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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>460</i>	Press
<i>150-51</i>	~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>10/5</i>	18 <i>...</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Rev. 460. 10-5 1865

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1865.*

No. 150. Read the following letter from W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 16th Decr 1864, No. 8,065:—

SIR,

1. Referring to Government Order, dated 16th June 1864, No. 1,042, Revenue Department, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit the accompanying file of letters received from the Collectors, giving their opinions on the Government Draft of Rules for the conduct of elections to supply vacancies in Temple Committees.

2. A copy of the proposed Rules, with abstract of the several opinions on each, is annexed for facility of reference.

3. The objection to the principle of the Government Rules that occurs to the Board is that the franchise is thereby too much restricted to fulfil the requirements of the law as expressed in Sections 8 and 10, Act XX. of 1863, which provide that the electors shall be those persons "who are interested in the maintenance" of the Temples belonging to their persuasion within the Committee's range.

4. It will be observed that the same objection is raised by several of the Collectors.

5. It was in view to satisfying these requirements, without impeding the operation of the law by the excessive number of votes, that the Board advocated the adoption of an Electoral Committee, which plan did not meet with the approval of Government.

6. The Board consider that the qualification proposed in the Government Rules should at least be lowered so as to include a sufficient number of persons to afford a more satisfactory test of the public opinion in the community concerned, and the franchise extended to some classes not now included, as suggested in some of the accompanying letters. But at the same time, they are apprehensive that the requirements of the Legislature cannot be adequately attained, unless a more comprehensive plan, such as that proposed by the Board, is adopted. That plan gave to all the inhabitants of each village, interested in any temple, the power of taking a share (to such an extent as could be reasonably granted) in the selection of the persons to be entrusted with the affairs of their Religious Institutions. The Government plan, on the contrary, excludes the far larger proportion of the people from taking any part in the matter, and arbitrarily selects a small body from the mass of the people to be the electors of Trustees, without any consideration of the large majority who may be interested in the maintenance of the Temples. The number of electors under the Government scheme would probably exceed (and to a greater or less extent according to the standard of Puttah qualification that may be adopted) the number of electors which would be selected by the Board's scheme, but would yet represent, in a far less degree, the community at large interested in the Temples.

7. The Board also think it deserving of consideration whether, as suggested by some of the native officers consulted, the circumstance of holding certain influential posts under Government should not disqualify a voter.

8. The Board have little to remark on the detailed provisions of the Draft Rules; but they would require that notice of a vacancy should be published in the next, ensuing, or following issue of the District Gazette after its occurrence.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1865.*

9. The suggestions, however, of the officers consulted are deserving of attentive consideration.

10. The Board will especially recommend the following alterations in the Rules:—

The place of election (Rule 3) should be either the principal Religious Institutions, or some other convenient place to be chosen by the Committee.

The last part of Rule 6 prohibiting relations of candidates from being nominated as tellers, should be omitted.

11. The Board would suggest the following amendment of property qualifications in Rule 13, if the Government plan is ultimately adopted:—

Clauses 1 and 2.—Land-owners paying or assessable at 50 Rupees.

Clause 4.—Occupiers of houses of annual rental of 50 Rupees.

Clause 5.—Persons in the receipt of pensions of 100 Rupees.

Clause 7.—Persons supporting religious endowments by annual payment of not less than 50 Rupees, or a donation of 500 Rupees.

12. The Board consider that Rule 19 of the Government draft had better be omitted, and the cases contemplated left to be dealt with by the Courts who have power under the Act to remove any member of a Committee convicted of misconduct in connection with his office.

No. 151. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1865, No. 960.

Miscellaneous.

1. In this letter the Board of Revenue submit their views on the Draft Rules proposed by Government for the conduct of elections for the appointment of members of Committees of Religious Establishments under Section 10, Act XX. of 1863.

2. The Government approve of an alteration being made in Rule 3 to admit of the Committee naming some other place for an election than the principal Religious Institution under their charge. At the same time the Committee should not have it in their power to name any place they choose. The following words will therefore be added to Rule:—"or the Cusbah Town of the District or of the Talook in which the Institution where the vacancy occurs, is situated."

3. In Rule VI. the condition that the teller shall not be the father, brother, or son of a candidate, will be omitted. The only persons barred from acting as tellers, will then be persons who are themselves candidates for the vacant office or Agents of such candidates.

4. The Government concur with the Board as to the necessity of altering Rule XIII. as to the qualifications for voting. The law does not define what is the interest in the maintenance of a Religious Establishment which qualifies a person to vote, nor does it empower the Government to lay down absolutely the qualifications which shall alone confer that right. But in framing the Rules for elections the Government may reasonably enough name certain qualifications the possession of which may entitle a person to vote without question, all other persons being left to establish their claims to the satisfaction of the Committee. The Rule will accordingly be modified by omitting the word "alone" and will then stand thus:—"The following persons will be entitled to vote at elections of members of Committee."

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1865.*

Clause 1	Rs. 100 to be reduced to Rs. 20	
Do. 2	do. do.	
Do. 3	Rs. 500 to be reduced to Rs. 250	
Do. 4	" 100	Do. " 50
Do. 5	" 300	Do. " 150
Do. 7	" 100	Do. " 50
	and " 1,000	Do. " 500

5. The Government also agree to a reduction of the proposed property qualification, as shewn in the margin.

6. In lieu of Clause 6 may be inserted "possessors of private income to the annual amount of Rupees 150." The following clause will also be added:—

"9. Any person not qualified, as aforesaid, claiming to vote, must establish his right to the satisfaction of the Committee."

7. The first proviso will also be modified by the addition after the word "maintained" of the word "and is interested in its maintenance, and is not a minor."

8. In the last proviso the period of "30 days" will be reduced to seven days.

9. The Board's plan of the General Community electing an electoral Committee has no sanction in the Act, and in fact greatly curtails the rights conferred by it. There are also great practical objections to the scheme, such as the constantly recurring elections as vacancies occurred both in the electoral Committee and the managing Committee, &c.

10. The Government do not see reason to debar their Native Officers from becoming members of Committees. If experience shews that such a measure is necessary, the more appropriate course would be to issue an order declaring that they shall not accept such offices without special permission, on pain of the displeasure of Government.

11. The Government consider it desirable that Rule XIX. should be retained. The existence of such a Rule may often deter candidates from resorting to bribery.

12. With the alterations above ordered the Rules will be published in the Gazette and re-published (in English and the Vernaculars) in the District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR, No. LXVII.

Board No. 3,853.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd June 1864.

Read the following:—

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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.

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 Taluk 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 Taluk Managing Committee for the Hindu Temples in a Taluk 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 Taluk 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 Taluk or Circle, or District Committees, or whether there shall be a separate Committee for each caste in a Taluk, or for the several sects of each persuasion.

ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1864, No. 1,012.

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.

Circulated accordingly to all Collectors for an early expression of their opinion on the Government Draft Rules.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. M. C. KELLY,
Acting First Assistant.

To all Collectors.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

57
*Rules to provide for supplying vacancies in
Managing Committees appointed under
Section VII, Act XX of 1863.*

Whenever any vacancy shall occur among the Members of a Committee appointed under Section VII, Act No. XX of 1863, a new Member shall be elected to fill the vacancy under the following rules:—

I. 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 printed Notice thereof to be affixed to some conspicuous place in each Religious Institution under their management.

II. The Advertisement 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.

III. The place of the election shall be the principal Religious Institution under the management of the Committee, *or at the Nadra town of*

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 those limits shall as far as practicable be so fixed as to enable persons living within the jurisdiction of the Committee and entitled to a vote at the election under Rule XIII to attend and vote for a new Member.

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

VI. The remaining Members of the Committee shall appoint a sufficient number of respectable and 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 ~~(stands in the relation of father, brother, son or agent of any candidate)~~ *or the agent of such candidate*

VII. The remaining Members of the Committee shall make such arrangements for taking the votes of the electors, as will admit of all voters having reasonable time and opportunity to register their votes within the hours fixed, and shall appoint not less than two tellers to each office where the votes may be given. Each elector shall declare to the tellers, in writing,

** the district or of the
Taluk in which the
institution, where
the vacancy occurs,
is situated.*

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 enter the names, &c., of the elector and his nominee in a book which shall be provided for the purpose by the Committee, and shall require the voter to attest the registry by signature or mark. The vote papers shall also be duly filed by the tellers.

IX. The books of registry shall be in the annexed form, and 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 remaining Members of the Committee within twenty-four hours after the closing of the voting.

XI. A Notice containing the result of the election and signed by the remaining Members of the Committee and the tellers shall without delay be published in three 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 book of votes and files of voting papers shall be kept open for the inspection of the electors for a fortnight after the result of the election has been declared in a convenient place at the town where the election took place, and shall be carefully preserved by the Committee among their records.

XIII. The following persons ~~shall~~ be entitled to vote at elections of Members of Committees:—

1. Owners of lands situated within the jurisdiction of the Committee and paying an annual revenue to Government of not less than Rupees ~~20~~ 20

2. Owners of landed property situated as aforesaid wholly or partially exempt from the payment of revenue to Government, but which if not so exempt would be liable to an annual payment of Rupees ~~400~~ 20

3. Owners of house property situated as aforesaid of the estimated value of Rupees ~~50~~ and upwards.

4. Occupiers of houses situated as aforesaid of the annual rental of Rupees ~~100~~ 50 and upwards.

5. Persons in the employment of Government on salaries of Rupees ~~300~~ per 100

annum and upwards, or in the receipt of pensions from Government of the like amount.

6. ~~Owners of landed property~~ ^{Report of private income} to the amount of Rupees ~~1000~~ ¹⁵⁰ and upwards.

7. Persons supporting any Religious Endowment under the management of the Committee by annual payments of not less than ~~100~~ ⁵⁰ Rupees or a donation of Rupees ~~1000~~ 500

8. Graduates of any University who have resided, for six months prior to the election, within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Provided always that no person shall be entitled to vote at any election, unless he professes the religion for the purposes of which the Religious Institutions under the management of the Committee was founded or is maintained, ~~and is above the age of 21 years~~ ^{and is interested in its main}

Provided also that no person shall be entitled or allowed to vote unless he has been registered as a voter at least ~~thirty~~ ^{7 days} before the occurrence of the vacancy at which he desires to vote. ^{is not a minor.}

XIV. Every Committee shall keep a register of voters in which shall be entered the name, occupation or other description and qualification 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.

XVI. Voting by proxy shall be allowed only in the case of absentees supporting Institutions under the management of the Committee by annual payments of Rupees 500 or upwards or donations of Rupees 5,000. 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.

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 person 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

9 Any person not qualified as aforesaid claiming to vote must establish his right to the satisfaction of the committee

equal number of votes the selection 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.

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 _____ (Talook), &c.
Tellers _____ of _____ and _____ of (Village).

Number of Vote.	Name of Voter and number in Register of persons entitled to vote.			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 _____ Talook, on the _____ (Signed) _____ } Tellers at the Election.

8 12
*Rules to provide for supplying vacancies in
Managing Committees appointed under
Section VII, Act XX of 1863.*

Whenever any vacancy shall occur among the Members of a Committee appointed under Section VII, Act No. XX of 1863, a new Member shall be elected to fill the vacancy under the following rules :—

I. 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 printed Notice thereof to be affixed to some conspicuous place in each Religious Institution under their management.

II. The Advertisement 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.

III. The place of the election shall be the principal Religious Institution under the management of the Committee.

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 those limits shall as far as practicable be so fixed as to enable persons living within the jurisdiction of the Committee and entitled to a vote at the election under Rule XIII to attend and vote for a new Member.

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

VI. The remaining Members of the Committee shall appoint a sufficient number of respectable and 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 electors, as will admit of all voters having reasonable time and opportunity to register their votes within the hours fixed, and shall appoint not less than two tellers to each office where the votes may be given. Each elector shall declare to the tellers, in writing,

MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR, No. LXVII.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
To all Collectors.

Dated 22nd June 1864.

Received

Board No. 3,853.

11
Circulating for the opinion of Collectors Draft
Rules received from Government for the election
of Temple Committees.

13

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 enter the names, &c., of the elector and his nominee in a book which shall be provided for the purpose by the Committee, and shall require the voter to attest the registry by signature or mark. The vote papers shall also be duly filed by the tellers.

IX. The books of registry shall be in the annexed form, and 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 remaining Members of the Committee within twenty-four hours after the closing of the voting.

XI. A Notice containing the result of the election and signed by the remaining Members of the Committee and the tellers shall without delay be published in three 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 book of votes and files of voting papers shall be kept open for the inspection of the electors for a fortnight after the result of the election has been declared in a convenient place at the town where the election took place, and shall be carefully preserved by the Committee among their records.

XIII. The following persons shall alone be entitled to vote at elections of Members of Committees:—

1. Owners of lands situated within the jurisdiction of the Committee and paying an annual revenue to Government of not less than Rupees 100.

2. Owners of landed property situated as aforesaid wholly or partially exempt from the payment of revenue to Government, but which if not so exempt would be liable to an annual payment of Rupees 100.

3. Owners of house property situated as aforesaid of the estimated value of Rupees 500 and upwards.

4. Occupiers of houses situated as aforesaid of the annual rental of Rupees 100 and upwards.

5. Persons in the employment of Government on salaries of Rupees 300 per

7 14

annum and upwards, or in the receipt of pensions from Government of the like amount.

6. Owners of funded property to the amount of Rupees 1,000 and upwards.

7. Persons supporting any Religious Endowment under the management of the Committee by annual payments of not less than 100 Rupees or a donation of Rupees 1,000.

8. Graduates of any University who have resided, for six months prior to the election, within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Provided always that no person shall be entitled to vote at any election, unless he professes the religion for the purposes of which the Religious Institutions under the management of the Committee was founded or is maintained, and is above the age of 21 years.

Provided also that no person shall be entitled or allowed to vote unless he has been registered as a voter at least thirty 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 qualification 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.

XVI. Voting by proxy shall be allowed only in the case of absentees supporting Institutions under the management of the Committee by annual payments of Rupees 500 or upwards or donations of Rupees 5,000. 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.

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 person 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

in the existing Committee.

as the election was held at the same time and place as the election of the Managing Committee under Act XX of 1863 for the (Talook), &c. in the (Village).

equal number of votes the selection 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.

FORM

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 _____ (Talook), &c. Tellers _____ of _____ and _____ of (Village).

Number of Vote.	Name of Voter and number in Register of persons entitled to vote.			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 _____ Talook, on the _____ (Signed) _____ } Tellers at the Election.

would

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Enc in a letter from
the Secy to Govt.
R. D. Dated 16 Jan 1864.
N. 8063 -

Rev. 3303/64.

Pres. 10 May/65.
L. 1100.

Rules to provide
for supplying vacancies
in managing Temple
Committees

O. 960.

13/10/65

From the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 28th June 1864, No. 137.

1. I have received the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, with Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 22nd June 1864, No. 3,353, forwarding copy of the Draft Rules which the Government propose for the election of Temple Committees under Act XX of 1863, and calling for an expression of my opinion on them.

2. The rules are in principle so very similar to the propositions made by myself in my letter dated 10th February 1864, No. 25, to the Board, that I readily express my approval of them. In my letter it was proposed that the holders of land of good character paying Rupees 30, annual revenue to Government, should be entitled to vote. In the Government rules this qualification is raised to Rupees 100, which will simplify matters very much, as in this District the land-holders possessing the requisite qualification, will not, according to our accounts, exceed 618, a number too limited I fear, to be a true exponent of public opinion.

Exd. J. Wright.

15 19

From the Collector of Salem, dated 30th June 1864, No. 118.

With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. 3,853, dated the 22nd instant, I have the honor to state that the Draft Rules framed for the election of Temple Committees under Act XX of 1863, appear to me to be good and to embrace every thing that is required.

Erd. J. Wright.

16 17
From the Collector of Nellore, dated 30th June 1864, No. 196.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Government Draft Rules to provide for supplying vacancies in managing Committees appointed under Section 7, Act XX of 1863, circulated for the opinion of Collectors with the Board's Miscellaneous Circular dated 22nd instant, and state that in my opinion the rules are well adapted for the ends in view, but are defective in respect to no provision being made for holding an election when no Committee exists, and perhaps might include with advantage a reference to the provisions of Section 10, as to the powers of the Civil Court when vacancies are not duly filled up. X

Exd. J. Wright.

X i. r. elect to O.

15
From the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 30th June 1864, No. 383.

1. I have the honor to reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular dated 22nd June instant, calling for an opinion on the Government Draft Rules, "To provide for supplying vacancies in Managing Committees appointed under Section 7, Act XX of 1863."

2. I humbly conceive that the Government can do no more than frame "Rules for elections" (Section 10); the Act itself in the earlier part of the same Section declares who the voters are to be: they are to consist of those who are "interested" in the maintenance of the institution.

3. I doubt if Government have the power to disfranchise any body interested: but, supposing this objection is untenable, then I beg to give it as my opinion that the constituency proposed is far too narrow; for instance, no Ryot is to vote who pays less than Rupees 100 per annum. Now there are (*vide* page 48 of the Madras Administration Report for 1862-63) nearly nineteen lacs of Ryots holding single Puttahs, and seventeen and a half of these people hold Puttahs under 100 Rupees; indeed twelve lacs hold Puttahs under a tenth of that sum. There are not 40,000 Ryots in the Presidency who pay more than 100 Rupees a year.

4. On the occurrence of a vacancy, the day of election should be publicly notified; and a respectable gathering of those interested would certainly attend to vote, a show of hands should be called for in favor of each candidate, duly proposed and seconded; and any candidate might demand a toll, which should be carried out then and there; proxies to be inadmissible. I do not think that Saivites would besmear their foreheads as Vaishnavites, or *vice versa*, in order to the treacherous recording of their votes as interested parties.

Ed. J. Wright.

The rules as now altered,
do not disfranchise
any one - they only de-
clare that certain quali-
fications are necessary to render the
possessors competent to vote.

46 82

From the Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 5th July 1864, No. 112.

1. I am in receipt of your Circular Miscellaneous dated 22nd June, enclosing for my opinion, and for any suggestions I may have to make, certain Draft Rules providing for the election to vacancies in Pagoda Committees appointed under Section 7, Act XX of 1863.

2. I have taken the opinion of several native gentlemen in respect to these Rules, and with myself all are agreed that they fully and satisfactorily meet everything that is wanted. In this District, where it is proposed to have only one General Committee with representative members from each Taluk, the Rules are peculiarly suitable, and appropriate, and it would be difficult to render them equally effective within a smaller compass. But I am apprehensive that in many places distant from the head-quarters of a District, and where there is no leading mind to interpret and render them intelligible to others, the application and enforcement of the Rules will be a matter of some difficulty if the people are left entirely to themselves; but of course experience will soon test how this is.

Edw J. Wright.

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From the Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 9th July 1864, No. 171.

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 22nd June 1864, I have the honor to report that I find the Hindoos are generally content with the rules framed by Government for supplying vacancies in Committees appointed under Section 7, Act XX of 1863.

2. The only objections raised are that the property qualifications in Rule 13 are too high, and I think they certainly are so for pagodas in small villages, the higher amounts named would, I think, be found too high even in large towns beyond the Presidency.

3. I am of opinion the 100 Rupees qualification in clauses 1, 2, and 4 should be reduced to 10 Rupees.

4. That the qualification in clause 3 should be reduced to 100 Rupees.

5. That the qualification in clause 5 should be reduced to 60 Rupees.

6. That the qualification in clause 6 should be reduced to 200 Rupees, and that the qualification in clause 7 should be reduced from annual payments of 100 Rupees, or donation of 1,000 Rupees to annual payment of 30 Rupees, or a donation of 300 Rupees.

7. In small villages and most towns, if the Government rates are retained, there will be next to no voters at all, and many will feel much hurt at their exclusion, and the making of the right of voting so exclusive. When all Mahomedans, Christians, and impure Hindoos are excluded, and the Hindoos are divided according to their religious sects, a very managable number of voters will remain at the rates proposed by me.

Ed. J. Wright.

From the Collector of Tanjore, dated Vellum, 9th July 1864, No. 239.

1. With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. —, dated the 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to state that the draft rules for the election of members to fill vacancies in the Committees appointed under Section 7 of Act XX of 1863 therewith received, appear to me well adapted to meet the objects intended, as also to secure the interests of the native religious institutions to the fullest extent possible under existing circumstances.

2. I would, however, take leave to suggest some slight modifications with respect to certain minor points of detail.

3. The first three clauses of Section 13 as they now stand will, I apprehend, give the privilege of voting to a very considerable number of persons, who can by no means be said to hold any importance in the scale of native society. Rupees 100 are on an average not more than the assessment of 3 Velies, or about 20 acres, and frequently much less; and many who have not the smallest pretension to respectability hold lands within this limit. The number of landholders who pay an annual revenue of Rupees 100 and upwards in this District, is very nearly 9,000, and I conceive the case is not very different in other Districts. The above remark applies still more to the limit specified as to the value of house property. In Tanjore the average value of the houses of many of the lower classes, such as Toddy-sellers and Fishermen, is not less than Rupees 500.

4. I would be inclined, therefore, to propose that Rupees 500 be fixed as the limit as to the amount of annual revenue payable to Government, and Rupees 2,000 as to value of house property, which would entitle the owners of landed and house property respectively, to vote at the election of members for the Committees in question.

5. Clause 5 also appears to me to require some slight modification. The rates of salary and pension, cannot be said to afford the same criterion of the positions of men receiving them. It is either one-third or one-half of the average salary drawn by a native public servant that is granted to him as a retiring pension, and the value of pension, therefore, as a medium of estimating one's social worth, is equivalent to twice, and more frequently three times the salary of the same amount. It further appears to me that the maximum of Rupees 300 per annum, will exclude many respectable Pensioners from the field of selection as voters. I would propose, therefore, that Rupees 150 per annum, be fixed as the limit as to the rate of pension which would entitle the recipient to vote at the elections in question.

Exd. J. Wright.

19/5

From the Officiating Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 12th July 1864, No. 143.

1. With reference to Miscellaneous Circular Memorandum, dated the 22nd ultimo, forwarding for opinion the draft rules for election in filling up vacancies as they occur in the managing Committees appointed under Section 7, Act XX of 1853, I have the honor to inform you that I consider that they are all that can be desired, if only carried out in their integrity, but I do not see any prospect of this being the case.

2. The Committees here were appointed on the 23rd February last, but up to this they do not appear to have interested themselves, or taken any action in the matter.

Edw. J. Wright.

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From the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tenkasy, 12th July 1864, No. 270.

With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, dated the 22nd June 1864, forwarding a sketch of the Rules which the Government have drafted for the election of Temple Committees under Act XX of 1864, and requesting an expression of my opinion thereon, I have the honor to state that the Rules appear to me to be very suitable.

Exd. J. Wright.

From the Collector of Bellary, dated Gooty, 18th July 1864, No. 119.

1. With reference to the Order of Government, No. 1,042, dated 16th June last, embodied in Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXVII, Board No. 3,853, under date the 22nd idem, forwarding for my opinion a copy of the Rules for supplying vacancies in Managing Committees of Pagodas, appointed under Section 7 of Act XX of 1863, I have the honor to submit the following remarks.

2. Considering the prevalent ignorance of reading and writing amongst the majority of the cultivating class of this District, I am of opinion that the plan suggested by the Board of Revenue of a standing electoral Committee, composed of representatives from each village, or group of smaller villages, to be elected by the main body of those villagers who are entitled to vote, will suit it better than the more elaborate scheme drawn up by Government, which, though admirably adapted for a large civilized town, will not, I opine, prove easy of carrying out amongst the ruder population of the Bellary District.

3. To introduce the scheme of voting papers, registry books, &c., with any prospect of success, it would at least be necessary to have the agency of some of the officials, which I do not think advisable; and the probability is, that in this District, the nomination under this scheme would fall into the hands of a small clique of educated and wealthy persons.

4. Under the plan proposed by the Board, I should think that as far as this District is concerned, all that would be necessary in case of having to fill up a vacancy, would be to have ample notice given that on such a date a meeting would be held at the Pagoda in question, at which all the electoral Committee were expected to attend.

5. The said electoral body might pass through a sort of barrier, at which their credentials might be examined. The names of each candidate might afterwards be called out before the convened meeting, and a show of hands called for, for each candidate. The result of each show of hands should be registered at once; and the party found to have a majority of votes would be recorded as the successful nominee; and the fact would be duly notified in the Gazette, and affixed to some conspicuous place of each institution, under the Committee's management.

Exd. J. Wright.

* Surely if they can vote
for electing Comrs they
can vote for the Comrs electd.

22
57

From G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 27th July 1864,
No. 119.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, dated 22nd June, No.—, forwarding the Order of Government, dated 16th June 1864, No. 1,042, and requesting my opinion on the Government Draft Rules for the election of Temple Committees under Act XX of 1863.

2. The rules appear to me to be well suited for the purpose in question; but I think it would avoid future difficulties, if it was expressly stated in them, whether every male member of an undivided Hindoo family is entitled to a vote for each vacancy, or only the head member of such a family; and if the Committees were also required, in addition to what is laid down in Section 14, to forward a copy of their Register of voters to the Taluk Cutcherry within a specified time, say six months; as well as a Memorandum at the end of every month, of the additions and alterations made therein during the month, if any have been made. This would prevent any tampering with the lists at the time of an expected vacancy.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

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[REDACTED]

From J. FRASER, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Godavery District, dated Cocanada, 27th
July 1864, No. 193.

1. With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXVII and Proceedings
No. 3,853, dated 22nd June 1864, I have the
• Vide Board's Proceedings, 21st March 1864, No. 1,726. honor to state that as, with the approval* of
Government, no Temple Committees have been sanctioned for this District, rules for their election
will be inapplicable here.

2. As however all Collectors are directed to express their opinions on the Government
Draft Rules, I beg to state, as mine, that they are well adapted for the end in view. I have no
improvement or alteration to suggest; save that I think the property qualification for voters might
be somewhat lowered with advantage. Though this would of course increase the number of
voters, I do not think that, as the voting is very properly confined to one day any practical incon-
venience would follow.

3. I think the English principle of voting directly for the election of members of the
Committees, far preferable to the American one of voting for a body of representatives, who would
again have to elect members of Committee.

Ed. R. H. Lee.

24 17

From G. THORNHILL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 12th August 1864, No. 166.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd June 1864,
Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXVII. I have the honor to state that I am of opinion
that the draft rules which accompanied the
Proceedings of Government, dated 16th idem, are well calculated for the election of the Temple
Committees referred to.

2. I beg to suggest that the time for the commencement of the voting should be at 9 A. M.,
instead of at 6 A. M. as fixed in Rule I; and that in Rule XIX from the last word "elected," the
words "and the name of the voter shall be removed from the Register" be added.

Exd. J. Wright.

23
From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Malras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 1st September 1864, No. 399.

1. Adverting to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular of the 22nd June last, forwarding the Order of Government and Draft rules relative to the appointment of Managing Committee for the Temples under Act XX of 1863, and requesting my opinion on them, I have the honor to submit the following observations.

2. In Rule No. I, the time for giving the notice of vacancy amongst the members of the Managing Committee should be definitely fixed, say within one week from the date on which the vacancy occurs. Fixing a time for the issue of the notice will save much discussion and embarrassment afterwards, should any dispute arise on that particular point.

3. I would also limit the time within which the result of the election should be published in the Gazette; and hand-bills of the notice of each election should also be distributed amongst those interested in the institution.

4. The rules, as at present framed, do not name any qualification, that shall be demanded of those to be hereafter elected members of the Committee. I think, both for the interest of the institution, and for the dignity of the office, some property qualification should be required. The qualification might be the same as that required of voters, or even a higher standard might be laid down. This principle has been kept in view in the selections now made for the Managing Committee.

5. Another rule I would suggest is that when a vacancy occurs amongst the members of a Committee, the vacancy should be supplied by one of the same persuasion as the previous member. For instance, if the previous member were a man of the Tengalay persuasion, the successor must be of the same persuasion.

6. The Registry book of votes, and files of voting papers should be kept open for the inspection of the electors in the place of election itself.

7. Clause 2nd of Section 8 should also be altered as follows; instead of the words "Unless he professes the religion, &c.," it should be "Unless he is one that can join in the services of the Temple," as the worshippers of Shiva can join in the worship of Vishnu, but Vishnavites do not worship Shiva; and hence if the rule stood as now, it would exclude the Shivanites from the Vishnu shrines that they have hitherto worshipped at.

Exd. J. Wright.

* The Act does this

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From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the
Board of Revenue, dated Chatterpore, 13th September 1864, No. 211.

With reference to the Miscellaneous Circular, dated the 22nd June last, forwarding for my
opinion a sketch of the rules framed by Government for supplying vacancies among the members
of Committees appointed under Act XX of 1863, I have the honor to state that I have no sugges-
tions to make, as, in my opinion, the rules provide all that is necessary for securing the votes of
competent persons.

Exd. J. Wright.

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From G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar; to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 13th September 1864, No. 237A.

Miscellaneous No. LXVIII, Board No. 3653.

1. Adverting to Board's Circular, dated 22nd June 1864, and their Official Memorandum of the 10th instant, No. 800, I have the honor to state that in my opinion the Draft Rules furnished by Government for the election of Temple Committees under Act XX of 1863 are sufficient to answer the object contemplated.

* In Clause 1st.

2. I would however suggest, in reference to Rule XIII, that Rupees 50 be fixed* in place of 100 as the amount of annual land revenue qualifying persons to vote at the elections of Members of the Committees. The effect of any fixed standard of qualification will vary in different Districts; but I cannot think of any in which the qualification can be judiciously pitched higher than the amount I have just suggested.

3. The sum of 300 Rupees named in Clause 5th seems to me also far too high. The receipt of salaries or pensions of 100 Rupees per annum should certainly qualify for a vote.

Ed. R. H. Lee.

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From G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot; to W. HUDLESTON, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 14th September 1864, No. 221.

1. As requested by Proceedings of Board of Revenue, dated 22nd June 1864, I have the honor to forward my opinion regarding the Draft Rules framed by Government for election of candidates for vacancies in Pagoda Committees.

2. For the sake of easy reference, I have written what has occurred to me on the half margin of the draft rules; these remarks thus appearing opposite to the paragraphs they refer to.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

*Rules to provide for supplying vacancies in
Managing Committees appointed under
Section VII, Act XX of 1863.*

Whenever any vacancy shall occur among the Members of a Committee appointed under Section VII, Act No. XX of 1863, a new Member shall be elected to fill the vacancy under the following rules:—

I. 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 printed Notice thereof to be affixed to some conspicuous place in each Religious Institution under their management.

II. The Advertisement 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.

III. The place of the election shall be the principal Religious Institution under the management of the Committee.

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 those limits shall as far as practicable be so fixed as to enable

2. Candidates for the vacancy should be allowed to issue an address to the electors by means of the District Gazette.

3. I would leave this point to be settled by the Committee, there may be two or more places of equal celebrity. Local interests may also render it advisable to leave this power in the hands of the Committee. In a large division, it might be advisable to have more than one polling place.

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5. I doubt whether one day would be sufficient.

6. All expenses, including Police, to be defrayed from the revenues derivable from the Religious Institutions under the Committee in which a vacancy has occurred.

persons living within the jurisdiction of the Committee and entitled to a vote at the election under Rule XIII to attend and vote for a new Member.

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

VI. The remaining Members of the Committee shall appoint a sufficient number of respectable and 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 electors as will admit of all voters having reasonable time and opportunity to register their votes within the hours fixed, and shall appoint not less than two tellers to each office where the votes may be given. Each elector shall declare to the tellers, 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 enter the names, &c., of the elector and his nominee in a book which shall be provided for the purpose by the Committee, and shall require the voter to attest the registry by signature or mark. The vote papers shall also be duly filed by the tellers.

IX. The books of registry shall be in the annexed form; and 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 remaining Members of the Committee within twenty-four hours after the closing of the voting.

XI. A Notice containing the result of the election and signed by the remaining Members of the Committee and the tellers shall without delay be published in three successive issues of the District Gazette, and affixed to some conspicuous place in each Religious Institution under the management of the Committee.

12. It would be worth while considering whether the result should not be declared at the end of the fifteen days' inspection; as if mistakes are found out after declaration it would be difficult to unseat.

1. I would suggest the limit be Rupees 50, the present limit of Rupees 100 will diminish the number of agricultural valies in too great a degree.

2. I would fix this also at Rupees 50.

5. I would add also Professional men such as Vakeels, Doctors, Contractors and others earning 500 Rupees annually, amongst whom merchants should be included.

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XII. The Registry book of votes and files of voting papers shall be kept open for the inspection of the electors for a fortnight after the result of the election has been declared in a convenient place at the town where the election took place, and shall be carefully preserved by the Committee among their records.

XIII. The following persons shall alone be entitled to vote at elections of Members of Committees:—

1. Owners of lands situated within the jurisdiction of the Committee and paying an annual revenue to Government of not less than Rupees 100.

2. Owners of landed property situated as aforesaid, wholly or partially exempt from the payment of revenue to Government but which if not so exempt would be liable to an annual payment of Rupees 100.

3. Owners of house property situated as aforesaid of the estimated value of Rupees 500 and upwards.

4. Occupiers of houses situated as aforesaid of the annual rental of Rupees 100 and upwards.

5. Persons in the employment of Government on salaries of Rupees 300 per annum and upwards, or in the receipt of pensions from Government of the like amount.

6. Owners of funded property to the amount of Rupees 1,000 and upwards.

7. Persons supporting any Religious Endowment under the management of the Committee by annual payments of not less than 100 Rupees, or a donation of Rupees 1,000.

8. Graduates of any University who have resided, for six months prior to the election, within the jurisdiction of the Committee:

Provided always that no person shall be entitled to vote at any election unless he professes the religion for the purposes of which the Religious Institutions under the management of the Committee was founded or is maintained, and is above the age of 21 years:

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

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14. In an undivided family individual qualifications may entitle to individual votes, otherwise only one vote for such family.

XIV. Every Committee shall keep a register of voters in which shall be entered the name, occupation or other description and qualification 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.

XVI. Voting by proxy shall be allowed only in the case of absentees supporting Institutions under the management of the Committee by annual payments of Rupees 500 or upwards, or donations of Rupees 5,000. 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.

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 person 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 selection 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.

(Signed) G. BANBURY,
Acting Collector.

September 14, 1864.

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FORM

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 _____ (Talook), &c.
Tellers _____ of _____ and _____ of (Village).

Number of Vote.	Name of Voter and number in Register of persons entitled to vote.			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 _____ Talook, on the _____ (Signed _____) } Tellers at the Election.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

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From J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th September 1864, No. 160.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd June 1864, No. LXVII, Board No. 3,853, I have the honor to forward three original letters from Native Deputy Collectors in this District, submitting their opinion on the rules received from Government for the election of Temple Committees.
2. With regard to the Rule III, all suggest that the place of election should be left to the judgment of the Committee, as the principal religious institution under their management would often, in this District, be most inconveniently situated for the purpose.
3. With regard to Rule VI, as no provision is made requiring voters to vote for any candidate named beforehand, it appears to me impossible to object to the tellers on the score of relationship with any possible candidate. All the Deputy Collectors raise objections, in some shape or other, to this proviso.
4. With regard to the qualification of voters, persons qualified under Clauses 5th and 6th should be required to reside within the jurisdiction of the Committee. I think the property qualification under Clauses 1st and 2nd should be reduced one-half.
5. I agree with Deputy Collector Gopalaya, that it will be of advantage not to allow certain Government Officers specified by him, to be members of Committees.
6. I have already brought to the notice of the Board the difficulty experienced by the Committees as to the mode in which certain necessary expenditure is to be met. It will be at once evident that no election can be carried on without some legal expenses being incurred, which it is not reasonable to expect the remaining members of the Committee to defray.
7. If no other plan to meet this difficulty can be devised, the expense might be borne by the successful candidate.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From D. TIMMAPAH, Deputy Collector of Peapilly, to J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, dated 16th July 1864, No. 12.

As requested in your docket, I have the honor to suggest certain additions and alterations in the Rules proposed for supplying vacancies in Managing Committees appointed under Section 7, Act XX of 1863, and they are as follows:—

1. The only kinds of relationship mentioned in Rule VI, which exclude a man from holding the appointment of a teller, are those of a father, brother, or son to the candidate for the vacant post in the Committee. There are other ties of kindredship which might equally influence a teller in tampering with the votes; consequently I think it proper to provide that any one standing in any sort of relationship, whether of blood or otherwise, should be excluded from the post of teller.

2. In Rule IX, it is better to add the words "shall be read out by one of the tellers in the presence of all voters," merely for the purpose of preventing any subsequent fraud.

3. Rule XII does not state the object with which the books are to be kept open for the inspection of the electors. The object, I presume, is to see whether there are any objections to the elections being confirmed. The chief objections which might be raised against an election are that either the registry or the number of votes which each candidate gained is incorrect, or that such and such persons ought or ought not to vote; consequently the following clause may be inserted in paragraph 12 of the Rules, viz., that "Any one of the voters is competent to raise objections as to the correctness of the registry, or as to the number of votes gained by each candidate or as to the competency or incompetency of a person to vote, and if his objections are valid, the remaining members of the Committee shall take them into consideration, and pass such orders as they may deem proper under the circumstances of the case."

4. Under Rule XIII, another class of persons may be included as being entitled to vote at elections, and they are persons in the employment of any Company or Firm receiving 1,200 Rupees per annum or upwards.

5. Rule XIV. In preparing the Register of Electors, the Committee may require certain information from the revenue record to ascertain whether certain landowners are qualified according to Clauses 1st and 2nd of Rule XIII to be appointed as voters. This information I propose might be furnished without any inconvenience from the revenue records. It will therefore be better to add that "Any information required by the Committee as to the qualifications of individuals mentioned in Clauses 1st and 2nd may be furnished to them by Taluk or village authorities from revenue records."

6. In Rule XVIII, it is better to insert the words "in the presence of all the voters" in the very last.

7. In Rule X; the time allowed for giving out the names of the nominees is too much, and will afford opportunity to tamper with the votes, or to make any other alterations in the Register. It is therefore advisable to rule that the remaining members of the Committee shall declare the result of the elections before the assembly of the voters is dissolved.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From B. GOPALAIYA, Deputy Collector on special duty in Kurnool, to J. I. MINCHIN, Esq.,
Collector of Kurnool, dated 24th September 1864, No. 357.

1. As directed in your Memorandum order of the 21st instant, I beg to offer a few remarks on the Draft Rules for the election of Temple Committees under Act XX of 1863, prepared by the Government.

2. I have no objections to raise against Rules Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17, and 20.

3. Rule 3. With regard to this rule, the only objection I have is that the place of election should be left to the option of the Committee. The restriction is productive of inconvenience; for instance, in this District, Sriseilam, Ahobilam, and Mahomnundi, are important Devasthanams under a Committee's management, and it will not be just to ask the remaining members of the Committee, the electors and candidates for the vacancy to go to those jungles. Similarly situated localities exist in other Districts.

4. Rule 6. I strongly object to the mode of receiving and registering votes of the electors by tellers appointed for the purpose. The remaining members of the already existing Committee, or otherwise a managing or Sub-Committee formed out of their number, can safely be entrusted with this task. The rule says that the existing Committee should appoint a sufficient number of respectable and trustworthy persons as tellers for the purpose of registration of the votes. Setting aside the tedious nature of registering without any remuneration, leaving one's own usual avocations, I do not think we can meet with respectable people who would like to forego the right and opportunity of being elected, but also serve as a bar to their relations. In the first place,

how is the Committee to know who are the candidates before the voting is ascertained, to appoint persons for the office of tellers. Under these circumstances, I would entrust the task to the existing Committees, or to the Sub-Committees. I do not think that in a Committee, as the intended Devasthanam Committees are, there can be any foul play at registration especially under the provisions contained in Rule 12, the proceedings being rendered as public as possible, and copy furnished to the voter in proof that it was received for a certain person. Whether my proposal is accepted or otherwise, in either case the restriction as to relationship ought to be done away with, for there are other relationships than those mentioned where the affection is equal if not greater, such as that existing between a father-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, and the like. A friend or a corrupt registrar is as capable of doing mischief as any of the relations above mentioned, and this restriction would only keep way from being elected perhaps a large number of really useful and respectable men from the management of religious institutions in which they are interested, and whose appointment is anxiously sought after by the community. The little abuse, if any at all, is more than counterbalanced by the advantages without it.

5. Rules 7 to 12. I have no objection to these, the course of procedure in them will be transferred from the tellers to the Committee itself or its Sub-Committee, and no alteration is there required.

6. Rule 13. I add to the list of Government servants mentioned in Clause 5th persons on the receipt of similar incomes employed under Zemindars, private Companies such as the Railway and the Irrigation and Canal Company, Houses of Agency and the like, who are otherwise disqualified under Clauses 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of the rule under consideration. Why should this indulgence be granted to Government servants alone.

7. I add to the list of graduates in Clause 8th Proficients of the late High School, and the Presidency College, if they do not come under the head of graduates. I am inclined to extend the right of voting to all the registered electors up to the day previous to the vacancy for an increased competition.

8. Rule 14. Immediately after the formation of the Committee, I would suggest that they should first ascertain and prepare a register of all persons in their range qualified for the right of election, while at the same time registering voluntary offers received from parties. The object of this being to secure really substantial and respectable people as electors who would otherwise withhold themselves from applying on the supposed principles of non-interference in any public affair as well as sheer ignorance. This course will also avoid the tedious and protracted subsequent registration.

9. Rule 18. I would not in case of equal voting decide the election by lot, but by majority in the already existing Committee.

10. Neither the Act XX of 1863, nor the rules say a word about the qualifications of the parties to be elected for the vacancy. They must be of the same religion for the purpose of which the institutions are managed, and their pecuniary qualifications must at any rate be treble that of the electors. This property qualification must be most attended to, since it gives respectability to an individual, and diminishes inducement in general for crime, and such men are to be appointed for the trust now transferred to them from the Government. I would add a clause to

the utter exclusion of the marginally* named Judicial and Revenue officials from being elected to the vacancy; these parties will influence the proceedings of the Committee, assuming an upperhand above the other members. Some times these will have to appear as

complainants with the rest of the Committee, and Judges or having a hand in judgments of any case in the Judicial or Revenue Courts connected with the institutions to which they belong.

- *1. Deputy Collector and Magistrate.
- 2. Tahsildars.
- 3. Collector's Serishtadars.
- 4. Small Cause Judges.
- 5. Principal Sudder Amins.
- 6. Munsiffs.
- 7. Court Serishtadars.

11. The charges of election, such as registering, and Saderwarid expenses, must be met with from the Devasthanam funds under the Committee's management.

12. The original papers received are herewith returned.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From M. NURSIMHA PUNTULU GARU, Deputy Collector, Kurnool, to J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, dated 28th September 1864, No. 499.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd June 1864, No. 3,853 (which you were pleased to send me for my opinion on Draft Rules for the election of Temple Committees), I have the honor to state that I consider the rules, with the few modifications which I beg to be allowed to suggest as follows, will prove generally beneficial to the object in view.

2. Rule III may, I think, be conveniently modified by leaving to the managing members the selection of a suitable place of election on the occasions referred to, as some holy temples in this and other Districts are situated in isolated jungles and localities, that I therefore foresee the difficulties of collecting people on such occasions at the institutions only as is now provided in the said rule.

3. The bar in the appointment of a teller who stands in the relation of father, brother, son, or agent of candidate, as provided in Rule VI, need not, I think, stand, as the duty of receiving and registering the votes of the electors may be safely entrusted to the remaining members of the Committee, with the discretion of delegating, if necessary, their powers to such other persons as they may consider duly fitted by respectability and trustworthiness. If on the contrary the only relationship above quoted be a matter of great importance against the unblemished character of persons, I find several other nearest connections who have equal, if not greater, influence. On the other hand disreputable characters, though not related in the least, will do greater mischief than a respectable relative. In fact I do not conceive how any dirty influence can be used in this case, while the registered Book of Votes and files of voting papers will be open for inspection by the electors and the proceedings public. In short, my object in suggesting the doing away with the restriction of relatives, is no more than securing the employment of a good number of useful and respectable persons as tellers, in case the work of registering votes be required to be entrusted to them, without at the same time any injury to the interests of the institution under management.

4. I do not find any provision for the charges of Saderwarid, &c., on occasions of meeting, which ought to be properly paid from the income of the institution.

5. I beg, in conclusion, to state that I consider the addition of a provision to the present rules is necessary, in order to prevent any Government officer, who may be elected as one of the members of the managing Committee, from taking cognizance of any matters of complaint connected therewith.

Exd. J. Wright.

33 1/2

From H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 12th October 1864, No. 132.

With reference to Board's Miscellaneous Circular, dated 22nd June 1864, No. 3,853, I have the honor to state for the information of the Board of Revenue that in my opinion the Government Draft Rules to provide for supplying vacancies in Managing Committees appointed under Section 7, Act XX of 1863, require no modifications or additions.

Exd. J. Wright.

43

Enc. in a letter from
the Secy to the B. of New
to the Secy to Gov. - 1884.
Dated 18 December
1884. No. 8005.

Rev. 3303/64
From May/65 -
2 L 150.

Replies of Collectors
for selecting Temple
Committee.

Rev. 3303/65
O 960
1350

44

Public for the
by J. C. C. C.

And the same day 1855-
2. 1855.

Cautionary

They have the
We are all
on the same day
the same day
the same day

36 15

Whenever any
vacancy shall occur among
the Members & Committees
appointed under section
VII Act No. XX of 1863 a
new member shall be
elected to fill the vacancy
under the following rules.
I On the occurrence
of a vacancy, the
remaining members
of the Committee shall,
forthwith give public
intimation of such
vacancy by adver-
tisement in the

District

¹²⁶
District Gazette, and
by causing a written
or printed notice
thereof to be affixed to
some conspicuous
place in each reli-
gious institution
under their manage-
ment.

II. The advertise-
ment 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

The place where the
election shall take place will
be determined by the
management of the
institution in which the
vacancy occurs -
but the election shall be held
at the place where the
management of the
institution is situated -

(Fixed by the Act)

The Committee. 37

III. The place at
which the election
shall take place shall
be the principal
religious institution
of the District, Taluk
under the manage-
ment of
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 far as practi-
cable be fixed, so as
to

to enable persons living within the jurisdiction of the Committee to be admitted to vote at the election under rule to attend and vote for a new member.

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

VI. The remaining members of the Committee shall appoint a sufficient number of respectable and trustworthy

No person who is
himself a candidate
for the office or
is connected with
any candidate
shall be appointed
as teller.

38
trustworthy persons
as Tellers to receive
and register the votes
of the electors. No per-
son shall be ap-
pointed a teller who
is himself a candidate
for the vacant office
or stands in the rela-
tion of Father, Brother,
son or Agent of any
candidate.

VII. The remaining
members of the com-
mittee shall make
such arrangements for
taking the votes of the
electors, as will ad-
mit of all voters ha-
ving reasonable time
and opportunity
to register their votes
within the hours fixed
and shall appoint
not

not less than two
tellers to each office
where the votes may be
given. - Each elector
shall declare to the
tellers in writing the
name, residence, occu-
pation, or other descrip-
tion of the person for
whose appointment
he votes, as well as
his own. -

such declaration shall
be subscribed with the
signature of the person
voting.

VIII. The tellers shall
immediately enter the
names and of the elector
and his nominall in
a book which shall
be provided for the
purpose by the com-
mittee, and shall re-
quire the voter to at-
test the registry by sig-
nature or mark. - The
vote papers shall also be duly filed
by the tellers. -

IX. The books of
registry shall be in
the form entered in
the margin, and at the
close of the voting shall
be signed by the tel-
lers who took the votes
therein registered. -
The result of the election
shall be declared by
the remaining mem-
bers of the committee
within 24 hours after
the closing of the
voting. -

X. A notice con-
taining the result
of the election and
signed by the remain-
ing members of the
committee and the tellers
shall be
without delay be
published.

published in three 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 book and file of voting papers of votes shall be kept open for the inspection of the electors for a fortnight after the result 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 also be entitled to vote at elections of Members of Committee.

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

2. 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.

3. Owners of House property situated as aforesaid of the estimated value of Rs 250 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. on 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 1,000 and upwards.

Persons.

300000
The value is too high, it will include all small Talukdars & petty holders. I would make it 500000 & include all petty holders & small Talukdars.

7 Persons supporting any religious endowments under the management of the Committee of by annual payments of not less than 100 Rs or a donation of Rs 1000.

8 Graduates of any University.

Provided always that no person shall be entitled to vote at any election unless he professes the religion for the purposes of which the religious institutions under the management of the Committee was founded or is maintained and 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 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

Mark this and see the name of the most influential person of the place only for the purpose of reference - I think there should have been a list of names of the members of the Committee of the 7. - I think it is for many non residents, who are subjects, within the jurisdiction.

person or by duly authorized agent.

Any person on 1st of year as above said class must be established by the Committee.

occupation or other description and qualification 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 in the Register.

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

XVI 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 500.

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

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 person who receives the largest number of votes shall be declared duly elected as a member of the Committee and

1871
The President of the
The President of the
The President of the
The President of the
The President of the

of 1803. - The Govt approve
of an alteration being
made in Rule 3 to admit
of the Committee, naming
some other place for an
election than the principal
religious



religious institution under
their charge. At the
same time the Committee
should not have it in
their power to name
any place they choose.
The following words
will therefore be added
to Rule - "on the Cusbah
Town of the District or of
the Talook in which the
institution in which the
vacancy occurs is
situated."

In rule VII there is
condition that the teller
shall not be the father,
brother or son of a
candidate will be
omitted.

433
omitted. The only
persons barred from
acting as tellers, will
be the persons who are
themselves candidates
for the vacant office
or Agents of such
candidates.

The Govt con-
curs with the Board
as to the necessity of
altering Rule XIII as
to the qualifications
for voting. The law
does not define
what

What is the interest
in the maintenance
of a religious esta-
-blishment which qua-
-lified a person to
vote, nor does it em-
-power the Govt to lay
down absolutely the
qualifications which
shall alone confer
that right. But in
framing the rules for
elections the Govt
may reasonably enough
name certain quali-
-fications the possession
of which may entitle

61
a person to vote without
question, all other ^{persons} being
left to establish their
claims to the satisfac-
-tion of the Committee.

The rule will accordingly
be modified by omitting
the word "alone" and will
then stand thus. "The fol-
-lowing persons will be
entitled to vote at elec-
-tions of Members of
Committee"

The Government
also agree to a reduction
of the proposed property
qualification - as shown
in the margin

In lieu of clause
6 may be inserted -
"possessors

Clause 1 - Bt. 100 to be reduced ^{to} Bt. 20
— Bt. 2 — " — " — "
— Bt. 3 — Bt. 500 to be reduced to Bt. 250
— Bt. 4 — " 100 — " — 50
— Bt. 5 — " 300 — " — 150
— Bt. 7 — " 100 — " — 50
and " 1000 — " — 500.

professors of private in-
come to the annual a-
mount of Rs. 150."

The following clause
will also be added,

9- Any person not
qualified, as aforesaid,
claiming to vote must
establish his right to
the satisfaction of
the Committee."

The first pro-
viso will also be mo-
dified by the addition
after the word "main-
tained" of the word "and
is interested in its main-
tenance; and is not
a minor."

So

In the last proviso
the period of "30 days"
will be reduced to
seven days.

The B.D. plan of
the General Community
electing an electoral
Committee has no
sanction in the Act,
and in fact greatly
curtails the rights con-
ferred by it. There are
also great practical
objections to the scheme,
such as the constantly
recurring elections and
vacancies recurring
both in the electoral
Committee and the
managing Committee
Spec.

The Govt. does not
see reason to debar
their native officers
from becoming members
of

of Committees. If ex-
perience shows that
such a measure is ne-
cessary, the more ap-
propriate course would
be to issue an order
declaring that they
shall not accept
such offices without
special permission,
on pain of the dis-
pleasure of Govt.

The Govt con-
sider it desirable
that Rule ~~XIX~~ should
be retained. The
existence of such
a rule may often
deter candidates
from resorting to
bribery.

With the al-
terations above ordered
the

the rules will
be published in
the Gazette and
republished (in
English and the ver-
naculars) in the
District Gazettes.

114 To the Board of Dev. Sec. 11 May
50 Copies of the Rules, Dec. 15 1900

Revenue 1865 Dept^t
Dir: of Genl: for May

Aug 60.

Secy of the Madras Govt.
10th May/55.

Passing with certain
modification the Temple
Committee's Rules for
election of Members.

150-151.

22/9/58

22-1-2

12/8/08

18-1-08

8/10/19

g-o. 16-6-64 = 1042

" 24-6-68 : 112

60 ro. no. 214-215
16-6-64