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

INDEXED

& Munl. (1897.) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 143 M.

DATED 3-2-97.

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mul. Council

Declining without remark to adopt the proposals of the [illegible] of Bellary, regarding the appointment of [illegible] Chairman for the Muncy.: & directing [illegible] to take steps for the Election of a new Chairman.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Appointment of a paid chairman, Bellary Municip[illegible] lity

8

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

MENT.

m. of

[5]
509—27-5-95.

Papers to be read in Proceedings :—

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

Current No. 3391 m. of 1896 d/ 18-12-96. from the Collector of Bellary.

Current No. 3418 of 1896, dated 23-12-96 from the —— Do ——

Current No. 3433 of 1896, dated 24-12-96 from the —— Do ——

[illegible] —— Chairman, M. Bellary,

Order. No. 143 mis. d/ 3-2-97.

D/ today
MK 3/2/97

The Government is not prepared at present to adopt the Collector's proposals. Steps should therefore be taken for the election of a new chairman.

2. When the bill to amend the District Municipalities Act is passed into law, the question of appointing a paid Secretary will be considered.

(From orders)

P.R.
2/2/97

D/80

What about this? 14 28/1

2 Bellary

27. 1. 97

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT * MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

1/1/97

the performance sent up to the Secretary yesterday

Dear Mr. Forbes

I write to ask for early orders on my letter to Govt about the Bellary Chairmanship as I am deferring the election of a new Chairman pending the orders of Govt on my letter.

As regards the question of cantonment fences (one of the subjects dealt with in the letter) I should mention that the Municipality is *now* taking some definite action in the matter having instituted a prosecution (as a test case) against one house-owner. This does not however alter the fact that they have let the question slide for years. Besides it has been known for about 2 months past that I was going to report against the system of Elected Chairman-ship & an access of zeal on the part of the Chairman delegate at this juncture is not to be wondered at & is probably not genuine nor likely to last.

Yours &c

R M Campbell

Ag Collector

Appointment of a paid chairman, Bellary Municipality

8

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Current No.s. 3391, 3418 & 3433.m. of 96
& 10.m. of 97.

From

FOR ORDERS.

In forwarding the administration report of the Bellary Municipality for the year 1890-91, Mr. Sewell who was then Collector of the District doubted whether the system of honorary Chairmanship could ever be a success in the case of a large town like Bellary, and remarked that "the town will never be what it should be till a paid Chairman is appointed on whose personal and unremitting attention the rate payers can always depend" × (para. 14 in page 14 of G.O. No. 1436 M dated 7th Septem 1891). The Government however, finding that the administration of the municipality was then fairly satisfactory said that it was not prepared to consider the Collector's proposal × (para. 9 of above G.O.)

2. In February 1892, the then honorary Chairman tendered his resignation, and Mr. Sewell availed himself of the opportunity to recommend to Government a

After what passed in the Leg. C. about paid Secretaries & Elective Chairmen, I could not agree to a nominated Chairman in such a place as Bellary without much more serious cause × Flag. A. than has as yet been disclosed. The election should be allowed to proceed & when the Muni. Bill is passed we must see about the appt. of an efficient paid Secretary

× Flag. B.

EL
30/1/97

second time, the appointment of a paid Chairman on the ground that a private gentlemen who has his own business to attend to could not possibly do the work satisfactory. The Hon'ble Sir Henry Stokes thereupon remarked as follows:-

× Flag. C.
G.O. 463.M. 11-3-92

> 'I dare say that a paid and whole time chairman would improve the administration of Bellary, but though it needs improvement it is not so bad as to justify us in forcing the change on the council upon a mere suggestion of the Collector. I would ask the council what they think about it'.

3. The council which was accordingly consulted in the matter declared itself strongly against the proposal and the result was that the Government passed an order stating that it did not consider that the municipal administration was so unsatisfactory as to justify the appointment of a paid chairman against the wish of the majority of the Councillors.

G.O. 871.M 19-5-92
× Flag. D.

4. Nearly five years have now elapsed since the date of the above order and a reference to the annual reports of the municipality during this period shows that the administration has not been found to be in any way seriously faulty, but on the other hand to be satisfactory.

5. Now, in the first of the letters read above the acting Collector, Mr. Campbell, proposes that the council should

be

be temporarily deprived of the previlege of electing its chairman and that an Official Chairman should be appointed until the council is prepared to accept a paid officer for the place. He says that in a letter addressed to the chairman on the 20th July last, eighteen councillors expressed themselves strongly in favour of a full time paid officer and desired to have a special meeting held for the purpose of ~~directing~~ deciding the question, but that when the meeting actually came off a month latter, four of the signatories absented themsleves, eight voted against the proposal and one remained neutral. Mr. Campbell points out a few instances in which the council & the late honorary Chairman have failed to discharge their duties, and adds that several influential native gentlemen whom he consulted are in favour of the proposed appointment of a full time paid officer, and that the party opposed to the measure Consists of a small but influential clique of Brahmin Vakils headed by the late Chairman, who regard the proposal as an insult to their intelligence. and capacity.

6. The question now for consideration is whether the irregularities mentioned in the Collector's letter would be a sufficient justification for adopting his proposals. It should also be noted that the Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act provides for the appointment of a paid Secretary and if it is soon passed into law, the necessity for

a paid Chairman would be obviated.

7. In the last of the letters read above, one of the municipal councillors requests that a copy of Mr. Campbell's letter may be furnished to the council and that it may be allowed an opportunity of giving a reply to it, before final orders thereon are passed by Government.

8. The second and third letters contain strong representations from a merchant and a municipal councillor in favour of the appointment of a paid Chairman.

V.B.
7/1/97

H.M.

When the new law comes into force the question of appd. a paid Secretary may be considered. G.B.
28/1/97

S 9

Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 3391. M.

Order

From The Collector of Bellary

Cir G & B. No. 1816.

Dated 18th December 1896.

Received

Registered

Enclosures 2. 3.

Spare copies.

SECRETARIAT TO GOVERNMENT
22.-DEC.-1896
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT.

Recommending that ~~a paid~~ an official Rev Chairman be appointed for the Bellary Municipality.

Ref. Please put up papers of 1882 in which the same question was raised also a copy of the report of the [illegible] t 4 years.
M 11/1

Put up
K.R. 11

A.B. 16.1.97

3391.ling86.

10th June aling

Dear Sir

I thank you respectfully for your kind expressions in regard to the work done by me as chairman of this municipality. My colleagues in the council accorded to me their hearty support and cooperation and the Government and the superintending officers always

11

meeting of Council
my mouth and said
a kind word of en-
couragement. All
this considerably
lightened my burden.

As regards the
vexed question whether
it is desirable to
appoint paid chair-
men in large and
important munici-
palities I consider
there are both ad-
vantages and dis-

12

advantages in making
the appointment.

The duties of the
chairman of this
municipality are
numerous and multi-
farious and the mili-
tary cantonment
augments, to no small
extent, the difficulties
and responsibilities
of his position. A full-
time chairman will
certainly be able to
pay closer attention to
the details and the

13

experience striking
supervision over
the subordinates.
A paid chairman
will be more under
the control of the Council
and the Government
than an unpaid non-
official. But the
former will not
receive the same
amount of support
and assistance from
the Council as the latter.
For want of time

2 14

is obliged to delegate a portion of his
executive and office
business to sub-committees
and to individual councillors.
And these are always
ready response to his
appeals to them for
help.

The privilege of
electing the chairman
is highly valued by
the non-official
members of muni-

cipal Councils and is regarded as the backbone of the present system of local self government. The development of this principle will naturally be reached by them.

In Calcutta, municipal administration was characterised by gross unsatisfactoriness under the management of elected chairmen and a paid chairman was in consequence appointed a few years ago. A European gentleman [illegible] was selected by Govt. for the post. The administration became [illegible] & the post was abolished. The failure appears to have been due to the want of support and co-operation of the Council and possibly also to the inefficiency of the man selected. I think the same thing happened in Nellore. So far as I know the administration of a paid chairman is a success only in Coonoor in the hills. It is a very small place.

In the beginning

of 1892 Mr. R. Sewell, then Collector, suggested to the Bellary municipal council the appointment of a paid chairman. The majority of the council opposed the suggestion and the Govt. did not consider that the circumstances warranted its adoption. It was then dropped. I do not think that

the scheme suggested
will meet with favour
with the majority
of the present Council.
There are now 22
members on the Council
(including the building officer nominated);
From what I know
generally of their
views I may say
there ~~are~~ will be 5 in favour
of the suggestion, 15 against
it and 2 are wavering.

Under the old
system the chairman

was the President
and the assistant
chairman was generally
the vice President.
This official posi-
tion carried a great
deal of weight with
the Council and with
the public. A paid
chairman with a
pay of about Rs 250/-
with no initiating
powers, will not
command sufficient
influence either with

21

the Council or with the public. He will not be able to maintain his position in the Council without strong official support. Even a non official elected chairman will not be able to get on without a good majority at his back.

These are briefly my views on the subject.

Yours very truly
P Ananthacharlu

22

2/3691m 986

Bellary
11th June 1891

Dear Sir

In my letter of yesterday I did not express myself very clearly on one point. It is a matter that concerns me personally. As you were kindly pleased

to decline. I have
borne the burden
of the office of chair-
man for a fairly
long time. I am
quite unable to
take it up again.
Fellow councillors
may help the chair-
man in getting
through the work
but they cannot

relieve him of
the worry and
responsibility
of the office.

I expect very
much that I have
not sufficient
time at my dis-
posal to do full
justice to the posi-
tion. I think
it wrong to
undertake public

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

25

duties which concern the health and sanitation of a large and important town which I feel I cannot discharge them to my satisfaction.

With my best regards

I am yours truly

No.

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Dated 18th December 1896.

27

the devotion of at least 5 hours a day of the Chairman, a full time Chairman on a monthly Salary not exceeding Rs 250/- be appointed

...mal Pillai averg...

...y of 10 against

...Kasturi...

...iddle.)

26

3391 M.P.

EXTRACT FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE BELLARY

Dated 28th Novemb...

* *

Present (The present St...

Signed to requisition for special meeting - 1. M. R. Ry. T. Rama Row G...

2. Mr. Abraham Esq. Chai...

Vakil 3. M. R. Ry. G. Lakshmana Row

~~Merchant~~ Contractor 4. do V. Ranga Row Garu.

Vakil 5. do A. Munniah Garu. against

Merchant 6. do. V. C. Venkat Row Garu. against

Vakil 7. do. M. Khader ~~Batcha~~ Saib (for)

Contractor 8. M. R. Ry. D. Krishnamacharlu Garu against

Cloth merchant 9. do. T. Balaji Singh Garu against

Contractor 10. do T. Hampyya Garu against

Vakil 11. do T. Chellaperumal Pillay Avl. against

Contractor 12. do V. C. Sreenivasa Row Garu. B.A. (for)

13. do B. Putteah Garu against

Vakil 14. do V. Kasturi Chetty Garu against

15. do G. Rama Row Garu - B.A. did not vote against

1. Read letter from the Collector of Bellary ref: one No 2795 dated 15th November 96 requesting to convene a special meeting to discuss the question of having a full time Chairman for the Municipal Council Bellary.

Proposed by M. R. Ry. G. Lakshmana Row Garu that,

Taking into consid... the ... of the councillor... ...nation of the ... ...cipality and deci...

PAPERS.

No. 28

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Dated 18th December 1896.

the devotion of at least 5 hours a day of the Chairman, a full time Chairman on a month Salary not exceeding Rs 250/- be appointed by the Councillors.

Seconded by M.R.Ry J. Chellaperumal Pillai avergal.

Proposition lost by a majority of 10 against 4 of the Councillors present. (M.R.Ry Kasturi Chetty Garu left the Council in the middle).

×   ×   ×   ×

(True Extract.)

Rama Rao

Municipal Councillors' Office,
Bellary 28th Novr 1896. } Ex-Officio. Chairman M. C.

28-11-96

28/11

No. 28

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Dated 18th December 1896.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 3391 M.

From

R. H. Campbell Esqr.
Ag: COLLECTOR OF
BELLARY.

To

THE Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Depmt.
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the Office of the Chairman of the Bellary Municipal Council is now vacant. M.R.Ry D. Kristnamacharlu who was elected as Chairman on 20. 7. 95 and took his seat on 22-8-95 sent in his resignation on 30. 10. 96 and was relieved on 28. 11. 96 by the Divisional Officer of Bellary, who has on account of the famine delegated all his powers to M.R.Ry D. Rama Rao B. a 1st grade pleader. I have not yet convened a special meeting of the Councillor councillors for the election of a new Chairman, ~~&~~ as before I do so, I wish to urge once more on Government the real necessity of appointing a full time paid Chairman for this large and important Municipality.

2. The question was mooted by the Municipal Councillors themselves in July last. On the 20th of that month, the 18 councillors named in the margin sent the following letter to the Chairman:- "The undersigned "being strongly of "opinion that it is "necessary to have "at present for this Municipality a full time Chairman on a monthly salary,

Name.	Profession	Amount of Income tax paid.
1. M.R.Ry. K. Venkata Rao.	1st grade Pleader.	Rs 192.
2. " A. Muniah	Merchant & Contractor	" 94.
3. " B. Puttayya Chetty.	Money lending & house rents.	52.
4. " J. P. Cotilingam.	Principal Wardlaw College.	15.
5. " R. Ranga Rao.	1st grade Pleader.	130.
6. " P. Rama Rao	— Do —	292.
7. " G. Kristappa	Cloth merchant.	78.
8. " T. Hampayya.	Do & money lending.	365
9 " P. Balayya	Nuts & money lending	260
10 " H. Balaji Sing	Contractor	15
11. Mr. K. Abdul kareem Saib	Money lending & Contract	Not taxed yet.
12. " Abdul Sathar Saib	Contractor	
13. M.R.Ry. P. Vadamalai Pillai.	Contractor	
14. " T. Chellaperumal Pillai	Money lending, house rents &c.	
15. M. Abraham Esqr.	Money lender, Distiller, Shop keeper &c.	469
16. Capt. Henry L Rosher.	Offg: Station Staff Officer	
17. Surgeon Major J. W. Evans	District Medl. & Sanitary Officer Bellary	
18. Mr. A. Khader Pasha Saib	Merchant.	

request

"request that a Special meeting of the "Council may be called at a very early "date to consider and decide the subject." A Special meeting was accordingly held on the 22d August 1886. The following resolution was moved by M.R.Ry. K. Venkata Rao and seconded by M.R.Ry. J. P. Cotilingam. "That taking into "consideration the extensive area of "the Municipality, its large population "of 60,000 including a large Military "Cantonment, the extensive work devolving "upon the Chairman of the Municipal "Council in the management of office work "and supervision of the various "institutions under its control, and that "past Chairmen were not able to "devote at least 6 hours per day to "indoor and out-door work, the Council think it necessary that a Chairman who can devote the whole of his attention — "receiving a salary of Rs 250 a month "be nominated for the Bellary "Municipality." After a discussion of 3 hours, the proposition was put to the vote with the result that it was lost. There were 17 councillors present at the meeting. Of these one M.R.Ry E. Kristappa did not vote and the others were divided as follows:-

For the proposition 3.	Against 13.
1. Surgeon Major Evans.	1. M.R.Ry D. Kristnama Charlu
2. M.R.Ry K. Venkata Rao.	2 " T. Rama Rao (Dy Coll.r)
3 " J. J. Cotilingam.	3 " G. Lakshmana Rao
	4 " R. Ranga Rao.
	5 " A. Muniah.
	6 " H. Balaji Sing
	7 " T. Hampayya
	8 " P. Balayya
	9 " K. Sreenivasa Rao
	10 " B. Pullayya Chetty
	11 " V. Kustoori Chetty
	12 " P. Rama Rao
	13 " Khader Patcha Saib.

The

The result of the vote speaks volumes. That out of 18 councillors who on the 20th July signed a declaration that a full time Chairman was necessary, 6 should abstain from attending the special meeting while the ~~reminder~~ remainder (8) should within the brief space of a month change their minds so suddenly and join in passing a contrary resolution to the effect that "the question of appointing a paid "Chairman was unnecessary and "inopportune" is a matter that deserves the serious notice of Government. These 8 councillors last mentioned have completely stultified themselves and shown clearly that they are utterly unfit to sit and vote on Municipal affairs. Of the remaining 4 councillors who had convened the meeting, one did not vote and only the other 3 gentlemen adhered to their view. I understand that before the meeting the then Chairman M.R.Ry D. Kristnama Charlu represented to the councillors that the proposition if passed would be a censure on his administration and therefore begged them to withdraw in consideration of the fact that the New District Municipalities Bill provided for a paid Secretary. I must mention that Captain Rosher who could not attend the Special meeting owing to other urgent work sent to the Chairman the following letter which was put before the meeting "I am most strongly of opinion that a full time Chairman on a monthly salary is for many reasons a most desirable thing to have in a large

Municipality

"Municipality like Bellary, and I shall "be much obliged if this letter may be "recorded in the proceedings of the "Council".

3. — I have said above that the requisition for a Special meeting of the councillors was made on the 20th July and that the meeting was held on the 22nd August. During the interval, the so-called Rate payers' association of Bellary had a meeting of its own on the 26th July 1886, and Mr Tremenheere has left the following note about its proceedings:—

"On the 26th July notices were circulated "by the Secretary, People's association "calling a public meeting to protest "against the change. The District

"Medical Officer sent me a copy and I attended the meeting. Its proceedings have been reported in the Hindu as I think, incorrectly.

"The meeting was called for 5 P.M. I arrived at 5.15 and found 45 persons present. Proceedings opened at 5.25. At 5.45 I counted 75 persons present. I left at 7 P.M. when I partly counted, partly estimated those present inside and outside the building at 100. It is probable that some of these were attracted by the Collector's presence made known by my carriage waiting at the door. Anyhow, it does not appear likely 400 people were present as reported. As for there being "many downstairs for want of space" there were

none

"none when I left so late as 7 P.M.

"While waiting for the proceedings to open, I asked the Secretary of the People's association (Mr. S. Venkatacharlu I think) who constituted the association. It appears there used to be 300 subscribers but subscriptions have not been collected of late years. There are no office holders, and the association is personified in the Secretary alone.

"With hardly an exception the meeting was addressed by vakils of whom nearly all were Brahmins. — Apart from a few of the Speakers, there seemed to be no enthusiasm and the meeting fell flat."

4. The occasion mentioned in para 2 above is not the only instance in

which the Bellary Municipal Council showed its want of a sense of public duty. At the instance of the Station Staff officer, the Council passed the following resolution on the 20.3.94:- "The council is prepared to exercise "the power vested in it by Section 176 "of the District Municipalities Act "by giving notice to house owners and "occupiers to maintain and repair "sufficient fences for the compounds of "bungalows in the Bellary Cantonment. "The council recommends wire fencing "with stone uprights as being about "cheapest and endurable. The house-"owners or occupiers will be requested "to state what fence they intend putting "up. The Chairman is authorised to

give

give the necessary notices to the house-"owners and occupiers for putting "up, maintaining and repairing fences." The Station Staff officer had to remind the Chairman on the subject again on the 15.5.94, and on the 29th idem, the council adopted the following resolution:- "Resolved that "notices be given to the owners of "occupied bungalows in the Cantonment "and civil lines, and if owners are "not resident in the Station, to the "occupiers of such bungalows to "maintain and repair sufficient "fences for the lands attached to such "bungalows within 2 months from the "date of the service of notice." No action was taken on this resolution,

but

held on the 31-7-94, Mr Upshon, the self constituted trustee of the property of the late Mr D.V. Abraham, proposed that "owing to the disabilities that the landlords in the Cantonment suffer from reduced rents and greater exaction of tenants, resolution No 5 dated 29.5.94 be rescinded." The proposal was seconded by Rao Bahadur Sabapathy Mudali, then a member of the Madras Legislative Council, and carried by a majority of 12 against 5. And this was after the Collector had in his letter No 3769 dated 18.7.94 to the Chairman drawn attention to the existence of a number of vacant buildings in the Cantonment resorted to by idle and disorderly persons and

to

to the insufficiency of the fencing throughout a great part of the Cantonment. An examination of the votes in favor of the resolution disclosed that several of them had been given by Councillors directly interested in some of the bungalows in the Cantonment. This fact was reported to Government which expressed its great surprise that any Councillors should have voted on a question of public improvement which affected their pecuniary interests. The Hon'ble Mr Bliss made moreover the following statement on the subject in the Legislative Council:-

Go 1590M / 1.11.94 ×

"Then again we had another case in another Municipality where the

Station Staff officer brought to the notice of the Chairman the unsatisfactory state of the compounds of houses and the necessity for putting up fences around bungalows. After some correspondence there was a resolution passed by the Municipal Council in these very satisfactory terms: "That the Council is prepared to exercise the powers vested in it by Section 156 of the District Municipalities Act by giving notice to house owners and occupiers of houses to maintain and repair sufficient fences to compounds." No body would deny that this was the proper course to adopt. In order to maintain proper sanitation and to prevent cattle and people from

Straying

Straying into compounds and committing nuisances, it is very necessary that compounds should be protected by fences. Afterwards one of the Councillors gave notice that he intended to move for a reconsideration of this resolution, alleging that it involved hardship to landlords and that fencing was merely a matter between landlord and tenant. The matter came up before a meeting of the Municipality and the end of it was that by a majority of 12 to 5, out of 17 present, this most excellent resolution as to fencing was cancelled. Now if that had been the only thing, perhaps the

Hon'ble

Public members may say "we cannot interfere", but I wish to bring to the notice of the Council that practically this resolution was carried by a number of landlords sitting on the Municipal Council and voting in favour of themselves. I say that such a performance is a most discreditable one. I have a list given me of the twelve members who voted for themselves. One man is a member of a firm which owns 10 bungalows, the next has got one house; the next is the owner of two houses; the next is a member of a firm which owns 10 houses; and the next is the agent of an estate which owns 7 houses;

and

and two others own one house each, and that is followed by the mention of two other Councillors who appear on the list, but the exact number of houses they own is not stated here. That makes nine out of 12 people who are directly interested in upsetting that very proper resolution of the Municipal Council. I say that people who can act in such a manner are very much better kept out of the Council. This is a matter in which I have been told we may trust to public opinion. If you are to trust to public opinion whose public opinion are you to trust to?

The public opinion, I suppose of enlightened gentlemen like those that I see before me who are elected to represent their fellow countrymen in this Council. If one could estimate all public opinion from the public opinion of gentlemen like them it would be all right, but I regret to say that in the list I have, I find the name of a gentleman who at that time was a member of this Council and who in my opinion disgraced himself by the action he took on that occasion. If I had had the power I should have dismissed him from that Council. I only regret

I

I had not the power to mark thereby my sense of disapproval of his disgraceful conduct."

5. Notwithstanding these strictures, the old state of things still goes on. In December 1898, the Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces, Madras, visited Bellary and brought the following matters to the notice of Government, and suggested that the Municipality might be awakened to a sense of its duties and responsibilities.—

(a) That cattle including cows which supply the garrison with milk, strayed everywhere, fed on ~~Staple~~ stable litter in compounds, the fences of which were permitted to be left unrepaired:

(b) that the conservancy of the latrines of native Servants was not being properly attended to and that nallas were being used as latrines.

(c) that the roads were unswept and waterways and culverts seldom cleared.

(d) that prickly pear was allowed to grow unchecked.

Of course, Resolutions have been passed on these matters, but practically nothing has been done yet to carry them out. His Excellency the Governor had lately an opportunity of seeing the Cantonment and I remember that he remarked on the neglected state of the compounds of the officers' houses.

6.

6. I have gone through most of the Correspondence of 1895-96 relating to Bellary Municipality; and I find that the administration of its affairs has been characterised by three features, none of which reflect credit on the Chairman or the Council as a whole. They are firstly, prolonged discussion on paper on very trifling matters between the Chairman and the officers with whom he had to deal, secondly loquacity and fruitless talk in the Council, and thirdly a tendency to write misleading letters in the Hindu or the Madras Standard. To look up all this correspondence would take

me at least a week which it is impossible for me to spare now on account of famine work. I will give one illustration of prolonged correspondence. The new lying-in hospital was built in 1893 through a contractor. After repeated inspections, the Councillors at their meeting of 8.5.94 resolved that the building be taken charge of at once and opened to the public at the earliest convenience. Nothing apparently was done till 12.2.95 when the District Medical Officer pointed out that the building required a compound wall and other additions, forwarded a list of furniture and equipments required and applied for the staff absolutely

Necessary

Necessary for the efficient working of the hospital. In another letter written on the same day he reported that the building was not quite suitable on account of its locality, and suggested the construction of another either in the compound of the Sabapathy Mudali Hospital or adjacent to it. On the 26.2.95 the Council resolved upon adopting this suggestion and appointed a Sub committee to take the necessary steps to see the building already constructed and to select a site for the new one. It was not till October 1895 that the Sub Committee selected a site and that the

Council

decided to apply to Government for sanction to dispose of the building by public auction. In the meanwhile the District Medical officer suggested on 1.4.95 the opening of the hospital in a rented building pending the construction of a new one. This was approved by the Council on 9.4.95, but as no action was taken, the District Medical officer brought the delay to the Surgeon General's notice and the latter officer wrote as follows to the Collector in his letter dated 10.9.95 No. 6246 — "It would be a great pity to put off the opening of that institution until a new one was built, to which I have no objection, but in the meantime, the present building should be used for the purpose it was constructed and Mrs Carmody placed in charge of it - . . . She should be provided

with

with an adequate establishment, equipment and medicines". In another letter dated 24.9.95, the Surgeon General said — "The present building is a capital one, should be equipped and utilised until another is built, and the sooner a duly qualified Lady Medical practitioner with a medical qualification not lower than that of civil apothecary is placed in charge of the hospital and of a dispensary for caste and gosha women the better in order to carry out the suggestion of the Dufferin Fund Committee and the orders of the Government of Madras and Government of India on the subject." The views of the Surgeon General were communicated to the Council by Mr.

Tremenheere in his letter No. 1499 dated 22-11-95. In G.O. 8-2-96 No. 238 M. the Government called the Councils attention to the Collectors remark that the Lying-in hospital long practically completed should be opened at once and used also as a women's hospital. On the 21-2-96, the Chairman reported to Government that "the Council having resolved to sell the "Lying-in hospital by public auction "after the new site selected by the Sub- "Committee is approved by Competent "authority, the report regarding the disposal "of the Lying-in hospital will be submitted "as soon as the opinion of the Sanitary Board "is obtained." In forwarding this letter to "Government", Mr. Tremenheere remarked that it had taken years to build the hospital and it would take "this Municipality"

years

years to build another, and that he agreed with the Surgeon General that the hospital should be opened at once. The Government having in its order ~~No. 330 M dated 25-3-96~~ 530 M Dated 25-3-96 drawn the Councils attention to these remarks, the Chairman reported on 31-3-96 that steps were being taken to open the hospital in April. This reached Mr. Tremenheere on the 1st April, but on the 2nd came another letter addressed to the Sanitary Engineer proposing the sale of the building. Thereupon Mr. Tremenheere forwarded the 1st letter to Government with the following endorsement — "This "letter reached my office on the 1st. On "the 2nd a letter was received, addressed "to the Sanitary Engineer to Government, "proposing ~~the sale~~ to sell the Lying-in hospital

hospital

"just constructed after several years' "delay and build another. I have "returned it with reference to the "present letter. It is in accordance with "the Surgeon General's advice that the "hospital is to be opened promptly. In "short there is nothing else to be done "without discredit, and any idea of "another building should be abandoned."

The Government recorded these remarks and communicated a copy of them to the Municipal Council. (G.O. 29.4.96 No 708 Mis).

And yet the hospital was not opened, though the Chairman had written to the District Medical officer on the 13.3.96 that he was going to have the hospital opened towards the end of that month.

The District Surgeon explained on the 14.4.96 that his requisition for equipment,

Clothing

clothing, furniture made a year ago had not been complied with and that it was undesirable to open the hospital in haste, insufficiently and unsuitably equipped, and without servants, simply for the sake of having to record that the opening took place within the close of the official year.

The Chairman offered to obtain locally some of the articles required. The District Medical officer did not agree to this and after some further correspondence, the Chairman wrote to him the following letter on the 25.3.96:– "I have now no "other alternative than to postpone "the opening of the Lying-in-hospital to "some day in April. I request you "to fix as early a date in April as you "possibly can after hearing from Madras"

7. Here the matter dropped for a time. On the 10.9.96 the District Medical officer informed the Chairman that he was going to open the hospital on the 14th idem. The Chairman replied that he had addressed the Collector to have the hospital opened by H.E. the Governor and that he was awaiting his reply. Before he received this letter, the District Medical officer had written to the Chairman on Sunday the 13th September to order the hospital servants to be ready at the hospital at 6.30 A.m. the following day. The Chairman answered that he could not arrange for this as it was Sunday, and that the opening of the institution might be deferred till H.E. the Governor's

visit

visit. After some further correspondence the hospital was opened quietly on 22.9.96. It still has no compound wall.

8. Another instance of maladministration is furnished by the state of the Sabapathi Mudali Hospital which is in charge of the Municipality. This hospital has been visited by H.E. the Governor and has been unfavourably commented by him as well as by every official visitor without exception who has been over it. Suffice it to say that it is an ill-equipped, dilapidated building which is a standing disgrace to the town. Moreover the Chairman is constantly interfering with the District Medical officer in the matter of

internal management and it is entirely due to his neglect that the hospital is so badly furnished and in such bad repair. Then again the records of the Municipal office are, as admitted by the Chairman himself, in the greatest confusion, and the Council has at my suggestion just decided to employ a special clerk on Rs 20 for sorting them. Resolutions of the Council are left without any action being taken on them and until I recently drew the Chairman's attention to it, they were not even published. The repair of roads was not taken up until His Excellency the Governor's visit was announced and then everything was done in a great hurry. In some

places

places, the gravel was merely spread out and the roads are worse than before. A large quantity of gravel purchased at a high price and heaped on the sides of roads is still lying there and is fast diminishing every day. The worst feature of all is the fact that tax-collection work of the Municipality is now in a deplorable condition simply owing to the culpable apathy and negligence of M.R.Ry Krishnama Charlu the Chairman who has just resigned. On this point I would simply quote from a letter from the Chairman delegate M.R.Ry S. Rama Rao, the only councillor who aspires to be elected as Chairman. In view of the existing famine I wrote to the Chairman on the 7th November, asking him to stop all expenditure except what was absolutely necessary and to devote a substantial amount of Municipal money to repairing roads and thus giving employment to the labouring classes of the town. I also suggested that a portion of the funds available might be spent in the improvement of water supply and the removal of prickly pear. In his reply dated 9th November 1896 No. 6202, he writes as follows:-

"With reference to your letter No. 2795 dated 7th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I have stopped all expenditure on Municipal works.

"2. The Budget allotment for expenditure on Roadworks for the year 1896-97 is Rs 6700/- and the Government ordered the expenditure of the unspent balance under this head of Rs 1747/- thus

making

making a total of Rs 8,447/- available for expenditure; but Rs 8770/- have already been spent and this is Rs 323/- over the allotment. This expenditure includes an amount of materials mostly gravel collected on the road sides which can be utilized in making roads which yet remain to be repaired.

"3. While on this subject I am bound to bring to your notice the present financial condition of this Municipality.

"4. The cash balance to the credit of the Municipality on the 31st March 1896 was Rs 38,651-14-5 and the receipts and expenditure up to 31st October 1896 are Rs 28,854-2-10 and Rs 60,748-2-0 respectively, the result being that on the 1st November a balance of Rs 6757-15-3 was left. The receipts and expenditure up to the 7th of the month are Rs 240-3-9 and Rs 2541-1-8 and the cash balance on the 7th instant was Rs 4467-1-4 excluding deposits amounting to Rs 6931-8-4 on 31st October 1896.

"5. The conservancy and other establishments have yet to be paid for the month of October 1896 (they will be paid tomorrow) and this expenditure will amount to Rs 2233.

"6. This depressed condition is principally due to the non-collection of the house-tax for the reason that the house assessment Registers were under revision. Except for two wards

(and

(and these are expected at an early date) the revision of the registers is completed, a large number of notices are issued and served, others are under preparation; the house-tax bills also ready to a large extent and they will be soon presented for payment; all the necessary steps will be promptly taken for the collection of this and other taxes. Still I think much cannot be realised until before the end of December next.

"7. I have already reported to you (vide No 6077 dated 7th instant) that the work of removing &c of prickly pear within Municipal limits can at once be taken in hand and work given to famine coolies.

"8. In the above circumstances

I

I seek your advice.

9. The Resolution of the Council on the subject dated this day is herewith forwarded."

9. This letter speaks for itself and requires little comment from me. Whatever be said of an administration which swallows up a surplus of Rs 38,651 outstanding on the 1st of April and collects hardly any taxes up to the month of November ie during the whole of the 1st half of the Municipal year such a state of affairs can only be characterized as discreditable and disgraceful in the extreme and as calling for very severe remedial measures. It is very unlikely that the taxes will now be collected within the year and it is extremely hard on

house-owners

house-owners and other Rate-payers that they should be served with demands for two half-years simultaneously as is now being done. None but an utterly incompetant Chairman would have allowed the whole of one half-year to elapse without issuing demands on the ground that the Registers were under revision. The revision should have been postponed till next year if it was not completed before May or June.

To put the matter briefly the following are the principal duties which can be properly attended to only by a full time paid Chairman:-

(a) Prompt collection of taxes.

(b) The improvement of the Hospital,

the present State of which is a disgrace to the town. A Scheme now under consideration for selling the Sahapathi Mudali hospital and the Lying-in-hospital and for building a new block of buildings from the proceeds will require careful financing and will entail great time and trouble neither of which an honorary Chairman engaged in the professional duties of a pleader will be able to spare.

(c) The State of the Cantonment fences is another matter requiring the earnest and continuous attention of a full time Chairman. Several prosecutions may perhaps be necessary and a pleader Chairman may be loth to prosecute the owners of bungalows for

fear

fear lest this step should make him unpopular and affect his practice. This matter has long been under correspondence and practically nothing has been done or will be done under the present régime.

(d) The drainage of the town is another important question. The town is full of most insanitary Cess pools and under the present arrangement, the Chairman has no time to devote to abating or removing the nuisance caused by them.

(e) The proposed Water Supply Scheme which it is hoped will soon be put in hand will alone require the services of a full time Chairman if it is to be carried out promptly and effectually.

(f) There is no doubt that the whole Municipal office requires thorough overhauling. The late Chairman has himself admitted that the records are in confusion. The office cannot be put into order except by a Chairman who can devote his whole time to the duties of the office.

(g). The question of ~~creating~~ erecting a public market is being systematically neglected, though the Government has for several years been drawing the council's attention to it. Several Municipalities derive a handsome Revenue from their markets and there is no reason why Bellary should not do the same.

0. For these reasons, I think it my

duty

duty to recommend to Government that the power of electing the Chairman should be temporarily withdrawn from the Bellary Municipal Council. I should not have recommended this extreme step, had there been in the council any one who could reasonably be expected to do justice to the multifarious duties of the office or had the council not resolutely set its face against any interference with the present arrangement of an elective honorary Chairman. I have examined the list of councillors and have made enquiries about them. There is no one among them who is willing or able to conduct the duties of the office except the present Chairman-deligate

M.R.Ry

Mr R Ry P. Rama Rao B.A. He however is like the late Chairman a 1st grade pleader with an extensive practice earning more than Rs 1000 a month. He tells me that he is willing to forego his practice in the Munsiff's Court in case he is elected Chairman, but this will hardly make any difference as the bulk of his practice is in the District Court. I find moreover, that most of the friction between the District Medical Officer and the late Chairman arose last year when this gentleman was Chairman delegate. I therefore do not expect any improvement to result from his being elected as Chairman.

11. After accepting the resignation of M R Ry D. Kristnama Charlu I requested

the

the Council to again consider the Question of having a paid Chairman. It was discussed accordingly at a meeting held on the 28th November, and the proposal was rejected by a majority of 10 against 4. Of the 24 Councillors only 15 attended and of them one did not vote. The council's resolution is enclosed for the information of Government. As the council is obdurate in this matter, I have been compelled, holding the strong views that I do on the subject, to lay the matter before Government and to ask the latter to teach this Municipality a lesson.

12. I must remark that I am not the first Collector who has thought the appointment of a paid Chairman

necessary. Mr. Tremenheere who takes great interest in Municipal administration and has made a study of it, after recording in para 13 of his remarks on the Municipal Administration report for 1894-95 his testimony to the good work done by the retiring Chairman M.R.Ry. P. C. Anantha Charlu expressed his apprehension of the success of the continuance of an honorary Chairmanship in the following terms:– "But the post, I am driven to think, both in office work and in outdoor inspection requires more time than most private gentlemen can spare, and unless the town is very lucky in its next elected Chairman it may become necessary to attach a salary to the appointment to secure the whole time of the incumbent." This was

written on the 10.7.95. Mr. Tremenhee has left another note on the subject dated 10.8.96, which is as follows:—

"The executive of the council is ~~insufficient~~ inefficient. This is notorious, but any doubt could be set at rest by a scrutiny of the Municipal records and by asking the Sanitary Commissioner, the District Medical Officer, the Station Staff officer and the leading Councillors as well as the leading inhabitants of Bellary. As soon as this inefficiency revealed itself to me, I studied its causes and came to the conclusion that it was primarily due to the inability of the Chairman to spare sufficient time from his profession for Municipal work. That work

"seems to require daily two hours open-air
"inspection and four in office. I began
"therefore to sound public opinion as
"to the propriety of appointing a full
"time paid Chairman, but I found
"that the influence of the then Chairman
"Mr. P. C. Anantha Charlu, Public Prosecutor
"and a Vakil with large private
"practice – was too great to hope for
"success. .... There is no person of
"sufficient ability in the Council who
"can afford to devote his whole time to
"the work." It is natural that M.R.Ry. P. C. Anantha Charlu when he once entered upon the duties of Chairman should refuse to acknowledge that e was not capable of discharging hem or was unwilling to devote ufficient time to them. He is no longer in

in the Council and has now changed his views. – vide his letters to Mr. Tremenheere of June 1895 (enclosed) and his letter to the Hindu dated 29 Jly 1896. Several other influential Native gentlemen whom I have consulted have informed me that they are strongly in favor of a paid Chairman. It is only a small but influential clique of Brahmin Vakils headed by the late Chairman that has chosen to think that the appointment of a paid Chairman is an insult to their intelligence and capacity. Mr. Sewell pressed for a paid Chairman in 1892, but the Government did not approve of the idea as it was of opinion that the administration of Municipal affairs had not been then them so unsatisfactory as to justify the adoption of Mr. Sewell's suggestion. Things have changed for the worse since and there is now no one in the Council who can safely be trusted to carry on the work of the Chairman efficiently. I have not dilated upon the various shortcomings of M.R.Ry Kristnama Charlu's administration because the object of this letter is not to frame an indictment against that gentleman. He has resigned the office without assigning the true reason for such a step and the state of confusion which he has left behind him is a sufficient comment on his work.

13. If the Government considers, as I sincerely trust it will, that a paid

Chairman is necessary for the Bellary Municipal Council the only thing to be done is to bring pressure to bear on the Council so as to bring it to reason. As the Council is at present resolved to have nothing to do with a paid Chairman it only remains for Government to deprive the Council temporarily of the powers of electing its own Chairman and to appoint an official Chairman in place of an elected one, and this is the step which I most strongly recommend as being the only one which will bring the Council to a sense of its duties and responsibilities. The arrangement of an official Chairman may continue until such time as the council agrees to attach a salary to this office. The Deputy Collector in Charge of the Bellary Division would ordinarily be the officer to appoint as official Chairman, but his time is fully occupied with Famine work and if he assumes office he will be obliged to delegate his powers as he has now done to the present Chairman delegate. I would therefore recommend that the Assistant Collector Mr Lloyd who has now no divisional Charge be appointed Chairman. A vacancy in the council will have to be created for Mr Lloyd by asking one of the official Members to resign his seat.

It remains to be seen how the council will work under an official Chairman.

Should

Should it prove obstructive it may be necessary to alter the proportion of nominated to elected members but I shall refrain for the present from making any proposal to this effect.

14. In conclusion, I beg that early orders may be passed on this letter, so that in case the Government negatives my proposal, I may at once convene a special meeting for the election of a new Chairman

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient Servant
R.W.Campbell
20/12
Collector

29/12

Ado 19/12

81

Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 3418. M.

Order

From The Collector of Bellary

N. Dis: C. Pet **No.** 1483. / 23/12/96

Dated 23/12/96

Received 27.-DEC.-1896

Registered 30-12-96

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SECRETARIAT TO GOVERNMENT * LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT *

SUBJECT.

Forwarding the petition presented by M. Ramanujulu Naidu garu, merchant and contractor of Bellary regarding the election of a paid-Chairman to the Bellary Municipality

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C. Pt. No 1483.
23/12/96

V. A.G.
Abs
22/12

Bellary.
21st December 1896

From

M. R. Ry. M. Ramanjulu Naidu Garu
Merchant & Contractor.

To

R. H. Campbell Esqre
Collector Bellary.

Sir,

I respectfully request the pleasure of your forwarding this letter on to Government with such remarks as you may deem proper.

Bellary Municipality is one of the very few large Municipalities in this Presidency having a population of 60,000 people including a large number of troops Garrisoned here. There are I think 40 miles of roads, a number of Slaughter Houses public Latrines and Tamarind besides an innumerable number of Dust bins and urinals; There are also over 100 heads of Cattle belonging to the Municipality fed by the Council.

Within the recent years almost every one of the Chairman has been a lawyer, invariably a busy lawyer. Such people have proved a thorough failure: They could only manage to write Administration Reports

Administration Reports in the Choicest language showing however fair Collection of Taxes and elicited the thanks and Compliments of Government. During all these years while the administration was good on paper the real administration for which a Municipality is intended had been most disgraceful. The Sanitation of the Town throws much discredit on the Municipal administration, although a few important thoroughfares had been kept Clean the innumerable number of bye lanes are highly insanitary Public Latrines and Slaughter Houses have been very filthy while no one knows how the Tanneries are. There are a number of Butchers shops: no one knows what kind of meat the Butcher sells the ill paid Sanitary Staff are the Judges of this all important food, how far their honesty Can be relied upon I leave it for the better Judgement of Government.

I Can boldly assert that none of the Chairmen had ever paid a single visit to these places.

With regard to the roads less
said

said the better. Continued apathy and neglect of the various Chairmen have rendered the Town roads almost unfit to drive on. Thanks to H. E. the Governor whose recent visit had stirred the Council to put some roads in order.

As for the Metal used on roads I beg to point out it is unworthy of a Municipal Constitution to allow such metal to be used and thus waste Rate payers money entrusted to their Care for proper utilization. None of these Chairmen Could have personally Checked all the Measurements of road metal and gravel to satisfy themselves as to their Correctness: I doubt whether they knew how to measure, Calculate and reduce the same to Cubical Contents - for all these they had to depend upon an ill paid and irresponsible Maistry who is for dignity's sake Called an Overseer. how far one Can wholly rely in money matters on such low paid people without professional Check over them I beg His Excellency in Council will please Consider deeply. In the P. W. D. every detail is Check measured by a responsible Engineer.

I do not blame any Chairman for all these because Engineering is
not

not in their line of business.
I am also quite sure that many a lawyers that had adorned the Municipal Chair was not a ~~man~~ aware of the extent of roads under the Municipality except on paper.
The feeding of the Municipal Cattle was left in the hands of some Municipal servant without proper check over him. These are the gentlemen that covet for the Chairmanship and put themselves forward for election although they are utterly unfit (not intellectually) for the place.
A lawyer Chairman can hardly devote a few working hours for Municipal matters, because every morning before he is up from his suitors would be waiting, he has to see them, hear their case, settle fees and finally take up the case; then he begins to study the Records of the cases in which he has to appear before different Courts during that day; by 10 am he is off to the Courts and is engaged there till 5 P.M., sometimes later; after 5 P.M. he comes out quite

exhausted

exhausted, but as a matter of routine he signs a few Municipal papers with reluctance, the next morning the same routine begins; all these while the Chairman is in town but he constantly goes out into the District on his professional business leaving the Chairmanship either in the hands of the Office or a Councillor.
Where in the name of the Local self Government, I beg to ask have these lawyers time to devote at least a few hours of their undivided attention to Municipal matters; they have been by their continued neglect of duty, abusing the local self Government Scheme.

Owing to such continued apathy inattention and mismanagement for years for want of time &c &c there are several defects which require to be remedied and which can only be done by a person who can devote his whole time to the Municipality. At present ill paid Sanitary Inspectors and peons are the custodians of public health. Since they know their Master is not Coming out to Check their work they don't do their work properly except dancing attendance upon the Chairman in his house for half an hour or so; encroachments on Municipal lands had been Carried out to such a fearful extent that in some places buildings have sprung up over the Municipal side drains and in other places the traces of side drains are not visible. The lanes in the Town are so dirty that if any apedemic breaks out it would be found very Costly and diffecult to stamp it out of the locality. Dust bins are not properly Cleaned so heaps of dirt of years accumulation are to be seen now.

I have known all the Sanitary Staff was employed and is still being so employed in Collection of Taxes leaving Sanitation to look after itself, as it was alleged that the thanks of Government Could only be expected on fair Collections.

I am a staunch advocate of

the

the Local Self Government I do not therefore wish that our franchise should be taken away from us I however beg to propose the appointment of a person as Chairman on some decent Salary who should devote his whole time to Municipal matters.

The Council must have the power of inviting applications and make their own selection out of the lot: at present they elect an honorary Chairman but hereafter they have to elect a paid man.

I have been in Madras for sometime and am glad to observe the excellent way the President does his duties. He is always out on work. Subordinates of various Branches are well posted upon their work lest the President would Come, his office hours are regular and his visit to different localities are more often.

The Commissioners there have full scope of discussion, they have not lost any prestige on the Contrary their prestige is enhanced although their President is appointed by the Government, but in the present Case the Chairman will be Selected by the Councillors themselves out of a lot of applicants.

I am fully of opinion that the prestige of the Council has suffered during these long years of Continued mismanagement; by the proposed Change the prestige will not at all suffer on the Contrary it will be enhanced.

It might be argued that Councillors other than lawyers would be willing to do the work but I beg to point out there are none who Can devote their whole time to Municipality and if there is any although I know of no one he must be incompetent for the very responsible place of a Chairman.

I have ventured to lay before the Government my views on the local burning question of the day and respectfully pray His Excellency in Council will please See His way to direct the Municipal Council of Bellary to appoint a paid Chairman without however taking away from them the privilege of Election or Selection of their own Chairman.

The

The Government may like to know who and what I am. For their information I respectfully beg to inform you I am a merchant and a Contractor; My Firm Called Messrs M. Ramanjulu Naidu and Sons are the Secretaries and Treasurers of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Company Limited) at Tirumangalam, Madura District.

I am a director in two large Cotton Pressing Companies, the Capitals of which are two lakhs and fifty thousand and 60000 Rupees respectively. Besides what my Firm on account of the Tirumangalam Cotton Factory pays I pay an Income Tax on 3000 Rupees (except this year owing to losses) on my private income; I represent the Madras Official Assignee in this Presidency and in the Dominions of H. H. the Nizam in the liquidation of the Firm of Messrs Sabapathy Moodeliar & Co.

I beg to remain
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
M. Ramanjulu Naidu

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 3418 M
Dr. Disposal.

DESPATCHED
23 DEC. 96

Forwarded to the
Secy to Govt Local
& Municipal Dept

R.L.

Ag Collr

22/12/96

To

The Secy to Govt L & M Dept

B
23/12/96

95

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 3433 M.

From The Collector of Bellary

Reference No. 1816 of 96

Dated 24th December 96

Received 29 DEC. 1896

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

Order

SUBJECT.

Submitting in original letter from M.R.Ry K Venkata Row Municipal Councillor informing that he is strongly of opinion that a paid Chairman should be entertained for the Bellary Municipality

Put up
11/1/97

1411

KR 11

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Bellary
Ramavilas 23rd Decr. 96

From
Dn Bhr
R. Vencatarao
Municipal Councillor
Bellary

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
No.
24 DEC. 6
BELLARY

To
The Collector of
Bellary.

Forwarded to Government in Continuation of this office Ref on G&S Cho 1816/96 d/18-12-96

Collector of Bellary

24/12

Sir;

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 6th December instant asking me to let you have my opinion on the question of having a full-time paid Chairman for the Bellary Municipality; and I am glad to comply with your requisition as you have given me an opportunity to say what I said in the Council on two occasions when the subject was discussed there.

2 I was elected a Councillor in October 1883 when the old Municipal Act No III of 1871 was in force; and I sat in the Council without break till 12th June 1890, when I retired on account of some domestic misfortunes. I was again elected in January last and I have been a Councillor, since then. During this period, I held the office of the Chairman from 8th May 1889 till

his

12th June 1890, except for 2 months when I had delegated my powers to others. I can therefore think that I have some knowledge of the duties both indoor and outdoor of a Chairman.

3 As Chairman I was devoting daily not less than 3 hours for office work, and 2 to 3 hours for inspection of the town during daytime and about an hour at nights. I had engaged a Carriage and 2 horses from Mr. Lutchmana Mudiliar's stables specially for Municipal work; I had 2 horses of my own for my professional and private work. I assure you that I did not save a pie from my horse allowance. Although I devoted not less than 6 hours, I Conscienciously felt that the time was not enough for the proper discharge of the onerous duties of that office. I was expressing this opinion to my predecessors, and wondering how they were able to do the same amount of work by devoting lesser number of hours. I still hold the same opinion. Bellary is a large and scattered town. It is divided into several Suburbs such as Brucepetta, Cowl Bazaar, Civil Lines, Cantonment, Dhangarhatti and Gowlerahatti. Unfortunately some of these Suburbs

are intervened by the Nallacheru, the Fort, and the Rock, which have made the town very expansive. It has got nearly 60,000 population, and over 14,000 houses. The Chairman who is expected to do his work fairly well, has weekly to devote a day for inspecting each of these Suburbs; while so inspecting he has to look after the upkeep, regular working or Sanitation of nearly 50 miles of Road, 29 Public Latrines, 1400 private Latrines, 31 Urinals, 14 Toll-gates, 500 Lamp-posts, 11 Salaried schools, 22 results' schools, 4 hospitals, 4 Slaughter sheds, 2 Big Cart-stands, ~~post~~ a large number of Avenue trees, 2 Chattrams and one Traveller's Bungalow. To inspect all these at least in turns, it will surely take about 3 hours daily for any Chairman. He has also to supervise the work of Bill-Collectors, Vaccinators and Registrars of vital Statistics.

4 Before the new Act came into force, we had Mr. B. A. Blake and Mr. J. G. Firth as our Chairmen (then known as Vice Presidents). These were pensioned officers and were able to devote their full time for Municipal work. They were devoting 5 or 6 hours

Wd.

daily and sometimes more, in inspection and in office work. They found that the horse allowance of Rs 60 allowed to them was insufficient.

5 In March 1885 the subject of paying a monthly salary or allowance to the Chairman (Vice Presidents) came up for discussion, and a unanimous resolution was passed by the Council, and a recommendation sent up to Government to give the then Vice President Mr. J. G. Firth and the future Chairmen a monthly salary of Rs 150 on the ground that the heavy duties appertaining to so large a Municipality necessitate his spending daily 6 hours and more. But the Government unfortunately in their order No 713 dated 31st March 1885 declined to sanction the above allowance as the grant of office Establishment had been exceeded in the Budget for that year.

6 Mr. J. G. Firth resigned his office in October 1885, and the question would have been again started the next year, had not Mr. A. Sabapathy Mudaliar offered himself and was elected the Chairman.

He was a rich and public-spirited gentleman and did not care for his allowance. He held the office with several breaks and delegations till 9th February 1892. He was followed by another rich gentleman Mr. R. B. Ananthachar who held the office from 6th September 92 to 31st May 1895.

7 Although the last two gentlemen abovenamed did not care for increased or any allowance, I do not think they discharged their duties quite satisfactorily, and devoted as much time as was needed for the office and out-door work. The reasons are apparent. Both of them had scarcely couple of hours to spare for municipal work as they had very heavy private or professional calls on their time. They scarcely attended the office except on meeting days and left its supervision almost entirely to the manager. They inspected the town whenever they went out on their own work or for airing. As these two gentlemen were men of great influence in the town, there was not perhaps much grumbling on the part of rate-payers, and the subordinates did their work fairly ~~possibly~~ well.

8 The next gentleman who was

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elected the Chairman was Mr. D. Kristnamacharlu who held the office from 22nd August 1895 to 8th November 1896. This gentleman had neither health, wealth nor influence to back him up. He had only one raw pony for being used when he had to go out on his private, professional & municipal work; therefore the outdoor duties were completely neglected, and the office work got into disorder. He is not however wholly responsible for this disorder. From 1885 up to date there have been numerous delegations of the duties of Chairmen; so the responsibility became divided. I have annexed to this report a list of these delegations and the period for which they were so made.

9 Mr. T. Chellapperumal Pillay a Municipal Councillor of nearly 12 years' standing remarked the other day and rightly too, that it requires nearly a year's training for a new Chairman to understand the numerous questions he has to deal with; and most of them require some professional technical or scientific knowledge. He is, in short, required to be a jack of all trades, though master of none.

But the numerous changes I have pointed out are such as not to give any insight into the real working of the Municipality, either to the permanent or the delegated holder of the office. It is mainly for this reason that numerous improvements suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner and others have not gone beyond the stage of Council's resolutions. Instances can be quoted by scores & the resolutions bearing on the subject pointed out; but it is always an unpleasant duty to rake up the dead past. Innumerable pials erected over side-drains have not ever been attempted to be removed; no encroachments on municipal grounds are prevented; not a single lane has been widened; several deep cess-pools of rich or influential residents are not made water-tight; no bungalow-owner prosecuted for disobeying the Council's orders for fencing; no steps taken to get the prickly pear removed even from municipal lands &c &c. Another and more Cogent reason for neglecting the above improvements is the fear of losing the seat at the next election.

10 The work in the office has also very largely increased on account of

the introduction of new forms of accounts provided for in Mr. Stokes' Code. Although these forms were ordered to be introduced into this Municipality in G. O. No 1059 of 29th May 1883 they were actually introduced in September 1892 by Mr. Ananthacharlu after numerous protests made by the Council during this period of 9 years. New forms of Annual and Budget statements were introduced in G. O. No 2193 dated 10th December 1891.

11 The office work of this Municipality is really very heavy, though the real income is only about Rs 70,000. It has to do more work than a big Taluq like Bellary does in its Cutchery for over a hundred villages. I would have been glad to annex a Comparative table of the work done in the Municipal office and in the Bellary Tahsildar's Cutchery but I am afraid that my report will grow too long. If you think that such an information is necessary, you can very easily obtain it from your office. The Municipal office has to prepare annually 21300 bills for house-tax, 2086 bills for profession tax, 5780 bills for Latrine tax & 240 bills for land tax. It has to prepare and issue 4000 licenses for animals and 2790 for carts & vehicles. It has to issue nearly 6000 to 7000 distress warrants for Collecting the taxes. Besides these, the Chairman has to dispose of numerous petitions numbering over 1500 relating to appeals against taxation, the transfer of houses, granting Licenses for repairing houses, putting up latties, cleaning sink-pits &c &c.

12 Not being able to cope with the heavy work, the Chairmen have been resorting to the objectionable and dilatory practice of referring these petitions to Sub Committees for inspection and remarks. They lie over with these Sub Committees for months together. Further these Honorary Chairmen have, through their inability, relieved themselves of some work in order to get rid of a number of Complaints from the travellers and the Military Authorities. They have handed over the supervision of the Travellers' Bungalow to the District Board under G. O. No 257 of 4th February 1891 and a portion of the road in the Cantonment to the Military Public Works Department under G. O. No 1599 dated 13th November 1892. They have thus lost the income from the former and have been paying annually

Ld.

Rs 2000 for the upkeep of the latter.

13 As a climax to the poor administration of the Honorary Chairmen the large savings that were in hand for a number of years have now almost disappeared. This balance was always reserved for a big undertaking such as water-works or a drainage scheme or the building of a high-school or a Central hospital. The balance in hand on 1st April 1896 was Rs 38652 whereas it has on 1st December dwindled down to Rs 4955 which is scarcely enough for current expenses. The house-tax bills for the current year have not been yet issued and the excuse put forward is that the quinquennial revision of houses had to be made this year. This is rather a lame excuse. The revision ought to have been completed by 31st March & bills made ready by 30th April 1896 as the order relating to this revision has been in force for the last 7 or 8 years. I am afraid that a major portion of the house-tax will not come in on account of the current famine. If otherwise the Chairman has to do the most unpleasant duty of collecting two half yearly taxes in one and

the same time and in the last quarter of the year. This will work very great hardship on the tax payers. Even during a fair year like 1895-96 the Chairman resorted to the objectionable course of entrusting distress-warrants to Sanitary Inspectors, and some big house-tax bills to office peons, though this is prohibited by G.O. No 1436 of 7th July 1891.

14 Certain Councillors object to the appointment of a paid Chairman on the score of expense. They think that paying annually Rs 3000 is a large burden upon the limited finances of the Municipality. I do not think that they have noticed the large amounts they have allowed uncollected at the end of each year and equally large sums that they have been writing off year after year as irrecoverable. I have annexed a statement of these uncollected and written off amounts for the last 10 years i.e. from 1885-86 to 1895-96. They come to an average of Rs 2000 a year. There is still ample room for increasing the income under house-tax, profession tax and private scavenging fees; & besides this, 25 per cent of the carts &

animals in the town go untaxed

15 There is one sentimental objection raised to the appointment of a paid Chairman and this is on the score that this will be a blow to the laudable self-Government scheme promulgated by our popular Viceroy Lord Ripon, and to the privilege conferred on this Municipality of electing its own Chairman and 3/4 of its Councillors. I yield to none in my love to the aforesaid scheme and privileges; but I am sorry to say that most of the educated Councillors who raised their objections on the above score were either short-sighted or perverse in not helping to secure of their own accord a full time elected Chairman (either salaried or honorary) without the said officer being thrust upon them by Government. I know that if the Councillors had agreed to a resolution proposed at their meeting of 27th August last we would have certainly secured from amongst our townsmen a gentleman who would gladly take up the office of Chairman on a salary of Rs 250 a month and such a man would have done

complete justice both to the present requirements of the town and to the esteemed privilege of election. But on that occasion vested interests interfered with the impartial consideration of the question; and also certain words in the requisition of 19 of the Councillors ~~was~~ were misconstrued and misinterpreted to the non-English knowing Councillors; hence a ludicrous picture of the doings of the Councillors was exhibited to the Government and the public; and some of our highly educated Councillors became regular turncoats. I am very sorry to note that my friend Mr P Ramarao B.A. the present delegated Chairman and the future aspirant to the office is one of them.

After Mr S Kristnacharlu resigned, you were pleased to give the Councillors another opportunity to discuss the question with a fair mind; but again prospective interests prejudiced the unthinking Councillors, and the second opportunity was also thrown away.

At the meeting of 28th November last, I put the question that if any Councillor was willing to take up the office of Chairman honorarily on the present allowance only, he should come forward and declare that he would devote the whole of his attention to the municipal work. Then Mr. P. Ramarao came forward and said that he was willing to take up the post, he would devote as much time as was necessary, and he would confine his practice to District Court only. Personally I see no objection to Mr. P. Ramarao's taking up the Chairmanship. He is a graduate and a first grade pleader of 18 years' standing; he is a native of the district & a rich man; but the condition he has proposed nullifies his offer. He has got at least 3 or 4 hours' work in the District Court, and that means 3 or 4 hours' preparation of the appeals &c at home. Hence he can hardly spare 2 or 3 hours for municipal work. Besides this he is too orthodox a Madhva Brahmin to treat all castes, sects & nationalities alike. I do not further think that he has got any influence over the rate paying classes, except perhaps with his own sect of Brahmins.

On a full & fair consideration of all the pros & cons on the subject, I am strongly of opinion that a full time paid Chairman is very necessary for this Municipality & that he should be for at least 3 years to come, an outsider of strong body and mind.

I have the honour to be Sir
Your most obedient Servant

List of Delegations of Chairman

Names of permanent Chairmen	Names of delegated Councillors	Period of Delegation			
		From	To	Months	days
Mr. J. G. Firth.	Mr. A. Sabapathi Mudl.	18. 10. 85	28. 5. 86	7	10
" A. Sabapathy Mudl.	" M. Vasudeva Naidu	15. 12. 86	10. 1. 87	"	26
Do.	" L. Ramarao	27. 6. 88	11. 10. 88	3	14
Do.	" K. Venkatarao	8. 5. 89	13. 7. 89	2	8
" K. Venkatarao	L. Ramarao	24. 12. 89	24. 1. 90	1	"
Do.	" T. Chellaperumal Pillay	12. 5. 90	12. 6. 90	1	"
" A. Sabapathy Mudl.	" S. Mari Siddappa	14. 4. 91	13. 10. 91	6	"
Do.	" T. Smyth.	14. 10. 91	13. 1. 92	3	"
" C. Rama Seshayya. Dy. Collr.	" K. Rangarao	4. 5. 92	15. 9. 92	4	11
" P. G. Ananthacharlu.	" P. Ramarao	15. 5. 95	30. 5. 95	"	16*
" C. Rama Seshayya Dy. Collr.	" P. Ramarao	5. 6. 95	22. 8. 95	2	17
" D. Kristnacharlu	" K. Rangarao	8. 12. 95	20. 12. 95	"	12
" Do.	" P. Ramarao	2. 11. 96	28. 11. 96	"	26
T. Ramarao Dy. Collr.	" P. Ramarao	28. 11. 96	up to date *		

* The formality is without the sanction of the Council.

Councillor

Amount of Taxes left uncollected at the end of the year & of the amounts written off as irrecoverable

Series of Years.	Amount remained uncollected at the end of the year.	Amount written off.	Remarks.
1884 - 1885	18686	Nil	
1885 - 1886	10442	4220	
1886 - 1887	16765	Nil	
1887 - 1888	12804	4524	
1888 - 1889	10398	Nil	
1889 - 1890	8110	Nil	
1890 - 1891	5776	4286.	
1891 - 1892	9190	Nil	
1892 - 1893	7345	2551	
1893 - 1894	4166	2898	
1894 - 1895	3732	1475	
1895 - 1896	2643	3266.	
	Total Rs	23220	Average per year is Rs. 1935

Councillor

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1897

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