[L. & M.
7,000-2-8-96.]

Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 913 M

DATED 1st June 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Revenue Officer of the Madras Municipality.

Recording the correspondence in connection with the charges preferred against the ---- by M.R.Ry.V.Varadappa Nayudu.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Genl. Dept.
13

G. No. 784

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.
General Department.

Madras, 6 March 1896.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No.

From

LIEUT.-COL. G. M. J. MOORE, C. I. E.,

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St George.

SIR,

Enclosures
3

In continuation of my letter No 692, dated 13th February 1896, forwarding the recommendation of the Commissioners re: extension of the service of Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy chettyar, Revenue Officer, I have the honor to submit herewith the marginally noted correspondence for the information of Government.

Copy of Revenue Officer's letter No 4908 d/ 13th February 1896.

Copy of Revenue Officer's letter No 5018 d/ 21st February 1896.

Copy of my memorandum d/ 25th Feb 96.

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

G. M. Moore Lt.-Col.
President, M.M.C.

Encl. No. 1.

R.No.4908 Madras, February 13th 1896.

To

The President Municipal Commission,

M a d r a s.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to hold an enquiry into the charges against me involved in M.R.R.V.Varadappah Naidu's speech at yesterday's special meeting of the Commissioners, and which appear to have been passed over in silence; or, if you do not intend doing so, advise me as to the course I should pursue for refuting them.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd. P. Ramasawmy Chetty.

Revenue Officer,

Madras Municipality.

Rev: Off.

They are both diposed of and on record. Let me have the papers and they can be circulated to the Comrs.

(Intld) G.M.J.M.
14-2-96.

(True Copy)

Lt.-Col.

President, M.M.C.

R.No.5018.

Municipal Office,
Madras, 21st February 1896

To

The President, Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to your Memorandum (hereto prefixed) dated the 14th, and endorsed on my application of the 13th Instant, relative to the charges formulated against me by M.R.R V.Varadappah Naidu Garu in his speech at the adjourned special meeting of the Commissioners held on the 12th Idem, I have the honor to submit herewith the records hereunder specified, which will speak for themselves; viz:

(1) Re

alleged dereliction on my part of testing the accuracy of assessment, by the Subordinate Agency under me, of buildings and Lands.

(a) G.O.dated 13th July 1891,No.1091 M.Mis. L.& M.

(b) Letter to Government dated 1st September 1891 G.No.298.

(c) G.O. dated 19th September 1891, No.1525 M.Mis L & M.

(d) Budget Estimate for 1892-93 as framed by you.

(e) Budget Estimate for 1892-93 as sanctioned by the Standing Committee

(f) Proceedings of the General Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 6th August 1895.

(2)Re

alleged want of efficient management and supervision on my part, resulting in a great loss to the Municipality in connection with Tobacco Duties.

(a) G.O. dated 28th November 1893,No.1630 M. L & M.

(b)Proceedings of the Standing Committee dated 27th July 1894

(c) Proceedings of the General Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 27th August 1894.

(d) Letter to Government dated 10th September 1894, G.No.239 with 2 enclosures.

(e) G.O. dated 30th October 1894, No.1583, M.Mis. L. & M.

(f) Proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 7th November 1894.

(3) Re

alleged frivolous excuse for absence of a clerk from Office.

Your enquiries and my explanations dated 23th, and your final order of the 29th November 1895.

(4) Re

alleged irregularity and mistake arising from inefficient management on my part, underlying nepotism.

(a) M.R.R.V.Varadappah Naidu Garu's letter dated 7th August 1895

(b) My report dated 17th August 1895 with 3 departmental explanations dated 10th 12th and 17th Idem and marked A,B and C respectively.

(c) Reply to M.R.Ry.V.Varadappa Naidu Garu dated 19th August 1895, R.No.2420

(5) Re

alleged nepotism.

2. I would respectfully beg of you and the Commissioners in justice to myself to satisfy yourselves by a thorough investigation on the following points, viz:

1st Whether the list of persons named by M.R.R.V.Varadappa Naidu Garu as my relatives is not a considerable exaggeration.

2ndly. Under what circumstances, the appointments of such of them as are my relatives were sanctioned or approved of from time to time by the President's for the time being.

3rdly. Whether by reason of such appointments any existing rights have ever been unduly superseded.

4thly. Whether in consequence of such appointments there is or ever was or has been any heart burning among other subordinates

In circulating the accompanying papers with a protest from the Revenue Officer against the strictures passed on him by Mr.Varadappah Naidu at the Special Meeting held on the I2" February I desire to place certain facts before the Commissioners, not only because the charges are to a great extent most uncalled for but that they reflect upon me.

With regard to the charge about the clerk being marked present in the attendance Register and not being in the Office. The facts are these— The Revenue Officer was engaged in drawing up a written statement in connection with a case pending against the Municipality.The records were voluminous and no one but he himself could have done the work, which he did in his house and required the assistance of a clerk. This clerk after attending at the usual hour went over to the Revenue Officer's house. Annexture A is the correspondence on the subject.

With regard to the charge about double assessment- What happened was this-An old notice slip of 94-95 had some-how or other got in among the slips for 95-96.When filling in the assessment in question for 2/95-96 the clerk did not notice that it was a slip for 94-95 and consequently the complaint was made that a second assessment had been levied for 2/94-95.

This was fully explained to Mr.Varadappah Naidu in my letter No.2420 dated I9-8-95 which forms part of annexure B.

These two charges I think are fully disposed of and in no way reflect upon the Revenue Officer.

It is unnecessary for me to deal with the charge as to failure to collect the Tobacco Tax. The Commissioners are perfectly aware of the impossibility of collecting such a Tax. If there had been a Revenue Officer at every Toll gate night and day the Tobacco would have been smuggled in by some means or other.

To charge the Revenue Officer with having caused the loss

loss through neglect or incapacity is I think preposterous.

As to the charge of nepotism-it will be seen from annexure C that out of the I5 clerks mentioned by Mr.Varadappah Naidu only 6 bear any relationship to the Revenue Officer.

No.3 on the statement-it will be seenwas entertained in I879, while the relationship was only brought about by marriage in I889.No.5 may be put in the same category as No.3.

The correspondence relating to No.IO shows that there was good reason for his promotion-no clerk drawing more pay being able to furnish the security of Rs.3,000. It also discloses the fact that the appointments in the Revenue Department are not made without some scrutiny on my part.

With regard to No.I4 the appointment was my own—I was not aware of any relationship between him and the Revenue Officer- not that that would have affected the case- but knowing that his father had been a Municipal Employe' and had died suddenly and left a large family, I had him examined in my presence by the Superintendent. He had not passed any examination and being satisfied with his qualifications put him into the vacancy.

I think therefore that the charge of nepotism may be said to be practically as groundless as the others.

With regard to the charge of not going out-Mr.Varadappah Naidu is perhaps not aware of the amount of office work which the Revenue Officer has to do-but ~~he~~ still he obtains the necessary information regarding assessments, and when necessary does go out.

As to his attendance at the Office I am satisfied that he works at his own house and that the Public are not put to inconvenience as his work with the public practically does not commence until the afternoon.

In conclusion I can only say that the Commissioners are perhaps better aware of the good work that has been done by the Revenue Officer during his long connection with the Municipality, than I am.

(Sd) G.M.J.Moore Lt. Col.

President, Munl. Commn.

25-2-96

The

Commissioners

(True copy)

G M Moore Lt.Col.

President, Munl. Commn.

Encl

Genl. Deptt.
18

1895.96

Madras Municipality.

CURRENT No. 822 M

From

The President,

Municipal Commission,

MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

G. No. 784

Dated. 6th
Despd. 6th } March 1896.
Recd.

Submitted in continuation of
papers already in circulation
14/3/96

Encl. CHIEF SECRETARY'S GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
7 MAR 1896

SUBJECT:

Submitting the correspondence in connection with the charges preferred against the Revenue Officer of the Madras Municipality by Mr. R. Ry. V. Varadappah Naidu, for the information of Government.

Genl. Dept.
13

G. No. 963

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.
General Department.

Madras, 25th March 1896.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1006 M

From

LIEUT.-COL. G. M. J. MOORE, C. I. E.,

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures
38.

In accordance with the request contained in the accompanying letter No.5459, dated 24th March 1896, from the Revenue Officer, I have the honor to forward his letter No. 5445, dated 23rd March, with its enclosures for the information of Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. M. Moore Lt.Col.

President, Munl. Commn.

R. No. 153.
1000.

Reply will be addressed to THE REVENUE OFFICER referring to the number and date of this letter.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Municipal Office,

Madras, 24th March 1896.

MUNICIPAL COMMR
25 MAR
MADRAS

R. No. 5445.

Enc.

To The President
Municipal Commission
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to lay before Government my address to you of yesterday's date in connection with my answer to M.R.R. V. Varadapah Naidu Garu's accusations against me and your review thereof, already submitted to it. I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant,
P. Ramasawmy Pantulu.
Rev. Offr.

R. No. 5445.

Madras, 23rd March 1896.

TO

The President,
Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Sir,

Having submitted to you my answer to the serious ---- charges made against me at open Meetings, by M.R.R. V. Varada--pah Naidu Garu, I now respectfully venture to place before you, as briefly as I can, the following facts, in order that, by --- their light, you and your colleagues may be enabled to judge of their bona-fides or otherwise.

2. He is a retired Apothecary in large private practice and joined the Municipal Commission by election on the 31st --- July 1894, having acquired considerable assessable property.

3. On the 21st February 1895, he wrote to me the enclo--sure (A) recommending a man for a situation, then vacant in -- the Revenue Department. Not being able to comply with his re--quest, I wrote to him the reply (B).

4. On the 5th March 1895 (C) he applied for his House & Stabling in No.1, in Sawmi Pillai Street, then standing assessed together at an annual value of Rs.120, being separately valued: and, on the 8th Idem (D), he wished the same standing valuation of Rs.120 to be reduced according to the rent, which he therein stated to be Rs.5 per month as for the whole block. The House - having been found to be assessable at 8 Rs. and the stabling at 2Rs. a month, a division was accordingly made and such division advised to him on the 16th March 1895 (E), while his own valua--tion (D), being in conflict with mine as made on such division and to which I adhered, was (among other cases) set down for -- adjudication at a sitting fixed for the 24th June 1895, of an - appeal Board, of which he was asked, and he accepted, on the --

29th

29th May 1895 (F), to be a member. Probably finding, on subse-
quent examination of the Lists of cases furnished to him with -
(F) that his own application (D), which, as above mentioned, con-
-tained an undervaluation, was included in them, he returned --
the Lists on the 30th May 1895, with (G) excusing himself from
attending by reason of his professional engagements.

5. On or about the 12th June 1895, he returned (H) a --
Horse he kept of over 13 hands, as under that height. Measured
subsequently by way of verification against such return, the --
animal was proved to be over 13 hands, and he was consequently
obliged to correct the said return.

6. At the very next Special Meeting of the 26th June 1895
he read a speech (I) condemning my working of the very House and --
Vehicle and Animal Taxes, whereunder his own rates had been --
raised against his wishes, and dwelling forcibly upon alleged -
want of outdoor inspection on my part, as the reason for the --
deficiency of the Municipal Revenue by 2 lakhs, necessitating
additional taxation for carrying out sanitary improvements. Du-
-ring the reading of this speech, I understand that many Commis-
-sioners left the room to return after it was over.

7. Another Commissioner having been substituted for him
to form the Board for the 24th June 1895, adjourned to the 5th
July 1895, the sitting Commissioners inspected Mr. Varadapah -
Naidu's said property and on their recommendation, the valuation
of the stabling was confirmed at Rs.24 and that of the House -
reduced from Rs.96 to Rs.78, of which he was advised on the 11th
July 1895, he not having appeared either personally or by an -
Agent or Attorney to support his undervaluation of Rs.60 for --
both properties together.

8. On the following day, 12th July 1895, he wrote in (J)
followed by (K) of the 20th Idem, blaming me for

(a) not having given him notice of any kind of the date of
the hearing of his appeal
and (b) having put down Rs.78 as the value of the House, while

he

he was getting only Rs. 60; (which, it should be remembered, in his application (D), he had stated as being the rent of both -- the House and the Stabling). . . . . accompanied by a threat to resort to the Magistracy, if no op--portunity was given him to argue his case. To these letters, I replied (L) on the 20th July 1895, pointing out the groundless--ness of his objections. Such reply, though it showed him he had no bone to pick with me, did not prevent his appealing to the Magistracy. He, however, for his own reasons, abstained from do--ing so.

9. At the next Special Meeting of the 24th July 1895, he directed the attention of the Meeting by interpellation (M) re--garding my age and juniority, and an alleged animadversion by Government in connection with my test of the accuracy of Build--ing and Land assessment, as the inferential bases of his oppo--sition to my nomination for the Presidential chair during your then intended absence.

10. There was then nothing for me to take serious notice of with regard to the question of the test, as all the papers connected with it, which you then placed on the table at his -- request, and upon which I have relied for my defence to his re--cent reiterated accusation against me on that score, fully ex--plained the situation.

11. He did not omit to avail himself similarly of the -- next opportunity afforded him by the adjourned General Meeting held on the 6th August 1895 (N), when he let off bullets at me, by putting you a series of questions, suggestive of

(a) laxity on my part of out-door inspection

(b) the non-necessity, therefore, for the exemption I was enjoying to a limited extent from Vehicle and Animal Tax.

(c) neglect of duty by reason of my attending Office at -- late hours.

(d) and the comparative delay in the general transaction -- of business in the Revenue Department.

All which questions were fully answered by you. 12.

12. Further incidents have since transpired, which I humbly think have incensed him against me once again. And my assessor too has not been spared for, perhaps, dealing with him in common with other Tax payers. These further incidents are as follow:—

13. On the 24th May 1895, a complaint (O) dated 23rd -- Idem, was received from his near neighbour of certain insanitary arrangements in or near Mr. Varadapah Naidu's House, No10 in Sawmi Pillai Street, and of such House (among others belonging to him in the same locality) being assessed as low as at - 5Rs., whilst it fetched 25 Rs. a month. I referred the complaint, so far as it related to assessment, to my assessor, who, after inspection, reported to me in detail (attached to O) on the 10th June following that it was worth Rs.252 per annum, whereupon I ordered its then standing valuation of Rs.66 to be raised to -- Rs.240 and transferred the complaint (O) to the other Depart-- ments for such attention as it deserved there. In the course of inspection and enquiry by those Departments, Mr. Varadapah Naidu happening to see the complaint and my assessor's report and my order thereon, sent for my assessor to Messrs. Allbutt and Co's dispensary near our Office(which I believe, is owned - by him), and remonstrated with him on his having raised the va- luation to the extent he had done without previous intimation to him, to which my assessor replied that he had been guided by information gathered on the spot from the tenants in occupation and corroborated by the Notices of fixed rents painted on the wall and pointed out by them, over the entrance of the several appartments. Upon this, Mr. Varadapah Naidu and his Brother -- mentioned to my assessor that there were other persons' Houses in the same street, whose assessments were low and wished to -- know why they had not been revised as well; and my assessor, in answer said he would do so, if advised. Mr. Varadapah Naidu --- then asked my assessor to let him know beforehand whatever he - intended doing thereafter with regard to the assessment of his property. Enclosure (P) gives my assessor's version of what -- passed on this occasion.

14.

14. I was not then aware what had so passed. But, to my -- surprise, within 48 hours thereafter, in came letter (Q) dated 22nd June 1895, signed "C.A.Ramasem Iyengar" (which name very - nearly approaches C.A.Ramasawmy Iyengar, the name, as I am in- -formed, of one of the employes at Messrs. Allbutt and Co's --- Dispensary) complaining of a number of other Houses in the same street (not belonging to Mr.Varadapah Naidu) inclusive of that whereof the author of (O) was the ostensible occupier or owner, being allowed to continue at their old low rates of assessment, notwithstanding that they had been recently either reconstructed added to or otherwise improved. This complaint (Q) was referred to my assessor with instructions to inspect and revise all the Buildings in Sawmi Pillai Street, which resulted in some more - of Mr. Varadapah Naidu's Houses there being raised in valuation, to wit.

No.3 from Rs.144 to Rs.162 per annum.
" 69 " " 150 to Rs.240 "
" 70 " " 300 to Rs.420 "

15. When my assessor inspected No.69, he happened to meet its tenant's gumastah and ascertained from him that it was let - for Rs.20, whilst the tenant himself, when separately asked, - referred my assessor, to Mr. Varadapah Naidu. On my assessor -- visiting the next door No.70, which is Mr. Varadapah Naidu's -- residence, ha, Mr. Varadapah Naidu, showed him over the last -- mentioned House, told him that the rent had been reduced on a - former occasion from Rs.35 to Rs.25 which too was too much and asked him to do what he could for him; and when questioned by - my assessor about the rent of No.69, gave it at Rs.12-8-0. What then took place between Mr. Varadapah Naidu and my assessor is given in (P).

16. Such rise in the valuation of his property against - his wishes, seems to have so excited Mr. Varadapah Naidu, that, at the Special Meeting of the 28th August 1895 (R) as likewise at the General Meeting of the 30th September 1895 (S), he le- velled his accusations against me and my assessor by commenting

upon

upon the above revision as being whimsical without check; adverting again to my late hours of attendance and to alleged --- laxity on my part, in the working of the same House and Vehicle and Animal Taxes, whereby he had been a sufferer; charging the - Revenue Department with loss on Tobacco Duties for the aboli-- -tion whereof, he took no mean part at the Special Meeting of - the 7th November 1894 (T) and with other great many alleged ir- -regularities too numerous for him to specify and decrying the system and efficiency of the working of the Department as a -- whole.

17. Upon these latter points, I need scarcely point out - that the system in vogue, as from time to time reformed by me - under the dictates of my sense of duty, responsibility and propriety, with due regard to despatch, discipline, economy, security and convenience, has survived the crucial test of Committees after Committees of the Commissioners composed (amongst others) of such able and experienced Revenue Officers as M.R.R. Dewan Bahadur R.Ragoonath Row Garu and the late M.R.R. E. Theruvengada Mudaliar, who were on, and took active part in the investiga-- -tions and deliberations of, the last Establishment Committee of 1888 and whose report (U) may, with advantage, be referred - to. Nor need I remind you of your own scrutiny, from time to -- time, of the system, in consequence of frequent complaints from recalcitrant Tax payers, including Mr. Varadapah Naidu, who, has had frequent controversies in the capacity of a rate payer. I - would simply refer you, for proof of the beneficial results of the efficiency of such system, to the various credentials (V) (W) and (X) from time to time issued by your own self and by - your predecessors, by the Commissioners, by Government and by the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

18. It will, doubtless, be in your recollection that more than once, I adverted, in my conversations with you, to Mr. Vara- -dapah Naidu's not unfrequent attacks (direct and indirect), upon me, when you were so good as to console me with the remark that they were utter nonsense unworthy of notice; and the result

of

of such abstention from notice has been cumulative indictment - in respect of matters already so satisfactorily explained by -- you and others of no more substantial character, if not possi--tively fabulous.

19. To recur to the 4 cases of revision of assessment --- lastly in paragraphs 13 and 14 above specified, Mr. Varadapah - Naidu was given notices of increase, whereagainst he appealed..

20. In his appeal (Y) in respect of No.10, Sawmi Pillai Street, he ascribed the increase to no other reason than the -- complaint (O) and vaguely referred to undefined rental agree-- -ments, as though they upheld the standing valuation.

21. In his appeals (Z),(Aa) and (Ba) with regard to Nos.3 69 and 70 respectively, involving reflections upon me and my - assessor, he characterised the procedure as irregular, and the revision as whimsical on my assessor's part devoid of all check; and expressed his preparedness to prove that their rental values were not even Rs.162, Rs.162 and Rs.240 respectively as against Rs.162, Rs.240 and Rs.420 the proposed figures.

22. All the 4 appeals(along with others) came on for hear--ing on the 21st January 1896, when a specially empowered agent (Qa) appeared and pleaded for him. It is important to bear in - mind the allegations contained in his written appeals for con- -trast with what actually transpired at the hearing by the Board of Commissioners.

23. As regards No.10, the agent produced a Rent Agreement relating to a portion of it for Rs.9-8-0 and another professedly for the rest of the house for Rs.4, making an aggregate of --- Rs.13-8-0 against the standing assessment of Rs.5-8-0, to any- -thing beyond which he had demurred in his appeal. But, by cross examination, it was elicited from the agent that the latter of the agreements was from one of Mr. Varadapah Naidu's own gumas- -tahs, that that portion of the house, to which such agreement professed to relate, was actually in the occupation of tenants

paying

paying in the aggregate 8 Rs., and that there were other por--tions not comprised in either of the two agreements produced - by him, whilst my assessor spoke to the fact of the figures --- painted on the wall over the entrance of each of the apartments as the rent thereof, having been found washed off when the ap--peal Commissioners inspected it for the purposes of the appeal.

24. As to Nos.3 and 69, the agent averred that they were rented for no more than Rs.12 and Rs.12-8-0 respectively, but adduced not a particle of evidence in support thereof of any -- sort or kind, beyond the mere assertion of Mr. Varadapah Naidu, while my assessor on being interrogated, explained how he had - arrived at their revised value, in which the Board acquiesced, having, for its guide, the estimate which it had formed on its own inspection, as it did also in the instance of No.70.

25. Finally, the enhanced valuation of Nos.3, 69 and 70 - were confirmed, and that of No.10 lowered to Rs.216, to the --- chagrin of Mr. Varadapah Naidu, who did not, though he had the right to, appeal to the Magistrates.

26. He does not seem to have made a secret of his having brought about an increase in the assessment of the Houses of -- his neighbours; for, some of them made capital of grudge as the cause of their suffering (Da),(Ea),(Fa),(Ga),(Ha) and (Ia).

27. I am also credibly informed that Mr. Varadapah Naidu himself does not hesitate to own to some of the Commissioners - and others, that the incidents above narrated have engendered - an animus in him against me and my assessor.

28. He is further busy in going about the Town to collect information about the great many irregularities he has alleged as aforesaid and closely watching my movements and those of my Establishment and has likewise equipped himself (Ja) with sta--tistics of

(a) imports of timber by sea

(b) number of inspections by my assessors

(c)

(c) my indoor staff with details of the work of each indi--vidual, and

(d) the pay, service and promotion of some of them —

in the preparation whereof, my Department has been put to much labour and trouble, besides being, through fear of some approach--ing catastrophe, thrown out of gear, at a time when their ---- maximum energies, with all possible encouragements, were indis--pensable for success in realizing Budget anticipations.

29. In the course of his undoubtedly elaborate, diligent and enthusiastic researches, Mr. Varadapah Naidu made the dis--covery (the day next after the General Meeting of the 6th Au--gust 1895, at which he interpellated about me) of a printed -- Form relating to one year having accidentally been mixed up, & inadvertantly used, with those of another year, the like of --- which had never been known in the annals of the Revenue Depart--ment during my long tenure of Office, and which, in spite of -- your explanation upon enquiry, involving some correspondence, - constituted in his opinion, a grave charge of "irregularity and mistake arising from inefficient management on my part underly--ing nepotism", though, as a matter of fact, no "chetty" appear--ed to be connected with the so called irregularity and mistake.

30. The next extraordinary discovery Mr. Varadapah Naidu made was the absence from Office at noon on the 28th November - 1895, of a clerk, who attended it and signed the attendance --- book at 1/2 past 10 O'clock and afterwards joined me at my house at about 11 O'clock to assist me in the arrangement of papers, relating to the defence of an intricate suit pending against the Municipality in the High Court. Sharp after noon on the same - day, Mr. Varadapah Naidu turned up before you and reported to you that the clerk had been turned away from the Office to my own private work at my house, when you immediately, in my ab--sence, and in Mr. Varadapah Naidu's presence, sent for, and - ascertained from my Superintendent and satisfied Mr. Varadapah Naidu, as you subsequently got me to confirm, how the clerk had been engaged with me. This explanation of yours, Mr. Varadapah Naid

Naidu has thought fit to term a "frivolous excuse", as he did - at the Special Meeting of the 28th August 1895 (R) to remark - that your argument in connection with appeals against Building and Land assessment was "uncalled for".

31. It is remarkable that, of the so called great many -- irregularities inveighed against me in his speech at that Meet--ing, none further than the above 2 solitary instances have -- seen the light of day, as far as I am aware.

32. You will not fail to remember that, at the last men--tioned interview, Mr. Varadapah Naidu had with you, he tried to throw dirt on my assessor by insinuating that he had unreason--ably raised the assessment of his property out of spite, which you retorted by directing his attention to the remedy he had -- under the Municipal Act; and that, about the time when Mr.Vara-dapah Naidu sent you questions suggesting (among other things) of my assessors old age, infirmity and unfitness for further -- service, to be answered at the General Meeting of the 27th Ja--nuary 1896, he also sent you a special letter (which I believe is on your private file) carrying his grudge against my assessor to the extreme by urging his compulsory retirement, alleging as his reason for so doing, if I remember rightly, his,(my asses--sor's) physical inability to enter and walk upstairs in his -- inspections of Buildings and his consequent procedure of value--ing them from outside view.

33. It would not be out of place to recall to mind in -- this connection the fact that Mr. Varadapah Naidu had actually joined the unanimous vote of the Special Meeting of the 26th -- February 1895, for an unsolicited increase to my assessor's pay in appreciation of the integrity, with which he had executed -- the general revision of Building and Land assessment, whereby - an annual enhancement of 2 lakhs ultimately accrued to the Muni--cipal Revenue.

34. Mr. Varadapah Naidu's appreciation would not realize

any

any portion of my real work and its intricacies, beyond the late hours of my attendance, which, with my age, seem to have contri--bu'ed largely, if not solely, to the formation of his opinion, as if professional, of my alleged physical incapacity.

35. I might submit that it behoved him, as a Commissioner, before jumping at conclusions, as he has done, to search the -- records of the Office closely to see whether my late attendance had been of recent occurrence as the result, as he would have -- you believe, of infirmity, or whether it had been habitual du--ring the old tenure of my office; whether any single item of as--sessment or exemption or remission of any of the several series of Taxes, or disbursements, however trivial in amount, had been passed without the strictest possible check and scrutiny on my part with the aid of my knowledge, experience, enquiry and vi--sits; how by correspondence direct and through our Solicitors, and by recourse to Law Courts, I was meeting the numerous obsti--nate contentions of Tax payersof the various classes both with--in and without Municipal limits, with the variety of difficul--ties arising out of collection of their dues; and whether it -- had not often fallen to my lot to do more work and undertake -- more responsibility than the Municipal Act ever contemplated.

36. That the charge in connection with the Tobacco Duties is unquestionably absurd is more than proved by the records al--ready submitted to you and it only remains for me to add a -- word with regard to the charge of "Nepotism" laid against me -- that my Department, as at present constituted, consists of

83 Sudras.
25 Vaisyas.
22 Brahmins.
13 Kshatriyas.
11 Panchamas.
11 Mahomedans.
4 Eurasians and
4 Native Christians

that

that I belong to the second named of the above castes and that the great majority of the number against such caste do not be--long to my section thereof.

37. Should all or a majority of the Tax payers be so for--getful of the requirements of fair play and justice and so -- needlessly vindictive as Mr. Varadapah Naidu, is, which I am -- happy to say is not the case, it is impossible to conceive how any Municipal servant, however blameless he may be, can pass -- muster under the ordeal he would be subjected to, in the honest performance of duty.

38. Being opened to correction, I would gladly welcome - any and every Commissioner desiring an insight into the working of my office, to look into it as closely as he wishes or as he - can, in view to all possible improvement being effected in the system on the score of public convenience or otherwise.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. Ramaswamy Reddy.

Revenue Officer,

Madras Municipal Commission.

ENCLOSURES.

A 21-2-1895 Letter from Mr. Varadapah Naidu to the Revenue ---- Officer.

B 23-2-1895 Copy Letter from the Revenue Officer to Mr. Varada--pah Naidu.

C.5-3-1895 Letter from Mr. Varadapah Naidu to the Revenue --- Officer with report attached.

D 8-3-1895 Letter from Mr. Varadapah Naidu to the Revenue ---- Officer.

E 16-3-1895 Copy Letter from the Revenue Officer to Mr. Varada--pah Naidu.

F 29-5-1895 Letter from the President to Mr. Varadapah Naidu.

G 30-5-1895 Letter from Mr. Varadapah Naidu to the President.

H 12-6-1895 Mr. Varadapah Naidu's return of Vehicles and Animals

I 26-6-1895 Proceedings of Special Meeting of the Commissioners.

J 12-7-1895 Letter from Mr. Varadapah Naidu to the Revenue --- Officer.

K 20-7-1895 . . . . . Do . . . . to . . . . . .Do. . . .

L 20-7-1895 Letter from the Revenue Officer to Mr. Varadapah -- Naidu (endorsed on J).

M.24-7-1895 Proceedings of Special Meeting of Commissioners.

N. 6-8-1895 Proceedings of General Meeting of Commissioners.

O 23-5-1895 Letter from A. Theagasundra Achari to the Revenue - Officer with 3 Reports attached.

P 4-3-1896 Statement of Assessor Munisami Naidu.

Q 22-6-1895 Letter signed by "C.A.Ramasem Iyengar" to the Pre--sident, with report attached.

R 28-8-1895 Proceedings of Special Meeting of Commissioners.

S 30-9-1895 Proceedings of General Meeting of Commissioners.

T 7-11-1894 Proceedings of Special Meeting of Commissioners.

U 19-4-1889 Report of the Establishment Committee of 1888.

V From 1869 to 1895. Credentials issued by successive Presidents, the Commissioners and Government.

W.9-10-1895 G.O. reviewing the administration report for 1894-95

x

X 15-6-1892 Report of the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

Y 11-12-1895 Letter from Mr. Varadapah Naidu to the President.

Z 11-12-1895 . . . . . Do . . . . . .

Aa 11-12-1895 . . . . . Do . . . . . .

Ba 11-12-1895 . . . . . Do . . . . . .

Ca 21-1-1896 . . . . . Do . . . . . .

Da 9-12-1895 Letter from C. Virasami Mudali to the Revenue ----
Officer.

Ea 11-12-1895 Letter from Thangammall to the Revenue Officer.

Fa 9-12-1895 Letter from C. Virasami Mudali to the Revenue ----
Officer. C.

Ga 7-12-1895 Letter from Muniappa Naicker to the Revenue Officer.

Ha 9-12-1895 Letter from Janagiram Pillai to the Revenue Officer.

Ia 9-12-1895 Letter from Coopoosawmy Pillai to the Revenue ----
Officer.

Ja 20-2-1896 Letter from Mr. Varadapah Naidu to the President.

Gen. Deptt. 13 — Municipal Dept.
CURRENT 1896. 1000 M

Madras Municipality.

From

The President,

Municipal Commission,

MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government Fort St. George

G. No. 963

Dated. 25
Despd. 25 March 1896.
Recd.

Exc. 5. 38

SUBJECT.

Forwarding address to the President of the Revenue office no: 5445 dated 23rd March 96 with enclosures in connection with his answer to M. R. R. V. Varadappa Naydu's accusations against him—

Enc 822 & 1006/96

Encs 822 + 1006 in

Hon. Mis.

Order

Recorded.

Submitted to the in case he would like to read it.

23/5

Note

Enc 822 was sent up to the disposing part Enc 5/38 in file for 23rd March 96 but was returned with an order to the 1006 in which was dated 27/5/96 to the effect directing the return of Enc 5/38 from circulation.

To

The President Mc Madras

with Encl. Nos. 4 to 38 to Encs. 1006 cited.

Despd. 2/6/96

23/5

Read again Order of Government, dated 189 , No. , Miscellaneous.

Enclosures:

Current No.

Statement with ditto.

Order of Government

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original (not paged).

Back Paper, No. of 189 .

Further Paper, No. of 189 .

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

Copied by [illegible]

Examined by [illegible]

7]

INDEXED.

Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.

G.O., DATED 1-6-96.

No. 913 M

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Revenue officer of the Madras Municipality.

Recording the correspondence in Connection with the Charges preferred against the ——— by M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naiyudu.

√

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

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. 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.
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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

Current No. 575 M — of 1896, dated 13th February 96 from the President M.C., Madras.

Current No. 822 M of 1896, dated 6th March 96 from the do

FOR ORDERS.

Please see the notes and orders in G.O. No. 598 M. dl 2nd April 1895.

2. Rai Bahadur Ramaswami Chettiyar is now nearly 62 years old and he will have to retire on the 1st April 1896, if the Government is not pleased to extend his term of office. The Commissioners very strongly recommend the retention of his services for a further period of two years and the President merely forwards a copy of the resolution of the Commissioners together with a report of the proceedings, without an expression of his own opinion. May not a D.O. be sent to him as in last year to state whether he considers Ramaswami Chettiyar to

Prepare memorandum (D.O.) to Col. Moore, though there is little doubt what his reply will be.

WS 14/3/96

Note for H.M.

Please see Col: Moore's reply of the 17th to the D.O. put up, in which he says that it is not advisable to retain Ramaswami Chettiyar as Revenue Officer

WS 18/3/96

V.P. 7/3/96 An application for the post of Rev-officer by Mr. E.S. Hensman, Supt., Paper currency office, is also put up. Submitted for orders whether any notice should be taken of the recommendation of the Municipal Commissioners re the retention of Ramaswami Chettiyar.

WS 17-3-96.

I agree with Col. Moore - from what I hear the out door part of the Rev. Office's work has been much neglected - I have little doubt that if it were properly attended to a considerable improvement could be effected in the receipts from the house tax & perhaps from other taxes also - At the same time I fear that the Municipality is not altogether a

to be efficient and fit for further service.

V.R
24/7/96

WWS
27.11.96

The Comrs have in this instance made a new departure. Hitherto there has been some peg upon which to hang the suit but upon this occasion the Comrs have acted on their own initiative.

The only excuse which can be offered both for this & the illegal one and is afterwards the portion of section 2 of GO No. 1240 dated 14th Nov. 1888 marked with blue pencil. The however both before & the decision of May and not to the retention or appointment of Officers.

In the case of Mr Lorraine there were special reasons for not putting the Comrs case both in the hope & the more and it might perhaps be as well to explain the position to the Comrs in a politely worded order. or they will be assuming that they have a right to act as they have.

The President should certainly I submit be asked for his withdrawal

retirement. I understand from Col. M. that the man whom he would like in his place is Mr Chester Master is certainly the best man of the appts. that I don't know of for the appt. But I don't know whether Mr Chester desires the appt, & in any case he is going on prior leave for 3 months plus the Easter holidays. I think before finally deciding on Ramaswamy Chettiar's retirement we had better first find out from Col. M. whether he does want Mr Chester or whether Mr C. will take the post; & we can then arrange about R. C's retirement accordingly.

DD
19/3/96

Inquiries did be made about Mr Chester accordingly

JS
19/3/96

Division - who is he and not the Comrs who is responsible for the efficiency & discipline of the Hindu Stewards and who & he who being brought daily in contact with the subordinate Revenue Officers ought to be best able to judge if he is still capable of performing his duties in a satisfactory manner. From what has since appeared upon the papers regarding the charges made by Mr Ward against it would seem that the Revenue Inspectors preferred against Ramaswamy Chettiar by the Comrs were the main without foundation

DD
13/3/96.

Re-Retention in service of Rao Bahadur V. Ramaswamy Chetti Madras Municipal Commissioner

FOR ORDERS.

575 M.

Hon. Mr. Justice Best

Resubmitted with Col. Moore's reply as a note.

WMS
17.3.96

[G. 25]
1,000—5-11-95

DEPARTMENT

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

When I noted on the 19th about Mr. Chester, I presumed that the papers were going to H.E. & that I was thereby making a suggestion as to filling this vacancy, & left it to be determined & carried for his approval.

Mr. Chester evidently can't be appd. — We cannot, however, dispense w. Chetti's services until both Ramaswamy & he take his place — & have some one ready to take his place — The only man who occurs to me is Mr. Thurley, Abkari Insp. in charge of Madras Div. — This office is a fair last Indian grow draws Rs 360 including Conservancy, & with, I have no doubt, the promotion of Rs 50 on the 1st proximo. He bears a most excellent character for integrity & capacity & of course knows every work corner of Madras. I shall say I would be glad to take Rs 500 with a prospect of advancement to the full pay of the appt (Rs 700) if in the course of time, & approbation — I recommend that Col. Moore be asked if he would submit the name, if he thinks he would, & ascertain if he could take the appt. He might be put in on probation, & begin with.

WS
24/3/96

I have never seen Mr. Thurley but I have no doubt from the Hon Mr. Best's description that he would do. If H.E. agrees, I think Col Moore should be asked his opinion.

JS 24/3/96

The reply of the President Municipal Commr — & the DO asking whether in the event of Ramaswamy Chettiar being asked he would wish to take Mr Chester (Mr. Collr. Madras Down) is entrusted.

He gives cover to letters from Mr Chester. This Officer does not fulfil the requirements of (iii) Act 666 C.S.R. and cannot therefore as far as I can see be appointed as Revenue Officer of the Municipality as before this can be done he must be transferred to Foreign Service.

He asks a high Salary and to what would have to be added Municipal Contribution so even if he was eligible under the rules the Commr would probably remonstrate against his appointment.

Mr Chesters calculation as to his pension appears to be correct so it would hardly pay him to take less than he asks.

JS
23/3/96

1. The real question to be decided seems to have been lost sight of. It is whether or not Mr. Ramaswamy Chetty should ~~be~~ be retired. Col. Moore does not in his D.O. of the 17th March 1896, say that Mr. R. C. is inefficient; and in the course of an interview I had with Col. Moore, he told me that Mr. R. C's office duty was excellently carried out, although his out-door work was not as actively done as it might be. Do these circumstances sufficiently fulfil the conditions of compulsory retirement to be found in Art. 503 (a) of the C.S.R.? I note that we should have to record our reasons, and Col. Moore said he was not prepared to state that the retention of Mr. R. C's services for another year would be injurious to the interests of the Municipality.

2. It is well to point out that the right of proposing a successor to Mr. R.C. in the office of Revenue Officer, vests in the Governor.

D.S.H.
4.4.96

Remitted to this with reference to the note of H.E. the Governor

10
6/4/96.

As I have already stated, I think it would be for the benefit of the public service that Ramasami Chetty should retire. Col. Moore thinks so also, and his opinion is entitled to great weight, he being the person responsible for the working of the Municipality. His office work may be efficient, but his failure in outdoor work is a serious matter, for his efficient conduct of his duties of outdoor inspection is the only check that exists on the honesty ~~of~~ of the assessments. My own opinion is that, with better work in this respect, additional taxation would hardly be needed to enable the Municipality to meet the new burdens which must shortly be imposed on it. Perhaps H.E. is not aware that the house assessments are now (practically) entirely in the hands of a man on (I think) Rs 80 p.m.

As to recording reasons under Art 503 (a) of the C.S.R. for retaining Ramasami Chetty on extension of service, it does not seem to me necessary to do so. The rule is that at 55 years of age an officer may be required to retire unless the Local Govt. considers him efficient to permit him to remain in the service. That is, no man is to remain in the service except that he is reasonably efficient. But R. C. is 62 next birthday. How the rule always acted on is this:— after 55 it is for the Govt. to say that an officer is not efficient; after 60, it is for the officer to show that he is efficient; that is, in the 1st case the onus probandi is on the Govt., in the 2nd case on the officer; and ~~according~~ to this effect, unless I am mistaken, there was formerly a rule. How the rule regarding retirement after 60 seems to have disappeared — how or why I don't know — since last (a long time ago) I had occasion to examine the article in detail. Nor do I think the rule as to retirement after 55 ~~has~~ has ceased in effect, though it is not so many do still exist in effect, apart in so many

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.
THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE.

Put i Cove

~~Order~~ This is why I recorded reasons of 24/3/96, first sentence
HS

words, is evident from the wording of Act 503 (c)(2) – "at 55 years of age conditionally, and at 60 years of age absolutely".

JS
7/4/96

The presumption that a man of 60 is generally past work is very strong. This will be sufficient, I should think, without giving any other reason.

JS
7/4/96

Resubmitted to H.E. the Governor with reference to note of Hon. Member of 7.4.96.

WDS
8.4.96

JO
8/4/96.

Whatever rule there may have been requiring compulsory retirement at 60, it does not exist now. Before enforcing retirement after the age of 55, we must satisfy ourselves that the officer to be retired is no longer efficient, and we must have a statement of our reasons recorded.
on hand. A bare statement that the officer is over 60 years of age cannot be held to be a compliance with this. A statement from the Head of the Department that the officer had become inefficient, would fulfil the condi-

of the rule. But at present we do not possess this. All we have is Col. Moore's private note of the 17th March, in which he says that his "own opinion is that it is "not advisable to retain Ramasawmi "Chetty as Revenue Officer". I think Col. Moore should be directed by a formal order of Govt. to report officially as to the efficiency of this Officer.

H.H 9.4.96

Resubmitted Hon. Members with ref. to the note of H.E. the Governor of 9.4.96

JO 10/4/96

WDS
10.4.96.

I regret that I am unable to concur with H.E. as to the necessity of placing on record any reasons for requiring a man who is over 60 years of age to retire. It is not, so far as I know, the custom to do so, and I think it would be highly inconvenient and prejudicial to the public service that such a custom should be established – The presumption at the age of 62 is that the man is not efficient and no special reasons need be assigned in any case.

In the present case, it would, I think, be especially inexpedient that special reasons should be sought for. In order that they may be placed on record, we should have, as H.E. says, to get them officially from Col. Moore. But, in my opinion, it would be most unfair to Col. Moore to ask him to place his views on record in an official letter. The Courts have expressed the view that Ramasawmi Chetty should be retained, (and in doing so have taken on themselves functions which do not belong to them). If therefore Col. Moore has now to express officially a contrary opinion, as he certainly should & will do (vide his D.O. of yesterday in the other envelope), an antagonism will be set up between him & the Courts, which may quite possibly renew the strained relations of a few years ago, and lead to a fresh series of attacks upon him, & the discouraging of the Govt. administration – If, however, Govt. simply declines to extend Ramasawmi Chetty's term of service, as I am of opinion it should do, no handle will be given to any one to attack Col. Moore; but the responsibility will rest entirely with Govt, which is where it should rest. No doubt attacks may be made on Govt, but it is, it may be said, a function of Govt to be attacked & the duty of Govt to regard attacks with equanimity.

I may add that Ramasawmi Chetty has now been out of office for eleven days, so that he would require to be formally re-appointed. What the effect of this would be on his pension, I cannot say for certain; but it seems to me that

it might possibly lead to his losing his pension altogether

BS
11/4/96

I do not think it is either expedient or necessary to call on Col Browne to take reasons.

JG
11.4.96

Resubmitted to H.E. the Governor with reference to the Note of this date.
11th Inst.
The papers were received from Madras late yesterday evening.

HD
14/4/96

I have since fully discussed this matter with H.E., and I am now of opinion that Ramasami Chetti may not improperly be granted an extension of service for one year, but no more. If this is accepted, the sanction granted will have to be with retrospective effect and the period from April 1 to the date of resuming his duties, during which Ramasami Chetti will have been absent from duty in the Mints office, will have to be bridged over by the grant of leave — privilege leave of the kind to which he may be due to him; if not, leave on private affairs, or leave without allowances, according to what may be due to him (vide art 377 C.S.R.). But this can be arranged later on.

BS
20/4/96

I agree

JG
20/4/96

A.H 20.4.96

Retention of Ramasamy Chettiyar. Ist Dec. Off

[G. / 25 A.]
1,000—21-3-96.

DEPARTMENT.

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

I think it will be a very good thing to issue this addendum to the G.O. I should not say anything be said as to bridging over the interval during which R.C. was away from office? I think so

BS
28/4/96

JG
28/4/96

1. I would suggest that the passage between A & B be omitted. I do not see how the order mentioned could possibly have misled the Commissioners, as it has reference to the amount of salary to be paid to certain officers, and not to their appointment or retirement. Consequently the order will have no effect, as nothing has been done since it was passed to carry out the intention of the order, and I do not suppose that it is intended to go back on the real intention of the order

I on the 25th inst. framed the draft of the order regarding the retention of Ramasamy Chettiar for another year in the service of the Madras Mint. Shortly afterwards it occurred to me that the question of whether any remark should be made regarding the action of the Commr in making an unasked recommendation (as which the Hon'ble Mr Bliss had remarked when I had not been put forward and settled) I sent for the papers. They had however been sent to Madras as I telegraphed to stop the issue of the order and to recall the file. At the same time I wired to the President the orders passed regarding R Chettiar, stating that he could take action on the telegram and informed him that the orders followed.

Expedient
It is considered to call up the Commr

who pass what appears in the printed report of these proceedings which is put up with the hope, had evidently the idea of the school knowledge that they were doing what in their power I submit the following Rafts in addition to the order which I already passed which has not gone out. In this opportunity is taken to put right of the unfortunate para in a former G.O which to the best of my recollection was personally remarked was a mistake.

"The Govt observes that in the matter the Commrs appear to have been somewhat under a misapprehension as to their position. The law permits the Government at its discretion to remove the Revenue Officer and therefore the question whether he, having attained 55 years of age, is mentally and bodily fit for the duties of his Office and should be retained therein is one entirely for the consideration and decision of the Govt. in Council and in the absence of a request from the Commrs to recommend action in his behalf

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE, C.I.E.

~~The Municipal Act was amended in~~
~~1892, and it is to be presumed that the~~
~~undertaking referred to in the order, 1240 of~~
~~1st Nov. 1888, was understood to be accepted~~
~~by the Govt. at the time of the passing of the~~
~~amending Act. If I am right in this~~
~~presumption, it would savour of breach of~~
~~faith, and to cancel the Order.~~

~~A.S.H~~ 4.5.96

Sergwell - As H.S. please.

HWB
7/5/96

JG
8/5/96

[G. / 25 A.]
1,000—21-3-96.

DEPARTMENT.

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

were beyond the functions of that body.
It is possible the Comm" may wrongly
indeed have been misled by the portion
of para 2 (1) of GO No. 1240 dated
1st Nov. 1888 beginning with the words
"The duty of these Offices" and ending with
the word "the Comm" wishes". In view
to prevent the possibility of further
misconception this part of the order
will now be cancelled". x B

HS
24/4/96

L & M. Dept Letter

Leg 913 Imp

1.6.96

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR. (2)

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E. (1)

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE, C.I.E. (3)

Resubmitted to (1) Hon Mr. Bliss C.I.E.
(2) Hon Mr. Grose C.I.E.

With reference to H. E. the Governor's note

of 4.5.96

W.D.D. 5.5.96. With reference to the remark of the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss regarding the question of saying something about bridging over the time between the 1st of April & R. Chetty returning, I considered the point when the draft first came up to me and thought that it was better to say nothing until the question was raised as the order having retrospective effect there might possibly be no such objection to the stay being drawn from the 1st April. It seemed to me therefore better not to say anything calculated to draw attention

Verywell- W.D. 7/5/96

D 5.5.96