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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1655

Press

~~Mis~~

Dated

19-12-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

24-37

No. 130. Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Acting Collector and President of the Municipal Commission, Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trichinopoly, 12th November 1870, No. 48:—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government, under date the 20th ultimo, No. 1326, Public Department, calling upon me to furnish a special report on the recommendation made by the Sanitary Commissioner to include Sreerungum within the municipal limits of Trichinopoly.

2. In reply, I beg to state that, in my opinion, such a measure would be inexpedient, inasmuch as the Trichinopoly Municipality is already sufficiently extensive, and, situated as Sreerungum is, at a distance of five miles from the Cantonment, it would be impossible for the Commissioners, with their existing duties, at the same time to exercise anything like a really vigilant or effective superintendence over the affairs of Sreerungum also.

3. But, besides this, as the Government are aware, the circumstances of Sreerungum are very peculiar, as nearly the whole town, with its upwards of 2000 houses, is included within the precincts of the outer walls of the pagoda, and even to this day the Temple authorities exercise the right of shutting the outer gates of the town every night. The proposal to place the town under the Municipal Act has been more than once mooted, but has been abandoned owing to the extreme disfavour with which the same was received, and to the great aversion exhibited by the people to what they consider an interference with the management of one of their holiest places. The subject was brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue by Mr. VansAgnew in his letters, under date the 1st March and 13th May 1867; and, in their Proceedings of the 26th June of the same year, the Board concurred with that gentleman in considering that Sreerungum was *not* a place in which the introduction of municipal action was desirable.

4. But, as remarked by the Sanitary Commissioner, there can be no doubt that in Sreerungum, and to a considerable extent, there exist elements of disease; the question, therefore, for consideration is whether, in the interests of the public welfare and for the preservation of the public health, it is not incumbent on the Government to take some steps towards remedying the evils which are known to exist.

5. In my opinion, the introduction of the Municipal Act, as has been done in other places with a large and mixed body of Commissioners, would be a mistake, and would undoubtedly cause much discontent and dissatisfaction; but, at the same time, I have no hesitation in stating my own conviction that, if the Act can be introduced in a somewhat modified form, and the working of it entrusted to a few well-selected persons and thoroughly acquainted with the wants, and even prejudices, of the people, it would be a great public boon, both to those who live in the island, as well as to those who resort to its shrine and festivals.

6. I would be inclined, however, to recommend that, if the Government are of opinion that the Act should be introduced in the town of Sreerungum, it should likewise be introduced in several of the larger villages of the island, and especially in that of Jembookaiswarum or Teroovana Kavil, a village containing upwards of 1500 inhabitants, and which lies on the main roads coming from the north and south, as well as close to the junction of the road leading from the Grand Anicut,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

19th December 1870.

Tanjore, &c. It fact, I would be inclined to form the whole island, or at least the portion of it lying to the west of the Madras high road, into a separate Municipality, with a small body of Commissioners, and with a Medical Officer as Health Officer. This latter Officer, I submit, should be a salaried Officer, and, if allowed, say, Rupees 150 per mensem, he might be the Health Officer both for Trichinopoly and Sreerungum.

7. In the event of the Government determining to introduce the Act, I would also recommend that the taxes levied should be only on houses, carts, and carriages, and perhaps the levying of a small toll at the Coleroon bridge, and also at Jembokaiswarum on the road leading from the Grand Anicut.

8. On the Government, however, informing me of their intentions, I shall be prepared to submit more definite suggestions.

No. 131. ORDER THEREON, 19th December 1870, No. 1655.

The Government consider that the Collector of Trichinopoly has shown sufficient reason why the town of Sreerungum cannot, with advantage, be included within the municipal limits of Trichinopoly.

2. Ample evidence is, however, afforded by the papers before the Government to establish the necessity of protecting the public health of the inhabitants of the town of Sreerungum, and of the numerous pilgrims who visit the temple, from the evil consequences of want of cleanliness and proper conservancy, and they approve of Sreerungum being declared a Municipality. There is no ground for this entailing any offence to, or interference with, the religious customs and feelings of the people. The Act has been successfully applied in other places held in much veneration in this Presidency, such as Madura and Conjeveram, without any inconvenience or complaint.

3. The Government do not understand what Mr. Cadell intended by recommending modified municipal action, but they willingly consent to the feelings of those most interested being fully consulted in the selection of the Commissioners under the Act, and to such taxes only being levied as may be sufficient for making proper provision for the Police and for the protection of the public health.

4. With these remarks, the Government will await the final proposals of the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly for the definition of the municipal limits of Sreerungum, the constitution of the Municipal Commission, and the taxes to be raised. The Acting Collector will explain very fully and carefully to the Trustees of the Pagoda and the principal residents of Sreerungum the necessity that exists for the application of the Towns' Improvement Act to that town, and the advantages that will result from this measure.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Trichinopoly:
,, Inspector-General of Police.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Military Department.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Trichinopoly Collectors Office
12th November 1870

N. 48.
From, H. M. Cadell Esq.
Collector and President of
the Municipal Commission
for the Town of
Trichinopoly.

To, The Honble C. S. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George

Sir,
I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of the or-
der of Government under date the
20th ultimo N. 1326, Public Department,
calling upon me to furnish a special
report on the recommendation made
by the Sanitary Commission to
include Seremangam within the
Municipal limits of Trichinopoly.

In reply I beg to state
that in my opinion such a measure
would be inexpedient inasmuch
as the Trichinopoly Municipality
is already sufficiently extensive,
and

Govt. of 1870: 311/13.

PUBLIC.

To
THE COLLECTOR OF TRICHINOPOLY,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 1870.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 19th December 1870, No. 1655.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 130-131.

Awaiting the final proposals of the Collector in
connexion with the application of the Municipal
Act to the Town of Seremangam in the Trichinopoly
District.

And situated as Srerungam is at a distance of 5 miles from the Cantonment it would be impossible for the Commissioners with their existing duties at the same time to exercise any thing like a really vigilant or effective superintendence over the affairs of Srerungam also.

3. But besides this, as the Government are aware, the circumstances of Srerungam are very peculiar, as nearly the whole town with its upwards of 2000 houses are included within the precincts of the outer walls of the Pagoda, and even this day the Temple authorities exercise the right of shutting the outer gates of the town every night. The proposal to place the Town under the Municipal Act has been more than once mooted but has been abandoned owing to the extreme distaste with which the same was received and to the great aversion exhibited by the people to

(4) 2
to what they consider an interference with the management of one of their holiest places. The subject was brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue by Mr. Cairns Agnew in his letters under date the 1st March and 13th May 1864, and in their Proceedings of the 26th June of the same year the Board concurred with that gentleman in considering that Srerungam was not a place in which the introduction of Municipal action was desirable.

4. But as remarked by the Sanitary Commissioners there can be no doubt that in Srerungam and to a considerable extent there exists elements of disease; the question therefore for consideration is whether in the interests of the public welfare, and for the preservation of the public health it is not incumbent on the Government to take some steps towards remedying the evils which

which are known to exist.

5. In my opinion the introduction of the Municipal Act as has been done in other places with a large and mixed body of Commissioners would be a mistake and would undoubtedly cause much discontent and dissatisfaction, but at the same time I have no hesitation in stating my own conviction that if the Act can be introduced in a somewhat modified form and the working of it entrusted to a few well selected persons and thoroughly acquainted with the wants and even prejudices of the people, it would be a great public boon both to those who live in the island as well as to those who resort to its shrine and festivals.

6. I would be inclined however to recommend that if the Government are of opinion that the Act should be introduced in the Town of Srerungam, it should be likewise

5 } likewise be introduced in several of the larger Villages of the island and especially in that of Jembakaiswa, Nam or Teravara Kaval, a village containing upwards of 1500 inhabitants and which lies on the main road coming from the North and South as well as close to the junction of the road leading from the Grand Ament. Bangalore &c. In fact I would be inclined to form the whole island or at least the portion of it lying to the West of the Madras high road into a separate Municipality, with a small body of Commissioners and with a Medical Officer as Health Officer. This latter Officer I submit should be a salaried Officer and if allowed say Rs. 150 per mensem might be the Health Officer both for Trichinopoly and Srerungam.

7. In the event of the Government determining to introduce the Act I would also recommend that the Taxes levied should be only

on Houses, carts and Carriages, and
perhaps the levying of a small toll
at the Coleroon Bridge and also
at Jembokkairavaram on the
road leading from the Grand Anicut.

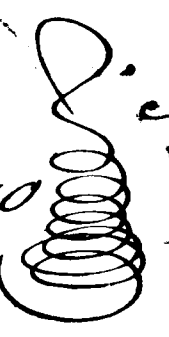
8. On the Government however
informing me of their intentions
I shall be prepared to submit more
definite suggestions.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servant.

Wm. Jackson

Richmond
Toll Office
17th Nov. 1870



Collector & President

To

The Honble G. A. Ellis. C. B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department

Fort Saint George

Comd'g
Mascarene

Public Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from

The Collector and President of the Municipal Commission, Trichinopoly } Dated 12th Nov. 1870 to 48.

Order thereon 19th December 1870
No. 1654.

The Government consider that the Collector of Trichinopoly has shown sufficient reason why the town of Srirangam cannot, with advantage, be included within the Municipal limits of Trichinopoly.

Lot

2. Ample evidence is, however, afforded by the papers before the Government to establish the necessity of preserving the public health of the inhabitants of the town of Srirangam and of the numerous

Sept. 20th 1870
From: of 3rd Nov. 1870
No. 1853 and 1854

Public 1870. No. 1654

From: 19th Dec. 1870.
The Collector & President of the Municipal Commission Trichinopoly

To: The Chief Secretary to Govt

With Encls.

Dated 12th Nov. 1870.

Recd 1870. No. 1654

Expresses his opinion with reference to G.O. No. 1853 dated the 20th Oct. 1870, that owing to the peculiar circumstances of the town of Srirangam, the Municipal Act will be inapplicable there in a modified form and offering certain suggestions for the order of Govt.

130. —
20411. 570-12 5. 6/12
20412. 1218 — 12/12

pilgrims who visit the temple, from the evil consequences of want of cleanliness and proper conservation, and they approve of Srirangam being declared a Municipality. There is no ground for this entailing any offence to or interference with the religious customs and feelings of the people. The Act has been successfully applied in other places held in much veneration in this Presidency, such as Madurai and Conjeveram, without any inconvenience or complaint.

3. The Government do not understand what Mr. Cadell intended by recommending modified Municipal action, but they willingly consent to the feelings of those most interested being

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Public Department

Memorandum for Orders
~~PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT~~

Read the following letter from the Collector and President of the Municipal Commission of Trichinopoly, dated 12 November 1870.

This had better be kept for Council. The difficulty lies in the peculiar character of the place & the religious element comes into play. It is not a town or village in the ordinary acceptation of those terms & interference would be very unwholesome. The Sanitary Commissioner in his letter to President of the Municipal Commission of Trichinopoly dated 3rd October has pointed out that the neighbourhood of the famous shrine of Srirangam to Trichinopoly had an unfavourable influence on the public health of that town. He stated that no place in India is more required to be brought under municipal control than Srirangam. That increase of disease about there and that the

the yearly concourse of pilgrims rarely passes off without an explosion of epidemic disease. Dr. Forriest suggested that if Sirungum could not be included within the municipal limits of Trichinopoly, it should be constituted an independent municipality.

2. In the report on the sickness and mortality of the Native Army of this Presidency (See No. of Madras Govt. 26 Oct. 70 Military) the liability of Sirungum to outbreaks of cholera is also noticed (see report of Deputy Inspector General Southern District).

3. The collector of Trichinopoly was called on for a report as to the inclusion of Sirungum within the municipal limits of Trichinopoly. From the letter now circulated it

it will be seen that Mr. Faddell objects to Sirungum being included in the Trichinopoly Municipality on the ground that the existing municipal area is already very extensive and that if Sirungum, so far distant, is added, no efficient supervision could be exercised. Mr. Faddell points out that the whole town, consisting of 2000 houses, is within the precincts of the outer walls of the Temple and that the people would view with aversion any interference with one of their holiest places. Mr. Faddell observes that in 1867 the Board of Revenue concurred with the collector, Mr. Agnew, in considering that Sirungum was not a place in which the introduction of Municipal action is desirable. Mr. Faddell himself, however, thinks

think that some steps should
be taken to protect the health
both of the inhabitants of
Sirungum and of the neigh-
bouring town of Trichinopoly.
by the removal of sources of
disease known to exist in
the former place. He would
advocate modified municipal
action, entrusted to a few well
selected persons, and would
include in the Sirungum
municipal limits, several of
the larger neighbouring villages.
He, at the same time, advises
the appointment of a medical
Subordinate or Health Officer
for both Trichinopoly and
Sirungum.

Mr. Ludell would limit
the taxes to be levied in Sirun-
gum to taxes on houses, carts
and carriages and perhaps to
a small toll on the Coleroon
bridge

(10)

Coleroon bridge and on the
roads leading from the ground
around.

5- He proposes, on behalf
of the wishes of the Govern-
ment, to submit more defi-
nite suggestions.

6- There seems to be
no reason why Sirungum
and the neighbouring villages
should not be constituted
a municipality. The people
are well off and it is important
to protect the large neigh-
bouring town of Trichinopoly
from danger which has its
origin in Sirungum. There
need be no more interference
with the religious feelings
there than at Chudavaram
other towns within municipal
limits where there are celebra-
ted shrines.

It is submitted that
in no other manner, than by
constituting

constituting the place of
Municipality with the object
sought for be attained. The
Trustees of the Pagoda, and
the leading inhabitants of
Srirangam will, doubtless,
be in order to ~~co-operate~~
in ^{offer to} ~~transact~~ ^{improve}
the ~~convenience~~ and general
cleanliness of the town, but
there will be no certainty of
their continuing to keep the
town clean, and, eventually,
they must have to be brought
under the Municipal law.
A public health officer
does not seem required for
Srirangam itself - and this
part of the proposal, namely
to spend 150 Rupees a month
for such an Officer for Srirangam
and Trichinopoly, may
be postponed. It is suggested
that Dr. Cadell be informed
that

that the Government con-
sider that Srirangam and
the neighbouring villages
should be constituted a
Municipality and that before
passing final orders they
await a definite and well
considered proposal for
this purpose. —

Kept under Commission of
 a person in a business capacity

(16)

Govt. of 18 } Madras.
 To _____
 Dated _____
 Recd. _____
 } 18, No. _____
 Nos. _____

Good

Start
 for making police provision
 for the Police, and and
 for the protection of the
 public health.

fully consulted in the relation
 of the Commissioners under
 the Act, and to such
 taxes only being levied
 as may be sufficient for
 the protection of life and
 property in the public health.
 4. With these remarks
 the Government will await
 the final proposals of the
 Ag. Collector of Trichinopoly
 for the definition
 of the Municipal limits
 of Srirangam, the consti-
 tution of the Municipal
 Commission, and the taxes
 to be raised. The Ag. Collector
 will explain, very fully
 and carefully, to the Trustees
 of the Pagoda and the prin-
 cipal residents of Srirangam
 the necessity that
 exists for the application
 of the Town Improvement
 Act to that town and
 the advantages that will
 result from this measure.

The Collector of Trichinopoly
 and General of Police
 Saluting Commissioner
 Board of Revenue
 Muz. Depart. " } 25/12

M

Boat of 1870 } 300 mms.

To Public

Office of the Secretary

Dated Dec. 19 } 1870, No. 1653
Recd.

Nos. 150-151.

Announcing the first
proposals of the 1870
in connection with the
application of the Bureau
of the 1870 to the Bureau
of the 1870 in the 1870
Chimney, etc.

1870-1871
1870-1871