

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 701 M.

DATED 1-4-98

INDEXED.

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reduction of elective Seats on the Munl. Council
of Tellicherry. Requesting, with remarks, the
Collector of Malabar to nominate a chairman
for the Tellicherry Municipality & to submit
proposals for filling up by nomination four of
the existing elective seats when the first
four of the elected members shall vacate.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cus 1916 to 1998							

Reduction of seats in the Municipal Council

[L. & M.]
10-2-12-17.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings: -

Again G.O., No. , dated 189
 Again G.O., No. 435, dated 23rd February 1898.
 Current No. of 189, dated , from
 " " " 189 " " " "
 " " " 189 " " " "

Secy. This ORDER. No. 701 Muz 2 1-4-98

The Government having, in its order read above, directed that the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Tellicherry should in future be appointed by the Governor-in-Council and that the number of councillors to be appointed by election should be reduced from thirteen to nine, the Collector of Malabar is requested to nominate a Chairman for the Municipality and to submit proposals for filling up by nomination four of the existing elective seats when the first four of the elected members shall vacate.
 (From order)

① Please see this remark on the docket of 43/10/98

Cupd-4/10/98

To The Collector of Malabar
 Chairman M.C. Tellicherry

12/30/98

31 388

Government {1898} of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

Regd.

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 435 M., 23rd February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Municipal Council.

Ordering, with remarks, the issue of a notification declaring that the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Tellicherry shall be appointed by the Governor in Council and that the number of councillors to be appointed by election shall be nine.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Proposing to withdraw for reasons stated from the Municipal Council of Tellicherry the privilege of electing its own Chairman and to reduce the number of councillors from 18 to 12 and the elective seats thereon from 12 to 3; requesting the council to state within one month its objections, if any, to these proposals; and directing the Sub-Collector in the meanwhile to resume charge of the Chairman's office without delay.

READ—also the following paper:—

From M. J. MURPHY, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Tellicherry, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector and Sub-Collector of Malabar), dated 15th January 1898.

In accordance with G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897, I have the honour to forward herewith the statement of the objections of the municipal council to the proposals of Government embodied in the above mentioned Government order. This statement of objections was approved of by the council, eight members voting for it and six against it. As regards the six dissentient members they have prepared and signed jointly a statement of their objections which, although it is only the statement of the minority of the council, I also forward for the information of Government.

2. Extracts from the council's proceedings on the subject, dated 10th and 14th January 1898, are also enclosed.

ENCLOSURES.

PROCEEDINGS of the Municipal Council, Tellicherry, at a special meeting held on Monday the 10th January 1898.

Read G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897, calling upon the council for reasons stated to show cause within a month why the privilege of electing the Chairman should not be withdrawn and the strength of the council reduced from eighteen to twelve and the number of elected Councillors from twelve to three.

Proposed by Mr. Lemerle and seconded by Mr. K. Ramunni that the council resolve to address Government stating its objections to the proposals of Government.

Carried, all members voting for the resolution except Chairman, who did not vote.

Resolution.—The council unanimously resolve that the matter be postponed for finally deciding on the statement of objections to Government to a meeting to be held on Friday the 14th January 1898 at 5 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS of the Municipal Council, Tellicherry, at a special meeting held on Friday the 14th January 1898.

Read again G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897, calling upon the council for reasons stated to show cause within a month why the privilege of electing the Chairman should not be withdrawn and the strength of the council reduced from eighteen to twelve and the number of elected councillors from twelve to three.

2. Read also council's resolution, dated 10th January 1898.

On the subject coming on for discussion, two draft memoranda of objections were read, one by Mr. E. S. Fernandez and the other by Mr. K. Ramunni. Mr. T. Richmond proposed and Mr. V. B. Pocker seconded that the statement of objections prepared by Mr. E. S. Fernandez be adopted as the objections of the council to the proposals of Government.

These voted for the proposal—

Mr. T. Richmond.	Mr. Bava.
" V. B. Pocker.	" H. Fernandez.
" P. Forte.	" Ambadi Marar.
" Essu.	" E. S. Fernandez.

The following voted against the resolution:—

Mr. K. Ramunni.	Mr. Issak Haji Ayab.
" A. F. Lemerle.	" C. Ahmad Kutti Haji.
" Govindan Nair.	" V. Karunakara Menon.

The Chairman not voting. The resolution of Mr. Richmond was therefore carried by a majority.

Memorandum of Objections.

In accordance with the suggestion made at the meeting of the 10th instant, we beg to state below our objections on G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897.

2. We have given the memorandum drawn up by the late Chairman-Delegate our careful consideration. We find the memorandum abundantly supported by the municipal records and the several tabular and other statements subscribed to by the manager and other employes of the municipality and attached to the memorandum. The memorandum was publicly read at the meeting of the council on the 4th November 1897, and we understand that the document and the statements above referred to were handed over by the Collector to such of the councillors who took exception to its correctness. The memorandum was in their possession from 1st to 14th December 1897, when it was returned by them to the office. We note that, amongst the dissatisfied councillors, there are three gentlemen who had filled the position of Chairman of this municipality and therefore presumably acquainted with the working of the executive department. Apart from an obstinationist policy pursued by these councillors, curiously enough, headed by a *nominated* member ever since the drawing up of the above memorandum, the council has not yet seen any attempt at vindication of the administration condemned in the memorandum. The additional facts brought to the notice of the council at its meeting on the 17th December (*vide* copy of office-note of the Chairman-Delegate enclosed), namely, the great delay—nearly six months—in bringing distrained properties to sale and the existence in the office now of some undisposed of distrained articles without proper records, confirm us in the view we take of the past administration of this municipality, and we entirely agree with Government in their view in regard to the same.

3. We would, however, respectfully urge that the council as a whole or all its elected members are not responsible for the state of affairs. The first three signatories to this memorandum, who are elected members, had long ago drawn attention to the lax management of the municipality and only when one of the councillors, whose views agreed with ours, assumed charge of its affairs as Chairman-Delegate, was our voice heeded. We have stood all along for reform and we would particularly draw the attention of Government to paragraphs 11 to 14 of the enclosure B.

4. We would also respectfully bring to the notice of Government that Tellicherry is a town rising daily in importance, and that the proposed extension of the Madras Railway would further accelerate its rise. We would, therefore, urge upon Government to modify slightly the proposed remedial measures. We would ask that the present strength of the council, viz., eighteen, be retained and the elected members be fixed at half its number. At present there are thirteen elected members (not twelve as stated in the Government order). The town contains four wards, and the reduction of the elected councillors to three would deprive one of the wards its privilege of electing a member which could not have been the intention of Government. It is further submitted for the consideration of Government that a member for each ward would be quite an inadequate representation of the rate-payers, especially in view of the fact that each ward is inhabited by different sections of the community, notably Muhammadans and Hindus.

5. We would suggest that the A ward, containing principally the officials—Europeans and Eurasians—and which now returns four members be allowed three members, and that the remaining wards which now return three members, two each, thus making up the proposed half. In making this prayer, we would draw the attention of Government that it is due to an *elected* member that the mal-administration of this town has been at last forcibly brought to light and that it was a few elected members who are signatories to this memorandum together with only one *nominated* member out of the four, who throughout fought for reform along with the late Chairman-Delegate.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Proposing to withdraw for reasons stated from the Municipal Council of Tellicherry the privilege of electing its own Chairman and to reduce the number of councillors from 18 to 12 and the elective seats thereon from 12 to 3; requesting the council to state within one month its objections, if any, to these proposals; and directing the Sub-Collector in the meanwhile to resume charge of the Chairman's office without delay.

READ—also the following paper:—

From M. J. MURPHY, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Tellicherry, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector and Sub-Collector of Malabar), dated 15th January 1898.

In accordance with G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897, I have the honour to forward herewith the statement of the objections of the municipal council to the proposals of Government embodied in the above mentioned Government order. This statement of objections was approved of by the council, eight members voting for it and six against it. As regards the six dissentient members they have prepared and signed jointly a statement of their objections which, although it is only the statement of the minority of the council, I also forward for the information of Government.

2. Extracts from the council's proceedings on the subject, dated 10th and 14th January 1898, are also enclosed.

ENCLOSURES.

PROCEEDINGS of the Municipal Council, Tellicherry, at a special meeting held on Monday the 10th January 1898.

Read G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897, calling upon the council for reasons stated to show cause within a month why the privilege of electing the Chairman should not be withdrawn and the strength of the council reduced from eighteen to twelve and the number of elected Councillors from twelve to three.

Proposed by Mr. Lemerle and seconded by Mr. K. Ramunni that the council resolve to address Government stating its objections to the proposals of Government.

Carried, all members voting for the resolution except Chairman, who did not vote.

Resolution.—The council unanimously resolve that the matter be postponed for finally deciding on the statement of objections to Government to a meeting to be held on Friday the 14th January 1898 at 5 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS of the Municipal Council, Tellicherry, at a special meeting held on Friday the 14th January 1898.

Read again G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897, calling upon the council for reasons stated to show cause within a month why the privilege of electing the Chairman should not be withdrawn and the strength of the council reduced from eighteen to twelve and the number of elected councillors from twelve to three.

2. Read also council's resolution, dated 10th January 1898.

On the subject coming on for discussion, two draft memoranda of objections were read, one by Mr. E. S. Fernandez and the other by Mr. K. Ramunni. Mr. T. Richmond proposed and Mr. V. B. Pocker seconded that the statement of objections prepared by Mr. E. S. Fernandez be adopted as the objections of the council to the proposals of Government.

These voted for the proposal—

Mr. T. Richmond.	Mr. Bava.
" V. B. Pocker.	" H. Fernandez.
" P. Forte.	" Ambadi Marar.
" Essu.	" E. S. Fernandez.

The following voted against the resolution:—

Mr. K. Ramunni.	Mr. Issak Haji Ayab.
" A. F. Lemerle.	" C. Ahmad Kutti Haji.
" Govindan Nair.	" V. Karunakara Menon.

The Chairman not voting. The resolution of Mr. Richmond was therefore carried by a majority.

Memorandum of Objections.

In accordance with the suggestion made at the meeting of the 10th instant, we beg to state below our objections on G.O., Mis. No. 2815 M., dated 16th December 1897.

2. We have given the memorandum drawn up by the late Chairman-Delegate our careful consideration. We find the memorandum abundantly supported by the municipal records and the several tabular and other statements subscribed to by the manager and other employes of the municipality and attached to the memorandum. The memorandum was publicly read at the meeting of the council on the 4th November 1897, and we understand that the document and the statements above referred to were handed over by the Collector to such of the councillors who took exception to its correctness. The memorandum was in their possession from 1st to 14th December 1897, when it was returned by them to the office. We note that, amongst the dissatisfied councillors, there are three gentlemen who had filled the position of Chairman of this municipality and therefore presumably acquainted with the working of the executive department. Apart from an obstinationist policy pursued by these councillors, curiously enough, headed by a *nominated* member ever since the drawing up of the above memorandum, the council has not yet seen any attempt at vindication of the administration condemned in the memorandum. The additional facts brought to the notice of the council at its meeting on the 17th December (*vide* copy of office-note of the Chairman-Delegate enclosed), namely, the great delay—nearly six months—in bringing distrained properties to sale and the existence in the office now of some undisposed of distrained articles without proper records, confirm us in the view we take of the past administration of this municipality, and we entirely agree with Government in their view in regard to the same.

3. We would, however, respectfully urge that the council as a whole or all its elected members are not responsible for the state of affairs. The first three signatories to this memorandum, who are elected members, had long ago drawn attention to the lax management of the municipality and only when one of the councillors, whose views agreed with ours, assumed charge of its affairs as Chairman-Delegate, was our voice heeded. We have stood all along for reform and we would particularly draw the attention of Government to paragraphs 11 to 14 of the enclosure B.

4. We would also respectfully bring to the notice of Government that Tellicherry is a town rising daily in importance, and that the proposed extension of the Madras Railway would further accelerate its rise. We would, therefore, urge upon Government to modify slightly the proposed remedial measures. We would ask that the present strength of the council, viz., eighteen, be retained and the elected members be fixed at half its number. At present there are thirteen elected members (not twelve as stated in the Government order). The town contains four wards, and the reduction of the elected councillors to three would deprive one of the wards its privilege of electing a member which could not have been the intention of Government. It is further submitted for the consideration of Government that a member for each ward would be quite an inadequate representation of the rate-payers, especially in view of the fact that each ward is inhabited by different sections of the community, notably Muhammadans and Hindus.

5. We would suggest that the A ward, containing principally the officials—Europeans and Eurasians—and which now returns four members be allowed three members, and that the remaining wards which now return three members, two each, thus making up the proposed half. In making this prayer, we would draw the attention of Government that it is due to an *elected* member that the mal-administration of this town has been at last forcibly brought to light and that it was a few elected members who are signatories to this memorandum together with only one *nominated* member out of the four, who throughout fought for reform along with the late Chairman-Delegate.

6. If Government, in spite of this representation, is of opinion that a reduction in the number of councillors is called for, though it is not alleged that the municipality got mismanaged owing to an excessive number of councillors, we would beg to propose that the strength be reduced to fifteen, that exclusive of the ex-officio councillor, seven be nominated by Government and the other half be appointed by election and the members be distributed as follows:—

A, B and C wards	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 each.
D	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

We, however, strongly hope that the Government will see its way to allowing the present strength.

7. We are in entire accord with the views of Government in regard to the Chairmanship, and we have every hope that a purely honorary Chairman nominated by Government with an able and efficient full-time secretary will put the administration of this town on a satisfactory and salutary footing.

8. In conclusion, we pray that the changes herein suggested, which are more or less in accord with the views of Government, may be enforced only as a tentative measure and that when the administration proves efficient, Government may be pleased to restore to the council its present constitution.

TELLICHERRY,
14th January 1898.

(Signed) E. S. FERNANDEZ, and others.

Endt. on C. No. 138-R.

Submitted,

2. The facts and figures in the statement of the majority have not been verified, but if Government so desire, this will be done. It may not, of course, be impossible to pick holes here and there in the memorandum, but I can say with confidence from my experience since I took over the office of Chairman that the state of affairs in the office justifies the worst that could be said of it.

TELLICHERRY,
18th January 1898.

(Signed) M. J. MURPHY,
Ag. Sub-Collector.

Endt. on C. No. 39-M.

Submitted,

2. I recommend that the suggestions made by the majority of the council be adopted, viz.—

- (a) That the Chairman should be nominated by Government.
- (b) That the strength of the council should remain as it is, half of its members being elected.
- (c) That of the nine elected councillors three should be returned for the A ward, and two each for the other three.

CALICUT,
25th January 1898.

(Signed) G. W. DANCE,
Collector.

ORDER—No. 435 M., dated 23rd February 1898.

The withdrawal from the municipal council of the privilege of electing its Chairman, proposed in the proceedings read above, to which the council has no objection, is approved; but in the circumstances stated, the council's proposal to leave the total number of councillors unaltered and to reduce the number to be appointed by election from thirteen to nine is accepted. The following notification will be published in the Fort St. George and the Malabar District Gazettes:—

NOTIFICATION.

Whereas the Municipal Council of Tellicherry, as at present constituted, appears unequal to the administration of municipal affairs in an efficient manner, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to declare, under the provisions of section 12 of Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897, and in modification of Notification No. 24, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary*, dated 19th March 1885, that the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Tellicherry shall be appointed by the Governor in Council and that the number of councillors to be appointed by election shall be nine.

2. As suggested by the municipal council and the Collector, three elective seats will be assigned to the A ward of the town and two seats to each of the other three wards. The necessary alterations in the schedule attached to the election rules will be made when the revised rules are issued.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Tellicherry,
through the Collector of Malabar.
Gazette.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

When given for copying
When copied 2-6-78 74 189
When examined
When signed Rowe

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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