L. & M.
P. 900-8-8-96.

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 529 M

DATED 19th September 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commission.

Recording full proceedings of a general meeting and abstract proceedings of an adjourned special meeting of the Madras Municipal Commissioners held on the 24"and 26"June 1895, respectively.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

INDEXED.

Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.

G.O., DATED 19—9—95

No.

1529/m

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mun^l: Commission.

Recording full proceedings of a General meeting and abstract proceedings of an adjourned special meeting of the Madras Mun^l: Comm^rs. held on the 24^th and 26^th June 1895 respectively.

V.

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

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. ..

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

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BACK PAPER, No. OF 189

FURTHER PAPER, No. OF 189

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Examined by

Genel. Deptt.
Local & Municipal Dept.
1895
CURRENT No. 2815

Madras Municipality.

From

The President,

Municipal Commission,

MADRAS.

To

The chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

G. No. 331

Dated 9th September 1895
Despd. 9th " 1895.
Recd. 10 SEP 95

Encs. 5. 6.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings together with abstract proceedings of a Special meeting and a General meeting of the Commissioners on 24th June and an Adjourned Special meeting on 26th June 1895.

R. Misc. Order 19-9-95 No. 1529 misc

Recorded.

L.A. 16/9/95

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MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS for the CITY of MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday the 26th June 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.*
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.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Rau Avargal.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Commissioners at their Meeting held on 28th January 1895 on Mr. Cousins' Schemes for the improvement of the Drainage and the Water-supply of Madras.

Proposed by Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Rau Avargal—

"That the Meeting resolve itself into Committee."

Carried.

The Meeting resumes.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu—

"That the Meeting adjourn till Monday the 8th July 1895.

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
June 1895.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

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 24th June 1895, at 5-15 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.*
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. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Rau Avargal.

No. 1.

Resolution No. 6 of the Commissioners at their General Meeting held on 5th June 1895, deferring consideration of the Election Rules as revised by the Standing Committee till Meeting in June 1895.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu—

"That the rules as revised by the Standing Committee be adopted."

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal proposed and Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu seconded—

"That Rules 5, 7, 13, 17, 18 and 19 be referred back to the Standing Committee for further consideration."

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu—

"That the consideration of the report be deferred to next General Meeting and in the meantime the report be printed and circulated to the Commissioners."

Carried.

No. 2.

Application from the Health Officer for leave on medical certificate for one year.

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

"That the Health Officer be recommended for twelve months' leave on medical certificate under the rules in force."

Carried.

No. 3.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 17th May 1895.

Proposed by Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu and seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster—

"That Proceedings 2 (ii), 2 (iii) and 2 (iv) be not confirmed."

Proposed by M R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal—

"That the consideration of these Proceedings be deferred to next General Meeting."

Carried.

No. 4.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from April 1894 to March 1895.

Recorded.

No. 5.

Progress Report of Works for February and March 1895.

Recorded—with satisfaction that practically all the works have been completed during the year, which reflects great credit on the Acting Engineer and his department.

The Meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
June 1895.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of a SPECIAL 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 24th June 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.*
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. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar Avargal.
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M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
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M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

To recommend a candidate to fill a seat on the Legislative Council under the provisions of G.O., dated 20th May 1895, No. 904 L.

A ballot was taken with the following result:—

	Votes.
M.R.Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu	14
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu	9

M.R.Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu was therefore duly elected as the candidate recommended by the Commissioners to fill a seat on the Legislative Council.

The Meeting terminated.

Municipal Office, Madras,
June 1895.

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

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

derived without any increase to the present taxation. But this will be a work of time, and our present necessity is to consider whether we are to increase taxes so as to get the necessary sum required for drainage, or leave the city without drainage to take care of itself. No sane man would lose his health if he has money. I think every sane tax-payer would like to see his street properly drained and kept healthy rather than grumble to spend a few rupees for the purpose. But the condition of the rate-payers is such, that one and all express that the present taxation itself is too much and they cannot bear any more. Whatever may be my own personal opinion, I am bound to express the opinion of the rate-payers of the 5th Division. From the Rajah to the labourer, every one dislikes any increase on the present taxation. For myself, I am very anxious to see the City of Madras well drained and made healthy, but as an elected representative of the rate-payers, I must take into consideration the difficulties of the people, and earnestly ask you to discuss the question patiently in all its bearings, and in imposing an additional taxation to see that the people are not oppressed with heavy taxation. By doubling the carriage tax and professional tax, some are under the impression that it will not press heavily on those on whom it is imposed. I don't agree at all in this opinion. It will press very heavily upon a certain class of persons. Within the last few days you might have heard that one merchant after another has failed in his business, and the loss on those connected with them is certainly very heavy. If we trace out carefully the ultimate cause of these failures, we may probably attribute them to heavy taxation, in the form of tariff duties, harbour dues, and also to loss in exchange. When we see that time is so hard upon the people at present, we must pause and consider what will be the result if we impose additional taxation on the citizens. I, therefore, ask you to consider the subject fully, and, to do so, whether it is not necessary to allow some more time.

When the above speech was being delivered, Dr. Walker drew the attention of the President to the want of quorum, whereupon some of the Commissioners who were outside the room came in and the speech was resumed.

The proposition was put and carried.

The meeting assumed after one hour and a half.

Proposed by M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu and seconded by M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu—

"That the Meeting adjourn till Monday the 8th July 1895."

Carried.

anna per gallon, or say 14 per cent. *ad valorem*. It, therefore, seems to the Chamber a most inequitable proposal that a local tax of another anna per gallon should be imposed, which means that this particular trade would have to bear, what the Chamber believes, to be an unprecedented burden in the shape of taxation of 28 to 30 per cent. in addition to the present Municipal tax in the shape of storage and transport licenses. If the Imperial Government had not claimed petroleum as an article on which it could, and has, augmented its revenue the Chamber would not protest against a fair and reasonable local tax, but seeing that it has, and that the Imperial tax imposed is an exceptionally heavy one, the Chamber begs to protest against the proposed Octroi.

If the schemes for improved sanitation are to be carried out the Municipality will certainly have to raise additional funds, but the Chamber strongly deprecates the proposal to unduly tax a particular branch of trade as a means to this end, while funds are procurable from other sources which are less open to the objections set forth. The proposed tax is also open to the objection that it would probably drive trade away from this City.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd.) GEO. L. CHAMBERS,
Chairman."

Then with reference to the proposed increase in tax on Vehicles, Animals, and Tolls, Mr. Theagaroya Chetty said that the income thus derived should be sufficient for expenditure on roads. I will read to you a memorandum on the subject from the Acting Engineer. He says :—

" Sir,—I beg to state that on page 46 of the Administration Report for 1874 and 1875, it will be found that the average expenditure in maintaining the roads from 1865 to 1875 was about Rs. 91,000. In one year, *i.e.*, in 1866, the expenditure went up to Rs. 1,23,123. The tolls and taxes on vehicles and animals for this period was about Rs. 89,000 per annum. It is now about Rs. 1,15,000. The metalled mileage has increased during the past 20 years, so also the value of road material, yet our annual expenditure is very little in excess of what it was 20 years ago.

" Our roads are, as a whole, in very bad order. No doubt the continuous drought for several months during the past few years has tended towards this state of things. I think, however the annual Grant is very inadequate for the maintenance of so many as 270 miles of metalled road, way, and considering that, with the present Grant, only about 26 miles are to be reformed in a year, out of the 270, several of the roads must be allowed to stand for over 10 years before their turn for reform comes around, more so since at least a fourth of the above mileage is what is termed first-class roads. This class of roads have to be taken in hand once in every 3 years. I beg that the Commissioners may be requested to increase the present Grant for roads by at least 50 per cent., so that they may be kept in better order and more of the mileage reformed every year."

Before we decide to go into Committee, I shall just read out to you the several proposals and the amendment thereon. They are :—

Tax on Vehicles, Animals, Carts, &c.	...	...	...	50 per cent.
Profession Tax	...	...	...	100 ,,
Liquor Tax	...	...	...	100 ,,
Petroleum	...	...	...	1 anna per gallon.
Do.	...	...	...	3 ,,
Do.	...	...	...	2 ,,
Tolls	...	...	...	100 per cent.
Profession Tax	...	...	...	50 ,,
Tolls	...	...	...	50 ,,
Timber	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{5}$ of present rate.

Contribution of Rs. 50,000 to be remitted.

Tax on patent medicines and proprietary articles.

House tax to be increased.

Schedule A to be amended so as to affect all persons whose income is Rs. 20 per mensem.

There is a resolution communicated to me of a meeting of the rate-payers of the fifth Division (The President read the resolution).

MR. V. VARADAPPAH NAIDU :—I may say that the meeting was not a representative one of the rate-payers of the fifth Division, but of the Progressive Union.

It was proposed by Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao, and seconded by Mr. R. Balajee Rao "that the meeting resolve itself into Committee."

MR. V. VARADAPPAH NAIDU :—Before this proposition is put, I wish to say a few words.

THE PRESIDENT :—Are you going to propose an amendment ?

MR. V. VARADAPPAH NAIDU :—No I am going to speak in the subject of taxation. MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTELMEN,—Since we last met for the purpose of providing funds for drainage, I have had the pleasure of receiving a good many communications from the rate-payers of my division, expressing their views on the subject under discussion. I therefore request you will kindly allow me to speak on the subject. The existing Municipal taxation is very heavy, and there is a cry everywhere that any increase on the present taxation will fall very heavily on the rate-payers and become unbearable and unpopular. What I now tell you is a simple echo of the voice of already heavily taxed rate-payers. But we, as custodians of the public health, must see that Madras is properly drained and kept healthy, and mortality is reduced. For the efficient drainage of the City it becomes our bounden duty to provide funds to the extent of two lakhs annually to meet the interest. Sinking Fund and maintenance of drainage on a loan of 40 lakhs, which the Commissioners have to borrow. If the Commissioners are not able to raise these 2 lakhs annually, the question resolves itself simply to this, that Madras must continue to be unhealthy, without drainage, and be doomed till they find the money. Now the people continually send in petitions after petitions that their streets stink, the sewage waters stagnate, and they require the Municipality to take steps to rectify the defects, but what is the answer sent by the Municipal authorities to rate-payers. The answer is simply " Want of money." It is true the Municipality gets a yearly income of Rs. 16 to 17 lakhs, and it is very natural for the rate-payers to ask the Commissioners, " What do you do with so much money ?" Some say that the Commissioners are too liberal in expending the rate-payers money, and some say, to meet the present demand, " Why not curtail your expenditure and be very economical ?" Of course, the Commissioners do their best by bestowing great care how they spend the rate-payers money, but I hear complaints in many quarters that the Commissioners, by a little more attention and care, may secure a saving of the two lakhs required for drainage by curtailing unnecessary expenditure and trying to get a good contribution from Imperial Funds on account of liquor license. Some are of opinion that these two lakhs may be got without any increase to the present taxation if great vigilance is exercised by the Executive Revenue Officers in getting all the carriages and animals in the city taxed by farming out the tolls, so that none may escape their notice and go scotfree from taxation. We see, year by year, carriages and horses on the increase, whereas the taxes and tolls on them do not increase proportionately. This shows there is some defect somewhere in taxation and collection of vehicle tax. Moreover, from the want of vigilance, I see that year after year taxes amounting to thousands of rupees are being written off from the books as irrecoverable. If more vigilance is taken by the tax-gatherers, such losses to the Municipality would not occur. Another item from which more money may be got to the Municipality is, I think, from adopting a uniform taxation of houses. At present there is no principle on which houses are taxed. If they are rented houses, of course, the taxation is guided by the rents received, but what is the principle in the houses in which the owners themselves live ? I know of houses of the same dimensions in the same locality taxed unequally, that is one house of the same dimension inhabited by one owner may be taxed more than another of a similar capacity. This taxation depends on the whims of the assessors, and there is no rule or principle laid down to guide them. If a house is over-taxed the owner naturally appeals, but suppose a house is undervalued, is there any Inspecting Staff to find out the mistake of the underpaid assessor ? As far as I know there is no body to check the work of these underpaid assessors, it is left to their whims in cases of under-valuation. Of course two Commissioners are expected to inspect the premises in cases of appeal for over-valuation of houses. Do any Commissioners inspect in cases of under-valuation ? No. As far as I know no superior officers of the Revenue Department go out of the office to check the work of the underpaid assessors. The Revenue Officer has no out-door inspections, and his work is chiefly confined to the office table. If the Revenue Officer does not make it a point of his duty to inspect a certain percentage of houses, as the Engineer does, we cannot expect an improvement in taxation. If supervision is exercised by the superior Revenue Officers over their underpaid subordinates, and if they see that no house is under-valued by them, there will be no heartburning among the rate-payers, and every house will be equally taxed according to its value, and thereby two lakhs or more will be

Proceedings of an Adjourned Special Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday, the 26th June 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.*
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.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
V. Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. Balajee Rao Avargal.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Commissioners at their Meeting held on 28th January 1895 on Mr. Cousins' Schemes for the improvement of the Drainage and the Water-supply of Madras.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, at the meeting of the 7th June at which the business was transacted, the amendment before the meeting was Mr. N. Subramanyam's. It was decided at that meeting that the Commissioners should resolve themselves into Committee, and come to a conclusion. Before that is done, I should like to read to you one or two communications I have received on the subject, which it is well for the Commissioners to know. You must understand that I am not speaking for or against any amendment, but I am merely giving you information. With reference to tax on petroleum, I have received the following letter from the Chamber of Commerce:—

"Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that at the last General Meeting of the Chamber, held on the 7th instant, the proposal referred to at the meetings of the Municipality on the 31st ultimo and the 5th instant to levy an Octroi of one anna per gallon on kerosine oil, as one method of raising funds to meet the cost of certain improvements to the City of Madras, was discussed, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted: 'That the Chamber addresses Government on the subject and protests against the inequitable proposal of levying a tax on a commodity that already is exceptionally heavily burdened.' Without expressing any opinion as to the material benefit likely to accrue to the Municipality by the levy of an Octroi on petroleum the Chamber considers that the tax is most undesirable for the following reasons. Kerosine oil is already severely handicapped by Imperial taxation, and it was only last year that the duty was increased 100 per cent., it being now one

Genl. Dept. 13

G. No. 331

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.

General Department.

Madras, 9 September 1895.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 2815/11

From

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

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures 6

I have the honor to submit herewith for the information of Government full proceedings as also copies of abstract proceedings of a Special Meeting and a General Meeting of the Commissioners held on 24th June 1895, and of an Adjourned Special Meeting held on 26th June 1895.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servant
G. M. Moore Lt. Col.
President, Mun. Comm.

Proceedings of a Special 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 24th June 1895, at 5 P. M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PEESENT:

Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C. I. E., *President.*
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. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahammad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
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M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

To recommend a candidate to fill a seat on the Legislative Council under the provisions of G. O., dated 20th May 1895, No. 904 L.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, this special meeting has been convened under an order of Government requesting the Commissioners to recommend a candidate for a seat in the Legislative Council in the place of Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu, who vacated his seat in the Council on the 23rd instant. The election is to be by ballot, and a majority of those present and voting is required for a valid election. In this case the majority is 12.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—Mr. President, will you permit me to make a remark?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I have to announce to the Commissioners that I withdraw my candidature.

Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar :—I beg to propose the election of Mr. Theagaroya Chetty as the representative of this Municipality in the local Legislative Council. He has been a Commissioner for nearly 13 years, and you need hardly be reminded of his energetic services in this Board. He has, indeed, not infrequently found himself in disagreement with the Executive. But it will be admitted on all hands that he has always exerted himself with unswerving fidelity to the rate-payers of Madras and to his convictions. We need entertain no doubt that if he holds a seat in the Legislative Council, the public will have a fearless and independent representative, who will work in their cause with devotion.

The President :—Do you want that put as a resolution ?

Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar :—Yes. If it requires seconding.

The President :—It has not been the custom to propose and second such resolutions. I have just received a letter from Dr. Walker regretting his inability to be present, owing to another engagement. He wants this to be mentioned, as he promised to be present.

Votes were then recorded by means of voting cards.

The President :—Will two Commissioners come and help me in reading out the names.

Mr. Rungiah Naidu :—As the voting is by ballot, I object to any Commissioners reading the names, as they may know by handwriting who wrote the names.

The President then read out the names and the following was the result :—

	Votes.
M. R. Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu	14
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu	9

M. R. Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu was therefore duly elected as the candidate recommended by the Commissioners to fill a seat on the Legislative Council.

Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu :—Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I have to thank you for the honor you have done me by electing me to the nomination for the Madras Legislative Council and by having expressed your satisfaction that I did, as promised last time, perform to the best of my ability my duty as Legislative Member without fear or favour. I assure you that I shall endeavour to do the same this year also. (Hear, hear, and cheers).

The meeting then terminated.

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 24th June 1895, at 5-15 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*.
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. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahomad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V.Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarthy Iyangar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Rao Avargal.

Questions and Answers.

The President :—I have to answer some questions put by Mr. Hadi Badsha Sahib.

The following are the questions and answers :—

Q.—Will you please state the number of indigo, &c., dyeing-houses or yards existing at present in Triplicane, in the 7th Division ?

A.—25.

Q.—Have each and every one of those who now carry on that business taken out licenses under Section 332 for the current year ?

A.—13 have applied.

Q.—Will you kindly mention how many of these dyeing houses or yards are situated in the midst of dwelling-houses ?

A.—Practically all of them.

Q.—Do you not consider that the carrying on of such offensive trade in the midst of habitation, emitting as it does unwholesome smell, dangerous to life and deleterious to public health ?

A.—I am not prepared to say so.

Q.—Do you not consider it advisable and safe not to allow such offensive and dangerous trade to be carried on in thickly populated localities and will you please see when the time for issuing fresh licenses arrives to the removal of all such dyeing-yards to reasonable distances from dwelling houses ?

A.—This is an old established industry in Triplicane and it would be somewhat hard to remove them. Application to open new yards have been refused.

Q.—Have you had any occasion during the past one or two years to cancel or suspend the license of such dealers on sanitary grounds or for any other cause ?

A.—Eight applications have been refused on sanitary grounds during the last year.

Q.—Are you aware of the existence in the town of any place or places used for washing or drying wool brought into Town for the purpose of exportation ?

A.—No.

Q.—If any such places of business exist, what is their number and whereabout the Town are they situated ?

A.—Answered by question 7.

Q.—Have the owners or occupiers of such places taken out licenses under the Act and if so how many licenses have been issued during the current year ?

A.—Answered by question 7.

Q.—Is it the duty of the Sanitary Department to inspect frequently dyeing yards and places used for dyeing and washing wool to prevent their becoming a source of annoyance to the neighbourhood—nay more dangerous to life ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Will you please state whether during the past one year there was any mention whatever made in the diaries of the Sanitary Overseers, Inspectors or Health Officer to show that such places of business have been regularly inspected and that due supervision was exercised by the officers concerned to prevent the trade proving dangerous to the health of the Town ?

A.—Inspections were made by all the Sanitary officers in the course of their work but no special mention made of them.

Q.—If there are diaries in which reference is made to such places of business, will you please state the nature of the notice taken, *i. e.*, as regards their insanitary condition ?

A.—Sixteen have been prosecuted under Section 321 for filthy premises during the current year.

Q.—Have you or the Health Officer at any time issued orders to the Sanitary staff as regards the necessity of inspecting these places frequently ?

A.—No special orders have been issued.

Q.—If special instructions have not been issued before, will you kindly issue stringent orders to the Sanitary Department that such places of business should be inspected at least twice a week so as to minimise the nuisance and discomfort arising by the trade ?

A.—I do not think this is necessary.

Q.—With regard to the form of license issued by the office under Section 332, will you please state when and by whom it was introduced ?

A.—I cannot say.

Q.—As the license now stands, do you not consider that it is issued more for the sake of money than for minimising the evil arising from an offensive trade ?

A.—No.

Q.—If you consider that the present form of license does not provide for the "restrictions or regulations" such as those contemplated by clause 1, Section 332, will you please see to the early revision of the license form so that the primary object of issuing licenses may be achieved ?

A.—The condition of each yard is described by the Sanitary Officers on each application and the license granted or refused accordingly. This would seem to be all that is necessary.

Q.—From the form now used in the office, I find that the licenses in question are issued by the Health Officer under his own signature. If it is so, do you not consider it irregular and illegal as Section 332 requires such licenses being issued by the President.

A.—The original application for license is signed by the President and filed in the office. The form referred to is merely an intimation that the license has been granted.

Resolution No. 6 of the Commissioners at their General Meeting held on the June 1895, deferring consideration of the Election Rules as revised by the Standing Committee till Meeting in June 1895.

THE PRESIDENT:—The first business is the revision of the Election rules, which was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee went through them, and submitted their views on the subject. It was brought up at the last meeting, but was deferred, as some of the Commissioners wished to go through the rules.

It was proposed by M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu—

" That the rules as revised by the Standing Committee be adopted."

Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar:—I beg to propose " that Rules 5, 7, 13, 17, 18, and 19 be referred back to the Standing Committee for further consideration."

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row seconded the amendment. At this stage there was an informal talk as to whether the amendment was in order ; eventually, it was decided, to be in order.

Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar in moving the above amendment made the following observations :—

You will remember that the paper now before the meeting is the outcome of the resolution which I moved in October last, suggesting a committee for revising the election rules. The Commissioners, however, decided to refer my suggestions to the Standing Committee, whether such a reference was legal and in accordance with the provisions of the Act, I have dealt with it at length in moving my resolution at the meeting in January last on the powers and duties of the Standing Committee. This, however, is not relevant to my present purpose and I shall, therefore, confine myself to the grounds on which I propose the revised rules being referred back to the Standing Committee. Rule 5 provides that after the publication of the list of candidates nominated for election, the President shall attend office " to hear any objections which may be made to that list." In my Memorandum, which was prepared at the request of the President for being placed before the Standing Committee and which was circulated to the Commissioners. I suggested that after the word " list," the addition of the words " on the ground that the nominee is disqualified by reason of one or other of the grounds mentioned in Section 7 of the Act. I recommended this addition on the ground that the President's time may not be wasted in making enquiries into the frivolous and whimsical complaints and more especially as the validity of a nomination and subsequent election can only be questioned on the grounds expressly provided for by section 7. This section expressly provides five grounds qualifying and five grounds disqualifying a person to be elected Commissioner. So that if a voter wishes to raise any objection to the list of nominations published by the President, he should not be allowed room to make random objections but must confine himself to one or other of the grounds specially provided for by the Act. Where the grounds of qualification and disqualification are expressly provided for by the Act, it naturally follows that objections raised on any other grounds are inadmissable and, therefore, I believe you will admit that the addition suggested by me in rule 5 is absolutely necessary. You will further see the necessity of this addition later on when I refer to Rule 19. Then in rule 7 there is a provision for the payment of remuneration to polling officers. In my memorandum I suggested this being struck out for as a matter of fact Government objected to such payment and no remuneration is paid at all. The Standing Committee suggest the substitution of the words " may pay" instead of " shall pay." I don't see the force of this alteration for the polling officers are not to be paid at all. Turning to Rule 19, my suggestion was to omit the rule altogether as being superfluous. This rule provides for the President's enquiry into the validity of an election which may be questioned on three grounds. The first ground of objection is that " fraud, intimidation or bribery was practised at such election." This is altogether superfluous, for Section 27 provides that a person elect.

ed a Commissioner shall *ipso facto* cease to be a Commissioner under certain circumstances and Section 18 provides for all cases of corrupt practices and bribery in the matter of elections. The second ground of objection is that a person whose election is questioned was at the time the election was held, not qualified as a candidate. If the addition already suggested by me in rule 5 is adopted there would be no occasion for the President to institute enquiries on this ground after the election. The third ground is that he was not duly elected by a majority of votes. This I must observe, is what is not likely to occur, for as the election is made by ballot the whole thing is a secret and no one but the President is in a position to find out or to say whether a candidate was duly elected or not by a majority of votes. If these remarks are accepted by you, Rules 18 and 19 must be expunged as well as the 1st part of Rule 17 ending with the word "Rule." Again, Rule 17 provides for the publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the names of the elected candidates and winds up that "until such publication the candidates shall not enter on their functions as Municipal Commissioners." At the meeting in October, when I moved my original proposition, I entered so fully into the illegality of this winding clause as being diametrically opposed to the provisions of section 26 that it is needless to repeat those arguments here. However, I shall simply point out the absurdity of this rule. Section 26 provides for the office of a Commissioner beginning from the date of election, but the rule in question says it shall not be so and that a Commissioner should only enter upon his duties from the date of the publication of his name in the *Gazette*. You may then judge how far the rule can be enforced, and I cannot understand how the Standing Committee got over this difficulty. Lastly an important question was raised when my original resolution was moved, namely, can a person qualified to vote whose name is omitted in the list apply to the President at any time, either before or after the election, for the insertion of his name in the said list to enable him to exercise his right ? Rule 13 provides that a polling officer shall admit an objection to an intending voter on the ground that his name is not on the list of voters. I do not at all see the utility of admitting such an objection by the polling officer, because, in the first place, under rule 1, no person shall be qualified to vote unless his name shall have been entered in the list prepared by the President under Section 19 and in the second place, the law does not contemplate the revision of the voters list by way of inserting a new name at any time and much less after the day of election for the purpose of that election. Section 19 provides for the preparation and publication of the voters' list and Section 20 provides that "any person qualified to vote whose name is omitted in the list may within one month from the date of such publication apply personally or by notice in writing to the President to insert his name therein. Then again, under Section 21, the President is bound to revise the list in the first quarter of every year. Any application, therefore, for the insertion of a name should be made within one month of the publication of the list. It is, therefore, plain that the admission of an objection by the polling officer on the ground referred to is altogether useless as the law does not permit the President to revise the list at any time by way of inserting names omitted to be entered in proper time. It, therefore, seems to me that Rule 13 also requires modification. With these remarks I place the proposition before you.

Mr. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar :—I dont think there is any necessity for referring the question back to the Standing Committee. All these objections have been considered by the Standing Committee, who have gone into the matter very carefully. These suggestions of Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar may be disposed of by the Commissioners themselves. I beg to move the following further amendment :—

"That the consideration of the report be deferred to next General Meeting and in the meantime the report be printed and circulated to the Commissioners."

Mr. W. S. Venkatramanjulu Naidu :—I second the amendment. I am a member of the Standing Committee, and, with the information before us, we have carefully considered the matter. I agree with Mr. Sivangnana Mudaliar in saying that there is no use in sending the rules back to the Standing Committee.

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao :—I merely seconded an amendment, and so I am not out of order in speaking now. We have now heard the details of objections, and they are in my humble judgment not very complicated. Can we not therefore go through these objections one after another, and dispose of them to-day ? When I seconded the proposition, I did not know the nature of the objections ; and now as they have been explained to us, I do not think they are in any way complicated.

The President :—I do not suppose the Commissioners are prepared to argue the matter point by point. It will take two or three hours.

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao :—That is a matter of opinion. It may be done in five minutes.

Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar :—Will you circulate a copy of my memorandum ?

The President :—Yes, all right.

The last amendment was put to the meeting and carried.

Application from the Health officer for leave on medical certificate for one year.

The President :—The next business is the application from the Health officer for leave on Medical Certificate for one year. In putting his application, he made certain proposals as to his being sent on deputation ; but I find that an officer on Medical Certificate cannot be sent on deputation.

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao :—It is done in High Quarters ; perhaps the Health officer thought, that he could also do it. If the Commissioners like, we may also follow the example, for what is good for goose is good for gander.

It was proposed by Mr. P. Theagaroya Chettyar and seconded by Mr. J. P. Nicholas and carried.

"That the Health officer be recommended for twelve months' leave on medical certificate under the rules in force."

Proceedings of the Standing Committee.

The President :—Now we come to the Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 17th May 1895.

Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar :—My attention has been drawn to Proceedings No. 3. I find there a small item of law costs incurred in recovering a sum of Rs. 5 from a private individual. I do not see why such petty cases ought not to be managed departmentally without engaging Solicitors.

The President :—Quite true, but these are not cases in Madras.

Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar :—The parties may be sued in the Small Cause Court. A private individual having a simple case conducts it himself.

Mr. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar :—Even in simple cases questions of law may crop up in the middle of them.

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao :—We can do it, if you do not object to the President's procedure afterwards. I object to certain sales of land referred to in these proceedings on the ground that the Engineer says that the street is less than 18 ft. wide. That matter I have brought to the notice of the Commissioners and it did not strike them as an important thing ; but, however, I am not able to convince myself that it is unimportant and I think it my duty to represent it to the Commissioners until I can get a conviction in their minds. You know that we have to spend a great deal on widening streets, and wherever the Engineer reports that a street is less than 18ft wide, we ought not to sell lands. I therefore propose "that Proceedings 2 (ii) 2 (iii), 2 (iv) be not confirmed."

Mr. DeCaster seconded the proposition.

The President :—I may tell you that the Standing Committee never sell land in a street which is less than 18ft. wide unless drains have been built.

Mr. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar :—Is this portion within the occupation of the owner ?

The President :—I cannot say.

Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty :—In 99 cases out of 100 pial lands are in the occupation of owners for the last 50 or 60 years.

The President :—That is the question that is being now fought out.

Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty :—There is a decision of the City Civil Court on the subject, in favour of house owners, and we do not know what the decision of the High Court would be. In any case, we cannot prevent them from building. If we sell, we get money ; but if we do not, we get no money. Still we cannot prevent them from building.

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATH RAO :—If you get money which you ought not to get, it is a shameful confession of the state of things.

THE PRESIDENT :—If this is carried, it will establish a precedent for not selling lands in streets less than 18 ft. wide.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I quite sympathise with the spirit of the resolution. It is not possible to anticipate the future of the city ; it is not possible to say what Madras will be fifty years hence. We must be careful not to further narrow our street and obstruct space for the circulation of free air. We had not been as mindful of this as we ought to have been, and we are now reaping the fruit of the thoughtless procedureof our predecessors. In many parts of Madras there are very many dirty narrow lanes, and it would require a large expenditure of money to improve them. If we repeat the same mistake as our predecessors had committed by selling away lands in narrow streets, I think our successors in this commission will be put to a great deal of inconvenience. We ought to keep our streets as broad as possible. I think we ought to make a rule that no land shall be sold in streets less than 18 feet wide. If we make this rule and follow it, we will be doing good not only to present generation but to our posterity also.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I think we had better not come to any definite conclusion on the matter, until we dispose of the question as to what the powers of the Standing Committee and the Commissioners are, which comes up at the next meeting.

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATH RAO :—The Standing Committee will stick to the powers, which, I believe, they now unlawfully possess.

MR. W. S. VENKATRAMANJULU NAIDU :—Most cases that come before the Standing Committee refer to permissions for building on existing pials which have been in the long enjoyment of the owners. When one owner has built up to the drain his neighbour also ought to be allowed to do the same; if not, the free flow of air would be prevented. It would be cruel on the part of the Standing Committee to prevent people from building, when adjacent owners, have built up to the drain. Moreover there is a case now pending before the High Court on this subject, and we should wait until we know what their decision is.

Proposed by M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal—

"That the consideration of these Proceedings be deferred to next General Meeting."

Carried.

Statements of Receipts and Disbursements from April 1894 to March 1895.

The Statements were recorded.

Progress Report of Works for February and March 1895.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think this is a very satisfactory progress report. In fact, all the works have been done.

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATHA ROW :—So long as the present management continues there could be nothing wrong.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—Under the regime of the present Engineer, things are progressing very well. It is very creditable to our Engineer that he should have done work up to the full allotment, and I therefore think it would be better to put on record our appreciation of the work done.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Very often I had to complain of the works not having been done ; and it is a matter of gratification to me that there is no necessity for such a complaint now.

The Report was recorded—with satisfaction that practically all the works have been completed during the year, which reflects great credit on the Acting Engineer and his department.

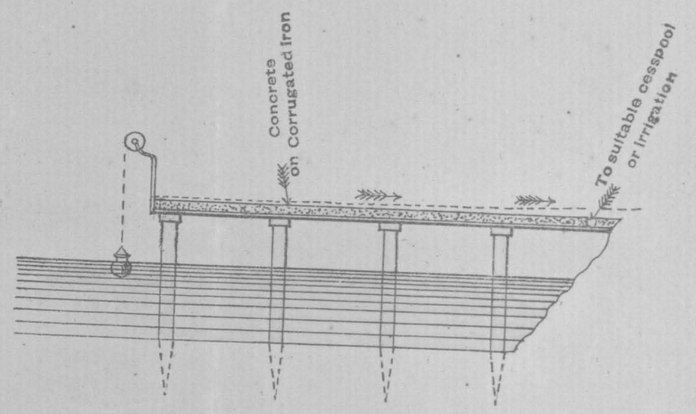
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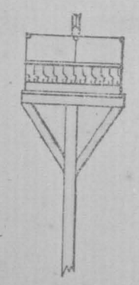
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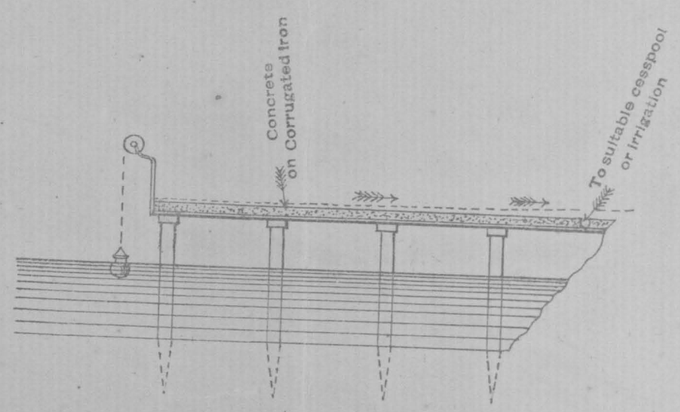


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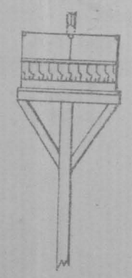


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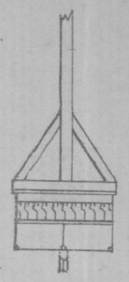


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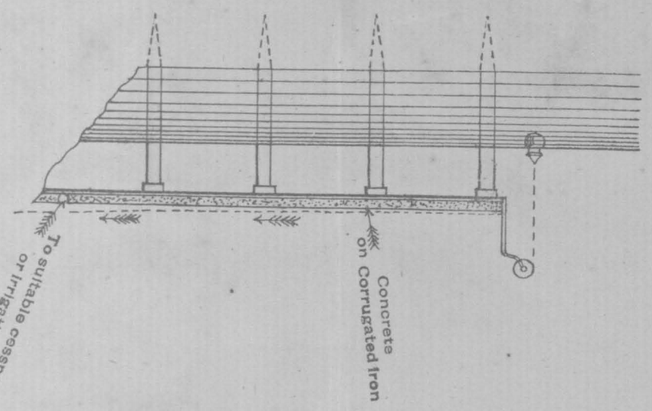


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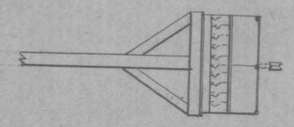
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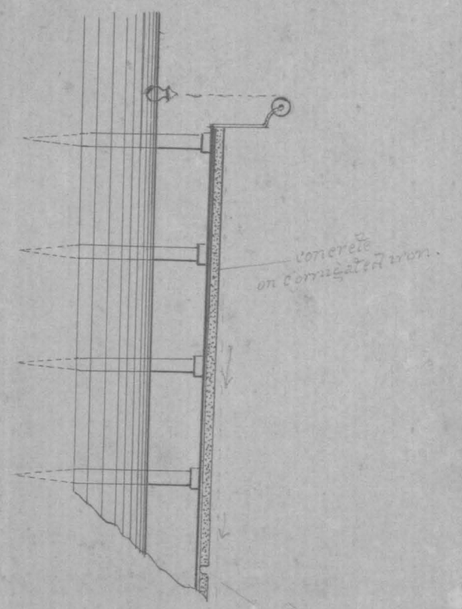
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INDEXED.

Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.

G.O., DATED 19-9-95

No. 1514 h

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection Notes

Passing orders on the Lumballoonarra ——— for 1893-94.