[L. & M. / 2,000—28-10-97.]

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 472 M.

DATED 1—3—98

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal council. Approving, with remarks, the recommendations of the Collector of Tanjore that the Mannargudi —— council be deprived of the privilege of electing its 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.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 704 M

UNDER SECY TO GOVT
15 FEB 98

From The Collector of Tanjore

Ref. from Cur. No. 322/M. of 97

FEB 1898

Dated 25th January 1898

Received 7-2-98

Registered

Enclosures . 3

Spare copies.

Hon. Press

Order No. 472 M. Mis 21/2/98 & 1-3-98

The Collector's recommendations are approved.

2. The municipal council's attention will be drawn to the latter portion of para 4. of the Collector's letter.

3. The further report on the progress of the collections referred to in para. 3 of the Collector's letter should be expedited

V.R.
7/2/98

D. C. M. Srinivasa Ayar's report is sensible & clear

SUBJECT.

Submitting a detailed report on the working of the Mannargudi Municipality & recommending that it need not be deprived of the privilege of electing its Chairman.

+ Tallow'son

To
The Collector of Tanjore.
Chairman, M.C. Mannargudi.

22-2-98

Publi. 1R 1/3/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Jo	308	[illegible]	2-2-98
"	2492	do	12-11-97
"	1435	do	26-8-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

D. C. Statement showing the Demand, Collection and Balance of arrears of 1896-97 and previous years of the Mannargudi Municipality up to the 10th January 1898.

Encls: No. I to Tanjore Collector's Letter R.C. No. 322/M.C. of 97

Items	Demand									Collected			Remitted			Written off			Balance			Remarks
	Balance of old demand			Arrears of 1896-97			Total															
1	2			3			4			5			6			7			8			9
Tax on Arts	133	"	"	291	"	"	424	"	"	93	"	"	39	"	"	"	"	"	292	"	"	(a) About one half of the amount likely to be irrecoverable and the maining one half is recoverable. are being taken to Collect the recoverable bala and to lay before the Council lists sho the amounts which are irrecoverable. report Called for in para 3(2) of G No. 2492. M dated 12th November l will be submitted separately at early date.
" on Buildings	92	1	9	400	5	3	492	7	"	310	11	"	40	3	9	"	"	"	141	8	3	
" on Lands	144	1	6	798	13	3	942	14	9	190	5	5	29	10	7	"	"	"	722	14	9	
Market Rents	272	10	3	13	3	3	285	13	6	"	5	3	"	"	"	55	4	3	230	4	"	
Slaughterhouse fees	25	7	10	"	"	"	25	7	10	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	25	7	10	
Private Scavenging fees	111	5	4	121	13	7	233	2	11	35	14	5	"	"	"	"	"	"	197	4	6	
Tax on Vehicles	55	8	"	"	"	"	245	6	"	12	"	"	"	"	"	-	-	-	233	6	"	
Do on Animals	77	14	"																			
Do on Carts	112	"	"																			
License fees	277	"	"	61	8	"	338	8	"	27	"	"	"	"	"	12	"	"	299	8	"	
Total	1301	"	8	1686	11	4	2987	12	"	669	4	1	108	14	4	67	4	3	(a) 2142	5	4	

(Signed) T. V. Srinivasa Aiyar
Deputy Collector

(True Copy)

Fr. Collector

1/704 No of 1898

D. C. B. Statement of Revenue for the year 1897-98 up to 10th January '98. Mannargudi M

(Enclo: No II to Tanjore Collector's letter R.C. No 322/Ml

Item	Demand originally assessed	Remitted by the Council	Demand as finally Settled	Collected up to 20th November 1897	Collected from the 20th November to 10th January 1898	Total Collections	Balance	Remarks.
Tax on Arts	1741 " "	196 " "	1545 " "	288 " "	727 " "	1015 " "	530 " "	(a) One fourth of this amount is due in the Current Month and one fourth in February. The remaining one half has already been deposited and adjusted.
Do on Buildings	4596 2 8	7 7 6	4588 11 2	648 10 11	2008 4 2	2656 15 1	1931 12 1	
Land Tax	925 4 9	- - -	925 4 9	- - -	2 1 1	2 1 1	923 3 8	(b) Active Steps are being taken for the Collection of this amount and the whole will be Collected before the end of the year.
Tolls	9720 - -	- - -	9720 - -	5671 9 9	810 13 "	6482 6 9	(a) 3237 9 3	
Market rent:—	636 " "	- - -	636 " "	360 10 4	104 13 4	465 7 8	170 8 4	
Slaughter house fees	470 " "	" " "	470 " "	197 4 11	39 8 9	236 13 8	233 2 4	
Private Scavenging fees	182 10 8	- - -	182 10 8	23 13 4	11 5 11	35 3 3	147 7 5	
Total Rs	18271 2 1	203 7 6	18067 10 7	7190 1 3	3703 14 3	10893 15 6	(b) 7173 11 1	

(Signed) T. V. Srinivasa Aiyar
Deputy Collector

(True Copy)

[illegible] Dy. Coll

2/104 M of 1898

(Enclo: No III to Tanjore Collector's letter R.C. No 322/Ml of 97 d/ 25-1-98)

Mannargudi Division

R.C. No. 676/High of 97.

Deputy Collector's Office

Mannargudi, 10th January 98.

From

M. R. Ry. T. V. Srinivasa Aiyar Avergal,
Deputy Collector,
Mannargudi Division

To

The Collector of
Tanjore.

Sir,

I have the honour to Submit the report on the working of the Mannargudi Municipality Called for in your letter Ref. on Cir. No. 322/Ml of 97 of the 10th ultimo.

2. The above report is Called for with reference to the Government order reviewing the administration report of the Municipality for 1896-'97 And to para 10 of your endorsement Stating that the report discloses a most unsatisfactory State of affairs and that it would be Considered whether the privilege of Electing

the Chairman should be continued for Mannargudi. I am asked to state the causes which led to the unsatisfactory condition of the Municipality in the past, its present condition and the steps that should be taken to put it in proper working order. In para 10 of your endorsement, you have stated that the unsatisfactory condition of the Municipality may be due to the apathy of the Chairman or to factious opposition. In order to find out which of these was the cause of its unsatisfactory condition, it may be considered what the defects in the administration were which called for the adverse comments from you and the Government. They are as per the Government order:—

(1) The extremely unsatisfactory state of the collections. (para 3(2) of the G. O.)

2, The omission of the Chairman to attend a large number of meetings at some of which the Council desired to have his personal explanation in regard to certain matters (para 2)

(3) The Chairman's failure to submit the explanation called for in para 3(1) to 3(3) and 4(5) of G. O. No. 1435. M. dated 26th August 1896. (para 3(1), 3(4), 4(5) of the G. O)

(4) The large decrease in the number of coercive processes issued during the year, and the large number of warrants remaining unexecuted on the 31st March 1897 (para 3(3) of the G. O)

(5) Unexplained neglect to demand payment of the Local Fund contribution on account of the hospital para 3(4) of the G. O.

(6) The omission to collect the fees for private scavenging in advance (para 3(5) of the G. O)

(7) The short outlay on communications and the omission to repair the slaughter-house, the butchers' stalls, and the fish market (para 4(1) of the G. O)

(8) The omission to carry out the recommendations regarding the hospital buildings and the supply of hospital requisites (para 4(3) of the G. O)

(9) Defective registration of births and deaths. (para 4(4) of the G. O)

(10) The existence of deficit at the end of the year.

(11)

(11) The meeting of the deficit from the deposit balance without the Council's Sanction. (para 5)

(12) The existence of liabilities to the extent of Rs 7018 (para 5)

(13) The delay in the placing of the report before the Council (para 6 of the G. O.)

3. For (11), the extremely unsatisfactory state of the Collections, the Chairman with his Subordinate staff was certainly responsible. He had full powers to deal with the Staff, both Office and Executive, and if there was any laxity on their part, in the issue or execution of demand notices or distraint warrants, he had the power of replacing the men responsible for it. It is true that some of the Councillors were not well disposed towards the Chairman and that there was factious opposition in regard to some matters, but it cannot be said that it did or could have interfered with his control over the staff or with the powers conferred upon him by the Act to issue demand notices and distraint warrants. The Council therefore was not responsible for the bad state of the Collections, and for this the Chairman was, and must be held wholly responsible.

4. In regard to (12, the Chairman was clearly responsible. When he was asked in July last why he was not attending the meetings, he explained that the meeting was held on Saturday morning and that he had then to attend the Court of the District Munsiff, where he was practising as a Second grade Pleader. If this was so, he should have moved the Council to pass a resolution that the meeting be held on the morning of some other day of the week. On the 14th August last, a resolution was passed at the instance of the Chairman that the meeting should be held on Friday morning as in future, to enable him to attend, but this had not the desired effect. 7 ordinary meetings were held subsequently

until the Chairman's term was over, and none of these was attended by him. One Special Meeting was held on the 18th September last, and this alone was attended by him.

5. Items 3, 4, 6 & 13. The Chairman was clearly responsible for these.

3. 6. Item 5. Owing to the omission to collect the taxes in time, the financial condition of the Municipality was from time to time extremely bad. Bills from Contractors and firms for large sums were lying over unpaid for several months and the pay of the establishment was sometimes paid more than a month after it was due owing to want of funds. The Local Fund Contribution for 1895-96 and 1896-97 amounting to Rs 3620 was received on the 21st October last and the condition of the Municipality improved to some extent.

7. Items 7 & 8. These were due to want of funds, resulting from the omission to collect taxes.

8. Item 9. The Chairman with the Death and Birth Registrar was responsible for this. It does not appear that the Council declined unreasonably to sanction prosecution for omission to register births and deaths.

9. Items 10, 11 & 12. The cause of these was the bad state of the Collections and the omission to control expenditure.

10. From the above, it will be seen that for the several defects noticed in the Government order the Chairman was responsible and not the Council. It may be that the Manager was new to his work, but he was appointed by the present Chairman, and he should therefore have taken special pains to supervise his work and the work of the office. The Chairman was also practising as a Second Grade Pleader and it is probable that the pressure of his professional work left him little

time for Municipal work or that the action of some of the Councillors in passing unfavourable remarks on him in Council made him apathetic, but the fact remains that the Chairman neglected the work of the Municipality and allowed a considerable portion of the demand to remain uncollected towards the close of the year. It does not seem proper to hold the Council responsible for the bad state of the Collections on the ground that it is the Councillors who elected the late Chairman, viz. M.R.Ry M. R. Sreenivasa Rao. He was elected by the Council about six years ago. In the ordinary course, his term of office as Chairman would have been over about three years ago. The administration of the Municipality was not unsatisfactory during the first three years. Sometime before the term of three years from the date of his election as Councillor was over, there was a vacancy on the Council. and he was elected

elected as Councillor before his term as Chairman expired. Hence under the provisions of the old Act he continued to be Chairman for a period of three years from the date of his re-election as Councillor without being elected again as Chairman by the Council. For his continuance as Chairman during the second period of three years the Council cannot be held responsible as during this period he was Chairman by virtue of his election as Councillor without a fresh election by the Council as Chairman. It is during this second period of three years or rather during the last one or two years that the Chairman failed to attend meetings and neglected his work. Hence I think that for the neglect of the Chairman during this second period of three years, the Council ought not to be held responsible

11. The present state of the Municipality.

Statements showing the demand, Collection and balance under the several items, arrears and Current, up to date, are submitted herewith. In the Statement for the Current demand, the Collections up to the 20th November when the term of office of the former Chairman ceased, and up to date, are given separately. It will be seen that a fairly large amount has been Collected since the 20th November. Similar information is not easily available now in regard to arrears.

12. The following Statement shows the liabilities at the beginning of the Current official year and the portion discharged up to date.

Item	Amount of liability Rs - As - P.	Amount paid Rs - As - P.
Deposits to be adjusted	(a) 3397-3-„	1118-12-8
Gravel Supply	(b) 1282-10-5	900-„-„
Mud road repair	260-5-10	260-5-10
Printing	231-13-7	231-13-7
Asphalting of the hospital building	540-13-8	540-13-8
Hire of Carts	150-„-„	150-„-„
Results grant	58-8-„	58-8-„
Salary grant	117-8-„	117-8-„
European medicines	400-„-„	400-„-„
Hospital Contingencies	77-11-4	77-11-4
Extra remuneration to Inspecting School master	15-„-„	15-„-„
Contingencies of Do	4-13-„	4-13-„
House rent to S. R. Schools	13-13-„	13-13-„
Office Contingencies	13-8-„	13-8-„
Lighting Do	12-7-8	12-7-8
Special Sanitary arrangements	150-„-„	150-„-„
Cost of Controlling Establishment	34-„-„	34-„-„
Total	6,760-3-6	40,99-2-9

(a) As noted above, about Rs 1118 have been discharged. Rs 900 is the value of the property security furnished by Municipal Servants. Rs 540 is payable to the District Board in February and March and the remaining amount represents amounts deposited by Contractors &c and will be adjusted when the works given on Contract &c. have been duly executed.

(b) Rs 900 has been adjusted and the balance will be paid when Check Measurements are received from the Councillors to whom the bills have been sent for check.

13. There are no bills for large amounts now remaining unpaid, except one for about Rs 2000 payable to the gravel Contractor for the current year. and there is a balance of Rs 2780 at the credit of the Municipality. The Municipality is not now in such an unsatisfactory financial condition as it was at the end of the last year. There are some bills to be paid and establishment charges to be met before the end of the year. but the amount of taxes &c that will be collected before the end of March will, it is expected, more than cover such charges.

14. The Steps that should be taken.

(a) Tax on arts. It has been brought to notice that there are many persons that have escaped taxation. 180 persons have been assessed in the current month to a tax of Rs 682. Further [illegible]iries are being made to see that [illegible]ne liable to be assessed es- [illegible]es taxation

How
Results?
Salary,,
[illegible]

[illegible]x on Carts, animals &c. Steps are being taken to see that Carts &c liable to tax do not escape taxation.

(c) Collection Demand notices and distraint warrants have to be issued promptly in cases in which they have not been issued already. The bill Collectors have from time to time been warned that the whole of the demand should be collected before the end of the current month and that if they fail to do so or are unable to give a satisfactory explanation for the outstanding balances, they will be replaced.

(d) Private Scavengering fees. There is at present only one night soil Cart. There are two other Carts out of order. Steps are being taken to repair these. to see that the toties clean the back-yards of private persons regularly and to collect the arrears of fees. Steps are also being taken to prosecute the owners of unclean premises and to extend the private Scavengering System.

(e)

(e) Avenues. In para 3 of the Collector's endorsement, No. 1772-Rev: dated 24th June 1896. Submitting the administration report for 1895-96, it was stated that the number of Cocoanut and Mango trees which the avenues contain, if known, would show that the smallness of the income must be due to mismanagement. Information in regard to the exact number of yielding trees belonging to the Municipality is not now available, but the number is said to be out of proportion to the small income that has hitherto been realised. Most of these trees are on the banks of the Channel from the river Vadavar to the town of Mannargudi which supplies water to the tanks of the town. The length of the Channel avenues is about 12 miles and it is intended to sell the avenues furlong by furlong

So

So that the small capitalists and pattadars who reside close to the several furlongs may compete for them and there may be an increase in the revenue from this source. or the trees may be leased for a fair rent to the owners of adjacent fields. At present, the whole length of the avenues is sold by auction in one lot.

(f) Tolls. All the 13 gates of the town are now sold together, and hence it is only the wealthy capitalists that are in a position to bid for them. It is under consideration now to sell the gates separately or club some of the gates which may yield poor income so that there may be competition and an increase in the revenue.

(g) Removal of Sewage. There are are only about ~~are Only~~ 112 houses which let sewage water into cesspools constructed in the street, while others do not. It is not fair that the cost of removing the sewage water of these few houses alone should be met from the general fund, in other words, that the cost of a private service should be met by the general tax-payers. The Council has therefore resolved to levy a fee for the removal of the sewage water of private houses in its resolution of the 20th ultimo. Steps will have to be taken to carry out the resolution.

15. The Deputy Collector has been in charge of the office of Chairman since the 20th of November last and it seems desirable that he should continue to be Chairman for some time more – say, till the end of the official year to enable him to put the Municipality in proper working order. This will no doubt add considerably to his work as Deputy Collector, but this will be only for a short period, and further, the Deputy Collector has to do this year the Jamabundi of only one Taluk (Sirutturaippundi) instead of two as in other years. Hence it is believed that it will be possible for the Deputy Collector to do the work of the Municipality in addition to his own. The Council has to be persuaded to elect as Chairman one who is not likely to side with any faction but will be just and impartial and who has sufficient ability and tact to lead the Council properly. It is desirable that it should elect one who will be able to devote sufficient time to his work as Chairman.

I have &c.
(Signed) T.V. Srinivasalinga
Deputy Collector

(True Copy)
T. Smuth[illegible]am
for Collector

RP

3/704 M of 1898

TANJORE, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,

R.c No. 322/ml of 97 CAMP, 25th January 1898.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
704 M

FROM

J. Andrew ESQUIRE,
COLLECTOR,
TANJORE,

TO

The SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Local & Municipal DEPARTMENT,
MADRAS.

SIR,

Adverting to para 10 of my endorsement, dated 6th August 1897, forwarding the Administration Report of the Mannargudi Municipal Council for 1896-97, embodied in G.O. No. 2492. M. dated 12th November 1897 and with reference to my remarks on the Audit Report of that Municipality for 1896-97, I have the honour to forward herewith for the information of Government a detailed report Ref. on. Cm. No. 676/

676/High dated 10th January '98. On the working of that Municipality submitted by the late Deputy Collector, Mannargudi Division who was in charge of the office of Chairman from the 20th November '97 until the date of his report.

2. The various defects noticed in the G. O under reference are dealt with seriatim in the report and do not require further mention.

3. Turning to the causes which led to the unsatisfactory working of this Municipality in the past, they are either directly or indirectly traceable in the main to the late Chairman, M. R. Ry. M. R. Srinivasa Rao Avargal. The Audit Report and the Deputy Collector's letter show that there was a lamentable want

want of supervision and efficient control over the office and out-door staff of the Municipality, but this neglect has fortunately not resulted in any defalcation of the Municipal revenues, although collections — both arrears and current — were most backward, advances remained unadjusted for years, and the Municipality was well nigh driven to a state of bankruptcy. Under the direction of the late Divisional Officer, vigorous steps were taken towards the discharge of the liabilities, and there is a fair prospect of the Municipality being put in proper working order at no distant date. The further report promised by the Divisional Officer, on the progress of collection, with reference to para 3 (2) of the G. O under reference will, it is hoped, be satisfactory, as steps have been taken to Collect or adjust the long standing arrears.

4. I Concur generally with the Deputy Collector in his opinions as to the mal administration of the Municipality in the past, and as to his recommendations for the future. As to the past, I think the Deputy Collector has shown that by far the greatest share of the blame must fall on the Chairman who so largely neglected his duties even in directions in which opposition on the part of hostile Councillors could have had but little, if any, effect. At the same time, I Consider that the attitude of some of the Councillors was, on more occasions than one, not Conducive to harmonious or efficient administration, and this attitude undoubtedly did hamper the Chairman to some extent, and make him still more inefficient than he

might

might otherwise have been. It must also be remembered that the late Chairman was the Council's own selection, though its real responsibility for his Conduct during the past few years is lessened in as much as it is about 6 years since it elected him. However if a Council selects a man who proves to be unfit, from whatever cause, it cannot divest itself of all responsibility on the ground that its nominee only turned out a failure subsequently. And should Government let the Council know that it (the Council) incurs a grave responsibility, of which it cannot divest itself, in selecting a Chairman, it will probably, on the next Occasion, do its best to select the best man available.

5. Taking everything into Consideration

I

I do not think it necessary now to deprive Mannargudi of the privilege of an elected Chairman, and I recommend that it be given another chance. Pending orders of Government, I shall not fix a day for the election of a Chairman, and, if Government approves, an election may be held in March, the Chairman elect not being gazetted until April. This will give the Ex-Officio Chairman an opportunity of getting everything into shape before the close of the official year, and the new Chairman will not be able to plead as an excuse for future short comings that his predecessor left everything in a mass of confusion. (1) (2

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
F. Multusami
For Collector

RV

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GAIN G.O., No. DATED
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