(1) Number of pages 28

(2) Date of repair 2-7-1984

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1538 Press. / Mis.

~~B.P. No:~~

Dated 21-9-1878 ~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

21st September 1878, No. 1,538.

Read the following paper :—

No. 246. From J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Collector of the Tinnevelly District, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated Courtallam, 19th August 1878, No. 622.

I HAVE the honor to submit for the orders of Government a letter from the Head Assistant Magistrate, in which he brings to notice the neglect of a certain Village Munsif (who is also a member of the Shermadevi Local Fund Board) in the matter of a woman suffering from the effects of starvation, and requests that he may be dismissed from his appointment of Village Munsif and his name removed from the list of members of the Local Fund Board.

2. The admitted fact that the woman was found on the evening of the 30th at any rate (she ought to have attracted attention before), in the moribund state described, and that the Munsif, a man possessed of unusual influence and wealth, failed to do anything effectual to aid her up to 8 o'clock the next morning when she was accidentally discovered by the Head Assistant, is sufficient to convict him (and also the Constable) of very culpable and cruel neglect.

3. *Samikulattur Aiyer* is a man of great influence and has done good service in the very large and troublesome village of Kalladakurichi; but I agree with the Head Assistant in thinking that there is no excuse for such conduct and that, if the orders as to the relief of those suffering from starvation are to be carried out at all, some severe notice should be taken of such a glaring case so conclusively proved.

4. I regret the delay that has occurred in forwarding these papers: it is owing to a reference I thought it desirable to make to the Superintendent of Police.

5. I enclose translations of all material papers.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. A. DAVIES, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, Tinnevelly, to J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., District Magistrate, Tinnevelly, dated Shermadevi, 26th June 1878, No. 43.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice a shocking case of the neglect of a woman dying from the results of starvation by Samikulattur Aiyer, the Village Munsif of Kalladakurichi, and I regret to add, also a member of the Local Fund Board of the Shermadevi Circle.

2. The circumstances of the case are as follows :—

On the morning of the 31st May last, about 8 o'clock, I was driving through the streets of Kalladakurichi on my way back to Shermadevi from the Ambasamudram Jamabandi, when I found, in the Madancovil Street, a woman aged about 30 lying in a ditch by the side of the road, perfectly prostrate, with the morning sun dazzling her eyes, and not a soul attending upon her. From her own statement, for none of the house or bazaar people there, or passers-by seemed to know or care anything about her. I learnt she had been lying there ill for two or three days, and so she told my Dresser afterwards. As I could not find any official in the neighborhood, I sent my horsekeeper back to fetch a Constable from the Police station at the other end of the town. After my waiting about 20 minutes, he brought Constable No. 747, named Pichai Naidu, who, to my amazement and disgust, told me that he and the Village

Munsif had seen the woman the evening before, but that she had been left there while they were getting a bandy, which he had not yet been able to procure to take her to the Tahsildar's Cutcherry. Kalladakurichi is one of the largest towns in the division, is full of carts, and the Tahsildar's Cutcherry was not two miles distant, so that even coolies might have carried the poor creature thither. So putting aside the Constable's vain excuse, I directed him to bring the woman in a bandy straightway to Shermadevi, to be attended by my Dresser. She was brought in accordingly, and though most carefully tended by him in the "Mattam" opposite my house, she never recovered, and died on the evening of the 4th June. He has recorded a statement of her condition and case (marked A), which I beg to forward herewith.

3. But for his kind care she would probably not have survived the day on the morning of which I found her, and it is my firm belief that the Village Munsif and Constable seeing she was in an almost hopeless condition (which fact cannot of course excuse them, for even if it was too late to save her life, which is however anything but certain if timely treatment had been afforded, they might at least have eased her dying hours) left her to perish where they found her, and had no intention whatever of conveying her to the Tahsildar's Cutcherry or elsewhere. Had they wished to do so they had ample means. The Village Munsif is an influential man, his town (as before observed) is full of carts and coolies, and the Tahsildar's Cutcherry was not two miles off.

4. But if,—after he had seen her at 6 p.m. on the previous evening, (as he admits he did in his explanation also submitted with the Tahsildar's arzi and other papers connected with the case), if his merely leaving her "in the open" for the whole night and up to ½ past 8 the next morning was not inhuman enough, what are we to think of his treatment of her during that time. He alleges he got her food, and his friends support him, albeit I found her quite unattended without water or food and even exposed to the sun next morning at 8 o'clock, but at the same time he admits that he gave her no mat to lie on and no cloth to cover her. She was allowed to lie on the bare ground, and the scrap of cloth she had on scarcely covered her nakedness, besides being horribly filthy. The Munsif says he had her washed, but if this be true, what was the benefit, when she was thereupon wrapped round again with a loathsome rag.

5. I can find no excuse to shelter the Village Munsif. The woman was not an outcaste, a pariah, or a pullen. She was of the weaver caste, the widow of one Mallarayen of Kuruvikulam, Sankaranainarkoil Taluk, and appears to have been begging about in Kalladakurichi for some months, before she came to that state in which I picked her up from the gutter. The Village Munsif himself has been considered enlightened enough to be chosen as a representative to sit on the Local Fund Board, where his advice is often asked on administrative questions. This was not a case where some wandering no-caste being was found in the outskirts of some small isolated village, the head of which was ignorant and uncivilized, but one with every circumstance contrary, and one in which we should certainly have looked for an example of not only the proper execution of official duty, but of common humanity.

6. I have reported only what is positively proved and admitted, but it is not unlikely that the deceased, according to what she herself told both me and the Dresser, was lying neglected by the side of the street for a day or two previous to the Constable and Village Munsif first taking notice of her. This may have been done, only when they found her *in extremis* and unable to move. In partial corroboration of her statement it is proved she lay down at the spot where they found her on the previous evening, that is the 29th, but evidence is produced by them to show that she was fed by private persons up to the time of her discovery by them on the 30th. I doubt this evidence very much, and it is strange, considering how public was the place she was in, that no official should have been aware of her condition for 24 hours, when it appears private persons were aware of it.

7. Of one thing, however, I have no doubt. If it had not come to pass that I should be an eye-witness of what was being done, or rather left undone, I should doubtless have received the usual, and I fear most often, untrue, report that an unknown stranger (Anadi) had been found lying in the street, and that though food was given her and every thing was done for her that could be done, she died next day of dysentery and swelling, with probably not a word about starvation, or the afterthought of getting a bandy to send her to the Tahsildar.

8. As the Village Munsif is also a Local Fund member, I have not dealt with the case myself, and I report his misconduct with a view to its being brought to the notice of the Government, who have issued such stringent instructions as to the responsibilities of heads of villages in cases of distress like this, especially in these days of famine. I submit that Samikulattur Aiyer should not only be dismissed from his post of Village Munsif and Maniem, but that his name should be removed from the list of members of this Local Fund Board, as he has proved himself unworthy of the position and honor that have been bestowed upon him.

9. As regards the Constable, I am sending a copy of this letter to the Superintendent of Police to take such steps against him as he may consider necessary.

No. 247. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1878, No. 1,538.

Miscellaneous.

THE Collector of Tinnevelly brings to notice a case of neglect, on the part of Samikulattur Aiyer, the Village Munsif of Kalladakurichi, and a member of the Local Fund Board of the Shermadevi Circle, in respect to a woman who suffered and died from the results of starvation; and requests that the man may be dismissed from the appointment of Village Munsif, and his name removed from the list of members of the Local Fund Board.

2. The Governor in Council does not understand why the Collector did not himself deal with this case of palpable neglect of a primary duty by a head of a village, as he was perfectly competent to do.

3. The man should be forthwith removed from the office of Village Munsif, and orders will be issued from the Financial Department for his services on the Local Fund Board being dispensed with.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Tinnevelly.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Revenue (Famine) Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

F No. 1406

1538
3

From The Collector of Tinnevelly

Dated 31/8 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

The facts of this case appear from the papers to be as follows;

The deceased woman had been staying about three miles of Kallidaikurichi for some days. She used to have been suffering from dysentery with dropsical swelling of the legs (the result of want of proper food) & to have been down by the side of the road in one of the streets on the afternoon of evening of the 29th July. She seems to have been seen by one of the shopkeepers & offered to the police who were lying there during the following day about 4½ P.M. or 5 P.M. a constable was deputed to ask her condition & to relieve her if she was in distress. She was found to be dead & was attended to by

The post mortem as it seems to me is why the poor creature has been allowed to talk into a dying state for such was the case with dysentery & dropsy in these within 4 days of her death. Had the village Heads of the Dist. the necessary direction to provide food every day & stella lays a fine indicated & medicine supplied (or the Native Hospitals) if not found such objects? Sessions case there was such diarrhoea and there was the obstructions called replete but the part of the village authorities & the Police & Sanitary Dept. the Deputy Dist. & Assist. Surgeon - and removal for the Service is the due punishment. The woman is under

sending for food for her.
As she was suffering from
constant Epileptic dis-
charges & did not wish
the usual help from
them she was for the night
& the next day was by no
help except to send for
the Schools Nurse
then the Visit. Nurse thought it
Desirable, rightly & had the
woman taken to the
Workhouse infirmary at Hemel
Hempstead & there carefully tended
for this disease. Four
days after the woman died.

The guardians of the Poor
of the Hitchin Union
to which Redbourn belongs
might have done for
the unfortunate woman.
Here is evidently the
visit to attend to his
sick & he knew where
she was & that she was
but Redbourn is four miles
by road, about
a first class, & here
he has had a week
almost completely kept

any Circular issued from
the L.G.B. Board on the subject
6/9 RRL

I do not understand
why Mr Vis. Nic did not
himself attend to this
most pitiful case of
a primary duty of
Vaccination. As
struck he was perfectly
competent to do.

Let draw the means
Inquest for Workhouse
Visit. & Dispensary
his evidence on the 5th
H. - This a characteristic
case of the conditions
& suffering among the poor
folk. Scarlatina early rife
in the village - V. is fatally
manifested & often by
the sick to do residents in
the county V. must be
treated as a crime of the
darkest & most
their apathy & neglect
Enquire into duty & their

But did his not doing
so amount to anything
highly? It would have
been better than
to have given her something
& on something & come
herself with - but then
it was known & doubt that the
woman did not wish the
visit & the Relieving
Officer could be rendered
powerless in any home by
the parents - incompetent,
ignorant & the only question is whether
the only question is whether
& the only question is whether
& the Visit should be discharged
& the visit should be
to be used -
I don't think that the finding
any difficulty in getting
call to send to the Infirmary
Workhouse -
The whole affair above one
the Visit is appalling a
healthy & respectable woman
a chosen (or the unfortunate
probably) & a member
of the Local Board.
This a Statement -

31/8/78 HS

1578
H

No. 2918

FOR ORDERS.

The Cany pras neglect-
is ~~clear~~ established
The woman was clearly not
in a fit condition to
left is admitted all injus-
tion that pras had been
apprised to her she appeared
Care cleaning & medical
Treatment -
I think no matter what
the Municipal Rules prescribe
& a previous good conduct
may have been there is
nothing pr it but to
admit the Collectors
suspension & to remove
him pro tem upon of
Municipal duties pro.
the Local fund Board

Transmit I am not
to clear admit the Police
Constable who seems
have been acting under
the direction of the Municipal
but as upon this main
conduct the opinion of
subsy Police Master is asked

This report should have
been more promptly made

Transmitted to the
Revd Dept with reference
to the above note by
H.J. the Govr.
(Signed)
J.A. Sankey
6/9/75 asst Secy to Govt

617

No. 1038 1538 29

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under Date the 21 Sept 1875

Read letter from
the Collector of Tinnevelly
dated 19th August 1875
No 622, submitting for
orders letter from the Head
Asst Magistrate regarding
the neglect of the Village
Munsiff of Kalladakurichi
in the matter of a
woman suffering from
effects of Parturition.

1. The Collector of
Tinnevelly brings to notice
a case of neglect
on the part of Sami
-Kulathur Aiyer, the
village Munsiff
of Kalladakurichi, and
a member of the Local
Fund

Fund Board of
the Shemaadie Circle,
in respect to a woman
who suffered and died
from the results of
starvation, and so
requests that the man
may be dismissed
from the appointment
of village headsman
his name removed from
the list of members
of the Local Fund Board.

2. The Governor in
Council does not
understand why
the Collector did not
himself deal with
this

1528

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Gen

1 To the Collectors of Tinnevelly, Madura
14 the Board of Revenue
5 the Financial Depts
5 the Revenue Famine Depts

Copied

90

Dismissal of the Village Munsiff of Kadadarkunchi, Tinnevelly —

Sir W. R. Cornish

C 18-9-78
R 20-9-78

No. 622 Tinnevelly Collector's Circuit
Cutcherry Courtalam 19th August 1878.

9486 From J. B. Pennington Esqre
Collector of
Tinnevelly

1538/7

To J. H. Garstin Esqre
Additional Secretary to Government
Famine Department
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for the orders of Government a letter from the Assistant Magistrate in which he brings to notice the neglect of a certain Village Munsif (who is also a member of the Sherma devi Local Fund Board) in the matter of a woman suffering from the effects of starvation and requests that he may be dismissed from his appointment of Village Munsif and his name removed from the list of members of the Local Fund Board.

2 He admitted fact that the woman was found on the evening of the 30th ult at any rate

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3. Samikulatturaiyan is a man of great influence, and has done good service in the very large and troublesome Village of Kalladakurichi; but I agree with the Head Assistant in thinking that there is no excuse for such conduct; and that, if the orders as to the relief of those suffering from Starvation are to be carried out at all, some severe notice should be taken of such a glaring case so conclusively proved.

4. I regret the delay that has occurred in forwarding these papers: it is owing to a reference I thought it desirable to make to the Superintendent of Police.

5. I enclose translations of all material papers and have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obed't Serv't

J. B. Pennington

Collector

1538/8

Comp.

No 1530
1588

No 40 Tinnevelly Head Office Magistrates Office
Sherma Devi 26th June 1878

1538
9

From S. M. Davies Esquire
Off. Head Assistant Magistrate
Tinnevelly

To J. B. Pennington Esquire
District Magistrate
Tinnevelly

Sir

I have the honor to bring to your notice, a shocking case of the neglect of a woman dying from the results of starvation by Samikulattur Ayyar, the Village Munsiff of Kalladakurichi, & I regret to add, also a member of the Local Fund Board of the Shermadevi Circle.

2 The circumstances of the case are as follows:

On the morning of the 31st May last, about 8 o'clock I was driving through the

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Pichai Naidu who to my amazement & disgust told me that he & the Village Munsiff had seen the woman the evening before, but that she had been left there, while they were getting a bandy, which he had not yet been able to procure to take her to the Tahsildars' Cutcherry. Kalladakurichi is one of the largest towns in the Division, & full of Carts, & the Tahsildars' Cutcherry was not 2 miles distant, so that even Coolies might have carried the poor Creature thither. So putting aside the Constable's vain excuse, I directed him to bring the woman in a bandy straightway to Shermadevi to be attended by my Dresser. She was brought in accordingly, & though most carefully tended by him in the "Mattam" opposite my house she never recovered, & died on the evening of the 4th June. He has

1538
10

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5. I can find no excuse to shelter the Village Munsiff. The woman was not an outcaste, a pariah, or a pullen. She was of the weaver caste, the widow of one Mallarayen of Kuruvikulam Sankaranainarkovil taluq & appears to have been begging about in Kalladakurichi for some months, before she came to that state in which I picked her up from the gutter. The Village Munsiff himself has been considered enlightened enough to be chosen as a representative to sit on the Local Fund Board, where his advice is often asked on administrative questions.

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outcaste being was found in the outskirts of some small isolated village, the head of which was ignorant & uncivilized, but one with every circumstance contrary 1538/17 but one in which we should certainly have & one in which we should certainly have looked for an example of not only the proper execution of official duty, but of common humanity.

6. I have reported only what is positively proved & admitted, but it is not unlikely that the deceased, according to what she herself told both me and the Dresser was lying neglected by the side of the street for a day or two previous to the Constable and Village Munsiff first taking notice of her. This may have been done only when they found her "in extremis" and unable to move. In partial corroboration of her statement it is proved she lay down at the spot where they found her

on the previous evening, that is the 29th, but
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Seen

1538
13

or the afterthought of getting a band to
send her to the Tahsildar.

8 As the Village Munsiff is also
a Local Fund Member I have not
dealt with the case myself, & I report
his misconduct with a view to its being
brought to the notice of the Government
who have issued such stringent instructions
as to the responsibilities of Heads of
villages in cases of distress like this,
especially in these days of Famine.
I submit that Samuel Cattur Vijia
should not only be dismissed from
his post of Village Munsiff & Maniem,
but that his name should be removed
from the list of Members of this Local
Fund Board as he has proved
himself unworthy of the position &
honour that have been bestowed upon
him.

1538/14

I As regards the Constable I am sending a Copy of this letter to the Superintendent of Police to take such steps against him as he may consider necessary.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most Obt Servt

Jas Davis
H Head Mstr Magistrate

Compd L/K

Transmitted to the Asst Mysteriarch
from
The Acting Asst Mysteriarch
Tommerally
to
The H. Mysteriarch
Tommerally

Recd 26th
Read 26th } Dec 1870
Read 27th
Encl 1 No 143
File 7406 Enclosure 12

Bringing to notice a shocking
Case of the neglect of a
woman dying from the
results of starvation by
some Volunteers of the
the 4th Regt of Kallabakinda
and a Local Fund Levies
of the Thomadeva Circle