

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1141 m

DATED 20th July 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Proceedings.

Recording full-----of a general meeting of the Madras Municipal Commissioners held on 29th April 1895 together with a copy of the abstract proceedings of the same date.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[4]

INDEXED. Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.	
G.O., DATED	20-7-95
No.	1141 m

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Proceedings

Recording full — of a
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Munici. Commissioners held on 29th
April 1895 together with a copy
of the abstract proceedings of
the same date.

ENCL. AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
1895, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 119

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 159

ENCLOSURES

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
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Local & Municipal Dept.
Genl. Deptt.
12
CURRENT No. 2240
1895

Madras Municipality.

From

The President,

Municipal Commission,

MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary

to Government

Fort St. George

G. No. 217

Dated

12 July 1895

Despd.

12 " 1895

Recd.

13 JUL 95

Encls. 2

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Proceedings of
a General Meeting of the Com-
missioners held on 29 April 1895
together with a copy of abstract
proceedings of the same date.

By Order 20.7.95 1161/1162

Recorded.

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2240 Nov 95

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 29th April 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. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Muhammad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
V. Muhammad Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

No. 1.

Election of Members of the Standing Committee.

The Commissioners having proceeded to elect by ballot seven members of the Standing Committee, the following gentlemen were elected and obtained the number of votes opposite their names:—

	Votes.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.	14
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal ..	13
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.	12
M.R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu ..	11
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu ..	11
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu ..	10
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar Avargal ..	10

No. 2.

G.O., No. 18 M., *Mis.*, dated 8th January 1895, on the Sanitary Commissioner's Inspection Notes of the City of Madras for 1894.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu—

"That the Commissioners, while greatly appreciating the inspection notes and diagrams compiled by the Sanitary Commissioner, regret that, in the present state of their finances, they cannot attempt to carry out all his proposals, and have been already doing their best to remedy some of the sanitary defects consistent with their limited finances."

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal proposed and M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu seconded—

"That the following words be added to the original resolution:—
'but that the Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes be referred to a committee composed as follows:—

The President,
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland,
M.R.Ry. G. Subrahmania Iyer Avargal,
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu,
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu,

with power to add to their number, for any views they may have to submit to the Commissioners on the subject."

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal, with the consent of the seconder and of the Commissioners, withdraws his amendment.

The original proposition was then put to the meeting and lost.

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

"That the Commissioners respectfully desire to be favoured with the views of the Government on the inspection notes of the Sanitary Commissioner as read with the comments thereon of their Health Officer."

Carried.

No. 3.

G.O., No. 520 M., *Mis.*, dated 22nd March 1895, requesting to get the consent of the Commissioners to Mr. R. E. Ellis, the Municipal Engineer, being granted leave without allowances for the period he acted as Sanitary Engineer and to accept from him the pensionary contribution.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu and seconded by Mr. DeCaster—

"That the request of Government be acceded to."

Carried.

No. 4.

The President moved the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

"That the rules framed under Act XI of 1886 (The Indian Tramways Act), as circulated to the Commissioners, be adopted."

Mr. DeCaster seconded.

Carried.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by Mr. Rowlandson—

"That the subjects undiposed of be deferred to the next General Meeting."

Carried.

The Meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
May 1895.

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 29th April 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:

Lieut.-Col., G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E., *President*.
F. Rowlandson, Esq.
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya 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. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Muhammad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
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M. R. Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
V. Muhammad Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.
M. R. Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

Questions and Answers.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, I have got to answer some questions put by Dr. Vardappa Naidu.

The following are the questions and answers:—

Water-works Loan.

Q.—Has the loan for 4 lakhs of Rupees advertised for the extension of water-works of Madras been taken up by the public?

A.—Yes.

Q.—If so, kindly state the highest and lowest tender per hundred? What was the rate of the tender or tenders accepted? What was the total amount tendered? What was the amount of premium gained for 4 lakhs?

A.—Highest—8½ premium. Lowest—Par

Rate accepted—8½ premium

Total tendered—Rs. 17,17,500

Premium gained—Rs. 32,500

he makes are unpractical and require unlimited resources. And I cannot believe that he really intended that these suggestions should be carried out by us. He had in his mind a new town to be laid out with a fresh colony of people, the sub-soil condition of which is perfect in every aspect. Having such an idea in his mind, I think the Sanitary Commissioner made all these suggestions. I do not mean for a moment to say that he has not made some suggestions which are entitled to our consideration. But most of the suggestions are such as are impossible to be carried out in our present condition of finances. Some of his suggestions, our Health Officer himself has pointed out, are all that were unpractical. As regards the other suggestions we ourselves have taken steps in the course of the year and I suppose that in the current year other steps will be taken to improve the Sanitary condition of the City. In making these remarks on the Inspection Notes, if experts should bear in mind the money contributed by rate-payers is limited and after all human capacity is also limited and that Municipality does not work with unlimited resources then they will make practical and feasible suggestions. But none the less, I thank the Sanitary Commissioner for all that he has given us and gladly support Dr. Varadappa Naidu. I think it is also our duty to add that the Health Officer has given a very able summary of his opinions regarding the Sanitary Commissioner's suggestions. He has shown us in what respects the suggestions are practical and in what other respects they are not practical. We all recognise the great trouble which the Health Officer has taken in reviewing the suggestions made by the Sanitary Commissioner.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I regret very much that by one stroke of the pen it is proposed to set aside the most valuable suggestions afforded to us by the Chief Medical Officer of the Presidency. There is no doubt that while there are points suggested that are practicable there are others which cannot at present be taken up owing to financial difficulties. But simply because there are some points that we cannot take up at present, I think it is unfair and detrimental to the interests of the Municipality to set aside the report altogether. There is no doubt that the Health Officer has offered an opinion and he has only done it as a matter of duty. I have been very carefully going through the Sanitary Commissioner's notes and I think there are a great many subjects that could be attended to with very little expense. The question is who is to determine such points as could be taken up and practically see them carried out. I think the safest course would be to move an amendment to the effect that the notes of the Sanitary Commissioner be referred to a Committee consisting of the Dr. Maitland, G. Subramania Aiyar and W. S. Venkataramanjula Naidu and the Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu with power to add to their number to decide what points suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner should be given effect to at once, putting off such other matters as would involve a great expenditure of money.

THE PRESIDENT :—The only thing that you can do is to throw out this resolution and move yours as a substantive resolution or you can add yours to the original resolution.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—Suppose the Committee comes to the conclusion that some of the suggestions are practicable, then it will be inconsistent with the resolution.

THE PRESIDENT :—I do not think it is inconsistent. All that they now say is that this should be referred to a Committee to ascertain what their opinion is.

MR. S. GURUSAWMI CHETTY seconded the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT :—You do not put me on. That is all right. There is no reason why I should be on the Committee.

MR. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU :—Under the Act you ought to be on every Committee.

THE PRESIDENT :—No.

MR. F. ROWLANDSON :—I want to move an amendment that the Commissioners respectfully desire to be favored with the views of the Government on the Inspection Notes of the Sanitary Commissioner as read with the comments of the Health Officer thereon.

THE PRESIDENT :—That is not at all an amendment.

MR. F. ROWLANDSON :—That is an amendment to the first proposition. The Government have been good enough to send to us the professional opinion of their expert and that expression of opinion we have sent to our expert. I submit there are persons from whom the Government can obtain opinions upon Dr. King's suggestion which will be more entitled to weight than even the opinions of the Committee that has been named by Mr. R. N. Pragasa Madali. I have no doubt

that these Gentlemen will discharge the duty to the best of their ability. But Government have at the disposal all sorts of experts, Doctors and Engineers; and it seems to me that if we are asked to express an opinion it ought to be done after the Government has been able to see how Dr. King's views are modified or met with by the views of Dr. Nield Cook. It seems to me also for us to ask any of our body to take the trouble to express an opinion on the subject and then take it before the Government—and then the Government should get information from their experts—is like putting the cart before the horse. It is very much better now to ask the Government to favor us with their view on Dr. King's suggestion as modified by our Health Officer.

THE PRESIDENT :—Yours is not an amendment to the proposition before the meeting.

MR. F. ROWLANDSON :—We have got an expression of opinion from our expert and let the Government see what they have got to say on these views. It seems to me two or three of us putting ourselves together even with the help of District Officer to consider this question is a waste of time, because when that opinion goes to Government they will be able to get the opinion of still better qualified men who can sit in judgment on such points as Dr. King and Dr. Cook have differed on. I submit this is practically an amendment, because it asks the Commissioners to adopt a different course from the one proposed.

THE PRESIDENT :—You cannot move this.

MR. F. ROWLANDSON :—Do you mean to say that this is not an amendment.

THE PRESIDENT :—An amendment can only be an addition, or alteration or substitution to the original proposition.

MR. F. ROWLANDSON :—I propose to substitute the whole of the original proposition by this amendment (laughter).

THE PRESIDENT :—I do not think this is an amendment.

MR. F. ROWLANDSON :—Then I speak against the adoption of the original proposition. I trust the Commissioners will bear in mind that there is another proposition that has to be considered.

MR. J. DECASTEE :—I am inclined to take the same view of the matter as Mr. Rowlandson. In 1890 the Medical Authorities in England drew attention to the fact that judged by the death-rate, Madras was the most insanitary City in the whole world, except Cairo. The Sanitary Commissioner's Madras Inspection Notes for 1894 of 80½ pages printed on foolscap, half margin, now before the meeting, go to show that the city has continued to maintain its right to this unenviable distinction, and there is no mistake about it, as it is shown to be in as dreadful a state of insanitation as ever it was, and holding fast to an appalling death-rate which is twice what it should be. We have also before us the Health Officer's remarks of 21 printed pages of foolscap as a counter-blast to Dr. King's Notes. Dr. Cook says that he disagrees in nearly everything with Dr. King. When Doctors disagree the patient's case must needs look very hopeless, and so it is in this. With the Doctors disagreed and the Commissioners and the Government not yet agreed, Madrassees, fatally sick from the effects of insanitation, must go on dying at the rate of 40 per 1,000 per annum, instead of 20 per 1,000 per annum, or, according to the population, about 20,000 per year, instead of 10,000 per year. In this connection it may be observed that a number of Burial grounds had to be closed, and new ones opened not many years ago, but these latter are all now getting so full that the President is at his wits' end to find suitable sites for others. Dr. Cook does not seem to question Dr. King's facts so much as his conclusions and recommendations. So far as the facts go, the truth appears to be that insanitary matters and conditions have been growing and hardening ever since Madras came into existence 255 years ago, till they have now attained such colossal proportions and strength as to be beyond all control, Municipal or otherwise. If any one doubts this, let him pay a visit to Brick Kiln Road, Pursewalkum, where he will come upon a huge pile of rubbish, sewage, refuse, etc., of such enormous length, breadth, and height, as to look like a detached spur of the Eastern or Western Ghats; and if any one wants to know more, let him walk along the banks of the Cooum, to the South West of Chintadripet, between 7 and 8 A.M., when if he is not knocked down by the most terrible stench known to man, he may congratulate himself on his escape. Except the portion sunk on the soil and utilised in the grass farms the sewage has been run into the Cooum for 255 years as the most convenient place of storage for the benefit of posterity. The quantity which lies hidden there may be imagined when Dr. King says about one million gallons pass into daily at present. But, after all, Dr. King's

notes show nothing more than what might be expected of a city of 466,700 souls without any regular system of sewerage or drainage, and without the ways or means of getting finally rid of all the ever accumulating insanitary matters. No one who studies the subject will think of blaming the Municipality for this. It is well known that in the pre-municipal times, Madras was a very jungle of insanitation. When the Municipality made its appearance it was allowed to collect a certain amount of taxes and could only work within its income, and this was just enough to keep up appearances by removing insanitary matters out of the way and out of sight as far as possible, and to control insanitary conditions to a certain extent. But as already remarked, there never was the way or the means of finally getting rid of them, and this is why we are still surrounded by so vast and unmanageable an accumulation of human, animal, and vegetable remains in the forms of refuse, sewage rubbish, &c. Every one knows that the Municipality has for years past made great and special efforts to fight the insanitation, in which money raised as loans, &c., was spent on water supply, Black Town drainage, &c., but, the undiminished death-rate records the futility of all such attempts. There are schemes although yet only on paper, for drainage and sewage and the incineration of rubbish. The Health Officer in the concluding part of his remarks advises us to stick to these. But as the Madrassee is in the position of the drowning man who will catch at straws, we might do well to take into further consideration all the more important of the measures recommended by the Sanitary Commissioner which may be found in any way to help us out of our difficulties. But after all the fight against so formidable an enemy as Madras Insanitation is a matter of money and plenty of it, and unless a paternal Government aid us with very liberal grants, Madras must continue to bear the odium of being, as Dr. King says, the most notorious city except four in the world for the rapid killing of citizens, and Madras-sees must go on dying at the rate shown above, or, if unwilling to die so fast, they must make up their minds to take kindly to greatly increased Municipal taxation.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANIA AIYAR:—I am sorry I have to oppose the amendment brought forward by Mr. R. N. Pragasam Mudali not because I think the subject is not deserving of consideration, but because I think the Committee can do absolutely no work, upon the Notes of Inspection submitted to us for opinion; because all that is possible to be done by the Municipality we have done all along and we are proposing to do. The greatest drawbacks to the Sanitation of Madras are those relating to the drainage and water supply, and these two great improvements have been considered by an expert specially sent for, who submitted a report, which the Government has now under consideration and to which to some extent you propose to give effect. So far as these two great things are concerned practical steps that could be taken are being taken, and therefore, I do not see what we can do in regard to the suggestions made by the Sanitary Commissioner on these two points. As regards the minor points pointed out by him we have had in each year's administration a summary of defects given by the Army Sanitary Commissioner. Last year a Committee sat over these defects which they considered *seriatim* and made a report which will be placed before the Commissioners in the course of a few days. As regards water-supply in important divisions we proposed an improvement for which we have borrowed a loan. I do not see what more we can do by appointing a Committee to consider these defects nor do I concur with Mr. R. N. Pragasam Mudali in saying that we propose to brush away this report by a summary admonition. I have read the report with carefulness and all I can say is it contains absolute exaggerations and I can quote a number of instances to show the impracticable character of the suggestions made in the Sanitary Commissioners Notes. The Sanitary Commissioner has mentioned the accumulation during the course of the last 50 years of 10,12,000 feet high of filthy matter corrupting the air. Our Health Officer has pertinently remarked that this matter cannot accumulate without undergoing decomposition and it is not possible for accumulation to go on without at the same time undergoing chemical changes. Then what is the meaning of the Sanitary Commissioner saying that this dirty matter has been accumulating and corrupting the town? Then he talks of sub-soil drainage. What can we do without expending millions of rupees in regard to this subject. He proposes that 1,000 tanks should be filled and our Health Officer calculates that to fill them up, a lac of rupees will be wanted. Another suggestion made by him is that the front portion of the houses in Madras should be demolished to make the people live more happily. Is it possible to give effect to that kind of suggestion? We expect men of learning and position to give us the benefit of their learning and experience in a practical way. He makes some suggestions about latrines. He proposes three kinds, one for ordinary people, another for middle classes and the

3rd in connection with houses as if every house-holder will lend himself to this matter without a word of murmur. I would draw your attention to para. 64 in order to prove that I do not make these remarks without feeling the sense of responsibility. Here is a suggestion made that the sites of rivers must be improved and the people that live there must be told to go and live in some other place; and if they do not we should take steps under 'River Pollution Act,' as if it is an easy thing to do. In para. 69 he proposes that all the wells in the city of Madras should be closed. Is it possible for Commissioners to do any such thing. Even supposing we had resources, can the people be expected to put up with this without a hue and cry being raised throughout the city. He proposes that the streets of Madras should be paved with wood. What quantity of money do you think should be provided for it. With some difficulty we provided Rs. 1,000 for the watering of roads, but the Government struck off the item. He makes so many suggestions that they would require fresh legislation. This Committee may do some good work and if the suggestions made by them are approved, we may go to Government for legislative help. In some matters for instance, in food adulteration a certain amount of help is wanted. In regard to that the Committee may do some good. One more remark I want to make, that is, the Health Officer disagrees with the Sanitary Commissioner in every respect.

Mr. DECASTER:—I beg to draw your attention that the Health Officer himself does not say so.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANIA AIYAR:—With regard to some points they are impractical, with regard to others, there is a financial difficulty. I have said enough to show that the Committee which is proposed cannot do useful work in view to what has already been done and what is proposed to be done. Therefore I am sorry I have to oppose this amendment.

Dr. MAITLAND:—I do not see any necessity for the Committee at all. I think this is a matter that could very well be attended to by the Health Officer. I quite agree with Mr. Rowlandson in thinking that if anything more is required to be done it could be referred to Government. It seems to me that the Committee is perfectly useless.

THE PRESIDENT:—My own opinion is that it will be practically useless to appoint a Committee. You would get from the Committee what you will get in a few days. As Mr. G. Subramania Iyer says there is a Committee sitting which is going into the question of drainage and water supply. There is the report of the other Committee to go into the sanitary defects pointed out in the administration report, which will be in the hands of the Commissioners in a very few days. All the minor defects practically touched upon by the Sanitary Commissioner are fully dealt with in that report and the Commissioners could deal with that report in any way they like. The larger scheme of drainage and water supply has been gone into in the other report, and I do not think that any Committee that you can appoint can do more or place before you more information than what is contained in those reports and in the report of the Health Officer on the Sanitary Commissioner's notes. I think it would be simply a waste of time to appoint a Committee. The Government might be able to get the opinion of the other experts, but that, of course, is another point which is for the Government to settle. They will have something further to say whatever resolution may be forwarded to them. I must say that we cannot derive any practical benefit by the appointment of this Committee.

At this stage Mr. R. N. Pragasam Mudaliar with the consent of the seconder withdrew his amendment in favor of Mr. Rowlandson's suggestion which he thought was a good one.

Mr. ROWLANDSON then moved:—"That the Commissioners respectfully desire to be favored with the views of Government on the notes of the Sanitary Commissioner as read with the comments thereon by the Health Officer."

Mr. R. F. Grant seconded the resolution.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—Will not Government turn round and ask us whether we the Commissioners who are in charge of the sanitation of the city have nothing to say on the full notes of the Sanitary Commissioner? This is a matter which peculiarly concerns the Commissioners and they must be able to say what their opinion is on the subject.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried.

Mr. R. E. Ellis's leave.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business is the G. O. No. 520, M. Mis., dated 22nd March 1895, requesting to get the consent of the Commissioners to Mr. R. E. Ellis, the Municipal Engineer, being granted leave without allowances for the period he acted as Sanitary Engineer and to accept from him the pensionary contribution.

The Government admit they made a mistake and ask the Commissioners to do the only thing they can, to assist them in remedying it, that is, by granting Mr. Ellis leave with retrospective effect from the 1st January 1894 to 1st January 1895.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I wish to ask for some information. The Civil Service Code provides for the transfer of service from Imperial to Local Fund Board and Municipality. I should like to know whether there is a similar provision authorising Government to transfer from Local Fund or Municipal service to Government.

THE PRESIDENT:—That is another matter altogether. In this case Mr. Ellis will be treated as being on leave without pay from the Municipality and while he is on leave he will do this work. I cannot answer your question. This will not be a transfer to Government service. You can evidently see Government are in a difficulty and they do not know how to decide the matter.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—He must have taken the leave from the Municipality.

THE PRESIDENT:—The fact of the matter is they want you to help them out of the difficulty.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—If this concession is made to Mr. Ellis, why not a similar concession be made to the Assistant Engineer whose services have been transferred from Imperial to Municipal?

THE PRESIDENT:—He is on leave without pay in his Department. That is a Departmental business.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU:—What is the service of Mr. Ellis in the Municipality?

THE PRESIDENT:—About 4 years.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU:—Would not Government take pensionary contribution from the Acting Assistant Engineer?

THE PRESIDENT:—The Assistant Engineer is not transferred, but he is on leave without pay.

MR. W. S. VENCATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—Is that not foreign to the subject that we are discussing?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. W. S. VENCATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—Let us confine ourselves to the question before us.

THE PRESIDENT:—I do not understand what Mr. Varadappa Naidu is putting forward. All that I can gather from him is that the man who acted as Assistant Engineer while Mr. Ellis was away does not count his service for that period in his Department.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU:—The Government would not take pensionary contribution from him because he is ten years below service.

THE PRESIDENT:—I do not think you can make that a condition. I think that may be represented to Government. The fact is that the whole matter is bristling with difficulties.

MR. M. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY proposed and Mr. DeCaster seconded "that the request of Government be acceded to."

MR. ROWLANDSON:—We should do all in our power to rectify any mistake and to make the rectification as far reaching as possible. Therefore I would ask the mover of the proposition whether he would withdraw his proposition in favor of one which is more wide.

THE PRESIDENT:—The Government are in a difficulty. The Commissioners must specifically grant leave for one year from such and such a date.

MR. ROWLANDSON:—Suppose there is a question regarding another man. Can we not strengthen the hands of Government in regard to other matters?

THE PRESIDENT:—Will the Accountant General take it applicable to Mr. Ellis,

MR. M. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—I think we must accede to the request of Government as it is.

MR. W. S. VENCATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—I believe Mr. Ellis did not know that under the Act he was required to apply for leave to the Commissioners. It is no doubt a *bona fide* mistake and the Government would also appear to have just opened their eyes, and if we are requested by Government to rectify the mistake it is our duty to support this proposition.

The proposition was put to the vote and carried.

Taxation on Cycles.

THE PRESIDENT:—I wish to suggest that the resolutions of Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudali and Mr. M. Venkatramiah Chetty may stand over until the decision of the Court is obtained in a test case. We are likely to have a test case in connection with Dr. Wilson. The best thing is to let it go before the Commissioners on appeal and then I will take it to the Court.

MR. GRANT:—Is it not best to have Solicitor's opinion?

THE PRESIDENT:—Although they have no doubt about it, yet they think that under a ruling at home bicycles are not taxable.

MR. GRANT:—Do they consider it a doubtful point?

THE PRESIDENT:—They do not consider any judge would give it. I have been levying the tax and the only thing that can stop it is the ruling of the Madras High Court.

MR. M. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—May we not request you as an Executive officer to defer levying the tax for some time?

THE PRESIDENT:—Then you would not have a test case. The question is whether you will withdraw your resolutions until you get test cases.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Is there a test case?

THE PRESIDENT:—We can get one.

MR. M. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—I for my part paid my taxes.

At this stage Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty moved "that the consideration of the subjects undisposed of be deferred to the next General Meeting."

The proposition was seconded by Mr. Rowlandson and when put to the vote was carried.

The Meeting terminated.

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Yours truly,
John A. G. White

1950 Nov 28

General

G. No. 2/7

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department.

Madras, 12 July 1895
Local & Municipal Dept.

From

Lieut.-Col. G. M. J.

MOORE, Esq.,

CURRENT No. 2240h

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 29th April 1895, together with a copy
of abstract proceedings of the same date.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Yours Most Obedt. Servant

G. M. J. Moore Esq. Col.

President, Municipal Commission

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