25-3-07

[L. & M. / 3,000—19-11-9]

INDEXED.

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 969 M.

DATED 24-4-97

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition

Informing Kuppuswami Aiyangar and others of Dindigul that Govt. has received a report from the Collector in regard to the alleged maladministration of munl. affairs, & sees no reason to interfere in the manner requested by them, and referring to the Collector for consideration the suggestion made in para 4 of the Chairman's letter.

Collector of Madura, with enclosures returned.

On Her Majesty's Service only.

No. M 99 [illegible]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

POSTAGE DUE

To

N. Kuppuswami Aiyangar and others

~~[illegible] Madura~~

Refused
4-5-97

D. L. O.-11.

REFUSED LETTER.

FROM THE MADRAS Dead Letter Office.

To Fort St George

Clerk, Chief Secretariat.

25-3-07

BACK PAPERS.

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

[illegible]

MADURA 4 MY. 97

MADURA DEP 4 MY. 97

MADURA 4 MY. 97

FORT ST. GEORGE 6 MY. 97

REFUSED

[L. & M. 1,000—23-10-96.]

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

CURRENT No. 3117 M

Current Nos. 3117 M & 3178 M of 95
and 985 M of 97.

Mis Order No. 969 Muni. d/ 24.4.97

The petitioners will be informed that the Government has received a report from the Collector and sees no reason to interfere in the manner requested by them.

2. The suggestion made in para. 4 of the Chairman's letter No. 290, dated 8th December 1895, to the Sub Collector will be referred to the Collector for consideration.

V.R.
21/4/97

S.K.
21/4/7

Mr Batten's report is full and clear
S.K.

From

N. Kuppuswami Aiyangar
& others, Dindigul.

No.

Dated 30th Septr 1895 × Flag E

Received 14. Octr 1895.

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Bringing to notice the frauds & maladministration of the Chairman, Municipal Council, Dindigul, and requesting to raise the strength of the Council from 12 to 16 by nomination, to counteract the mischievous action of the Chairman.

To

The Petitioners (Para. 1 only)
" Chairman, M.C. Dindigul; ~~thro' the~~
" Collector of Madura, with enclosures returned.

P.O.
P.O.
P.O.

Despd. 29/4/97

No. 2406

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Local & Municipal Dept
CURRENT No. 3117 M

11 OCT. 1895

To

HIS EXCELLENCY
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,
THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,
Fort. St. GEORGE.

The humble memorial of the rate payers of the town of Dindigul,

Most respectfully showeth,

That Your Excellency's memorialists have ventured to approach Your Excellency with the following facts with a sanguine hope of obtaining sufficient redress.

II. Dindigul having been constituted into a Municipality in the year 1866 was continued to be managed with efficiency by Official Vice-Presidents and Chairmen till 1895 except a few years when the Local Medical Officer was the Vice-President.

III. The regime of the present non-official native Chairman Mr. T. Rajagopal Naidu counts from the 7th March 1895 and the following irregularities and shortcomings among others have been discovered within so short a period of his administration.

(1.) Municipal records of a great magnitude have been destroyed by him by fire without any reference to the Council or Government.

(2.) The Chairman, as a Councillor, represents the 1st Ward whose supervision has been entrusted to the 3rd Ward Councillor Mr. Muthu Naik in addition to the latter's own ward without the consent of the Council after he became Chairman.

(3.) The Chairman, after he was appointed as such, has, without the sanction of the Council, erected a thatched verandah in front of his house and has sometime back, encroached upon Municipal land by erecting a compound wall with a gate in front of the same house.

(4.) He has tolerated the Municipal Overseer who lives next to his house and who is his favourite to misappropriate Government land by stealthily removing the demarkation stone and to erect a pucka building on it. The complaint against the Overseer lodged by one Chockalingam Pillai in regard to this affair has not urged the speedy attention of the Chairman and the matter lies still pending.

(5.) No steps have been taken by the Chairman for removing the encroachments which are also obstructions in the main bazaar street especially the pial erected over the drain by Mr. Muthu Naik, Councillor who is a friend and a supposed relative of the Chairman.

(6.) The matter of the transfer of puttah by Mr. Muthu Naik to the name of a certain Vendee for a larger extent of the Municipal land than what was actually sold to him has not been dealt with by the Chairman in the way it ought to have been.

(7.) No notice was taken by him of a building (with eaves projecting) erected without permission by Mr. Arokiam Pillay, Councillor in the Market street. This Councillor who is a friend of the Chairman has deposed in O. S. No. $\frac{309}{1890}$ on the file of the District Munsiff's Court, Dindigul to the effect that he was forced to sign and actually signed a certain bill for payment against his conscience while he was a Councillor then.

(8.) He maintains a practice of issuing notices to parties for removing encroachments in anticipation of the Council's approval which is, in the present state of affairs, opened to objection.

(9.) Unlike the assessment of other rates and taxes he preferred to revoke his own orders and to assess persons to the profession tax in consultation with Messrs: Muthu Naik and K. Ananthanarayana Iyer who are his particular friends—thus depriving the Ward Councillors of the privilege of knowing the liability or otherwise of the residents of their respective wards. The Chairman and the two Councillors named above exercise powers *ad libitum* by overtaxing their enemies and undertaxing or altogether omitting from assessment their friends and clients. (The Chairman and his delegate Mr. K. Ananthanarayana Iyer are second grade pleaders).

(10.) He has shown favouritism to some of the Municipal servants while others have received cruel treatment at his hands.

(11.) He has preferred to give employments in the Municipality to his own caste men and adherents.

(12.) He allowed Bill Collector Venkattaswami Naidu, his close relative, to resume duties after the expiry of his leave which he was forced to take while a case of misappropriation of Municipal money was pending against him.

At a meeting of the Council held on the 9th September 1895 another case of misappropriation against the same Bill Collector was brought to light which the Chairman wanted to dispose of in a haphazard way. But on Councillor Mr. Mohamed Mugthoom Rowther's impressing the Council upon the serious nature of the case, the petition was referred to the Chairman for enquiry. Your Excellency's memorialists are now given to understand that the Bill Collector in question has been permitted to resign his post and that his resignation has been accepted by the Chairman notwithstanding the two specified charges pending against him.

(13.) He accepts and brings before the Council proposals of the overseer which are objectionable in themselves with an object of suiting their own purpose.

(14.) He imposed heavier stamp duty on the renters of the Municipal farms for agreements in spite of eight anna stamps accepted during 1894-95 with the sole object of satisfying his private grudge against some of the renters.

15. He has given the office peon Palaniandi unusual period of leave accepting his son as a substitute on same pay to serve as an orderly peon under him and appointing the peon's another son as a lascar under the overseer to serve the purposes of the latter.

(16.) He exercises undue influence by gaining a strong clique in the Council who have made up their minds to invariably support the Chairman's action.

(17.) He does not attend to the horrible state of some of the main roads and the most inefficient management of the lighting demands immediate notice.

IV. Under these circumstances Your Excellency's humble memorialists beg most respectfully to solicit that a proper enquiry may be ordered to be instituted into the foregoing allegations.

V. In conclusion the memorialists beg to point out that, in consideration of the rising importance of this town whose population exceeds 20,000 and in view to counteract the mischievous action of the clique alluded to in para III (16) supra, the strength of the Council be raised from 12 to 16, the increase of four members being appointed by nomination by Government.

0203 according to census of 1891.

For which act of benevolence,
Your Excellency's humble Momorialists,
As in duty bound
Shall ever pray.

Dindigul
30th September 1895.

A. Cooppoosawmy Iyengar
P. S. M. Pitchaymohiythen Rowa
D. N. Olaganatha Pillai

[0]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 3178 M

From

G. Veeraswami Naidu & others
Dindigul

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
30 OCT 95
MADURA

No.

Dated

Received 21-10-95.

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Praying that the Muni. Council of Dindigul may be strengthened by appointing 6 more Councillors

---

(with Encl.)

Encl. 1.

Cno 3117 h/95

TO BE RETURNED
WITH REPLY.

Cnos 3117 & 3178 M.

No. 1525

Referred to the Collector of Madura for report.

By order
W. Francis.
Ag Under Secretary

V. R.
21/10/95

Fort Saint George
28th October 95

To
The Collector of Madura.

Current No. 4663/Genl of 95
Date 30-10-95

Da

22/10 a/23/10

and

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 3178 M

To

His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Governor in Council
Fort St. George
Madras.

The humble memorial of the tax payers and residents of the town of Dindigul.

Most respectfully showeth,

That your Excellency's memorialists beg with due submission to setforth the undesirable state of the Municipal affair of this Town with a view to find means for setting it right in its early stage

D/20/7

2. That since the advent of Mr. T. Rajagopaul Naidu garu as Chairman of the Municipal Council, he has fostered faction to such an extent that the Councillors appointed by Government seldom take interest to attend Municipal meetings as will be evidenced by the fact of their actual attendance at the meetings

3. That the strength of the Council is. 12. of whom. 1 ex-officio, 2 nominated by Government and

and 9. elected. Of the 9. elected members, the Chairman and M^{r}. P. S. Mohamed Magthoom Rowter A^{l}. alone understand English. The former has, in his capacity as Chairman, gained to secure the support of most of the Tamil knowing Councillors where by a strong clique in the council has been forward – resulting in the exercise by him of arbitrary powers.

4. That Your Excellency's memorialists take this opportunity to point out the necessity for strengthening the Council by appointing. 6. more Councillors thus making a total of 18 – which would then tend to reduce the proportion of the elected members from three-fourths to half – an object of long cherished desire of Your Excellency's memorialists who do not wish to enumerate all the disadvantages and evils arising from this large proportion. They were only expecting for a favourable opportunity to address Government on the subject which has now occurred.

5. That the memorialists have now ventured to put in for the approval of the Collector and Government the following nominations to suit each branch of the Municipal administration :–

1. M. R. Ry. P. Venkatasvera Iyer A^{l}. Tahsildar of Dindigul
2. " " T. Krishna Row^{al}. Sub assistant Inspector of Schools.
3. " " B. Ramalinga Iyer^{al}. Ass^{t}. Engineer
4. " " P. N. Subramania Iyer. A^{l}. Pleader
5. M^{r}. L. Sties. Superintendent, M^{r}. Heimpel's Cigar Factory
6. Rev^{d}. J. Colton

6. That Your Excellency's memorialists entertain full hopes that their suggestion – to strengthen the Council will commend itself to Government and their request granted either by approving their nominations or by selecting others in their stead.

For.

For

For which act of benevolence
Your Excellency's humble memorialists
As in duty bound
Shall ever pray

G. Veerasamy Naidoo
Vaitheenathen Iyer
T. M. Ramasawmi Naidoo
M. Chockalingam Pilly
M. Thomas, Dharmanath:
Ratnamanikam
Sitaramsawmy Naidoo
Ramasamy Chetty
Veerasawmy Pilly
Ramasawmy Chetty
N. Subbian Naidoo
S. Guruswamy
D. S. Venkata[illegible] Naidoo
Narayanasawmy Pilly
N. Doraisamy Pillay
Subbaramania Iyer
Kolandavelu Chetty
M. [illegible] Pillay

M. Venkatachalam Pillai
P. K. M. Ibrahim Rowther
M. Arasappa Chetty
P. Gooroosawmy Naidoo
Dorasawmy [illegible]
D. P. Vijayadasamy Naidoo
D. Chidambaram Pillai
C. V. [illegible]
M. Rengasawmy Naidu.
M. Sundaram Pilly
Dakshanamoorthy Pillai
S. Narasimhalu Naidu
R. Venkatasamy Naidu
S. Chittambaram Pillai
V. Ramasamy Pillay

Alebay Naidu
சுந்தரம்பிள்ளை
P. Chinnadhail
K. Shaik Hussain Shaib
Narayana Mudaliar
M. Gopalasamy Naidu
Subbian Chetti
Muthusamy Chetty
A. Krishnasamy Naidu
Dhanasawmy

Current No. 4663 of 1895
Genl
Date 24-2-97

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

PR

SM

CURRENT No. 985 M

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
24 FEB. 1897
MADURA

From J. K. Batten Esquire I.C.S
Trichinopoly
through the
Collector of Madura.

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

No.

Dated 22nd February 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures Six copies list & C. Nos 3117 & 3178 M of 1895 retd

Spare copies

Order

~~Ref~~

~~Are there any previous papers~~

8/3

SUBJECT.

Reporting on two petitions presented to Govt containing certain allegations against M.R.Ry T. Rajagopal Nayudu Avergal, Chairman Municipal Council Dindigul.

8/0

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
"	299	M Mis	26.2.95
"	1611	M Press	7.10.95
"	2092	M Miss	10.12-96
"	1213	M Press	18.7.96.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

B

Trichinopoly
22nd February 1897

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 985 M

From

J. K. Batten Esquire
I.C.S.
Trichinopoly

To

The Secretary to Government
Local & Municipal Dept.
Madras,

through the
Collector of Madura with
reference to his endorsement
Ref. on cur: No 4663/General dated 1st Novr 1895
returned,

Flag A.

× Requesting Mr Batten to return the petitions which were referred to him for report & to explain the cause of the delay in the matter

× Enclosure marked 1.

Sir,

With reference to G. O. No: 2092 M× dated 10th December 1896, and to Government Memorandum No 1525 M dated 28th October 1895 herewith returned, with enclosures×, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. I enclose the Dindigul Municipa

Municipal Chairman's report dated 8th December 1895, No: 289, which is a reply to the allegations made in the printed petition to Government (No 3117 M), as well as a further report dated 29th February 1896, No 371.

Hay B

× Enclosure marked 2.

× Enclosure marked 3.

3. The Chairman casts a doubt on the authenticity of the signatures of the memorialists, but I sent for the three persons and they acknowledged that they had sent the petition.

4. As pointed out by the Chairman the three memorialists are far from being disinterested persons, and I am convinced that the petition was not sent bona fide for the public good, but from personal motives. A. Coopoosawmy Iyengar is a former municipal contractor. Pitchiy Mohiythen Dorai is a relative of Mr Mugthoom Rowthen a Municipal Councillor leading the oppositio[n] against the Chairman & also a relative of

of the toll-Contractor whose grievance forms the subject of allegation No 14. D. R. Olaganatha Pillai was formerly a municipal Bill-Collector who, as the Chairman says, left service in order to escape dismissal. I have perused the records regarding his resignation and find that Mr L. C. Miller I.C.S the then Chairman on 21st February 1895 allowed him to resign in consideration of former good work but that otherwise he would have been dismissed as being untrustworthy

4. The memorialists asked for time to formulate their charges. This I allowed them. They submitted a statement on 12th February 1896 which is enclosed. I also caused them to appear before me and questioned them personally regarding each allegation. From their demeanour it was obvious that the first two memorialists could give no particulars whatever regarding the

× Enclosure marked 4.

Hay C

the allegations, but had induced the third memorialist to use his knowledge of Municipal Office affairs to bring forward anything that he thought would be damaging to the Chairman. I will now proceed to examine each allegation seriatim, embodying under each head the result of my personal examination of the memorialists.

5. Charge (1). The 3rd petitioner admitted that all he had to go on was that he had seen municipal records being burned, & assumed that some records of importance were being improperly destroyed. He admits that he has not the slightest evidence to prove that any such records were actually so destroyed. It appears that some useless municipal papers were burnt in the usual course on 27th April 1895, & that 3rd petitioner took the occasion to allege that the Chairman had destroyed many inconvenient records.

In

Flag C

× Enclosure marked 5. Flag D

In the petition of 12th February 1896 petitioners have provided a list of such records, and I enclose the Chairman's reply × dated 29th February 1896, No 370. There is no reason whatever to suppose that the Chairman improperly burned any records, and the whole foundation for the charge is that 3rd petitioner saw some useless municipal papers being burnt in the usual course. He admitted that he did not identify a single one of the papers so destroyed.

Charge (2). The petitioners say that the action of the Chairman was in contravention of section 32 of the Municipal Act. The petitioners seem to have misunderstood the section and there does not seem to have been anything irregular in the Chairman having asked a Councillor to supervise a ward. He does not appear to have authorized the Councillor to exercise any of the powers of the Chairman.

Charge

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Flag C

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Charge

Charge (3). It is admitted by the 3rd petitioner that the thatched verandah is inside the Compound and is an old one repaired, not a new one erected as stated in the memorial. There seems to have been some slackness (not only in the present Chairman's time but always) as to getting permission before such verandahs are renewed. No special importance attaches to this instance.

As to the Chairman's Compound wall being an encroachment, it certainly looks like an encroachment at first sight. This is a point that might be enquired into during the forthcoming Municipal Survey. The Chairman says the wall was built in 1887 with the permission of the Council, at a time when he was not a Councillor. But it is admitted that the wall was built long before Mr T. Rajagopal Naydu became Chairman, and the question does not affect his conduct as Chairman in any way.

Dindigul was the 15th in order of the Municipal towns, the Survey of which was to be undertaken in 1896-97. Vide G.O. 1186 L / 13-7-95

Charge (4). The Chairman states that the overseer was permitted to make the alleged encroachment when Mr Cumming was Chairman but the matter has been referred to the Encroachment Committee before whom the petitioners should produce their evidence

Charge (5). These encroachments have been in existence for years, and the present Chairman, if to blame at all, is not more to blame than previous Chairmen who have been as a rule the Sub-Collectors for the time being. The question of removing these old standing obstructions is a difficult one, and is I know occupying the Chairman's attention. As the Chairman points out no difference in the matter has been made between the Chairman's friends & his opponents.

Charge (6) The transfer was made in the time when Mr Cumming was Chairman. The papers are pending with the Encroachment Committee (two vakils). A prosecution was instituted but

but failed, and the Chairman is taking legal advice in the matter. More land than was sold was by mistake, at the time of the sale, transferred to the purchaser's name.

Charge (7)(1). The petitioners say that the eaves were built at the end of 1894 or the beginning of 1895 i-e before the present Chairman assumed office. The Chairman says he will look into the matter, which was not brought to his notice before.

Charge (7)(2) appears to be meaningless as against the Chairman.

Charge (8). The practice alluded to though strictly speaking irregular is productive of much convenience, and I find from the records that it has been in force during the time of the last several Chairmen.

Charge (9). The Chairman's reply seems to me to be satisfactory. Petitioners if they thought that any one was under-taxed should have brought the matter to the Chairman's notice, which they did not do. This was the first time that the Profession tax was levied in

the

the Municipality and I think that the Chairman has done the work on the whole very well and disinterestedly.

Charge (10). This is a very vague charge and even in the particulars given in the statement of 12th February 1896 there is nothing worthy of remark.

Charge (11). In the petition of 12th February 1896 petitioners have specified three castemen & one adherent as having been employed by the Chairman. No 1 is not of the same branch of caste as the Chairman. No 2 was only appointed to act. No 3 is of the same caste as the Chairman, & was appointed by him, but he was Overseer's percentage maistry under former Chairmen. As to the alleged adherent No 4, he is not in service now and the Chairman says he never even saw him before he became Chairman.

Charge (12). The Chairman's reply is satisfactory. No money was actually lost by the Municipality, & the Chairman, who is an experienced vakil, considered that there was no real misappropriation & no ground for prosecution. It was the Chairman that made the man resign.

Charge (13). This charge is vague. All that the petitioners can say is that 1st petitioner thinks that various proposals must have been made to favour the Chairman's friends, otherwise he does not see why the proposals should have been made. Such a charge is absurd on the face of it.

Charge (14). The Chairman's action was entirely in the interests of the Municipality. He introduced the practice of having registered documents evidencing the toll-contracts, and on finding that in the Madura Municipality ad valorem stamp duty was charged introduced the same rule in Dindigul where the leases had previously been stamped as agreements. Previous notice of this was given to Contractors. One of the Contractors, V.T. Sheikh Moidin Rowthen is related to 2nd petitioner, and to Mr Mugtoom Rowthan a Councillor, who appears to have been annoyed at

the profession tax was levied in the

the Chairman's action. In my opinion it is the friction caused by this incident that led to the present petition.

Charge (15). I can see nothing irregular or unusual in the Chairman's action.

Charge (16). The fact that there are two parties in the Council and that resolutions have sometimes to be passed by a casting vote does not appear to me to reflect in any way on the Chairman.

Charge (17). The roads certainly call for improvement, but the Chairman is devoting his attention to the matter. As to lighting the Chairman is introducing the system of departmental management instead of the old contract system. It is hoped that this will improve matters.

6. From the above it will be seen that there is nothing in any of the allegations to show that the Chairman is in any way

an experienced

unfit for his post. He is the first elected Chairman for some years who is not also Sub-Collector, and I consider that he does his duties under the circumstances very satisfactorily. I consider the allegations to be frivolous & due to malice.

7. Petition No 3178 M may be dismissed in a few words. The Chairman's reply is enclosed.× I sent for the first signatory and found him to be the head operative in Messrs Spencers' cigar factory. He admitted that practically all the signatures were those of his cigar-workers and that they had no real grievance at all, except that sometimes there is considerable delay in obtaining replies to applications made to the Municipal Office. As far as I can judge this petition was sent to support the printed petition No 3177 M.

× Enclosure marked 6.

8. I can see no reason for increasing the number of Councillors in Dindigul Municipality as suggested in both petitions. It is a

a small municipality and the present strength is sufficient. A bigger council would be no guarantee against deadlocks caused by faction and the existence of a strong opposition is not without its advantages.

9. I much regret the delay in forwarding this report. As it is based on notes and enquiries made by myself I had to draft it myself. My final interview with the petitioners was in March 1896 and before I could complete my report I was sent on special duty to Malabar. On my return to Dindigul, in addition to private troubles, I was much occupied with extra work entailed by the anti-kallar movement. I should have submitted the report at the beginning of the privilege leave granted to me in September, but my leave was cancelled and I was sent to Trichinopoly where unfortunately owing to ill health I was only able to cope with the current work of the Collectorate. I need hardly add that had I thought that any action need be

taken on my report I should have managed to submit it earlier. As it is, I can only report that I greatly regret the delay.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant.
J.H. Batten

Dis. No 760 of 97
File
Submitted.

2. Mr. Batten's report is full and clear, and his conclusions are supported.

3. The delay in the submission of the report has been explained.

Collector

Madura
2nd March 1897

2.3.97.

List of enclosures

No 1. Government Memorandum No 1525 dated 28.10.95 with two enclosures viz, Current Nos 3117 M & 3178 M.

No 2. Dindigul Municipal Chairman's letter No 289 dated 8th Decr 1895

No 3. Dindigul Municipal Chairman's letter No 371 dated 29th Febr 1896

No 4. Statement of the memorialists dated 12th February 1896.

No 5. Dindigul Municipal Chairman's letter No 370 dated 29th Febr 1896

No 6. Dindigul Municipal Chairman's letter No 290 dated 8th Decr 1895

J.H.

1/985-M of 1897

taken on me robert

for copying.

d Smb 28-4-97 ⎫
en examined Mg Mi ⎬ 189
hen signed 28/4 ⎭

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

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
OF GOVERNMENT.							
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.							
NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

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