M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1042 Press ~~Mis.~~

214-215

Dated 16. 6. ~~19~~18.24

Not to be folded or roughly handled

G.O. No. 1042 : 16-6-1864

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 16th June 1864.

No. 214. Read the following letter from W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 7th April 1864, No. 2,059 :—

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit for the consideration of Government the accompanying Draft Rules for the conduct of elections of Managing Committees for Temples under Sections 8 and 10, Act XX of 1863.

A file of the replies received from the Collectors on the subject accompanies.

2. The above quoted Sections provide that the first Committees to be appointed under the Act *may* be elected, and that all future vacancies in such Committees *shall* be supplied by election, or in default by the Courts.

The electors are to be those persons "who are interested in the maintenance" of the Mosques, Temples, or other Religious Establishments, for the management of which such Committee shall have been appointed.

The Committees are to exercise the powers of the Board of Revenue in connection with Religious Establishments under Regulation VII of 1817, except in the case of such Establishments as at the time of the passing of the Act were under the management of Trustees, &c., whose nomination was not vested in, or exercised by, or subject to the confirmation of the Government or any public Officer.

3. The Board believe that the powers vested in them by the above Regulation have been actually exercised in the cases of comparatively few of the innumerable temples in the country. The petty village temples were from their insignificance left without interference. The most important Temples have generally been placed on a footing which made them independent of the Board's action.

The result is that the Committees to be constituted under Act XX of 1863 will probably have a more limited sphere of action than at first sight may appear, and the interest of the general community in their working will be less vitally intimate than the letter of the Act would imply.

4. The Board are glad to think that this is the case ; for were it otherwise, they would apprehend almost insurmountable difficulty in the way of successfully working the Act with a moderate number of Committees, in consequence of the impossibility of obtaining a really true and full expression of the wishes of the enormous body of individuals who would be most deeply interested in the matter, if *all* who are interested in *all* the Pagodas under each Committee were expected to vote on each occasion of a vacancy, and if the Committees had power of interference with every Pagoda in the country. But as it is, the Board believe that the plan sketched in the accompanying Draft Rules will probably work smoothly and effectively.

5. The idea is derived from a suggestion made by Mr. J. D. Robinson, the Collector of North Arcot, but differs considerably in detail from his plan.

6. The draft Rules provide that for each Managing Committee, whether it be a Caste Committee or a Talook or Circle or District Committee, there shall be provided an Electoral Committee on which shall devolve the duty of supplying by election fit persons to fill vacancies in that Managing Committee with which the Electoral Committee may be connected.

7. The Electoral Committee is to be a standing body, composed of representatives from each village or group of smaller villages, who are to be elected by the main body of those village residents who, from caste, sect, or persuasion, may be directly interested in the institutions for the management of which the particular Managing Committee concerned may be, or have been appointed.

8. The result will be that for instance in the case of a Talook Managing Committee for the Hindu Temples in a Talook consisting of 180 villages, it would be necessary at the most to obtain the votes of 180 village representatives in order to provide a proper person to supply any vacancy that might occur in the Managing Committee, while under the widest interpretation of the Act it might be deemed proper to allow every Hindu in the Talook to record a vote. It is

unnecessary for the Board to enlarge on the utter hopelessness of ever obtaining a satisfactory result by the last method.

9. The Board consider that the letter of the law is not opposed to their plan as sketched in the Rules, and that its spirit is more likely to be so fulfilled than by any more general method of direct election to the Managing Committees.

10. The plan is more exactly fitted for the cases contemplated by Section 10, Act XX of 1863, viz., the supply of vacancies in Committees already existing; but it can be easily adapted to the case of first elections under Section 8, if the Government will previously decide how many Managing Committees there shall be in any District, that is whether there shall be Talook or Circle, or District Committees, or whether there shall be a separate Committee for each caste in a Talook, or for the several sects of each persuasion.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1864, No. 1,042.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Board submit with this letter Draft Rules for the election of Temple Committees under Act XX of 1863. The chief feature of their plan is for the voters to elect a body of representatives who are, on behalf of the general community, to elect Members of the Committees.

2. The Government are of opinion that this system of double election is open to objection and that it will be better for the parties interested in Religious Institutions to elect the Committees directly in place of electing an electing body. In order to save time the Government have prepared a sketch of the kind of rules which they think would be suitable. The Board will circulate these to the Collectors, and submit, as soon as possible, the Collectors' replies and their own opinion and suggestions.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR, No. LIV.

Board No. 3,977.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st July 1863.

Read the following:—

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Dated 24th June 1863, No. 1,121.

1. Resolved that the Board of Revenue be instructed to adopt measures, without delay, for giving effect to Act XX of 1863.

2. The Board will call upon the Collectors to propose Committees for Institutions coming within the scope of Section 3 of the Act. It will need consideration whether, in any case, a single Committee for each persuasion in a District will be expedient as well as acceptable to the people. The Government are inclined to think that it will be preferable to have several Committees in each District, so as to ensure local supervision. Residents in the neighbourhood of a Pagoda or Mosque are more likely, than a distant body, to watch over its interests, to become aware of irregularities, and to be amenable to public opinion.

3. Recourse to election will, the Government presume, be rarely requisite at the outset, and looking at the suddenness of the change, the excitement and party-contention which the measure would evoke, election should only be resorted to when really necessary. Collectors will seldom be at a loss to name individuals of such position, character, and estimation in Native society, as will render them acceptable to the community.

4. The Board, however, will frame rules for such elections in case they should be necessary, as well as for the appointment of new members, on the occurrence of vacancies.

(True Extract.)

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

1. Communicated to all Collectors, who will lose no time in submitting their proposals for the first Committees to be appointed under Sections 3 and 7, Act XX of 1863, bearing in mind the Government suggestion as to the expediency of having more than one Committee for a District.

2. They will observe that the appointment is for life, unless removed by an order of Court; that no Committee man can be appointed Trustee, Manager, or Superintendent, of any Temple under the management of the Committee of which he is a member; and that no Officer of Government *in his official character* can lawfully have any concern with the administration of any Temple.

3. This last proviso will not preclude the appointment of native servants of Government in their individual capacity to be members of Committee when nominated or elected, but it is the desire of Government that when it is proposed to nominate the first Committee *without election*, Government Servants holding influential situations should not be appointed, unless their appointment is unmistakeably and spontaneously desired by the community, or that they should only be appointed to Committees consisting of more than three members, so that the influence they may derive from their official position may not be predominant.

4. The Collectors will also submit their opinion as to the rules for elections required to be framed by Sections 8 and 10 of the Act.

5. The Board particularly request early attention to this matter.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. SCHARLIEB,
First Assistant.

To All Collectors

Exd. J. Wright.

To All Collectors.

Dated 1st July 1863.

Received

Board No. 3,977.

Requesting that no time be lost in submitting proposals for the first Committees to be appointed under Act XX of 1863, with certain other information.

From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th September 1863, No. 200.

1. With reference to Miscellaneous Circular No. LIV, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 3,977, dated the 1st July, I have the honor to report on the appointment of Committees for institutions coming within the scope of Section 3, Act XX of 1863.

2. I learn the general wish of the people to be that there should be Local Committees for the management of the different institutions, in preference to one or more Central Committees, and have accordingly shaped my proposals, and believe the persons chosen by me will be acceptable to the community in general.

3. Committees have to be appointed for 43 Hindoo Temples and one Mohamedan Mosque. The Hindoo temples are divided into those dedicated to Siva and to Vishnoo. I have selected persons of the Siva sect for the Siva Pagodas, and persons of the Vishnoo sect for the Vishnoo Pagodas.

4. There does not seem to be any rivalry or animosity between the two sects of Vishnoo and Siva and there does not seem to be any objection to a mixed Committee, but I have not nominated any such, as I am under the impression, the intention was that the members of the Committee should be of the sect or religion to which the institution is devoted.

5. Annexed is a List showing the names of the different institutions, and the persons proposed to be appointed on the Committees.

6. With regard to the framing of rules for the filling up of vacancies in the Committees, I have not been able to obtain any assistance from the communities interested; they do not seem to desire a voice in the matter, and it is doubtful, if the generality of them would exercise any power given them for selecting Committee men. I beg therefore to propose, which meets also with the approval of the respectable portion of the people, the following rules:—

Rule 1.—Each Pagoda should have a certain territorial limit assigned to it of one or more villages, and only pure caste Hindoos residing within those limits should have the right of voting for the appointment of Committee men for that Pagoda.

Rule 2.—To qualify for a vote the voter must be the owner of a Puttah paying 10 Rupees and upwards per annum to Government, or in the event of not being a Puttahdar, must be possessed of a house and ground of the value of 100 Rupees, must be 18 years of age, and of the religion to which the Pagoda is dedicated, and must be resident of the territorial limit assigned to the Pagoda.

Rule 3.—The Curnum and Nattamagar of the village or villages attached to the Pagoda shall furnish the Committee with a list of qualified voters, and shall deliver to each voter a ticket showing the recipient's right to vote; the recipient shall give the Curnum a fee of 2 Annas for his trouble. If the Committee have any objection to the list of voters they may have it scrutinized by the Collector.

Rule 4.—For the filling a vacancy in the Committee, the existing members shall call a meeting for the purpose of taking votes, giving 48 hours' notice, and the votes should be taken between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4 P. M. Candidates for filling a vacancy must have their names put forward before 10 A. M., the day of the election, or they cannot be elected at that meeting.

Rule 5.—On the day of the election the Committee may call upon the Superintendent of Police to provide the means of keeping order, but the Police are not to interfere in any way with the election or mode of taking votes.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—List of different religious institutions and the persons proposed to be appointed on the Committees.

Exd. J. Wright.

From the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C. B., Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 25th September 1863, No. 391.

Miscellaneous Circular No. LIV.

1. I have the honor with reference to the Board's Proceeding dated 1st July 1863, No. 3,977, to submit lists of those persons who are best qualified to become members of the Committees for the management of religious endowments, described in Sections 3 and 7 of Act XX of 1863.

2. I have, as regards the Taluks of Poneri, Trivellore, and Sydapet, done my best to ascertain the wishes of the more intelligent natives resident in these Taluks in respect of the persons to be nominated, and the Sub-Collector, Mr. Banbury, has done the same for the Taluks under his charge, Conjeveram, Madrantakum, and Chingleput.

3. As regards the religious endowments within the limits of the Town of Madras, I have had the advantage of the experience of the Deputy Collector Rungasawmy Iyengar, and of some of the most intelligent native gentlemen, both those in the service of Government, and those who are otherwise occupied.

4. I believe, therefore, the lists both for the Taluks and the Presidency Town will fairly represent the selection, which will meet with general approval throughout the District.

5. There is only one name which appears to call for special notice. It is that of Kistna Row (*vide* Conjeveram Committee) who was in 1861 dismissed from the service of Government, he being at that time Tahsildar of Chingleput. He is now engaged in trade, and is also a landholder. He is much respected by the people in Conjeveram, and as his nomination will be popular, I have not considered that his dismissal from the service of Government should be a bar to his selection. I have, however, thought it proper to bring these circumstances to the notice of the Board of Revenue.

6. While making the selection of persons to be appointed as members of these Committees, I endeavoured, as far as was possible, to ascertain the feelings of the natives regarding the election contemplated in Section 10 of Act XX of 1863.

7. The first impression, which seemed to be produced by my explanation of this provision, was disinclination to exercise the electoral rights, which it is proposed by the Act to confer on those most interested in the good management of the native religious institutions of the country, and there was great unanimity in the opinion that the selection of the members of the Committee should remain with the Collector, as being a disinterested party. Repeated conversations on the subject with the more intelligent natives familiarized them with the idea of election, and I have no doubt that they will not, on an occasion occurring, be found unwilling to exercise the right of election, if conferred upon them. They unanimously expressed an opinion against open voting as likely to lead to quarrels among themselves.

8. The next question, which was anxiously debated was as to the electoral franchise. This they fixed much higher than I should myself have proposed, but they gave sensible reasons for their opinion; saying that it would be inconvenient at the commencement of the experiment that the body of electors should be very numerous, and that the lower classes would feel satisfied that their wishes would be fairly represented, if the right of voting were confined to the wealthier and more educated class. Many who were present belonging to the lower classes supported this opinion.

9. The proposal made was that the right of voting should be confined to Puttahdars paying 500 Rupees and upwards per annum to Government, or in the case of persons not holding land to house-holders, of whom the household property was valued at 1,000 Rupees.

10. As I have above stated, I consider that this franchise is too high and would exclude from the right of voting parties well qualified to select persons to be entrusted with the general supervision of the religious endowments of the country.

11. I should be myself disposed to fix the electoral franchise lower, by giving the right of voting in the Taluks to all Puttahdars or other land holders of any Taluk paying more than 100 Rupees per annum to Government, or persons having household property in any Taluk worth 500

Rupees. In the Town of Madras, I would give the right of voting to all persons possessing house property, valued at 2,000 Rupees, or paying Income tax to Government, and therefore possessing incomes of not less than 500 Rupees per annum.

12. It will be observed that in two Taluks, Trivellore and Conjeveram, and in the Town of Madras, there are two Hindoo Committees for each Taluk, and two for the Town of Madras The reason of this arrangement is that the Sutwaid division of the Trivellore Taluk is, from having for many years been attached to the North Arcot District, separated in its interests to a considerable degree from the rest of the Taluk. It was considered desirable to have two separate Committees in Conjeveram, where sectarian spirit is high, and therefore separate provision has been made for the Vadakalai and Tenkalai sects.

13. For the same reason in Madras, I have been advised to make separate arrangements for the Vishnoovite and Sivite Pagodas.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Lists of persons who are qualified to become members of the Committee of the religious endowments.

Exd. J. Wright.

From G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 27th October 1863, No. 204.

1. With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LIV, Board No. 3,977, dated 1st July 1863, I have the honor to forward herewith a list of the first Committees which I propose should be appointed in this District under Sections 3 and 7, Act XX of 1863.

2. The list may appear at first sight very large, but after much consideration and consultation with persons well acquainted with Canara, I do not feel myself justified in recommending a smaller number.

3. There are, I find, two special peculiarities in South Canara, first, that the members of one caste and religion as a rule keep perfectly aloof from that of all others and never in any way interfere with their religious observances or establishments; and secondly, that the inhabitants of one Taluk live in that Taluk and very seldom leave it except when compelled to do so by urgent business.

4. The first peculiarity renders it absolutely necessary that each separate caste should have a separate Committee, whilst the second shows that one District Committee for each separate caste would not work well.

5. At first I was of opinion that two Committees for each Taluk, one composed of Hindoos and the other of Musselmen, might answer the end in view; but when I was shown how very difficult the election of new members would be, and how little the interests of the lower and poorer sects would be consulted by such Committees, I came to the conclusion that the plan would cause universal dissatisfaction, and accordingly gave it up.

6. Again if the members of a Committee are to satisfactorily perform the duties which will appertain to their office under the Act in question, they will have at all events to meet and consult together frequently, and this I have no hesitation in saying will not and cannot be done in this District if persons living in different Taluks at a distance from each other are members of one and the same Committee.

7. For the foregoing reasons therefore, I propose that there should be a Taluk Committee consisting of three persons for each separate caste, in each of the five Taluks of this District, and I forward herewith the names of the persons who should form the first members of these Committees.

8. The persons in question have been very carefully chosen by the Tahsildars after ascertaining, as far as possible, the wishes of those interested in their election, and I beg to recommend that they may be appointed.

9. The Moplas and Billawars of Mangalore are the only two castes who have objected to any of the persons nominated by the Tahsildar of that Taluk, and in each of these cases, after sending for the Petitioners as well as others of the same persuasion, and hearing all they had to say, I have come to the conclusion that the Tahsildar's choice is unobjectionable, and under all the circumstances the most likely to meet the wishes of the majority.

10. With reference to the rules for elections, as required by Section 10, I am of opinion that with the exception of the sects specified in the next paragraph, who as a general rule do not possess much landed property, the fact of either paying Income tax, or Government revenue annually amounting to 50 Rupees, should entitle the payer to a vote for the election of a new member when a vacancy occurs among the members of the Committee of his caste: the vote should also be taken in writing, so as to prevent disputes and fraud as much as possible.

Billawar.
Moger.
Jadara.
Aksale.
Jogi.
Balegar.

11. The castes as per margin, possess but little landed property, and none pay Income tax, but they have certain Headmen or Moktessors over them in each village where they reside; these headmen are persons of respectability and influence, and quite distinct from the Pagoda Moktessors. I would therefore propose that each of them should be entitled to a vote, and that the election of a new member of a Committee should rest with them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—List of members of first Committees proposed to be appointed in the District of South Canara under Act XX of 1863.

Exd. J. Wright.

From M. J. WALHOUSE, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st October 1863, No. 210:—

1. As directed in Miscellaneous Circular, No. LIV, I have the honor to submit Lists of the Committees proposed by me for the superintendence of Mosques and Hindoo Temples in this District, as provided by Act XX of 1863.

2. For the Hindu Temples Committees of five members each have been named for each of the five Taluks, except in Oodiarpalliam, where the Temples being small and unimportant, and some difficulty existing in obtaining members fit and willing to serve, a Committee of three persons has been thought sufficient.

3. For the supervision of Mosques a Committee of five has been named for the two Taluks of Trichinopoly and Perambalur: in the latter Taluk the Mosques and property are very unimportant, and qualified persons few; Kulitalay and Moosery are adjacent Taluks, extending opposite one another on each side of the Cavery; in Moosery there are only three very minor Mosques, a Committee of three has been therefore named for the two Taluks. A Committee of the same number has also been thought sufficient for Oodiarpulliam. The Committees both Hindoo and Musalmen have been chosen after due inquiry and ascertaining, as far as possible, the wishes of the respective Committees.

4. With respect to Section 8 of the Act I am of opinion that elections of first Committees would be inexpedient; the provisions of Section 10 appear to me salutary, but I would suggest that, when in the last resort, a member has to be appointed by the Civil Court, that the Collector's opinion on the member proposed should be sought, as he may have other, possibly better, means of forming a judgment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Memorandum showing the Hindu religious institutions and members of the Committee proposed as per Act XX of 1863.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Memorandum showing the Mahomedan religious institutions and members of the Committee as per Act XX of 1863.

Exd. J. Wright.

From J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th November 1863, No. 188 :—

1. In accordance with paragraph 1 of your Miscellaneous Circular No. LIV, Board No. 3,977, dated 1st July last, I have the honor to submit a list of persons proposed as members of Committees to be appointed under Sections 3 and 7 Act XX of 1863.

2. I have proposed a separate Committee for Hindoo and Mahomedan endowments in each Taluk of the District, though in same cases, as in that of the Cazy Taher Sahib, the same individual will be found on the Committees of two or more Taluks.

3. Pains have been taken to select the best men available for these original Committees, and in each case the willingness to serve on them of each individual has been ascertained before entering his name on the lists.

4. On the subject of election of future members of these Committees, I have consulted with the Head Assistant and all the Deputy Collectors in the District, who concur with me in thinking that such election in case of vacancies can be carried out with facility and advantage.

5. From the suggestions made by these different Officers I have gathered the following scheme for such elections, which I beg to submit for the Board's consideration.

6. In case of a vacancy in any of these Committees, the same to be notified by the Collector in the District Gazette, with a request that candidates for the post will send in their applications by a certain date.

7. The only necessary qualification for a candidate should be residence in the District, and that he belongs to the religion, the endowment of which he is to superintend.

8. All other qualifications may be safely left to the electors, for whom it appears more necessary to define the necessary qualifications with care.

9. There should be,

First.—A profession of the religion for which the institution is mantained.

Second.—Residence in the Taluk where the vacancy occurs.

Third.—Belonging to one of the following classes.

A Ryot paying Rupees 50 or more land assessment, or a person who paid Income tax in the Official year 1862-63, or one who draws Rupees 20 or more as monthly pay from Government, or any individual or company, or a Mathathipaty, Acharya, Shastree, Pundaram, Cazy, Moolla, Mashayek, or Peerjada.

10. The election should be carried out under the personal superintendence of the Collector or other independent Revenue Officer in charge of the Taluk, on some specified day, within its limits.

11. Notice of the date and place of election should be published in the District Gazette, with a list of the candidates for the Office.

12. On the day fixed for the election, every duly qualified voter should place in the ballot box the name of the candidate selected by him, written on the voting paper supplied to him by the Officer presiding at the election.

13. Objections as to the due qualification of voters, to be heard and decided by the Officer presiding at the election.

14. The name of the successful candidate to be published in the succeeding issue of the District Gazette, but the appointment by Government to be deferred for three months, to admit of Petitions against the election being inquired into by the local authorities, and a decision to be arrived at by Government on their report.

15. Section 10 of the Act requires that the Civil Court shall appoint a person to fill up a vacancy, if not filled up by election within three months of its occurrence. This might appear to designate the Civil Court as the fit authority for carrying out the elections, but as the Government have decided on the advisability of naming several Committees in each District, and as all the Officers I have consulted think that one should be appointed for each Taluk, the election for such Committees could not well be conducted at the Civil Court, at a distance from the residence of the electors.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—List of persons eligible as members of Committees mentioned in Sections 3 and 7 Act XX of 1863.

Exd. J. Wright.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Hospett, 1st December 1863, No. 170.

1. With reference to Miscellaneous Circular of the Board of Revenue, No. LIV, Board No. 3,977, dated 1st July 1863, I have the honor to state that the list of persons to be recommended as Members of Committees, for the management of Native religious establishments, is under preparation, and will be forwarded at an early date.

2. As regards the mode of election under Section 8 of the Act XX of 1863, I consider the most practicable method would be for the Tahsildars to inquire and report the names of those persons (not being trustees) of influence in the neighbourhood who are held in respect by the community, and publish the same both in the District Gazette, and locally in the Taluk, giving an interval for any one to express his dissent by stated reasons, which would be considered by the Collector.

3. There is no special and habitual congregation to whom the free election of a Committee could be delegated; but in Hindu temples the worshippers come from distances, and abide temporarily; a general election would not be feasible under such circumstances. Now the Committee must, in order to exercise proper supervision, be local residents, and the Tahsildar is likely to ascertain the wishes of the people, and to report on the characters of the nominees in the first instance. Were everything left at first without the supervision of Government, the trustees would have the election in their own hands, and by their local influence would effect the proposal of nominees, who would not call them to a strict account for their intromissions.

4. With regard to endowments for Mahomedan worship, although their revenues are comparatively small, the Tahsildars might similarly report the names of those possessing public confidence, and willing to accept the duty of Committee men; and after the first Committees were appointed, after objections were heard and disposed of, all future vacancies might be left to the people themselves to fill up, without any interference or help from Government, for then, of course, it would be absurd for us to bolster up alien religions by our official aid and interference.

5. As regards the question of more than one Committee for the District, I have the honor to recommend that when a number of Pagodas are situated in adjacent Taluks, there should be a Committee for each circle.

6. The instructions of the Board, that when Government servants are nominated on Committees, their official influence shall be counter-balanced by an adequate number of members, will be duly attended to.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From M. J. WALHOUSE, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 5th December 1863, No. 228 :—

1. The Board, in their Proceedings of the 12th ultimo, No. 7,203, having signified that they await my proposals regarding the rules to be drawn up for the conduct of elections to vacancies in Committees appointed under Act XX of 1863, I have the honor to submit the following.

2. Section 10 of the Act appears to contemplate all persons interested in the maintenance of Mosques, Temples, or religious Establishments having a voice in the election of new members, therefore every Hindu or Musselman, as the case might be, would have an interest and vote in electing a member of the Committee, which regulated the administration of each temple or Mosque (so including that attended by him) within the Taluk or District where he resided; so widely extended a vote would, however, be quite unsuitable and impracticable. Supposing, therefore, that the election should be carried out by votes, I think the right of voting should be restricted to certain classes.

3. A property-qualification seems to me the most intelligible and practical, and looking at the present state of Native Society, I should have been inclined to place it high; but considering that, in a matter of such general interest, the popular voice should as far as expedient be admitted, and that one qualification should be applicable to all Districts, poor as well as rich, whereas some poor Taluks cannot count a hundred voters qualified as I propose, I would rule that every adult person paying by himself singly a Kist, Peshcush, or Jodi of a certain amount and upwards, shall be allowed a vote. Any one possessing the requisite amount of property, within the range of more than one Committee, should have a vote in the elections of each Committee. Lists of qualified persons could be furnished to the Committees by the Collector, and be kept for inspection at the Taluk Cutcherries, and corrected when necessary at each Jamabundy.

4. I think that the following classes of those professing the religions concerned may be considered qualified to vote on elections to fill vacancies in Committees :—

I. Persons paying singly Rupees 100 and upwards in Kist, or Rupees 25 and upwards in Peshcush, Jodi, or Shrotriem.

II. All payers of Income tax.

III. Inamdars who receive singly Rupees 100 income.

IV. Trustees, Managers, and Superintendents of religious Establishments, such as are mentioned in the Act.

V. Assessors of a Sessions Court.

VI. Pensioned servants of Government, who had attained the rank of a Tahsildar, District Munsiff, Subahdar in the Army, or superior grades.

VII. All who have received the Degrees of B. A. or M. A. at any University.

5. Assessors, pensioners, and holders of University Degrees to have votes irrespective of property-qualifications, but only for the Committees within whose jurisdiction they reside, and if possessed of property-qualifications not to have another vote on that account. Trustees, Managers, and Superintendents to have votes only for the Committees within whose jurisdiction the religious establishments under them are situated, and each to have but one vote, although Trustee, &c. for more than one establishment, unless the other establishment be within the range of another Committee; no one, how much or whatsoever his property, should have more than one vote for one and the same Committee. Though the Board consider that servants of Government may be nominated as members, I think the vote should be withheld from them.

6. The principle and manner of conducting elections are very strange to natives, and not easily comprehended by them, hence it would be convenient to prescribe some mode. I would therefore suggest that on a vacancy occurring in a Committee, the remaining members should give public notice, and receive the names of candidates; for an election not limited to candidates previously notified would, I think, end in confusion, and I suppose there could be no idea of the whole body of voters meeting, and proceeding to name and elect a member on the moment. The number of candidates may perhaps be at first excessive, but the inconve-

nience would be cured by experience ; no one not qualified to vote should be admitted as a candidate. The names of candidates might be received for two months, or other fixed term, after which no more should be received. The names registered might be published weekly in the District Gazette, and pasted on the principal temples ; a day of election in the third month should have been previously fixed and notified.

7. The elections should ordinarily be held in the principal Temple, Mosque, or public building not belonging to Government in the principal town of the division, and in the portion thereof most public, open, and accessible to all concerned. The aid of the Police might be given to keep order, and the election should commence not later than 2 P. M, and not be prolonged after sunset ; it should be conducted under the superintendence of at least two of the Committee, who should occupy a conspicuous position. Members of the Committee should not have a vote.

8. Votes might be given either personally or by writing. It would be convenient if the eldest member of the Committee should, on an election, be denominated President, and written votes be addressed to him in sealed covers. Each candidate's name should be written on a separate paper; every voter who appeared in person should declare audibly before the Committee the name of the candidate for whom he voted, and write his name on the paper bearing that candidate's name, or affix his mark to his name after it had been taken down. Other safe-guards for due regis'ry might be devised. Sealed votes should be opened by the President publicly before the Committee, their contents read out aloud, and the name of the sender entered at once on the list of the candidate for whom he voted. Votes for others than the candidates previously notified should not be received. The Committee, after all the votes have been received, should verify and sign the lists, and the candidate who obtained the majority of votes be declared elected. They should also be bound to retain the lists for six months after, during which they should be open to the inspection of any qualified voter. They should also furnish a Return showing the number of candidates, and the number of votes recorded for each, for publication in the District Gazette.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

RULES *to provide for supplying vacancies in Managing Committees appointed under Act XX of* 1863.

1. Within the range of every Managing Committee there shall be constituted in manner following an electoral body to represent the resident members of the caste, class, or persuasion (as the case may be) interested in the particular Temples, Mosques, or other Religious Establishments under the management of such Committee, and to supply by election vacancies in the said Managing Committee.

2. Every village shall be represented in each such electoral body by one or more persons as hereinafter provided, to be elected by the villagers of the caste, class, or persuasion concerned, in the following manner; Provided that the Collector shall once for all, form groups of smaller villages to be similarly represented by one or more persons for each group, in such manner that no constituency shall be composed of fewer than 50 Voters; Which grouping shall be open to revision from time to time by the Civil Courts, on the application by Petition of not less than ten persons qualified as voters in such group.

3. Every villager of the caste, class, or persuasion concerned, who is of the age of not less than 20 years, shall be entitled to a vote in the election of the village representative in the electoral body concerned, provided such villager possesses one of the following qualifications.

Persons qualified to vote for election of village representatives:—

a. Holders of Puttahs for land in the village or group, assessed to the annual amount of not less than Rupees 10.

b. Holders of Inam lands, similarly situated and representing an assessment value of not less than Rupees 10 per annum.

c. Owners of House property, similarly situated, of the estimated value of not less than Rupees 100.

d. Occupiers of Houses, similarly situated, and of the annual rent value of not less than Rupees 10.

e. Graduates of the University, resident in such village for not less than six months previous to the election.

4. It shall be the duty of the Curnum of every village to open and maintain a separate Register for each caste, class, or persuasion for which separate Managing Committees may have been appointed in the District or Division, and to record therein the names, ages, and qualifications of every resident qualified to vote at the election of the village representative for such caste, class, or persuasion.

(See Appendix A.)

The number of representatives for each Constituency shall be determined as follows:—

Constituencies numbering				Representative.
100 Voters and under.....				1
Above 100	and not exceeding	250	.....	2
250	do.	500	.....	3
500	do.	1,000	.....	4

and an additional representative for every additional 500 voters on the Register above 1,000.

5. Whenever a vacancy may occur in the representation of any village, the Head of the Village and Curnum shall jointly notify the fact by written notice in the village choultry, and by beat of drum; and shall in the same notice call upon all concerned to record their votes for a successor within a period of 30 days from the date of such notice.

6. The Head of the Village, and the Kurnum shall on the same date open a Register of votes (Appendix B) in which they shall record all votes tendered to them by properly qualified voters within the period of 30 days named in the notice; on the expiration of which period the registration shall be closed and certified by the signatures of the Head of the Village and Kurnum, the votes shall be forthwith scrutinized by a Punchayet to be nominated by the Village Munsiff, and the result of the election shall be declared within 24 hours and reported to the Managing Committee concerned, to whom a copy of the Register of votes shall at the same time be forwarded.

The original register of votes shall remain with the Kurnum as part of the Village records.

7. When the election is for a group of villages the several vote Registers shall be scrutinized

at one and the same place and time by a Committee composed of the Heads of the several Villages and the several Kurnums, and the result shall be similarly declared and reported.

8. The results of village elections shall be forthwith posted in the Village Choultry, and remain so posted for one week's time (Appendix C), and shall also be published in the District Gazette.

9. The Managing Committee concerned shall open and maintain a nominal Register of the village representatives duly appointed to constitute the Electoral Committee for the caste, class, or persuasion concerned as the case may be (Appendix D), copy of which Register shall be annually published in the District Gazette.

10. Representatives so elected shall retain the representation for five years, at the expiration of which time the constituency shall be at liberty to elect a fresh representative; but the former representative shall continue to act until replaced. Provided always that the Civil Courts may remove a representative for good cause shown, on the Petition of any 10 duly qualified members of the constituency concerned.

11. The Electoral Committees so constituted shall elect properly qualified persons to fill vacancies in the Managing Committees with which they may be connected. They shall also elect one of their number to be President of their body, for the purposes indicated in Rule 14, Section 7.

12. When a vacancy occurs in a Managing Committee the remaining members of the Committee shall notify the fact as provided in Section 10, Act XX of 1863, and the Electoral Committee shall within three months elect a new Managing Committeeman to supply the vacancy; in default of which the Courts will be at liberty to take steps for supplying the vacancy as provided in the Act.

13. The election by the Electoral Committee shall be conducted in the following manner:—

Appendix E. *First.*—The notice of the Managing Committee shall fix a place at which the election shall be held, which place shall be either a Taluk Kusbah within the Committees range, or some other principal town, or the principal temple of the caste, &c., so situated.

Second.—The Managing Committee's notice shall further name the day and hour at which the registration of votes shall commence, and the number of days, not less than three or more than six, during which it shall continue.

Third.—The notice so drawn up shall be published in not less than two issues of the District Gazette prior to the date named for the election, and shall also be communicated by the Managing Committee direct to the members of the Electoral Committee.

Appendix F. *Fourth.*—Two trustworthy and competent persons shall be nominated by vote of the Electoral Committee as Tellers to register the votes of the electors in writing, and to certify at the foot of the Register the result of the election under their own signatures. The Nominal register of the Electoral Committee concerned shall be temporarily entrusted by the Managing Committee to such Tellers for their guidance.

Fifth.—Each vote as recorded shall be attested by the signature or mark of the voter, in the proper column of the Register.

Sixth.—The result of the election shall be declared by the Tellers immediately on its

Appendix G. close, and shall be published in the District Gazette at the expiration of one fortnight from its close, for which period the Register of votes shall remain open for inspection by all concerned in charge of the Managing Committee.

Seventh.—The nominee who may receive the largest number of votes shall be declared duly elected, and shall be a properly constituted Member of the Managing Committee concerned. In the event of two or more Nominees receiving the same number of votes, the President of the Electoral Committe shall have a casting vote to determine the selection.

Eighth.—The Register of votes recorded shall after the publication of the result be deposited by the tellers with the Managing Committee for record and safe custody.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

APPENDICES.

A.

Village register of persons qualified to vote for the village representative of the ——— (*caste sect, or religion*) for the ——— village ——— Taluk.

No.	Name.		Age.	Qualification.
	House name.	Individual name.		

B,

Register of votes recorded in (*month and year*) for the representation of the ——— (*caste, &c.,*) in the village of

No. and date of vote.	Name of voter and number in voter's Register (*Appendix A.*)			Name of person in whose favor vote is recorded.		Signature or attested mark of Voter.
	Register number.	House name.	Individual name.	House name.	Individual name.	

(Signed) ——— Head of village.
(„) ——— Kurnum.

C.

Notice is hereby given that——— of ——— village ——— Taluk has been duly elected to represent the ——— (*caste, class, &c.,*) residing in ——— village ——— Taluk in the Electoral Committee for supplying vacancies in the ——— (*caste, &c.,*) Managing Committee appointed under Act XX of 1863 for the ———(*Taluk or Circle*).

(Signed) ——— Head of village.
(„) ——— Kurnum.

D.

Register of the Electoral Committee appointed as village representatives to supply vacancies in the Managing Committee for the ——— (*caste, &c.,*) in the ——— (*Taluk, &c.*)

Number.	Name.		Name of village so represented.	Date of appointment.
	House name.	Individual name.		

E

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that a vacancy has occurred in the Managing Committee appointed under Act XX of 1863 for the ——— (*caste &c.*) in the ——— (*Taluk, &c.*) by the (*death resignation or removal*) of ———.

An election will be held at ——— for the purpose of nominating a proper person to supply such vacancy, and the Register of votes will be opened at (*hour*) on the (*date*), and will be kept open until (*hour*) on the (*date*).

All Members of the Electoral Committee concerned are invited to record their votes at the above place and time.

Dated

(Signed.) Members of the Managing Committee for the (*caste, &c.*) in the (*Taluk, &c.*)

F

Register of votes recorded at an election held at ——— on ———
to supply a vacancy in the Managing Committee appointed under Act XX of 1863 for the ———
——— (*caste, &c.*) in the ——— (*Taluk*), &c.
Tellers ——— of ——— and ——— of (*Village*).

Number and date of Vote.	Name of Voter and number in Register of ~~Electoral~~ Committee.			Name of person nominated by each voter to be a Member of the Managing Committee.		Signature or attested mark of Voter.
	Register No.	House Name.	Individual Name.	House Name.	Individual Name.	

Certified that the above votes were recorded at ——— in ——— Taluk, between the (*date*) and (*date*), and that the greatest number of votes were in favor of ——— of ——— village, as shown below :—

Name of each nominee.		No. of votes recorded in favor of each nominee.
House Name.	Individual Name.	

(Signed) ——of——
——of——
} Tellers at the Election.

G.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that at an Election held at —— in —— Taluk on the (*date*) the undermentioned person was duly elected by a majority of votes, to be a Member of a Managing Committee under Act XX of 1863 :—

Name.		Managing Committee to which elected.
House name.	Individual Name.	The Committee for the —— (*caste, &c.,*) in the —— (*Taluk &c.*)

(Signed) —— of ——
Dated —— of ——
} Tellers at the Election.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

I

1. Whenever any vacancy shall occur among the members of a Committee appointed under Sec: VII Act No: XX of 1863 a new member shall be elected to fill the vacancy under the following Rules.

II. On the occurrence of a vacancy, the remaining members of the Committee shall forthwith give public intimation of such vacancy by advertisement in the District Gazette, and by causing a written or

or printed notice thereof to be affixed to some conspicuous place in each religious institution under their management.

The Advertisement II
and notice shall set forth the Name of the Member in whose stead a new member is to be elected - the date on which the vacancy occurred and the place, day and hour fixed for the election by the remaining members of the Committee.

The place at which III
the election shall take place

place shall be the ~~or~~ principal religious institution ~~Chief town of the Dis-~~ ~~trict, Taluk or Tract over~~ under the management ~~which the jurisdiction~~ of the Committee ~~extends~~

IV The day to be fixed for the election shall not be earlier than one month + or later than three months from the date on which the vacancy occurred - and within these limits shall ~~as~~ as far as practicable be fixed so as to enable persons living within the jurisdiction of the Committee and entitled to a vote at the election under

under rule to attend and vote for a new member.

The voting shall commence at 6 A.M and close at 5 P.M of the day fixed for the election.

V

a single day with be every b Shreiner

The remain- VI
-ing members of the Committee shall appoint a sufficient numb-
-ber of respectable and trustworthy

trustworthy persons as Tellers to receive and register the votes of the electors. No person shall be appointed a teller who is himself a Candidate for the vacant office or stands in the relation of Father, Brother, Son or Agent of any Candidate.

VII The remaining Members of the Committee shall make such arrangements for taking the votes of the elec-tors, so as will to admit of all having reasonable votes. and opportunity to register their votes within the hours fixed - and shall appoint not

not less than two
Tellers to each Place
where the votes may be given.
Each elector
shall declare to the
Tellers, verbally or
in writing the name,
residence, occupation,
or other description
of the person for whose
appointment he votes,
as well as his own.—

VIII. The Tellers shall
immediately after the
numbers of the elec-
tor and his nominee
in a book which shall
be provided for the
purpose by the Committee,
and shall require the
voter to attest the re-
cording by signature or
mark.

IX. The books of re-
cording shall be in the
form entered in the
margin, & at the close
of the voting shall be
signed by the Tellers
who took the votes
therein registered.

X. The result of the election
shall be declared
by the Returning Officer
of the Committee, within
24 hours after the clos-
ing of the voting.

XI. A notice containing
the result of the elec-
tion and signed by
the Returning Officer
and the Tellers
of the Committee, shall
without

× The vote papers shall
also be duly filed by
the Tellers.

without delay be published in 3 successive issues of the District Gazette, and affixed to some conspicuous place in each religious institution under the management of the Committee.

XII The registry books and file of working papers of voters shall be kept open for the inspection of the electors for a fortnight after the period of the election has been declared in a convenient place at the Town where the election took place, and shall be

be carefully preserved by the Committee among their records.

XIII The following persons shall alone be entitled to vote at elections of Members of Committee.

1 Owners of Lands situated within the jurisdiction of the Committee and paying an annual revenue to Govt of not less than Rs 100 per an

Owners of Landed property situated as aforesaid wholly or partially exempt from the payment of revenue to Govt but which if not so exempt would be liable to an annual payment of Rs 100.

Owners of House property situated as aforesaid of the estimated value of Rs 500 and upwards

4 Occupiers of Houses situated as aforesaid of the annual rental of Rs 100 and upwards

5 Persons in the employment of Govt in salaries of Rs 300 per annum and upwards or in the receipt of pensions from Govt of the like amount

6 Owners of Funded property to the amount of Rs 1000 and upwards.

7 Persons supporting any religious endowment under the management of the Committee by annual payments of not less than 100 Rs or a donation of Rs

Rs 1000.

Graduates of any University.

Provided always that no person shall be entitled to vote at any election, unless he professes the religious for the purposes of which the religious institutions under the management of the Committee was founded or is maintained, is above the age of 21 years and has resided for 6 months prior to the election within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Provided also that no person shall be entitled or allowed to vote unless he has been registered as a voter at least 30 days before the occurrence of the vacancy at which he desires to vote.

XIV Every Committee shall keep a register of voters in which shall be entered the name, occupation or other description and qualifications of every person entitled to vote at their elections, and every person satisfying the Committee that he possesses the qualifications hereinafter mentioned shall be entitled to be registered as a voter and be furnished with a copy of the entry of his name &c in the Register.

XV No person shall be entitled to more than one vote for each vacancy.

Voting

Voting by proxy shall be allowed only in the case of absentees supporting Institutions under the management of the Committee by annual payments of Rs 500 or upwards or donations of Rs 2500.* XVII Voters proved to have wilfully registered more than one vote for each vacancy shall thereby be disqualified for again voting and their names shall be removed from the Register.

XVIII The persons who receives the largest number of votes shall be declared duly elected as a Member of the Committee, and in the event of two or more persons having an equal number of votes the election shall be determined by lot.

XIX Any person proved to have given directly or indirectly any valuable consideration whatever in return for a vote shall be thereby disqualified from being elected.

XX The election of any person except in conformity with these rules shall be null and void.

* The authority produced by the Proxy must have been executed before a Public Officer not below the grade of Sub Magistrate and attested by him.

Memo

The Board submit herewith rules for the election of Temple Committee under Act 20 of 1863.

Their plan is one suggested by Mr. J. D. Robinson, and its main feature is to have a committee elected by the parties interested and qualified to act as representatives of the general community and elect to the committee. It has much to recommend it, but it involves the interference of Govt. officials to an undesirable extent, and seems to me to go beyond the requirements of the law. I doubt very much whether the plan of electing a body to elect a Member will work in practice, and though Govt. may prescribe the qualifications which shall entitle persons to vote for a Member I doubt whether they can cut down that power

Rules for Mr. Clothier & Temple Committee

Rules & Regulations

Rec'd June 16 / 68

power to the privilege of electing another to vote for them. Moreover we shall have several electoral Committees in the same Village.

I have prepared a rough draft of rules for direct election, and submit the matter for orders.

The Act it will be seen requires Govt. to frame rules, but gives no power of enforcing them. I think, whichever rules Govt. prefer, should be first circulated to the Collectors as once made, the Act gives no power of alteration.

I think that it will be better for parties interested on Native Religions or Communities to elect Committee men direct in place of electing an electing body.

The Secretary should write to the Collectors for their views on the rules.

I object to this principle of double election.

Revenue Department

No. 1042.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 16th June 1864

Read the following
letter from the Secretary to
the Board of Revenue

Submitting for consideration Draft Rules for the conduct of elections of Managing Committees for Temples under Sections 8 and 10 of Act XX of 1863

(Herewenter 7th April 1864 No. 2037)

The Board submit with this letter draft rules for the election of Temple Committees under Act 20 of 1863. The chief feature of this plan is ~~to have a Committee elected for the voters to elect a body by the parties interested~~ of representatives who are, or have been qualified to act as ~~Representatives~~ of the general community to elect the members of the committees

2. The Govt. are of opinion that it will be better for the parties interested in the Native Religious institutions to elect Committeemen.

+This system of double election is open to objection and that

sion direct in place of
electing an electing body.
They therefore resolve to
circulate to the Collectors
through the Boards of
Rev: for their opinion
a revised set of rules
on the subject —



In Copies to the Brd of Revl
Despd 17 June

Revenue 1864 Dec 11th
Pro: of Govt for June.

No 1042.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
of 16th June 64.

Pro of the Board of
16th December 64 Ord

Pro No. 393
24-6-63

Ju Rev Gen
960
10-6-65

The Board of Rev
desired to circulate
collectors thereon, respg
for the election of Temple
Committees and to submit the
replies when received.

No 214 & 215.

Gen. 24-6-63: 1121

1 Rev Dec
15-8-65 Rec

29 & 14 B. 1

-9-24.

Rev 24-2-55

24 2 5

Cancelled
No. 4201/852/53

Stored on
12.54