

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 243 *M.*

DATED 21-2-99.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Council.

Informing with remarks the Collector of Malabar that he is himself competent to pass final orders on the objection petition received against the election of Mr Rego for a seat in the — of Cannanore, and requesting him to decide on the validity of the election and report the result to Government.

# BACK PAPERS.

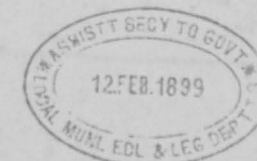
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 521m



Order No. 243 mis 821/2/89 From The Collector

H.M. 17.2.99

Under No. 36 of the revised election  
des issued in G.O. No. 1950 M. dated 19  
number 1898, the Collector is himself  
petent to pass final orders on the  
election petition in question. He is  
ordingly requested to decide upon the  
ctions raised against the validity of the  
ction and report the result to Govt.  
publication of the name of the  
cessful Candidate in the Fort Saint  
ge Gazette.

These should have been put in this file & passed. I cannot do so. H.M.

Dated 8th February 1899

Received

Registered

Enclosures Three 14

Spare copies.

# SUBJECT.

Mr. L. B. Rego's Election as a Municipal Councillor

2. The proposal to remove Mr. Cannaon from the Council, should be submitted after his election has been notified. likely to result from the Election

H.M. 17.2.99

H.M. 15.2.99

The Collector of Malabar, with papers returned 15/2/99

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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No. D 14, 99  
m 8

Malabar Collectors Office,  
Lakkidi  
Camp Kaniyankulam, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1899

From,

G. W. Dance Esq J.C.S.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.  
CURRENT No. 521 m

Collector of Malabar  
Calicut

The Chief Secretary to Government.

Local and Municipal Dept.,

Sir,

I have the honor to report that on the 14<sup>th</sup> November last Mr. L. B. Rego was elected by a large majority as Municipal Councillor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward in Cannanore. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> idem I received a petition from one of the rival Candidates, Mr. R. J. Lippot Raman, alleging that Mr. Rego's election had been secured by intimidation - I referred this petition to the Sub Collector for report. He reported on the 12<sup>th</sup> ultimo that the charge of intimidation was not proved, and I agree with him. I have been unable to submit this report before on account of pressure of work.

2. I shall proceed to show that Mr. Rego's continuance in office as a Municipal Councillor is not only dangerous to the public peace, but likely to bring the municipal administration into contempt. The election rules do not provide for such a disqualification: its matters stand, the only course open to Government, in the event of its agreeing with

as to Mr. Rego's unfitness, appears to be to  
re-elector him as duly elected, and then to remove  
him under section 19 [iv] of the Municipal Act.  
I would suggest in that case that the election rules  
should be amended, so as to provide for such con-  
tingencies in future and to prevent Mr. Rego being  
re-elected. As the rules now stand there is nothing  
to prevent a Municipal Councillor who has been  
removed from office under section 19 [iv] of the  
Act from being elected again immediately afterwards.

3. I have known many inefficient municipal  
chairmen, but I never knew one so inefficient  
as Mr. Rego, or so perverse withal. When he was  
Chairman of the Cannanore Municipality his  
office was a bower from which few papers  
returned. On the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1896 the Accountant  
General wrote to me requesting me to "notice the  
great delay which has occurred in the return by  
the Municipal Council of Cannanore, of the  
audit notes on the accounts of that Municipality  
for the year 1894-95. The notes were placed in  
the Chairman's hands in the month of March  
1896, and notwithstanding reminders on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>,  
and 20<sup>th</sup> of August, and a telegram on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
instant, they have not yet been returned. Very  
great inconvenience is being caused by the delay,  
as the annual report to Government cannot issue  
until its receipt."

4. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November following, I  
wrote the subjoined letter to the Accountant  
General. "In reply to your letter n<sup>o</sup>. 222 dated  
345 the

FA  
this & the  
noted

the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1896, I have the honor to state  
that I sent a copy of it to the Chairman of the  
Cannanore Municipality on the 6<sup>th</sup> ultimo, with view  
to submit the audit notes by return with an ex-  
planation for the delay. No reply having been  
received, a telegram was sent on the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo  
which I have received no reply. I would suggest  
that the Government may be asked to take steps  
for the extraction of an answer from the Chairman  
if all ordinary methods are unavailing."

5. The letter was not despatched, because,  
before it was fair copied, I received a postcard  
from Mr. Rego promising to despatch the audit  
notes "by Monday next". I afterwards found that  
I should not have held my hand. The audit notes  
were received "by Monday next", or thereabouts, but  
the audit report was not resubmitted by Mr. Rego  
up to the date of his handing over charge of his office  
on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1897. The Government had indeed  
called for an explanation of the delay in its order  
n<sup>o</sup>. 204 L. 1110 dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 1897, but, if it  
had been as well acquainted with Mr. Rego's ways  
as I got to be, it would have spared itself the trouble.

6. For many years Mr. Rego had presided  
over the affairs of the Cannanore Municipality  
as from a sort of Buddhist Nirvana. Immovable and  
unmoved, his existence was demonstrated by the  
absorption of his Carriage allowance. He so transpired  
me however that I commenced sending him daily re-  
minders, and otherwise strove to rouse him out of  
his torpor. At last he got tired of the noise and sent

his resignation. The Deputy Collector of Wynad, who took charge from him, reported on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1897 that "he took charge of the Office of Chairman - from Mr. Reps yesterday. A cursory inspection of the registers of the Municipal Office was made with the following result:-

(1) Collections have not been posted up to date in the House and Land Demand registers.

(2) Receipts from December 1896 have not been written up in the Ledger.

(3) Deposit registers for 96-97 have not been written up.

(4) There is no register of distriant property, stationery, or furniture and stock maintained.

(5) Account of postage stamps expended was not written up since 12<sup>th</sup> April.

The references pending reply are being attended to."

7. In its order reviewing the Administration report of the Cannanore Municipality for the year 1895-96, the Government made the following remarks:- "The Chairman's report was received in the Government office three months and thirteen days after the due date and yet no explanation whatever of this delay has been attempted. This is the fifth year in succession that similar delay has occurred, and an explanation should be submitted at once for this very unsatisfactory conduct. The report has been very badly drawn up and the statements submitted with it contain many mistakes, which are clearly due to carelessness in their preparation.

The administration of the Municipality was characterised

Characterised by extreme dilatoriness and general want of interest in their duties on the part of the Chairman and the Councilors, and except in the case of education and medical relief, with which the Council had personally practically nothing to do, it was most inefficient, more especially in the matter of collection of taxes, private scavenging and sanitation, although the Council's special attention was called to these points in the review of the report for the previous year. The Chairman and the Council will now be warned that unless a marked improvement is shown in each of these directions in the current year, the Government will be compelled to withdraw the elective privilege enjoyed by this Municipality, or to take other steps to rouse the Council to a proper sense of its duty."

8. When the present Chairman took charge he set to work with his usual ability and energy to clear up Mr. Reps' business and start fresh. After some months of hard work - however he found that he could not deal unassisted with the hopeless confusion in the accounts, and the Government in its order <sup>569</sup> ~~568~~ in dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 1898 <sup>directed</sup> ~~ordered~~ a special investigation to be conducted by Assistant Inspector Mr. R. Perindan. "The investigation occupied 2 months and 6 days, exceeding the time ordinarily allowed for a year's audit". Application was therefore made by the Assistant Accountant General for permission to entertain an additional Assistant Inspector of the lowest grade and his two staff for two months, so that the Accountant General's re- <sup>such</sup> ~~re~~ <sup>had</sup> ~~had~~

been thrown into arrears by the investigation, might be brought up to date. The inspection of the accounts showed that Mr. Rego had allowed Rs 2706 of the Municipal funds to be misappropriated. This was not brought about by misplaced Confidence in a subordinate nor by any deep-laid Scheme of villany. It was due to the entire absence of supervision. The Government will see from the papers that the Municipal tills were practically thrown open to Mr. Rego's subordinates and no questions asked. The wonder is that so little was taken.

9. I think I have shown that Mr. Rego is a person whose continuance on the Municipal Council is calculated to bring the Municipal Administration into contempt. I shall now prove that Mr. Rego's continuance on the Council is dangerous to the public peace. The question of providing a new burial ground for the Moplas of Cannanore in place of the existing one had long been pending with the Cannanore Council. Mr. Rego deliberately selected a place which he knew would be distasteful to the religious feelings of the Moplas, and seriously proposed to force them to use it at the point of the bayonet. [My report n<sup>o</sup> 74. M. 8497 dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 1897] So far as he was concerned

he did his best to sow the seeds of one. This indeed is the only occasion on which I knew Mr. Rego to do anything. I trust he will not be allowed to repeat the experiment.

10. It is provided in Section 19[1r] of the Municipal Act that, before removing a Municipal Councillor, the Government shall give him an opportunity for explanation. The Government may ask Mr. Rego for an explanation, but, unless he has entirely altered his methods, there is no probability of its fettering one for some years.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> servant.

Collector

Done  
8.2.97

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examined \_\_\_\_\_  
signed \_\_\_\_\_ 21/2

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DATED

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