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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1066	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	21-7-	1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st July 1869.

No. 150. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Cuddalore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Cuddalore, 13th July 1869, No. 557.

On receipt of the Government Order, under date the 16th* June, No. 813, a meeting of the Municipal Commissioners was convened for the following 29th idem, at which Messrs. Shaw and Jagannada Naidoo were nominated members of the Committee of which, in the same Proceedings, Mr. P. L. Roberts was appointed President on behalf of Government.

* Received only on the 23rd.

2. I was not present at this meeting, although I had purposed to attend and was only twenty minutes late ; but the day being one of the examination days of my Assistants, the Commissioners present concluded that I would not come, and, therefore, they at once proceeded to the business for which the meeting was specially called, and made the nominations I have mentioned, and on my reaching the Municipal office I was informed the meeting had dissolved.

3. I did not myself approve of the selection, but having been made, it only remained for me to intimate to Mr. Roberts the name of his colleagues, and Mr. Roberts had fixed this date on which to be in Cuddalore to commence the sittings of the Committee.

4. The nomination of Messrs. Shaw and Jagannada Naidoo was unfortunately not communicated to Mr. Keess, the late Managing Commissioner, and hence up to the 10th instant no objection had been taken by him ; but on the last-named date he addressed me a letter marked A attached, protesting against their nomination, and requesting me to call a meeting to reconsider their election, and accordingly a special meeting was convened for this morning, and the result has been the resolution which will be found in the copy of the enclosed Municipal Proceedings marked B, wherein Government are asked to depute two competent persons of standing from the Accountant General's or other offices at Madras, to be associated with Mr. Roberts, all expenses incurred by the said nominees being defrayed by the Commissioners.

5. Had I been present at the meeting of the 29th June, it was my intention to have pointed out the impropriety, as it seemed to me, of nominating any of the members of the late Sub-Committee, and especially Messrs. Shaw and Jagannada Naidoo, who stood in the light of Mr. Keess' accusers, and every member of which had, as it were, prejudged the case, and were pledged to a very decided opinion in his condemnation ; but having missed the opportunity of personally stating my opinion, I did not feel it my province to move further in the matter.

6. On receiving Mr. Keess' letter at the eleventh hour, and when, as I had supposed, he was indifferent on the subject, I felt somewhat embarrassed in regard to the course I ought to take ; but as I could not do otherwise than acquiesce in the force of his objections, I considered it my duty to submit the matter to a second meeting at which the attendance of every Commissioner was requested, and though this was at first protested against by some, all the members were good enough to attend, and I then fully explained my views and feelings in respect to the appointments of Messrs. Shaw and Jagannada Naidoo, and I urged that the new Committee should be a strictly impartial one, and that, in my judgment, it would not be

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st July 1869.*

decorous or right in a public body, constituted as the Municipality, to elect members who had already so unequivocally avowed their sentiments towards Mr. Keess, whose conduct was to form a prominent subject of investigation.

7. With the exception of Lieutenant Purchas every European Commissioner had served on the late Committee, and as well every English-speaking Native Commissioner; so that there was no Commissioners from whom to select suitable substitutes in place of Messrs. Shaw and Jagannada Naidoo, and after some discussion in which all I had stated was generally concurred in by every one present, the resolution now submitted to Government was finally adopted, it being deemed objectionable to have any person, public servant or otherwise, who was in any way connected with local interests.

8. I may add that it had been overlooked at the previous meeting that paragraph 2 of the Government Proceedings of the 16th June implied the intention of Government that outsiders should be appointed by the Commissioners, and not members of their own body, although the wording of the paragraph may, I think, be construed as leaving it optional; at all events it was eventually decided that, on every account, it would be far more satisfactory to the Commissioners themselves, and to the public at large, if the new Committee was formed of persons wholly unconnected with the place and circumstances, and this, I think, can admit of no question; and I trust that Government may be moved to agree to the proposal, and accordingly I request that two public servants of standing, one at least to be thoroughly conversant with accounts, may be deputed to sit with Mr. Roberts for the investigation of the Municipal accounts, and to make their report, the batta and all other charges payable to the persons nominated to be defrayed from Municipal funds.

9. I am not apprehensive that the inquiry will occupy beyond a few days, so that those deputed for the duty might easily return by steamer within a fortnight at furthest, and I beg to make this suggestion.

A.

From Mr. D. KEESS, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Cuddalore; dated Cuddalore, 10th July 1869.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a copy of Government Order, dated 29th June 1869, No. 882. As the Government have referred me to the Committee appointed by their Order, dated the 16th June, No. 813, it becomes my duty to enter my protest against the constitution of that Committee.

2. There cannot be the slightest doubt that Mr. Roberts, the gentleman appointed by Government to sit on the Committee, will bring to the investigation a mind free from all bias, but such is unfortunately not the case with the members elected by the Municipal Commissioners, Mr. Shaw and Juggannada Naidoo, and it is against their sitting on the Committee that I protest.

3. In my letter to you commenting on the report of the first Committee on accounts, I have already alluded to the conduct of Mr. Shaw towards me, and the correspondence on record in the Municipal Office, which is accessible to all the Commissioners, will bear me out; it will, therefore, be hardly necessary to go once more into matters already fully entered into; but at the hazard of repeating myself I shall state concisely the grounds on which my objection rests.

4. Mr. Shaw, in a correspondence with me extending over about fifteen months, has always shown the most undisguised hostility towards me; he had often expressed his opinion, long before the state of accounts became a subject of inquiry, that I was an undesirable Managing Commis-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st July 1869.*

sioner, and he has expressed his determination to be rid of me; he has, to my firm conviction, imparted his prejudices against me to other Commissioners; and once he has maliciously and falsely charged me with having suppressed a resolution passed by the Commissioners because it was distasteful to me—a charge which I have conclusively proved to be false, and which Mr. Shaw must have known to be so when he made it. Subsequently Mr. Shaw was, if not the author, at least the guiding spirit of the Sub-Committee on accounts, which Committee, after a most superficial inquiry, without any reason whatever, grossly damaged my character both with Government and the public. Mr. Shaw, if he did not compose, signed that Committee's report; and for this, and the other reasons, I cannot recognise Mr. Shaw as a person fit to serve on a Committee distinctly appointed to verify and supplement the report of the first Committee.

5. As regards Juggannada Naidoo, he is, for reasons I need not specify here, my private enemy. He has been most active in collecting evidence which led to the appointment of the first Committee; he has supplied Mr. Shaw with bills to prove delinquency on my part, and he signed the report of the first Committee of which he was a member; this, I think, disqualifies Juggannada Naidoo. But there is another and a graver reason. It is possible that a searching inquiry may throw suspicion on, or bring home fraud to, some of the office servants. Two of these, the Shroff and one Bill Collector, are relations or connexions by marriage of Juggannada Naidoo, and this is a very obvious reason why Juggannada Naidoo should not be a member of the Committee.

6. It might be said that I ought to have made these objections previous to, or on the day of the election; but although I suspected on whom the choice would fall, there was no certainty about it; and it was possible that even after election, considering that they must have known that their acceptance of the office would excite invidious, though well-grounded, comments, Mr. Shaw and Juggannada Naidoo might have declined to sit on the Committee. Their having accepted the office, nothing remains to me but this protest after the fact.

7. I beg you will be good enough to lay this letter before the Commissioners. If, after perusal, the Commissioners see reason to modify their resolution and elect to serve on the Committee others not pledged by previous proceedings against me, I shall, of course, appear before the Committee wherever required; if, however, Mr. Shaw and Juggannada Naidoo remain on the Committee, I beg that it be distinctly understood that I shall not appear before the Committee, for it would be absurd on my part to give an explanation before a Committee, the absolute majority of which has already pronounced sentence upon me unheard.

B.

Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners at a special Meeting held this day, (July 13th, 1869).

Present:

C. W. Reade, Esq., <i>President.</i>	J. D. B. Gribble, Esq.
James Smith, Esq.	Lieutenant W. R. Purchas.
J. C. Shaw, Esq.	Nagaboosna Moodelly.
M. R. R. T. Jagannada Naidoo.	Janakiram Puntuloo.
„ Dasekah Charloo.	Bavah Markayer.
„ Sevasadumbra Chetty.	

Read letter from Mr. Keess, to the President, under date 10th June 1869, protesting against the election of Messrs. C. J. Shaw and Jagannada Naidoo to act on the Sub-Committee appointed by Government for the investigation of the Municipal accounts in association with Mr. P. L. Roberts, Sub-Collector, as a Government Member.

Read again the Orders of Government, dated 16th June 1869, No. 813. The Committee observe, by paragraph 2 of the Government Order, that the two members of the new Sub-Committee to be appointed by them need not be Municipal Commissioners, but rather it is implied that they should be outsiders, an interpretation which had been overlooked. After some discussion—

I. Resolved accordingly that the President be requested to address Government suggesting that two qualified Accountants of standing be sent to Cuddalore from Madras to serve on the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st July 1869.*

Committee, with Mr. P. L. Roberts, their batta and all expenses to be defrayed by the Commission.

After disposing of some papers brought to notice by the Secretary, the meeting closed.

(Signed) C. W. READE,

President.

No. 151. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1869, No. 1016.

The Government are not prepared to comply with the application of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Cuddalore, that two qualified Accountants should be sent from Madras, to serve on the Committee with Mr. P. L. Roberts, to investigate into the irregularities reported to exist in the accounts of the Municipality.

2. The Commissioners may make their own arrangements to appoint two residents at Cuddalore, unconnected with the Municipal Commission, to serve on the Committee.

(True Extract).

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Cuddalore.

X 7x

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
President of the
Municipal Commission
Cuddalore

/ Here enter 13th July 1869 No. /

Order thereon 21 July 1869. No. 1016.

The Government
are not prepared to
comply with the
application of the
Municipal Commission
for the town of Cuddalore
that two qualified
accountants should
be sent from Madras,
to serve on the Committee
with Mr. P. L. Roberts,
to investigate into the
irregularities

W.D.

A.D.

Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Cuddalore.

Dated July, 21st.

Recd.

Dist.

G. O., 21st July 1869, No. 1016.

JULY.
Nos. 150-151.

Declining to comply with the application of
the Municipal Commissioners that two qualified
Accountants should be sent from Madras to serve
on the Committee with Mr. Roberts to investigate
into the irregularities reported to exist in the
accounts of the Cuddalore Municipality.

irregularities reported
to exist in the accounts
of the Municipality.

2. The Commissioners
may ~~not~~ make their own
arrangements to appoint
two ^{residents} ~~members~~ at Buddalore
unconnected with the
Municipal Commission,
to serve on the Committee.

The President of the
Municipal Commission
Buddalore

9x

Public DEPARTMENT.

No. 17/5.

From the President for the Municipal Commission
Buddalore.

Dated 13th July 1869.

FOR ORDERS.

I do not think that the Govt.
ought to comply with this
application. I see no reason why
two Commissioners should not
name two other persons at
Buddalore as the Commission
if they think it imperative
that members of the Commission
should be on the Committee.
I don't think that the Municipal
Funds ought to be expended with

the expense of finding Accountants
from business.

For my part I regard his Keen
protest as unimpeachable. his Keen
will prevent his being treated
with injustice.

A. A.

If the Municipality want the aid of two
or more Accountants, they ought to make their
own arrangements for getting them - Certainly
the Govt. should have nothing to do with supplying
them - I think Mr Keen's protest is fair
enough. If what he says be true, he has not
been given a thoroughly fair trial with Shaw &
the Nardos on the Committee - Let the
President that outsiders may be selected.

20/1/03

W. D. Y.

3 days 26/3

Out. of {1869} M. m. m.

Adèle

10
 28th Feb 1870
 Messrs Messrs. Messrs.
 Messrs.

Dated July 21. } 1865, No. 706
 Recd.

Nos. 156. 157.

is claiming to comply with
 the requirements of the
Pruned Journalist that two
 qualified & competent
persons should be sent from Sweden
 to live on the Journalist
 with Mr. & Mrs. Roberts to investigate
 into the circumstances
reported & again in the
the Journalist of the 10th 1888