M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2321	Press Mis.
72-73	
Dated 6 12 1869.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 72. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th November 1860, No. 5,116:—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Tirupati, 26th October 1860, No. 250.

SIR,

1. I had occasion when noticing not long ago the bad success which had attended any attempts to introduce municipal institutions into this District, to observe, that the Mahant who is Trustee of the great Pagoda at Tirupati had, at my solicitation, very handsomely placed at my disposal, the sum of Rupees 2,000 for the general improvement and drainage of this large and populous town.

2. Although the subscription list thus liberally headed did not fill, as I had been given to expect in conference with the principal inhabitants, nevertheless I determined to go to work with what I had, trusting that the public spirit which these improvements might call forth, would eventually supply the means for their completion.

3. I have now had an opportunity of personally inspecting those improvements which had just absorbed any available funds, and have been exceedingly gratified to find that both in quality and quantity of work, I have a very full tale for my money.

4. From being one of the filthiest, most closely packed, and worst drained Native towns, I ever walked through, and consequently a very seed-bed of cholera and disease, particularly during the great periodical feast, Tirupati bids fair to become a tidy, well ventilated, and healthy place.

5. But my funds, as I have stated, were almost exhausted, and the work just at that stage when to leave it as it is, would be to lose many of the advantages already secured. I have accordingly made a second appeal to the Mahant and the general community, and again has the former paid down in addition Rupees 3,000, making up the donation from the Pagoda funds, of which he is custodian, to the munificent sum of Rupees 5,000.

6. Some further contributions, amounting to about Rupees 200, have been promised; and public spirit has so far been aroused, that very many, who do not appear on the list, are yet executing at their own cost, the pavement of the drains and sewers and general improvements required in front of, and around their own private dwellings and shops.

7. Around Tirupati are numerous ruined temples and Makhâns from which an abundant supply of fine cut stone and slabs are procurable; so that I calculate upon being easily able to complete the improvements I have in view for Rupees 2,000, out of the additional Rupees 3,000 now placed at my disposal by the Mahant. The other Rupees 1,000, I have asked and obtained the Mahant's consent to hold in deposit for the purpose of building a school house, for which a numerously signed Petition was presented to me some months ago, and was transmitted with my recommendation to the Educational Department. With so liberal a contribution in hand, I cannot doubt but that Government will at once come forward with a grant-in-aid, and take early steps for providing the town with an institution, to which its wealth, population and situation, clearly entitle it.

8. But the object of this letter is not to bring to public notice, what I, through the munificence of the principal man here have been able to effect for the improvement of the place, but to solicit Government to mark, by a special order, their appreciation and approval of the public spirited, and liberal manner in which the Mahant has come forward in the interests of civilization and education.

9. It detracts in no degree, as I view the matter, from the merit of the act, that the funds are not his, but come from the treasury of the temple of which he is Trustee. As a Sanniyâsi, he can possess no worldly property of his own; but he has still by the title and precedents of his connection with the temple, as absolute a control of its exchequer, as if it had been his own private strong box; and the instances I fear are but very rare, where persons of his mode of thought and life, would have stood forth so boldly and independently in such a cause.

10. I have thought that a brief sketch of results was a necessary preamble to my present request, but my letter is fully answered, if Government will permit me to be the medium of their direct acknowledgment to the Mahant, and arrange in communication with the Director of Public Instruction for the early appropriation of the handsome sum which has been placed at his disposal for educational purposes in Tirupati.

11. I may observe in conclusion, as a reason for urging prompt action in this, as I have already done in pressing these municipal improvements, that the railroad will be open to Tirupati in about a year from this time, and will thus bring this heretofore isolated and remote corner of the District, within easy visit and supervision.

As requested by the Collector, the Board resolve to submit the above letter for the consideration of Government. A copy of the communication* referred to by Mr. Robinson in paragraph 1 of his letter, is also herewith submitted.

* *Dated 28th June, in Cons., 2nd July* 1860, *No.* 3,183.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 73. ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1860, No. 2,321.

1. The Acting Collector of North Arcot is desired to convey the approbation of the Government to the Mahant of the Pagoda at Tirupati, for the liberal spirit evinced by him in making the grant of Rupees 5,000 for the improvement of the town of Tirupati.

2. Mr. Robinson's letter will be communicated to the Public Department in view to the consideration in that Department of his proposal for the Establishment of a School at Tirupati.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Acting Secretary to Government.

IN CON., 2ND JULY 1860, No. 3,183.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of NORTH ARCOT, dated Chittoor, 28th June 1860, No. 152.

In reply to the requisition conveyed in the Board's Circular of the 8th instant, No. 2,730, I have the honor to report that all attempts to introduce a system of Municipal Government into this district have hitherto signally failed.

2. In the beginning of 1854, the experiment was made, and Act XXVI of 1860, was proclaimed to be in force in the populous town and suburbs of Vellore.

3. The place had been previously canvassed, when the proposition met with what appeared to be so favorable a reception from the influential portion of the native community, that the most successful results were anticipated.

4. Scarcely, however, had the first step been taken towards inaugurating the measure than a demonstration of so hostile and determined a character was made, that it was deemed prudent at once to suspend all further action, and eventually to cancel the proclamation.

5. No regular attempt was made to introduce the Act elsewhere, and it still continues so far as this district is concerned a dead letter. In1 859, the Government made a fresh attempt to enlist the sympathies and co-operation of the native population in the cause of municipal reform, and by way of meeting them half-way and inducing them to give it a fair trial, Government declared their willingness to contribute from the local fund a sum equal to that voluntarily subscribed for such purposes.

6. The appeal was made to dull and unwilling ears, and notwithstanding that every publicity was given, and the local influence of the European officers of Government exerted in the cause, no single town community has made even a show of closing with this most liberal offer. When I visited Wallajapet on my settlement tour, I sounded some influential people on this very subject, but found I had so little encouragement to expect that I at once abandoned my idea of putting the matter to the practical test. Tripati, from its size and importance as a place of religious resort, was I thought a promising field for renewed exertions, and my desire to give to it the benefit of municipal institutions was infinitely increased, when on visiting it during my settlement tour I found it to be one of the filthiest and worst laid out towns I had ever beheld.

7. During my stay I had numerous conferences with the principal residents. A subscription list was started and headed by the Mahaut, the Trustee of the great temple, with the liberal donation of Rupees 2,000 out of the pagoda funds, goodly promises were made, and I really began to congratulate myself on having got the small end of the wedge fairly in. No sooner, however, had I turned my back after making provision for the judicious expenditure of the Mahaut's donation, than the little temporary excitement died away, the general subscription list stood still, and every week gives fresh proof that I have nothing to hope for beyond what I have got from the public spirit and good will of the community of Tripati. With such discouraging results to look back on, it were obviously pure folly to attempt anything further at the present time, when new taxes loom so near, and the confidence and good temper of our native population are about to be so severely tested.

No. 5,116.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th November 1860.

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Tirpati, 26th October 1860, No. 250 :—

1. I had occasion when noticing not long ago the bad success which had attended any attempts to introduce municipal institutions into this District, to observe, that the Mahnut who is Trustee of the great Pagoda at Tirpati had, at my solicitation, very handsomely placed at my disposal, the sum of Rupees 2,000 for the general improvement and drainage of this large and populous Town.

2. Although the subscription list thus liberally headed did not fill, as I had been given to expect in conference with the principal inhabitants, nevertheless I determined to go to work with what I had, trusting that the public spirit which these improvements might call forth, would eventually supply the means for their completion.

3. I have now had an opportunity of personally inspecting those improvements which had just absorbed any available funds, and have been exceedingly gratified to find that both in quality and quantity of work, I have a very full tale for my money.

4. From being one of the filthiest, most closely packed, and worst drained native Towns, I ever walked through, and consequently a very seed-bed of cholera and disease, particularly during the great periodical feast, Tirpati bids fair to become a tidy, well ventilated, and healthy place.

5. But my funds, as I have stated, were almost exhausted, and the work just at that stage when to leave it as it is, would be to lose many of the advantages already secured. I have accordingly made a second appeal to the Mahant and the general community, and again has the former paid down in addition Rupees 3,000, making up the donation from the Pagoda funds, of which he is custodian, to the munificent sum of Rupees 5,000.

6. Some further contributions, amounting to about Rupees 200, have been promised; and public spirit has so far been aroused, that very many, who do not appear on the list, are yet executing at their own cost, the pavement of the drains and sewers and general improvements required in front of, and around their own private dwellings and shops.

7. Around Tirpati are numerous ruined temples and Makans from which an abundant supply of fine cut stone and slabs are procurable; so that I calculate upon being easily able to complete the improvements I have in view for Rupees 2,000, out of the additional Rupees 3,000 now placed at my disposal by the Mahaut. The other Rupees 1,000, I have asked and obtained the Mahaut's consent to hold in deposit for the purpose of building a school house, for which a numerously signed petition was presented to me some months ago, and was transmitted with my recommendation to the Educational Department. With so liberal a contribution in hand, I cannot doubt but that Government will at once come forward with a grant-in-aid, and take early steps for providing the Town with an institution, to which its wealth, population and situation, clearly entitle it.

8. But the object of this letter is not to bring to public notice, what I, through the munificence of the principal man here have been able to effect for the improvement of the place, but to solicit Government to mark, by a special order, their appreciation and approval of the public spirited, and liberal manner in which the Mahaut has come forward in the interests of civilisation and education.

9. It detracts in no degree, as I view the matter, from the merit of the act, that the funds are not his, but come from the treasury of the temple of which he is Trustee. As a Suniyasi, he can possess no worldly property of his own; but he has still by the title and precedents of his connection with the temple, as absolute a control of its exchequer, as if it had been his own private strong box; and the instances I fear are but very rare, where persons of his mode of thought and life, would have stood forth so boldly and independently in such a cause.

10. I have thought that a brief sketch of results was a necessary preamble to my present request, but my letter is fully answered, if Government will permit me to be the medium of their direct acknowledgment to the Mahaut, and arrange in communication with the Director of Public Instruction for the early appropriation of the handsome sum which has been placed at his disposal for educational purposes in Tirpati.

11. I may observe in conclusion, as a reason for urging prompt action in this, as I have already done in pressing these municipal improvements, that the railroad will be open to Tirpati in about a year from this time, and will thus bring this heretofore isolated and remote corner of the District, within easy visit and supervision.

As requested by the Collector, the Board resolve to submit the above letter for the consideration of Government. A copy of the communication* referred to by Mr. Robinson in paragraph 1 of his letter, is also herewith submitted.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

* Dated 28th June, in Cover 2nd July 1860, No. 3,183.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with spare copy of letter from North Arcot, dated 28th June 1860, No. 152.

Copy to J. D. Robinson, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

Note - There can be no doubt that the money has been devoted to a very useful purpose - The Rds difficulty lay in the circumstance of the Aff[d] Officer - as a Govt Officer - thus soliciting the Mahant - a trustee of a Pagoda - for funds on account of an object which though very laudable, might be deemed foreign to the Trust. J D S

(18)

Dec. 1860 Department No. 2651

Proc. of Govt. for Decr.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 5th Novr. 1860.

Decd. 17th

Recd 19th

Encls. 1

Fort St. Geo. 5th Dec. 1860

No. 2321

Submitting for consideration Letters from the Acting Collector of North Arcot soliciting Government to mark by a Special order their appreciation and approval of the public spirited and liberal manner in which the Mahant who is Trustee of the great Pagoda at Tripatti has come forward the enhancing the interests of Civilization and education.—

No. 2321. 6th December

W. Morris Esqr

Nos. 2321

The Acting Collector of N. Arcot is desired to convey the approbation of the Govt. to the Mahant of the Pagoda at Tripatty for the liberal spirit evinced by him in making the present of Rs. 5,000 for the improvement of the Town of Tripatti.—

Mr. Robinson's letter will be communicated to the Pub. Deptt. in review to the consideration in that Deptt. of his proposal for the Establishment of a School at Tripatti.—

Fort St. Geo. 6th Dec. 1860

J. D. L.

Nos. 2321 & 23.

2 Copies to Bd. of Revenue. Dispd.

Public Deptt. with Encls.

Cy Pol. & R. Cons.