[L. & M. 8,000-3-3-96.]

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1877/m

DATED 11th November 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commission.

Recording full proceedings and abstract proceedings of two adjourned general meetings of the Madras Municipal Commissioners held on the 6th and 9th August 1895.

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 11-11-95

No. 1877 M

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Genl: Commissioner

Recording full proceedings and abstract proceedings of two adjourned special Meetings of the Madras Genl: Commissioners held on the 6th and 9th August 1895.

✓

Back Paper, No. of 189

Further Paper, No. of 189

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).

N.B.—
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Local Genel. Dept. 12 Genl. Dept. 3454/M

1895.

Madras Municipality.

From

The President,

Municipal Commission,

MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St: George

G. No. 447.

CHIEF SECRETARY GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Dated 10th November 1895

Despd. 4 " 1895.

Recd.

Encs. 4.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings as also Copies of abstract proceedings of 2 Adjourned General Meetings of the Commissioners held on the 6th and 9th August 1895.

In reference Order No 1877 Mun. dt. 11-11-95

Recorded.

1/3/11/95

W. Wd 11/11/95

2/11/11/95

Examined

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an ADJOURNED 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 Friday the 9th August 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. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

Proceedings of a General Meeting of Directors of the Monegar Choultry, dated 10th July 1895.

Proposed by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker and seconded by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal—

"That the Commissioners are willing to accept the proposal of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry to take over the buildings and land now occupied by the Native Infirmary and the land appertaining to it, in view to establishing a Municipal hospital for the north of Madras, should their finances permit of it."

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu proposed and M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu seconded—

"That the consideration of this question be deferred pending the receipt of a report from a committee, on the lines suggested by Dr. Walker."

Lost.

The original resolution on being put to the Meeting was carried.

Proposed by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker and seconded by Mr. R. F. Grant—

"That a mixed representative committee be constituted to consider the necessary data as regards extent and plan of proposed New Hospital Buildings and the cost of such buildings and the maintenance thereof, consisting of—
3 Members of the Commission, including the President,
3 of the Monegar Choultry Directors to be nominated by the Directors,
and that Government be requested to appoint the following officers on the committee:—
The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras,
The Consulting Architect to Government, and
The Surgeon, First District."

Carried.

The rest of the subjects deferred to the next General Meeting.

The Meeting then terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
August 1895.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

No. 6.

G.O., No. 968 M., Mis., dated 12th June 1895, on the Resolution of the Commissioners re the proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner made in his Inspection Notes for 1894.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal—

"That, having regard to the consideration the Commissioners recently bestowed on the minor defects in the sanitary condition of the City, and also to the measures that are in contemplation for the improvement of the drainage and water-supply, the Commissioners regret their finances do not admit of their carrying out all the proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner, but at the same time they wish to place on record their high appreciation of the thoroughness of the Sanitary Commissioner's Inspection notes, and so far as lies in their power they will use every endeavour to carry out all practical sanitary improvements."

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal proposed and M.R.Ry. C Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu seconded—

"That a committee consisting of—
The President,
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal,
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu,
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal,
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland,
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu,
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal
be appointed to consider and suggest to the Commissioners on the Sanitary Commissioner's Report."

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal with the consent of the Meeting withdraws his amendment.

The original resolution was then put to the Meeting and carried.

No. 7.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for April and May 1895.

Recorded.

No. 8.

Progress Report of Works for April and May 1895.

Recorded.

No. 9.

G.O., dated 22nd April 1895, No. 685 M., reviewing the Revised Estimate for 1894-95 and the Budget for 1895-96; and G.O., dated 8th July 1895, No. 1079 M., Mis., on the same subject.

Recorded.

Proposed by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker and seconded by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal—

"That this Meeting adjourn till Friday the 9th August 1895 at 5 P.M."

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
August 1895.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

3/13454 1895

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an ADJOURNED 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 Tuesday the 6th August 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. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
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.
M R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

No. 1.

Reinstatement.

The Commissioners reinstate Mr. R. F. Grant under the provisions of section 28 of Act I of 1884.

No. 2.

Resolution No. 1 *of the Commissioners at their General Meeting, held on* 24*th June* 1895, *deferring the consideration of the Election Rules as revised by the Standing Committee till Meeting in July* 1895.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. Varadapppa Nayudu Garu and seconded by Mr. DeCaster—

"That the Election Rules as revised by the Standing Committee be approved of and submitted to Government."

Carried.

No. 3.

Resolution No. 4 *of the Commissioners at their Adjourned General Meeting, held on 5th June* 1895, *deferring, till Meeting in July* 1895, *the consideration of the Resolution of M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu,* re *bicycles not being taxable under the Municipal Act.*

M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu withdraws his resolution, viz.—

"That in the opinion of this Meeting bicycles are not taxable under the Municipal Act."

No. 4.

Resolution No. 2 *of the Commissioners at their Adjourned General Meeting, held on 5th June* 1895, *deferring, till Meeting in July* 1895, *the consideration of the proposition moved by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal* re *tax on garden lands.*

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal moves the resolution standing in his name to the following effect, which was seconded by M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu—

"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."

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal, with the permission of the Meeting, withdraws his resolution.

No. 5.

G.O., No. 818 *M., dated* 10*th May* 1895, *communicating to the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, with remarks, the Memorandum of the Sanitary Commissioner in connection with sewage farming in Madras.*

Deferred to next General Meeting.

Proceedings of an Adjourned General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Baulu Chetty Street, Black Town, on Friday the 9th August 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. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker, M. D.
M. R. Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

Monegar Choultry.

THE PRESIDENT :—The first business this evening is the consideration of the Proceedings of a General Meeting of Directors of the Monegar Choultry with reference to the Native Infirmary. The resolution passed by them was "that should the Municipality be prepared to take over the building now occupied by the Native Infirmary in view to establishing a Municipal hospital for North Madras, the directors are willing to hand over the same." Perhaps Surgeon-Major Walker can give you some details about it as he is in charge of it.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER said that before moving a resolution on the subject he wished to say a fewwords. A good many of the Monegar Choultry buildings dated from remote antiquity, and in the oldest and the most dilapidafed of those buildings was situated the Native Infirmary, which was supported by the Monegar Choultry Funds. From the age of this building and from the progress of modern hospital requirements, it was becoming year by year more unsuitable than it was at the beginning, for the purposes of a modern hospital. The directors had recognised from time to time that the Infirmary buildings required extensive repairs, and had always been met by the fact that they had not sufficient funds to repair it, so that the condition of the building was becoming worse from year to year. About a year and a half ago, the Directors requested the consulting Architect to Government to furnish them with a rough estimate as to the cost of repairs, and he had given an estimate amounting to Rs. 35,000. That frightened the Directors and the matter was dropped. In February of the present year the Surgeon-General made an inspection of the buildings, and

he had left on record that everything was objectionable and unsuitable, and everything in connection with the hospital buildings was that it ought not to be, and nothing was as it should be. He had found the building dilapidated and unsuitable in the extreme, the surroundings insanitary, the latrines of the old and obsolete fashion, the store-rooms defective both in plan and in accommodation, and the operation-room defective. He had found that there was no separate kitchen, but the patients of the hospital were dieted from the pauper kitchen of the Monegar Choultry. He had also left on record that there was no subordinate medical staff in connection with the Native Infirmary, but the difficulty had been got over by impressing in the services of those subordinate medical servants of the Municipality who worked at the Black TownDispensary, without giving them a single pie for their work. He had also recorded that there was no nursing staff; and the staff of the hospital was lamentably deficient in every way. The present requirements were that the buildings in which the Native Infirmary had been accommodated for nearly a century, should be demolished and a good Municipal Hospital, with a suitable outpatient department, and a good frontage to the road should be erected on the site, which would provide an adequate hospital accommodation for the first district of Madras, and which would at the same time, be a credit to the Municipality. Comparing the North of Madras with the rest of it, as to its hospital accommodation, they would find that South Madras, *i. e.* Royapettah, Triplicane, Pudupett and St. Thomé, was well served by the Municipal Hospital at Royapettah and the St. Thomé Dispensary, to which the Municipality contributed a good sum. The centre and west of Madras were well served by the General Hospital, to which the Municipality gave a large contribution, Rs. 20,000 a year, and by other Government Hospitals. Whereas the most important and populous portion of Madras, *i. e.*, the North of Madras comprising of eleven broad Districts, was most inadequately served. He believed that North Madras was the most populous, the most over-crowded, and the most insanitary District, and that the extraordinary death-rate of Madras was derived from that particular locality. Moreover cases of accidents sent from the Harbour constantly required immediate surgical attendance, and sometimes serious operations. If the Hospital was erected he had no doubt that the Municipality would have a very strong claim upon the Harbour Trust Board for a liberal contribution. In addition, they had in the North of Madras several important factories from which they received frequent cases of machine accidents which required immediate attention. He thought that Government might be fairly asked to contribute handsomely to the erection and the upkeep of a proper hospital for the North of Madras, in view of the fact that at the Native infirmary and the Black Town Dispensary there was educated that large class of medical students preparing for the Hospital assistant grade who in the previous year numbered 150. He had no doubt that among the citizens of Madras there existed wealthy gentlemen, who would immortalise their names by assisting the Municipality in the erection of that hospital. Since coming there he had been informed by Mr. Krishnamacharriar that he had considerable hopes that a wealthy gentleman would step forward and give a large donation towards that important object. He therefore proposed, "that the Commissioners are willing to accept the proposal of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry to take over the buildings and land now occupied by the Native Infirmary and the land appertaining to it, in view to establishing a Municipal hospital for the north of Madras, should their finances permit of it."

If that resolution was carried, he would propose the appointment of a representative Committee to consider the necessary data as regards extension, plan and cost of buildings &c., consisting of 3 or 4 Commissioners, three Directors of the Monegar Choultry, the Consulting Architect to Government, the Surgeon General, and the Surgeon of the 1st District. It would be, of course, necessary for the Municipal Commission to invite the Directors of the Monegar Choultry to nominate three members of their body to sit on the committee, and for the President to apply to Government to appoint the three officials he named as members of the Committee.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar:—Will you excuse me for asking you a question. What is the nett financial result of the transfer proposed and what will be the cost of the upkeep?

Surgeon-Major Walker:—It is impossible to give you an idea of the cost, because there will be, first of all, the expense of the demolition of the old buildings, and secondly, the Government Architect will have to make a plan of the site of the old buildings; and a plan and estimate for the new buildings upon which will, in a great measure, depend the cost. I have got before me a paper on the construction of hospitals, which includes some of those lately constructed in Madras the cost of which varies enormously. (The speaker here gave the cost of the Victoria Hospital and other hospitals). There is an excellent hospital in Tanjore called the Rajah Mirasdar Hospital, so called because it was built mostly by the Mirasdars of the place; it costs Rs. 567 per bed and it

contains 120 beds. If the construction of this hospital is carried out with great economy, I certainly think the cost would not exceed 1½ lakhs for 100 beds.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar:—Is it with the initial outlay?

Surgeon-Major Walker:—Yes. The cost for maintenance will be about Rs. 20,000 per annum.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar:—Do you include in it what you would get from Government for Monegar Choultry?

Surgeon-Major Walker:—The cost of the hospital will be 1½ lakhs and maintenance Rs. 20,000 a year and in that I included all contributions. You may look very fairly for a contribution from Government, the Harbour Trust Board and private gentlemen, so that the amount, to be paid by the Municipality will be very considerably reduced,———reduced proportionately to the amount of donations and contributions you receive. As a matter of fact, if you do not take over the buildings now, you will have to take them over five or six years hence, because the funds of the Monegar Choultry would not permit them to maintain them even in the present state. The income of the Monegar Choultry has decreased very much on account of the recent conversion of 4% government stock, and if they were not able to maintain it in the past, they will not be able to maintain it in the future, so that you will have to take it over a few years hence, as you have to maintain a hospital in North Madras.

Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar:—I am asked to second this resolution, but before I do so, I should like to know what the cost of maintaining the Royapettah hospital is.

The President:—Last year it cost us Rs. 15,000.

Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar:—So our hospital for North Madras would not cost us more.

The President:—You must remember that the Royapettah Hospital has only 40 beds.

Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar:—I have much pleasure in seconding Dr. Walker's proposition, and in doing so, I have only one word to say—it is not the want of funds that will stand in the way of the construction of this hospital, but it is the want of a wellthought—out plan and a mederately prepared estimate that will stand in the way of large donations coming in for the construction of separate wards of this hospital for particular castes. Seeing that the population consists of various castes, communities and creeds, I think that if we only consult the wishes of the Native community we shall be getting large donations. If separate estimates are prepared for the various portions of the building to be used as wards, I think people may be induced to take up the construction of different wards. I am not at liberty to mention the name of the individual whom I have in mind, but I know there is a certain gentleman who is willing to construct a portion of the hospital and to have it called after his own name.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar:—I wish to propose an amendment. My amendment is not in a spirit of want of sympathy with the object of this resolution, but I move my amendment in view to our being able to give an opinion in the matter with greater facility. I therefore move "that the subject be postponed, pending a report from the President giving as full information as possible about the initial outlay."

The President:—That is practically impossible. Dr. Walker proposes to appoint a committee which would go into the matter fully. I could not possibly give you any report about the initial outlay until a plan is prepared by somebody.

Surgeon-Major Walker:—This can only be done by a mixed committee of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry and Municipal Commissioners assisted by the Government Architect and by the Medical officers of Government. That is the only way you can arrive at the initial cost.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar:—How can we give our opinion before knowing the cost?

Mr. M. Vencataramiah Chetty:—I beg to propose an amendment "that before the Municipal Commission can accept the proposal of the Monegar Choultry a committee should be appointed."

The President:—Did you not hear what Dr. Walker had said?

Mr. M. Vencataramiah Chetty:—What I say is that before we accept this, a committee may be appointed on the lines suggested by Dr. Walker to find out the initial and the maintenance cost. The consideration of this question may lie over until the report of the committee to be appointed on the line suggested by Dr. Walker is received by the Municipality. I beg to move the following amendment:—

"That the consideration of this question be deferred pending the receipt of a report from a committee, on the lines suggested by Dr. Walker."

My reasons for this amendment are these :—It is impossible now to commit ourselves to any course of action unless and until we know what this undertaking may cost us. Once we pass the resolution as put forward by Dr. Walker, it may be conceived in several quarters that you have practically undertaken to take over the Infirmary and the building on the lines suggested by Dr. Walker (voices no, no); it may be that the Government might be induced to appoint a committee in view of the fact that the Municipality would in all human probability undertake the work; and if after these impressions are formed and after the cost is ascertained we are unwilling to undertake the work by reason of our financial inability we may be causing disappointment in quarters where hopes were raised. On the other hand the course I suggest will satisfy all parties. We shall know before we give our consent to the undertaking what it would cost us and whether we shall be able to undertake it or not. There is no hurry so far we are concerned as to why this resolution should be now adopted. There is no harm to allow this question to lie over until the Monegar Choultry is unable to manage itself.

Mr. Varadappa Naidu seconded the amendment.

Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty :—I wish to say a few words on the subject. Dr. Walker mentioned something about the pressing necessity for putting the building in order and for erecting a new building. It is a fact that the building is in a most dilapidated condition and to put it into order means Rs. 20,000 which in the present condition the Monegar Choultry can ill-afford. It is also a fact that in the present state of the finances of the Monegar Choultry they cannot maintain the hospital and maintain 100 beds which they are maintaining. Their funds have been reduced by the late conversion scheme and it is impossible they can be maintaining it in the way it has hitherto been done. The necessity for the hospital therefore, which ought to be maintained by the Municipality has been fully explained, and while hospitals are maintained by the Municipality in different parts of Madras the Municipality ought also maintain the hospital in the North Madras which is the most central place in the city. I must tell you that there are more than 100 beds in this hospital which is 2½ times more than what the Royapetta Hospital contains. From that you will see what necessity there is for keeping up this hospital in proper condition. Some commissioners wanted to know what the cost of maintaining this hospital would be and what the cost of the hospital will be. I can give you some figures from the report of the Monegar Choultry. The cost of maintenance, the feeding charges, the medical charges etc., amount to Rs. 10,955 a year, but this does not include the cost of medicines which are supplied by Government. The medicine may cost about Rs. 3,000, so that the annual cost would be about Rs. 14,000. This is only an approximate cost of the maintenance of the hospital. As to the cost of the building Dr. Walker has mentioned to you the cost of a well-built hospital in Tanjore. It costs Rs. 567 per bed. Here it may cost us Rs. 1,000 a bed.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar :—What is the cost of a bed in the Gosha Hospital.

Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariar :—The cost of maintaining a bed is Rs. 6 a month or Rs. 72 a year.

Mr. R. N. Peagasa Mudaliar :—I support the amendment proposed for the reason that it is not meant to be a negative of the proposal made by Dr. Walker but all that we want to see is if our finances could permit our undertaking the whole of it or only a portion of it. I should think that the first portion of the proposition might well lie over until we know exactly our position. When we have the figures before us furnished to us by the committee we will be able to see what we can contribute.

Mr. N. Subrahmanyam :—Mr. President and Gentlemen:—I am also strongly inclined to support the amendment. I believe there is only one feeling in regard to the establishment of a good hospital for North Madras and that the Municipality should substantially help it. The question however is whether we should take it over as a Municipal Hospital or whether we should make a liberal grant towards its expenses. There are great many reasons why the hospital such as the Monegar Choultry should be maintained on its present footing. We all know that it is one of the grandest things of English life that their dispensaries and hospitals for the sick are maintained by voluntary subscriptions. We have very few instances of that kind but we have one such in the Monegar Choultry which has existed for nearly a century and the origin of which is based on voluntary contributions. The moment you take it over as a Municipal hospital, the voluntary subscription that you now get will stop and the Municipality will have to maintain it out of the taxes it collects.

Even as an Educational agency the hospital maintained by voluntary subscriptions is a very desirable thing. It is also desirable, I think, that all the hospitals should not be swamped under Municipal management. It should be under the management of native gentlmen and representatives of Government and the Municipality might be allowed to associate with them so that it may be an object lesson for the citizens of Madras that it is one of their duties to support hospitals. The question is not quite so clear that even if our finances permit it, we would be right in taking over the hospital entirely. The question is whether we should not make a liberal grant of the same sum that we will have to spend upon the hospital and ask the Monegar Choultry authorities to continue to maintain the hospital. The subject being one on which something can be said on both sides, I would like to support the amendment of Mr. M. Venkataramiah Chetty that we should not at once at the very beginning of the discussion pledge ourselves to taking over the hospital but we should wait until the report of the committee proposed to be appointed is before us : and if that committee should recommend that we should take over the hospital we shall do so, and if they recommend that we should not for various reasons take it over, we shall act according to the recommendations of the committee. Nothing is gained by pushing this resolution forward now and if you do so, it would be like putting the cart before the horse. Let us have some report and then we can adopt some resolution.

The President :—There is some slight misconception in the matter. There is no idea of doing away with the Monegar Choultry ; it will remain intact and will retain certain portions of the building which will be known as Monegar Choultry and its funds would be utilised for the purpose for which the institution was originally founded, namely for the support of paupers. If you see the resolution you will find that it is the Native Infirmary and the lands appertaining to it ; that is quite distinct from the Monegar Choultry. It was never started by the Monegar Choultry but it was handed over to the Monegar Choultry by Government 60 years ago. It has nothing to do with the Monegar Choultry. The Monegar Choultry is to remain as it is and the funds in the hands of the Directors will be utilised to carry out the purpose for which it was originally started.

Mr. N. Subrahmaniam :—If that is so all my remarks have no bearing on the subject.

Surgeon-Major Walker :—It was popularly and erroneously called the Monegar Choultry hospital but it is a Native Infirmary quite separate from the Monegar Choultry. Its funds dwindled. It would have died long ago had it not been for the support given by the Monegar Choultry, under whose wings it was taken. It never belonged to the parent institution, and it is now simply proposed that the Monegar Choultry should no longer keep it going. It has been suggested that the present Monegar Choultry hospital should be continued under its present management, a contribution being made by private individuals of the Municipality. As regards the Native Infirmary buildings they have been most strongly condemned by the Surgeon-general. It is entirely out of the power of the Directors to repair the building. These buildings are an unseemly block, if they are to remain as they are. The subscription of Rs. 2,000 which the Monegar Choultry at present collects is not intended for the hospital.

Mr. N. Subrahmaniam :—I made a mistake Dr. Walker.

Surgeon-Major Walker :—With regard to the new hospital, it will probably be managed by the Municipality. It will be managed by a committee as is done in the case of Tanjore Mirasdar Hospital, which although it is a nominally District Board hospital, is managed by a Committee of 16 which meet in the hospital to manage the affairs. Very much the same plan would be adopted here.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu :—We know from the estimates given of the Tanjore and other hospitals that the approximate cost of the erection of a hospital would be about one lakh of rupees and the cost of maintenance Rs. 14,000 a year. When we have got the information we require, why do you want a Committee to be appointed ? The committee proposed by Dr. Walker will no doubt go into details and give an estimate. If we should find out hereafter that we are unable to undertake the work we might say that we cannot take it up as our finances cannot permit our doing so. It is better for you to pass this resolution and then appoint a committee to give you the details you require.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar :—I am sorry I cannot quite follow the Hon'ble Mr. P. Rangiah Naidu in all the remarks he made. I do not think the estimate he mentions is in any sense approximate. He says that one lac of rupees will be about the cost of the building, about 14 or 15 thousand, the cost of maintenance of 100 beds. With reference to these items we have to calculate reasonably what help the Government will give us and what help can be got from private citizens. I have much pleasure in joining my friend Mr. Krishnama Chariar to say that there are some private gentlemen who may

be induced to help us. We must look to what extraneous help we may be able to get. I am against the impression gaining ground that we are unwilling to take over that Hospital. If our finances permit it we are perfectly willing to undertake the responsibility of maintaining a hospital. What we want to know is what our financial position will be if we are expected to take over this building. There is no harm in waiting for a few days. A few days delay will not make matters worse. Whereas when we meet next time we will be in a much better position to give an opinion on the matter.

Mr. R. Balajee Row:—I am inclined to oppose this amendment. We are told by Dr. Walker that the Surgeon-general has condemned this building and the place where it is located. We are told that the Monegar Choultry is not in a position to maintain the hospital and they were up to this time maintaining it in some way or other. The commissioners under section 33 of the act are bound to construct, repair and maintain hospitals throughout the town and wherever we don't find one and where the people who have been maintaining a hospital are neglecting it, wherever the buildings are condemned and wherever there is insufficient establishment, we are bound to assist them and take over the hospitals. It is the primary duty thrown upon us the Municipal Commissioners to construct, repair and maintain hospitals In that view we are bound to take into our favorable consideration the proposal made by the Directors of the Monegar Choultry. We have been told that the Tanjore Hospital which is a nice and good hospital was built for Rs. 65,000. As suggested by some of the Commissioners people may come forward and assist us with funds for constructing certain portions of the hospital and we may also receive such aid as the Government may give us. We are bound to construct a building like this and take it into our management. We are bound to have dispensaries established in the different parts of Madras.

Mr. P. V. Krishnasawmi Chetty:—This evening's proceedings are a surprise to us. Since the meeting is in sympathy with the proposal of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry we are only differing to agree. Dr. Walker's proposal is that the Municipality should take over this hospital provided funds permit it I suppose that means we shall have to sit in deliberation and find out whether our finances would permit it; and the amendment appears only to carry out the spirit of the resolution. The amendment suggests that a committee should be appointed to look into this matter and to say whether funds will permit our carrying out this proposal and the amendment appears to receive its justification and support from the closing words of the resolution "Provided the Municipal funds permit it". Dr. Walker does not propose that the thing should be undertaken in any event but he qualifies his proposal by saiyng that only if our funds permitted we should take it over. Suppose that resolution is carried, what will be the next thing. A committee will be appointed to see if the funds do permit it. What is the amendment after all? It is nothing but what will be the consequence of this resolution. The amendment is not sufficiently largely worded. I think it may be altered to something like this:—that a committee consisting of a certain number of commissioners be appointed to report as early as practicable upon the initial cost and maintenance of the hospital, on the site of the present Monegar Choultry in consultation with the Government Architect and the Surgeon General, whose assistance will be secured by the President by application to Government and that the consideration of the proposal of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry be deferred pending receipt of such report. If this change is effected in the amendment it perfectly well accords I think with the object of the resolution. The object of both parties appears to be that it should be first ascertained whether the funds would permit of our undertaking the work. Both sides appear to agree that the taking over of this institution into our hands must depend upon the funds of the Municipality. That being so the amendment appears more effectively to carry out the intention of the resolution. If this be a correct view of the situation I certainly would not object to the passing of the amendment.

Mr. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar:—I have to oppose the amendment. I fail to see what object is to be gained by the appointment of this committee. Suppose it decides that the initial cost would be 2 lacs instead of one lac and the cost of maintenance Rs. 30,000 what would be our position then? I believe, the same as now. I think therefore that "*if funds permit*" is a sufficient saving clause and there is no necessity for this amendment. The committee's deliberation would not help us in any way. We are bound to take over the hospital under sec. 33, and the legislature intended that we should do so.

Rao Bahadur. Krishnama Chariar:—I beg permission to point out that unless we affirm the principle of taking over the Monegar Choultry buildings and constructing a new Hospital, we shall fail to secure the advice of the Government architect and the Medical Officers whose time is fully

occupied, merely on a vaguely worded amendment as that now proposed.

The amendment was put to the vote and lost and the original proposition was then put and carried.

Surgeon-Major Walker:—I have much pleasure in making the following proposition "that a mixed representative committee be constituted to consider the necessary data as regards extent and plan of proposed New Hospital Buildings and the cost of such buildings and the maintenance thereof, consisting of—

3 Members of the Commission, including the President, 3 of the Monegar Choultry Directors to be nominated by the Directors, and that Government be requested to appoint the following officers on the committee:—

The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras,

The Consulting Architect to Government, and

The Surgeon, First District."

Mr. R. F. Grant seconded the proposition which when put to the vote was carried.

The President:—You had better now name the three members.

Surgeon-Major Walker:—The President, Mr. Krishnama Chariar and Mr. N. Subrahmanyam.

On the motion of Mr. Varadappa Nayudu the rest of the subjects was deferred to the next General Meeting.

The meeting terminated.

2/3454 Inv 695

1/3454 Inv 695

Proceedings of an Adjourned General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Baulu Chetty Street, Black Town, on Tuesday the 6th August 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. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kristnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
M. R. Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

Questions and Answers.

THE PRESIDENT:—I have to answer some questions that have been put.

The following are the Questions and Answers.

BY HAJI MAHOMED ABDUL HADI BADSHA SAHEB.

Triplicane Dyeing Yards.

Q.—Of the owners of the 25 dyeing yards in Triplicane, only 13 seem to have applied for licenses for the current year, and the remaining twelve have not applied for licenses, although 3 months of the official year have expired. Will you please state why licenses have not yet been issued to the former and what steps have been regarding the neglect of the latter?

A.—The Licenses were withheld until the places were put in proper order. 3 of the 12 have since applied for licenses. 5 have been prosecuted and fined, and 4 are under prosecution.

Q.—In reply to the question put by me at the last meeting as to whether you had occasion during the past one or two years to cancel or suspend the licenses of such dealers you stated that "eight applications have been refused on Sanitary grounds." Am I to understand you to mean, as the *Madras Mail* assumes, that "Eight of those already in existence have been closed on Sanitary grounds, or whether the eight referred to by you were fresh applications. If it is the former, will you please state if they were ordered to be closed before the expiration of the official year?

A.—They were applications for removal of licenses. The refusal orders were sent before the close of the official year.

Q.—As the object of issuing licenses under the Municipal Act or any other special law is to bring any particular trade or business under control, do you consider that the licenses now issued for the dyeing yards in the Town contain any restrictions at all for the purpose of exercising such control ?

A.—There is nothing in the license, but they are controlled under section 321 of the Act.

Red Hills Tank.

Q.—What is the present level of the water in the Red Hills Tank ?

A.—36 to-day.

Q.—Has pumping been commenced ?

A.—No.

Q.—Considering the present level, how long will the supply of water from the tank last in the event of a failure of the S. W. monsoon ?

A.—About 12 days before pumping.

Q.—Are any plantations of cocoanuts or plantain trees now being irrigated in the town by means of Red Hills water ? Is any water-rate collected on this account, and, if so, what is the amount collected in the past year ?

A.—Yes. There is no special rate collected for this. It comes under the charge for water for non-domestic purposes, which amounted last year to Rs. 13,587-7-1.

Q.—Is it a fact that in the back-yard of premises No. 10, in Sami Pillay Street, there is a plantain tope covering half a ground irrigated by means of our pipes, and has any water tax been collected in the past or present year for the use of the pipe water ? (Withdrawn).

Q.— If cocoanut and plantain trees are watered by our pipes in the Town, do you not consider it necessary to put a stop to it, considering the cry for water in the 1st and 8th Divisions particularly ?

A.—This can only be done by fixing meters, which is done as much as possible.

Q.—Considering the opinion expressed by the Chief Engineer for irrigation so far back as April, 1891, is it under contemplation to acquire the whole of the Red Hill Tank system by our Municipality so as to deal with it as it thinks fit ? If it is decided upon to acquire the sole right, have you any idea of the compensation that will have to be paid for rights to irrigation which must necessarily be interfered with ? If you have no idea will you kindly obtain the information for the Commissioners ?

A.—No.

Question by M. R. Ry. Varadappa Naidu Garu.

Q.—What action had been taken by the Revenue Officer to rectify the defect for which his excuse on the score of want of time was not accepted by the Government as expressed in para 2 of G. O., dated 19th September, 1891, No. 1525 namely :—"The Revenue Vice President should be required to test the accuracy of the rent value of buildings and lands reported by his subordinates as often as possible. The excuse that he has not sufficient time to do this, one of his most important duties, cannot be accepted"?

A.—The Revenue Officer checks assessments by his knowledge and experience, and by personal inspection when necessary.

Q.—Is it a fact that he generally attends office daily so late as 2 or 3 P. M., although he has no out-door work ?

A.—He is generally in office by 2 P. M., and earlier when necessary. He attends to office work at home in the morning, should he be not engaged out of doors.

Q.—Will you kindly state the names of the officers of the Municipality that are exempted from taxation for carriages and horses ? Is this concession given only to officers who have out-door work or is it given indiscriminately to all that serve in this Municipality ?

A.—Only to those who have out-door work.

Q.—Will the President be pleased to state the percentage of houses that the Revenue Officer of the Municipality inspected during 1893-94 and 1894-95, as a check over his subordinate assessors ?

A.—There is no record.

Q.—In all cases of appeals when a rate-payer complains of excessive assessment, two Commissioners are appointed to inspect the house and decide appeals in consultation with the President, but is there any check on the Subordinate taxing officers in cases where there are no appeals ? Does the Revenue Officer go out of the Office to test their work ?

A.—This is answered by No. 1.

Q.—Is it not desirable that the Revenue Officer should exercise a healthy test over the property not under appeal, the importance whereof cannot be over-rated.

A.—Certainly.

Q.—Is it not a fact that the Engineer of the Municipality checks 10 per cent. of the works in progress every month, and regularly attends office as early as 12 A.M. or 1 P.M.?

A.—The Engineer makes it his duty to inspect as far as possible every work done by the department, without reference to any percentage on any special morning. He generally attends office about 1 P.M.

Q —Is it not a fact that during each year a large amount of arrears of assessment is written off as irrecoverable. Can such state of things be prevented by a proper supervision out of the office by the Revenue Officer ?

A.—A certain amount is written off every year. I doubt if the Revenue Officer could personally prevent it.

Q.—Is it not a fact that great delay occurs in the Revenue Department in registering vehicles without springs, remitting refunds for the time premises have been vacant, in granting receipts for the money paid and replying to letters of the rate-payers, whereas great promptitude is shown in the Health and Engineer Departments in ordinary routine work ?

A.—I do not know that there is any unnecessary delay.

Re-instatement.

THE PRESIDENT :—Now you have to decide the question of re-instating Mr. R. F. Grant and Mr. F. Rowlandson. Mr. Grant wrote to me in June stating that his absence was due to his having been away from Madras owing to his ill-health. Mr. Rowlandson writes to say that he does not wish to be reappointed.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANIAM :—I propose that Mr. R. F. Grant be re-instated. He has vacated his seat owing to the large number of meetings held in May and June which was quite unusual. I know he has been away during the vacation.

MR. DECASTER seconded the proposition.

PRESIDENT :—I need hardly put this to the meeting, as the Commissioners can exercise the power under Section 28 of the Act.

Election Rules.

THE PRESIDENT :—The first business is the Resolution No. 1 of the Commissioners at their General Meeting, held on 24th June 1895, deferring the consideration of the Election rules as revised by the Standing Committee till Meeting in July 1895.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—I beg to propose :—"That the Election Rules as revised by the Standing Committee be approved of and submitted to Government." The members of the Standing Committee have gone into the matter very carefully and the whole thing was circulated to the Commissioners.

MR. DECASTER seconded the resolution.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Gentlemen, as the mover of the original resolution perhaps it devolves upon me to begin the discussion. This is not the first time I have to point out to you the absurdity of the proposition like the one brought by Mr. Varadappa Naidu. On a former occasion he urged the same absurd proposition.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—May I ask the President in what way I am absurd ?

THE PRESIDENT :—I don't think Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar said that you were absurd but that your proposition was absurd.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—I mean the absurdity of the resolution.

PRESIDENT :—That is merely his opinion. The resolution might be absurd without the proposer being absurd. I don't think there is any harm in it. As far as these rules are concerned, the

Standing Committee went into every one of them and they considered Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's Memorandum. All these rules are made by Government and it is responsible for them. So far as the Standing Committee have agreed in Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's memorandum they have introduced modifications. I do not think that this is a matter of sufficient importance to take up your time.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM :—The Standing Committee went into every rule with great care with the assistance of the President and the help afforded by the Revenue Officer who has had the actual working of these rules. Wherever Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's suggestions appeared to be good—there were some of them—they were readily adopted; and there were others too which did not commend themselves to the Standing Committee who went into the question thoroughly and have come to certain conclusions, the result of which you see in the printed paper. We Hindus are philosophic and if we had a chance we will go on pointing out very many fine distinctions ; but I think after all these rules are as good as they can be made. I would therefore support the proposition before the meeting.

MR. DECASTER :—I fail to see the absurdity of the resolution. It is simply a resolution proposing the adoption of the rules as amended by the Standing Committee. I do not think there is any one better qualified than the Standing Committee to amend the rules. Practically the Standing Committee are elected as being the most experienced of the Commissioners—at least I fancy so. They have that requisite knowledge, experience and every thing else to do what is proper and right for us.

The resolution was put to vote and carried.

Tax on bicycles.

THE PRESIDENT :—The next business is the Resolution No. 4 of the Commissioners at their Adjourned General Meeting, held on 5th June 1895, deferring, till Meeting in July 1895, the consideration of the Resolution of M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu, *re* bicycles not being taxable under the Municipal Act.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—In view of the litigation that has been going on I withdrew the following resolution of mine, "that in the opinion of this Meeting bicycles are not taxable under the Municipal Act."

MR. P. THEYAGAROYA CHETTY :—Can any technical objection be raised at the High Court? Very often technical objections are raised just as in the tailors' case.

THE PRESIDENT :—That is the judges' business. They are bound to take these objections. In the original case it was not pressed, and I personally told Mr. Morgan that he need not press it.

MR. PRAGASA MOODALIAR :—Was it pressed in the High Court ?

THE PRESIDENT :—No. The judge sent it up.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM :—The judge sent it up on another point.

PRESIDENT :—He stated the case on both.

Resolution No. 2 of the Commissioners at their Adjourned General Meeting held on 5th June 1895, deferring, till Meeting in July 1895, the consideration of the proposition moved by M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal re tax on garden lands.

PRESIDENT :—Now I come to Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's resolution about tax on buildings and lands. You will remember that Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's speech and the lawyer's opinion on the subject have been circulated. His resolution runs in these terms :—

"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."

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Gentlemen, if you have no objection, I will give a short precis of what I said before. You are already aware of the Resolution that is before the meeting—i. e. whether our present practice of taxing lands on which cocoanut or such other fruit trees stand is in accordance with the Act. I pointed out to you that under Section 119 & 120 there are two modes of assessing lands and buildings and that there is a distinction made in the Act in using the expressions "lands and buildings" and "lands or buildings". When the former expression is used, we must take it to mean lands on which buildings stand or those which form the necessary adjuncts to the buildings. We all

know it to be tax on the building and we know too the rate of such taxation is 10 per cent. of the annual valuation. The question I raised was where there is no building upon a piece of land and where the land is utilised for the purpose of fruit trees, whether the taxation should be 10 per cent. or anything less. Of course in the case of lands the Act makes a distinction where there are no buildings over the lands. Section 120 fixes the rate of taxes. According to Sec. 123 the taxation is to be decided on what the building or the land rents or what it might be expected to rent. I pointed out to you in moving my resolution originally that in the case of cocoanut topes, land is never leased at all, but only the trees. If that is the case what I say is whether we will be justified in taking the rent of trees as the rent of the land knowing as we do that the land is never leased. Of course our solicitor has cited the English statute and says that the case referred to by me is analogous to the one that he refers to under the English statute. I suppose under the English statute there is a specific provision made in the case of lands where trees ordinarily grow. The other question that was raised by me is whether in the case of gardens we ought not to take into consideration the expenses incurred by the owner of the property in watering the trees. I am glad that our solicitors think that it ought to be taken into consideration and that the nett Revenue after deducting the expenses for watering should form the basis of our assessment.

MR. J. DECASTER :—I rise to oppose the Resolution. It must occur to you that this resolution of Mr. Pragasa's is a most extraordinary one inasmuch as it attacks and seeks to condemn a practice of taxation which is as old as the Municipality itself; and further than that it asks us, the commissioners to declare that the practice is irregular, unwarranted and illegal. But if we are to oblige Mr. Pragasa it is clear we cannot do so without admitting that not only the present President and Commissioners, but also all previous Presidents and Commissioners who have sat on this Board from the beginning, have all from first to last been going on in the most wrong-headed way in permitting a practice whereby injustice has been done to innumerable rate-payers. When this resolution was first launched at the meeting on the 5th June last, it appeared to have had something like a startling effect on the Commissioners. A deep silence ensued during which Mr. Pragasa went on with a speech which took up the best part of an hour in exposition of what he seemed to think his lucky discovery on behalf of the unfortunate and illused cocoanut and mango growing land-owning tax payers, whilst the President sat looking on as usual with his face covered with that well-known invisible smile. Being a learner of thought-reading I tried to read the President's thoughts at the time and it may interest you to know that they were as follows: —This Resolution sounds like thunder, but I don't see the flash of the lightening that always follows thunder; the Commissioners look as if startled and no wonder when they are asked to say that the taxing of land with cocoanut and mangoes has been all wrong from Genesis to this minute. But what in the name of wonder will M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur Pulicat Ramasawmy Chetty Avergal who thinks he is the cleverest Revenue Officer in the whole world as well as in the whole Universe say to this—Any how Mr. Pragasa must be allowed a long speech on his great discovery but as for my part I don't care if he goes on till midnight even if that should mean a cold dinner for me at the club, but Oh ! there is that Mr. Dhanacoty Mudaliar watching the clock for ½ to 7 to motion for an adjournment.—Here the thinking and reading came to an end.

Mr. Pragasa's Resolution by itself appears to be like the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out. It is necessary to go far and dive deep into his long speech to know exactly and fully the case and the merits of the case we are called upon to decide. When divested of all foreign matter and put simply, his proposition appears to stand as follows : That in the case of lands used for wet and dry cultivation and for growing of vegetable, flower, betel or plantain trees, what is let or leased is the land and that even when the trees are enjoyed by the owner, the tax of 10 per cent. under sections 119 and 123 is rightly imposed. But in the case of lands on which cocoanut, mango and other fruit trees are grown, the land is not let or leased or capable of being leased, and therefore the trees only are let or leased, and that even when the trees are enjoyed by the owner the tax of 10 per cent. under sections 119 and 123 is wrongly imposed. There are two issues involved in the proposition—one is the case of owners enjoying the trees, and the other is the letting or leasing or leasibility of the trees. As regards the first issue, the tax at 10 per cent is levied equally in the case of lands with grain, vegetable, betel, and plantain trees, and in the case of lands with cocoanut or mango and other fruit trees when enjoyed by the owner. As the lands in both cases stand exactly in the same footing or position, the trees only being different and the condition of letting or leasing does not exist, it is self evident that in both cases the tax is rightly imposed.

In the second issue it is sought to make out that in the case of lands growing grain vegetable, flower, betel, and plantain trees stand on a different footing, with lands growing cocoanut, mango, and other fruit trees in the matter of letting or leasing because in the first case the land is let or leased, by the month or year, but in the second case the land is not let or leased or capable of being let or leased; although Mr. Pragasam nowhere in his speech states it, he evidently means that the difference arises by the land for growing grain, vegetable etc. trees being bare or empty or unused the condition for letting or leasing or making over to the lessee is present—But in the second case the land being already occupied for years, by the cocoanut, mango etc trees, the condition for leasing or making over the land to the lessee does not exist. But this is only a shadow of a difference, and even this may not always exist, for instance when the vegetable, betel or plantain trees are already in the land at the time of letting or leasing. But all these points are secondary. The main point is that during growth of the trees they and the land are one and inseparable and this is not only in the case of particular kinds of trees, but all trees of every kind without exception. There may be something to say for Mr. Pragasa's contention if the cocoanut, mango, and other fruit trees grew in the air over the land, but as such trees did not grow in the air, but in the land such trees are during growth really a part and parcel of the land; it follows that in leasing the trees the land is virtually leased, and that the value of the trees is the value of the land, and that therefore the income derived from such trees is the income or value of the land and that the land in such case is clearly liable to the 10 per cent. tax under sections 119 and 123, exactly as in the case of lands growing grain vegetable, flower, betel and plantain trees in which case it is admitted the tax under sections 119 and 123 is correct.

Sections 119 and 124 when read together as a whole, make it clear that the intention of the Legislature was to secure a 10 per cent. tax under sections 119 and 123 in the case of lands which by their use by cultivation or growing of trees of any description or by renting for storing of materials &c., or in any other way whatsoever brought or obtained value. It is only when lands could not be used in any such way that section 120 provides a tax of Rs. 4 per ground. Therefore it is not clear what Mr. Pragasa expects to gain if his resolution is carried, besides making the Commissioners look very ridiculous; for if the present practice of taxing under sections 119 and 123 lands where the owners grow cocoanut and other fruit trees, is given up, the owners of such lands will no ways escape, but will still have to pay the alternative tax under section 120 at Rs. 4 per ground or Rs. 96 per cawny, or according to a recent arrangement what is equivalent to half the amount of the quit rent of the land, in which case the owners may find their last state worse than their first. I think you will now see that there was really no necessity for referring the question to our solicitors.

Mr. N. Subrahmaniam:—I always thought it a great pity that questions of this sort should be brought before this board as they lead to no practical result. The executive have for years past assessed the lands and cocoanut trees in a particular way, and the rate-payers have submitted to it for all this length of time; and if the executive are as a matter of fact in error and have misconstrued the provisions of the law the simplest and the most effective way to get the remedy would be for some one of those unfortunate rate-payers who are now being unjustly taxed to bring up a case appealing against the assessment, to carry it from the Municipal Office to the Magistrate's Court and from the Magistrate's Court to have a case stated to the High Court. When we have an authoritative decision of the highest Court in the land no doubt the executive will be bound to follow that decision and carry it out. At present if after this acadamical disquisition we say that the Commissioners by a majority have come to the conclusion that cocoanut trees are to be assessed in a certain way, I understand that the executive are not bound to carry it out; they are bound to interpret the law as they understand it, and not in the way the Commissioners interpret it in solemn conclave. It seems to me a considerable waste of time to discuss such questions. Mr. Venkataramiah Chetty had a somewhat similar proposition about bicycles and fortunately for us that matter has now gone before the Court and we will have an authoritative decision which will save us an unnecessary amount of discussion, and a great deal of waste of time. I should be very glad indeed if Mr. Pragasa Mudaliyar would not press this proposition for a division. However if that is the wish, I have no hesitation in saying that the interpretation that has been put by the executive is the correct one. The whole fallacy of Mr. Pragasa Mudaliyar, is in a very small compass. We have "immoveable properties," defined in the General Clauses Act. Without going into the technical definition of any Act, I may say that the common sense view, which is also the right view, is that land includes all that is attached to the land. As a matter of fact, trees, so long as they are attached to earth, are considered part of

the earth. If Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's contention is to be carried to its legitimate extent, that the man who leases the trees has nothing to do with the land, then I say that he has no business to put his feet on the land but should go to the top of the trees to water them. As a matter of fact, he cannot do without the land. Tree derives its sustenance from the land. The man who is interested in the welfare of the trees is obliged to spread a large quantity of water around them in order to make them flourish. I therefore think that the view taken by the executive is the right one to take. These are not questions that ought to be discussed at this board, but should be left to be tried in a proper and legitimate way.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar:—I must say I sympathise with Mr. Subrahmanyam in the remarks he has just made. It does appear to me from our stand point we are inviting the rate-payers to question the validity of our proceedings. These rates have been levied for a long series of years; and that fact is, in itself, a presumption in favour of the rates being legal. It is not for us who enjoy the benefits of these rates to question their validity and invite the attention of the rate-payers to take the question before the court. If any rate-payer feels aggrieved, it is his look-out; it is quite within his power to redress his grievances. We had better keep out such matters from this board.

Mr. W. S. Venkatramanjulu Naidu:—Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar referred to some legal advisers' opinion. That was not clear to me.

The President:—On that account, this was postponed. I need not read the solicitors' opinion. If the tree is let, land goes with it, unless there is an express condition to the contrary. The whole thing before you is the legality or otherwise of taxing the land let out for cultivation. In this connection, I must say I cannot see any argument that can hold against this tax being legal. It seems to me that trees take practically the place of house on lands; and you cannot say that a house is let without the land. Our solicitors' opinion is a sound one. As regards the question of allowing compensation for water, it would be a reasonable one, and I do not think it need from the subject-matter of a resolution. Personally I am quite prepared to fix the amount on that basis. I am prepared to remit to a certain extent to the land-lord the actual expenses incurred by him and to deduct it from the gross income derived.

Mr. V. Krishnama Chariar:—After your assurance, sir, I do not think we need go further. If the act is to be revised at any future time, we may consider the question then.

Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar:—Gentlemen, looking to the view expressed by Mr. Subrahmanyam that trees do certainly form part of the land, I am not in a position to contradict an opinion like that. If that be the law, I do not press my resolution, particularly after the assurance given by the President as to relaxation.

With the consent of the meeting, the proposition was withdrawn.

Sewage Farming.

The President:—The next business is the G. O., No. 818 M., dated 10th May 1895, communicating to the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, with remarks, the Memorandum of the Sanitary Commissioner in connection with sewage farming in Madras. Gentlemen, this I would ask you to defer. It is an important subject, and one in which there are different opinions. Further, I have to ask Government some questions about it.

Deferred to next General Meeting.

Sanitary Commissioner's Notes.

The President:—We now come to G. O., No. 968 M., Mis., dated 12th June 1895, on the resolution of the Commissioners *re* the proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner made in his Inspection Notes for 1894. (The President here read the previous resolution and the Government order on the subject.) The Government says that it not prepared to depart from the usual course of procedure, but would wait to hear from us what action we propose to take in the matter.

Mr. G. Subramania Aiyar:—I beg to propose "that, having regard to the consideration the Commissioners recently bestowed on the minor defects in the sanitary condition of the city, and also to the measures that in contemplation for the improvement of the drainage and water-supply, the Commissioners regret their finances do not admit of their carrying out all the proposals of the Sanitary Commissioner, but at the same time they wish to place on record their high appreciation of the thoroughness of the Sanitary Commissioner's Inspection notes, and so far as lies in their power they will use every endeavour to carry out all practical sanitary improvements."

Mr. V. Krishnama Chariar :—I second this proposition with one remark. It is the rule of all specialists to set up a high ideal before a body who are to carry out their schemes, whether educationists, artists, architects or sanitarians. It is our duty however to see the depth of our pockets. Many a scheme has been brought forward in Madras for the purpose of improving the drainage and water-supply of the city; but I am sorry to say that in most cases the experts began to consider the question from the wrong end. They began to design their schemes and did every thing to the best of their own ideal, without first considering the means. They considered the question of "ways and the means," after the design was completed, whereas they should have done the reverse. I have great faith in the homely proverb which tells us "to cut our coat according to our cloth."

Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar :—This proposition is virtually the same as was put forward when the subject first came before us. It was suggested that Dr. King's scheme was too elaborate and in some places it was most absurd and involved, a very heavy expenditure; that schemes for water-supply and drainage of the city have already been laid before the specialists and no notice be therefore taken of the valuable notes of the Sanitary Commissioner. I then proposed the appointment of a committee. Dr. King in his notes, if I am not mistaken, distinctly says that he would not enter into the question of drainage and water-supply as it has been made a special subject by special officers. His suggestions extended over 60 pages. No doubt there may be some which seem to be absurd, if not on any other ground but that of finance. I admit we cannot afford to spend large sums on theories or experiments that might be suggested; but there are great many suggestions in the notes of the Sanitary Commissioner the adoption of which would not form any additional or heavy burden on the Municipal finances. I therefore propose the following amendment :—

"That a committee consisting of—

The President,

M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avergal,

M. R. Ry. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu,

M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal,

Surgeon-Major J. Maitland,

M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naiudu Garu,

M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and

M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal

be appointed to consider and suggest to the Commissioners on the Sanitary Commissioner's Report."

Mr. Yethirajulu Naidu seconded the proposition.

Mr. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu:—I regret I am not able to support Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's suggestion with regard to the appointment of a Sub-Committee. Of course he stated his reasons on a former occasion and repeated them now. I think it would be well for us generally to accept the resolution moved by Mr. G. Subramania Iyer and wait for the reply of Government; and if the reply of Government is such as might necessitate our going into the matter more fully, then we may ask those competent among us to go into the details of the several measures proposed. I would therefore ask my friend, if he has no special reasons for pressing it, to withdraw his amendment. I would ask the Commissioners to send this reply to Government unanimously. I do not think there should be a difference of opinion on such a vital matter as this after what the Government has said. From our experience we can say that we have done our best, but if the Government says "here is a thing which you can do," then the proper time arises for us to go into the question. For these reasons I strongly support the resolution of Mr. G. Subramania Iyer.

Mr. G. Subramania Iyer :—I should like to make one remark as I am anxious to bring home to your minds that the real secret of the sanitary improvement of the city does not consist so much in acadamical discussions of the ideal state of a city as in detecting the real and actual wants of the people and supplying practical remedies. If our President can be given more scavengers, more carts and more bullocks, I can assure you he can make the city of Madras a different one altogether. Let us proceed as practical men, to find money for the wants we feel greatly, and see what we can do to improve the city from that stand point.

Mr. Decaster :—Some of the suggestions of Dr. King, it has been said, are ridiculous. I cannot for my part see anything ridiculous in any one of the suggestions. He merely points out the [illegible]ary defects of the town and makes suggestions. It must be obvious to everybody that the death-rate is double of what it should be. 60 people are dying while only 30 people should die. I do not think that Dr. King has said one word which can by any means be construed to be ridiculous.

The President :—I think we are straying from the point. The real question before the meeting is, whether there is any reason for the appointment of a committee. I can tell you that no object will be gained by the appointment of a committee. I can assure you that what the executive can do with the assistance of the committee, they can also do without it. I am prepared to carry out any feasible recommendation that might be made by the sanitary advisers to Government.

Mr. Pragasa mudaliar :—After the assurance now given by the President, I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The original proposition was then put and carried.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for April and May 1895.

The Statement was recorded.

Progress Report of works for April and May 1895.

The Report was recorded.

G. O., dated 22nd April 1895. No. 685 M., reviewing the Revised Estimate for 1894-95 and the Budget for 1895-96; and G. O., dated 8th July 1895, No. 1079 M., Mis., on the same subject.

The G. O.'s were recorded.

Surgeon-Major Walker :—I beg to propose "that this meeting adjourn till Friday the 9th August 1895 at 5 P. M." I hope that all the Commissioners will be present as the question of a Hospital for North Madras will come up.

Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariar seconded the proposition which was put to vote and carried.

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Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 447

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.
General Department.
Madras, 4 November 1895.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 3454 M

From

LIEUT.-COL. G. M. J. MOORE,
President, Municipal Commission.

To The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith for the inform-
Enclosures 4 —tion of Government full proceedings as also copies of ab-
stract proceedings of 2 Adjourned General Meetings of the
Commissioners held on the 6th and 9th August 1895.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G M Moore Lt.Col.

President, Munl. Comm.

When given for copying ____
When copied ____
When examined ____
When signed ____
} 189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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