

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 991 W

DATED 7 April 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Trustees of the Harbour Board: Pro:
marine Dept directing that the names of per-
sons duly elected or nominated to consti-
tute the Board of — be notified in the Govt
Gazette, County to the Chief Engineer for info
with reference to Mr Wilson's appointment

MARINE.

2 Copies to each

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers:—

From W. AUSTIN, Esq., I.C.S., Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 9th February 1897, No. 4832.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of G.O., Marine, No. 48 E., dated 22nd January, and to submit that in view of the important subjects now under consideration by Government and the Trustees, in connection with the harbour, and the numerous changes, of late, among the elected trustees, it is undesirable for any further changes to be made which can be avoided.

I would therefore resubmit the names of Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee Panday and Mr. Mirza Mehdy Ispahani, as the best selection which could be made from the Parsee and Muhammadan communities.

2. Should Government prefer to select new trustees, Mr. Abdul Rahiman Sahib of Messrs. Hadji Alarakia Sajun & Co. is personally well qualified to serve; but his firm and as such he would occupy much the position of a dubash.

Mr. Hadji Abdul Badsha Sahib of Messrs. Mahomed Badsha Sahib & Co. would be perhaps a better representative, being a member of the largest Muhammadan firm in Madras, and he has already served as a trustee of the harbour, but I do not consider him so well qualified, personally, as the present Muhammadan incumbent.

3. Mr. Kaliasundram Chetty has only been recently appointed, and I would submit that he might be reselected as the Hindu member of the Trust, for the reasons given when I lately nominated him.

In the alternative I would suggest Mr. Pitti Theyagaraya Chetty, B.A., at present a Municipal Commissioner, as likely to take an active interest in the harbour.

From G. G. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 3rd March 1897.

With reference to the order of the Madras Government, No. 64, Marine, dated the 23rd January, and your letter of the same date, I have the honour to inform you that the Chamber is prepared to continue the existing arrangement as to the election Board during the period 1897—99, and desires to take this opportunity of offering the following remarks in regard to the nomination of the three Native representatives, which it hopes will meet with the serious consideration of Government.

On the resignation by Mr. G. Subaroyalu Chetty of his seat on the Board, Government appointed Rai Bahadur C. Kaliasundram Chetty as his successor—an appointment which caused much dissatisfaction among the Native merchants of Madras, and which, so far as the Chamber can see, had nothing to recommend it. Mr. Subaroyalu Chetty was a merchant who was thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the port and in close touch with other Native merchants. Mr. Kaliasundram Chetty, on the other hand, is a retired Government official who, however

ably he may have performed his official duties, and however capable he may otherwise be, cannot be cognisant of mercantile affairs and mercantile requirements, and thus satisfy the reasonable requirements of the mercantile community.

The Chamber was under the impression that three Native merchants would always be appointed to the Board by Government—for though the Harbour Trust Act does not limit Government's selection of the native representatives to any particular class, Native merchants have always been appointed hitherto—and it regards a departure from this practice as inadvisable. The Chamber would also point out that by the nomination of a retired Government official, the proportionate representation of Government officials and private members on the Board, which has been hitherto maintained by Government, is unnecessarily disturbed. The Chamber does not wish the inference to be drawn from these observations that it doubts the ability of the native gentleman whom Government recently appointed. It submits, simply, that, other things being equal, Government should appoint a Native merchant and not one of its retired officials.

That the appointment of Mr. Kaliasundram Chetty has been generally disapproved by the Native mercantile community will be apparent from the following extract from a protest, signed by 51 members of that community, which has been submitted to the Chamber: "We beg to point out that, since the Act II of 1892 came into force for the better management of the Madras harbour, it has been the practice to have three leading Native merchants on the Board, and we fail to see why one among the Native mercantile community has not been nominated on this occasion. We cannot for a moment conceive the advisability of the Government appointing a servant of their own unacquainted with mercantile affairs to fill the vacant seat, seeing that they have already their nominees on the Board, and what advantage is to be derived by such an appointment on the Board we are at a loss to understand. In addressing Government on our behalf we beg to request you will explain to them that the appointment of a Native merchant in the place of Mr. Subaroyalu Chetty, would be to our interests as, being easily accessible, we can at all times put before him such information as we may think is likely to tend to the protection of our interests."

I have the honour, in conclusion, to express the Chamber's hope that, in making its appointments for the ensuing period of two years, Government will not disturb the proportionate representation of Government officials and private members hitherto existing on the Harbour Trust Board.

From G. G. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 9th March 1897.

In continuation of my letter of the 3rd instant, I have now the honour to inform you that, with reference to section 6 of the Madras Harbour Trust Act of 1886, and in accordance with the arrangement entered into with Government for limiting the number of the Board to ten members, the Chamber has elected three of its members, viz.:—

Mr. H. Scott of Messrs. Dymes & Co.,
" C. B. Simpson of Messrs. Binny & Co., and
" A. J. Yorke of Messrs. Parry & Co.
to be Trustees under that Act.

From J. F. DAVIES, Esq., Chairman, Madras Trades Association, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 10th March 1897.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department, Order No. 64, dated the 22nd January 1897, I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of the Madras Trades Association held on the 8th instant, I was re-elected chairman of that Association and as such elected to serve as a member of the new Board of the Harbour Trust under section 6 of the Act.

ORDER—No. 272, Marine, dated 20th March 1897.

The following notifications will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*:—

NOTIFICATIONS.

It is hereby notified that the Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce has, under section 6 of the Madras Harbour Trust Act (II of 1886), made return of the following persons, being members, for the time being, of the said Chamber, as having been duly elected to serve as Trustees of the Harbour of Madras:—

Mr. H. Scott.
 „ C. B. Simpson.
 „ A. J. Yorke.

It is hereby notified that the Madras Chamber of Commerce not having elected the prescribed number of persons to serve as Trustees of the Harbour of Madras within the period prescribed in section 9 of the Madras Harbour Trust Act (II of 1886), His Excellency the Governor in Council, under the provisions of section 6 of the said Act, has nominated Mr. F. J. Wilson, A.M.I.C.E., to serve as a Trustee of the Harbour of Madras.

It is hereby notified that the Chairman of the Madras Trades Association has, under section 6 of the Madras Harbour Trust Act (II of 1886), made return of the following person being a member, for the time being, of the said Association, as having been duly elected to serve as a Trustee of the Harbour of Madras:—

Mr. J. F. Davies.

Under section 9 of the Madras Harbour Trust Act (II of 1886), His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint Mr. W. Austin to be Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Harbour of Madras, and the following persons to be Trustees:—

Commander H. A. Street, R.I.M.
 Mr. Cowasji Edulji Panday.
 „ Mirza Mehdy Ispahani.
 M.R.Ry. Abboyi Naidu.

(True Extract.)

Ch. J. Wilson

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.
 „ „ Madras Trades Association.
 „ „ Harbour Trust Board.
 „ Presidency Port Officer.
 „ Public Works Department.
 „ Superintendent, Government Press.

Editors' Table.

Public Works Department
Government (1897) of Madras.
MARINE.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 272, 20th March 1897.

MARCH.

Order no: 99/ & 7.4.97
communicated to the
Ch. Engr. for Engrs. with
reference to Mr. Wilson's
appointment
(29) D.M.C.
W
Ch. Engr. I

Trustees of the Harbour of Madras

Directing that the names of persons duly elected or nominated to constitute the Board of —, be notified in the Fort St. George Gazette.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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With reference to the order of the Madras Government, No. 64, Marine, dated the 23rd January, and your letter of the same date, I have the honour to inform you that the Chamber is prepared to continue the existing arrangement as to the election of only three instead of four of its members as its representatives on the Harbour Trust Board during the period 1897—99, and desires to take this opportunity of offering the following remarks in regard to the nomination of the three Native representatives, which it hopes will meet with the serious consideration of Government.

On the resignation by Mr. G. Subaroyalu Chetty of his seat on the Board, Government appointed Rai Bahadur C. Kalianasundram Chetty as his successor—an appointment which caused much dissatisfaction among the Native merchants of Madras, and which, so far as the Chamber can see, had nothing to recommend it. Mr. Subaroyalu Chetty was a merchant who was thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the port and in close touch with other Native merchants. Mr. Kalianasundram Chetty, on the other hand, is a retired Government official who, however

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 „ Mirza Mehdy Ispahani.
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(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Colonel, R.E.,
 Secretary to Government.

To the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.
 „ „ Madras Trades Association.
 „ „ Harbour Trust Board.
 „ „ Presidency Port Officer.
 „ „ Public Works Department.
 „ „ Superintendent, Government Press.
 Editors' Table.

7/4/97