

BACK PAPERS.

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519

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.

General Department.

Madras, 4 December 1895.

From

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

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith for the

information of Government full proceedings of a General

Meeting of the Commissioners held on 30th September 1895,

together with a copy of abstract proceedings of the same

date.

Enclosures

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I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. M. J. Moore.

Lt. Col.

President, Munl. Commn.

G.O.	No.

G.O.	

Proceedings of a 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 Monday the 30th September 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*,
H. Ormerod, Esq.
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.
Cawasjee Eduljee, Esq.
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. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

Questions and Answers.

THE PRESIDENT :—Gentlemen, I have to answer some questions put by Mr. Varadappa Naidu.
The following are the questions and answers :—

Triplicane Temple Tank.

Q.—Will the President be kind enough to state what steps he has taken to enforce on the Dharmakarta of the Triplicane Temple, the terms of the notice served on him by the Municipality for prevention of persons drowning in the tank?

A.—I have been in correspondence with the Receiver in C. S. No. 137 of 1895.

General Market.

Q.—Will the President be kind enough to state how many sittings the members of the Market Committee had since their appointment? When did they have their last sitting? Is there any likelihood of their meeting at an early date for submitting a report on the subject intrusted to them? Have they selected any locality for building a General Market?

A.—4 meetings. On the 26th April, 1895. Yes. Plans have been prepared by the Engineer and the estimates are being prepared and will be ready in a few days. The Committee have selected a site in the People's Park.

Collection of Revenue.

Q.—What action has been taken in regard to a letter written by Mr. V. Krishnaswamy Moodelliar in the *Hindu* of the 26th August 1895, a cutting of which is herewith sent, complaining of the procedure of the Revenue Department in presenting the assessment Bills to the tenants and not to the owners of houses and thus causing a great deal of inconvenience and annoyance to the owners by serving a demand Warrant on the owners after 15 days from the time of 1st notice, when the tenants neglect to acquaint the owners of the receipt of the demand notice?

A.—Service of Bills is regulated by Section 207 of the Act. Care is taken to serve on owners as far as practicable.

Taxes on Vehicles etc :

THE PRESIDENT :—The first business is the Resolution of M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu, requesting the President to take steps to farm out taxes on vehicles with springs and on animals and on carts and other vehicles without springs, and to suspend the collection of the tax on cycles for a period of three years.

Mr. M. Venkataramiah Chetty is not here, and I do not know if any commissioners will take up this resolution.

THE HON'BLE : MR. P. RANGIAH NAIDU :—When we have no power to decide it, what is the use of bringing it forward?

RAO BAHADUR Y. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR :—We may give him a grace of half an hour and see if he turns up.

MR. M. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY having come by this time, said :—I have not much to say on my resolution. From certain statements and accounts obtained from the Municipality, I find there has been no large increase in the collection of taxes on vehicles etc. I think every one of us can testify to this fact that there has been a great deal of increase in the vehicle traffic in the Town and therefore I believe an explanation must be forthcoming for this state of things—that there should be no increase in the taxes collected when there has been an increase in the traffic. I think we might improve our taxes in that direction if we farm out our taxes on vehicles just as we farm out our tolls, because it would then be the interest of the farmer to look about and see that every vehicle is taxed. I therefore propose. I. "That the Government be requested to take steps to amend the Municipal Act, so that power may be given to the President to farm out taxes on vehicles with springs and on animals, and on carts and other vehicles without springs. II. That the President be requested to suspend collection of the tax on Cycles for a period of three years." I know it does require an amendment of the act; but if you agree that this step should be taken we may formally resolve to ask Government to take up the matter of amending the act. It is a local act and the Local Government can amend it if necessary, and the more important question than the amendment of the act which will be simply a formal matter is, whether we should take steps to have these taxes farmed out. I do not mean to press my resolution about cycles as the matter is at present *sub judice*.

THE PRESIDENT :—I would merely point out the difficulties in the way of carrying out this proposal. If this is to be carried out, you will have to amend the act and the whole of the powers vested in the President's hands will have to be put into the farmer's hands who will have to serve bills and notices of demand and destrain property. Suppose a man says that he has only two horses and the farmer says three horses, whom is he the farmer to appeal to? He cannot appeal to me and he cannot appeal to the Magistrate. I am afraid that the public will be worse off than what they are now. How is the farmer going to decide how many horses a person has got?

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—How do you manage about tolls.

THE PRESIDENT :—The toll is a ready money business.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—Does not he destrain?

THE PRESIDENT :—He will stop the carriage if the toll is not paid. But you cannot stop a man's carriage in the street and say that you would not allow it until he pays the taxes. Even if you get the act amended so that the farmer can decide as to how many horses a man has, the public would not stand it.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I was just going to make the same remark. This seems to be an impracticable proposal as far as we can see. Virtually the farmer, whoever he may be, should have the same establishment as the Municipality makes use of. He will have to be brought into contact with the parties and he will have to be given powers which he may not use properly. I am afraid this measure will lead to a good deal of complaint from the public and it is altogether impracticable.

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATH RAO :—I have been the Collector of some taxes and I think this scheme would be an impracticable one. We will have to intrust the farmer with powers which we already complain have not been properly exercised by the Municipal Officers. To go and intrust an interested party with such powers would not be conducive to public good. On that ground I hope it will not commend itself to this Government or to the Government of India who will have to sit in judgment upon this measure and who have the final authority either to adopt or reject it. I think the change proposed is not a desirable one and we had better not deal with it just now at least until there is an opportunity when the whole scheme of taxation of the Municipality might be revised and placed on principles different from those under which we are now working.

MR. R. BALAJEE ROW :—As we are, we cannot farm out our taxes on vehicles etc. The act has to be amended, with regard to which there should be a good deal of correspondence between us and Government. New sections will have to be introduced and even if you can get the act amended, I do not know if it will be for the good of the people. I do not think it is wise to go to legislation in this matter especially when a large establishment will be required for the collection of the taxes. The point on which Mr. Venkataramiah Chetty laid stress is that the taxes are not properly collected and there is no increase in the collection under this head for a number of years. The proper course is for the Municipality to take steps to see how this matter stands.

MR. M. O. PARTHASARADHY IYANGAR :—Gentlemen, I do not think this a desirable step to take or a commendable measure to adopt. As it stands, as Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row said, there is some complaint against the Municipality itself. For instance when the matter was still *sub judice*, the bicycle tax was attempted to be levied by distress warrant from Dr. Wilson. It was only a matter of three rupees, still a distress warrant was issued against him for that amount. If these taxes should be farmed out, indirect motives and private grudge will be brought into play in the exercise of the vast powers that will necessarily have to be vested in the farmer. I submit that on the whole it is very doubtful if this system will prove more profitable than what the present system fetches. It must be remembered that the contractor will have to make a profit, and unless he makes a profit he will not go in for it. The contractor should employ an equally large establishment as we have and even then what guarantee is there that he will be able to reach every tax-payer in respect of his vehicles and other things. I am afraid the same difficulty will arise. I think in the first place we are not likely to make any profit and in the second place there is a positive disadvantage in the measure proposed by Mr. Venkataramiah Chetty.

MR. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY :—With regard to this matter the only question for us to consider is not what hardships may be caused to the rate-payers, but what additional profit it will bring to the Municipality by all just and fair means. If this were not the object of the Municipality infarming out taxes, I do not think why tolls should have been farmed out. As it has been suggested by the President, the difference between tolls and these taxes is very great—that in the collection of tolls the contractor is put to no trouble, whereas in the case of these taxes there will be a great deal of trouble. However, after what has been said by Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row with his varied experience of matters of taxation I am very diffident to press this proposition; but it has been suggested by Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Rao that this may be postponed till after we have completed our proposals for fresh taxation. If this is his objection, I may state that my object in bringing forward this resolution is when other things are ready and the Government is prepared to meet our wants, this measure may also be ready so that the act may be amended in this respect also. I am not at present prepared to meet the difficulties that have been raised in the matter of levying

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these taxes by farmers. I propose that this matter may be deferred till the next meeting when I may be prepared with an answer. I therefore beg, sir, you will allow this matter to lie over without deciding it now.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—Mr. Venkatramiah Chetty may withdraw his proposition now and bring up his motion at any time he likes hereafter.

With the consent of the meeting Mr. Venkatramiah Chetty then withdrew his proposition.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT:—Let us now take up the Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th August and 6th September, 1895, and resolution Nos. 7 and 6 of the proceedings dated 12th June and 5th July, 1895, respectively.

The Proceedings of the Standing Committee dated 16th of August and 6th of September were recorded.

THE PRESIDENT:—Now we come to Resolution No. 6 of the Proceedings of 5th July which refers to a question of difference of opinion between the Commissioners and the contractor Mahomed Ali Jivaji about the enhanced cost of pipes which owing to the failure on his part have been supplied by another firm. The position at the last meeting was this:—It was proposed by Dr. Walker and seconded by Rao Bahadur Krishnamachariar "that with reference to Resolution No. 6 of 5th July 1895, view of the opinion of the legal advisers to the Municipality, no remission be granted." Then there was an amendment by Mr. M. Venkatramiah Chetty seconded by Mr. C. Yethirajulu Naidu "that a partial remission be granted at the discretion of the President"; and then it was resolved the whole subject be deferred to this meeting. There is one point which if we had only taken into our consideration, would have saved a lot of time and that is the question of arbitration. Under the contract the Commissioners are practically bound to go to arbitration. The arbitration clause of the contract runs thus:—(Here the President read the clause which fixed the number of arbitrators at two, one to be appointed by each party.)

MR. M. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—If they disagree, is there any provision?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes, in the case of difference of opinion between such arbitrators they shall appoint an umpire whose decision shall be final. The contractor himself in one of his letters dated 6th July refers to this arbitration clause of the contract. Later on in a letter he wants this matter to be brought before the Commissioners. I really think that the best way for both the Commissioners and the contractor is to adopt what is the legal course to adopt.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—Does the contractor say that he wants arbitration?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—That was previously but latterly he has referred the matter to the Commissioners. Apparently his last letter makes me think that he does not want to go to arbitration.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—While no decision of the Commissioners will be binding on the contractor, the decision of the arbitrator is binding on both.

RAI BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—As a party to the original resolution on the subject I withdraw my support thereto as I now see, from the terms of the contract. That even 350 resolutions of ours would have no binding effect upon the contractor.

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATH RAO:—I propose "that the matter be referred to arbitration as provided for in the contract." This is one of the instances in which the Standing Committee interferes without authority.

RAO BAHADUR KALIYANSUNDRUM CHETTY seconded the amendment which when put to the vote was carried.

THE PRESIDENT:—Who is to be the arbitrator?

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—Who is to appoint the arbitrator?

THE PRESIDENT:—It is all done by the President really.

MR. M. O. PARTHASARADHY IYANGAR:—If necessary we will authorise you to appoint a man.

THE PRESIDENT:—We now come to resolution No. 7 of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee 12th June about Trevelyan wharf. The Executive Engineer of the Buckingham Canal suggested to Government that we should take over the Trevelyan wharf. The matter came before the

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Standing Committee and they recommended that the wharf be sold for 25 years purchase money on the condition that we should be allowed the use of the wharf for the repair of our boats &c. It is calculated that 25 years purchase money would amount to Rs. 45,000. The Engineer has himself stated that this is a most paying concern and the Commissioners were perfectly justified in asking for it a good price, as this is one of the speculations out of which they made money. Besides Rs. 1,600 a year which we get from the Trevelyan wharf, we get Rs. 3,000 a year from the lands adjacent to it, where firewood depôts are kept. If you will let the Government have it for Rs. 40,000, I will write to Government and say that it is a compensation for the revenue derived from the wharf.

MR. S. GURUSAWMI CHETTY:—I beg to propose "that the Commissioners do make over the Trevelyan wharf to Government for the sum of Rs. 48,000 in compensation for the loss of revenue derived by the Municipality from the wharf and on the understanding that the Municipality be allowed the use of the wharf for the manufacture, repair or launch of boats as at present, and that their boats be allowed to ply within the basin free of cost."

MR. M. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY:—I second the proposition. That amount represents a sum which at 3½%, would yield our present revenue.

THE PRESIDENT:—I think it is a fair price and do not think that Government can object to it.

MR. R. BALAJEE ROW:—Our present revenue is Rs. 1,600 a year. Is there any chance of increasing it?

THE PRESIDENT:—Probably we will.

MR. R. BALAJEE ROW:—Are we not to take that into consideration?

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATHA ROW:—We are taking the average, Mr. Balajee Row.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I would suggest that the recommendation of the Standing Committee that the Wharf be made over to Government for twenty-five years' purchase money, be accepted, and I would move an amendment to this effect. We know that in the case of land revenue, the Government are prepared to make over all lands on the payment of twenty-five years' purchase money, which has always been considered a fair return for the sum annually collected. When the Government is so liberal as to make over property to private individuals on payment of twenty-five years' purchase money. I do not see why we should be avaricious, if I may use the word, to get thirty years' purchase money. I beg to move the following amendment:—"That Rs. 40,000 being the amount of 25 years' purchase, be substituted for Rs. 48,000."

For want of a seconder, this amendment fell through.

The original proposition was then put and carried.

The President's Salary.

THE PRESIDENT:—We now come to No. 2 viz., the Resolution of Mr. Gurusawmy Chetty about my salary. I do not know if you are going to take it up now.

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATHA ROW:—Why not? I think it is better we go in order.

THE PRESIDENT:—If that is so, I will retire.

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATHA RAO:—No. You sit quiet and do not say a word.

THE PRESIDENT:—All right.

MR. S. GURUSAWMI CHETTY:—I rise to move a proposition for your favourable consideration. It does not involve any revolutionary measures, nor would it require us to float a loan to carry it out; its object is to do justice to our President in respect of his salary. He joined the service of our Municipality in November 1886, and his services amount to a period of 9 years, only less by 2 months. There are, no doubt, some of my brother Commissioners who have been connected with the Municipality, and have been known to our President, and this proposition would have been better proposed by such. But it has fallen, somehow or other, to my lot to bring it forward. However that may be, the proposition is one which will recommend itself to you all. It is, no doubt, true that none of our former Presidents drew a salary of more than Rs. 1,800, but that was under a different state of affairs. Most of our former Presidents were *Civilians*, and they remained in our Municipal service only until they had their grade promoted in their service, and then they deserted us. But it has not been so in the case of our present President. He has served us for 9 years, he joined us when the *maximum* under the Act was

Rs. 2,500 subsequently the salary was cut down to Rs. 2,000; and ever since he joined the Municipality he has been drawing only Rs. 1,800. I need not tell you how willing he is to be useful to the rate-payers, how promptly he disposes of his work, how active he is in attending to his out-door work. With these remarks I leave it to you to support the proposition as you ought to, and I hope that we will be able to recommend to Government with *one voice* the giving of the maximum salary to our President. The argument that the financial condition would not admit of our carrying out the resolution may not look very strong, for an increase in expenditure to the extent of Rs. 200 a month is nothing. I beg to move the following Resolution, of which I gave notice.—“That the Commissioners beg to recommend to the Government that Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. Moore, c. i. e., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, be granted the maximum salary of Rs. 2,000 per mensem under Section 36 of the City of Madras Municipal Act, being Act I of 1834 as amended by Act II of 1892, regard being had to the long period of over 8 years during which he has been holding the said office and discharging the duties thereof satisfactorily.”

DEWAN BAHADUR R. RAGOONATH ROW:—I have much pleasure in seconding this proposition. For some time I had an idea that the work of the President was such that I might apply for that appointment, and if I had any means of getting it I would be a happy man. But from my experience of this Commission, I think I have arrived at the correct conclusion when I say that it is the most difficult position that any man can occupy. Owing to the misfortune of having lived long, I have come across a great many Presidents of a great many Associations, and I can safely say that I have not met another President so patient, so courteous, and diligent to his duties as Col. Moore. Having for a long time held that the appointment of the President should be honorary and should carry no salary with it, and having changed that opinion from hard experience, and seeing that our President has been doing his work most patiently, courteously, and efficiently, I think he fully deserves any increase within the maximum amount fixed by law. I may have differed from him, I may have fought with him, and I may have in my angry moments said something against him in this hall, but with all that, I think, if the Commissioners would agree with the proposer and carry this proposition unanimously, they would be doing bare justice to themselves, to enable them to get the reputation that the Municipal Commissioners are able to appreciate the services of their officers.

MR. J. DECASTER:—This is a Resolution which should commend itself to all of us. The Municipal Act specially provides the maximum salary which is now proposed. In the Government service the qualifying time from minimum to maximum salary is 5 years. As the President's service in the Municipality extends to nearly 9 years it is time he should now draw the maximum. We all know that whatever salary a person may draw, he looks out for an increase as time goes by. The President is entitled to our best consideration in this matter. His duties are very onerous and arduous in his two-fold capacity of President of the Municipal Commissioners and chief of the executive. As President he was formerly assisted by two ex-officio Vice Presidents, but owing to changes, he has had to do without such assistance since 1892. As chief of the executive he has to attend to both indoor and outdoor work, and we all know that he does not spare himself and all can see that he moves about all over the city, doing his best. It is said no man can serve two masters but the President, in one sense, not only serves two but three masters viz, the Government, the Commissioners and the General Public. He has also held the appointment longer than any of his predecessors—and all things considered is now fairly entitled to the maximum salary.

MR. V. VABADAPPAH NAIDU:—Gentlemen, as Col. Moore has devoted more than 8 years of his life to the service of the Madras Municipality and may continue to do so for a considerable number of years, the Commissioners ought to recommend him for the maximum salary of Rs. 2,000 per mensem without any single dissent. Among the Presidents that have been in charge of the Municipality, no one has served so many years as Col. Moore. I am certain that he is the only one that has made up his mind to serve the people of Madras as long as his health will permit. He is well up in all the affairs of the Municipality. He is very affable, patient and easily accessible to all that have anything to do with the Municipality. If any Commissioner were to complain to him of any defect in any locality, he would certainly be there the very next morning at 7, to see himself and rectify the defect. He is always willing to do all he can in the interests of the Municipality. We all know of his good nature, and I do not speak anything more than what he is. We will be simply doing our duty as Commissioners if we recognise his excellent services by recommending him to the Government for the maximum pay he is justly entitled to, and which he richly deserves. I strongly support this proposition.

MR. M. O. PARTHASARADI IYANGAR:—I fully endorse every word that has been said by the previous speaker. I may say that when the President's salary was reduced, our President was the President then, and he might as well have entered a protest then that his salary should not be affected by the measure that has been introduced. However he lost that opportunity, and now that the maximum salary that has been recommended is legal, I suppose we shall be justified in recommending him to Government for this increase.

MR. R. BALAJEE ROW:—In supporting this proposition we will be doing justice to a hard worked gentleman, and honour to ourselves. He has worked here for nine years, and his services fully deserve recognition at our hands.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I shall only add a few words on this resolution and I hope that in the remarks I make, I may not be understood that I offer them in any spirit of opposition. In deciding this question there are two sides to be considered—the financial side and the personal side. As regards the financial side of the question, you are aware that until very recently we have been struggling for ways and means of meeting the expenditure and of course we have even gone up to Government for a contribution. My friend Mr. Gurusawmi Chetty said that the grounds of financial difficulties are not very strong and that is an admission to some extent, of the existence of objections on that ground. However the increase which is now proposed is very paltry, and the granting of it does not rest with the Commissioners. Viewing it in that light alone, it would perhaps have been better if the consideration of the question had been deferred to a future time. The question having been pressed, and having come before us, we have to consider the personal side as well, and weigh and see which way we are to incline. Of course it has been said, and we all know, that the President has been working in this Municipality for nearly ten years and it cannot be said otherwise than that he had done his best, that he had done as much as any other President could have done. The sum now recommended is only Rs. 200, and of course as a pecuniary gain, it is perhaps of very little concern. But I think that having worked in this Commission for ten years, his not being given the maximum that is allowed by the Act might be considered a slur, as if the President had not the necessary qualifications for getting that amount. On these grounds I think, if the Commissioners are to send in this recommendation, they ought to be unanimous in sending it and there ought to be no opposition to the proposition.

MR. S. GURUSAWMI CHETTY:—In reply I can only say that we ought to have done this much earlier, and now that there is an opportunity, we ought to recommend this increase unanimously.

The proposition was put to vote and carried unanimously by acclamation amidst voices “all, all”.

THE PRESIDENT:—I may be a little out of order in saying a word or two, but I cannot let this opportunity pass without telling you that it is not so much the pecuniary consideration that I look to—although I should be foolish to say that this is not a consideration—as the feeling that has prompted the Commissioners to recommend the increase. I can only say, I thank you most heartily for it, and trust that the relations which have been established between us and which now exist may long continue, not only to our own benefit, but to the benefit of the public of Madras. (Cheers).

The Municipal Engineer.

THE PRESIDENT:—There is another personal matter that I want disposed of. That is the question about Mr. Ellis. I move, “That the G. O., No. 1485, M. Mis., dated 12th September, 1895, be considered.” That is an order of Government acknowledging another mistake on its part.

The proposition, on being seconded by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam was put to the vote and carried.

MR. W. S. VENKATRAMANJULU NAIDU:—I should like to know what the matter is.

THE PRESIDENT:—When Mr. Ellis came back from the Sanitary Engineers appointment, there was a question as to his status and it was found that practically he had forfeited his appointment. The Government then asked the Commissioners to give him a year's leave without pay, Mr. Ellis paying a contribution. They gave him the leave without pay, and he had to pay a contribution of Rs. 1,920. But when he applied for six week's leave, the Government found, through the Accountant General, that because he had a year's leave without pay, he was not entitled to any leave for three years, and that year did not count for service. The Government in this order says:—“The Government therefore considers that it would be desirable that the Commissioners should now modify their proceedings granting Mr. Ellis a year's leave without allowances and decide to treat him as having been lent to Government for the period from 1st February, 1894, to 31st January, 1895, during which

he acted as Sanitary Engineer to Government, and the President will be requested to move them to adopt this course. As periods spent upon leave without allowances do not count for pension, the Municipal Commissioners will not, if their proceedings above referred to remain, in force, incur any liability on account of Mr. Ellis' pension for the year for which he acted as Sanitary Engineer, and no pensionary contribution will be due from him to them. If, on the other hand, the Commissioners now see fit to modify those proceedings, and to treat him, as has been above suggested, as having been lent to Government during this period, it will be necessary either that Mr. Ellis should pay the Commissioners leave and pensionary contribution for the period amounting to Rs. 1,920, or that the Commissioners should forego the payment of this sum. The payment would deprive Mr. Ellis of almost the whole of the benefit that he derived from acting as Sanitary Engineer to Government. The Municipal Commissioners benefitted pecuniarily during Mr. Ellis' absence by the appointment to the Municipal Engineer's post of Mr. Loane, who drew a smaller salary than Mr. Ellis would have done, and the Government has always exempted the Commissioners from all pensionary contributions on account of the civil officers who have been lent to them from time to time as Presidents. The President will accordingly be requested to lay the question of foregoing payment of this contribution by Mr. Ellis before the Commissioners together with the above considerations, and to report to Government the decision to which they may come upon the matter."

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAIDU:—If we do, as the Government wants us to do, then will he be entitled to privilege leave?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAIDU:—If he takes leave, we will have to spend something.

THE PRESIDENT:—There will be no expenditure, because he will only go for a month.

MR. V. VARADAPPAH NAIDU:—I beg to propose:—"that the Commissioners after reconsideration of the subject referred to in G. O. No. 1485, of 12th September 1895, modify their previous proceedings granting Mr. Ellis one year's leave without allowance, and record that Mr. Ellis' services be considered as having been lent to Government from 1st February 1894 to 31st January 1895 during which period he acted as Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Madras, and forego the pensionary contribution." Mr. Ellis had only 6 month's leave during his eight year's service in India I and consider it very hard if no leave be allowed to him for so short a period as six weeks after taking from him Rs. 1,920 as his pensionary contribution to the Municipal funds. By some oversight, he omitted to take permission or leave from the Commissioners when he joined the Ag. appointment of Sanitary Engineer to the Government. For this simple oversight or omission, it is very hard on him to make him pay Rs. 1,920 to the Municipal funds. As one of our trustworthy and honest officers, I consider that we should excuse him from paying such a large amount for his simple omission of taking leave from the Commissioners. I hope the Commissioners will show him some leniency in this matter and excuse him from paying Rs. 1,920.

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

The Viceroy's Visit.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next point for us to decide is what we are to do about the Viceroy's visit.

It was proposed by Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM, seconded by Mr. M. Venkataramiah Chetty, and carried, "that the Municipal Commissioners do present an address of welcome to His Excellency The Earl of Elgin, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, on his arrival in Madras."

It was proposed by RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR, and seconded by The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Naidu and carried, "that a committee composed of the President, Mr. H. Ormerod, and Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonatha Row Garu be appointed to prepare a draft address for approval in circulation."

The remaining subjects were deferred to the next General Meeting.

The meeting terminated.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of a GENERAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS for the City of MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Monday the 30th September 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. 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.
Cawasjee Eduljee, Esq.
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. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.
Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

No. 3.

No. 1.

M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu moved the resolutions standing in his name to the following effect, which was seconded by M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu—

"I. That the Government be requested to take steps to amend the Municipal Act, so that power may be given to the President to farm out taxes on vehicles with springs, and on animals, and on carts and other vehicles without springs.

"II. That the President be requested to suspend collection of the tax on cycles for a period of three years."

M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu, with the consent of the meeting, withdraws his resolution.

No. 2.

Resolution of M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu to grant the President the maximum salary, viz., Rs. 2,000 per mensem.

M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu moved the resolution, of which he had given notice, to the following effect:—

"That the Commissioners beg to recommend to the Government that Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, be granted the maximum salary of Rs. 2,000 per mensem under section 36 of the City of Madras Municipal Act, being Act I of 1884, as amended by Act II of 1892, regard being had to the long period of over 8 years during which he has been holding the said office and discharging the duties thereof satisfactorily."

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row seconded.

The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

To consider what action should be taken in connection with the approaching visit to Madras of His Excellency the Viceroy.

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

"That the Municipal Commissioners do present an address of welcome to His Excellency The Earl of Elgin, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, on his arrival in Madras."

Carried.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal and seconded by The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu—

"That a committee, composed of

The President,
Mr. H. Ormerod, and

Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row Garu, be appointed to prepare a draft address for approval in circulation."

Carried.

No. 4.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th August and 6th September 1895, and resolution Nos. 7 and 6 of the Proceedings, dated 12th June and 5th July 1895, respectively.

Proceedings, dated 16th August and 6th September 1895, were recorded.

With reference to resolution No. 6 of the proceedings of 5th July 1895, the amendment proposed by M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu at the last meeting was taken up.

To this, as an amendment, Dewan Bahadur R. Ragoonath Row Garu proposed and M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal seconded—

"That the matter be referred to arbitration as provided for in the contract."

Carried.

With reference to resolution No. 7 of 12th June 1895, M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu proposed and M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu seconded—

"That the Commissioners do make over the Trevelyan Wharf to Government for the sum of Rs. 48,000 in compensation for the loss of revenue derived by the Municipality from the wharf and on the understanding that the Municipality be allowed the use of the wharf for the manufacture, repair or launch of boats as at present, and that their boats be allowed to ply within the basin free of cost."

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragas Mudaliar Avargal proposed—

"That Rs. 40,000, being the amount of 25 years' purchase, be substituted for 48,000."

The amendment, not being seconded, fell through.

The original proposition was put to the vote and carried.

No. 5.

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

"That the G.O., No. 1485 M., Mis., dated 12th September 1895, be considered."

Mr. N. Subrahmanyam seconded.

Carried.

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

"That the Commissioners after re-consideration of the subject referred to in G.O., No. 1485, of 12th September 1895, modify their previous proceedings granting Mr. Ellis one year's leave without allowance, and record that Mr. Ellis' services be considered as having been lent to Government from 1st February 1894 to 31st January 1895 during which period he acted as Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Madras, and forego the pensionary contribution."

Carried.

The remaining subjects were deferred to the next General Meeting.

The Meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
October 1895.

Local & Municipal Dept.
Genl. Dept.
CURRENT No. 3699/m
1895

Madras Municipality.

From

The President,

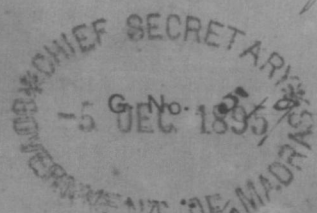
Municipal Commission,

MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Fort St. George



Dated

4 December 1895

Despd.

4 " 1895

Recd.

Enc. 2.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
of a General Meeting of the
Commissioners held on 30th Sep.
tember 1895, together with a
copy of abstract proceedings
of the same date.

Order No. 2082 dated 12-12-95
Recorded.

11/12/95
11/12/95

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When entered
When signed

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CURRENT No.

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.

G.O., DATED 12-12-95

No. 2082/m

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*Recording full pro-
of a general meeting
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AD AGAIN G.O., No.
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