despd. D. 28/5

Proposals re chairmanship approved orders follows. Sd.

To The Chairman M. C. Salem
Collector of Salem

ppointment of a paid Chairman
Salem Municipality

C.S. ~~R.S.~~

(from order)

Dep H S

You cannot gazette this
man as Councillor until
he has actually joined

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given for copying ——
copied ——
examined ——
signed ——
} 189

AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
139 ,

RENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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.