M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2092 Press ~~Mis.~~

262-263

Dated 20 11 — ~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 262. Read the following Petition of the Hindu Inhabitants of the town of Madras and its suburbs, to His Excellency the Honorable Sir W. T. DENISON, K.C.B., Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated 13th November 1863 :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. Having learnt that the proposal of the Collector of the Madras District for the appointment of Committees under Act XX of 1863, have been submitted to your Excellency in Council by the Board of Revenue, we beg respectfully to state our objections to the appointment of a separate Committee for each Talook or Temple, and to request your Excellency in Council to appoint one Committee at the Presidency Town for all the Hindu Temples in the Madras Collectorate. If the Law allowed it we would request the appointment of one Central Committee at the Presidency Town and one District Committee in each Collectorate.

2. Your Excellency in Council is aware that almost all Davastanums have been the scenes of obstinate quarrels and dissensions, proceeding from one section of the religionists placing themselves in antagonism to another, and your Excellency will be conferring a great obligation on the whole community if in the new arrangements which are being made, you can devise a plan which will effectually put an end to the quarrels, or at least deprive the several factions of that influence which has fomented and perpetuated them hitherto, and the request which we now make will, if complied with, tend greatly to bring about this desirable result.

3. The Local Committees must chiefly and necessarily consist of the inhabitants of the Talook, and it is not likely that the selection from among them can be such as would secure an equal amount of influence for all sections. That section which chances to have in the Committee its rich or otherwise influential members will carry out their views, just or unjust, and the other members ignorant and dependent as they must be, will quietly though reluctantly submit to their proceedings.

4. The active but secret fomenters of these quarrels are generally persons employed in the Temples, and the presence of the members of the Committee at the spot will give a great facility and encouragement to them (the servants in the Temple) constantly to carry frivolous complaints and tales to individual members, and thus sow seeds of intense misunderstanding and endless confusion.

5. One of the causes of these quarrels is the offence, real or imaginary, easily taken by persons, who have any share in the superintendence of the Temple, at the least inattention shown to any of them by any of the Temple servants wilfully or otherwise. The presence of the members of the Committee at the spot frequently if not always will, while it will contribute to the constant annoyance of the Temple Trustees and their subordinates, give thousands of pretexts for serious internal dissensions.

6. When unfortunately any quarrels do happen, the presence of the members of the Committee at the spot will give each and every one of them a separate and active interest in them, and unbiassed decisions will thereby be rendered impossible.

7. Under these circumstances we respectfully request your Excellency in Council to appoint one Committee at the Presidency Town for the Hindu Temples in the entire District. The advantages of such an arrangement are self-evident. Persons can be found in the town from among several sections, who possess an equal amount of influence and standing in society, and a Committee consisting of them will be a sure guarantee for preventing the preponderating influence of any particular party. They will be removed from local influence and prejudices as also from personal grudge and malice which ought to be necessarily avoided for the well-being of the Temples, and their decisions will therefore be more respected. Another advantage is that Committees formed in the town are more likely to observe system and method in the transaction of business than Committees in the provinces.

8. In most of the reputed Temples in the District, the ceremonies are conducted mostly by the pecuniary aid of the inhabitants of Madras, and the management is in some instances directly and in others indirectly held by them, at the instance of the Wardens themselves, by reason of their conviction as to the better fitness of Madrasees for the task.

9. We beg also to add that several of us have consulted the inhabitants in the provinces on the subject, and they are decidedly in favor of a Committee at the Presidency.

10. The feasibility of the arrangement we suggest is evident, inasmuch as the proposed Committee is to be delegated only with the power which the Board of Revenue at the Presidency Town hitherto exercised over the Hindu Religious Institutions, and the members of the Committee will have the advantage of being familiar with the details of the management of the affairs of their Temples.

Your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

No. 263. ORDER THEREON, 20th November 1863, No. 2,092.

The Board of Revenue will instruct the Acting Collector to ascertain whether a Central Committee would be acceptable to the people of the District generally.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Nungumbaukum
11th November 1863.

Dear Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th Instant, I beg to send herewith a Copy of the Petition to be presented to His Excellency the Governor and to inform you that the Members of the Deputation will be present at the Government House at the fixed hour.

Your obedt servt
T. Sreenivasachary
Chairman of a Meeting of the Hindoo Inhabitants of Madras.

To J. W. Brooks Esqre
Private Secretary to His Excellency
the Governor of Fort Saint George.

notice of my Council.

Signed W. Denison.

ucc-
ber 1863

vasa Charriar.
members of the Deputation.

1

Gentlemen,

I am glad of the opportune-
-ity which this Deputation affords
me, to assure you, that I have read
your Petition with considerable in-
-terest, more especially as I am a warm
advocate of the Policy which enables
the Government to divest itself of the
management of all your Religious En-
-dowments.

I cannot at this time say,
whether I shall be able to meet your
wishes as set forth in your Petition,
But I promise you, that your Petit-
-ion shall receive the fullest consider-
-tion, and with this view I will take
an early opportunity to bring it to the
notice of my Council.

Signed W. Denison.

Govt. House.
13th November 1863.

To
J. Sreeniwasa Charriar.
& other members of the Deputation.

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to any of them by any of the Temple servants
wilfully or otherwise. The presence of the members
of the Committee at the spot frequently if not
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do happen, the presence of the members of the Com-
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of them a separate and active interest in them
and unbiassed decisions will thereby be rendered
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one Committee at the Presidency Town for the Hindoo
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Your Petitioners as in duty bound
Shall ever pray

S. Sreenivasachary
Chairman.

To
J. W. Brooks Esqr
Private Secretary to
His Excellency the Govn.
Fort St. Georg.

Sir.

I request that the accompanying three sheets of papers containing the Separation of my countrymen to the petition presented yesterday to His Excellency, may be ordered to be appended to it.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt

T. Sreenivasachary
Chairman of the
late Hindoo Meeting

Nagumbakam
the 12th Nov 1863.

No. 24

The Board of Re-
will instruct the
Asst. Collector to ascer-
tain whether the
Central Committee
would be acceptable
to the people of the
District generally

Rev = 1863 Dept.
Rec: of Govt Proceedings
No. 2750

From
Hindu Inhabitants of the
Town of Madras

Dated 13th November
Received 1863,
Ans. 12 Jany 64
No. 103
No 2092 - 20th Nov 63

With an order
Objecting to the appointment of the
Central Committee
in each Talook on
the principle as proposed
by the Collector of
Madras