

1. Number of pages. 12  
2. Date of repair. 26-5-  
M.R.O. 1-89,000-16-10-20.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |               |
|----------|-------|---------------|
| G.O. No. | 1595  | Press<br>Mis. |
| Dated    | 21-10 | 1918/1        |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 291

Rajahmundry 7<sup>th</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup> October 1871

From Captain C. A. Porteous

To

The Collector  
President of Municipal  
Commission Godavari dist.

Sir,

With reference to the order  
of Government desiring to know my  
reasons for resigning my appointment  
as a Municipal Commissioner for  
Rajahmundry I have the honor to state  
that before Mr. Gribble late Vice  
President of this Commission, left for  
England she was ill here for some time  
and being unable to attend the Municipal  
meetings desired me to take the  
chair and conduct the proceedings. I  
accordingly did so on several occasions.

As for back as 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1871 it  
had been resolved that a house here  
(belonging to a man named Bartley in the  
Vijayapalam District) which was in

a dangerous and unsafe state should  
be either pulled down or repaired, notices  
were served on the owner, but no attention  
was paid by him; Consequently at a  
meeting of the Commissioners held here  
on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1871, it was resolved  
that this house (known as Mr. Bartley's)  
should be repaired by the Commissioners.  
Mr. Happell, the Acting Head Assistant  
Magistrate of the District just then took  
temporary charge of the Sub Collector's  
office for a short time and joined  
the Commission as an ex-officio Commissioner.  
He entered a minute in the "Proceedings  
book" of the Commissioners declaring  
the order of the Commissioners regarding  
the above house to be illegal and putting  
in abeyance the resolution passed at  
a previous meeting; thus entirely setting  
aside the Commissioners. Such being the  
case, I considered my services in the  
Commission of not the least use, if the  
Civil Officers attached to it could not

over-ride the Commissioners. Even if the  
resolution was one with which Mr.  
Happell could not coincide, I thought  
that a reference should have been made  
to the Collector of the District and that  
it was not his place to quash the  
Municipal proceedings coming as he did  
only for a few days as an Ex-officio  
Commissioner.

Under these circumstances I  
considered it best to resign. I was  
further induced to take this step from  
the fact that the native Commissioners  
are quite a novelty and merely re-echo  
the opinion expressed by the presiding  
officer - none of them know English and  
as they have no Acts in the Vernacular  
their knowledge of the Municipality  
is extremely limited, the consequence is  
that the Vice President is really the  
person exercising all the authority and  
powers of the Commission - the Commissioners

only nominally belonging to it.

I would still prefer giving up  
my post, as my Police duties take up  
nearly all my time; but if the Government  
desire that I should remain on the  
Commission, I am prepared (as is my duty)  
to carry out their instructions in the  
matter.

I have the honor to be,

<sup>Sir</sup>  
Your most obedient servant

(Signed) Chas. A. Cortes  
Captain

(True Copy)

A. H. H. H.

By Collect or

Camp at R. P. 6

No. 22. Godavery District  
Collector's Office |  
Secunderabad  
10<sup>th</sup> October 1871

From  
H. E. Sullivan Esquire  
Collector

To  
The Honorable Mr. Ellis C.B.  
Chief Secretary to Government  
Fort St George  
Sir,

In reply to Government Order  
dated 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo No 1406, Public Deptt.,  
I have the honor to forward herewith  
copy of a letter from Captain Porteous,  
Superintendent of Police, giving his  
reasons for resigning his seat at  
the Municipal Board of Rajahmundry.

2 Not having yet had an  
opportunity of inspecting the Proceedings  
book of the Rajahmundry Commissioners,  
I am not in a position to offer an  
opinion on the merits of the case  
alluded to in the 2<sup>nd</sup> para of Captain  
Porteous' letter. Mr. Haffell had  
clearly no power to quash, as he is  
advised to have done, a resolution  
carried at a meeting of the Commissioners.

1871 Oct 14  
in a letter from the  
Collector Godavery to  
the Chief Secretary  
Government  
dated 10 Oct 1871  
Recd  
No 22.  
Copy of a letter from  
Collector Porteous

~~2222~~  
as 221 Oct 171  
as 13 Oct 110  
as 22 Oct 171

(assuming that there was a quorum)  
but at the same time I have reason  
to believe that the law has been  
rather strained by the Commissioners  
in carrying out the provisions of  
Section 119 of the Towns Improvement Act.

3. In the last para of his letter  
Captain Porteous expresses his willingness  
to remain on the Commission if the  
Government desire it - As I consider  
it on many grounds advisable that  
the Superintendent of Police should  
be a member of the Municipal Board.  
I trust the Government will permit  
him to cancel his resignation of the  
post.

I have the honor to be  
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. Macdonald

Johnston

Edw. Macdonald



Court. of 1871 Madras.

Public

To the Pres. Sec. Napier.

Dated 21

Recd

Encl

G. O. 21 Oct 1871, No. 157

Nos. 110/111.

Permitting Capt. Pteons  
to initiate his resignation  
of his office of Comd. & calling  
for information respecting  
the alleged want of indepen-  
dence in some of the members