[L. & M. / 98]
500—30-10-06.

Local & Munl. (~~190~~ 1899) Departme

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 98 M.

DATED 14-7-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Council — Proposing for the reasons stated to reduce the number of elective seats on the Vellore — to 7 & requesting the — to state within one month its objection if any, to this proposal.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

~~Reference~~ 67 1899
B&S. E 823.2.9

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CMa

CURRENT No. 123 M

TREASURY DEPUTY COLLECTOR
23 FEB. 1899
NORTH ARCOT

TO BE RETURNED WITH REPLY.

No 208 d/ 22-2-99
~~Order~~

Referred to the Collector of North Arcot for remarks.

(By order)
A Edgington
Ag Assistant Secretary.

7KR
10-2-99

The Collector of North Arcot.

From V. Eswarappa mudaliar and two others
Municipal Councillors
Vellore

No.

Dated 26-12-98
Received 10-1-99
Registered 11-1-99
Enclosures 1 returned vide O.M. 1410 d/ 21.12.99
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Bringing to notice certa
serious irregularities
the administration of
the Vellore municipali

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	15	[illegible]	3-1-99
	1965	[illegible]	23-11-98
	1290	[illegible]	18-7-98
	2597	[illegible]	24-11-97
	1831	[illegible]	21-8-97
	919	[illegible]	1-6-96
	1909	[illegible]	20-11-[illegible]
	1137	[illegible]	2[illegible]-8-[illegible]

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	705	[illegible]	29-5-93
	675	[illegible]	19-5-93
	184	[illegible]	22-2-9[illegible]

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 123M

ASSISTT SECY TO GOVT
10 JAN. 1899
LOCAL MUNL EDL & LEG DEPTTS

To

The SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,
MADRAS.

Sir,

We, the undersigned Municipal Councillors of Vellore, beg respectfully to bring to the notice of Government, the following, among the innumerable serious irregularities in the administration of the Vellore Municipality and trust you will, while pardoning us for this intrusion, be pleased to institute such sifting enquiries into the matters herein brought to light and take such steps as the circumstances and necessities may demand.

2. We may preface by stating that it was only, after all reasonable attempts on our part to rectify these matters had proved futile, that we have in the interest of the people whom we have the honour to represent, made bold to address you these few lines.

3. We beg to offer below, our remarks, taking as our theme such of the matters relating to the various branches of the Municipal administration, which, as will be demonstrated, are mismanaged most prejudicially to the interest and well being of the administration itself and which, if not rectified, at least now, will, in our humble opinion, become irreparable.

House Tax.

4. Demand notices for the collection of house-tax due for the 1st half of the current official year are now being issued, while they ought to have been issued in the early part of the official year and the tax collected before September last. On account of a breach of this most important and necessary rule, the tax due for the 2nd half year will fall into arrears and will have to be collected in the next year, thereby affecting seriously the realization of so much revenue as was anticipated in the Budget. (1)

Professional Tax.

5. The Chairman deputed Councillors Chelvaperumaul Chettiar, Punniakoti Mudaliar, Varadaraju Mudaliar and Gopalakrishna Mudaliar to assess people for the trades they carry for the current year. These Councillors assessed 1,475 persons. The original demand, according to their assessment, was Rs. 7,428. Against such assessment, 494 persons appealed to the Council. Out of this number, the tax was confirmed in 73 cases, reduced in 370 cases and exempted altogether in 48 cases. Three cases are still pending disposal. Out of the original demand of Rs. 7,428, a sum of Rs. 2,635 or 35 per cent. was remitted by the Council on appeal. (2)

The following table will shew the number of appeals summarily disposed of each day :—

Month and Date.		Number of appeals disposed of.
October 1898.	13	100
	15	50
	17	50
	19	50
	20	75
	22	50
November 1898.	2	4
	3	66
	9	37
	25	9
Total...	...	491
		3 Pending.

The Council heard the appeals only once in a day, either in the morning or in the evening. Each sitting did not last more than 2 hours and within that short period, appeal cases ranging from 50 to 100 were summarily disposed of. The accounts of the appellants were not looked into, nor was any evidence recorded and simply at the sight of the appellant, some one of the Councillors generally gave his opinion based on no material whatever about the tax to be levied and it was invariably carried by a majority. The following table will, in one view, show a few specific instances in which the classes and the taxes were considerably reduced without any adequate reason:—

Names of persons.	Assessment Number.	Original Assessment.		Reduction of Assessment.		Remarks.
		Class.	Amount.	Class.	Amount.	
Parasurama Chettiar ...	46	IV	25	V	12	No reason assigned.
Kothandarama Chetty ...	42	IV	25	V	12	Do.
Kandasawmi Chetty and 2 others ..	29	IV	25	V	12	Do.
Kadirvelu Chetty ..	72	VI	8	...	...	Exempted. No trade.
Chengalroya Mudaliar ..	97	VI	8	VIII	2	No reasons given.
Durmalinga Mudaliar ..	10	IV	25	VI	8	Do.
Subroya Chetty and 2 others ...	71	V	12	VII	4	Do.
Parthasarathi Chetty ...	61	V	12	VII	4	Do.
Soondara Chetty ..	64	VI	25	V	12	Do.
Veerasawmi Chetty ...	33	V	12	VII	4	Do.
Kesava Chettiar and Seshachala Chettiar ...	56	VI	8	...	...	Exempted. No reasons given.
Pichappa Chettiar ...	561	I	100	IV	25	Accounts examined. The Council thinks that the petitioner may be taxed under Class IV of the Municipal Act & therefore reduce the tax to Rs. 25.
Sivalinga Vathiar ...	224	VI	8	...	...	Exempted. No trade.
Amayappa Chettiar ...	120	IV	25	VI	8	No reasons given.
Ellappa Chetty ...	121	IV	25	VII	4	Do.
Chinnasawmi Chetty and 2 others ...	73	IV	25	VII	4	Do.
Namasivoya Chetty ...	189	V	12	VII	4	Do.
Arunachalla Chetty ...	128	V	12	VIII	2	Do.
Venkatasaperumaul Chetty ...	292	IV	25	VI	8	Do.
Rajaratna Mudaliar agent of Nataraja Mudaliar.	126	IV	25	VI	8	Do.
Venkatrama Chetty ...	316	IV	25	...	...	Exempted. No reasons given.

Names of persons.	Assessment Number.	Original Assessment.		Reduction of Assessment.		Remarks.
		Class.	Amount.	Class.	Amount.	
Krishnasawmi Naidu ...	151	IV	25	VII	4	No reasons given.
Abdul Aziz Khan Sahib ...	665	III	50	VI	8	Do.
Subroya Chetty ...	1068	IV	25	V	12	Do.
Venkatrama Chetty ...	691	III	50	VI	8	Do.
Rajagopaul Chetty ...	510	III	50	V	12	Do.
Margalinga Mudaliar ...	1004	III	50	V	12	Do.
Palani Chetty and Shunmuga Chetty ...	1061	V	12	...	...	Exempted. No reasons given.

Thus, the above are a few out of many instances in which people were assessed at higher rates and subsequently their tax considerably reduced. This only proves that either the original assessment was recklessly and erroneously made or that the subsequent reduction by the council was not justifiable. In either case, it operates as a serious hardship on the poor tax-payers; for, in the former case, it puts them to the necessity of preferring appeals and thereby put themselves to unnecessary trouble, waste of time, and anxiety, while, in the latter case, the procedure causes wrongful loss to the coffers of the Municipality. The Government have, in their order No. 1,290 M. dated 18th July 1898 taken considerable objection when the tax was reduced by 14 per cent. in 1897–98; but this order appears to have been treated as a dead letter and the tax was, nevertheless, reduced by 35 per cent. In fact, the well-being of the poor rate payers depends on the good will of the Councillors. Such, at least, is not the position of the rate payers in Vellore. It may not be amiss to point out that of the assesses whose taxes were reduced without justification as stated above, there are some individuals who happen to be the relations of some of the Councillors and this circumstance tends to give the matter a suspicious color when viewed by an outsider. Such incidents must, we humbly submit, be avoided if we expect to infuse confidence in the minds of the tax payers regarding our sense of justice and impartiality. The Government having called on in their order No 1,290 M. dated 18th July 1898 for a report as to how the tax for 1897–98 was reduced by 14 per cent., the Sub-Collector reported in his letter No. 2431 dated 23rd September 1898, that the ward-councillors assess people under arts without proper enquiry, that the Municipal establishment is not given this work, that the appeals are disposed of without taking evidence and without looking into the accounts of the appellants, and that the final reductions are also not justified by evidence. In spite of these wholesome remarks of the Sub-Collector in his letter No. 2,431 dated 23rd September last, they were not taken advantage of by the Chairman, and the Councillors were allowed to assess people as they pleased and the tax was, in consequence, reduced considerably without, in most cases, assigning any reasons as the resolution book will shew. In fine, there is not proper discretion used either in the original or final assessment and the hardship to which the people are placed every year at the time of assessment, cannot be sufficiently expressed here. There were also complaints that the tax had been unreasonably raised, because certain individuals had not voted for certain Councillors at the time of their elections. For fear of swelling this letter to an inordinate length, we shall content ourselves by referring here to one of the complaints made by Maligai Arunachalla Chetty to the Municipal Council and to the Sub-Collector against two of the assessing Councillors Chelvaperumaul Chettiar and Punniakoti Mudaliar. According to the petitioner, the above 2 Councillors, at a late election, requested him to give his vote for an outgoing Councillor named Palani Chettiar and said that his tax would, under the new rules, be reduced to 4 Rs. The petitioner, however, gave his vote in favor of Narayanasawmi Reddiar. With a feeling of animosity his tax was raised to 25 Rupees without any justification and his gumastahs also separately assessed. The petitioner contends that he pays an income-tax of 42 Rs. His whole income from trade and house rent &c. is thus estimated by the Revenue Department to be below 150 Rs. a month while the assessing Councillor estimated it from trade alone at Rs. 500 and upwards! On appeal, his tax was, however, reduced by the Municipal Council to 12 Rs. which is more than double of the income which the Revenue Department, after a careful inspection of his accounts and regular enquiries instituted regarding his income, had fixed. Thus both the original and final assessments by the Council were erroneous but it can only be determined by a judicial enquiry whether the assessment by the Councillors was made through a feeling of animosity.

Tolls.

(5) 6. (*a*) The Chairman does not send a printed table in the form contained in schedule C to all owners of vehicles with springs as required by Section 80 and the consequence is that they do not render themselves liable to prosecution if they fail to take licenses for their carriages. The Municipal revenue will suffer considerably in consequence of this failure.

(*b*) The measurement of horses is not accurately taken and the result has been that horses above eleven hands are placed in the category of horses below eleven hands. To quote a few instances, the horses owned by Nallayya Naidu No. 156 and Abdul Razah No. 154 are decidedly above 11 hands but in the register they are shewn as being below 11 hands. Here again, there is a decided loss of revenue to the Municipality.

(*c*) In the first half year licenses for 27 dogs were taken, while, in the 2nd half year, licenses for only 13 dogs have been taken. The number of dogs in the town (stray pariah dogs being excluded) will exceed 1,000 in as much as the population of this place is 50,000 and more. Although the Rev. Mr. Kidd, a Councillor, drew the attention of the Chairman to it, he has not evidently taken any steps to enforce people to take licenses for their dogs. This again operates prejudicially to the finances of the Council.

(*d*) At the commencement of each year, no report is called for from the Municipal subordinates as to the number of carriages in each Ward and through want of the necessary precautions carts, escape taxation, thereby causing loss of revenue to the Municipality.

Market.

7. This is a tiled building surrounded on three sides by platforms with thatched roofs. There is but only one Board showing the rates to be levied for the different stalls &c. Some of the stall keepers complained to one of us that the contractor levied a higher rate than that prescribed and solicited that a small board may be put up in front of each platform showing the rate of fee to be levied therein. As the Councillor had reasons to suppose that the grievance of the stall-keepers was real, he moved the Council by a letter to put up a board in front of each stall, explaining the necessity for it. No action was taken on the Councillors' suggestion, thereby placing the poor stall-keepers at the mercy of the contractor and opening a wide room for the practice of fraud on the part of the contractor which the Council should try and put a stop to. (6) There are but two latrines provided for the market and one of them is not provided yet with a dry earth store, although one of us had drawn the attention of the Council to it. The condition of the market is very filthy. It is not provided with gates although one of us repeatedly invited the attention of the Council to this defect, in as much as, bullocks, cows and asses freely enter it at all times and not only commit intolerable nuisance but also freely graze on the vegetables and greens exposed for sale, besides being a source of annoyance to those going to the market on business, and a source of danger to the old and infirm as well as to children.

6

Private Scavenging System.

8. Although there are nearly 7,000 houses in the town, only 900 houses are served by the Private Scavenging agency. This is worked at a loss of Rs. 364 *vide* remarks embodied in G. O. No. 1,290 M. dated 18th July 1898. The payment of fees in advance is not insisted upon, as required by Section 218. A The Government have also, in their order No. 1,831 dated 21st August 1897, directed that this be done in future, but to no purpose. The result is, the fees are allowed to run in arrears, and the system is not self-supporting. If only proper attention is given to it by the Chairman, by insisting on his out door subordinates to induce people to take more largely to the system by prosecuting such of the persons who still keep cess-pits in their backyards and who generally keep their privies and backyards in an insanitary and filthy condition, it will be perfectly possible in the course of a year or two to make almost all the houses in the town to be served by the Private Scavenging agency and the paramount importance of the system established beyond doubt by its results; but through want of attention, the system is left to take care of itself and the result will be that each house will gradually become a depôt for night-soil and no expert will be needed if Vellore becomes a hot bed of cholera, fever and nay the threatening plague, to solve the causes tending to the abnormal increase in its death rate. (7)

Chairman Mr. Seshaghiri Row.

9. (*a*) The Chairman does not furnish to the Council monthly Progress Reports as imperatively required by Section 32 and we are therefore kept in utter darkness as to whether the resolutions of the Council are faithfully and punctually carried out. (8) As an instance of the pernicious results of such a failure we might point out that at the meeting held on 26th August last it was resolved by the Council that the repairs to the pond in Velapadi which is very largely resorted to by travellers should be executed departmentally by the Overseer under the supervision of one of us Eswarappa Mudaliar. Although Eswarappa Mudaliar had, in view of the urgency of the work, repeatedly written to the Chairman to give orders for the work being taken up on hand at once, he failed to do so; and the consequence was, the rains having set in, the tank has gone into further decay, the stone revetments have fallen and the houses adjoining it are said to be in a dangerous condition as reported by the Sanitary Inspector in his diary. If the Chairman had given prompt attention to the resolution of the Council and to the request of the Councillor, this would have been averted and the tank completely repaired before the rains commenced, so as to be of utility to the public at large.

(*b*) The Chairman has drawn in advance from the Treasury a sum of Rs. 35 on 4th August last for going to Trichinopoly to inspect the water-scheme there. Although there is a strict prohibition against drawing money in advance *vide* Audit report for 1896-97, the Chairman has honoured it in its breach. (9) That the Chairman should have borrowed a sum of Rs. 35 from the treasury of the Municipality for the purpose of covering up his travelling expenses to Trichinopoly and back is not consistent with the dignity of that position. He has, even at the sacrifice of specific rules on the subject, claimed a privilege which is denied to the poorest clerk in Government or any other service.

(*c*) The Chairman is allowed a carriage allowance of Rs. 50 but it is to be much regretted that he keeps only a single bullock cart without springs unlike all his predecessors who were maintaining carriages drawn by ponies which afforded them greater facilities for the prompt inspection and supervision of the works and duties of the Municipal servants. (10) As he cannot do full justice to his work with his single bullock cart, the cost of maintaining which cannot exceed seven rupees, the sanitation of the town is very much neglected as will be seen from the following remarks of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer who and who alone is competent to pronounce a verdict on this matter.

> "I inspected the place myself and found four large bins filled to the"
> "brim with night-soil and around the place a heap of night-soil about 6×4×1½"
> "feet. The smell and the sickening feeling of the very sight of it was simply"
> " rrible, similarly there was another heap and 2 basketsful of night-soil unre-"
> "r d close to the southern wall of the Municipal Hospital. This state of affair"
> "i nply intolerable and reflects seriously. I regret to remark on the sanitary"
> a ministration of this thickly populated Municipality."

against him for the recovery of Rs. 30 being the price of the cart with costs if he sold his carriage without going into evidence, that he will adduce to prove that his carriage is brand new. The Chairman thereon again sent Ramasawmi Naidu a notice to produce his witnesses. The witnesses produced were examined by him. The Chairman seeing it is alleged that the charge against the Manager was fully proved, requested Ramasawmi Naidu not to push further his charge against the Manager and wanted him to sign a note to the effect that he is willing to withdraw all his previous letters. This done, tax for the 2nd half year only was taken from Ramasawmi Naidu and a license granted to him. Thus, in the opinion of the Chairman, the cart was new in the first instance and again when Ramasawmi Naidu declined to with-draw his charge of bribery against the Manager the cart developed itself into an old one in the eyes of the Chairman and his 3 supporting colleagues Manicka Chettiar, Punniakoti Mudaliar and Chelvaperumaul Chettiar and when Ramasawmi Naidu under pressure with-drew his charge, the cart has been labelled again as a new one. The demand for tax for two half years, penalty and detention fee has now disappeared and Ramasawmi Naidu was given license by taking from him tax for one half year. This is the Chairman and this is the set of Councillors entrusted with Self-Government and it may be judged how they will wield the destinies of the poor rate-payers placed under their protection. Is any more proof required to show that they are not fit for the responsible position they hold and whether they have not betrayed the trust reposed in them by Government and whether the Councillors of Vellore really deserve the franchise of electing their own Chairman.

(*e*) One Ramasawmi Chetti residing in Thatha Street, No. 43 in Sydapet complained in his petition dated 22nd October 1897 that on the 21st he waited a whole day at the Municipal Office without being successful in obtaining a license for his cart and that on the 22nd, on his paying to the Manager a bribe of eight annas, he obtained a license and requested the Chairman to recover the bribe from the Manager and return it to him. The endorsement of the Chairman on the petition shows that it was rejected on the petitioner failing to appear in person; but the Chairman gave the Manager an opportunity of vindicating his character from the accusation made against him if he was innocent in the matter as will appear from the following endorsement of the late Chairman on the said petition of Ramasawmi Chetty.

"It is open to the Manager to take such action as he may consider"
"necessary against the petitioner"

The Manager took no steps whatever to do so and the charge stands on record unrefuted.

Manager's insolent and insubordinate conduct towards a Councillor.

(*f*) At about 12 noon on the 5th October last, Krishnasawmi Naidu who was the previous day elected by a large majority as Councillor for D Ward went and represented to the Collector and the Sub-Collector that the ballot papers had been given by the Chairman the previous night to the Manager without being sealed and that he had good reasons to suspect that the Manager had taken them home to find out in secrecy the names of persons who had voted for him and for his rival candidate Somasundara Chetty, brother-in-law of a Councillor and that if the Municipal Office should be inspected the ballot papers will not be forth-coming. The Collector and the Sub-Collector directed him to lay his complaint before the Chairman; but as the Chairman, who is a 2nd Grade Pleader, was then practising in the District Munsif's Court, he had to go over to Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar and represent the whole thing to him. Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar went at once to the Municipal Office and waited for the Manager. As soon as the Manager attended the office, Eswarappa Mudaliar in the presence of another Councillor Narayanasawmi Reddiar asked for the market contractor's bond for 1898–99 which was secured in the Iron-safe. When the Iron-safe was opened to take out the contract bond, Eswarappa Mudaliar observing that the ballot papers were missing therefrom questioned the manager as to what had become of the ballot papers to which he replied that they had been duly forwarded to the Collector that morning. Eswarappa Mudaliar disbelieved his

ere long be noth
in-law &c. of the Chairm

statement and waited until the Chairman came to office to ascertain the truth regarding the Ballot papers. When the Chairman attended office between 3 and 4 P. M., the Manager sent to the Chairman, for his approval, a draft letter to the Collector intimating the result of election and that ballot papers were being sent by registered cover. Then, Mr. Rajagopaul Naidu an Honorary Magistrate of the town was also present. Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar represented to the Chairman that the Manager had told him a lie by saying that the ballot papers had been sent to the Collector that morning while they were actually in his custody and asked him to send for him and question him as to why he had told a lie. When the Manager appeared and when Eswarappa Mudaliar in the presence of the Chairman and the Honorary Magistrate Mr Rajagopaul Naidu asked him if he had not told him in the presence of another Councillor that the ballot papers had been duly forwarded to the Collector, he said he was not bound to answer him. If the Chairman had sealed the ballot papers as has been the case hitherto and given them to the Manager as they were not (*vide* his letter No. 12 dated 5th October 1898 to the Chairman,) it could not be suspected that the ballot papers had been given publicity to. Eswarappa Mudaliar, in his letters Nos. 2, 12 and 16 dated 2nd September, 5th and 25th October 1898 respectively, requested the Chairman to take due notice of the insolent and insubordinate conduct of the Manager and the wilful lie he had uttered but the Chairman did not even vouch-safe a reply to the insulted Councillor. It may be easily imagined how a Councillor can effect improvements and reforms if all kinds of impediments be thrown in his way and if his own subordinate is allowed to insult him with impunity and such conduct tacitly countenanced by the Chairman. The dignity and position of a Councillor seem to be so trifling in the estimation of the Chairman that a respectable gentleman has to hesitate considerably before accepting this honorary office with such incidents before him.

(*g*) Tha Manager insulted a Municipal Bill-Collector and the latter was necessitated to go into a Criminal Court and lodge a complaint against him. This only shows the quarrelsome tendency of the Manager.

Voters' Lists.

11. The Municipal Council in their resolution dated 16th September last, deputed 5 Councillors to revise the voters' and candidates' lists for the five wards of the town. Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar one of the memorialists was one of the five so deputed to revise the lists for C. Ward. He observed innumerable inaccuracies in the voters' lists of the several wards The same person was entered as a voter in one ward for paying income-tax, in another ward for paying professional-tax, and in a third ward for paying either house rent or house-tax. As this was entirely opposed to the Proviso to Election Rule 3, Eswarappa Mudaliar removed the names of 75 persons from the C. Ward and newly added 22 persons entitled to be voters and forwarded the lists explaining clearly the reasons for the omission from or the inclusion in the C. Ward list. He also sent 2 more lists suggesting the removal of 32 persons from the A. & B. Ward lists giving explicitly the reasons which disentitle them to be voters. Chelvaperumaul Chettiar though not one of the 5 Councillors deputed to revise the lists, in a spirit of vindictiveness and in a most objectionable tone attacked Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar in a letter addressed to the Chairman as if it were a personal matter and questioned his right to remove 75 men from the C. Ward list alleging that his interpretation of Election Rule 3 (*a*) was erroneous and that it was a long established Mamool sanctioned by the Vellore Municipal Council to enter a man in several wards for each of his so called qualification he possessed. To make up for the removal on proper grounds of 75 men from the C. Ward list, a devise was readily invented. About 40 or 50 copies of printed petitions were struck in tamil and presented to the Chairman by these men mostly Chetties. The grounds on which these 50 petitioners urged to become voters were that they had become owners of properties through either partition, inheritance or purchase &c. The Municipal registers maintained in the office show that the properties to which they claim ownership are registered in the names of persons other than the petitioners. No evidence was taken as to the real ownership of the petitioners. The allegations contained in the petitions were treated as facts and thus all the petitioners have been treated as voters and their names ordered to be included in the lists.

The so called Mahomedan ward consists of 217 Voters of whom are :—

Mahomedans ...	...	...	... 66
Chetties (oil mongers)	...	...	... 93
Other castes ...	...	...	... 58
			217

Under this arrangement, it is not generally possible for a Mahomedan to compete successfully for a Councillor's place in that ward which by its very name is indicative of a larger proportion of the voters being Mahomedans, while, from the above analysis of figures, it will be seen it has been converted into the Chetty's ward. Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar recommended the removal from that ward of 25 Voters almost Chetties who are not entitled to vote as per 2 lists submitted with his letters Nos. 13 and 14 dated 7th and 14th October respectively. As it was feared that a Mahomedan would then have a better chance of putting in his application for a Councillor's place, the above Councillor's recommendation which was based on proper grounds was never heeded and the 25 Voters disentitled to vote were retained on the voters' list. Thus, if as remarked by the Honorable Mr. Bliss, they had once omitted from this ward the names of many Mahomedan voters from the list, they have now added non-Mahomedans to keep the Mahomedan voters in minority. Because Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar had recommended on very proper grounds the removal of men not entitled to be voters, Councillor Chelvaperumaul Chettiar in a spirit of vindictiveness forwarded a list of persons to be removed mostly from D. Ward of which Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar is an elected Councillor. The Council accepted Chelvaperumaul Chettiar's recommendations and removed about 20 men from the voters' list. We shall here take up a few instances and show that the removal was arbitrary and wanton.

(*a*) Captain Abdul Azeez Khan who draws a pension of 160 Rs and who is also an Honorary Magistrate was for the first time entered as voter in C. Ward list by Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar; but he was removed from the list on the ground that he did not reside in the C. Ward. His residence is in the C. Ward. Even granting that it lies in the D. Ward, he ought to have been at least entered in the D. Ward but without doing so, he was entirely removed from all wards meaning thereby that he is not residing within the Municipal limits at all.

(*b*) Masilamoney Mudaliar has the requisite property qualification in each of the C. D. and E. Wards but his name was entirely removed on the ground that he has not been residing in the town for 6 months. This is quite immaterial for a voter vide Rule 3. He has possessed for more than 6 months property qualification in the town.

(*c*) Arumuga Achari residing in D. Ward pays Profession-tax Rs. 4 and House-rent Rs. 5 in A. Ward. He has been removed from the D. Ward and not shewn as a voter in any one Ward of the town.

(*d*) Dorasawmi Mudaliar an Honorary Magistrate residing in D. Ward and brother of Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar (divided family) has the requisite property qualification in D. Ward as the House-tax register will show. Although he has been a voter for several years, he has been this year removed from D. Ward list.

(*e*) Sami Mudaliar is removed from the D. Ward in which he resides on the ground that he has no "manner of qualification." He resides in D. Ward, pays Profession-tax Rs. 4 and House-rent Rs. 8 in C. Ward. He has not been shown in any one Ward of the Wards while he ought to be a voter in D. Ward as the election rules are clear on the point.

For want of space we refrain from quoting other specific instances in which persons entitled to vote, have been removed while those not entitled to vote allowed to continue in the voters lists.

The voters lists maintained in the Municipal Office can never be treated as a correct record and consequently Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar suggested to the Chairman that some experienced Municipal servant who has an intimate knowledge of the House-tax, Professional-tax &c. Registers maintained in the office may be deputed to prepare fresh lists of voters in the 5 Wards of the town. One Councillor Punniakoti Mudaliar who is one of the three whom the Chairman cited in support of his opinion that the cart was old but found new previously and subsequently (*Vide* para 10*d* supra) requested the Chairman to place Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar's letter before the Council on the ground that its tone was objectionable. The letter was recorded at the meeting as fortunately the Sub-Collector was present and would not agree with the one sided interpretation which was sought to be put upon it.

12. Councillor Chelvaperumaul Chettiar, it is evident, has been obstructive to the work of Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar in the right direction as will be evident from the action taken in different ways by the former. This Councillor Chelvaperumaul Chettiar who is one of the three cited by the Chairman in support of his view that a cart was old while previously and subsequently it had become new (*Vide* para 10*d* supra) having previously prepared the voters' list for the Muhammadan Ward omitted therefrom a number of Muhammadans eligible as voters so that the Muhammadan voters may be in a minority and the Honorable Mr. Bliss had to pass the following remarks in the Legislative Council at the time the new amendment act was passed when the omissions where brought to the notice of the Government by Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliar through the late Chairman.

Fort Saint George Gazette Supplement dated 21st April 1896 Page 38.

"The Honorable member has waxed wroth over the possibility of the"
"Hindus and Muhammadans interfering with each other in Municipal affairs."
"I can only envy him the happy state of ignorance in which he is. Perhaps he"
"has heard of a town called Vellore, which is not very far from his own District"
"I will tell the Honorable member what happened the other day at Vellore."
"The Honorable member is well aware that it is necessary from time to time to"
"revise the list of voters in the Municipalities. For that purpose the Municipal"
"Council of Vellore formed a Sub-Committee to enquire into different Wards."
"In the town of Vellore there is one Ward called the Mussulman Ward. It so"
"happened that the Gentlemen who were appointed the members of the Sub-"
"Committee were Hindus, *viz* Chetties; and it would probably surprise the"
"Honorable Member when I tell him that when they revised the list of voters in"
"the Mussulman Ward they struck off the names of nearly all the Mussulman"
"voters and retained only the names of a few of their own caste."

Fort Saint George Gazette Supplement 12th May 1896.

"I mentioned yesterday in speaking about another matter that in the"
"case of a well known Municipality a Sub-Committee which had been appointed"
"to revise the voters list revised the list of voters in Muhammadan Ward by ex-"
"cluding all the Mahammadans. I think it will be perfectly clear that any"
"member of the Municipal Council who could be guilty of such conduct as this"
"and who could so thoroughly betray his trust, had very much be expelled from"
"the Council with every mark of ignominy.

The above Gentleman Chelvaperumaul Chetty was bound over to keep the ~~place~~ peace for one year by the Joint Magistrate of North Arcot in Mis. Case No. 12 of 1890 and the rate payers of Vellore submitted a memorial to His Excellency the Governor to remove him from the Council as his case un-questionably falls under Section 10 (*a*) of the amended act though not under the old act. The matter is still pending with the Government and we annex again a copy of the said printed petition clearly setting forth therein his entire ineligibility to continue in the Council under the new act and pray that the Government will be pleased to give its careful consideration and order his removal from the Council at an early date.

13. The sanitation of the town is not properly attended to. The streets are not properly cleaned, the dust bins are not emptied every day, dry earth is stored up in small quantities in each latrine for the inspection of officers but is rarely used in moving night soil, the sanitary sweepers and scavengers do not attend to their works properly and punctually and there are lots of cess-pools in the backyards of houses. The present Chairman assumed charge of the office on 25th May last but has not been able to effect any improvements. As the present Chairman keeps only a single bullock cart without springs, he cannot promptly inspect daily the town which has a population of 50,000 men and which covers an area of about 4 square miles.

anitation.

The following endorsement dated 22nd November last (which we have quoted previously) from the District Medical and Sanitary Officer on a petition from Military pensioners will show that the sanitation of the town is in a most neglected condition. "On receipt of this report I inspected the place myself and found" "four large bins filled to the brim with night soil and around the place a heap of" "night soil about $6\times4\times1\frac{1}{2}$ feet The smell and the sickening feeling of the very" "sight of it was simply horrible, similarly there was another heap and 2 baskets-" "ful of night-soil unremoved close to the southern wall of the Municipal Hospital." "This state of affair is simply intolerable and reflects seriously. I regret to re-" "mark on the sanitary administration of this thickly populated Municipality."

As the opinion of such great an authority as the District Medical and Sanitary Officer cannot be disputed, we have thought it unnecessary to bring to light other complaints of Councillors and rate payers on the insanitary condition of Vellore. The work has to be done most briskly just now as a lot of people from Bangalore have been imported into this place and as several cases of plague have occurred here. We also regret to remark that the District Magistrate has had occasion the other day to criticize about the delay on the part of the Chairman in reporting cases of Plauge in the town to the higher authorities. Epidemic may threaten us, and the town may be overcrowded, yet the sanitation of the town for which the Municipality is intended, will continue to be in a neglected condition, unless a reform is introduced promptly in the present constitution of the Council.

14. We have thus fully and satisfactorily explained that the taxes are not properly collected, that the assessments are made without proper enquiries, that complaints against oppression of the Municipal subordinates are not heard at all, that several escape taxation, the voters and candidates lists which form the only basis for the electorial portion of the Municipal Council, are but incorrect and misleading records and that the primary and most important work of the Municipality *viz* the proper sanitation of the town, is in a most neglected state. Greater proofs than those adduced by us are not needed to shew that the present constitution is not well adapted to the needs and requirements of this town in support of which we respectfully refer you to the letter of a late Sub-Collector addressed to the Collector dated 13th June 1895 who was of opinion that a nominated Chairman or a large proportion of nominated Councillors was necessary for the smooth working of this Municipality. The Council consists of 20 members of whom a fourth are nominated by Government and the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ths are elected bythe rate-payers and the Chairman is elected by the Council. So long as the constitution of the Council is not modified, the state of affairs in the Municipality will become worse beyond remedy. A large portion of the existing Councillors do not possess any attainments. In the interests and well-being of the rate payers, we are put to the painful necessity of approaching Government with the request based on sufficient and proper grounds that.

(*a*) the Chairman may under Section 19 of the amended District Municipalities act be removed from the Council as his administration of Municipal affairs has been growing worse, as he has omitted to carry out the resolutions of the Council as pointed out in para 9 supra, as there has been considerable slackness in the levy and collection of taxes, as he has not taken due notice of the insolent conduct of the manager towards a Councillor, as he has not taken due steps to punish the manager when acts of corruption were imputed to him, as he has neglected to keep a correct record of voters although various discrepancies were pointed out to him by another Councillor, as he, while drawing a carriage allowance of 50 Rs., keeps a bullock cart and places himself under obligation to his Municipal Overseer by going frequently in his jutka, as he has introduced into the Municipal Office several of his own castemen, as he has directed that Councillors should not have access to Municipal records, as he treats all communications from Councillors who did not elect him, with contempt, and does not even condescend to give replies to them, as he is entirely led by two or three Councillors who brought about his election, and for various other irregularities specifically pointed out in this memorial.

(*b*) that Councillor Chelvaperumaul Chettiar may be removed from the Council under Sections 10 A. and 19, as he had, been bound over to keep the peace by the Joint Magistrate of North Arcot, as prayed for by the rate payers of Vellore in their memorial of June last, still pending with the Government, as he had once previously omitted several Mahomedan voters from the Mahomedan ward to keep them in a minority and as the Honorable Mr. Bliss at the time of amendment of the District Municipalities Act when this was brought to his notice declared in the Council in his speech quoted adverbatim in para 12 supra, that such conduct on the part of a Councillor richly deserved his dismissal and that he has again recently reverted to his old practice by recommending and carrying out the removal of persons entitled to vote and the inclusion of men disentitled to be voters, as he had recently, if the Chairman can be believed, pronounced a newly built cart to be an old one in the case in which the Manager wanted to extort money from the owner of a cart on the plea that it was an old one and for other irregularities pointed out in this memorial.

(*c*) and that the Manager may be removed from Municipal service for the several charges of corruption against him, and in none of which he has taken any steps to vindicate his character by prosecuting his accusers, for his insolent and insubordinate conduct towards a Municipal Councillor, for applying for loans from Municipal Contractors, for being in endless debts and for having taken Municipal servants under his immediate control to stand as sureties for him whenever he contracted debts from the Local Money Lenders and for other grave irregularities submitted in this memorial.

15. We pray that His Excellency the Governor in Council will be pleased to give his due consideration to our humble memorial and redress the grievances of the poor rate payers whose chosen representatives we have the honour to be.

VELLORE,
26*th December* 1898.

We beg to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient servants,

Municipal Councillor V. Eswarappa Mudaliar
Do
Do
Do K. Krishnaswamy
Do

4. It may not be out of place to bring to your Excellency's kind notice certain other facts relating to the said M. R. Ry. A. Chelvaperumaul Chettiar Avargal which will convince your Excellency that the existence of such an element in the administration of the Municipal afairs will be injurious to the efficiency of the Municipal Council. At the time of th passing of the Amended District Municipalities Act the Honorable Sir H. Bliss brought to the notice of the Legislative Council the case of a well-known Municipality where "a Sub-Committee which had been appointed to revise the voter's lit revised the list of voters in a Muhammadan Ward by excluding nearly all the Muhammadans." The Honorable Gentleman further pointed out that the members of the Sub-Committee were Hindus *viz* Chetties, and he very rightly remarked tht "any Member of the Municipal Council who could be guilty of such conduct as his and who could so thoroughly betray his trust had very much better be expellec from the Council with every mark of ignominy." The Ward referred to by the Honorable Gentleman is the B. or Muhammadan Ward of this Municipality, and tl Chetti Councillor referred to as having excluded nearly all the Muhammadans fro the revised list of voters is no other than M. R. Ry. A. Chelvaperumaul Chtiar Avargal referred to above. The truth of these facts could be ascertained a reference to the original records which will be available in the Governmen Office. From the discussion which took place in the Legislative Council, it is evidt that the case referred to above was prominently mentioned to justify the extre necessity that existed for giving Government power to summarily deal with e Municipal Councillors who act in a disgraceful manner.

5. Your Excellency's humble memalists are further informed that, during the administration of Mr. E. L. Vaugha as Sub-Collector of Vellore, he was convinced that M. R. Ry. A. Chelvaperuul Chettiar Avargal and his partisans were causing obstruction to the Chairmanwho was consequently powerless to do good and that officer, we understand, recoended their removal from the Council, but we are not aware as to the steps tak by the authorities concerned in the matter. Various other instances may be ultiplied to convince your Excellency of the dire and absolute necessity to exerc the powers vested in your Excellency under Section 10 A of the Amended Dist Municipalities Act No. 4 of 1884, but we refrain from doing so as we fear thve have already encroached upon your Excellency's precious time considerably.

6. The three instances referred to us—instances in which

(1) the Chairman of the Munid Council Vellore, recommended the removal of M. R. Ry. A. Chelvaperumaul ttiar Avargal and which gave rise to Government Order No. 675 dated 19th Ma93 alluded to in para 3 *supra*.

2ndly the discussion in the Llative Council relating to M. R. Ry. A. Chelvaperumaul Chettiar Avargal refe to in para 4 *supra*, which was based on the report of the then Chairman.

and

1895 for his removal and that of his par Mr. E. L. Vaughan about the year of three different Chairmen, a circumstance which lends additional weight to the arguments of the Honorable Sir H. Bliss regarding the necessity of taking summary steps for the removal of such Coundlors.

7. In conclusion, we humbly anrespectfully pray that your Excellency will, in exercise of the powers vested inour Excellency under clauses 1 and 4 of Section 19 of the Amended Act, be grously pleased to remove M. R. Ry. A. Chelvaperumaul Chettiar Avargal from t office of Municipal Councillor.

We beg to remain,
Your Excellency's most obedient
and humble servants,

14-14-0
0-7-0
20) 15-5-0 (0-12-03

3/1359/m/99

1/123/m/99

Local & Munl. (1899) Departm

CURRENT No. 138

Order

From

The Collector of
North Arc

Ref No 67/B.79 of 189

Dated 19-5-99

Received 25-5-99

Registered – "

Enclosures 3 + 1 file of papers 32 Retur Vide

Spare copies nil

SUBJECT.

Submitting report on
Administration and
the financial condition
of the Vellore municipality
and proposing measures
to remedy irregularities

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Confidential

NORTH ARCOT, COLLECTOR'S

Chittoor 19th May

Rep. on Cur. No. 67/B & G. OF 18

FROM

R. H. Campbell Esquire,

Acting Collector and District Magistrate,

North Arcot,

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 1389 M

To

The Secretary to Government

Local and Municipal Departm

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for the
-formation of Government (with enclosures) 4 reports of
the Subcollector of this District dealing
the administration and financial Con
-dition of the Vellore Municipality. Th
are the reports called for in your Endors
-ment No 208 dated 22nd February 189
on a petition from certain Municipal
Councillors of Vellore and in para 2 of
G.O. No 186 L & M. Misc. dated 13th Febru
1899.

2. The Subcollector has dealt with the lo
question so fully that it is needless for
to recapitulate all the points dealt wi
by him. I shall therefore confine mysel
to a summary of my conclusions an

Recom

mendations.

e Subcollector's Enquiry falls under
rincipal heads:—
Maladministration of the Chairman;
Misconduct of the Manager and of
ouncillor Chelva Perumal Chettiar;
the Financial position of the Munici-
-pality.

The chairman is shown by the SubCollector's
eport to be utterly apathetic and incom-
petent. Housetax collection is disgrace-
fully in arrears, while the Profession Tax
s arbitrarily assessed and on appeal is
enhanced or reduced according to the whims
of individual councillors. The enormous
percentage of reductions to original
ssessments speaks for itself. The assess-
ments to this tax is apparently seized
upon as an opportunity of harassing
oters who have not supported certain
uncillors at the elections. Carts and
imals in the Municipality are not
operly taxed, the Municipal market
mismanaged, and the repeated strictures
Govt. on the neglect of the private Scavenging
System

R.

System are entirely ignored. Besides this the town of Vellore is in a filthy state of Sanitation. This is a fact which has been brought to my notice by the Special Plague Officer and Plague Medical Officer and which is obvious to any one who inspects the town. The scavenging of the streets is I find let out on private contract and there is no proper supervision by the Municipality the result being that street sweepings are not properly removed or disposed of. The Chairman has failed to carry out the resolutions of the Council in some cases, and is making a pecuniary profit out of his carriage allowance. Moreover he systematically burks all enquiry into acts of misconduct on the part of the Municipal Manager and has taken no notice of the fact that the Manager is hopelessly involved in debt. He is ap-parently under the thumb of this man and of one or two favored councillors. Again the Chairman and a majority of the Council have deliberately ignored the Secretary and made his position a sinecure by refusing to give him authority over the municipal servants and the control over the collection of the Municipal revenues. It is only recently that the Chairman has, on my personal representation, delegated his powers under Section 39 A(3)(d) to the Secretary, but the Chairman Delegate and a majority of the Council have nullified his action by declaring such delegation to be illegal. The fact is that the Manager is all powerful and he and his supporters are determined to make the Secretary's position an untenable one. So much for the maladministration of the Chairman.

5. Turning to the alleged misconduct of the Manager and of Councillor Chelva Perumal Chettiar, Government will see from the Sub Collector's report that the Manager is head over ears in debt and would have been suspended

-pended

long ago had he been a Government servant. His conduct in other respects renders him clearly unfit for retention in his present appointment. Moreover now that there is a paid Secretary it is not necessary to retain an officer on such a high salary as the Manager's. It has already been proposed to reduce his pay but the Council has perversely refused to recommend a reduction. As for Councillor Chelva Perumal Chettiar, this man has been guilty of recommending certain alterations in the voters' list from interested motives. His conduct in this matter was so notorious as to call for a remark from the Honorable Mr Bliss at ~~th~~ a meeting of the Legislative Council. Moreover this councillor appears to have accepted illegal gratification from Municipal contractors and to have abused his powers as a councillor in other ways.

6. The financial condition of the Municipality is another matter calling for very serious notice. It will be observed from the Sub Collector's report that the collection of taxes is hopelessly in arrears. In March last, a loan of R 10,000 was given to the Municipality for plague purposes. R 5,000 out of this loan were spent on outstanding plague bills and the balance was used for other purposes; a sum of R 9,900 in the shape of unpaid plague bills was outstanding on the 31st of March and the balance at the credit of the Municipality on that date was only R. 175. The actual collection of Municipal revenue during the year 1898-99 was less by R 6,200 than the budget estimate, and yet the Council for no sufficient reason remitted a considerable portion of the Toll-contractor's kist. In April

last

last an advance of R. 2,000 was made by Government to the Municipality for plague purposes and this sum together with the toll kist represents almost the whole of the Municipal Collections during April. As long as the present Chairman and Councillors remain in Office I see no hope of restoring the financial equilibrium of the Municipality, for its administration is rotten to the core

7 The only question remaining to be considered is, what possible remedy there is for the existing state of affairs. In ordinary seasons a comparatively mild remedy in the shape of a censure from Government, the removal of the Manager and a vindication of the Secretary's legal authority might possibly suffice, but with Bubonic Plague in the town and with the probability of this disease reviving in a virulent

6. form at the end of the hot weather. I am convinced that nothing short of a thorough reconstitution of the Municipality will do any good at all.

8. With a full time Secretary to look after all executive work the Sub Collector can be made Chairman of the Municipality without detriment to his regular work. As there is a packed majority in the present council which supports the maladministration of the Chairman and the misconduct of the Manager, and which is certain to render itself obstructive to an official Chairman, it is in my opinion necessary to alter the constitution of the Council in addition to replacing the elected Chairman by a nominated Official one.

9. My recommendations therefore are:—

(1) that the Chairman, A. C. Seshagiri Rau and Councillor Chelva Perumal Chettiar be removed from the Council under Section 19 (1) (iv) of District Municipalities Act on the Gro that their continuance in office will bring the Municipal administration in contempt;

(2) that the power of electing its own Chai-man be withdrawn from the Municipality and that the Sub Collector be appointed chairman under Section 14 (1) (a) of the Act;

(3) that the proportion of the elected Councillors be reduced from 15 to 7;

(4) that the conduct of the Manager be left for the new Official Chairman to deal with. The Manager is obviously unfit to hold office and his appointment may with advantage be abolished now that the council has a paid Secretary. A head clerk on a lower salary is all that the Council should require.

10. I feel that I have written very strong on the subject, but acute diseases ca for drastic remedies and I trust th

Government will support me in the opinion that nothing but the severest measures will make it possible to bring municipal administration into order and to cope with Bubonic Plague in Vellore.

11 The Chairman was not present at the Sub Collector's Enquiry, but he was given an opportunity of attending it and did not do so. I have not called on him for any defence as from the nature of the case against him such a course would only entail great delay and would serve no useful purpose.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant

R H Campbell
Ag Collector

BR
19.5.99

Local & M **epartment.**

Pages 29 to 66. sent to the Collr. N. Arcot vide Pro. 1892 L / 9-11-04.

No.

Order

G. A. France
Munl. Manager
Vellore

No

Dated 27-5-99
Received 31-5-99
Registered 1-6-99
Enclosures 1 returned vide
Spare copies nil, On. 1410 / 21.12.99.

SUBJECT.

Praying that for reasons stated no ac be taken on the report of the Sub-Collector a Collector on his condu as Munl. Manager.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C	No	1389 L&M	/99

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Urgent

Vellore
27th May 1899

To

The Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal departments
Ootacamund

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.

The humble petition of G. A. France,
Municipal Manager, Vellore.

29 MAY 1899

Respectfully sheweth: —

1. That your petitioner has been credibly informed that the present Ag. Sub-Collector has held an inquiry into the conduct of your petitioner behind his back and condemned him unheard — and that the Ag. Collector, acting on his report, has also condemned your petitioner.

2. That the Municipal Act no where empowers a Sub-Collector, as such, to hold an inquiry into the conduct of municipal servants.

3. That it is an open secret that certain Municipal councillors are his avowed enemies, because he has fearlessly withstood, in the discharge of his duties all their attempts to influence him in order to benefit themselves, ~~and~~ their relations and friends, at the expense and to the detriment of municipal interests

4. That these gentlemen have been known to make a public boast of the fact that they have the revenue authorities to back them.

5. That there is some ground for their allegations may be gathered from the fact that they have induced the Sub-collector and the Collector to hold an inquiry behind your petitioner's back and to condemn him unheard - although these gentlemen do not know your petitioner personally.

6. That this has been done with the view of wreaking their vengeance on your petitioner by marring his future prospects in life and minimising his chances of promotion to a Secretary's post.

7. That your petitioner has been serving in several municipalities for about 20 years and he has succeeded in giving satisfaction to one and all of the gentlemen he has served under as may be seen from the enclosed copies of testimonials to each of which your petitioner would respectfully invite the attention of Government.

8. That fortunately for your Petitioner there now happen to be near Government - Mr. Hammick Esqr. and H. A. Sim Esqr. gentlemen under whom your Petitioner had the honor of serving at Bellary and learning his work. These gentlemen will be able to speak of your petitioner's conduct from personal knowledge, and their written testimony will also be found in the enclosed copies of testimonials.

9. That your Petitioner would respectfully invite the attention of Government to the fact that the vilest criminal in the land is allowed a fair and open trial, but because your Petitioner's enemies have strong friends like the Sub-Collector and Collector to support them, he your petitioner has been tried and condemned behind his back and without any notice at all by English gentlemen who have only been in this district for a few short months & who practically know nothing personally of your Petitioner, except what has been told them by his avowed enemies and ~~from~~ others as much prejudiced as themselves, when your Petitioner was not present to defend himself.

10. That your Petitioner, being friendless is compelled to throw himself before Government and to seek its protection, by asking that no action be taken on the reports of the Sub-Collector & Collector, seeing that they have been so far prejudiced against him as to try and condemn him unheard, on evidence not sworn to and received behind his back - and to direct his accusers to verify their accusations against your Petitioner in an open manner first before the Chairman, delegate and the Council whose servant he is, and if they can openly prove anything serious against your Petitioner's work and conduct, your Petitioner is prepared to suffer any punishment that may be imposed upon him.

For which acts of kindness and justice your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

G. A. France
Municipal Manager
Vellore

Urgent

To

The Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Depts
Ootacamund

From

The Manager Municipal Council
Vellore

Dated 27th May 1899
Despd 28th May 1899
Received
Enclosures - No 2.

Subject

Requesting that no action be taken on the reports of the Sub-Collector and Collector based on an inquiry held by the former touching the conduct of petitioner, as the said inquiry was held, without due notice behind his back and is based on the evidence of his enemies given behind his back and as the said inquiry is not authorised by law and is opposed to all sense of fair-play, equity, and justice.

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 158

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
8 JUN. 1899
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Confidential

Order Put up with other papers on the Vellore Municipality

From The Collector of N. Arcot

Referring to No. 67 / B&G of 99

Dated 31st May 1899
Received 7th June 1899
Registered "
Enclosures 14.
Spare copies nil

SUBJECT.

Forwarding two reports received from the Sub Collector in the matter of the objectionable attitude of the Municipal Manager towards the Secretary and the incapacity of the present Council towards the Municipality.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

188

No. 6.

VELLORE,
3rd February 1899.

To

THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
Vellore.

Sir,

It is with much reluctance that I regret to have to bring to your notice and for such steps as you deem expedient to take thereon, the following circumstances which considerably retard my work as Municipal Secretary.

2. Ever since I assumed charge of my office the attitude of the Manager towards me has been extremely hostile and in very many instances not only disrespectful but wilfully and deliberately disobedient and such as is highly inconsistent with his position. You will be pleased to concede that unless there is perfect concord and harmony between the ministerial Head of an office and the other subordinate officials, it will be impossible nay impracticable for the former to carry on his duties to the best interests of the administration concerned. There is another aspect, from which the matter has to be viewed. If the Manager of an office should take into his head to trifle with the Secretary and set his orders at defiance this will be highly prejudicial to order and discipline among the other subordinate clerks and if the pernicious example set by their immediate superior is followed by them the state of affairs will be nothing short of disorder and confusion.

3. I do not wish to narrate here all the incidents which have transpired since the date I assumed charge. I shall simply content myself by mentioning here for your information a few of them from which you can easily judge how far the observations made by me supra are borne out by facts.

a/

4. On the 18th ultimo the Head Clerk of the Sub-Collector's Office called on me while in office and asked me for a couple of application forms for license for animals and vehicles. I wrote a chit to the Manager to send them to me and the Manager while doing so wrote and told me that I should return them to him again! How far the Manager was justified in asking the Secretary to return certain forms which he called for is a matter which I leave for your judgment. While such forms are issued to each and every party who makes a demand for them and no scrutiny whatever is exercised on such occasions that the Manager should have taken into his head to demand their return when they were required by the Secretary tells its own tale. The Manager evidently assumed the authority of a superior officer of the Secretary.

5. On the 2nd instant I asked the Manager by means of a chit to give the Shroff the key of the old iron chest as I had directed the Shroff to secure the days collections therein before they were transferred to the big iron safe each evening to avoid my leaving the seat each time that any Bill-Collector or other individual brought money for payment which was operating as a source of obstruction and disturbance to my work. The only duty of the Manager was to have implicitly obeyed my orders but instead of doing so he endorses back the chit to me with the remark "The Shroff has no business with this key as it contains some old bonds." It was not the Shroff who had demanded the key but it was myself and the Manager should not have dictated to me anything on that matter. Granting that the old iron safe contained any old records the Shroff will be responsible to me for their safe custody as it is I that is in charge of all the records in the office and not the Manager. The reply shows a spirit of stern disobedience of orders and a tendency to dictate my duties to me.

6. On the same date, under personal instructions from you I wrote to the Manager to send me the cheque book so that I may know each time that a cheque is drawn with a view to keep all unnecessary expenditure under abeyance. Instead of doing so the Manager endorsed back this chit also with the remark "I keep it on behalf of the Chairman with whom alone it should remain" meaning thereby evidently that the Manager could afford to be the agent of the Chairman while a Secretary is incompetent to hold that position It is not open to the Manager to question each and every order issued to him by the Secretary on this ground and on that but to shew a better spirit of obedience to such orders.

7. I have no intention of mutiplying such instances which are innumerable during the short time that I have been in charge of this office. I may here mention that the state of the accounts at present demands the most urgent and the most earnest attention. Many of the Registers have not been posted up for several months past and amounts collected under several taxes have not been likewise credited in their appropriate Registers. The demands relating to Profession-tax of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Divisions have not been posted up completely in the Registers. The Land-tax Demand Register has not been touched at all for the whole year. The Register of vehicles and animals has been posted up only up to 5th October 1898 although several carts have been registered subsequently. The Register of animals has been entered only up to 2nd April 1898. These and various other irregularities of a serious nature demand my immediate attention but so long as I am thwarted in all honest attempts to rectify matters how can I work with that peace of mind which is absolutely essential.

8. I therefore request that you will kindly make proper and satisfactory arrangements to ensure a better obedience on the part of the Manager to all orders and instructions that I may have to issue to him in the discharge of my duties as Secretary of this Municipality.

I beg to remain &c.,

(Sd.) P. SAMYDOS MUDALIAR,

Secretary.

To

THE CHAIRMAN,

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

VELLORE.

Sir,

I regret very much that your valuable time and mine should be occupied in dealing with what at the most to *unprejudiced* minds would seem nothing but trifles, but as I have to offer an explanation "under orders," I have no alternative but to obey.

As para 2 of the Secretary's letter of complaint is of a general nature and contains no specific charges I am unable to rebut them but I can honestly state, and most emphatically too, that it is not true that my attitude towards him has been extremely hostile and in very many instances not only disrespectful but wilfully and deliberately disobedient and highly inconsistent with my position. These are sweeping allegations based on æreal fancies and innocent acts viewed with the distorted spectacles of fault-finding and not borne out by substantial facts. As for the concluding portion of the para, it being a learned disquisition on the relative position of a Manager and Secretary, I can humbly admire it but am sorry I can offer no explanation, as it calls for none.

With reference to para 4 I can only say that I am surprised to read it as it betrays ignorance of office routine and procedure.

You are aware that a book is maintained entitled "Stock Register of Bills, Licenses &c." In this book is entered the various forms in use and amongst them "applications for licenses." Now this book is checked by the auditor and each form noted in it has to be accounted for. Those issued to the public will be debited to the Shroff and his receipt taken. Similarly when the Secretary asked for 3 of these forms I asked, as is usual for a receipt or that the forms be returned when not required. Now I do the same with every one. Clerks, pass-port issuing officers, and even Chairman for stationery supplied. Am I to be blamed for doing my duty, and my official act put down to hostility?

With reference to para 5 I have to state that I was asked for the key of the old cash chest to be given to the Shroff—the reason why the key was required was not mentioned. For the information of the Secretary I mentioned that the Shroff has no business in connection with the old chest as all his transactions are with the new chest purposely purchased to keep collections made after remittance to treasury. I also stated for the Secretary's information that the old chest contained old bonds. Surely I cannot be blamed for giving information of which the Secretary appeared ignorant or for protecting my interests and those of the Municipality by not entrusting the key of a cash chest containing valuable securities to an irresponsible clerk?

With reference to para 6 I must again say that innocent sayings are distorted to heinous offences. I was asked for the cheque book without being told why and I was told in the chit you have no business with it but it should be with me or words to that effect. In reply I said that the cheque book is with me on behalf of the Chairman. Now according to audit rules the cheque book is required to be in the personal custody of the Chairman alone. The book in use however have invariably by all Chairmen for the past 6 years been entrusted to me because I had their confidence which successive audits will show was not abused. Besides the book was necessary to check the cash book daily.

After events have proved that the Secretary's intention stated in para 6 is not true but that he meant it to be known to all subordinates, contractors &c. that an irresponsible petty clerk (who according to audit rules should not write cheques as he maintains the cash book which should be daily checked) is more to be trusted than the Manager of an office—and I am exceedingly pained to find that the Chairman whose good qualities and fairness we all admire and esteem should have innocently allowed himself to fall into the trap. Surely the Chairman must know me well enough and that I would not abuse and never have abused, the confidence reposed in me by any one. Personally I care not a farthing about writing the cheque book but after having done so for many years it savours of want of confidence that the work should now be done by one of my subordinates. It would have been different had the Secretary been asked to write the cheques but in as much as the Chairman signs the cheques and is held personally responsible for sums overdrawn it is to his own interests either to write the cheques himself or entrust the work to one who has proved himself worthy of his confidence and one on whom he can personally depend at all times not to be a traitor.

With reference to para 7 I must point out that invariably certain registers remain incomplete owing to one man having to do all work connected with assessment but when the other clerks are at leisure they are made to assist and the whole of the books are brought up to date before audit. Such has been the case long before I took charge and even after although we never had such unprecedented heavy work as in the current year. At first it was under contemplation to revise the house, land and profession tax registers under the orders of Government but in November or December last the Government pointed out that new assessments can only come into force in the next financial year, then pressure had to be brought to bear and the clerk had to single-handed to begin registers, bills &c. Then came plague and cholera. Preparation of budget &c. all of which work retarded progress of postings of registers but I am quite surprised at the Secretary making much ado about this considering the heavy work of the year when in his time as Chairman the cash-book the most important record in the office had not been posted for 3 months and was referred to by the Auditor, although the work was very light compared with this year.

In conclusion I would respectfully point out that much of the disagreement alleged by the Secretary is due to his own want of tact and judgment, not knowing office work he is apt to take offence at trifles and innocent acts and much that may be remedied by verbal orders and instructions are put down in paper necessitating long replies to long and unnecessary reports. The fact of the matter is that in wishing it to be known that he is the head subordinate, which no one disputes, he takes the wrong way to make it known and felt.

To avoid all unpleasantness and for the harmonious working of the office it would be well if the Council were to direct the Secretary to look after out-door duties such as Sanitation, Registration of births and deaths, Vaccination, Public Works, the development of Municipal revenue by bringing on the registers names of those who have escaped taxation and the due collection of all taxes. These are branches of the administration that would occupy his full time if properly done.

The office work can as usual be looked after by the Manager under the personal supervision of the Chairman to whom alone he should be accountable. If the Secretary is to be a success he can only be so by devoting his whole time and energy to branches of the administration above specified. It is a loss of time and energy and serves the Council no good purpose for the Secretary to be couped up in the office from 12 noon to 6 P. M. and later, seeing that such time can be better employed in the interests of the Municipality on out-door work. If this were done it would save much unpleasantness to Chairman and Councillors in having their time taken up in deciding silly, childish reports between the Secretary and other office subordinates. Finally I beg to state that I never had nor ever will have any intentions of thwarting the Secretary in any of his duties or of wilfully insulting him. I am above such mean actions.

VELLORE,
17th February 1899.

(Sd.) **G. A. FRANCE,**
Manager.

No. 9

VELLORE,
25th February 1899.

To

THE CHAIRMAN,

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Vellore.

Sir,

With reference to your endorsement on the explanation-or rather the criticism-of the Manager on my report against him and which has elicited from his pen substantial proofs of his disrespectful and highly disobedient attitude which I had complained against, I beg to offer the following remarks.

2. Even a casual perusal of the Manager's explanation will lead any one to the irresistible conclusion that it is extremely undignified in manner and insubordinate and impertinent in tone, the strictures he has thought himself competent to pass on me being in language such as even a superior officer would hesitate to employ in reference to his subordinate. I need hardly point out that such an attitude and tone of the Manager if tolerated will not only have a pernicious influence upon other subordinates in the office but reflect prejudicially to the interests of the Municipality which it is my duty to promote and anxiety to foster. A subordinate that so far forgets himself I believe deserves to be brought to his senses immediately by the infliction of such punishment as may be necessary and adequate and also be a deterrent to others. It is known on all hands that Government expects me to improve the Administration of the Municipality in all its branches and the creation of the appointment I now hold is in itself an unmistakeable index of such an intention on the part of Government. However willing and anxious I may personally be to do all that may lie in my humble power to contribute my time, energies and abilities in that direction it will be impossible-nay it will be tantamount to sailing in opposite winds if the state of relation-ship between myself and my immediate subordinate from whom I have a right to claim every assistance and co-operation should not only be straightened but also savours of open opposition.

I should have preferred to save a portion of my own time as well as yours by desisting from offering any remarks on the explanation offered by the Manager to the several charges which formed the subject matter of my complaint under reference, but as I find that the facts mentioned by him are palpably untrue, I am forced to sacrifice my time and expect the same from you.

(i) The plea put forward by him that the forms issued to the public are debited to the Shroff and his receipts taken and that it was in accordance with this practice that he had demanded a receipt from me is not true and inconsistant with actualities. From the accompanying statement of the Shroff, it will appear quite evident that the assertion of the Manager has been made for the occasion. Even granting for the sake of argument that this practice has been in vogue in the past and the Manager as the immediate custodian of the ~~regards~~ records prior to the creation of the office of the Secretary had been taking receipts from his subordinates for any forms taken by them (which, however, does not appear to be the fact) he could not exercise similar powers after the creation of the appointment of a Secretary, who under law, is the custodian of all records in the office and the Manager as his immediate subordinate is bound to carry out his orders with reference to such records and not to demand a receipt from him for any form or other official paper which he may require from the office for reference or perusal!

(ii) As regards the reasons which he urges for his refusal to deliver the key of the old cash-chest under my orders to the Shroff, the remarks aforesaid apply *Mutatis Mutandis* to this explanation also. The Manager assumes and probably with an air of apparent exultation that I was in blissful ignorance of the contents of the old cash-chest and as it contained old bonds he imagined he was protecting his own interests and those of the Municipality by declining to give the key to an irresponsible Clerk. It is apparent that the Manager insinuates that my orders to him were against the interests of the Municipality. How far a Manager is justified in passing such wholesale strictures on his immediate superior officer is a matter which does not require any acute intellectual acumen to answer. I only admire the audaciousness of the Manager in this respect. The Shroff is not an irresponsible Clerk as the Manager is pleased to label him. He has furnished security to the Council while the Manager is no longer in that category. The only course which the Manager ought to have pursued was to have given the key to the Shroff and apprised him of its contents, so that the responsibility for the safe custody of its contents may thence forward attach to him and not to have assumed the *role* of a superior officer dictating to his inferior.

(iii) In offering his explanation regarding the cheque book the Manager has transgressed all bounds of decency and allowed himself to give expression to language which as a subordinate he should have scrupulously avoided. The only consolation which I find in perusing this para of his explanation is that he has convinced you that his insubordinate spirit is no respecter of persons and that he is not only prepared to find holes in my pocket but he is prepared to extend the same to you. He finds fault with you *for having fallen into my trap.* Is any thing more insulting and more frivolous than this! The reasons which he thinks actuated me in depriving him of the possession of the cheque book are to say the least silly. You are yourself aware that it was under your personal orders that I resorted to this step and not before and you also know that I neither hinted nor suggested such a course to you. If, before the creation of the office of Secretary, the Manager had been regarded as the head ministerial officer competent to maintain the cash book on behalf of the Chairman, I think that function must now be taken away from him after the appointment of the Secretary who has now to check the cash book daily with the cheque book. This duty, no longer, devolves on the Manager.

(iv) The reasons put forward by the Manager for the disgraceful state in which the several registers &c. are now maintained are not in the least convincing. It cannot be doubted that the registers form the basis for judging the financial condition of the Municipal revenue and in a year when there is an unprecedented demand on the Municipal exchequer, it is to be expected that such materials should be maintained with scrupulous regularity and correctness so that we may not allow the Municipal chariot to run on the wrong track. All that was required to compensate for the extra works catalogued by the Manager was to have made the Municipal staff to work a few extra hours each day and to make them to work during some of the holidays with increased energies and activities. You know that a poorly paid Clerk in the revenue and other departments turns out ten times more work than the best paid Clerks in the Municipality. I must repeat my conviction that if the Manager had exacted proper work from these Clerks, the present chaotic state of the records should not have existed. The Manager's reference to the time when I was Chairman is out of place and affords additional proof that during the *regime* of each and every Chairman he has been similarly negligent and inattentive to the discharge of his duties.

The concluding portion of this document is most interesting as it offers certain very *valuable* suggestions for the guidance of yourself and the Council regarding the allotment of duties to each of us and the Manager poses to act the part of a dictator to the Council! His statement of "Objects and Reasons" is indeed funny to read, but the tenor of the language retains its insulting and insubordinate character. He winds up his explanation by dubbing my reports with the epithets of "silly and childish" words which are sufficient to entitle the Manager to a summary dismissal, seeing that he has employed them with reference to his immediate superior.

I beg to remain &c.

(Sd.) P. SAMYDOS MUDALIAR,

Secretary.

No. 8.

VELLORE,
25th February 1899.

To

THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
Vellore.

Sir,

I have been, times out of number, com[illegible]ng to you orally as well as in writing the awkward position in which I find myself situated with reference to the Municipal subordinates owing to the very limited powers that have been delegated to me over them and this circumstance necessarily leads to a stubborn refusal on the part of such subordinates to obey my orders, as under the existing state of affairs I can in no way insist on my orders being carried out either by punishing the deliquents or dealing with them in such manner as the exigencies of the occasion may demand.

2. You know that I have no power to fine or otherwise punish even a sweeper employed under the Municipality and my powers with reference to the servants employed in the Municipal office are nil.

3. However willing and anxious I may be to improve the present condition of affairs which unquestionably require a thorough mending, I am frustrated in my intentions owing to the indifference and disobedient attitude of those whose co-operation and assistance is absolutely essential and so long as they could treat with impunity all orders that I issue to them with absolute confidence that such indifference and disobedience cannot be productive of any harm to them the transaction of business by me will be impossible and impracticable.

4. You know that under clause (*d*) to Section 39 A of the Amended District Municipalities Act it is obligatory on the Chairman to delegate to the Secretary all his powers under Section 42 as regards the servants of the Municipal Council employed in the Municipal office and in the collection of the Municipal revenues and the wisdom of the legislature in introducing this provision of law is apparent and was evidently intended to guard against the obstacles in the path of of the Secretary in the smooth working of the various branches of the Municipal Administration confided to his care like those it is my sad and better experience to come in contact with.

5. I therefore request that you will be pleased to delegate to me all your powers referred to in the Section quoted above. It is not for the honor of being the happy possessor of such powers that I have approached you with this request but solely in the interest of the Municipal Administration which it is my duty to improve and reform.

I beg to remain &c.,

(Sd.) P. SAMYDOS MUDALIAR,

Secretary.

No. 8. 17-iii-99

VELLORE,
25th February 1899.

To

THE CHAIRMAN,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
Vellore.

Sir,

I have been, times out of number, complaining to you orally as well as in writing the awkward position in which I find myself situated with reference to the Municipal subordinates owing to the very limited powers that have been delegated to me over them and this circumstance necessarily leads to a stubborn refusal on the part of such subordinates to obey my orders, as under the existing state of affairs I can in no way insist on my orders being carried out either by punishing the deliquents or dealing with them in such manner as the exigencies of the occasion may demand.

2. You know that I have no power to fine or otherwise punish even a sweeper employed under the Municipality and my powers with reference to the servants employed in the Municipal office are nil.

3. However willing and anxious I may be to improve the present condition of affairs which unquestionably require a thorough mending, I am frustrated in my intentions owing to the indifference and disobedient attitude of those whose cooperation and assistance is absolutely essential and so long as they could treat with impunity all orders that I issue to them with absolute confidence that such indifference and disobedience cannot be productive of any harm to them the transaction of business by me will be impossible and impracticable.

4. You know that under clause (*d*) to Section 39 A of the Amended District Municipalities Act it is obligatory on the Chairman to delegate to the Secretary all his powers under Section 42 as regards the servants of the Municipal Council employed in the Municipal office and in the collection of the Municipal revenues and the wisdom of the legislature in introducing this provision of law is apparent and was evidently intended to guard against the obstacles in the path of of the Secretary in the smooth working of the various branches of the Municipal Administration confided to his care like those it is my sad and bitter experience to come in contact with.

5. I therefore request that you will be pleased to delegate to me all your powers referred to in the Section quoted above. It is not for the honor of being the happy possessor of such powers that I have approached you with this request but solely in the interest of the Municipal Administration which it is my duty to improve and reform.

I beg to remain &c.,
(Sd.) P. SAMYDOS MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

M

PS
10/4 99

Proceedings of the Chairman, Municipal Council, Vellor

Read, letter No 8 dated 25.2.99 from the Secretary Municipal Council, Vellore, requesting to delegate to hi all the powers of the Chairman under Section 42 of Act IV of 8 as amended by III of 1897.

Read also No 10 dated 3.3.99 from the same officer on the same subject.

Order.

When it was first contemplated to appoint a Secreta to this Municipality, the Government in its Proceedings No 1503 M. Mis. dated 1.7.97, requested the Chairman to report whether it was proposed to delegate to the Secretary the Chairman's powers under Section 42 of the Municipal Act as amended by act III of 97 as regards the servants of the Municipal Council in the office and in the collection of taxes and which of his other powers the Council intended to delegate.

The Council at a meeting held on 22d of July 97, resolved to delegate all the powers of the Chairman in the event of a competent man being selected as Secretary - no action was taken on this resolution. The present Secretary was selected on 24.2.98 and whilst his nomination was under consideration by Government, the Council was asked in para 4 (5) of G. O. No 333 dated 4th February 98 to specify the powers which are to be delegated to the Secretary and apply for the Sanction of the Government for their delegation under Section 39 A. of the Act.

On receipt of this G. O. no less than 29 large municipalit were addressed as to the powers delegated by them to thei Secretaries. At a meeting of the Council held on the 25th March 98 a sub-Committee was formed for the purpose of recommending the powers to be delegated to the Municipal Secretary under Section 39 A. of the amended District Municipalities Act. This committee met at the Municipal office on the 18-4-98 and after careful comparison of the powers which other municipalities proposed to delegate to their Secretaries drew up a list of powers which they considered "may be safely delegated at present" and in doing so wrote as follows:- "We wish also to add that in view of the liberal salary which will be paid to the Secretary, we have been forced to recommend the delegation of larger powers than we would otherwise have been inclined to do. Taking into consideration the facts that when a Chairman delegated any or all of his powers he shall cease to exercise them himself, that powers once delegated to the Secretary shall not be withdrawn without the Sanction of Government and that the System itself is yet in its inceptive stage we would strongly deprecate the idea of delegating more powers than those recommended by us."

The Council thereupon at a special meeting held on the 23rd 4-98 proceeded to consider the replies of the several large municipalities as also the report of the Sub-Committee and after mature deliberation unanimously defined the Chairman's powers it proposed delegating to its Secretary and these powers were sanctioned by Government under Section 39 A. of the amended District Municipalities Act vide Proceedings of the Madras Government No. 1440 M. Mis. dated 16-8-98.

From the above it will be seen that the resolution of the Council was arrived at after much deliberation and forethought and with the full knowledge as to who was selected as their Secretary and notwithstanding the fact that they at first pledged themselves to delegate all the powers of the Chairman should a competent man be elected.

With reference to this application of the Secreta I do not think it bona fide. He states that he complained many times to me about the conduc of Municipal Subordinates. I believe he neve complained against any other person than the manager of the office. The Secretary is very much attached to one of the factions existing in this municipality which faction is doing its utmost to dispense with the service of the manager and a ~~they~~ petition to this effect was put in before me. I am personally aware of the fact that the Secretary has been teasing the manager by ordering him to do the business of ordinary clerks with the evident intention of compelling him to quit his appointment; and when the manager resists such ignominious treatment and retorts he is at once reported as insubordinate. The Secretary in applying for full powers either does not know how to exact works from his Subordinates or does so with intent to deprive me of my powers. If he finds any servant insubordinate he should at once report the matter to me, and nothing prevented him from doing so. The assertion of the Secretary that he cannot go on with his work without full power does not appear to me to be sound. Further it is to be remembered that the Secretary is on probation for one year; further my predecessor concurred with the suggestion of the Council that Chairman's powers under Section 39 A(d) under Section 42(1) should be delegated so far as to allow the Secretary to deal with all servants of the municipality drawing a salary not exceeding Rs 10/- per mensem. Vide his letter No 403 dated 3-5-98 to Government.

Under the circumstances set forth above I see no sufficient reason to differ from the opinions of my predecessor and the Council, and decline to comply with the request of the Secretary.

Vellore
7th April 1899
No. 848 of 99

Chairman

To
The Secretary
Municipal Council
Vellore

C No 1436 P of 99
6/4/99

Genl. Cur. Regr. (Superior Officers)
No. 402 of 1899.

Vellore
28th February 1899

Forwarded to the Sub Collector for report.
6 4 99

TALUK BOARD'S
5 APR 99
VELLORE.

DESPATCHED
6 APR 1899

Most honored Sir

As directed by you in person I respectfully beg to submit herewith, for your information and such orders as you may be pleased to pass on them, the correspondence regarding the most insolent & disobedient conduct of the Municipal office Manager owing to whose impertinent behaviour towards me I am quite unable to conduct the Municipal work satisfactorily

I beg to remain
Most honored Sir
Your most obt. & humble Servant

Secretary Munl. Council,
Vellore.

Submitted for orders

8.4.99

To,

The Chairman,
Municipal Council, Vellore.

We the undersigned, most humbly, sho~~wetto~~.

1. That the Collector and the medical authorities headed by the Doctor were carrying on, since late, their plague duties justly without any injury being done to the public and to the houses, by segregating the plague patients and disinfecting the houses without least prejudice to the rules ~~&~~ & regulations of Plague.

2 ~~That~~ that by so doing our minds enjoyed peace free from all the horrors & anxieties ~~of plague~~ regarding plague. Now one or two inexperienced persons have caused anxieties and horrors in our minds by giving some false information to newspapers.

3 Moreover not even one has disobeyed the orders of the higher authorities in this Town. Such being the case a regiment has been brought to this town which causes terror in the minds of the public. We are ready to obey the orders given to us with reference to our own welfare. The work that is being done now by the regimental people, might be extracted either from the municipal servants or from the respective house owners, and we are very ~~do~~ ready to co-operate with them in carrying on with their duties. It is a fact known to you all that by so doing you remove not only fears existing in the minds of the public but also it would save the public from inconveniences and difficulties to which they would be put to when steps are taken to recoup the plague expenses incurred by the municipality.

4 We therefore most humbly request your honor will be pleased to remove our anxieties by carrying on the business smoothly as is stated in para (1) of this mahazar, representing our grievances to the Collector.

(Signed). T. Kandaya Mudaliar and Others.

0 FEB.1899

Mohammed Yacool Sahib

N. P. [illegible]

S. J. Nallaganasamy

---

previous by the [illegible] the Collector, [illegible]

To,

The Chairman

Municipal Council, Vellore.

This Mahazar from the undersigned most humbly states

1. As the understanding that plague has crept into this town all enter the houses without noticing the caste prejudices of the inmates of the house, and remove the tiles together with the bamboo spread underneath bit by bit. 20 persons go up the house to remove the tiles and thus cause utter damage to the tiles.
2. Further they burn in the public roads all the clothes, bedding, valuable things, and other articles stored for the maintenance of life, and even the vessels in daily use.
3. ~~These~~ The ashes by burning these things are allowed ~~as~~ to remain in the public road without being removed then & there. This appears as if it were the heaps of ashes in the cremation ground, thus causing terror & some sort of ill-feeling in the minds of the public.
4. They mark the houses as plague infected ones even though the ~~out~~ inmates of those houses die of some other causes other than plague. Such houses too are required to be disinfected and compensations are to be granted to the damages caused by so doing.
5. It is never stated either in the plague regulations or in the report of the Plague commissioner that ~~houses~~ infected houses should be so disinfected. We are sure that they ~~would~~ will never cause such measures to be adopted causing inconvenience to the public.
6. Ten times the actual expenditure is incurred by ~~doing~~ taking measures beyond the plague regulations and the Municipality, without noticing all these unnecessary expenditures, grant compensation.
7. It is not justifiable ~~that the first~~ the municipality to incur such sorts of unnecessary & unreasonable expenditure from the funds raised from the peoples through different taxes. This high expenditure and the inconveniences of the people will never be caused if the measures are allowed to be taken as was

previously by the co-operation of the Collector, the Sub Collector, and the Doctor Mr Lancaster.

8. Each and every householder is ready to undergo the measures of disinfection if done according to rules. Municipal peons can be ordered to do so & thus remove the inconvenience of the public

9. As the municipality is a local self-government and owners are also interested in the keeping the municipality from vain expenses, we had to represent these facts to you.

10 Under these circumstances, we request that, under deep consideration, your honor will be pleased to ~~take~~ avoid such steps that might cause inconvenience to the public and see that no vain expenses are ~~incurred~~ made in the municipality.

(Signed) Vijiaranga Mudaly & others.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE
VELLORE

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. [illegible] 20 [illegible]

2. [illegible]

3. [illegible]

4. [illegible]

5. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

8. [illegible]

9. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

محمد اورنگ زیب

Mhoind a Saiou

[illegible]

P. Namasevayamoodliar

عبدالوہاب

C Saunmiradu Pilly

فخرالدین حسین خطیب

[illegible]

رجب علی خان

میر محمد رضا کربلائی

[illegible]

S. Abdur Ruzzak - Headmaster Mah. S. S. School.

[illegible]

M Abdul Jhelkarey Native Doctor

[illegible]

A. Mc auruf ali

[illegible]

M. Ismail Khan clothmerchant

[illegible]

M. Ranganathachetty Sharoff

[illegible]

R. Sithappa Chetty Shroff

[illegible]

Shroff Baliachetty

[illegible]

Gurusamichetty

[illegible]

V. M. Subbaramaiya

[illegible]

20 FEB 1893

[illegible]

C.C. No 1130 of 99

Vijayaranga Mdly & others

Informing that the steps taken by the Plague officers are beyond the powers authorized in the Plague Regulations etc. that the Municipality spends its money blindly under circumstances stated by them and requesting that steps may be taken to put down such irregularities and spending of money in vain.

This seems to be very urgent. Special meeting 18th Inst 5 PM

16.2.99

Write to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, the Sub. Collector and the Plague officer ~~Dr~~ to be pleased to be present at the meeting

16.2.99

18-2-99

COLLECTOR'S
12 FEB 1899

மகாகனம் பொருந்திய

[illegible]

1 [illegible]
2 [illegible]
3 [illegible]
4 [illegible]
5 [illegible]
6 [illegible]
7 [illegible]
8 [illegible]
9 [illegible]
10 [illegible]
11 A. Ahmed Husain Sahib
12 [illegible]
13 [illegible]
14 [illegible]
15 [illegible]
16 [illegible]
17 [illegible]
18 [illegible]
19 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
22 [illegible]
23 [illegible]
[illegible]
25 [illegible]
26 [illegible]
27 [illegible]
28 [illegible]
29 [illegible]
30 [illegible]
31 عبد العزيز [illegible]
32 [illegible]
33 [illegible]
34 [illegible]
35 عبد الغفار ذاكر
36 حا عبد السلام
37 حا عبد الوهاب
38 عبد القادر [illegible]
39 [illegible]
40 [illegible]
41 [illegible]
42 [illegible]
43 [illegible]
44 [illegible]
45 [illegible]
46 [illegible]
47 [illegible]
48 [illegible]
49 [illegible]
50 [illegible]
51 [illegible]
52 [illegible]
53 [illegible]
54 [illegible]
55 [illegible]
56 [illegible]
57 [illegible]
58 [illegible]
59 [illegible]
60 [illegible]
61 [illegible]
62 [illegible]
63 [illegible]
64 [illegible]
65 [illegible]
66 [illegible]
67 [illegible]
68 [illegible]
69 [illegible]
70 [illegible]
71 [illegible]
72 [illegible]
73 [illegible]
74 [illegible]
75 Abdul Aziz Khan
76 A. Abdul Wahhab
77 [illegible]
78 [illegible]
79 [illegible]
80 [illegible]
81 [illegible]
82 [illegible]
83 [illegible]
84 [illegible]
85 [illegible]
86 [illegible]
87 [illegible]
88 [illegible]
89 [illegible]
90 [illegible]
91 [illegible]
92 [illegible]
93 [illegible]
94 [illegible]
95 [illegible]
96 [illegible]
97 [illegible]
98 [illegible]
99 [illegible]
100 [illegible]
101 [illegible]
102 [illegible]
103 [illegible]
104 [illegible]
105 [illegible]
106 [illegible]
107 [illegible]
108 [illegible]
109 [illegible]
110 [illegible]
111 [illegible]
112 [illegible]
113 [illegible]
114 [illegible]
115 [illegible]
116 [illegible]
117 [illegible]
118 [illegible]
119 [illegible]
120 [illegible]
121 [illegible]
122 [illegible]

123 [illegible]
124 [illegible]
125 [illegible]
126 [illegible]
127 [illegible]
128 [illegible]
129 [illegible]
130 [illegible]
131 [illegible]
132 [illegible]
133 [illegible]
134 [illegible]
135 [illegible]
[illegible]
136 [illegible]
137 [illegible]
138 [illegible]
139 [illegible]
140 [illegible]
141 [illegible]
142 [illegible]
143 [illegible]
144 ابراهيم
145 Mod Khudrathullah Sahib
146 அப்துல வஹாப்
147 [illegible]
148 [illegible]
149 [illegible]
150 [illegible]
151 P. M. Shurfooddeen
152 [illegible]
153 [illegible]
154 [illegible]
155 [illegible]

210 [illegible]
211 [illegible]
212 [illegible]
213 [illegible]
214 [illegible]
215 [illegible]
216 [illegible]
217 [illegible]
218 [illegible]
219 [illegible]
220 [illegible]
221 [illegible]
222 [illegible]
223 [illegible]
224 [illegible]
225 [illegible]
226 [illegible]
227 [illegible]
228 [illegible]
229 [illegible]
230 [illegible]
231 [illegible]
232 [illegible]
233 [illegible]
234 [illegible]
235 [illegible]
236 [illegible]
237 [illegible]
238 [illegible]
239 [illegible]
240 [illegible]
241 [illegible]
242 [illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
158 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
163 [illegible]
164 [illegible]
165 شيخ اسمعيل
166 [illegible]
[illegible]
167
168 [illegible]
169 [illegible]
170 [illegible]
171 [illegible]
172 [illegible]
173 [illegible]
174 [illegible]
175 [illegible]
176 [illegible]
177 [illegible]
178 Syed ally, sahib *
179 Ahmed Husain
180 [illegible]
181 [illegible]
182 [illegible]
183 [illegible]
184 [illegible]
185 [illegible]
186 [illegible]
187 [illegible]
188 [illegible]
189 [illegible]
190 [illegible]

191 [illegible]
192 [illegible]
193 [illegible]
194 [illegible]
195 [illegible]
196 [illegible]
197 [illegible]
198 [illegible]
199 [illegible]
200 [illegible]
201 [illegible]
202 [illegible]
203 [illegible]
204 [illegible]
205 [illegible]
206 [illegible]
207 [illegible]
208 [illegible]
209 عبد القيوم
243 [illegible]
244 [illegible]
245 [illegible]
246 [illegible]
[illegible]
247 [illegible]
248 [illegible]
[illegible]
249 [illegible]
250 خليل الرحمن
251
252 [illegible]
253
254 [illegible]
255 [illegible]
256 [illegible]
257 [illegible]
258 [illegible]
259 [illegible]
260 [illegible]
261 அப்துல்வஹாப்
262 [illegible]
[illegible]
263
264 [illegible]
265 [illegible]

residents of the town to the same effect.

MEETING No. 63

Extract from Proceedings at a ~~GENERAL~~ SPECIAL Meeting of the Municipal Council for the Town of Vellore,

dated 18th February 1899.

PRESENT.

* * * *

20 FEB 1899
NORTH ARCOT.

Res: No. 1.

Read the two mahazars from certain rate-payers of this Town, complaining that the means now adopted for disinfection of houses, property &c are not in accordance with the provisions of the Plague Regulations or the intentions of Government – that they are not in keeping with the procedure hitherto adopted by the Collector, Sub Collector and District Medical officer but according to the will and desire of the present plague officers, the result of which is that the inhabitants have been put to mortal fear – their caste prejudices have been outraged and the Municipality put to great and unnecessary expense.

2. Read also mahazar from the Mahammadan

residents of the town to the same effect.

Order

Resolved that while this Council deeply sympathizes with the people both for being attacked by plague and also for the great discomfort they suffer in battling it, the Council has no responsibility for the carrying out of the plague measures, and therefore will forward these petitions to the Collector for his favourable and early consideration.

Dis 429 of 99 / Q. 2

C No 8151 of 99
826-Q. 85

(Signed) A. C. Seshagiri Row
Chairman.

plague Urgent

"True Extract"

Enclosures:—
3 Mahazars.
(three)

Forwarded to the Collector, North Arcot for favourable and early consideration with the Mahazars referred to above.

Vellore
Municipal Office.
19th February 1899.

A Wadylin E
Chairman.

Forwarded to the Sub Collector for remarks in connection with his letter regarding the management of plague matters by the Municipality. It is not the case that the Municipality has no responsibility for the carrying out of Plague measures. The removal of heaps of burnt material from the huts is distinctly the business of the Municipality. When Plague measures were first introduced in an organized manner the Chairman & the Secretary were both present at the committee meeting convened by me, and my Proceeding No 164 dated 22nd Jan 1899 was issued only after this conference. 5-4-99 Collr.

Submitted for orders.

9-3-99.

9-4-99

DESPATCHED
6 APR 1899

North Arcot Sub Collector and
Joint Magistrate's Office,
Camp Vellore, 30th April 1899 Dis. No. 840/D/99

From

N. MacMichael Esquire

Ag Sub Collector and Joint Magistrate

North Arcot.

To

The Collector of North Arcot.

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to your Refce. Cur. No. 1436 P of 1899 dated 6th April 99.

2. The tone of the manager's letter to the chairman is in my opinion most objectionable and shows a spirit of insubordination. In view of the recommendations I have elsewhere made regarding the manager it seems unnecessary to discuss his letter in detail.

3. I enclose the chairman's reply to the Secretary's letter to the chairman dated 25th February 1899 in which he asks the

chairman to delegate to him his powers under section 39 A (3) (d) of the Act. In my opinion the Municipal Council and the Chairman have quite misunderstood Section 39 A (3) (d). They have read it as if the words "such of" had been inserted between "Secretary" and his powers"; and they have consequently inferred that the Municipal Council had power to say whether any and if so which, powers under Section 42 should be delegated to the Secretary. The plain meaning of the clause is that the chairman must delegate his powers under Section 42, while the council should determine what other powers are to be delegated.

4. The 2nd last para of the Chairman's reply to the Secretary is, I think, very objectionable in it's tone. There is no doubt that the Secretary has had to put up with a great deal of insolence and impertinence from the Manager. To say that the Secretary's application is not bona fide is to use very strong language. His remarks about the Secretary's motives are hardly couched in the language that one would expect from the executive head of the representatives of local self Government in Vellore.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Sd). N. MacMichael
Ag Sub Collector

(True Copy)

R.H.Campbell
For Ag Collector.

CRL
1/6/99

L. 129

North Arcot Sub Collector and Joint
Magistrate's office, Camp Pernambut
Dis no. 276 P of 1899 d 7-5-99.

From

N. MacMichael Esqr.
Ag Sub Collector

To

The Collector of North Arcot.

Sir,

I have the honor to return your endorsement Cir no. 815 P of 1899 dated 5th April 99 with the following remarks.

2. Both the mahazars in question are concluded in very vague terms. The only definite point about the first mahazar is the protest against the presence of sepoys in Vellore. Their presence has been amply justified by events which occurred subsequent to their arrival. In the Second mahazar the only definite complaint is about the ashes of plague infected articles that had been destroyed being left in the Streets and causing offences

This, I know personally, was in many cases true, and the Municipality were to blame for it. It was the business of the Municipal sweepers to have removed such ashes, and it was owing to defective supervision over them that the ashes were left to become a public nuisance.

3. The Municipal Council does not appear to be aware of the fact that, according to the plague regulations which have the force of law the council is responsible for taking the initiative in all plague measures. It cannot divest itself of its responsibility by simply passing a resolution to that effect. The present resolution is one more instance — if indeed any more are required — of the absolute incapacity of the Council to realise its various responsibilities.

I have etc.

(Sd) A. MacMichael

Ag Sub Collector.

(True Copy).

Ag Collector.

CRL 11/6/55

K. Confidential

NORTH ARCOT, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Chittoor 31st May 1899

Ref on cir Eng No. 67/B&G of 1899.

FROM

R. H. Campbell Esqr.
Ag Collector and District Magistrate,
North Arcot,

TO

The Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Department
Madras.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter, Ref on Cu no 67 dated 19th May 1899, I have the honor to forward herewith copies of 2 reports Dis no $\frac{840\ D}{30-4-99}$ and no $\frac{276\ P}{7-5-99}$ received from the Sub Collector, together with their enclosures.

2. The Second of these reports deals wi 3 mahazar petitions to the Vellore Municipa from certain residents of the town, alleging certain irregularities in th administration of plague measu The petitioners complained amo things that the ashes of the plag

articles that had been destroyed were left in the streets to become a public nuisance. The Council merely forwarded these petitions to the Collector for disposal stating that "it has no responsibility "for the carrying out of the plague "measures". The Council does not appear to be aware of the fact that it is responsible for taking the initiative in all plague measures under the Plague Regulations. The removal of heaps of burnt materials from the Street is distinctly the business of the Municipality and it cannot, as observed by the Sub Collector, divest itself of its responsibility by simply passing a resolution to that effect.

The papers received with the other report ows that the Conduct of the Managers of re rds the Secretary has been very t and insubordinate and that irman has taken no notice

of the matter. This and the chairman's refusal to give the Secretary authority over the Municipal Servants have made the Secretary's position a very difficult one.

4. The facts disclosed in the papers now submitted only strengthens the view expressed by me in my previous report, that the present council is incapable of carrying on Muni: administration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R A Lamb

Ag Collector.

CRL
1/6/98.

134 G.Os. 123m, 1389m, 1465m & 1518m.

Maladministration of the Vellore Municipality

Local and Municipal Department.

FOR ORDERS:

In December 1898, five of the Councillors of the Vellore Municipality presented a memorial to Government, pointing out certain irregularities in the administration of the Municipality, and requesting that the Chairman, M.R.Ry. A.C. Seshagiri Rao, and M.R.Ry. Chelvaperumal Chettiyar, one of the Municipal Councillors, may be removed under Section 19 of the District Municipalities Act, that the number of Councillors elected by the rate-payers may be reduced, that the Chairman may be nominated by Government and that the Manager of the Municipal Office may be dismissed from the Municipal Service. This petition was then referred to the Collector of North Arcot for remarks ~~in~~ with Government Endorsement, No.208, dated 22nd February 1899.

A.1. B.1.

2. About the same time, the Plague Commissioner forwarded a letter from the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Vellore, stating that, as the tax for the year had not been collected, owing to the prevalence of plague, there

were no funds to meet the heavy expenditure on account of plague, and requesting that a grant of Rs.10,000 might be made from Provincial Funds. The Government in its Proceedings, No.186 M., dated 13th February 1899, while directing the Accountant-General to place a sum of Rs.10,000 at the disposal of the Municipal Council to enable it to meet the plague charges, requested the Collector to institute an inquiry into the state of the finances of the Municipality and report the result to Government and also to take prompt measures for the recovery of all outstanding dues.

in P.C's Proceedings No. 964 / 13-4-99. C.

Vide para. 2 ibid.

3. With the second of the letters read above, the Collector forwards the reports of the Sub-Collector who inquired into the complaint made by the Petitioners and into the state of the finances of the Municipality.

Cu. No. 1389 M. D.

4. The chief complaints made by the Petitioners and the remarks of the Sub-Collector thereon are as follows:-

Petitioners' Complaints:	Sub-Collector's remarks:
Complaints against the Council:	Vide his report flagged E.
(1). The Councillors who were deputed to revise the arts tax registers assessed 1,475 persons to a tax of Rs.7,428. But the Municipal Council on appeal granted remissions in 418 cases to the extent of Rs.2,635, without any justification whatever, some of the assessees whose taxes were reduced by the Council on appeal being the relations of the Councillors. In certain cases the taxes were unreasonably raised by the Councillors appointed to revise the tax registers, because the rate-payers concerned did not vote at the Municipal elections as desired by them. In support of this, it is stated that the tax on Maligai Arunachala Chetti was raised to Rs.25, although his income for purposes of Income tax was estimated by the Revenue Department at only Rs.150 a month, because at a recent election he did not vote for Palani Chettiyar as requested by the Councillors, Chelvaperumal Chettiyar and Punniyakoti Mudaliyar.	Vide the petition flagged A.1. The figures given are correct. Since the date of the memorial, some further reductions have been made by the Council. From the lists of cases in which the tax has been raised or reduced, submitted with this letter, it will be seen that the original assessments were very incorrectly made and that undue leniency was shown in deciding ~~of~~ appeals. In eight cases arbitrary reductions of taxes were made, the favoured individuals being all relatives or partners in business of the Councillors. Those who had their tax arbitrarily raised had voted at the Municipal elections against the wishes of certain Councillors who form the majority of the present Council. I'/J'
(2) On the representation of the stall keepers in the Municipal market, that the contractor levied a higher rate of fees than that prescribed by the Council, one of the Councillors moved the Council by a letter to put up a board in front of each stall showing the rate of fees to be levied. But no action was taken on the Councillor's suggestion. The condition of the market is very filthy. It is not provided with gates, although the Council's attention was repeatedly drawn to the	This is correct. The Council recently fined the contractor Rs.500 for levying improper fees. It would have been more satisfactory for the stall keepers, if proper notices showing the correct fees had been put up at first.

Petitioners' Complaints:	Sub-Collector's remarks:
the necessity of doing so, and cattle freely enter it at all times, and commit intolerable nuisance, graze on the greens and vegetables exposed for sale, and are thus a source of annoyance and danger.	
(3). The sanitation of the town is not properly attended to and the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in his endorsement on a petition from the military pensioners remarked as follows on the 22nd November 1898:- "I inspected the place my self and found four large bins filled to the brim with night soil and around the place a heap of night soil about 6 X 4 X 1½ feet. The smell and sickening feeling of the very sight of it is simply horrible. Similarly there was another heap and two baskets full of night soil unremoved close to the southern wall of the Municipal hospital. This state of affairs is simply intolerable and reflects seriously."	The remarks of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer need no comment. (Vide para. 15 of the Sub Collr's report)
Complaints against the Chairman:	
(4). Demand notices for the collection of house tax due for the first half of 1898-99 were issued only in December 1898, while they ought to have been issued in the early part of the official year and the tax collected before September 1898.	I have verified this with reference to the "Register of Bills issued" maintained in the Municipal Office.

Sub-Collector's remarks:	Petitioners' Complaints:
Vide his deposition flagged F. This is vouched for by the Councillor, Eswarappa Mudaliyar, who was examined as a witness - (This witness deposed that printed notices, as required by Section 80 are sent only to Europeans and not to others.)	(5). The Chairman does not send a printed table in the form contained in schedule C, to all owners of vehicles with springs, as required by Section 80, the result being that the owners do not render themselves liable to prosecution if they fail to take licenses for their carriages. The Municipal Revenue suffers by this omission considerably.
This is correct. It is to a large extent the result of the failure to send the notice required by Section 80 of the Act. The loss to the Municipality must be about Rs.1,000 per annum.	(6). In the second half year, licenses were taken only for 13 dogs against 27 in the first half year. The number of dogs in the town will exceed 1,000 and although the Revd. Mr.Kidd drew the attention of the Chairman to this fact, the latter has not evidently taken any steps to enforce people to take licenses for their dogs.
This is true. After the appointment of the Secretary reports were called for.	(7). At the commencement of each year no report is called for from the Municipal subordinates as to the number of carriages in each ward, and through want of the necessary precautions, carts escape taxation.

(8)

Petitioners' Complaints:	Sub-Collector's remarks:
(8). Although there are nearly 7,000 houses in the town, only 900 houses are served by the private scavenging agency. The service is worked at a loss. The payment of fees in advance is not insisted upon, as repeatedly ordered by Government.	The remarks of Government on this subject in the review of the administration report of the Municipality for 1897-98 have apparently been absolutely ignored.
(9). The Chairman does not submit to the Council monthly progress reports, as required by Section 32, and the Councillors are therefore kept in utter darkness as to whether the resolutions of the Council are faithfully and punctually carried out. It is stated that although the Municipal Council resolved at a meeting held on the 26th August 1898, that the repairs to the Velapadi pond which is largely resorted to by travellers should be executed departmentally under the supervision of the Councillor, Eswarappa Mudaliyar and although the latter repeatedly requested the chairman to give orders for the execution of the work, which was urgent, he failed to do so, with the consequence that the rains having set in, the tank has gone into further decay and is reported to be in a dangerous condition.	It is true that no progress reports were furnished to the Council. But as under Section 32(2) of the Act, the Council has not prescribed such reports, the fault does not entirely lie with the Chairman. Both the Chairman and the Council appear to have been equally indifferent in the matter. The case of the Velapadi tank is one of the many examples that might be quoted of the "ineradicable tendency to neglect things" referred to by Mr. Holmes in his remark on the administration of the Municipality for 1897-98.

fo. 1290m / 18-7-98 A.

Vide para 7 of his Rept F.

If this complaint is true the Chairman might be removed from his office under section 19(V). The Sub. Collector does not however say distinctly that it is true though this is to be implied from his remarks.

23. 6

Sub-Collector's remarks:	Petitioners' Complaints:
This is correct. The Chairman has not communicated to the Council the results of his inspection of the Trichinopoly water works and the money spent appears to have been absolutely wasted.	(10). The Chairman drew an advance of Rs.35 from the Treasury on the 4th August 1898 for going to Trichinopoly to inspect the water works there, although there is a strict prohibition against drawing money in advance.
Several witnesses have given evidence in support of this fact and there seems no reason to doubt it. The carriage allowance was drawn by the Chairman previous to the appointment of the paid Secretary. The upkeep of the carriage could not have cost him more than Rs.15 a month. I do not think that the carriage allowance was ever intended to be a source of gain to the Chairman. There is no doubt that the Chairman was in the habit of using the Municipal Overseer's jutka.	(11). The Chairman is allowed a carriage allowance of Rs.50, but he keeps only a single bullock cart without springs, the maintenance of which cannot cost more than Rs.7. As he cannot do full justice to his work with this carriage, the sanitation of the town is very much neglected. The Chairman now and then also travels in a jutka belonging to the Municipal overseer.
As might be expected, the Councillor's letter to the Chairman is not forthcoming in the Municipal Office.	(12). One of the Councillors, Eswarappa Mudaliyar, framed a few questions under the interpellation rules and sent them to the Chairman for reply at the Council meeting; but in spite of several reminders, the Chairman neither replied to them nor gave his reasons for withholding his reply thereto.

Note
This charge has been ~~[illegible]~~ as it is neither strong nor important

Note
This has been omitted as no specific charge has been made out.

Petitioners' Complaints:	Sub-Collector's remarks:
(13). On the 1st September 1898, Eswarappa Mudaliyar went to the Municipal Office and asked the Manager in writing for the audit inspection notes for 1896-97. The Manager declined to show it, stating that no records could be seen by the Councillors without the permission of the Chairman, although under G.O., No.184 M., dated 22nd February 1888, the Councillors are entitled to call for and inspect the records of the Municipal Office. The matter was brought to the notice of the Chairman, who however took no action in the matter.	This is one of the several cases in which the Chairman appears to have systematically burked inquiry into complaints against the Manager.
(14). The Chairman within the short period he has been in office, has entertained in the Municipal service about 10 persons who are either his relatives or the relations of Councillors or his co-pleaders and the petitioners apprehend that before his term of office expires, he will replace all the existing servants by his relatives, friends and castemen.	The facts stated are practically correct. But the vacancies in most cases arose owing to plague appointments, so that the inference drawn by the memorialists is perhaps not entirely justified.
(15). The Chairman is always led by his Manager and some Councillors, to whom he owes his present position. The supervision of all public works and	Previous to the present Chairman's election, the practice was for the ward Councillors

G.

Note This point also has been omitted from the draft intimation

Sub-Collector's remarks:	Petitioners' Complaints:
Councillors to supervise and checkmeasure the works in their wards. The bills for these works are now almost invariably sent to the Councillors who voted for the Chairman's election.	and the passing of bills are always entrusted to the Councillors who supported him, the existence of Councillors duly elected for the respective wards being altogether ignored.
I have scrutinized a list of 49 cases which Councillor Eswarappa Mudaliyar recommended for removal from the voters' list for various reasons. The Chairman ordered the removal in 8 cases and ruled the objections invalid in the others. In at least 18 out of the 41 cases, the Chairman's orders are certainly wrong.	(16). Eswarappa Mudaliyar, a Municipal Councillor, who was deputed to revise the lists of voters and candidates in September 1898, pointed out several inaccuracies in the voters' lists of the several wards. He removed from the list ~~of voters~~ for the C ward, the names of 75 persons who were not entitled to vote, and added the names of 22 persons who were qualified. But on petitions being presented by some of the former that they had become owners of properties through partition, inheritance or purchase, the Chairman ordered the inclusion of their names in the list without taking any evidence as to the truth of their statements, although the Municipal registers showed that the properties to which they claimed ownership were registered in the names of others. The same Councillor recommended the removal of 25 names from the list for the Muhammadan ward, but his recommendation was not heeded, as the persons concerned

Vide para. 13 of the Sub. Coll's report.

Petitioners' Complaints:

concerned were Chetties and, if their names were removed, a Muhammadan would have a better chance of success at elections for that ward. On the other hand, Chelvaperumal Chettiyar, another Municipal Councillor, forwarded a list of persons to be removed from the D. ward, of which Eswarappa Mudaliyar was an elected Councillor. The names of about 30 persons were accordingly removed from the list arbitrarily.

Complaints against the Manager:

(17) The Municipal Manager is head and shoulders in debts and is paying by instalments his numerous creditors who have obtained decrees against him in the local Munsif's Court. Under Rule 39 of the Public Servants Mannual, his retention in the Municipal service should not be permitted.

(18) The Manager takes loans from Municipal contractors and he wrote on the 15th August 1894 to

Shaik

Sub-Collector's remarks:

In the last three years, fourteen decrees were passed against the Manager in the District Munsif's Court, eight of which were passed in 1898, the amount decreed being Rs.330 In one of these cases, the Manager represented to the Court that he was heavily in debt and asked permission to pay the amount in monthly instalments. The Manager's retention in service is objectionable on the ground of his state of indebtedness.

Chabu Miah Sahib (the market contractor and a partner in the Langerkhana con-

tract

Sub-Collector's remarks:

contract for 1898-99), Muniswami Mudaliyar (the market contractor for 1897-98) and Asadulla Sahib (the Langerkhana contractor for 1897-98 and 1898-99) were examined as witnesses. Their accounts which have been kept in the regular course of business, and which there is no reason for disbelieving show that not only the Manager but also the Store-keeper, (the Chairman) and several Municipal Councillors are corrupt and dishonest. These persons took money from the contractors whenever they wanted or whenever payments were made to the contractors, but they never repaid the amounts which they took. There is an entry in the day-book of Chabu Miah Sahib showing that a sum of Rs.5 was paid to Councillor Chelvaperumal Chettiyar on the 25th February 1899. It is significant that the Council meeting at which large remissions were granted to this contractor was held just four days after this i.e. on the 1st March 1899.

Petitioners' Complaints:

Shaik Ahmad Sahib, rubbish contractor, asking for a loan of Rs.20.

Flag Q Incorrect

Attention is respectfully invited to the further report of the Sub Collector flagged Q 1 in which it is stated that the Contractor & the entries in his books implicate the Chairman also. 4/7

Petitioners' Complaints:	Sub-Collector's remarks:
(19) The Manager compelled his subordinates to stand as sureties for him whenever he obtained loans from the local money lenders, thereby placing himself under obligation to them.	Duraswami Mudaly, a bill collector, stood a surety for him on three occasions and Kundaswami Mudali on two occasions. A decree was obtained against the Manager and the latter jointly.
(20) One Ramaswami Nayudu sent his newly built cart to the Municipal Office through his son on the 16th November 1898 for registration, whereupon the Manager demanded a bribe of eight annas, threatening him that he would otherwise levy a fee for the previous half year also. The matter was then brought to the notice of the Chairman, who directed the Manager to give the license observing that the cart seemed to be newly made. The Manager, however, refused to give a license unless Ramaswami Nayudu withdrew his complaint to the Chairman and offered an apology. Ramaswami Nayudu having declined to do so, the Manager prevailed on the Chairman to pass the following order:- "The cart was seized on the 16th instant. It was again carefully examined by me and Councillors M.R.Ry. Manicka Chettiyar, Punniakoti Mudaliyar and Chelvaperumal Chettiyar. It has got signs of being used for a long time. Notice to the owner to obtain license for both the halves. In default the cart will be sold on 25th November 1898." Ramaswami Nayudu produced witnesses to prove that his cart was new. The Chairman finding that the charge against the Manager was fully proved, requested Ramaswami Nayudu not to press the matter further and granted him the license for the 2nd half year, on his withdrawing his complaint.	The facts are practically as stated here. The Chairman's reasons for remitting the tax for the first half year after ordering the sale of the cart are not on record. Ramaswami Nayudu produced his original petition to the Chairman, on which the Chairman's first two orders about the cart are written. He says that the Chairman returned the petition to him saying that he did not wish any papers on the subject to remain on record.
(21). The measurement of horses, for purposes of animal tax, is not accurately taken and horses above eleven hands are placed in the category of those below eleven hands. The horses owned by Nallaya Nayudu and Abdul Razeq are above eleven hands, but in the register they are shown as being below eleven hands.	I verified the allegation in regard to the pony owned by ~~Ha~~ Nallayya Nayudu. His pony actually measured over 12 hands when measured by me with the Municipal measuring rod. Such measurements are taken by the Municipal Manager. It is a significant fact that while according to the Manager's measurement the correct charge for the pony and jutka was Rs.4, Nallayya Nayudu says that he paid Rs. Rs.4-8-0. It is obvious that the extra half rupee was the douceur paid to the Manager for incorrect measurement.

Petitioners' Complaints	Sub-Collector's remarks:
Complaint against Chelvaperumal Chettiyar, a Municipal Councillor: (22). Chelvaperumal Chettiyar, a Municipal Councillor, who was entrusted with the preparation of the voters' list for the Muhammadan ward in 1894, omitted from the list a number of Muhammadans eligible as voters, in order to keep Muhammadan voters in a minority, and Sir Henry Bliss also referred to this Councillor's conduct in this matter, when the District Municipalities Act Amendment Act was passed in the Legislative Council. This Councillor was also bound over to keep the peace for one year by the Joint Magistrate of North Arcot in his case, No.12 of 1890. He ~~should~~ should be removed from the Municipal Council.	The order binding over this Councillor to keep the peace was confirmed by the District Magistrate on appeal and by the High Court on revision. Under Section 10 A. (1) (e) of the Act he is ineligible to be a Municipal Councillor. His conduct in taking loans, which he does not pay, from contractors also renders it advisable that he should be removed from the Council. Paragraph 5.

Vide his letter dated 30-4-99. H.

5. Regarding the financial state of the Municipality, the Sub-Collector reports that the arrears of house, land and profession taxes and of the private scavenging fees outstanding at the end of 1898-99 amounted to nearly Rs.6,000, that the existence of such large arrears was due to demand notices not having been issued during the first nine months of the year, that the collections might have improved, if the Chairman had not illegally declined to delegate to the Secretary his powers under Section 42, which it was obligatory on his part to delegate under Section 39 A. (3) (d), that the Chairman in whose hands these powers are, must be held responsible for the poor collections, that the way in which the assessments of profession tax are originally fixed and the remissions are subsequently granted by the Council is scandalous, that although the financial condition of the Council at the beginning of March 1899 was decidedly critical and the Council had to apply to Government for a loan of Rs.10,000, the Council granted remissions to the extent of Rs.1,800 to various contractors and that the majority of the Council have no sense of responsibility. In order to ensure a prompt collection of the arrears, he suggests that the Secretary should be given full control over the servants employed in the Municipal Office and in the collection of Municipal

revenues, but he considers that the finances of the Municipality will never be in a sound condition, so long as the constitution of the Council continues to be the same and the present councillors and the Chairman are in Office.

6. The Collector states that it is evident from the Sub-Collector's report that the Chairman is utterly apathetic and incompetent, that house tax collection is disgracefully in arrears, that the profession tax is arbitrarily assessed and in appeal is reduced or enhanced according to the whims of individual Councillors, that the assessments to this tax is seized upon as an opportunity for harassing voters who have not supported certain Councillors at the elections, that carts and animals are not properly taxed, that the Municipal market is mismanaged and that the repeated ~~[illegible]~~ Strictures of Government on the neglect of the private scavenging system are entirely ignored. The town of Vellore is in a filthy state of sanitation. The Chairman has failed to carry out the resolutions of the Council in some cases, and made a pecuniary profit out of his carriage allowance. He systematically burks all enquiry into acts of misconduct on the part of the Municipal Office Manager and has taken no notice of the fact that the Manager is hopelessly involved in debt. He and a majority of the Council

Vide his letter d/ 19-5-99. flag. D.

Council have deliberately ignored the Secretary and made his position a sinecure by refusing to give him authority over the Municipal servants employed in the Municipal Office and in the collection of the Municipal revenues. The financial condition of the Municipality also calls for serious notice. Out of the loan of Rs.10,000 given to the Municipality for plague purposes in March last, Rs.5,000 were spent in the payments of outstanding plague bills and the balance was used for other purposes. A sum of Rs.9,900 in the shape of unpaid plague bills was outstanding on the 31st March 1899 and the balance at the credit of the Municipality on that date was only Rs.175. In April 1899, a further advance of Rs.2,000 was made by Government for meeting plague expenditure, and this sum together with the toll kist represents almost the whole of the Municipal collections during April. The Collector considers that there is no hope of restoring the financial equilibrium of the Municipality, as long as the present Chairman and Councillors remain in Office. He states that with a full time Secretary to look after all executive work, the Sub-Collector can be made Chairman of the Municipality without detriment to his regular work, and that as there is a packed majority in the present Council, which supports the maladministration of the Chairman and the misconduct of the Manager, and which is certain to render itself obstructive to an official Chairman, it is necessary also to alter the constitution of the Council in addition to replacing the elected Chairman by a nominated Chairman. The Collector further observes that Councillor Chelvaperumal Chettiyar has been guilty of recommending certain alterations in the voters' lists from interested motives, that his conduct in this matter was so notorious as to call for a remark from Sir Henry Bliss at a meeting of the Legislative Council and that he appears to have accepted illegal gratification from the Municipal contractors and to have abused his powers as a Councillor in other ways. It is stated that Chelvaperumal Chettiyar took loans from the market contractors, Chabu Miyan Sahib and that he raised the profession tax payable by one Maligai Arunachala Chetti to Rs.25, because the latter voted at an election contrary to the wishes of the Councillor. The Collector therefore recommends :-

(1) that the Chairman M.R.Ry. A.C. Seshagiri Rao and Councillor Chelvaperumal Chettiyar should be removed from the Council under Section 19 (1) (IV) of the District Municipalities Act, on the ground ~~th~~ that their continuance in office will bring the Municipal administration into contempt;

(2) that the power of electing its own Chairman should be withdrawn from the Municipal Council and that the Sub-Collector should be appointed Chairman under Section 14(1) (a) of the Act, and

(3). that the proportion of elected Councillors should be reduced from 15 to 7.

Vide para. 5 of his report. I.

7. As regards the Municipal Manager, the Collector states that he is head over ears in debt and would have been suspended long ago had he been a Government servant, and that his conduct in other respects renders him clearly unfit for retention in his present appointment. He, however, recommends that his case should be left for the new official Chairman to deal with, and that the appointment of Manager may with advantage be abolished as the Council has now a paid Secretary, a head clerk on a smaller pay being appointed instead.

Cur. 1465 m. flag J.

8. The third letter read above is a petition from the Manager of the Municipal Office stating that the Sub-Collector and the Collector are prejudiced against him, and requesting that no action may be taken on their reports, as he has been condemned un-heard. The last paper is a letter from the Collector forwarding two reports from the Sub-Collector - one dealing with two Mahazar petitions presented by the residents of Vellore alleging certain irregularities in the administration of the plague measures in the town and the other with the com-

Cur. 1518 m. K.

complaint of the Municipal Secretary regarding the conduct of the Municipal Office Manager towards him. The residents of Vellore protest against the presence of sepoys in Vellore and Complain that the ashes of plague infected articles that had been destroyed are left in the streets without being removed. The Sub-Collector reports that the presence of sepoys in Vellore has been amply justified by events which occurred subsequent to their arrival and that the Municipality is to blame for not removing the ashes of the burnt articles. The Secretary complains that the conduct of the Manager towards him has been very insolent and insubordinate. He represented the matter to the Chairman and requested that his powers under Section 42 of the Act, as regards the servants of the Municipal Council employed in the Municipal Office and in the collection of the Municipal revenues, might be delegated to him as required by Section 39 A. (3) (d) of the Act, as he found it impossible otherwise to conduct Municipal work satisfactorily. The Chairman refused to take any notice of the Manager's conduct, observing that the Secretary was attached to one of the factions in the Council which was doing its best to dispense with the Manager and that he was personally aware that he

(the Secretary)

Vide his letter to the Collr. dy 7-5-99 flag L.

Vide the chairman's order dy 7-4-99 flag M.

(the Secretary) had been teasing the Manager. He refused also to delegate to the Secretary the powers referred to by him and remarked that the Secretary's request was not made bona fide and was only an attempt to deprive him (the Chairman) of his powers. The Sub-Collector states that the Secretary has had to put up with a great deal of insolence and impertinence from the Manager and that the Chairman's reply to the Secretary was very objectionable in tone. The Collector observed that the Chairman's refusal to give the Secretary authority over the Municipal servants has made his position a very difficult one and that the facts now disclosed only strengthened the view already expressed by him that the present Council is incapable of carrying on Municipal administration.

Vide para. 4 of his letter, flag N.

Vide paras. 3 & 4 of his letter flag K.

9. It will be seen from the above, that the affairs at Vellore are now in a most unsatisfactory state. The taxes are not properly assessed, the Councillors who are entrusted with the work seizing the opportunity for harassing the voters who did not vote for them and for favouring the constituents who supported them at the election. The collection of the taxes, especially of the house-tax, is disgracefully in arrears, and the Chairman who is elected, is said to favour and to be led by those of the Councillors who helped him in getting into the office. As a natural result of the incorrect assessment

ment

assessment and tardy collection of the taxes - circumstances which point to the inefficiency of the Chairman - the finances of the Municipality are in a critical state. It is also pointed out that several of the Councillors do not realize their responsibilities and often stoop to corruption and dishonesty. Further, the sanitation of the town is said to be in a very deplorable condition, and that the ashes of burnt plague infected articles are allowed to lie in the streets without any attempt being made at their removal. This shows that the Municipal Council is incapable of carrying out in an efficient manner the administration of the Municipality. As observed by the Sub-Collector and the Collector, it seems to be impossible to expect any improvement in the state of affairs of this town, so long as the constitution of the Council which consists of as many as 15 elected Councillors, out of a maximum of 20, and an elected Chairman, continues unaltered. It is therefore submitted that the Collector's recommendations:

(1) that the number of elected Councillors may be reduced from 15 to 7 and

(2) that the power of electing its own Chairman may be withdrawn from the Municipal Council,

may be adopted and that the Municipal Council may be informed under the proviso to Section 12 of the Act of the intention of Government to alter the constitution of the Council, as above indicated.

On

It is submitted that this may be done.

bgw
23.6

Yes. Previous intimation to the M.C. must be given as required by Sec 12. The G. in C. will take into consideration any explns or objections of the M.C. or the Chairman not later than one month after the intimation has been made to the M.C. AA.

If there is a precedent for a shorter time, let me know
AA

---

after 3 months from notification

On the issue of a notification under Section 12 (iii) withdrawing from the Municipal Council the privilege of electing its Chairman, the present Chairman, M.R.Ry A.C. Seshagiri Rao will vacate his office under Section 17(1), and the Sub-Collector may be nominated as Chairman as proposed by the Collector.

10. With referance to the Collector's recommendation that M.R.Ry. Seshagiri Rao and Chelvaperumal Chettiyar should be removed from the Council on the ground that their continuance in office will bring the Municipal administration into contempt, it is observed, that all that the records show is that M.R.Ry. Seshagiri Rao is unfit to be a Chairman. It does not appear that he has done anything unworthy of his position as a Municipal Councillor, and it cannot therefore be said that his continuance as a Councillor is likely to bring the Municipal administration into contempt. The case is however otherwise with M.R.Ry. Chelvaperumal Chettiyar. In 1894,

he

But why not remove him promptly from his position as Chairman?
AA

I dont agree. His character as M.C. cannot but be affected by his actions as Chairman. The question is how far is it affected.
AA

In 1894, he was entrusted with the preparation of voters' lists for the Muhammadan ward of the Vellore Municipality, but in doing this, he omitted from the list the names of a number of Muhammadan voters, and included therein the names of several Hindus in order to keep the Muhammadan voters in a minority and thus facilitate his election - Vide the notes in G.O., No. 1909 M., dated 20th November 1895. The conduct of this Councillor in this matter was referred to by Sir Henry Bliss in his speech in the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1896, in the following terms :-

O.

Vide page 125 of the proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council for 1896.

"I mentioned yesterday in speaking about another matter that in the case of a well known Municipality a sub-committee which had been appointed to revise the voters' lists, revised the list of voters in a Muhammadan Ward by excluding nearly all the Muhammadans. I think it will be perfectly clear that any member of the Municipal Council who could be guilty of such conduct as this and who could so thoroughly betray his trust, had very much better be expelled from the Council with every mark of ignominy." The Sub-Collector now states that there is an entry in the day book of Chabu Miyan

Vide his report, para 10, flagged Q.

Miyan Sahib, market contractor for 1898-99, D of a payment of Rs 5 to this Councillor on the 25th February 1899, that it is in evidence that the money was not asked as a loan but was paid to him because he demanded it and that it is somewhat significant that a meeting of the Municipal Council at which large remissions were granted to the contractor, was held just four days after this, (i.e.) on the 1st March 1899. It is not known whether this Councillor was present at the meeting and voted for the grant of the remission, but even apart from this, his conduct in connection with the revision of the voters' lists in 1894, is alone sufficient to lead to the conclusion that his continuance in office is likely to bring the Municipal administration into contempt and it is submitted that the Collector may be requested to call upon the Councillor to show cause why he should not be removed from the Municipal Council under section 19 (i) (IV) of the Act.

This may be done.

E & W
23. 6

11. As regards the Municipal Office Manager, the power of enquiring into his misconduct and punishing him, rests primarily with the Chairman and the Government cannot deal with the matter except on appeal - Vide rule 2 printed on page 5 of G.O., No. 918 L., dated 25th April 1889. His case may therefore be left to the Chairman to be dealt with

R.

on

Vide para. 9 of his letter. S..

on its merits. As regards the Collector's suggestion that the Manager's post should be abolished and that a Head Clerk on a smaller pay should be appointed, it is observed that in his endorsement on the budget estimate of the Municipality, for 1899-1900 the Sub-Collector remarked that as the position of the Manager has been altered by the appointment of a Secretary, his pay could be reduced from Rs 60 to Rs 50. The Municipal Council which was asked in paragraph 4 (5) of G.O., No. 374 M., dated 15th March 1899, to consider and report on this suggestion, has resolved on the 14th April 1899, that the Manager's salary should not be reduced, as his duties will be the same as before. The Collector, in forwarding the Council's resolution above referred to, states that as there is now a full-time Secretary, the employment of a Manager on Rs 60 is certainly unnecessary and that the Sub-Collector's suggestion to reduce the salary to Rs 50 may be approved. It is however submitted that it is not desirable to effect such a large reduction in his salary as that suggested by the Sub-Collector and the Collector. The pay of the Manager in the smaller Municipality of Nellore, where there is a Secretary, is Rs 45 per mensem, and the Government has considered it undesirable to reduce the salary in that case. The salary of the Manager of a big Municipality like Vellore, may therefore be fixed at Rs 50.

Vide para. 10 of his Endt. flag: T.

U.

Vide the resolution flagged K. in the linked file.

P.

Vide G.O. No. 531 M / 8-3-98. U.1.

Note - The receipts of the Nellore Muny. for 1897-98 amounted to Rs 56,582, but those of Vellore were Rs 62,095

12.

12. With regard to the complaint of the Secretary that the Chairman refused to delegate to him his full powers under section 42 as regards the servants of the Municipal Council employed in the Municipal office and in the collection of Municipal revenues, it is observed that in its resolution No. 1, dated 23rd April 1898, the Council suggested to the Chairman to represent to Government that the delegation of his powers under section 42 might be limited to servants whose pay does not exceed ₨ 10 per mensem. This proposal was approved in G.O., No. 1440 M., dated 16th August 1898. The Sub-Collector however now points out that under section 39 A (3) (d) of the Act, it is obligatory on the Chairman to delegate his full powers under section 42 as regards the servants employed in the Municipal office and in the collection of Municipal revenues. This view does not however appear to be correct, as the words "subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council", occurring in the beginning of this section, seem to indicate that the Government has got the power to limit the extent of the powers under section 42, which have to be delegated to the Secretary. As, however, it is desirable, in the interests of the efficiency of the administration, that

in G.O. no 1440 M / 16-8-98. Y.

Z.

Vide para. 16 of his report. flagged R.1.

the

the entire control of the Municipal Office and collection establishments should be in the hands of the Secretary, it is submitted that the Chairman may be directed to delegate to the Secretary his full powers under Section 42, so far as these ~~Municipal Office and collection~~ establishments are concerned.

V.R
19/6/99

This may be done
G&G
23.6.

To the H. M.

I attach two D.O. letters from the Collector to Mr. Hawbrooke on this subject.

It would be difficult to conceive a more complete story of mal. administration corruption & partiality than that now recorded against the Vellore Municipality (as the Collector points out) with plague still lurking in the district it is impossible for Govt. to permit this ~~[illegible]~~ state of affairs to continue. —

"As regards the Chairman I do not at all agree with the remarks in para 10. of the note above (p. 23). "that he has not done anything unworthy of his position as Municipal Councillor." I would ~~draw~~ invite the H M's attention to the Sub. Collector's

I quite concur.
AH

It is true that the charges against the Chairman relate to his acts as Chairman, but a man capable of such misconduct is also as Munl. Councillor likely to bring the Munl. Adminis- into contempt.
He should therefore be given an opportunity of explaining why he should not be removed from the Office of Chairman & of Municipal Councillor.
Vide p. 22 of the O. note.

As I fixed a month for the explanⁿ & objections re the constitutional ?.

~~further~~ Remarks on the various charges against the Chairman in pp. 4–10 of the above note. & also to those on p. 12.

If the Sub. Collector has not greatly erred. ~~[illegible]~~ the Chairman's conduct has in my opinion been unworthy of any position to which responsibility is attached.

As a councillor it is true he will not have the same executive authority, but it is submitted that it is pretty clear he will use all the power & influence he has in supporting the faction responsible for the mal-administration of the municipality & will thus be "likely to bring municipal administration into contempt."

It is therefore submitted that the Collector's recommendation to remove the Chairman from the Council under Sect. 19(iv) should be accepted.

N.B.

The statement in the Office note at p. 11. that the Sub. Collector reports that an examination of a contractor's accounts showed the Chairman to be corrupt & dishonest. is apparently incorrect. Vide. Flag Q. (previous page). The Sub. Coll. says that the examination showed the Manager, Storekeeper & several Municipal Councillors to be corrupt or dishonest.

But please see the Sub Collr's 6th letter flagged R1.

X question, the same time should be allowed to the Chairman for his personal explⁿ — Also to the Municl. Councillor Chelvaperumal Chettiyar.

AA.

Separate intimations must be drawn up under Sec 12 (1) for the M.C. ~~under Sect.~~, under Sec 19(1)(iv) and (2) for the Chairman qua Chairman & M.C. and (3) for Chelvaperumal Chettiyar.

Let me see the draft G.O.

AA 26.6.99.

If the procedure suggested at the end of para 9. (p. 23) of the note above be followed the Chairman will remain in office for 3 months after the notification referred to in Section 12 issues. This notification cannot issue until the explanation & objections of the Municipality are considered. And ~~there~~ would thus be many months of mal-administration for Vellore. It is submitted that the critical state of affairs in that town render this most undesirable. —

Exactly — the very thing that should not be allowed.

AA

The Collector in submitting his recommendations points out that the Chairman was not present at the inquiry though given an opportunity of attending. It is submitted that this need not prevent Govt. taking action under Sects. 12 & 19.

Of course not. It was the Chairman's own fault.

AA

The Act apparently contemplates such orders being issued on ex-parte enquiries. as those concerned are given an opportunity thereafter of objecting & explaining.

As regards the Manager, the Collector suggests that his conduct may be dealt with by the Official Chairman to be appointed. This is perhaps the best course to take. ~~[illegible]~~ There is however apparently good reason to believe that the Manager has rendered himself liable to a criminal prosecution, & I would refer the H. M. to para 10 of the Sub. Collector's Report. One witness says the so called loans to the Municipal Subordinates were never repaid. ~~[illegible]~~ and that the Manager practically extorted them. Another witness states he was threatened & made to pay to the Manager. The Manager is, I believe, a "Public Servant". Vide Sect. 21. Cl. (10) Ind. Penal Code.

Flag. Q.

and as such has apparently committed offences under Chapter IX. I.P.C. ~~[illegible]~~ The Sub. Collector, vide the concluding part of para 10. (d) of his Report, had not completed his enquiries on this particular point. It might be suggested to the Collector that if he considered there was sufficient evidence to warrant a presumption that the Manager had committed a criminal offence, he should institute ~~[illegible]~~ proceedings against him. This would get rid of the man at once.

The Collector proposes that the appointment of Manager may be done away with as it is unnecessary with a paid Secretary, & that the Head Clerk on Rs 30 ~~would~~ may be appointed instead

The departmental misconduct of the manager must be dealt after final orders have been passed as to the Chairman's removal.

The Colr. should ascertain whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant the criminal prosecution of the manager & take such action as he considers necessary. MA in the Office note the retention of the Manager on a salary of Rs 50 on the analogy of the case of Nellore is suggested. The Secretary who had one reliable clerk under him at Rs 30 will scarcely attract a good enough man. The question might perhaps be left for the new Chairman to settle.

On the other points I have nothing to add to the remarks & suggestions in the Office note & it is submitted that the orders proposed at pp. 22. 24 & 28. may issue.

B.S.W.
23.6.99.

Yes. I have dealt with this in [illegible] issued. B.S.W. 28.6.99

This can be left undecided for the present. Orders can be passed if the present chairman is removed & the Sub Collr. succeeds him ex officio.

N.A.

When this comes about the ~~xx~~ new chairman or the Sub Collr. should consider whether the resoln. of the M.C. remitting Rs 956-12- to the tollgate contractor, should not be cancelled. Para 16 of Sub Collr's letter. The M.C. has I think no power under the Act to grant such remission or to cancel a debt legally due to them. ~~[illegible]~~

N.A. 26.6.99

Note for the Secretary

It does not appear to be desirable or expedient to embody these remarks in the present G.O., as it will convey an impression that the Govt. is determined to remove the present Chairman, whatever may be his explanation. It is therefore submitted that the Sub Collr. may be told ~~to~~ do. to [illegible] as soon as the new chairman has been appointed or as soon as the Sub Collr. succeeds to the chairmanship ex officio.

NOTE FOR THE H.M.

2 draft G.O. regarding Vellore Municipality papers.

It appears that Cheluva Perumal Chetty has since vacated his seat so no notification in his case is necessary at present ~~until~~ unless he is re-elected.

As regards the Chairman it appears that in a subsequent report now flagged Q, that the Sub. Coll. reported that witness Chelu Naidu stated that he lent money which was never repaid to the Chairman and that witness's accounts corroborate this statement. This charge is an important one & I have added it.

The office has omitted the charge about the Chairman making a profit out of carriage allowance on the ground that it is not strong nor important. I think he

168

Should be called upon to explain the charges. If the Gov. agrees it can be put in before issue.

I think it necessary that the Chairman should be called upon to explain not only the specific charges ~~shall~~ made against him but also the general mal-administration of the Municipality for which he as Chairman is responsible. It is quite possible he may explain away some of the detailed charges, but he can't evade his responsibility for the State of the Municipality. I have therefore added a para to the draft.

EPW
8.7.99.

I don't think this need be pressed. He *did* keep a vehicle of some kind & it is not alleged it was insufficient to take him about.

A.A.

A.A.
10.7.99

Confidential 167 Chittoor
May. 20th 99

Dear Hammick
I sent the reports about the maladministration of the Vellore Municipality to you yesterday & I am sending you today another paper in which the Municipal Council has deliberately disclaimed all responsibility for the Plague Prevention measures carried out in Vellore. If you want any confirmation of MacMichael's & my condemnation of the Municipality, a reference to Buckley, who is I believe

11

Maladministration of the Vellore Municipality

176

[L. & M.]
0—19-12-98.

A

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 .
Again G.O., No. dated 189 .
Current No. 123 M. of 1899, dated 26th December 98, from Certain Councillors, Vellore Mnlty,
" " 1389 M. " 1899, " 19th May 1899, " Collector of North Arcot
" " 1465 M. " 1899, " 27th May 1899, " the Manager, Vellore Mul. Office
" " 1518 M. " 1899, " 31st May 1899, " the Collector of North Arcot

(1)

ORDER. No. 986 M. Mis. d/ 14-7-99

Cur. 123 M. of 99. A.t.

AA
10.7.99

The first of the papers read above is a petition from five of the Municipal Councillors of Vellore pointing out certain irregularities in the administration of the Municipality and request that the Chairman, M.R.Ry. A. C. [illegible] Seshagiri Rao, and M.R.Ry. Chelva[illegible] perumal Chettiyar, one of the Municipal Councillors, may be removed under section 19 of the District Municipalities Act, that the nu[illegible] of Councillors appointed by elec[illegible] may be reduced, that the Chairman may be nominated by [illegible] Government, and that the Man[illegible] of the municipal office may be [illegible] dismissed from the service. It i[illegible]

5,000—21-7-09

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

petition was referred for remarks to the Collector, who on the representation of the Plague Commissioner, that the municipal taxes had not been collected and that there were therefore no funds to meet the heavy expenditure on account of plague, was requested in G.O. Nº 186. M, dated 13th February 1899 to institute an inquiry into the state f the finances of the Municipality nd to report the result to Government and also to take measures for the recovery of all outstanding dues.

on 2. The reports furnished by e Sub-Collector, who was deputed y the Collector to enquire into these atters, and the Collector's letter ead above, besides showing that e allegations made by the Petitioners re in the main true, point to a ost discreditable state of affairs. is stated that the Chairman is ~~[illegible]~~ apathetic and incompetent, at the house-tax collection is gracefully in arrears, that the lession tax is arbitrarily assess- and on appeal is reduced or

B.1.

C. Vide para. 2 of the G.O.

Cup. 1389. D.

enhanced according to the whims of individual councillors, that the assessment of this tax is seized upon as an opportunity for harassing voters, who have not supported certain councillors at the elections, that carts and animals are not properly taxed, that the municipal market is mismanaged and that the repeated strictures of Government on the neglect of the private scavenging system are entirely ignored. The sanitation of the town is said to be neglected, and it appears that the Chairman has failed to carry out the resolution of the Council in some cases; it is alleged that he ~~burks all~~ has suppressed enquiry into acts of misconduct on the part of the municipal office manager and has taken no notice of the fact that the manager is involved ~~hopelessly~~ in debt; ~~and~~ & it is affirmed that the Chairman and a majority of the Council have ~~deliberately~~ ignored the Secretary and made his position a sinecure by refus to give him authority over the municipal servants employed i

1/79

the municipal office and ~~in~~ over the collection of municipal revenues. It is also pointed out that the finances of the Municipality are in a critical state, the Council having been almost in a state of insolvency on the 31st March 1899, with unpaid liabilities amounting to Rs 9,900 in the shape of outstanding plague bills. If the facts are as above stated, the Government must agree with the Collector in considering that unless a radical change is introduced in the constitution of the Council it would be impossible to set matters on a satisfactory footing. His Excellency the Governor in Council is therefore constrained to announce his intention to ~~propose the~~ withdrawal from the Municipal Council of the privilege of electing its Chairman and ~~the~~ to reduc~~tion of~~ the number of councillors to be appointed by election from 15 to 7. Under the proviso to section 12 of the Madras District Municipalities Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897, the Municipal Council is accordingly requested to state within

Act.

(Intention is the word used in the act)

5.

180

Act

Note

A2

Please see G.O. 2815 M.L. 16th December 1897 (para. 1), G.O. 2560 M.L. B2 18th November 1897 (para. 5) and G.O. 1624 C 5 3rd January 1899 (para. 1). In all these cases one month time was allowed. There is no precedent for a shorter period.

one month from the date of receipt of this order its objections, if any, to these proposals.

3. The facts elicited at the enquiry held by the Sub-Collector also show that the continuance in office of the Chairman M.R.Ry. A. C. Seshagiri Rao, and Councillo M.R.Ry. Chelvaperumal Chettiya is likely to bring the municipal administration into contempt. As however the term of office of M.R.Ry. Chelvaperumal Chettiya has since expired ⊗, no action will be taken in his case at present. Separate orders will issue calling upon M.R.Ry. A. C. Seshagiri Rao to show cause why he should not be remove from the offices of Chairman and Municipal Councillor und section 19 of the Act.

⊗ His election was notified on the 9th June 1896 & he vacated his seat on the 9th June 1899. Vide G.O. No $\frac{919\,M}{1-6-96}$ V. 3. Please see also D.O. from Mr Campbell.

4. The misconduct of the Manager of the Municipal Offic which is referred to in the Sub-Collector's reports, should be deal with departmentally after final orders have been passed ~~as to~~ regarding the Chairman's removal.

the municipal office and ~~in~~ over the collection of municipal revenues. It is also pointed out that the finances of the Municipality are in a critical state, the Council having been almost in a state of insolvency on the 31st March 1899, with unpaid liabilities amounting to Rs 9.900 in the shape of outstanding plague bills. If the facts are as above stated, the Government must agree with the Collector in considering that unless a radical change is introduced in the constitution of the Council it would be impossible to set matters on a satisfactory footing. His Excellency the Governor in Council is therefore constrained to ~~propose the~~ announce his intention to withdraw~~al~~ from the Municipal Council of the privilege of electing its Chairman and ~~the~~ to reduc~~tion~~ ~~of~~ the number of councillors to be appointed by election from 15 to 7. Under the proviso to section 12 of the Madras District Municipalities Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897, the Municipal Council is accordingly requested to state within

Alt. (~~Intention~~ is the word used in the act)

Alt one month from the date of receipt of this order its objections, if any, to these proposals.

3. The facts elicited at the enquiry held by the Sub-Collector also show that the continuance in office of the Chairman, M.R.Ry. A. C. Seshagiri Rao, and Councillor M.R.Ry. Chelvaperumal Chettiyar is likely to bring the municipal administration into contempt. As however, the term of office of M.R.Ry. Chelvaperumal Chettiyar has since expired,⊗ no action will be taken in his case at present. Separate orders will issue calling upon M.R.Ry. A. C. Seshagiri Rao to show cause why he should not be removed from the offices of Chairman and Municipal Councillor under section 19 of the Act.

4. The misconduct of the manager of the Municipal office

Note.
A2
Please see G.O. 2815 M. 16th December 1897 (para. 1), G.O. 2560 M. B 18th November 1897 (para. 5) and G.O. 164 M. C 3rd Janry 1899 (para. 1). In all these cases one month's time was allowed. There is no precedent for a shorter period.

⊗ His election was notified on the 9th June 1896 & he vacated his seat on the 9th June 1899. Vide G.O. No $\frac{919 M}{1-6-96}$ V. 3.
Please see also Do. from Mr Campbell.

Despd. 15/7/99

over

179 4

181 6

consideration of the Sub-Collector's suggestion to substitute a head-clerk on Rs 30 for the present manager will also be deferred pending the issue of these orders. In the meantime however the Collector is requested to ascertain whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a criminal prosecution against the manager and to take such action as he considers necessary.

Vide the Collector's End^t in G.O. No 906 M, 30-6-99 . O.3.

5. It is observed that the Chairman has now refused to delegate to the Secretary his full powers under section 42 as regards the servants of the Municipal Council employed in the Municipal office and in the Collection of the Municipal revenues. In its resolution No. 1 dated 23rd April 1898, the Municipal Council suggested to the Chairman the desirability of representing to Government that [illegible] er the [illegible] f

Vide his Proceedings d/ 7-4-99 M.

Y.

884, as amended by Act III of 1897, the Municipal Council is accordingly requested to state within

7

Z. in G.O. No. 1440 M, dated 16th August 1898. The Government is, however, now of opinion that in the interests of the efficiency of the administration and in view to the proper collection of the taxes, it is desirable that the entire control of the Municipal office and the collection establishments should be in the hands of the Secretary. The Chairman is accordingly requested to delegate to the Secretary, without delay, his full powers under section 42 (1) + (3) so far as these establishments are concerned and report the ~~[illegible]~~ fact for the approval of Government.

(Bom Orders)

V.R.
4/7/99

6860
8.7.99

To. H. M.

To
The Chairman, Mc Vellore D.O.
with [illegible]
" Collector of North Arcot.
Despd 15/7/99

to be returned

Paras 10 & 11 of his letter d 29-4-99. Report No 67 299

& Para 2 of his letter d 3-5-99

5,000—21-7-09.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Block No.

Dept.

given for copying ______
copied ______
n examined ______ } 190 .
n signed ______

Date

AD AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED 190 .							
RRENT No.							
URES TO C. No.							
ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF VERNMENT.							
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.