

Cal & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1948/M

DATED 22nd November 1915

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commission.

Recording full proceedings and copies of abstract proceedings of a general meeting of the Madras Municipal Commissioners held on 26th and 28th August 1895, respectively.

BACK PAPERS.

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G. No. 480.

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.

General Department.

Madras, 14 Nov 1895.
Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 346-M

From

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

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures

4

I have the honor to submit herewith for the

information of Government full proceedings as also copies

of abstract proceedings of a General Meeting and a Special

Meeting of the Commissioners held on 26th and 28th August

1895, respectively.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. M. J. Moore Lt. Col.

President, Munl. Commn.

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 26th August 1893, at 3 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.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
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.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
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.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

Questions and Answers.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, there are some questions put by Mr. Hadi Badsha Sahib. The following are the Questions and Answers.

Cholera.

Q.—Is there any truth in the rumour that cholera exists in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 7th Municipal Divisions? If it is so, what is the number of cases reported in the current month and in what localities?

A.—A few sporadic cases have occurred in the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th Divisions up to this day's date.

1st divn.	3 attacks	3 deaths
3rd "	7 "	5 "
5th "	2 "	2 "
6th "	1 "	1 "

Q.—In addition to the sanitary measures which are likely to be adopted, have the Sanitary Inspectors and Overseers been supplied with medicines to be administered *gratis* to those who stand in need of them? and will arrangements be made for letting the people know where and to whom they are to apply for medical assistance?

A.—Yes.

Q.—If cholera has shewn itself in any part of the Town, do you intend applying to Professor Haffkine to come down to Madras, as he had promised to do on the appearance of cholera?

A.—I do not consider that cholera has established itself, besides I hear that Professor Haffkine has left the country.

Q.—Do you not think it would be better to apply for the services of the Professor even if cholera had appeared in a sporadic form, as it would afford local medical officers to get themselves acquainted with his system of inoculation so that they may be in a position to practice it in the event of the disease assuming an epidemic form?

A.—Yes, if they were available.

Tramway.

Q.—In view of the constant accidents to people and carriages since the opening of No. 1 Tramway line, will you please call for and circulate to the Commissioners a return of such accidents since the opening of the line?

A.—A communication on this subject will be circulated.

Q.—What guarantee is there at present that those in charge of tramcars invariably ring the bell for warning people off the track at the approach of cars?

A.—There can be no guarantee.

Q.—If you think that the framing of additional rules will go to lessen the number of accidents, will you take the matter into your consideration?

A.—I do not think it necessary.

Q.—Are passengers allowed to get in or get out when tramcars are in motion or before they halt?

A.—No; they are expressly forbidden to do so.

Q.—Considering the constant accidents resulting from people jumping out before the halting of cars, cannot arrangements be made to prevent this?

A.—The people themselves can only arrange this.

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.

THE PRESIDENT:—The first business on the agenda is this communication from Government with some remarks on the Sanitary Commissioner's Report. I want you to defer this question, because I have sent the whole matter again to Government. I don't want you to go into it until we have full information. There has been some misconception on the part of Government as it recommends what the Sanitary Commissioner expressly does not want it to recommend.

Deferred.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT:—I now want you to take up the Proceedings of the Standing Committee. They have been hanging for some time. There are some important points in them. In the proceedings of the Standing Committee dated 17th May 1895, there are 3 sales of land in streets which are less than 18 feet wide. In two cases the drains have been built and therefore the standing committee recommend the sale; in the 3rd case the Standing Committee did not recommend the sale on account of the dust bin and the fountain being in front of it. I may tell you that the Standing Committee never sell land beyond the line of the drains.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—With regard to No. 5, about an application for building a hutting ground there is an absolute refusal given. Section 271 does not provide for an absolute refusal but it gives the President the option of suggesting another course. I should like to know whether any alternative was proposed.

THE PRESIDENT:—If they will drain the place then they will be allowed to build. It is refused on the ground that the ground is not properly laid out.

The Proceedings of the 17th May 1895, were then recorded.

THE PRESIDENT:—In the Proceedings of 12th of June, we have the proposal of Government about the purchase of the Trevelyan wharf. Since we had the proposal and the Standing Committee went into the question, another question has cropped up within the last few days—that is in regard to the land. We do not know to whom the land belongs. We are not paying any quit-rent. Until we can settle it, I do not know how we can sell. If it is Government land, it may say "You have made money from this and we will take the money back from you." The Deputy Collector has written to us to know how we are enjoying the land without paying quit-rent. Until we know definitely as to whom the land belongs, we had better defer it.

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAIDU:—Even if it belongs to Government, it cannot claim quit-rent for more than 6 years.

THE PRESIDENT:—You know what it did with regard to the land at Munally.

Resolution No. 7 was deferred.

THE PRESIDENT:—Then we come to Resolution No. 8, about the sanitation of Regimental lines. Papers have been circulated and the Standing Committee recommend that the course to be adopted is that the conservancy should be maintained by the Regimental authorities. It would never do for us to go into the Regimental lines. The question is whether the Commissioners are prepared to give a contribution. If we conserve it ourselves, it would cost us about Rs. 5,000 a year. But what they actually pay now to do it regimentally is Rs. 4,000. I think it is a legitimate charge upon the Municipal funds as we collect all the taxes from them but I certainly object to our doing it. It is much better to give them a contribution.

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAIDU:—I think we are bound to do it.

MR. PARTHASARATHY IYANGAR:—What amount should we pay?

THE PRESIDENT:—I should suggest Rs. 4,000.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—Then it will not be a contribution, as you propose to pay the whole thing.

THE PRESIDENT:—If you admit that a contribution ought to be made by the Municipality, then the whole expenses ought to be borne by us.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—Have the Regimental authorities protested against it?

THE PRESIDENT:—No. The Quarter-master-General has written about it.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—Has any body protested against it?

THE PRESIDENT:—They say in this Government order that it appears to be a legitimate charge on the Municipality.

MR. VARADAPPA NAYUDU:—Why not we defer this subject until we know what the Bellary Municipality pays?

THE PRESIDENT:—The Bellary Municipality pays Rs. 88 per month while the monthly cost is Rs. 343.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—I propose "that, with reference to Resolution No. 8 of 12th June 1895, the Municipality are willing to contribute 50 per cent. of the average cost of conservancy of the lines in question amounting to Rs. 2,000." Probably the military authorities would only be too glad to receive this contribution, because to a great extent they would retain their independence and rid themselves of any annoyance from the Municipal subordinates going and interfering with the conservancy arrangements.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY seconded the proposition.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—I propose an amendment "that 25 per cent. be substituted for 50 per cent." In the present state of our finances it requires a great deal of parsimony. When we have a precedent in the case of Bellary, I do not see why we should not follow it; and in following it, I do not see how we are in wrong. I do not think we can afford to be liberal in this case.

MR. HADI BADSHA SAHIB seconded this amendment which when put to vote was lost.

The original proposition was then put and carried.

MR. BALAKISTNAMA CHETTY:—Here is a bill for Rs. 109-7-0 from Messrs. Barclay Morgan and Orr, for transferring an agreement at the request of Mr. Krishnasawmy Pillai to some of his own men. I wish to know who is to bear this cost.

THE PRESIDENT:—That is debited against his bill.

The rest of the Proceedings was recorded.

The Proceedings dated 20th June 1895 were recorded.

THE PRESIDENT:—In the Proceedings of the 5th July there is an important point about Mahomedally Jeevjee's liability to us to the extent of Rs. 22,000 for having failed to supply the materials we required. This matter has been before the Standing Committee with his Lawyers' and our Lawyers' opinion. Our Lawyers said that under the contract he is undoubtedly liable for it. It may be a question whether the Commissioners, taking it into consideration that it was an order somewhat larger than usual, are prepared to remit it. I do hope that the Commissioners will not pass a resolution that the Contractor is right in saying that he is not bound to supply our materials. The specification distinctly says that the amounts entered in the schedule are only probable amounts and the Contractor is bound to supply that or any part of that or anything more. I have no doubt that if we take the case into Court we will win.

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAYUDU:—When the contract was drawn up the schedule was attached as a portion of the deed. Generally the specification is intended for quality and the schedule for quantity.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—Am I to understand that by the action of the Contractor it had cost the Municipality Rs. 22,000 over and above what they would have to pay according to the rates given in the schedule.

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—I think we should stick to our rights. The contractor is bound to supply any quantity. We can only give the probable amount judging from previous years; and I do not think that under the circumstances, the Municipal Council would be justified in arriving at a friendly conclusion in the matter with the contractor if it costs this Commission even a sum of Rs. 1,000. If we are advised by our legal advisers that we have a good case and that we are in the right, we ought to stick to our rights.

THE PRESIDENT:—If you once admit the principal that because there is a certain figure put in the schedule the contractor is not required to supply more, then no contract will be workable. Suppose we don't want any pipes, he may say "You are bound to take what is mentioned in the schedule."

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—What is the question before the meeting?

THE PRESIDENT:—The contractor says that he is not liable.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—What is the recommendation of the Standing Committee?

THE PRESIDENT:—The Standing Committee recommend his request for remission for the favourable consideration of the Commissioners. That is, they are for remission and the word "Remission" conveys the contractor's liability.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—Are we advised by our legal advisers that we have a good case?

THE PRESIDENT:—A perfect case according to them.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—I beg to propose "that, with reference to Resolution No. 6 of 5th July 1895, in view of the opinion of the legal advisers to the Municipality, no remission be granted."

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARIYAR:—I beg to second the proposition. The little point they rest their claim upon is simply the average of past years.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—I should like to ask you for some information: what is the rate given by the contractor in respect of these pipes?

THE PRESIDENT:—The rate given is Rs. 4 with 20 per-cent discount for 16 inch pipe, and Rs. 10 with 20 % discount for 24" pipe.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—There is another question I should like to ask. At the time of the contract was the price the same as was at the time we actually wanted them or was it cheaper then and did it go up afterwards?

THE PRESIDENT:—It had gone up owing to exchange.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—You know sir, that many contractors are very fond of tendering for a number of articles in one schedule, noting those that will be required at a fair price and noting great many things that will not be required at a very low price, because they know that the system adopted in the Municipality is to take the average. A contractor who undertakes to supply at cheap rates, things that are not wanted, has a chance of his contract being accepted, and he expects that he will only be called upon to supply those things on which he is likely to make a profit. I know that system to be prevalent in this Municipality and if this contractor has on purpose, expecting that 24" pipes would never be required, put a low figure, then on principal we ought not to accede to his wish and we ought to make no remission, when he finds suddenly that the very thing which he did not expect to be called upon to supply has been called for by the Municipality. If by a sudden fluctuation of prices a great change has been made in the contractors chance of making any profit and if we find that he has lost very considerably, we may without acknowledging his right to any remission consider the question of giving him a remission, especially if he has been an old contractor and has always acted honestly and fairly with the Municipality. I do not know who this Contractor is. I believe in the case of some Contractors we have shewn a certain amount of consideration. If this Contractor has been an honest man, and if the prices had gone up very much on account of exchange then I should be disposed to consider his request favourably for a very slight remission. I do not for one moment doubt he has any right to it whatever. If in this case he has put at halfpazard a low price then I should hold him to his contract.

THE PRESIDENT:—There was a fluctuation in exchange. He is the best Contractor we have got. We gave him the Contract even though his tender was not the lowest.

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—Were 24" pipes required in previous years for works other than water works?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—They were not likely to be required for water works?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—When was this Contract given out?

THE PRESIDENT:—From 1892 to 1895.

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—Were these pipes purchased in India?

THE PRESIDENT:—No. At home.

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—I want to know whether such a large quantity was available in India?

THE PRESIDENT:—No.

MR. THEAGARAYA CHETTY:—You previously published your schedules, your specifications and the agreements you entered into?

THE PRESIDENT:—The Contract was drawn up subsequently, but the form of the Contract is always available. The schedules and specifications were published.

MR. THEAGARAYA CHETTY:—In the schedule you give the probable quantity required. According to the figures given in the schedule, merchants go on calculating and come to certain figures taking the fluctuation in exchange etc., into consideration. In the schedule you will find that the probable quantity required is 12. According to the requisition sent to the Contractor he was asked to supply 3,000 ft. that is, 300 times more than what was actually given in the schedule. Will any reasonable man say that when you ask for 10 pipes, you are going to ask for 3,000. If you ask for 300 times the quantity given in the schedule will any common sense man tell us that that is the way of interpreting the Contract. Our solicitors have given their opinion, that Law is perfectly on our side. How many times have we found that our lawyers have misguided us and put us to an amount of loss—not purposely of course. We had just a case in the Small Cause Court & High Court where the Judge gave an opinion against the opinion of our solicitors; and the Commissioners at the time thought that the opinion given by our solicitors was wrong. If you go into this matter as men of common sense and not as Lawyers who look at things from only one side, you will see whether the 300 times what you asked for is reasonable.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—Without conceding that the fact of a man being a Lawyer deprives him of common sense, a Lawyer's opinion may be wrong. I beg to propose an amendment "that a partial remission be granted at the discretion of the President."

THE PRESIDENT:—Then you will accept my discretion. The only point I want you to maintain—that is, simply in the interest of the Municipality—is that if you have a contract with these people, they must understand they must carry it out, and as a matter of grace you may say “if you serve us well we would not let you in for a heavy loss.” I have not the slightest objection to the Commissioners being lenient.

MR. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—On the one hand it is suggested that the Lawyers are right and we must stick to our rights, and on the other hand it is suggested that our Lawyers must be wrong, might possibly misguide us and launch us into court and we ought not therefore to follow their advice thereby giving room for the inference that we ought to make the remission recommended by the Standing Committee. It is well that we should enter into an amicable settlement with the contractor so that we don't give him room to say that we are dealing with him harshly.

MR. C. YETTERAJULU NAIDU:—Seconded the amendment.

MR. GRANT:—If no amicable arrangement is come to, we must stick to our claim.

MR. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—If the settlement with the contractor does not succeed the question must again come up here and be disposed of from the point where he left it.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—Now the matter comes up as a part of the recommendation of the Standing Committee and we will dispose of it to-night. It would not come up again unless somebody moves the Standing Committee to reconsider the matter. In reply to Mr. Theagaroya Chetty, I wish to say: suppose the rate he gave was higher than that in the market, would the contractor have allowed us, to go into the market and buy things at a cheaper rate.

THE PRESIDENT:—We have it under the terms of the Contract. But it is an understood thing that we do not do it.

SURGEON-MAJOR WALKER:—If the contractor had tendered a low rate on a certain article on the chance that the article would not be required, then he deserves to suffer and no partial remission should be granted.

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—The amendment proposed by my friend does not help us towards decision in the matter. Whether remission is out of grace or out of right is not known. It will be better in the interests of the Municipality to decide whether he is entitled to the remission or not.

RAO BAHADUR KRISHNAMA CHARITYAR:—The Public Works Department fixes the rates.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—It is better that these matters are fully explained. One of the Commissioners wished to know whether the President was bound to take all the articles from the contractor especially when such articles could be obtained in the market at a very much lower rate than what is given in the schedule. I think there are many instances in which we have been purchasing things in the market if the rate was cheaper. You will see that the contractor cannot bind you to get all the works done by him and when the contractor is likely to get some profit we take the work off his hands. In the case of the new water works the contractor tendered at 16 % premium; we wrote to different parties and if we had a cheaper rate we would have given the work to others.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Among the papers circulated to us on the subject, we see two opinions expressed by two Lawyers—the one is as eminent as the other—and the alternative left to us is how we have to view the matter. If the case is launched into the court the court will certainly look to the intentions of the contracting parties at the time the contract was entered into. Did the contracting parties think that there would be a only necessity for 12 or 20 or 24 ft. of pipes or for 300 times as much. If the court is certain that the intention of the contracting parties was not to supply 300 times more than what was given in the schedule, the decree will go against us. I am aware of a similar case brought quite recently by the Commissariat Department against a contractor for the supply of a very large quantity of hay. The quantity contracted for was a particular figure, and the Commissariat Department went far beyond that point and the contractor said that he was not bound to supply it. The matter was pushed into court and the court said that the intention of the contracting parties was to supply so much and the suit was therefore dismissed with costs. I think gentlemen, whether you accept Dr. Walker's proposition or Mr. Venkatramiah Chetty's amendment, we must be cautious so that we may not bite our fingers afterwards.

MR. DECASTOR:—Before we decide on the point it is just as well that we understand how much money we lost and much we would have had to pay if this contract was not entered into. No doubt we have got legal advice, but there are lawyers on the other side who support the opposite

contention. We should bear in mind that we have not suffered loss except that we paid higher price than what we should have paid if the contractor had supplied the materials. There was no help but to pay a higher price. The contractor was no doubt bound by his contract, but he was unable to carry it out for various reasons. The materials was not at all procurable in Madras. Moreover this is a one sided case. If the pipes were procurable elsewhere at a cheaper rate, the Municipality had a right to go and purchase them. No doubt that looks all right on our side, but still it is a one sided case. Under these circumstances we have to consider whether we would not be hard upon the contractor by insisting upon his payment. Although our right to insist upon his obligation of the contract is right enough, yet at the same time we have to take a merciful view of the matter.

THE PRESIDENT:—The case of the Commissariat Department was a different one. The Commissariat Department had not fulfilled the terms of the contract by inspecting the quality of hay and the case was therefore thrown out.

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAYUDU:—I wish to know whether at the time when the contract was entered into you had any idea in your mind of requiring these materials for the out fall channel. All these materials are as far as I am aware required for Water Works, but there was a deviation from it and they were required for another purpose. That was for conservancy purpose, that is we wanted to conduct sewage by means of pipes instead of an open channel. That is a proposition pressed by Mr. Theagaroya Chetty or by some of the Tondiarpet people. I beg to propose “that the consideration of this subject be deferred to the next meeting.”

This last amendment was put to the vote and carried.

The rest of the proceedings were recorded.

Proceedings, dated 19th July and 2nd August 1895, were recorded.

Statement of Receipt and Disbursements from April to July 1895.

The statement was recorded.

Progress Report of Works for June and July 1895.

The Report was recorded.

The Tramway.

The President moved the following resolution of which he had given notice:—“that the application from the Attorneys to the Trustees for the Debenture Holders, Madras Electric Tramways, for extension of time, from 5th September 1895 to 20th October 1895, to complete sections 2 and 3 of Tramway, be considered.”

This was seconded by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam and carried.

Proposed by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam and seconded by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker—

“that the Commissioners consider that the extension of time asked for by the Tramway Company should be granted.”

THE PRESIDENT:—They are doing very good work now and have shown very good reasons for the extension asked for.

The proposition was then put and carried.

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

The Meeting terminated.

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 Wednesday the 28th August 1893, at 3 P. M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT:

Lieut.-Col., G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E., *President*.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
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M. R. Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
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.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M. R. Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

The Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1894-95.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, we had better go on with the business of the meeting, viz, the Administration Report for 1894-95.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU in moving "that the Administration Report for 1894-95 be adopted and submitted to Government" said:—

"I propose that the Administration Report for 1894-95 be adopted. As usual, the President has taken much trouble in compiling the report under review. I would suggest that in future reports, an appendix be added giving the full proceedings of the meetings of the Commissioners for the year, so that the whole history of the corporation will form one complete record. This course will not entail much expenditure as the required number of copies can be struck out at each time when the proceedings are being printed and they can be bound with the report at the end of the year.

I have to make some observations with regard to the finances of the year under consideration. The total revenue for 1893-94 was Rs. 15,50,160 and for 1894-95 was Rs. 15,60,059. The total expenditure for these two years was Rs. 12,46,150 and Rs. 12,55,418 respectively. You will observe that there was Rs. 10,000 more in income and Rs. 9,000 more in expenditure than those of the previous year.

You will observe that there was an actual loss of about 30,000 Rupees in Tobacco duties, that is the Municipality has paid 30,000 in the form of refunds over and above the amount collected

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35-45-100/95

from Tobacco duties. This state of affairs is very discreditable to the Revenue Department which had the sole responsibility of organizing a staff of detectives to check frauds in the collection of tobacco duties. If proper arrangements had been made and abler hands been appointed to manage the whole affair, instead of the Municipality suffering a loss of thirty thousand a year there would have been a clear gain of at least fifty thousand rupees from a tax that never oppressed anybody.

It will be observed that by general revision which commenced in 1889-90 and terminated last year, about 2 lacs of Rupees were derived in excess from house, water and lighting taxes. In the administration report page 6, para 26, sentence to the following effect is found "Diversity of opinion between the sitting Commissioners of one year and those of another, rather encourage such course." The course referred to here is that assessments once determined on appeal are again and again objected to in the following year's. This remark is uncalled for as there will be certainly diversity of opinions as long there is diversity in taxation by different assessors on the same property. I know as a matter of fact, that although revision of taxes has only lately completed, as soon as there is a change of an assessor in a division, practically a new revision of assessment takes place. Only the other day, I saw an assessor re-assessing the houses in Sawmy Pillay Street, although it is not yet 2 years since the last revision of assessment has taken place in that street.

As long as there are 32 Commissioners, it is no wonder to find diversity of opinions and nobody can make them think alike on any matter.

Appealing to the Commissioners has a great salutary check on whimsical assessors, who in fact have no supervision or check over their work and the decision of an appealing board is not only a satisfaction to the appealing rate-payer but also acts as a check over the whims of assessors.

In page 13 under the head of Tax on vehicles &c. it will be observed that there is no perceptible increase in this item although according to my own impression that there is a considerable increase of carriages and horses. Farming out this item on the same lines as tolls will be more satisfactory.

In connection with the subject of finances, I have again to remark that considerable increase in revenue will accrue if systematic inspections be done by the Revenue Officer who comes to office so late as 2 P. M., causing a great inconvenience to the parties who may have anything to do with the Revenue Department. At a special meeting convened to recommend the Revenue Officer to the post of Acting President, to a question put by me in connection with supervision, it surprised me much when I was told by the President that no record was kept of the most important work of the Revenue Officer, namely that of testing the work of his subordinates. I think this discloses a great laxity of the system of work done in the Revenue Department. I am in possession of certain facts that a great many irregularities of this Department, which if I were to enumerate will take up a great deal of time, suffice if I mention that the tone of the Department must be improved by systematical recorded inspections of the Revenue Officer and by the employment of efficient clerks and accountants to be entertained by competitive examination.

In page 38, under grant III (Sanitation and Medical Services) I have to remark that establishment of charitable dispensaries in the midst of each Division will do more good to the suffering poor than building of Hospitals in princely style remote from the City. Many a poor man will be saved from resorting as an in-patient to an Hospital if timely help was given in a charitable dispensary for his original trivial complaint and more money may be thus saved by administering him a fever pill or two at the onset. Poor people are very reluctant to go to a distance for a dose of medicine but if Municipality were to establish charitable Dispensaries in the centre of each Division, there would be very little sickness and mortality. Simply because a poor man is unable to buy a few doses of medicine and simply because the distance he has to go to an Hospital is so great at present and the time he has to spend in undergoing the ceremonial of getting tickets &c. is too much, he avoids taking proper medicine until he finds himself quite incapable of walking, then he resorts to Hospital or his friends remove him to the North or South Hospital where he has to remain for a length of time, such a course causes a large expenditure to the institution. If the Municipality establishes small charitable dispensaries in each Division much expenditure under grant III will be decreased and there will be less mortality. I hope the Commissioners may give some consideration to my suggestion when the report of the committee for building a large Hospital in the North of the town is submitted to them.

In page 60, the Sanitary defects of the city of Madras are noted. In regard to this subject the commissioners had appointed a committee whose report, in which many recommendations were made, was adopted by them and if the executive carry out these suggestions practically, a good many defects complained of will be remedied.

In page 66 under the head of conservancy, I beg to remark that stricter supervision is required to make this department of conservancy more efficient. It has been brought to the notice of the President and Commissioners, that some irregularities are said to be practiced in mustering scavengers and carts. I believe, recently a sanitary overseer was dismissed by the President on account of false entries of coolies that were not actually on work in Lang's garden depôt. As great many irregularities may occur in the entries made in daily mustering register, and as it is impossible for the Health Officer to attend to these musters leaving out his legitimate work; I think it advisable that a conservancy Superintendent on decent salary may be appointed to inspect and check the conservancy department in general. This will place the conservancy department on more efficient footing; there will be no false entries and no waste of Municipal funds but we shall have more coolies working for the money spent, and a large amount of work turned out, the streets, and drains will be kept clean and there will be a vast improvement in the Sanitation of the Town. We want an officer that will efficiently manage the mustering and working of coolies. The present Senior Sanitary Inspector is a very efficient officer to do this work.

I once more say that great credit is due to the President for the efficient turn out of the administration report of the Madras Municipality for 1894-95."

Mr. S. Gurusawmy Chetty seconded the proposition.

Mr. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR after asking the President for some information about vaccination said:—"I have nothing very particular to remark on the administration report for the past year; but I think it my duty to bring to your notice the high death-rate during the last decade resulting from fevers and bowel complaints. The figures are very high, much higher than the highest death-rate from cholera in 1891. Such high death-rate is a blot on our administration. As I propose drawing your attention later on to this particular item, I shall not trouble you at present."

Mr. G. SUBRAMANIA AIYAR:—Mr. President, I wish to draw your attention to what appears to me to be a slight discrepancy. In paragraph 160, the writer of the report seems to assume that prices are continuing to be high, and that fact is adduced as accounting for the low birth-rate. If you will kindly refer to paragraph 165 you will find it assumed there that the prices have been undergoing a fall which seems to be the fact. I simply wish to draw your attention to the defective data for the first surmise.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR:—If I am in order, I just wish to say a word or two with regard to the Educational section of the report. I do not know whether the grant for the Elementary Schools is sufficient or otherwise, but I find certain defects in the present system of education in school where the three "Rs." are supposed to be taught for the poorer classes. One chief item of education ought to be good, clear and distinct reading and not gabbling through, which we see neglected not only in Elementary Schools but in High Schools. We cannot blame the professors and lecturers of colleges for this defect. They are not responsible, they simply deliver lectures, the students being a passive audience. The students ought to get good reading in the Elementary Classes and if they are not properly brought up there, bad reading becomes a habit, which is afterwards incurable. I went to a school on the day preceding the Pillaiyar festival and the boys were reading stanzas in praise of that God; and I can tell you that the reading was by no means good. I do not mean to cast this as a reflection upon the inspecting officers. Even 25 years ago the same defect was visible. Whether this is due to want of sufficient funds for training school masters or not I cannot say. Now that the Director of Public Instruction is revising the scheme of studies for all the schools, I think this is just the time to call his attention to this fact and to emphasise the importance which native parents attach to good reading and recitation in the schools. I do not know which is the proper time to bring it forward in a formal manner; if necessary I will state it in a memorandum on the subject.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANIA AIYAR:—I think the connection of the Municipality with the schools is simply to give them a grant but we have no connection whatever with their internal administration.

Mr. J. DECASTER :—This report looks satisfactory when viewed from the stand point of the Municipality; but after all the death-rate must be the criterion of our work. But so long as the death-rate remains as high as ever, namely, double of what it should be, according to the Sanitary Commissioner, it is clear we have no cause for congratulating ourselves on the work done.

Mr. R. BALAJEE ROW :—The report is very satisfactory and we should congratulate ourselves upon the efficient manner in which the work was done by the executive. The report speaks of Madras as a whole town but does not give the sanitary defects of several divisions. Madras is not like Bombay and Calcutta, a compact town—it is nearly 6 miles in circumference. Each Division requires one Municipal Office to Superintend its affairs. No doubt some improvements are effected in many Divisions. This is as far as money is available, but I think it is necessary that some idea should be given as to what the sanitary wants of the several Divisions are in the Annual Report so that the defects may be remedied in the succeeding years.

THE PRESIDENT :—That can be done by simply adding "in every Division." I think it is unnecessary for me to make any remarks. The only one that calls for any is with regard to education. I can only say the Municipality has no control over schools. If you look at the report of the Educational Department you will find it stated that the work turned out is satisfactory. The only thing the Commissioners can do is to give the money they ask for and I heard some Commissioners are desirous of giving more than they ask for.

The proposition was put to the vote and carried.
The meeting then terminated.

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. Sivangana Mudaliar Avargal.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
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.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
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.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

No. 1.

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.

Deferred.

No. 2.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 17th May, 12th and 28th June, and 5th and 19th July, and 2nd August 1895.

Proceedings, dated 17th May 1895, were recorded.

Proceedings, dated 12th June 1895, Resolution No. 7, deferred.

Proposed by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker and seconded by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu—

"That, with reference to Resolution No. 8 of 12th June 1895, the Municipality are willing to contribute 50 per cent. of the average cost of conservancy of the lines in question amounting to Rs. 2,000."

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu proposed and Mr. Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib seconded—

"That 25 per cent. be substituted for 50 per cent."

Lost.

The original proposition was then put and carried.

The rest of the Proceedings were recorded.

Proceedings, dated 28th June 1895, were recorded.

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

"That, with reference to Resolution No. 6 of 5th July 1895, in view of the opinion of the legal advisers to the Municipality, no remission be granted."

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

"That a partial remission be granted at the discretion of the President."

Resolved that the consideration of this subject be deferred to next Meeting.

The rest of the proceedings were recorded.

Proceedings, dated 19th July and 2nd August 1895, were recorded.

No. 3.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from April to July 1895.

Recorded.

No. 4.

Progress Report of Works for June and July 1895.

Recorded.

No. 5.

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

"That the application from the Attorneys to the Trustees for the Debenture Holders, Madras Electric Tramways, for extension of time, from 5th September 1895 to 20th October 1895, to complete sections 2 and 3 of Tramway, be considered,"

which was seconded by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam.

Carried.

Proposed by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam and seconded by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker—

"That the Commissioners consider that the extension of time asked for by the Tramway Company should be granted."

Carried.

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

The Meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,

August 1895.

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 Wednesday the 28th 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*.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
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.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1894-95.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu—

“That the Administration Report for 1894-95 be adopted and submitted to Government.”

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
August 1895.

3
35-45-100/95

Local & Municipal Dept.
Genl. Deptt.
CURRENT No. 3545 M
1895

Madras Municipality.

From
The President,
Municipal Commission,
MADRAS.

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Mr. S. C. George.
17 NOV. 1895
G. No. 480.

Dated } 14 November 1895
Despd. } 14 " 1895
Recd. }

Encs. 4.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
and also copies of abstract pro-
ceedings of a General Meeting
and a Special Meeting of the
Commissioners held on 26th and
27th August 1895 respectively.

W. Mis. Order No. 1948 Mis. 22.11.95
Recorded.
10/11/95

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189 , No , MISCELLANEOUS.

FURTHER PAPER, No. of 189

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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INDEXED.
Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.

G.O., DATED 22 11-95

No. 1948 M.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Mul: Comm.

Recording full proceedings
& Copy of abstract proceedings
of a General & a special
meeting of the Madras
Mul: Comm. held on
26th & 28th August 1895
respectively.

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When copied
When examined
When signed

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189,

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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