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Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1026 m

DATED 26th June 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Proceedings.

Recording full ----- of a general meeting of the
Madras Municipal Commissioners held on the 25th March 1895 to-
gether with a copy of abstract Proceedings of the same date.

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No. , MISCELLANEOUS

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 189

FURTHER PAPER, No

OF 189

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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G. No. 160

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,
General Department.

From

LIEUT.-COL. G. M. J. MOORE, C. I. E.,

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith
for the information of Government full
proceedings of a General Meeting of the
Commissioners held on 25th March 1895, to-
gether with a Copy of Abstract proceedings
of the same date.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant,
G. M. J. Moore C. I. E.,
President, Municipal Commission.

Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Monday, the 25th March 1895, at 5 P. M., under the Provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT:

Lt.-Col. G. M. J. Moore, C. I. E., *President*.
 F. Rowlandson, Esq.
 M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
 M. R. Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
 M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
 M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
 M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
 M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
 Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
 Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
 M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
 M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
 V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
 M. R. Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
 J. DeCaster, Esq.
 J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
 M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
 The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
 M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
 M. R. Ry. P. Vijiaranga Mudaliar Avargal.
 B. Lavery, Esq.
 N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
 M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
 R. F. Grant, Esq.
 W. S. Gantz, Esq.
 M. R. Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
 M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
 Surgeon Lt.-Col. H. D. Cook.
 M. R. Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

Questions and Answers.

The President said that he had got to answer some questions put by Mr. Varadappa Naidu.

Triplicane Temple Tank.

Q.—With reference to an answer given at the General Meeting of the Commissioners on the 19th December 1894 will the President be pleased to state whether the Triplicane Temple authorities have done anything to the tank for the purpose of preventing frequent deaths from drowning, in response to a notice served on them under Section 302 of the Municipal Act?

A.—No.

Q.—If they have not complied with the notice, will the President be good enough to take action under Section 327, and recover the expenses incurred under Section 437?

A.—The question is still under consideration. If no arrangement can be come to, action will have to be taken under Sections 302 and 437.

Kutchaleswera Temple Tank.

Q.—Will the President be good enough to serve a notice on the owners of Kutchaleswera Temple Tank, Armenian Street, to erect a parapet wall round the tank to prevent carriage accidents and blowing of rubbish into the water by wind?

A.—I do not think the condition of the tank warrants my taking action. The existing parapet seems quite enough protection against carriage accidents.

Markets.

Q.—Will the President be pleased to state whether he has again written to the Government requesting for grant of land on the Esplanade opposite to Pachaiyappa's College, showing the greater importance of a new General Market on the spot than of a Hostel for Students who form a very small population of Madras?

A.—Not since my letter No. 672, dated 18th February 1895, which is in circulation to the Commissioners.

Q.—What will be the probable cost of a General Market according to the requirements of the City?

A.—I do not think it could be built much under two lakhs, if for that.

New Private Market at Periamett.

Q.—Is it a fact that a new private market is in contemplation to be built near the Naval Hospital Road in the midst of Parcherries?

A.—Yes. Subject, of course, to the sanction of the Commissioners under Section 359.

Q.—Has any plan been submitted and permission granted to build the market?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Is there any standard plan prescribed for new private markets to be built?

A.—No.

Q.—If there be no standard plan, is it not advisable to have one, in accordance with the modern sanitary principles?

A.—I do not think it necessary to have a standard plan. No plan is sanctioned that does not meet all sanitary requirements.

Q.—Have the residents of Periamett submitted a petition to the Municipal President condemning the site of the new private market, as it is being built between Parcherries and surrounded with latrines, expressing also that the old Market at Periamett is quite enough for their wants?

A.—Yes.

Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar informally brought to the notice of the President that they were not in a position to hear the speeches made in the room, whereupon the President intimated that he was getting a new table ready in the form of a horse-shoe, which would enable them to hear better.

The Question of a New Market.

THE PRESIDENT:—The first business on the Agenda is the consideration of the preliminary Report of the Committee appointed to consider as to the necessity for a new market, or to take steps to improve the existing public and private markets.

MR. ROWLANDSON:—Gentlemen—With regard to the question of a new market which is now under consideration, I beg to propose *pro forma*: "That the Commissioners are of opinion that in selecting a site for a new market, one nearer the centre of the town on the alignment from north to south, should be given preference to, and that therefore in the event of a market being established in the premises known as Taylor's Stables in the Mount Road they will be prepared to close the existing General Market." I move this resolution because it seems to me the Market Committee can hardly be expected to assist you in your deliberations unless the Commissioners can give an idea as to what their wishes are. I apprehend there may be a difference of opinion on the subject. There is always a special force in what is known as vested rights, and no doubt the residents who have removed down to this part of the town on account of the inconvenient distance from the General Market may be held to have, in some sense, vested rights. It is possible that the residents might have

selected this particular part of the town because the market was in this position, and therefore it may be that the Commissioners, or a majority of them, may hold that in endeavouring to provide a new market we should aim at having it as near as possible as regards the situation to the existing General Market. There is the other view, which I put before the members of the Committee the other day—that is, in determining a site for a General Market, we should have consideration to the value of the purchases made in that market. That is to say, supposing a market in the town is frequented by ten persons who purchase more than another 30 persons who also purchase at the same place, it is business-like and sensible that we should place it, as any other tradesman would do, as near as possible to our best customers. In that view, it seems to me desirable that we should find a site somewhat removed from the site of the General Market in the direction of what may be called for this purpose our best customers. That is the reason that I suggested to the Committee that if the premises known as Taylor's stables can be obtained that will be a suitable place to form into a General Market. The premises have been accepted in a preliminary kind of way, and are said to be suitable, as far as our requirements are concerned, and I also understand that we can make them fairly well adapted for the purpose of a market. I think, Gentlemen, the preliminary question for us to discuss as an instruction to our Committee is as to what part of the town that, in the opinion of the Commissioners, we are to aim at for obtaining a site for the General Market. As a means of starting that discussion, I propose this resolution.

Mr. Loverly seconded the proposition.

MR. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—May I ask you if the proposition, as it is worded, assumes that the market to be established should be undertaken by a private company?

THE PRESIDENT:—No.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Before entering upon the discussion of the subject, I should like you to read the proceedings of the Commissioners constituting this Committee.

The President then read the resolution referred to.

MR. GANTZ:—There was a Market Committee in existence some time ago, of which I was a member.

THE PRESIDENT:—The Committee died.

MR. GANTZ:—It is rather news to me that the Committee died. I did not die. (Laughter).

THE PRESIDENT:—As I told the Commissioners at a previous meeting, you were the only member left, as all other members went out.

On being requested by Mr. DeCaster, the President then read the minutes of the various Commissioners made on the Preliminary Report when it was sent out in circulation among them.

MR. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—The Committee was constituted to report upon the desirability of opening a new market and of closing the existing one, and if that is so, I do not know how this resolution is within the scope of the constitution of the Committee.

THE PRESIDENT:—It considers the whole question.

MR. SUBRAMANIAM:—I would ask the Commissioners to reject this proposition entirely. I think it would be dangerous for the Commissioners to commit themselves to any pledge of this kind, namely, that in case a new market is opened, somewhere in the Mount Road, we should undertake to close our market altogether. The result will be that, if ever we gave such a pledge, any man might get up a market which may be well and good in itself but wholly insufficient for the needs of Madras, and if ever we try to open a market in Black Town, he will come down upon us for damages for having broken the promise that we would not open any market in Black Town or anywhere. We get something like Rs. 11,000 from the present market, and, without knowing exactly what we will get from the proposed market, we are asked to pledge ourselves that if they open a new market unfettered by any conditions and any obligation to pay any revenue to us, we should promise on our part to close this market. This is something like a contract to be entered into with somebody in the air, who, on his part, makes no pledges but we pledge ourselves under the contract to close our market and tie our hands down. It seems to me that if there is a proposition with a condition attached to it, and any suggestion should proceed from any private individual or a company, we should then be prepared to consider

such a proposal. I think, at this stage, it is impossible for us to adopt this resolution, and if we do so, we would thereby very much tie our hands and curtail our freedom of action. Besides, it may be a very important question whether one market for Madras would be sufficient. I have always thought that one would not be sufficient. I think if the Market Committee lays a scheme before us as to what the requirements of Madras are, and if after that any proposal should come from anybody we can consider it. At present I would ask my brother Commissioners to reject this proposal.

MR. GANTZ:—I cordially support the remarks of Mr. N. Subramanian. I object to this proposal on technical as well as substantial grounds. In the first place, I would point out that it is really outside the scope of the paper submitted to us, described in the Agenda as "preliminary report." I have read that paper with some care, and I fail to see that it is a preliminary report at all. It simply amounts to submission of a question of a preliminary nature for the expression of an opinion—namely, as to whether in the event of a company being started to acquire the ground in Taylor's stables, the Commissioners would raise no objection to that site for the purpose of a market. But we have advanced a stage further in the proposition moved by Mr. Rowlandson. It object, sir, also to the preliminary document which was sent in circulation some days ago, because it lays down a substantial and important question which is put before us in that paper in a most crude and condensed form. I should like to ask, for my information, why the Commissioners, or those members of the existing Market Committee, thought it necessary to select that particular site? *Prima facie*, I would have thought that it is not the site for the market, to be designated a Public Market. Then we are told that the principle that should prevail is that the convenience and wishes of our best customers should be consulted, and if we carry out that view to its logical conclusion, it would be an argument to put this public market near the Adyar Club. Anything more preposterous—I have heard a good many preposterous statements made at this table—it has not been my lot to listen to for many a long day. It is a fatal argument for a Public Market to be started in Taylor's yard. Then I should like to know whether the Market Committee has any data at all to work upon in regard to this particular site. I am aware—so also is Mr. Rowlandson—that the existing lease of the Stable Company expires at a very early date, if it has not already expired. Are we sure that we can acquire that site, assuming it to be one which could be supported on sanitary grounds? Are we in a position to say that, supposing we agree to it, we would be able to acquire the site? Then, sir, in regard to the Company to be floated we are practically asked to take a hard and difficult leap into the dark. We do not know where we are to land, as Mr. N. Subramanian well pointed out. We are asked not only to take a difficult leap in the dark, but to commit ourselves practically in the future by giving effect to this proposition, which would, in reality, amount to that we should tie ourselves and commit ourselves to an experimental market to be erected in Taylor's yard. As I have said in a minute—and I would say it again—until the Market Committee chooses to take us into its confidence it cannot expect us to commit ourselves to any thing like the question put before us. We really have no data on which to work. We are told, on the authority of Mr. Rowlandson, that there are no sanitary objections to this site. He may be better informed than I am, but according to my humble judgment, it is as unsanitary a site as can be suggested. The Coom thereabout is in a stagnant state. I do not know on what authority Mr. Rowlandson makes his statement that there are no sanitary objections to the proposed site. If the Health Officer has committed himself to this view, I should like to see it. Considering the question is one which would certainly affect the public of Madras, I should feel disposed to obtain a still more valuable opinion, namely, that of the Sanitary Commissioner. We are now asked to commit ourselves to a measure which, if carried out, will entail a considerable amount of expenditure, whether the money be expended by the Company or by the Municipal Commissioners by raising a loan. Therefore it behoves us at the outset, before we commit ourselves to definite arrangement or agreement, to see how we stand, what are the chances of obtaining that site, whether that site, if obtained, can be justified on sanitary grounds, and whether it is one that is likely to meet the needs and necessities of the Town. We are not here to meet the wishes of our best customers. We are here to consult the convenience of rate-payers, be they humble and poor, or be they wealthy and extravagant. I would certainly ask the existing Committee to put us in possession of further information before, at all events, so large a proposition as is put forward by Mr. Rowlandson is supported by this Board. Mr. Rowlandson has himself told us in his opening remarks that he moved it *pro forma*; and I should have thought, considering the importance of that propo-

sition, he would not have moved it *pro forma*, but would have given us all the information that is available, not only as a member of the Committee, but also as a gentleman who had experience in the formation of such companies. Who are to be directors and promoters of that company? Is it to be another philanthropic company? I should like to know all about it. Put us in possession of all that. We have had a lamentable instance of a company in regard to which we would certainly not have been misled by representations made, had we known the true position of affairs, and had we known that we should certainly have brought about a very much better state of things now. However that may be, recent experience of the facts that occurred have shown us that before we take a leap into the dark, and pass this resolution, we must think not only twice but thrice. I say once again, give us all the information, and let us know where we are. If the Commissioners should then think that the measure can be supported, let us then endeavour to see if we cannot take the thing into our own hands and work it by raising a loan. We have borrowing facilities, and I certainly do not see why financial considerations should induce us to set aside the power we have, and to go to seek relief at the hands of a speculative company. The company, from its very nature, would seek for its own immediate gain, and the considerations of the public would be a secondary thing. Therefore I object to this proposition as strenuously as I can, and I do not know if the majority of the Commissioners will accept the view that Mr. N. Subramanian and myself have taken. As Mr. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar here tells me, this proposition will come as a surprise on the public. It is a question on which they have a right to be heard. This discussion will lead to a certain amount of consideration of the subject, and therefore I would ask the Commissioners to vote against this resolution.

MR. ROWLANDSON:—I would ask permission, with the consent of my seconder, to divide the proposition into two, because of the difficulty of site. Under the circumstances, I would ask you to hold that it is desirable that the General Market should be in a more central position along the line from north to south of the Town; and, as for Taylor's stables, I indicated that spot long ago, and I indicate it to-day simply because I wanted to say what is working in my mind from the very beginning. My object in indicating that place was to see whether it is the feeling of the Commissioners that we are to recognise the principle that was brought forward at our Committee Meeting the other day, or we should not recognise it. I will ask the Commissioners to consider the first portion of the resolution as to whether the General Market should not be more towards the centre of the alignment from north to south than where it is now. If the first part of my proposition is not established, there is an end of the question of Taylor's stables. I think it will save time if we decide whether the General Market should be in this part of the town or should be more near the centre from north to south.

THE PRESIDENT:—It practically amounts to taking the resolution in two parts.

MR. VENKATRAMANJULU NAIDU:—My objection to Mr. Rowlandson's motion is based upon this fact: that we have not decided whether there should be one central market or there should be several markets placed at convenient distances all over the city. Until we get a full report from the Market Committee, I do not think it is proper we should consider the question, whether as originally proposed or subsequently proposed. We still want more information, and we are in the dark; and we cannot therefore commit ourselves to saying that we should have only one central market. This is a straggling city, with a circumference of 30 miles. I think if the whole question is discussed by the Market Committee, as intended by the Commissioners, it will lead to a more satisfactory and speedier step.

MR. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I feel bound to observe that the proposition now before the Commissioners is not in accord with the preliminary report of the Committee. My idea of the question was very different in spirit from the proposition now moved. The issue that we wanted to place before the Commissioners was that, in the event of a private company being floated, we shall give them sufficient facility. The issue that is now placed is changed. I think I can take objection to the validity of the proposition itself now before the Commissioners. I do not believe the proposition is exactly the same as that I find in the Agenda. Therefore I think my objection should be considered; and I don't think we are justified in placing before the Commissioners any issue which was never contemplated.

MR. KRISHNASAMI CHETTY:—By considering this proposition I do not know if the Commissioners will be addressing themselves to any relevant question at all. Whose concern is it if a scientific centre is chosen in the City of Madras and a market is started, to consider, whether the General Market should be closed or not? Is it the thin end of the wedge before we get to the other proposition? Suppose the market is built in what is considered a better centre of the City, how would it be necessary with no further facts before us to close the present General Market? Is it understood, as an axiom, that there should be in city only one market. At present we have a number of markets. Do the facts show that in view of the competition that obtains, one market is useful and the others are for ornamental existence? Does it not involve this assumption—that if one market is started in a particular locality, there should be in the opinion of the Commissioners no more? These are questions which might properly be left to the consideration of the Committee. The Committee have to submit observations with regard to them. They must address themselves to the question whether there should be one market or more and secondly, what would be the desirable locality or localities if there should be one or two markets? These questions should engage the attention of the Committee, and they must give us the benefit of their views. It will not do for the Committee to ask questions like these—will the Commissioners approve of this or that site in this or that centre, and will they be prepared to close the General Market? That is not the duty delegated to the Committee. They have to consider all these questions and submit their opinion to the Commissioners, if the Committee are to render any real assistance at all to the Commissioners. The question at present proposed to the Commissioners is hardly relevant, and does not serve anything like the purpose for which this Committee was appointed.

MR. NICHOLAS:—Let this matter lie over until the Committee have given us a full report. Then we will have something tangible to go upon. We must not forget the fact that the necessity of a new market arose from the condition of the old market being insanitary, and from the market being surrounded by a large and dense population. So that in considering a new site for the market we must not lose sight of the old market—that it is in a very insanitary condition.

MR. GANTZ:—I beg to move an amendment: "Inasmuch as the *Preliminary Report* now before the Commissioners is not a report, further discussion be deferred pending the submission of a report."

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY seconded the amendment.

MR. ROWLANDSON:—The Market Committee would like to have some preliminary questions settled by the Commissioners, and it seems to me that if the Commissioners feel that they are in a position to do so, it is very desirable that they should lay down the lines on which they would wish the Market Committee to conduct its inquiries.

MR. PARTHASARATHY IYENGAR:—Let the Committee set down the lines.

MR. ROWLANDSON:—For the first time the Committee asks a question, and you send it back to them.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I was one of the members of the Committee, and was present when the subject was discussed. I objected to the locality proposed, and raised a question as to the matter coming on before the Commissioners at this stage. However, some of the members persuaded me not to press my objection, and so I am sorry for having allowed the matter to come up before the Commissioners.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried.

Site for Cholera Sheds.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business on the Agenda is the Report of the Committee appointed to select a suitable place for erecting sheds for accommodating cholera patients of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the Madras Municipality.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I rise to move "that the subject be referred back to the Committee for further consideration and report." In moving the proposition, gentlemen, I may point out that the Sub-Committee was formed only at the last General Meeting. I was not able to attend the only meeting which was called, at which four gentlemen met and passed a resolution that is now submitted to us. They did not inspect the place which was one selected by the executive and approved of by Government. I pointed out another place, which was condemned by the executive. I am now

in a position to point out two places in the 1st and 2nd Divisions which appear to me, for the present, to be quite suitable for cholera sheds, and which I think will be very much better than the place already selected by the executive. Gentlemen, if the Committee that was appointed to go into the subject had taken into their heads to go to the place that had been selected in the 1st Division, I think they would have at once come to the conclusion that the place was quite unsuited, being very near to the school and to the burning place. I had the fortune of meeting the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu and Mr. G. Subrayalu Chetty there the other day, and they told me plainly that they were very much against that place. Gentlemen, there is a good deal said about hurry and all that, and that if we did not do it soon we will be in danger of something, and of being censured by Government, and all that. Let me go further and ask the President what has become of the land which the executive has taken for a cholera shed at Mirsapat, what have they done with it? How many months ago was that taken, and what has been done to show that there was urgency? In the Royapetta Hospital there was a small place used as a cholera shed, and that place has been fitted up into a building which is used as an out-patient department. In such a place as Royapettah the executive were not good enough to do anything, and I should like to ask what would have been the result if there had been cholera?

THE PRESIDENT (interrupting):—Gentlemen, I take this opportunity of deliberately contradicting this statement of Mr. Theagaroya Chetty. I wish Dr. Maitland were here to tell you what has been done there. We have a cholera camp there ready at any moment; we have had it for months past. We have an Apothecary in charge of it, and have a cholera establishment as well as the medicines necessary.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—Is it the place that you purchased?

THE PRESIDENT:—No. It is the place that we fitted up before we could purchase the land now referred to.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—Not the place purchased?

THE PRESIDENT:—Certainly not. You had better be more accurate in regard to your facts. I wish that Dr. Maitland were here to tell you what we have been doing in regard to cholera.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I may still point out that there is a place in the 1st Division used for many years past as a cholera camp in the charge of Dr. Cook himself, and that place is still available, and should there be any urgency may be utilised. I do not see why this thing should be carried through so hurriedly. There is one point to which I must give some explanation, because my colleagues, Mr. Rowlandson and Dr. Cook, took objection to the language of my Report, and this morning's *Times* also speaks about it. I wish to say one word in regard to this subject before I sit down. At one of the Standing Committee Meetings when this subject of cholera sheds was discussed, our President mentioned, as he says here, that there have been constant delays in the disposal of this question. He went further, a good deal further, too, and said that he would report to Government. When he said it first I kept quiet, and when he said it for the second time I was obliged to turn round and tell him that he may very well do it, and that will not deter us from doing our duty. As Commissioner, I will ask my colleagues on the Standing Committee to say whether that was so or not; whether that expression was used or not. If the Commissioners were to send this back to the Sub-Committee, I would be able to point out two places in the 2nd Division and two places in the 1st Division which will be much more convenient and which will be better suited for cholera sheds.

MR. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I am sorry I have to rise to a point of order. The Agenda says we have to consider the report. Instead of the report being placed before us for consideration, we are asked to proceed to consider a proposition for rejecting it. Our duty is to first consider the report, and we do not know what the report is and how far we can give our sanction to it.

THE PRESIDENT:—You are expected to know the report before you come here.

MR. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—We have not considered it at a meeting. It was sent to us privately.

THE PRESIDENT:—I think Mr. Theagaroya Chetty is in order in moving his proposition. It is for you to decide whether you agree to it or not. Does anybody second the resolution?

Mr. Gurusawmy Chetty seconded the proposition.

Mr. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—I find this morning's *Times* comments on the reports of the Sub-Committee. I would request you, as President, to tell us how it reached the *Times*.

THE PRESIDENT:—I should recommend you to write to the Editor of the *Times* and ascertain it from him. I have no doubt that if I ask him he will refuse to tell me.

Mr. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—I do not object to newspaper criticism in proper time.

THE PRESIDENT:—Mr. Venkataramanjulu, you are entirely out of order. If you have any exception to take, take it to the Editor of the *Times*. Don't take it to me.

Mr. GANTZ:—Before this discussion proceeds further, I should like to make a personal statement, as I gather that Mr. Theagaroya Chetty in the course of his speech pointed to me to corroborate him in regard to what he termed a "threat" of the President. I do remember that at one of the Standing Committees Meetings you, sir, said that you would report the matter to Government, but I am bound to add that I did not understand you to make any "threats" but only to intimate your intention to communicate with Government in due course.

Mr. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—That was my impression too. I never understood you to have used any threat.

Mr. VARADAPPA NAIDU:—I was present at the meetings, and it was no threat at all. The President wanted to get out of the responsibility and throw it upon the members of the Standing Committee. That is what I understood from him. The site proposed by the executive and approved of by Government was inspected by the Surgeon-General, Sanitary Commissioner, Surgeon of the First District and the Health Officer. All these professional men have agreed that it is a good site. I do not see why it should be rejected in the face of the medical men who had given their opinion. The Committee, after carefully going into the question and taking the opinion of Dr. Cook, have come to the conclusion they have no objection to the site, and therefore approved of it. I therefore beg to propose an amendment "that the report be adopted."

Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee seconded the amendment.

Mr. ROWLANDSON:—I hope I am in order in expressing the hope, which I am sure will be shared by other Commissioners, that our friend and brother Commissioner, Mr. Theagaroya Chetty, who has just now heard what the other Commissioners who were present on the occasion said, will see his way to express his regret that he was misled into the use of the language in the minute he recorded, which I think he will himself see was uncalled for. Under the circumstances, I hope he now regrets having used the expressions he did. I am sure that Mr. Theagaroya Chetty is one of the most active Commissioners, and he is the first to recognise the justice of the proposition that in writing minutes and expressing our opinion, we should be careful not to give offence to any member of the Commission, which, of course, includes the gentleman who presides at this Commission; and I should be very glad indeed if Mr. Theagaroya Chetty will withdraw such parts of the minutes as were apparently written in language which caused the President and other members annoyance.

Mr. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—As regards the matter of withdrawing my remarks, gentlemen, I took the expression used by the President as a threat, and was obliged to regard it so; that was my impression. If the President now thinks and other Commissioners also think that it was not intended as a threat, I shall be very glad to withdraw my remarks.

Mr. SUBRAMANIAM:—I will only add to what has fallen from the members of the Standing Committee that the words used by the President could never convey any idea of threat. After the Government has sanctioned that site, if the acquisition of it is delayed, and if cholera should break out, the Government would come down upon President as being the responsible officer of the Commission. He said that if the matter was delayed, in justice to himself he would place it before the Government. I do not think anybody understood it in the way of anything like a threat I cordially support Mr. Varadappa Naidu's amendment.

Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR pointed out that Mr. Vardappa's amendment was not an amendment at all, because it was a direct negative of the original motion.

The President observed it was not a negative of the original motion.

Dr. COOK:—As far as this site is concerned, as Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty remarked in his minute that he could not convince the President and Dr. Cook, that is quite right. I made up my mind, and I am not going to change it. I should say a few words as regards the hurrying of this matter through. I do not know whether you know the exact dates since this question of cholera sheds were started. It has been before the Commissioners for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, since 1892. The matter was referred to the Standing Committee in September 1894 and was before them at ten of their meetings. The site selected was not only inspected by me, but by the Health Officer, and approved of by the Government. I cannot conceive any man saying that the matter has been hurried through, when the Standing Committee had it ten times before them. It is perfectly ridiculous to say that it has been hurried through, and it is a great disgrace that it has not been passed long ago.

THE PRESIDENT:—As far as I am personally concerned, I am perfectly indifferent to the site, so long as we have a suitable one. It must be remembered that I am entirely subordinate to the opinion of the medical experts, which I consider in a matter of this nature should be preferred. I was perfectly prepared to take the site proposed by Mr. Theagaraya Chetty; but in the face of the opinion of the Health Officer against it, supported by Dr. Cook, I thought I would not be justified in recommending it to Government. In fact the Government would not listen to it for one moment. As I said in my minute, I never had the slightest intention to threaten. What I said was, I would not accept the responsibility of constant delay, and you will see that is only doing justice to myself. I brought it to the notice of the Standing Committee often but could not get a satisfactory resolution. There were two or three occasions on which I had to make inquiries, but you all know the matter was dragged on for an unnecessarily long time. It must be remembered that I did not threaten in the slightest degree. I may have said I would report to Government, and I certainly would have reported to Government if the matter had gone on in this way longer. If I do not submit my report I should probably be called upon by Government to do so. It is by the merciful interposition of Providence that there has been no strong epidemic of cholera; otherwise the Commissioners would have been in a very difficult position. As regards the land at Mirsahibpet, I have already said that for more than a year we have had a subsidiary cholera camp at Triplicane, down by the burial ground. That has been used in the last season and it is completely furnished and stocked with medicines. To say that the executive were not in a hurry with regard to Triplicane because we were not able to purchase the site is a most unkind and uncalled for accusation against them. They have done everything they can to expedite the matter. We had this camp there, which consists of more than six sheds, in readiness for months past.

Mr. THEAGAROYA CHETTY (interrupting):—I beg your pardon for having spoken on wrong information.

THE PRESIDENT:—I am very sorry you should have done so. All the coolies round about it pretended to be in such a panic over the sheds being there—so much so that I had to go there in the Christmas holidays and say that a new site would be very soon provided.

Mr. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—I think that the report may be remitted to the Committee. My objection to its being passed at this meeting is that Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty and other members of the Committee could not attend the single meeting that was held. There are two alternative sites proposed and if there are no sanitary objections to them, they will greatly effect a saving to the Municipality. Considering that so much time had been spent and it will occupy only 10 days more, I think it is much better that this report should be remitted, so that the sites now proposed may be inspected. If in inspection, these sites are rejected by the Health Officer and the Medical authorities, then we will accede to the recommendation now made; but I think the Commissioners should wait a little longer before they spend Rs. 16,000, which according to the statement of some gentlemen is 16 times more than the real value of the land itself. Some gentleman said that the site is not at all desirable even on sanitary grounds. Close to the site suggested there is a school maintained by a European Missionary and we should resort to a site which will not be objectionable to either private or public bodies. I would therefore ask my colleagues to refer this report back to the Committee asking them to consider the alternative sites proposed.

Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—As a member of the Committee, I object to the amendment not because I formed any definite opinion as to the desirability of the site. Unfortunately I had no

opportunity of being present at the only meeting which was held to consider the subject. There are observations made by the Health Officer and by the Surgeon of the 1st Division that the site selected is very near the thickly populated locality. It will be much better, I think, to remit the subject back to the Committee and ask them to see whether it is possible to get any other site and if there is any real difficulty, then we will have no other alternative than to fix upon the site already selected.

MR. BALAKISTNAMA CHETTY:—Since writing my minute I learned that the plot selected has been a private burial ground of a particular family some time ago and has ceased to be as such since the removal of the public burial and burning ground to its present locality in Tondiarpett. On that score I object to the place being taken up for cholera sheds.

MR. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—After these remarks, I feel bound to observe that if this report be not adopted and if this subject be deferred it will be a shabby procedure. The site selected has been approved of by the Health Officer and Government and I do not see the slightest reason why we should put ourselves against it. For my part I would not admit the plea of hurry at all. If you adopt the procedure now suggested it will be unworthy of the dignity of this body. The representatives of various divisions were on the Committee and when the meeting was convened some of them chose to stay away, and that those very gentlemen should now ask the report to be remitted to the Committee is a proposition which cannot be entertained at all. If the Commission accede to it, it will be unworthy of their indignity. It will leave an impression upon the public that we who meet for the consideration of serious business put it off on no ground whatever. Therefore I support the amendment.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU:—The medical authorities have approved of the site and such being the case I do not see what objection we the Commissioners can take against it.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I hope it will be in order if I ask you to record my protest as the representative of the 1st Division.

THE PRESIDENT:—I cannot do it. That is not business.

A poll was demanded by Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty, seconded by Mr. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty.

The following is the result of the poll:—

Pro.

Mr. Varadappa Naidu, Mr. DeCaster, Mr. Rowlandson, Mr. N. Subrahmanyam, Dr. H. D. Cook, Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar, Mr. J. P. Nicholas, Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee and the President.

Con.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty, Mr. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu, Mr. Balakrishnama Chetty, Mr. Guruswami Chetty, Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar, Mr. M. Varadarajulu Chetty, and Mr. Hajee Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Saib.

Not Voting.

Mr. M. Ramakrishna Pantulu, and Mr. P. V. Krishnaswami Chetty.

Miscellaneous.

The G. O. No. 205 M., dated 11th February 1895, confirming the alteration proposed in clause 6 of the Tramway concession re-route, No. 2 of Tramway was recorded.

The Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 1st March 1895, were recorded.

Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's resolution.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I see some legal opinion has been received in regard to the subject contained in the proposition of which I gave notice. I request permission to defer it till the next General Meeting pending my perusal of the legal opinion. Meanwhile I will ask you to favor me with that opinion.

The meeting terminated.

THOMPSON AND CO., PRINTERS, MADRAS.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of a GENERAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS for the CITY of MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Monday the 25th March 1895, at 5 P.M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT:

Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E., *President.*
F. Rowlandson, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Muhammad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
V. Muhammad Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Honorable P. Rungian Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. Vijiaranga Mudaliar Avargal.
B. Lavery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
W. S. Gantz, Esq.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Cook.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

No. 1.

Preliminary Report of the Committee appointed to consider as to the necessity for a new market, or to take steps to improve the existing public and private markets.

Proposed by Mr. Rowlandson and seconded by Mr. Lavery—

"That the Commissioners are of opinion that in selecting a site for a new market, one nearer the centre of the town on the alignment from north to south, should be given preference to, and that therefore in the event of a market being established in the premises known as Taylor's Stables in the Mount Road they will be prepared to close the existing General Market."

To this, as an amendment, Mr. Gantz proposed and M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu seconded—

"In as much as the Preliminary Report now before the Commissioners is not a report, further discussion be deferred pending the submission of a report."

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.

No. 2.

Report of the Committee appointed to select a suitable place for erecting sheds for accommodating cholera patients of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the Madras Municipality.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu—

"That the subject be referred back to the Committee for further consideration and report."

To this as an amendment M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu proposed and Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee seconded—

"That the report be adopted."

The amendment on being put to the meeting was carried.

A poll called for by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu, supported by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu, was taken with the following result:—

Pro.

J. DeCaster, Esq.,
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.,
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Cook,
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.,
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal,
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.,
F. Rowlandson, Esq.,
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu, and
The President.

Con.

M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu,
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu,
M.R.Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu,
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu,
Haji Muhammad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib,
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal, and
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.

Not voting.

M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu, and
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.

1905-1906

No. 3.

G.O., No. 205 M., dated 11th February 1895, confirming the alteration proposed in clause 6 of the Tramway Concession re route No. 2 of Tramway.

Recorded.

No. 4.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 1st March 1895.

Recorded.

No. 5.

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal moved the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

"That the Commissioners on a careful consideration of the provisions of the Madras Municipal Act, re tax on

buildings and lands, regret to observe that the practice of calculating the gross annual rent of lands by the income derived by the leasing of cocoanut and other fruit trees growing thereon is irregular and unwarranted, and that the taxation of the income accruing by the leasing of such trees is illegal and ought to be given up, unless it is thought fit to move the legislature, and the Act is so amended as to legalize the present practice."

Deferred to next General Meeting.

The Meeting terminated.

G. M. J. MOORE, Lieut.-Col.,
President, Municipal Commission.

Municipal Office, Madras,
March 1895.

*The Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fort St. George.*

*Forwarding of the proceedings of
a General Meeting of the Com-
missioners held on 27th March
1895, together with a copy of
the report of the*

*2
1908-1909*

Madras Municipality.

From
The President,
Municipal Commission,
MADRAS.

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government,
Fort St George.

G. No. 160

Dated 13th
Despd. 13th June 1895
Recd. 14 JUN. 95

Enc. 2

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings of
a General Meeting of the Com-
missioners held on 25th March
1895, together with a copy of
abstract proceedings of the same
date.

order. 26.6.95 1026

Recorded.

1/10/95
24.11.

21/10/96

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When examined
When signed

189

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189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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