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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 177	Press / Mis.
37-38.	
Dated 7-2- 1873.	

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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G.O. No. 2856 Municipal Commissioners' Office
Madras 20th December 1872

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From

Colonel A. Rutherfurd
Offg President Municipal Commissioners
Madras

To

The Honble H. Huddleston
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

As required by Section 18 of the Madras Municipal Act IX of 1867 I have the honor to forward herewith for publication in the Fort St George Gazette Minutes of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners held on Wednesday the 30th October and of an adjourned Meeting held on Thursday the 14th November 1872.

2. Subject 1. The Commissioners' resolution appointing Official Visitors of hospitals and dispensaries for 1872/73 will I trust be approved of by His Excellency the Governor in Council.

* That the Official Visitors of the past year be reappointed and that Messrs D'Rozario and Dodwell be appointed in the room of Messrs G. B. Shaw and Captain H. F. Rogers who are no longer Members of the Commission.

3. Subject 2. The second subject placed before the Meeting of the 30th October 1872 was the Proceedings

Proceedings of the Committee appointed to determine the mode of Assessing Paddy Fields and cultivated lands within the Municipal limits, the scheme having been strongly recommended by the Budget Committee for the Current year, and upon such recommendations approved of and sanctioned by the General Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 29th February last and the Assessment having since been partly carried out. The Committee however overlooking the fact that the subject to determine was the mode of Assessment strangely enough condemned the imposition of the Rate altogether.

With reference to the statement by two of the Commissioners at this Meeting, that information had been withheld from the Committee, it will be observed by my Minute of the 14th November 1872 that I clearly demonstrated to the Meeting that such was not the case, but that the Committee obtained all the information they wanted and that could be given. The result, as will be seen is, that the question of Assessing Paddy Fields has been re-submitted for the Committees re-consideration, the Committee being strengthened for the purpose.

4 - Subject 4. The fourth subject that came before the Meeting was the Report of the Committee appointed

appointed to enquire into the question of re-transferring the working of the Carriage Licence Fees and Cart Registration to the Collector.

This is an urgent question and one, to which I am sorry to say, in my opinion the Committee has not attached the importance and consideration it requires or deserves.

I have so fully entered into details in my Minute in the matter that I need not take up the time of Government in adding further to the necessity I consider there is for the re-transfer. It has all along been shown that the Assessors department is over burdened with work, that it is impossible that the Assessor can do all that is asked of him, and that the realization of the Revenue is gradually falling off. It has been urged that all collection should be made by the Collector and that the Assessor should only be called upon to assess and prepare the various Registers required for Collector, and Government itself has already recorded its conviction - that the Commissioners

Ref: 10 Aug 1/76 No 998

"will practice false economy if they stoque
"or fail to place on the most efficient footing
"a department, on the working of which the
"Revenue of the Municipality so largely depends"

Notwithstanding all this and the opinion

opinion of my Predecessor which coincides with my view backed up by various other authorities quoted in the accompanying Proceedings, it seems to me strange that the Committee by some strange infatuation should still be of opinion and are willing that matters should remain in their present state which as I have shown, is most unsatisfactory.

I am glad to say that my Minute had the effect of adjourning the immediate settlement of the question, as it may enable the Commissioners, on further consideration, to give effect to a measure which I feel certain must be crowned with good results.

During the discussion of this subject the same two Commissioners as in the case of the Paddy Fields question already alluded to were pleased in no very temperate terms to allege that facts and information had been withheld from them by the President in regard to the working of the Assessors and Collectors departments, and whilst in a subsequent Minute under date the 14th November 1870 I took objection to the mode in which these Commissioners expressed themselves & was fully able to prove to them that the Committee had not only the information they required but more

more than they wanted. In concluding this subject I have the pleasure to remark that so far as this part of the Proceedings is concerned I have been assured that no offence was intended.

5. Subject 5. Government will observe that the all important question of the Drainage of Madras has at last forced itself on the attention of the Commissioners. It could not, indeed, be delayed much longer as complaints from all parts of the Town have become frequent and the Commissioners have even been threatened with legal prosecutions if effectual measures were not adopted to remove or abate the nuisance occasioned by the present drains. The Commissioners are conscious that they have a very difficult task before them - the difficulties being enhanced financially - but they feel confident of the support of Government in an undertaking so intimately connected with the health of the Town and one in which both Government and people are equally interested.

6. Subject 7. The establishment of an Out-door Dispensary at St Thome, proposed by the Inspector General Indian Medical Department received the fullest consideration of the Commissioners and while they admitted the desirableness of having such

such an institution in that locality they felt that they were powerless to give effect to their wishes, and they accordingly resolved* that they could not accord any support to Dr. Balfour's proposal.

*The Municipal Commissioners, while fully acknowledging the benefit of establishing an Out-door dispensary at St Thomé regret that the low state of their funds precludes them from making any assignment for the purpose.

This, you will remember, has already been a subject of correspondence in my letter G. N° 257 dated 30th November 1872.

7 Subject 8. The Executive Engineer of the 4th Division having forwarded an Estimate for the repair of the Royapettah Dispensary, I thought it well to submit the question to the Commissioners for their opinion as to their liability to incur such a charge, seeing that by G. O. dated 26th October 1871 N° 1622 the Municipality was required to contribute a stipulated sum annually, paid by Quarterly instalments towards the maintenance of certain hospitals and dispensaries. As anticipated, their opinion, as expressed in their resolution*, accords with mine and will doubtless meet with the expressed approval of Government.

*That the Commissioners consider that they are not liable to meet charges of this description

8 Subject 9. Under Section 31 of the Madras Municipal Act, I forward the Supplemental Budget of Expenditure passed by the Commissioners, to which

I beg the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to accord his sanction.

9. Subject 11. Agreeably to Section 18 of Act IX of 1867, I have the honor to forward herewith Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of this Municipality from 1st April to 30th September 1872.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Offg. President
Municipal Commissioner

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Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Offg
President, Municipal Commr
Madras, dated

Order thereon, 7th February 1873
No. 177.

Ordered that the
Minutes of ~~the general~~
Meetings of the Municipal
Commission, Madras,
and the Statement of
Receipts and Disburse-
-ments forwarded with
the foregoing letter be
published in the Fort
Saint George Gazette.

2. The

Meeting held on the 14th November 1872.

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2. The resolution appointing official visitors of Hospitals and Dispensaries for 1872-73 is approved, and sanction is accorded to the Supplemental Budget submitted, in which a further allotment of Rupees 3,326 is made on account of new works.

3. The Government cannot admit that any promise has been made to Dr. Jeejeebhoy Pillay such as stated in Mr. Coleman's minute incorporated with the Proceedings of the General Meeting

Bd. & Comt. Madras } Dep. 13/2
Med. Genl. & Med. Dept }
Gazette 13/2

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Presᵗ Mun. Commʳˢ

Madras

Dated Feb.ʸ 7 } 1873, No. 177.

Recd.

Nos. 37. 38.

Passing orders regarding the Minutes of the Mun. Commʳˢ, Madras and the Statement of Receipts & Disbursements of the Municipᵗʸ from 1ˢᵗ April to 30ᵗʰ Sept/72 Submitted by the Presᵈᵗ