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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1719	Press
		Mis.
Dated	15-12-1936	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 79. To HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON. LORD NAPIER,

Governor of Madras.

MY LORD,

We, the undersigned, beg to represent that we have submitted a petition, dated 22nd June 1869, praying that your Lordship may be pleased to REMIT a tax for profession recovered from us, either by the Municipal or the Income-tax, by the Collectors as we hold a profession in the town of Vellore; that the re-placement of the District Moonsiff's Court at Vellore as usual may be established; and that a better school may be afforded to our children, as that of Chittoor; but unfortunately we had no opportunity of paying your Lordship our respects in person, as your Lordship was on the eve of leaving Vellore.

2. We further beg to add that since the introduction of the Municipal Act, viz., three years, the tax on several trades were recovered yearly, but the improvement is quite dull.

3. (1), Dust-boxes were not yet built in the streets; (2), drains were not erected on the sides of the streets; (3), roads were not completed; (4), the water which falls on the hills when it rains is as usual led to pass through the streets with a dangerous look or fear to the owners of the houses that the running water would perhaps root away the walls of the building; (5), bridges so necessary across the roads for junctions were not completely erected; (6), we hear the Commissioners say that the dirty water from the house cannot pass outside through a house drain. If the water is thus restricted into the building, it will create sickness to the inmates, bad health, and emit an offensive odour. Thus the sources of the disease is the result of the Municipal procedure. My Lord, the improvement is for the safety and healthiness of the population; (7), prosecution is in progress for nuisances, and fine is in great force in the absence of the above defects and incompleated acts; (8), your Lordship is aware that the Municipal-tax is intended for the improvement of the town, as the source of income from *one pie* to a certain extent, both from poor especially and rich, have been collected, and were not appropriated to the prime use; (9), lanterns for lamps in the streets were fixed a few days before your Lordship's welcome to the town. Such are the acts of the Municipality to the good of the population.

4. My Lord, we again beg to submit that the Commissioners of the Municipal Office, instead of using the money now on hand to an extent of upwards of 26,990 rupees, have schemed to erect a market, which we consider is not now well fitted, as the trade within the intended market building consists of petty articles, viz., selling brinjals, fruits, cocoanuts, beetle, grass, green grass, and several others, which are of a temporary nature. The rent that is realizable now from the keepers of these bazaars will be the same or less upon laying such an enormous sum for building a market. Under these circumstances, we humbly pray that your Lordship will be so kind as to order the erection of the market building *being stopped* till the necessary improvements for the town are fully completed.

5. We further beg to lay before your Lordship another circumstance, viz., that a bungalow at a cost of 2000 rupees was purchased for the Municipal Office

My Lord, this sum, if economically arranged, will answer twenty years' house-rent for the office of the Municipal Commissioners. The Commissioners did not consider the value, and the reasonable course is that it best be adapted according to season.

6. During the famine seasons the Revenue authorities have given *remissions* to the ryots upon a pitiful consideration of the circumstance of the world as it stands. Such merciful consideration has not been adopted by the Municipal authorities. They consider that the Act was delegated to them, and they can tax any sum they think; thus their power is exercised; when appealed, no countenance is given.

7. We further beg to submit that, if the acts of the Commissioners are just and reasonable in their procedure, why should they give a notice in the *District Gazette*, 10th April 1869, that petitioners cannot be favoured with a written endorsement, but petitioners should attend the office for verbal information. My Lord, we deeply regret to state that the Vice-President of the office is to be seen in the office only on the meeting* day, but during meeting no admission of the petitioners can be given.

* Once a week or a fortnight.

8. My Lord, the improvement is for the safety and healthiness of the population.

9. We, having nothing more to add, beg to be excused, as our prayer being for your benign and benevolent consideration not opposed to the rulings of your Lordship. We are your Lordship's subjects; your Lordship is *only the object* to protect us as your children.

We at the same time beg to submit that a few of us will be able to attend wherever your Lordship may be willing to direct us to be present for inquiry.

Shall ever pray.

VELLORE,
23rd June 1869.

(Signed) M. ARUNAGERRI CHETTY,
and twenty-three others.

Transferred to the Chief Secretary to Government.

By order,

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MADRAS, 29th June 1869.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Private Secretary.

No. 1568.

Referred to the Collector and President of the Municipal Commission, North Arcot, for report.

By order,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
30th August 1869.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under Secy. to Govt.

No. 80. From the President of the Municipal Commission, Vellore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 10th November 1869, No. 73.

I have the honour, with reference to the endorsement of Government on the accompanying Petition, No. 1568 of 1869, from certain inhabitants of the town of

Vellore, to submit the following report for the most part extracted from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners for the town of Vellore, dated 14th September 1869, on my letter calling for explanation:—

"With regard to dust-bins much delay has undoubtedly occurred in their erection; measures have been adopted for stone-bins being erected. Drains have been cut on the sides of nearly all the streets, to be eventually re-placed by masonry drains as funds admit. 16,164 yards of streets were made or put in order during the past year, and the drainage is very fair. Bridges will be built as drains are built.

"With regard to market-place, Rupees 17,479 were obtained from sale of land given to the Municipality, the proceeds of which were to be devoted to building purposes, (*vide* Government Order, dated 27th November 1867, No. 1488.) The President after some hesitation gave his sanction to the building of the market-place, and it has met with the approval and support of all the Native Commissioners, and the generality of the towns-people are strongly in favour of it.

"A bungalow in a convenient locality with residence for Manager was, by universal consent, and after approval of the President, purchased for Rupees 1250; the improvements and repairs of same will amount to Rupees 500 more.

"The notice in the *Gazette* of the 10th April 1869 was inserted, as it was impossible for the Municipality to be responsible for payment of postage on all such petitions. All petitioners applying at the office as pointed out obtain written endorsements to their petitions.

"Since 4th May 1869, 369 petitions have been received and endorsed.

"In conclusion, the Commissioners are rejoiced to observe that, out of the large number of tax-payers, only twenty-one have been found to sign a petition of the description of the one referred to. Several names in the list are not those of tax-payers.

"In the annual Administration Report for 1868-69 it was shown that, without tolls and Government contribution, after payment of establishment and Police, Rupees 2053 was all that was left for improvements, &c. If the tax-payers complain of the small quantity of works done, the remedy is in their own hands, viz., of requesting that the house-tax be increased to the maximum limit of seven per cent."

2. It is true that I have given a reluctant consent to the appropriation of so large a sum as Rupees 22,000 for the construction of a market-place, but I am nevertheless still of opinion that the building which it is proposed to erect is on a larger and more costly scale than is at all required either for use or ornament; and that a portion of the surplus would be more beneficially expended in having a regular survey of the Municipality made, without which no system of drainage can be safely or effectively carried out.

Vide letters to Vice-President, Vellore, 10th March 1869, No. 72, 19th March 1869, No. 86, and 7th Sept. 1869, No. 243.

3. In one part of the petition allusion is made to the Vice-President not personally attending at the office except on meeting days. On this point Colonel

Babington writes, "All work of a clerical nature I have transacted at my own office, and as long as the work was performed, the place was no object."

No. 81. ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1869, No. 1719.

The complaints brought in Petition No. 1568 of 1869 against the Municipal administration at Vellore, which appear to the Government deserving of notice, are these: that dust-boxes have not been provided, drains not built, and roads not repaired; that Rupees 2000 have been spent upon a bungalow for a Municipal Office; and that it is proposed to expend a large sum upon a market which is not urgently required.

2. With regard to the dust-boxes, it is observed that a sum of Rupees 6000 has been provided for erecting them during the current year. The Government would impress upon the Commissioners the necessity of constructing a sufficient number of these useful receptacles with the least possible delay.

3. The returns show that, since the establishment of the Commission in 1866, out of receipts aggregating Rupees 90,206, only Rupees 5372, or 6.1 per cent. were expended in the repair of roads, Rupees 1100 granted by Government in 1868-69 for the repair of the Cantonment roads being included. The expenditure is very insignificant, and the figures seem to prove that the complaints of the petitioners are in this respect well-founded. It is observed, however, that Rupees 4000 have been provided for the repairs of roads during the current year. No money has been spent on drains, but Rupees 2000 have been provided under this head for 1869-70.

4. The expenditure on the bungalow has already been approved by Government, who, when reviewing the annual report, expressed themselves satisfied of its necessity. The sum spent in 1868-69 was Rupees 1250, and not Rupees 2000 as stated by petitioners; but it would appear from the foregoing letter that a further expenditure of Rupees 500 is contemplated. The Government merely observe that the item does not appear in the sanctioned estimates for the current year.

5. The proposed expenditure on the market constitutes the chief complaint of the petitioners. The Commissioners have been placed in a position to undertake the market construction by the levy of tolls, and by the realization of the large sum of Rupees 17,499 from the sale of land made over to them gratis by Government; and the funds for the purpose have thus been obtained without pressure on the rate-payers. The Government, however, fully admit the right of the rate-payers to complain if the Municipal funds, no matter how raised, are not expended by the Commissioners in the most beneficial manner.

6. The Government learn for the first time that the proposed market is intended to cost Rupees 22,000. It appears that Rupees 200 only were expended in 1868-69, and Rupees 10,000 provided in the estimate for 1869-70. The Government desire that a plan of the proposed structure may be submitted for their inspection, together with a full statement of the grounds on which the accommodation required has been estimated. It should also be reported how far the Commissioners are committed to the design which they have adopted, and whether its cost cannot be reduced.

7. Petition No. 1568 of 1869 will be endorsed—

"The Government have received a report from the President of the Municipal Commission, Vellore, on the complaints preferred in this petition, and have issued such orders thereon as appears necessary."

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Vellore.

Exd. J. Wright.

N^o 73

North Street,

Magistrate's office

Chittoor 10 November, 1869.

From J. D. Robinson Esquire,
President, Municipal
Commission Vellore.

To The Honorable J. S. Ellis, C. B.,
Chief Secretary to
Government,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor with reference
to the Endorsements of Government on the
accompanying Petition N^o 1568 of 1869 from
certain inhabitants of the Town of Vellore
to submit the following report for the most
part extracted from the Minutes of Pro-
ceedings of the Municipal Commissioners
for the Town of Vellore dated 14 September 1869
on my letter calling for explanation.

"With regard to dust bins much delay
has undoubtedly occurred in their erection
measures have been adopted for stone bins
being erected. Drains have been cut

Govt. of 1869 ~~Chittoor~~

PUBLIC.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Vellore.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 15th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 15th December 1869, No. 1719.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 73-81.

Passing orders on certain complaints preferred
by some of the rate-payers against the Municipal
Commissioners.

on, the sides of, nearly all the streets to be
"eventually replaced, by masonry drains
"as funds admit. - 16,164 yards of streets were
"made or put in order, during the past
"year, and the drainage is very fair. - Bridges
"will be built as drains are built.

"With regard to Market place Rs 17,477
"were obtained from sale of land given
"to the Municipality, the proceeds of which
"were to be devoted to building purposes;
"Vide Government order, dated 27 November
"1867 A 1488. The President, after some
"hesitation gave his sanction to the building
"of the Market place and it has met with
"the approval and support of all the Native
"Commissioners and the generality of the towns
"people are strongly in favor of it.

"A bungalow in a convenient locality
"with residence for Manager, was by
"universal consent and after approval
"of President purchased for Rs 1,250 the
"improvements and repairs of same will amount
"to Rs 500 more.

"The notice in the Gazette of the 10 April
"1869

1869
No 612

"1869 was inserted as it was impossible
"for the Municipality to be responsible for
"payments of postage on all such petitions.
"All petitioners applying at the office as
"pointed out, obtain written endorsement
"to their petitions.

"Since 4 May 1869 369 petitions have been
"received and endorsed.

"In conclusion, the Commissioners
"are rejoiced to observe that out of the
"large number of Tax payers only 21 have
"been found to sign a petition of this des-
"cription of the one referred to. Several
"names in the list are not those of Tax payers.

"In the annual administration report
"for 1868-69 it was shown that without
"Tolls and Government contribution, after
"payments of Establishment and Police Rs
"2,053 was all that was left for improve-
"ments &c; if the Tax payers complain of
"the small quantity of works done the remedy
"is in their own hands namely of requesting
"that the House Tax be increased to the maximum
"limits of 7 per Cents."

2. It is true that I have given a reluctant consent to the appropriation of so large a sum, as I gave 22,000 for the construction of a market place, but I am, nevertheless, still of opinion that the building which it is proposed to erect is one of a larger and more costly scale than is at all required either for use, or ornaments, and that a portion of the surplus would be more beneficially expended in having a regular survey of the Municipality made without which no system of drainage can be safely or effectively carried out.

3. On one part of the Petition allusion is made to the Vice President, not personally attending at the office except on meeting days. On this point Colonel Babington writes—

All work of a clerical nature I have transacted at my own office and as long as the work was performed, the place was no object.

Vide letters to Vice President Vellore.
10 March 1869 At 72
19 do At 86
7 September 69 At 243

If the matter has not gone too far it might be as well to write Mr. Ellis to reduce his estimate. MR

North Arcot
Magistrate's Office
Chittoor 10 November
1869

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,
D. S. Ellis Esq
President Municipal
Commission Vellore.

To The Honorable P. S. Ellis, C. B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Encs
A. M. M.

Public
Petition Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter *in person*.

Petition from M. Arumphery, Chetty,
Hajim Sahotters, the merchants
at Vellore.

(Hereafter 23 June 1869 No. 1568.)

Report from the President of
the Municipal Commission at
Vellore.

10 November 1869 No. 1569.)

Order thereon, No. 1719 of 15 Decr 1869

The Complaints brought
in Petition No. 1568 of 1869 against the
Municipal Administration at Vellore,
which appear to the Government deserv-
ing of notice, are these, - that Dust
Barges have not been provided, -
Drains not built, & Road not repaired;
that Rs. 2000 have been spent
upon a Bungalow for a Municipal
Office, & that it is proposed to
expend a large sum upon a Market
which is not urgently required.
2. With regard to the dust-
Barges, it is observed that sum

By Petition 1869, Sect. 2
From No. 1568 of 1869
the President
Municipal Commission
at Vellore
to the Chief Secretary to
Govt. Fort St. Paul & Co.
Dated 10 November 1869
Received
No. 1719
Submitted the report
Called for in the order in
Govt. Petition No. 1568 of 1869

of Rs 6000 has been provided for erecting them during the current year. The Govt would improve upon the Commissioners the necessity of constructing a sufficient number of these useful receptacles with the least possible delay.

3. The returns show that, since the establishment of the Commission in 1866, out of receipts aggregating Rs 90206, only Rs 5372, or 5 per cent were expended in the repairs of roads, including Rs 1100 granted by Govt in 1868-9 for the repairs of the Cantonment Roads. The expenditure is very insignificant, & the figures seem to prove that the complaints of the Petitioners are well founded. It is observed however that Rs 4000 have been provided for the repairs of roads during the current year. No money has been spent on drains, but Rs 2000 ^{have been} provided under that head for 1869-70.

4. The expenditure on the Municipalities has already been approved by Government, who expressed their satisfaction of its necessity. The sum spent in 1868-9 was Rs 12504 not Rs 2000 as stated by Petitioners. but

but it would appear from the foregoing letter that a further expenditure of Rs 500 is contemplated. The Govt merely observe that the item does not appear in the sanctioned estimates for the current year.

5. The proposed expenditure on the Market constitutes the chief complaint of the Petitioners. The Commissioners have been placed in a position to undertake the Market construction by the levy of tolls, & by the realization of the large sum of Rs 17699 from the sale of land made over to them gratis by Govt; and the funds for the purpose have thus been obtained without pressure on the rate-payers. The

Government however fully admit the right of the rate-payers to complain if the municipal funds, so much less raised, are not expended in the most beneficial manner.

The Govt learn for the first time that the proposed market is intended to cost Rs 22000. It appears that Rs 200 only were expended in 1868-9, & Rs 10000 provided in the estimate for 1869-70. The Govt desire that a plan of the proposed structure may be submitted for their inspection together with a full statement of the grounds on which the accommodation required has been estimated. It should also

be

be reported how far the Commissioners
are committed to the design which
they have adopted, & whether it could
cannot be reduced.

7. Petition No 156 of 1869
will be recorded:-

"The Govt have received
a report from the President
of the Municipal Commission
of Bellary, on the complaints re-
-garded in this petition, &
have issued such orders as they
as appear necessary."

H.L.

Date
Recd.

18
No.

To

Govt. of 18 } M. L. R.

No. 306 of 1870

To the President of
The M. L. R. } dated 2/12
Endorsement to the Pet.

15/1/10

be reported how far the taxpayers
are committed to the design which

part of 1869

Value

The Pres. M. J. L. Vellie

15 Decr

L. C.

15 Decr

1869, No.

1719

170s. 79-81.

7 No. 306 of 1870

spung orders on certain
in plaints prepared by
one of the rate payers
against the Municipal
council

Endorsed