[L. & M. 2,500-4-4-96.]

Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 83 M

DATED 16th January 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition

Refusing to comply with the request of V.Subba Rao and others of Cocanada in the matter of their complaint against heavy taxes, &c., in the Municipality.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 17 Jn

From
V. Subba Rao
and other inhabitants
of Cocanada.

Misc order No. 83 munis 16-1-96

The Petitioners request cannot be complied with.

V.R 15/1/96

W.D 15.1.96

No.

Dated 25.12.95

Received 1-1-96.

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Petition Complaining against the imposition of heavy taxes in the Municipality and requesting to dispense with the appointment of a paid chairman for the place.

To
The Petitioners. &c.
Dup. 17/1/96

Forwarded 6/1 Dy Sec

To

The Grammand of

Madras.

CHIEF SECRETARY GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
1 JAN. 1896

Most respected Sir.

The humble petition presented by the undersigned townsmen of Cocanada

This petition most respectfully represents the several inconveniences that we are put to, at this stage, by this town's municipality, with our obvious purpose of having a relief from them, by this general & unanimous cry of ours.

1 Under the British Government and in towns of importance like this town of ours this salutary system of municipal internal government was introduced with a view to add to the general health and comfort, but was not in the least intended (though it has turned out to be so in this town) to make money by unjustly raising taxes to a very exorbitant pitch.

2 The municipal act was brought into force in this town long time ago, and ever since, the municipal taxes have been levied according to the wealth & position of the several townsmen which

are also members of our Municipal Committee. These members would naturally influence the chairman who is a stranger to this town and would command a low & moderate imposition of Tax on their brother. The chairman being a stranger to this place would naturally confide in the words of these merchants, without caring for account the Veracity of their statements regarding themselves and their brother merchants: But in cases where such statements are called in question, these merchants unite themselves into one whole & stand out in the interests of each other; on the other hand men other than merchants being in some way indebted to them also speak on their behalf.—

7 Then as regards municipal elections on the prevalent system of Voting — whenever a Vacancy occurs, these merchants and at their instance some one of their relations apply for it & Votes would not be wanting: whereas the rival applicant although by his good name in the town commands also a good number of Votes comes short of his merchant rival in the Congress & thus will be thrown out. This fact would be evident from the recent election and from the former elections as well on a consideration as to how many of the merchant class and of the other classes the present Committee constitutes.

8 The chairman being in this case a paid chairman is also of opinion to win the favour of the Government by raising the annual municipal collections even at the cost of most pecuniary convenience of the townsmen and also to curb the expenditure of his pay viz Rs 3000 per Annum this novel system of employing a paid chairman to municipal councils is peculiar now to Canada & dates as far as event very recently in this town. Before this event in this town's history of municipality there had been for — about 20 years many a chairman — working without any pay for the interests of public comfort & convenience at the head of this town's municipality. What new improvements does this town now which it had not formerly seen? what roads and water-improvements are newly made which have not been formerly existing? what greater comforts are newly imparted to the townsmen than those which they have been formerly enjoying in this rural state of municipality except that a few townsmen along with this paid chairman are spending their energies towards unjustly wringing the hard-earned coin of the poor Public of this town: this is the only novelty that we would have seen but for another viz An extra unnecessary — expenditure

expenditure of Rs 3000 per annum towards maintaining a paid chairman. Formerly the Collector of this District had been for sometime the President of this municipality, when at least Accounts we had due justice done to us. But now as there is no Appeal against the decision of these municipal Councillors nothing but mere injustice is the outcome; and we have no means of avoiding it.

In certain other Districts of this Presidency when Municipalities of towns are reduced to a similar predicament as this the Government Condescended to hear an appeal from these respective townsmen and to take the needy steps towards bettering the condition of these municipalities by reducing the paid chairman whereby an actual gain of saving the unnecessary expenditure was secured.

We further beg to state that in this town at present there are living pensioned public servants who have held the highly responsible offices of a Deputy Collector, Tahsildar & such others. These men can have no objection to discharge the duties of a chairman provided they are permitted by the Government; and the election of such men to memberships in the Council is absolutely necessary.

In Conclusion we most respectfully request the Government of Madras to hear this our general & unanimous cry, & do away with the unnecessary system of employing a paid chairman as was done in other Districts, to consider our crying case (as parents do with their children) through the District officers, to show us a way of relief from these hardpressing evils & when similar injustice may be done to us to provide that the case maybe tried by the District officer or by the Divisional officers under him —

For this act of goodness and kindness we as humble subjects ever pray.

We beg to remain,
most respected Sir,
your most humble & loyal subjects

Vizagapatam.
25th December 1895.

Vaigaro Subba Row.

Kallakuri Adiviarayasarma
pentioner

M Venkatrah

Venkata Ramayya

S. Kameswara Rao

P. Ramakrishnayya

Bhamaprasad

K. Appa Rao

B. Muniyya

Y. Anthonayya

B. Rodrigus

A. Rangayya

G. Seshagiri Kavalkar

B. Narayanamurthy

P. Ramiah

V. Subbarayudu

B. Seshachalam

Venkayya

K. V. Subbador

Venkata Ramana Rao

Chapani Venkatrao

Subbaraj Samarasimha

Lakkaraju Sarabhayya

Volaty. Vadlamudi

Namani Pullayya

Bhadrachalam

A. Lakshmipathi Rao

Peddi Seshagiri Rao

Chegondi Rama Rao

Yellapragada Kotayya

Venkatarama

K. Narasinga Rao

T. V. Ramanadham

[Ref 4]
8,000-1-4-04.

DEPARTMENT.

Paper taken out of the Records from the charge of the Referencer.

Press / Miscellaneous / Routine No. 84. dated 15/12/05 190 .

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