

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 232 *m*

DATED 14th February 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bill to Amend Act IV of 1884.

Recording G.O., Legislative Department, communicating to the Select Committee letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras forwarding the suggestion of the Chairman, Wala-jepet Municipal Council, that it should be rendered criminal for sweepers and scavengers to strike without notice.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.	
G.O., DATED	14-2-75
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READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 189

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ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

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26TH JANUARY 1895, No. 7, LEGISLATIVE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Acting Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 23rd January 1895, No. 136-S.

I have the honour to forward letter, No. 27, dated 22nd January 1895, from the Chairman, Municipal Council, Walajapet, in which he advises, in connection with the amendment of Act No. IV of 1884, it should be rendered criminal for sweepers and scavengers to desert their posts without giving warning of a period defined. I fully agree with his statements except that I consider one month's notice should be regarded as sufficient to demand.

2. This matter has been anticipated by myself in the amendments offered by me embodied in G.O., No. 728 M., dated 9th June 1894.

ENCLOSURES.

From C. VENKATASUBBARAYALU REDDIYAR, Chairman, Municipal Council, Walajapet, to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of Madras, dated Walajapet, 22nd January 1895, No. 27.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your approval and recommendation, an extract from a memorandum of remarks and suggestions on the Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act, IV of 1884, which I have just submitted to Government in pursuance of their circular, dated 14th March 1894, No. 49.

2. The extract you will find relates to the necessity of ensuring a higher tone in the discipline exercised over the sweepers and scavengers employed in municipalities. I need hardly dilate upon the urgency and importance of a measure such as now suggested by me as it will, I feel certain, commend itself to you.

3. You have observed, I believe, that in all the municipalities in the Presidency, the work of the sweepers and scavengers is done exclusively by one or other of a few classes of people and is looked upon as degrading by others. You are likewise aware that these people are not to be met with everywhere, but have to be imported from certain specified parts of the country. Should, therefore, any contingency arise for replacing them, some time must necessarily elapse before substitutes could be procured from distant places. To replace them suddenly at a moment's notice is therefore clearly impossible. A knowledge of these circumstances and difficulties is naturally liable to render them indifferent in work and more troublesome than other subordinates. Cholera, though of a sporadic type, has lately broken out in this town and every effort is being made to check its spread. In carrying out any works towards improving the sanitary condition of the town with a view to prevent the spread of the dire disease, any strong attempt to correct their indifference results in a strike.

Should you agree with me in the view taken, I request that you will recommend the measure to the favorable consideration of Government when passing the Bill, supporting it with the weight of your authority.

EXTRACT from the Remarks on the Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act.

[Refusing to perform or withdrawing from duty without adequate notice.]

28. The sweepers and scavengers, as a class, have a great tendency to strike work when they are found fault with for their laxity in work. These generally do their work indifferently, and if they are fined or if the slightest pressure is brought to bear upon them, they at once form a clique and threaten to strike work. A strike would result in serious consequences to public health, for only a particular class of people will undertake to do such work, and they are not available locally but have to be got from distant places, which takes much time.

29. A knowledge of these difficulties renders them indifferent to discipline, and such indifference has to be tolerated to avert a strike. Thus, these men are practically masters of the situation. To have a hold, however feeble, on them, it seems to have been the practice here not to pay them their salaries till the middle of the next month. This is, I think, a subterfuge which it is not desirable that a public body like a municipal council should have recourse to, to secure efficiency.

30. Abkari and Police officers are required by law to give previous notice before they cease to perform the duties of their offices on pain of prosecution.

31. In the interests of sanitation and public health, whose importance cannot be overrated, the necessity for a similar provision in the Municipal Act will, it is believed, commend itself. A provision requiring two months' notice will be hailed, I venture to think, by all the councils in the Presidency, the difficulties being real and not confined to this municipality alone.

32. I have heard and known of them in other municipalities and also local boards. I have heard of a threatened strike in a cantonment also. Since drafting this, I find Mr. Maiden, Chairman of the Masulipatam Municipality, refers to these difficulties (*vide* page 215, Minutes of Proceedings of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras for the second quarter of 1894).

33. I have also heard of one of the councils in this district having been compelled to resort to violence to enforce discipline among this class of servants. This may sound strange, but I was assured that it was nevertheless a fact. Perhaps such means are justified by the ends and it is proof positive of the impotency of the councils in this respect.

ORDER—dated 26th January 1895, No. 7, Legislative.

Communicated to the Select Committee on the Bill to amend Act IV of 1884 (*The Madras District Municipalities Act*).

(True Extract.)

Wm. L. Davidson
f Under Secretary.

To the Select Committee.

„ Local and Municipal Department.

Local & Municipal Dept

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Gobt. of {1895} Madras.

LEGISLATIVE.

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