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(2) Date of repair 26-11-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer B

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	236	Press
		Mis.
	28-229.	
Dated	2-2-	18 76.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Madras Municipal Bill.

No. 28. Read the following letter from the Hon. P. MACFADYEN, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 21st January 1876 :—

I have the honor, by desire of the Chamber of Commerce, to ask you to represent to His Grace the Governor in Council, in connexion with the Madras Municipal Bill, 1875, which is published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, that the Chamber are constrained to share, what they know to be, the general public opinion that, ere considering any new scheme for increasing the resources of the Municipality of this city, it is expedient that the prevailing doubt should be authoritatively set at rest as to the present rates being either properly collected or properly expended.

2. It cannot be unknown to the Government that the financial administration of the Municipality is regarded by the bulk of rate-payers with grave suspicion. It is commonly supposed that the system of collection is defective, and admits of fraudulent misappropriation which it is difficult to trace ; it is believed that the attempts to recover rates long in arrears, or to enforce payment by persons who have been long overlooked, are of a feeble description, and it is suspected that there is, generally speaking, an absence among many of the subordinates of the Municipality of business habits that are essential to success and thrift in the expenditure of large sums of money. The Commission has at present the advantage of being presided over by a gentleman in whom the Chamber, in common with the public, repose every confidence, but it is notorious that the duties of the President are far too onerous to allow of his habitually exercising that severe control of detail, of guarding against petty larcenies and petty leakages, that is felt to be necessary for the protection of rate-payers against unnecessary taxation. It is true he is assisted in the discharge of his duties by a large body of Commissioners who are good enough to give their time gratuitously for the benefit of the public ; but, considerable as this body numerically is, it is believed to fail in checking abuses that are alleged to exist. It is feared that while, on the one hand, a number of people liable to taxation systematically evade the payment of rates or are systematically overlooked by the collectors, the expenditure, on the other hand, of the revenue that is raised is conducted in a loose way not unfavorable to malversation. It may be capable of proof that these opinions are unfounded, that the Municipality succeeds in collecting every tax to which it is entitled, and expends the money so obtained in a manner that is open to no objection. But it seems to the Chamber desirable, with a view to preventing public dissatisfaction, that the financial position of the Municipality should be subjected to a searching and independent scrutiny, with a view to the information of rate-payers, prior to the imposition of new burthens on the town. The feeling that an increase of taxes will mean but an opening wider of the door for fraud and extravagance is natural under the circumstances, and the Chamber therefore, as a public body largely interested in the welfare of this city, appeal to His Grace the Governor in Council to postpone further action with the new Municipal Bill until the inquiry into the present

working of the Municipality, which is called for to allay public discontent, has been held by an independent Committee approved by the Government and having the confidence of the rate-payers.

3. I am further to ask permission to express the Chamber's conviction that the proposal contained in the Bill to enhance the municipal revenue by the introduction of an octroi is not consonant with modern ideas of wise legislation, and is repugnant to the axioms of the most enlightened politico-economists. The Chamber are not so credulous as to imagine for one moment that the octroi proposed would be so admirably levied as to leave no opportunity of smuggling, rather do they feel convinced that, with innumerable roads and paths leading from the outlying country into the town, it will be systematically evaded, and a good deal of demoralization be induced by people being strongly tempted to do what they find it both easy and profitable, however wrong, to do with approximate impunity. The introduction in Bombay of town duties on articles of local consumption, to which reference is made in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, has not yet been approved by the community most interested in the experiment; but, notwithstanding Bombay is an island, it has been found exceedingly difficult to prevent evasion. An octroi has a tendency to degenerate into mere transit duties, and can only be enforced thoroughly at an expense disproportionate to the returns. The city of Madras covers an area as large as that of Paris, and it will need a circumvallation as complete as that of the French metropolis to render the proposed importation of the French idea of municipal taxation successful. Yet, though the proposed octroi would, in all probability, be largely evaded, it would have the effect of raising the prices of a number of comestibles and therewith of wages, the latter especially being a result that to a city so relatively poor as Madras must prove very prejudicial.

4. It is observed that the Bill contemplates the raising of three lakhs more of revenue to enable the Municipality to "fulfil present purposes and provide effective drainage." Assuming that the completion of the Water-supply Works and the commencement of the Harbor leave the Government no alternative but to decide upon having the city thoroughly drained in accordance with modern plans, the Chamber request me to say that, in their opinion, the charge for so costly a scheme as that which it is understood the Government have resolved to adopt should be borne by the Imperial rather than by the Local Municipal Exchequer. The city of Bombay has been beautified by a number of public buildings, which, not Bombay exclusively, but the whole of India paid for; Simla, it is stated, is to be rendered a safe residence for the Government of India by an expenditure of ten lakhs, which, not Simla exclusively, but the whole of India will provide; and Madras may fairly ask that the strong recommendations of the Army Sanitary Commission for the drainage of this city in view to the protection of the health of English soldiers in garrison—a recommendation which has doubtless prompted the decision of the Secretary of State that the town should be drained—may be complied with by regarding the work as one of an Imperial nature which the circumstances of this city require should be defrayed out of the Imperial revenues.

No. 29. To the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, dated Fort St. George, 2nd February 1876, No. 236.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 21st January 1876, conveying the views of the Chamber on the draft Municipal Bill about to be introduced into the Legislative Council, and to reply to you as follows.

2. The Governor in Council does not doubt that defects exist at present in the realization of the Municipal taxes and this is not disputed by the Municipality itself, as will be evident from the letter of the Acting President, dated 8th January 1876, No. 609, of which copy is enclosed for the Chamber's information, from which also the imperative necessity for securing additional income to that now collected is also apparent, as the Municipality are unable to discharge the current interest on the Water Supply loan. The Government, however, conceive that full information on this subject is afforded by the reports of the Reorganization Sub-Committee of the Municipal Commission and of the Committee appointed by Government to revise the Municipal Acts, copies of which are forwarded for the information of the Chamber, and the Governor in Council is convinced that neither improved collection of existing Rates and Taxes, nor improved administration in municipal matters will suffice to produce such an increase of means as will provide adequately for the fulfilment of municipal purposes. Assuming, however, that the more sanguine view of the possibilities of the case may be justified, I am to point out to the Chamber that all the powers of taxation provided by the Bill are permissive and that, if any one or more of the several sources can be made adequately productive, there is nothing whatever in the Bill to require the imposition of superfluous taxation while it rests with the Commissioners to select such method of taxation as may be likely to prove least inconvenient to the tax-payers.

3. The imperative necessity for directing immediate attention to the drainage of the town in view to its material improvement is proved to conviction by the accompanying report of the Sanitary Commissioner showing that notwithstanding the naturally favorable position of the town the mortality is steadily increasing and that on the average of the last five years it has reached the extreme rate of 35.4 per mille per annum, notwithstanding comparative immunity from the ravages of cholera during much of that period. Judging from experience in other parts of India the Government are of opinion that Town duties are likely to prove the least oppressive and most acceptable method of raising the necessary additional funds for this purpose and to make the Municipality solvent, the tax itself being one far more generally adopted by Municipalities throughout India than the Chamber seem to be aware and said to be quite the most popular form of taxation.

4. The several points raised in the Chamber's letter regarding methods of taxation and the assessment, collection, improvement, and employment of the taxes are all fit subjects for inquiry by the Select Committee, to whom the Government propose that the measure under consideration shall in due course be referred and to which your letter under reply will be communicated.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

STATIONERY OFFICE,

Madras 20th January 1876.

No. 632

From

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STATIONERY,

To

THE Chief Secretary
to the Government of Madras
Fort St. George.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward
herewith the enclosed annual indent
N^o 86, in triplicate, for stationery articles
required from England in 1876-77 for
use in 1877-78. In accordance with the
order of Government N^o 1823 dated 20th
December 1875 arrangements have been made
for obtaining the increased supply of printing
papers, specially required for the Settlement
Department. The value of stores asked for
is, nevertheless, within the estimates provided
for the year.

The cost should be debited against
"Imperial charges"

I have the honor to be
Your most obedient servant

W. H. R. S.

Supdt of Stamps & Stationery

Cost. of 1876: Madras.

FINANCIAL

To THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE,
Madras.

Dated February, 2nd.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd February 1876, No. 236.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 28-29.

Forwarding a reply to the Chamber's letter
regarding the Draft Municipal Bill about to be
introduced into the Legislative Council.



17

The Chamber of Commerce
 Madras 21st Jan. 1876

Read the following letter
 From

No

The Honorable P. Macfadyen
 Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

To. The Honorable W. Hudson
 Chief Secretary to Government
 Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor, by desire
 of the Chamber of Commerce, to
 ask you to represent to His Grace
 the Governor in Council, in con-
 -nection with the Madras Munici-
 -cipal Bill 1875, which is pub-
 -lished in the "Fort Saint George
 Gazette," that the Chamber
 are constrained to share, what
 they know to be, the general
 public opinion, that are con-
 sidering any new scheme for
 increasing

28 Dec 76
 20 Dec 75

March 187
 The Superintendent of Stationery

The Chief Secretary
 To the Govt of Madras
 Fort St. George

Dated 20
 Received 22
 1876

No. 632

Forwards Annual Budget
 1876 for Stationery again
 in 1876-77 for use in 1877-78

29

increasing the resources of the Municipality of this City it is expedient that the prevailing doubt should be authoritatively set at rest as to the present rates being either properly collected or properly expended.

It cannot be unknown to the Government that the financial administration of the Municipality is regarded by the bulk of rate-payers with grave suspicion. It is commonly supposed that the system of collection is defective, and admits of fraudulent misappropriation which, it is difficult to trace; it is believed that the attempts to recover rates long in arrears, or to enforce payment by persons who have been long overlooked are



11 11 3
are of a feeble description; and it is suspected that there is, generally speaking, an absence among many of the subordinates of the Municipality of business habits that are essential to success and thrift in the expenditure of large sums of money. The Commission has, at present, the advantage of being presided over by a gentleman in whom the Chamber, in common with the public, repose every confidence; but it is notorious that the duties of the President are far too onerous to allow of his habitually exercising that severe control of detail, of guarding against petty larcenies and petty leakages, that is felt to be necessary for the protection

413
protection of rate-payers against
unnecessary taxation. It is
true he is assisted in the discharge
of his duties by a large body
of commissioners, who are good
enough to give their time gratuitously
for the benefit of the
public; but, considerable as
this body numerically is, it
is believed to fail in checking
abuses that are alleged to exist.
It is feared that while, on the
one hand, a number of people
liable to taxation systematically
evade the payment of rates, or,
are systematically overlooked by
the collectors, the expenditure,
on the other hand, of the revenue
that is raised is conducted in
a loose way not unfavorable
to malversation. It may be
capable



15th 5'
capable of proof that these opi-
nions are unfounded, that the
Municipality succeeds in collect-
ing every tax to which it is
entitled, and expends the money
so obtained in a manner that
is open to no objection. But it
seems to the Chamber desirable,
with a view to preventing pub-
lic dissatisfaction, that the
financial position of the Mu-
nicipality should be subjected
to a searching and independent
scrutiny, with a view to the
information of rate-payers, prior
to the imposition of new bur-
thens on the town. The feel-
ing that an increase of taxes
will mean but an opening
wider of the door for fraud and
extravagance is natural under
the

14 60

the circumstances; and the
Chamber therefore, as a
public body, largely inter-
ested in the welfare of this
city, appeal to His Grace
the Governor in Council to
postpone further action with
the new Municipal Bill un-
til the enquiry into the pre-
sent working of the Munici-
pality, which is called for to
allay public discontent, has
been held by an independent
Committee approved by the
Government, and having the
confidence of the rate-payers.

I

13 7 19



I am further to ask per-
-mission to express the Chamber's Con-
-viction that the proposal contained
in the Bill to enhance the Municipal
Revenue by the introduction of an Octroi
is not consonant with modern ideas
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not so credulous as to imagine for one
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be so admirably levied as to leave no
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Country into the town, it will be systematic-
-ally evaded, and a good deal of demo-
-ralization be induced (people being
strongly tempted to do what they find
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wrong, to do with approximate impunity.

The introduction in Bombay of Town duties on articles of local consumption, to which reference is made in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, has not yet been approved by the Community most interested in the Experiment; but notwithstanding Bombay is an Island, it has been found exceedingly difficult to prevent evasion. An Octroi has a tendency to degenerate into mere transit duties, and can only be enforced thoroughly at an expense disproportionate to the returns. The City of Madras covers an area as large as that of Paris and it will need a Circumvallation as complete as that of the French metropolis to render the proposed importation of the French idea of Municipal taxation successful. Yet, though the proposed Octroi would, in all probability, be largely evaded, it would have the effect of raising the prices of a number of Comestibles



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It is observed that the Bill contemplates the raising of three lakhs more of revenue to enable the Municipality to "fulfil present purposes and provide effective drainage". Assuming that the completion of the water supply works, and the commencement of the Harbour, leave the Government no alternative but to decide upon having the City thoroughly drained in accordance with modern plans, the Chamber request me to say that in their opinion, the charge for so costly a scheme as that which it is understood the Government have resolved to adopt should be borne by the Imperial rather than by the local Municipal Exchequer. The City of Bombay has been beautified by a number of public buildings, which

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of this City, in view to the protection of the
Regiment of
English Soldiers in Garrison; a recommenda-
-tion which has doubtless prompted the
decision of the Secretary of State that the town
should be drained - may be complied with
by regarding the work as one of an Imperial
nature which the circumstances of this
City require should be defrayed out of the
Imperial revenues

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
1871 P. Macfadyen
Chairman

Recd. 27.1.76

27
The Chamber of Commerce.

Madras. 21st Jan'y 1876

From

The Honble P. Macfadyen,
Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

To

The Honble W. Huddleston,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor, by desire of the
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severe

There is not one
European Merchant
on the roll.

29

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I

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at all events the ^{1000 lbs} ^(if used)
assent of the ^{own} ^{up to} I am further to ask permission
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I think the
value of the
situation of the
reclamation
ground.
in the Municipal
sanitary
arrangements

33
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prompted the decision of the Secretary of
State that the town should be drained -
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work as one of an Imperial nature which
the circumstances of this city require
should be defrayed out of the Imperial
revenues.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Peasegood

Chairman

Class.

3

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

1000-110.

To (Station)

Madras

FROM (Station)

Bombay

No.

Words.

Time tendered for transmission.
(Madras time.)

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.—

10086

13

31

16

35

TO (Person)

Madras

FROM (Person)

Works

1	2	3
4	5	6
From	imperial	and
provincial	public	works
allotments	and	from
private	contributions	
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31	32	33
34	35	36

RECD. FROM

(L. L.)

SENT TO

(L. L.)

At

H.

M., on the

At

H.

M., on the

By

By

MADRAS 31-1-76

Date

Telegraph Master.

To order.

From
The Chamber of Commerce

Submitting views in
connection with Draft
Municipal Bill.

In acknowledging this I should point out to the Chamber of Commerce that in deriving an enquiry into the condition of the Municipal Revenue & Expenditure & its administration, they have overlooked the exhaustive Report of the Reorganization Committee & that of the Committee who have framed the Bill now under discussion. It is difficult to imagine a more independent & exhaustive examination of Municipal

The Chamber
may feel & suspend
action with the Bill
until an independent
Committee approved by
Govt and having the
confidence of the Public
may be formed. Shall have
it at rest the preceding
Draft which the
Chamber share as
to the proper collection
or expenditure of the
present rates. &
they have alleged
popular discontent
The Chamber

for the object in principle

I am Petri.

affairs. The Govt may

and submit that therefore fairly decline to
the damage of the Town delay legislation on the
ground that there has
been insufficient enquiry
connected with the Commission
as to its necessity

of the Harbour works. As regards the present
of the State mainly in the
constitution of the Municipality
I would point out that
any change which may
be derivable can be proposed

and discussed in the
State at the next Imperial
leg. Council, when the
views of the Chamber of
Commerce or of any other
important representative
body with command
attention

I would also point out
that if the principle that
increased taxation is

required, is admitted by
the leg. Council as it is affirmed
by the Govt. it will rest with
the Petri or any other persons
who are opposed to the
action, to suggest other modes
of taxation.

It should be pointed out
that the Madras Harbour
has no connection with
the water supply or Drainage
of Madras - nor has the
health of the Troops in
Garrison, which from
exceptional causes, ~~has~~ is
~~been~~ a good, been a ~~subject~~
the principal cause of
the action of Govt.

The Govt should disband
the minds of the Petitioners

43
The Municipal Council of
Madras are an independent
body corporate and I am
not aware of any provision
of law which allows of the
appointment of any
such Commission of
Enquiry as the Chamber
desires. I fear I am
not competent to judge if it
had a special Act of the
Legislature to empower
such a Commission.

I believe that a Common
Law or individual could
bring an action against the
Council for neglect of duty
but I am not aware of
any other way in which
one at present has
been secured for this
conduct.

As regards the disposition
of the Taxation
after the Chamber
has met the
necessity has been

Established by independent
 Enquiry. I do not think
 that to the existing law
 & the draft bill providing
 that the Commr. ^{with the approval of Govt.} may raise
 the funds necessary for the
 Municipal purposes "from any expectation that
 all or any one or more" the Municipal improvements
 of the sources provided by which are so usefully made use of
 will be carried out from
 Imperial Revenues.

The Govt. are competent
 to pass, reject, or modify
 the terms of the ^{annual} budget sub, should I think
 estimate. in manner decline to delay performing
 not inconsistent with the duty of giving the
 the provisions of the Act. Municipality the powers

and "if it shall appear
 to Govt. that the Mun: Commr.
 has failed to use sufficient
 funds for carrying out
 & for the purposes of the
 Act. it shall be lawful
 for Govt. to direct the
 President of the Mun: Commr.
 to make up the deficiency
 in the sum of Rs. 1000
 or such other sum as may be
 determined by the Govt.
 in this behalf." - A.C.

25/1/76
 Should not be
 in the case of Mr.
 Ellis, note
 28/1/76

I conceive that the courts will
 find that the law having au-
 thorized the Govt. practically
 to adopt & direct a budget
 of expenditure & to compound
 their own offer & raise the
 money required for the
 purpose - empowers the
 Govt. to direct the ex-
 penditure as the sanctioned
 objects - But of course
 this must be assured by
 the revised Act.

45
 I have all or any of
 the taxes, rates, fees
 and the imposition of the
 Act & to enforce pay-
 of arrears of such taxes
 &c. payable under the
 Act. It shall be the
 duty of the President
 to comply with the
 such direction

but this is the limit
 of the Govt. power
 in the premises.
 At the same time
 it is evident that all
 that the Act or Bill do
 is to impose on the Mun:
 Commr. certain duties.
 & to place at his disposal
 certain ways & means
 of doing so. It is optional
 with them to avail
 themselves if they can
 fulfil the purposes without
 drawing on the resources of
 the Government.

As regards the Chambers
theoretical objections I am
sorry. I think they are
fully answered. But admitting
the necessity for additional income
and the inadequacy of the existing
sources, it is considered
that the most promising form of taxation
can be devised & it is not
more objectionable.

The Chamber seems to suppose
that an octroi duty only
is levied in India

but it is expressly provided
as a source of municipal
income in the H. W. Revenue
Code by Act 15 of 73

and it certainly can be
adopted in Punjab. 4 of 73

Amherst Nov. 11. 73
Burma 7. 74.

With the consent of the
local S. Govt & the
S. Govt. first obtained

The fact as to the
inadequacy of the existing
sources of local revenue

It would be wise to
be able to put our
finger on the facts as
stated in the Ad-
ministration Re-
ports. Also Sir W.
Gairns report on the
working. Dr. Harber
myself have the point
looked up

As to the question of Madras
Town drainage being an
Imperial work. Because
Bombay had public buildings
erected at cost of all
India & since then it is
stated "the work
done at Imperial cost."

I think the first statement
is inaccurate. & that the
present Bombay work
the sale proceeds of very
valuable sites belonging
to Govt. in Bombay island
& of some other & is not
except by Bombay Govt.
in the "Cotton Mission"
year.

With the second is
truly a newspaper
rumour. & probably
still more inaccurate.

I request orders as
to the reply & the result
of the Chambers

24.1.76.

L.R.



I have now back

The bad collection of present
revenue is admitted by the
Municipality - & that very
probably be laxity in the accounting
in the expenditure -

~~Right~~

The necessity of additional
revenue to that now collected is
self evident - from the fact that
the Municipality is made
to pay the current interest on the

~~debt~~ ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~now~~ ~~imposed~~

Drainage is necessary is
evident from the gradually

increasing mortality of
the town through ~~the~~ which
has been generally known
in India
The ~~various~~ ^{various} needs
of taxation ~~has~~ ^{has}
to be authorized by the Bill -
for ~~provision~~ ^{provision} ~~an~~ ^{an} all permissive ~~on~~ ^{on} that
tax ~~will~~ ^{will} doubtless be selected
what will produce ~~revenue~~ ^{revenue}

Revenue with least inconvenience
to the people
into regard to the ~~revenue~~ ^{revenue}
The Council as to an action
than the Chamber appear
not to be aware - of the

51
The ~~revenue~~ ^{revenue} ~~impoverished~~ ^{impoverished} collection of the town
and improved ~~managing~~ ^{managing} for administration
of Municipal ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~provision~~ ^{provision}
an increase of revenue - but
~~the~~ ^{the} ~~fact~~ ^{fact} it is not possible ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~contingents~~ ^{contingents}
such improvements ~~should~~ ^{should} produce a
revenue equal to the ~~present~~ ^{present}
of the funds needed -

The ^{connected with the} ~~various~~ ^{various} ~~points~~ ^{points} ~~submitted~~ ^{submitted} ~~by~~ ^{by}
the ~~various~~ ^{various} ~~points~~ ^{points} ~~submitted~~ ^{submitted} ~~by~~ ^{by}
the Chamber ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~provision~~ ^{provision} ~~appears~~ ^{appears}
very fit subjects for ~~enquiry~~ ^{enquiry} ~~into~~ ^{into}
the select Committee to
what the Bill now under
consideration will be required

sent 2/2/76

No 236

1853
Financial Department

29

Mr.

Mr.
42

To
The Chairman
Chamber of Commerce
Madras, India

Sir
Feb 27 1876

I am directed
to acknowledge re:
receipt of your letter dated
21st January 1876, convey-
ing the views of the
Chamber on the draft mu-
nicipal bill about to be
introduced into the Legi-
slative Council, and to
reply to you as follows.

The members of
Council do not doubt
that defects exist at pre-
sent in the realization of
the Municipal taxes
and this is not disputed
by the Municipality itself.

as will be evident from
the letter of the Acting
President of 8th January 1876. No 609.
of which copy is enclosed
for the Chamber's infor-
-mation from which also
the imperative necessity
for securing additional
income to that now col-
-lected is also apparent,
as the Municipality are
unable to discharge the
current interest on the
Water Supply loan. The
Govt. however conceive
that ^{full} ~~all~~ the ~~detached~~
information on this
subject ~~which can be~~
~~derived~~ is afforded by
the reports of the Reor-
-ganization Sub-committee
of the Municipal Com-
-mission and of the Com-
-mittee appointed by
Govt. to revise the
Municipal Acts, copies

4855
of which are forwarded
for the information of
the Chamber - and the
Governor in Council is
convinced that neither
improved collection of
existing Rates and Taxes,
nor improved adminis-
-tration in Municipal
matters will suffice
to produce such an
increase of means as
will provide adequately
for the fulfilment of
Municipal purposes.
Assuming however that
the more sanguine view
of the possibilities of
the case may be jus-
-tified, I am to point
out to the Chamber that
all the powers of taxa-
-tion provided by the
Bill are permissive
and that if any one
or

or more of the several
sources can be made
adequately productive,
there is nothing what-
ever in the Bill to re-
quire the imposition of
superfluous taxation
while it rests with
the commissioners to
select such method
of taxation as may
be likely to prove
least inconvenient
to the tax payers

The imperative ne-
cessity for directing
immediate attention
to the drainage of the
town in view to its
material improvement
is proved to conviction
by the accompanying
report



3 P 59

report of the Sanitary
Commissioner showing
that notwithstanding
the naturally favor-
able position of
the Town the
mortality is,
steadily increas-
ing and that
on the average
of the last 5
years it has
reached the
extreme rate
of

of 35.4 per
mille per an-
num, notwith-
standing compensa-
tive immunity
from the ravages
of Cholera
during much of
that period -
Judging from
experience in
other parts
of India

The

4859
The Government are
of opinion that ^{from} ~~an~~
^{Duties on} ~~active~~ is likely to prove
the least oppressive and
most acceptable method
of raising the necessary
additional funds for this
purpose and to make
the Municipality solvent.
The tax itself being one
far more generally
adopted by Municipalities
throughout India than
the Chamber seem to be
aware and said to be
quite the most popular
form of taxation.

The several points
raised in the Chamber's
letter regarding methods
of

of taxation, ^{and} the assessment,
collection, improvement
and employment of the
taxes are all fit subjects
for enquiry by the Select
Committee to whom the
Government propose that
the measure under con-
sideration shall in due
course be referred and
to which your letter under
reply will be communicated.

I have &c

W. H.

L.H.
507

Wm. S. George
2^d Feby. 1876.

Mail 27 July 1876 N236

Back no 18-9

Forwarding a copy to
the Chamber's letter regarding
the draft Municipal
Bill about to be intro-
duced into the Legislative
Council.

dt. of 1876 Madras.

✓
Lail

G.O. 2nd Febry 1876, No. 236.

Nos. 28—29.

Forwarding a reply to
the Chamber's letter regarding
the Draft Municipal
Bill about to be introduced
into the Legislative Council.