

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 460 m

DATED 16th March 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commission, Madras.

Recording Proceedings of a general meeting of the Madras Municipal Commissioners held on 19th December 1894 with abstract proceedings of the same date.

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

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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To

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith
for the information of Government full
proceedings of a General Meeting of the
Commissioners held on 19th December 1894
together with a copy of abstract proceeding
of the same date.

I have the honor to be

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your Most Obedt Servant

President Kennel: Comrades

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Enclosure No. II to G. No. 725

Enclosure No. I to G. No. 725

Date.

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 Wednesday, the 19th December 1894, at 5 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*.
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. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry.P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
The Honorable P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
W. S. Gantz, Esq.
M. R. Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

THE PRESIDENT :—There are some questions to be answered, Gentlemen.

Questions by DR. V. VARADAPPA NAIDU, put in his absence by Mr. Subrayalu Chetty.

Triplicane Temple Tank.

Q.—(1) Will the President be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Temple authorities to erect a double rail all round the tank in 4 feet of water in response to the notice served upon them under Section 302 of the Municipal Act ?

A.—The Temple authorities suggested alternative measures. They were informed that the President would be satisfied if they filled the tank with sand to a level of 8ft. 6in. below the lower outlet, so that when the tank contains 4 feet of water some of the water can be cleansed.

Q.—(2) If the Temple authorities do not carry out the erection of double rail as required, within a certain time, what action will the President take to enforce them to erect it or will he proceed to construct it and recover the expenses incurred thereby in the manner provided in Section 437 ?

A.—If they neither comply with the notice nor carry out the alternative work of raising the bottom of the tank, action will be taken under Section 327 and the expense incurred recovered under Section 437.

Write order

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Kutwal Bazaar.

Q.—(1) Have the repairs and improvements required to be done for the Kutwal Bazaar been finished?

A.—Not quite.

Q.—(2) Will the President be good enough to ascertain how many feet of drain still remain to be built?

A.—3,170 ft.; but I do not think they will be necessary as the roads have been so sectioned that water will not lie.

Q.—(3) Will he also be pleased to ascertain the number of rubbish-carts, sweepers, and scavengers employed by the Manager of the Kutwal Bazaar for conservancy purposes of the market?

A.—One rubbish-cart making two trips daily, four sweepers, and one scavenger working from 6 to 10 A.M. and 2 to 6 P.M.

Q.—(4) Is the existing latrine in the Kutwal Bazaar large enough to meet the necessities of the large gathering of people that resort to the Bazaar and is it built in accordance with the standard plan, and whether it is kept sufficiently clean?

A.—The latrines are sufficient for the market people. They are not built on the standard pattern, but are well cemented and are now fairly well attended to, although they have not always been found clean on inspection.

Market Committee.

Q.—(1) Have the Commissioners forming the Market Committee come to a conclusion as to the necessity of a new Market for Madras?

A.—The Committee came to no definite conclusion. There is only one member of the Committee left.

Q.—(2) Will the President be good enough to apply to the Government once more requesting to grant the land on the Esplanade opposite to the Pachiyappa's College showing the greater importance of a new Market on that side than the building of Hostel for students, who form a very small portion of the population of Madras?

A.—I have no objection.

Rubbish Cartstand adjacent to the Hindu Burial Ground on Korukupet Road.

Q.—Will the President be pleased to remove the rubbish cartstand situated on Korukupet Road opposite the Hindu Burial Ground, to some other convenient locality, as it is a great nuisance for funeral processions to pass on a road on both sides of which rubbish-carts are kept.

A.—If a suitable and convenient site can be obtained, the Cart Depot will be removed to it.

Vaccination.

Q.—Are the Vaccinators of the Municipality supplied with the proper vaccinating lancets as it was noticed in two depôts of the 1st and 3rd Divisions bleeding lancets were used for vaccinating children?

A.—The Health Officer prefers the bleeding lancet as an instrument for vaccination to any special form of lancet or scarper.

By Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—

Rubbish Carts, &c.

[On the 13th instant at 8-45 A.M. I found twenty-two box carts in the Kistnampet Depot with the bullocks in the sheds and at 9 A.M. I met twelve rubbish-carts near the said Depot returning empty from the direction of the Barber's Bridge.]

Q.—(1) Will you please state till what hour box-carts and rubbish-carts are expected to work in the morning?

A.—The contract hours are from 5 till 11 A.M., but they have to work by the trip and not by the hour.

Q.—(2) How many trips are they expected to make in the mornings and (considering the hour at which they returned to the Depot on the date in question) whether you think they made the required number of trips?

A.—The carts working in Triplicane do one trip in the morning and one in the afternoon. From the middle of Triplicane to Barber's Bridge Depot and back is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles and a cart travels another mile collecting. This makes $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles each trip or 9 miles a day, which, according to Mr. Jones's estimate, is as much as a pair of bullocks can do working every day. The Triplicane carts leave the Depot at 6 A. M. Allowing 15 minutes to reach their wards, 45 minutes for loading, 45 minutes going to the Rubbish Depot, 15 minutes unloading, 30 minutes returning to the Cart Depot—that makes $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours in all, they would reach the Depot about 8-30. Rubbish-carts take longer to load than box-carts, which accounts for their being half an hour later. There would seem to be no reason to suspect that they did not do their morning's trip.

Q.—(3) What number of trips did the carts in this Depot make in the mornings in the years 1889, 90 and 91?

A.—They only made one trip to the Rubbish Depot. When certain private lands were being filled up, some of the 8th Division North Ward carts made two trips.

Q.—(4) Are there any written rules prescribing among other things the number of hours the conservancy staff generally should work every day?

A.—There are no written rules. They have to remain in their wards till the work is done. The morning hours are understood to be from 5-30 to 10-30.

Q.—(5) Are you aware that rubbish-carts are practically converted into night-soil carts and that these carts wait in each street till all the night-soil collected in that street is emptied into it?

A.—Yes. I am afraid they do contain a great deal.

Q.—(6) Do you not consider that such uncovered carts loaded with night-soil and exposed to public view, halting and parading in the streets, are a menace to the public health, not to speak of the nuisance caused thereby? Will you adopt early measures for putting a stop to this injurious practice?

A.—Yes. Every endeavour is made to stop it. The drivers are constantly fined and toties are frequently prosecuted, but so far we have not been able to stop the practice. If the cleansing of private latrines was undertaken, it might be mitigated, if not stopped.

Q.—(7) With reference to the Sanitary Commissioner's Inspection Notes for 1891-92, suggesting a redistribution of the conservancy staff and the Proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 7th February 1894, will you please state when you propose submitting the scheme which you were requested to do?

A.—I have had a statement ready for some time, but this depends so materially upon the question of the disposal of rubbish that it would be better to await the settlement of that before making any changes.

Wet Cultivation.

Q.—(8) What was the complaint preferred to you by the residents of Egmore some time in October last regarding the use to which certain lands in the vicinity were put? and how was the matter disposed of by you?

A.—That wet cultivation was being carried on near their houses and was causing sickness. They were informed that a piece of land would be acquired and a drain run through it to prevent water-logging of the ground.

Q.—(9) Considering that it is the prevalent opinion that wet cultivation in the heart of the populous parts of the city is not conducive to public health, will you please institute inquiries into matter—if you have not done so already—and adopt or suggest measures for the removal of the evil?

A.—The question was referred to Government by the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, but Government did not consider it expedient to interfere in the matter. The only way to stop it would be by legislation or by purchasing all the land under wet cultivation.

Bathing Places.

Q.—(10) If it is the duty of the Commissioners to set apart bathing places in the city, will you please state if any have already been provided for the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants and if so will you kindly mention (a) the number in each division and their position? (b) whether the present number is sufficient to meet the wants of each division? and (c) whether you will provide baths in localities where they are much needed?

A.—There are four. One in Thumboo Chetty Street, 3rd Division. One in Govindappa Naick Street, 2nd Division. One in Budriah Garden, 2nd Division. One in Elephant Gate Cart-stand, 2nd Division. The present number is not sufficient, but I do not think it advisable to construct any more until our water-supply is increased. When it is, and funds are available, I would propose constructing three in Black Town, two in New Town, two in Chintadripettah, eight in Triplicane, one in Egmore, one in Pudupet, and four in Pursewalkum; in all 21, at a cost of about Rs. 1,000 each.

By Mr. W. S. GANTZ:—

The Madras Electric Tramways.

Q.—(1) Whether the President is in a position to inform the Commissioners if there is any, and if so what, chance of the Tramways Company opening Section I, within the next six months?

A.—No.

Q.—(2) Is it the case that at a recent trial of a tram car on the line running from the Power Station to the Ice House at Poonamallee Road, the car in questions moved at a snail's pace, came to a stand-still more than once, and off and on had to be pushed along the line by coolies?

A.—Since receiving these questions, I have heard a rumour to this effect, but I have no personal knowledge of the matter.

Q.—(3) Whether it is the case that the Electrical Construction Company's last imported Engineer has arrived at the conclusion that a considerable portion, if not the whole, of the line on Section I, has been badly laid, and will require to be taken up and relaid?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—(4) Whether, having regard to the interests of the Municipality, as well as the safety and convenience of the public, the President does not deem it desirable to prohibit the breaking up of any more roads until the difference between the Madras Electric Tramways Company and Electrical Construction Company are settled, and there is a reasonable prospect of the former Company being able to carry out its obligations?

A.—This would be *ultra vires*.

Q.—(5) Whether Mr. S. A. Chalk, the Managing Director of the former Company, has afforded the President any information in regard to the position of the Company and its prospects of discharging its obligations to the Commissioners? If so, what does such information amount to? If not, does not the President think it desirable, if not essential, that the Managing Director should explain the position fully and unreservedly to the Commissioners in open meeting, or otherwise?

A.—I have not received any information on this subject from Mr. S. A. Chalk, the Managing Director. In view of certain remarks, which fell from a Commissioner at the general meeting held on 26th September, I wrote to the Managing Director, and received a reply from the Assistant Secretary. The Managing Director was not in Madras on that date. I will read my letter and the Assistant Secretary's reply.

Letter from the President, Madras Municipality, to the Madras Electric Tramways Company.

With reference to your application for an extension of time to complete Section II, I have the honour to state that I think it will be to the interest of the Company if some statement as to the position of the Company be submitted for the information of the Commissioners, so that they may see what likelihood there is of the undertaking being carried through. I would add that the application will be considered on Monday next, 1st October.

Letter from the Madras Electric Tramways Company, to the President, Madras Municipality.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 275, dated 27th instant, in which you favour us with the expression of your opinion that it will be to the interest of the Com-

pany if some statement as to its position be submitted, for the information of the Commissioners, so that they may see what likelihood there is of the undertaking being carried through.

2. We must confess to a strong feeling of surprise and regret that you should have felt justified in thus giving the weight of your opinion to the remarks, which we learn from the published reports of the meeting of the 26th instant, fell from only one of the Commissioners, and that Commissioner one whose hostile attitude towards the Company is a matter of notoriety as is also the cause of it.

3. As, however, you have been pleased to intimate a doubt as to our being in a position to fulfil our engagements, if given fair time, we have the honour to make the following remarks in reply to your communication.

4. By the order of Government, dated 6th April 1892, the time within which we were to commence construction was limited to one year to run from date of order. On the 27th March 1893, we put in our application for an extension of six months, the order upon which was not made until 15th August 1893. The order of 6th April 1892 contemplates a period of one year being given for commencement of work and two years for completion of Sections 1 and 2. Subsequent to the receipt of the order of 15th August 1893, we had to go through the process of obtaining sanction to begin our work, so that we could not actually commence work before the 18th of September 1893—a delay of one month and three days. Assuming that a similar delay was contemplated when the order of 6th April 1892 was drawn up, it must be conceded that what was intended was, that if we began work one month and three days after that order, we should have the rest of a period of two years within which to complete Sections 1 and 2. *Mutatis mutandis* we may fairly hold that two years from 15th August 1893 should be allowed us within which to complete these two sections, i.e., until the 15th of August 1895, before which date we not only shall have certainly completed Sections 1 and 2, but shall have also completed Section 3, and have all three in active work. We find that, so far from our having done less than we expected in the time which has elapsed since we first obtained sanction to go to work, we have, as a matter of fact, done more—the delay being not in the practical work of construction, but in preliminary business. All our materials are now ready in Madras for Section 3 as well as for Section 2.

5. As regards the question as to the solvency of the Company which is implied in yours under reply, we have to point out that, if the Government was satisfied in August 1893, that the valid subscription of the capital of £75,000 justified the belief that we could carry out the undertaking as a whole, it seems strange to us that you should have, to any extent, endorsed the view taken by Mr. Gantz, that the work already done should have so exhausted our resources as to justify a further inquisition as to our financial position in September 1894.

6. We are, however, happy to assure you that, so far from any apprehension being entertained by our Board of not being able to complete our engagement with the funds at our command, it is felt that we have already ample funds and therefore it is under consideration to stop the issue of further shares (for which there still continues a demand). It is true that we have been compelled, through the strange course adopted by some of our Indian shareholders, to call up the whole amount on the shares allotted, but this was done to facilitate the commencement, when necessary of legal proceedings against defaulting shareholders. Had all our shareholders in this country given us reason to suppose they were ready to meet calls, according to their engagements, as soon as made, we should not have been compelled to call up the whole amount as we have been advised to do.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT:—The first business on the agenda is the Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th November and 7th December 1894, and Resolutions Nos. 13 and 14 of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee of 19th October and No. 10 of 2nd November 1894, which were deferred. At the last meeting a question was raised as to the legality of some of these Proceedings. As regards that, I do not see any value in it. After all, the Standing Committee do not decide anything. They are merely an investigating body that go into detail of all questions that come before the Commissioners. They simply submit them for sanction or otherwise of the Commissioners. It is certainly within the powers of the Standing Committee to go into any question connected with the Municipality. With regard to the question deferred, namely, the Resolution as to the claim of

Mr. Davies, I think when Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar raised his objection he forgot the Resolution passed by the Commissioners every year when the budget is before them, according to which the Standing Committee will have to give their consent to this. It seems to me that the Standing Committee can do anything they like. They do not settle things.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I mean to move a Resolution.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think it is just as well if the Commissioners have information about it. The Resolution passed by the Commissioners at the budget time shows that the Standing Committee have power to deal with it. I cannot see what can prevent the Standing Committee from going into it. All the Proceedings of the Standing Committee come before the Commissioners and they have a perfect right to say aye or nay. To say that the Standing Committee cannot go into any question is almost going too far.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I wish to know whether there is any necessity for incurring the expenditure of Rs. 3,000 on legal assistance referred to in Resolution No. 5 of the Proceeding of 7th December.

THE PRESIDENT :—This case was taken up with the consent of the Standing Committee as a test case.

The Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th November and 7th December 1894, were recorded.

THE PRESIDENT :—The next is the Resolution No. 13 of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee of 19th October 1894, which says that letter from the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway Company, charging so much for rent of land at Salt Cotaurs for stacking laterite. It was resolved that the Agent and Manager should be addressed. It seems to me that this need not have come before the Standing Committee. This is purely an Executive matter. However, I put it before the Standing Committee so that they might know it.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I did not say that these things should come before the Standing Committee, but what I said was why these things, should come before the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT :—It is the duty of the Standing Committee to go into anything they like and put it before the Commissioners.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I move the Resolution on the Proceedings of the Standing Committee of the 19th October.

THE PRESIDENT :—The question is whether these Proceedings should be recorded or not.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—That is a different thing.

THE PRESIDENT :—That must be decided.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—The question is whether these come within the scope of the Standing Committee under the powers conferred upon them by the Act.

THE PRESIDENT :—Will you move a general Resolution?

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Yes.

THE PRESIDENT :—You don't object to their being recorded.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I don't question the accuracy of the Proceedings at all, but it is the question of principle.

THE PRESIDENT :—You may as well say that the Commissioners are not competent to do it.

MR. GANTZ :—If it is the principle that ought to be established, I should like to know why it should not form a separate resolution.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—So long as the Standing Committee's resolution is on the agenda, I do not think it necessary to give separate notice.

THE PRESIDENT :—Do you mean that Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar should give notice of his resolution?

MR. GANTZ :—Yes.

THE PRESIDENT :—In the meantime the question to be decided is whether these can be recorded or not.

MR. GANTZ :—I move "they be recorded;" and if Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar likes he may move an amendment.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I do not object to their being recorded.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think it will be better if you make this a separate thing altogether.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Why should it be?

THE PRESIDENT :—Because you are not objecting to this resolution. You are not objecting to these Proceedings, but you are objecting to the principle which allows these Proceedings to be put before you. You are not objecting to any of these things.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—In one case I do not object to the subject being disposed of by the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT :—The Standing Committee do not dispose of it but they ask the Commissioners to dispose of it.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Why should the Standing Committee ask us to do it?

THE PRESIDENT :—I think the best thing is to record these Proceedings unless you disprove of them.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I have no objection to that being done.

The Proceedings were then recorded.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Do you preclude me from moving the resolution? If all the Commissioners say I should give notice, I shall do so.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think you can bring the same resolution at the next meeting.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I have no objection to it.

Statements of Receipts and Disbursements.

THE PRESIDENT :—The next subject is the statement of Receipts and Disbursements from April to November 1894. They have been audited up to August.

The statements were recorded, subject to Audit.

Progress Report.

THE PRESIDENT :—The next subject is the Progress Report of works for October and November.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Going over these items, I find there is very little work done during 18 months.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think if you look at the percentages you will see what is done.

The Progress Report was recorded.

Mr. G. Subramania Iyer's Resolution.

THE PRESIDENT :—Mr. G. Subramania Aiyer, will you put your resolution?

MR. SUBRAMANIA AIYER :—I move, gentlemen, the following resolution :—"Having regard to the remarks made by the Government in their review of the administration of the Municipality during the year 1893-94, and to the various lapses and possible improvements in the administration to which the attention of the Commissioners is therein drawn, the Commissioners request the President to give them in a report the benefit of his opinion about them and about the means of remedying them so far as a remedy may be possible under existing circumstances." My object in moving this proposition is to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the remarks made by the Government in their review. I also read the report of the Sanitary Commissioner. In that there is a good deal said with regard to the sanitation of the city, drainage and water supply and our system of collecting revenue. These remarks are made in view to the attention of the Commissioners being drawn to them to see if remedy cannot be found. Coming to the revenue accounts Government has a good deal to say about our system of collecting revenue and also the manner in which the revenues are spent. In the first place Government found fault with the manner in which we have been working. They say :—"The current collections of the taxes on arts, vehicles and animals, and carts improved and were on the whole good, but those under the tax on buildings and lands and under the

water and lighting taxes declined and were not satisfactory. The arrear realizations under the taxes on arts and vehicles and animals were very poor, while those under the tax on building and lands, the water and lighting taxes, and the tax on carts were good." Again coming to the coercive process the Government observes:—"For the collection of the several taxes 64,660 demand notices involving an amount of Rs. 4,68,418 were issued against 67,147 notices covering Rs. 4,22,663 in the previous year. In 49,564 of these cases against 52,146 in 1892-93 warrants had to be taken out, but property was actually sold in only 819 cases, the amount realized being Rs. 1,209. In the preceding year property was sold in 490 cases, the proceeds amounting to Rs. 1,409. The total sum realized by coercive measures was Rs. 4,19,582 against Rs. 4,53,070 in 1890-93. Notwithstanding the remark in paragraph 7 of G. O., dated 25th October 1893, No. 1460 M., the number of warrants remaining unexecuted at the close of the year (9,196) was even larger than at the end of 1892-93." That is a reflection upon the Municipal Executive and if more energy and ability were thrown into the work of collecting taxes by the subordinate Revenue establishment those remarks could have been avoided. Again in the matter of arrear collections, the Government remarks:—"From statement IV-B it appears that under fees for licenses and registration, arrears relating to 1885-86 were still outstanding. These should not be permitted to disfigure the Municipal books any longer, but should either be collected or written off as irrecoverable without further delay." To have outstandings from the year 1885-1886 is a matter upon which the Government may very well call upon us for an explanation. These are the remarks which Government makes about the way in which our revenue is collected. I think we should go into the matter of Revenue establishment and see if it is not possible to bring about a more satisfactory state of things. As regards the state of education, the Government observes:—

"The improvement in this branch of the administration is fairly satisfactory, but as pointed out by the Inspector of Schools, the condition of education in the city continued to be backward and the subject demands increased attention from the Commissioners." We are called upon to pay increased attention to the subject and I think it is a matter to which one may give much more attention. We spend only one per cent. upon education; considering the population of the city and the revenue we collect, I think it is a very legitimate duty imposed on us, to attend to the education of the poorer classes. All the help that we now give is to give grants to aided schools. I do not see why we should not maintain our own schools and give education to the poorer classes. I believe, Sir, that the charge on education, especially the education of the poorer classes, is a very legitimate one on Municipal finances. I think so far as Madras is concerned, the Municipality may consider why it should not spend something more of its funds on the education of the poor. I have no doubt the Educational Department will help us if we show that we are willing to spend more. The Educational Department will be willing to co-operate with us in that case. I do not see any objection, except the objection of poverty, to maintain classes for the benefit of the poor. I shall even go to the length of saying that the Municipality should establish schools for the benefit of the Pariah community and the artisan classes. I think we may do something for these neglected classes by opening classes at particular times that will suit them. We may very well consider why we should not open night classes where the boys of the poorer classes might get education either for nominal fees or gratis. If my proposition is acceded to by the Commissioners, you will be requested, Sir, to give the benefit of your opinion on the subject. So much for education. Coming to the other important questions of drainage and water-supply, we have a great deal said by the Government. It is for the Commissioners to go into them, but I merely wish to draw your attention to what the Government say on the state of drainage in this city and also to what the Sanitary Commissioner says on the defects in the present system of drainage. I also wish to draw your attention to the state of water-supply. All that I want is that you should take into consideration the various remarks and criticisms made by Government and just give us the benefit of your opinion as to what the state of affairs is. What we must do is to improve the subordinate establishment of the Revenue Department, and to bring about a more satisfactory state in regard to the collections; we must make our subordinates a little more prompt in the matter of collecting arrears. That should be done by revising the establishment and giving some sort of inducement so that they may put forth more energy. It is a fact well-known to the Commissioners that there is not so much energy displayed on the part of our collecting staff as is desirable. If necessary, we might give more salary to those who collect more taxes or some such system of gradation introduced so that

there may be some inducement given to Conicopillais and others. I simply wish you to give your opinion as to the remarks made by the Sanitary Commissioner and Government as regards drainage and water-supply. As regards the report of Mr. Cousins, I see that our Health Officer does not agree with the remarks of Government. He thinks that it is better to attend to the drainage rather than water-supply and purification of the Coom, and as regards the purification of the Coom it is not a charge upon us. If we are called upon to furnish funds for the improvement of water-supply and also for the drainage, it is for us to consider in what way we can find funds.

MR. BALAJI ROW :—I second the proposition. No doubt the President will be able to give us the detailed statement as to how the Municipal matters may progress. There is no doubt they require a great deal of improvement. I hope that this proposition will be received by the Commissioners and the President.

THE PRESIDENT :—Gentlemen, I do not say I quite approve of it. All I can tell you is if you give me 50 lakhs of rupees I will put Madras in a very good condition.

MR. BALAJI ROW :—You had better improve the revenue.

THE PRESIDENT :—We are doing it. There is no doubt that during the last few years great improvements have been done.

MR. NICHOLAS :—It seems to me the Municipality has done the best it can. I think distinct progress has been shown.

MR. DECASTER :—I quite sympathise with Mr. G. Subramania Aiyer's proposition, but I have doubts as to whether this is the right way to go about it.

THE PRESIDENT :—I have not the slightest objection to give my report, but I think it is superfluous.

MR. SUBRAMANIA AIYER :—I do not expect anything big out of it, Sir. I want your opinion on the several points raised.

THE PRESIDENT :—I was quite prepared to answer all these points if you had brought them up at the meeting held for the consideration of the Administration Report. I should have explained fully all that is said about revenue collections. If that is all you want I can give it to you. You are asking me to give a report embodying all that I would have stated at that meeting.

MR. SUBRAMANIA AIYER :—Instead of communicating your views orally, you may put it on paper.

THE PRESIDENT :—I have no objection to do it. As a rule I not only say what I have to say to the Commissioners, but write to Government. This order requires no answer from me. There is nothing tangible to go upon. As a rule in the G. O.'s on the Administration reports there was a direct request that the President should explain this or that, but in this order everything is general and therefore I have not answered it.

The proposition was put to the vote and carried.

The Inspector of Factories.

THE PRESIDENT :—As to the subject deferred, namely, the Health Officer being the Inspector of Factories, the following D. O. letter has been received by me from the Hon'ble Mr. Price, the Chief Secretary.

"The objection, which you raise in your D. O., 12th November, to the appointment of the Municipal Health Officer as Inspector of Factories appears insuperable, and I write to tell you that the Government withdraws the suggestion made in my D. O. of the 18th October."

The meeting then terminated.

From 8
Liaison order
7/10-01

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 Wednesday the 19th December 1894, at 5 P.M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT:

Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. Moore, C.I.E., *President*.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
V Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
J. P. Nicholas, Esq.
The Honorable P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
W. S. Gantz, Esq.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.
M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal.

No. 1.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th November and 7th December 1894, and resolutions Nos. 13 and 14 of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee of 19th October and No. 10 of 2nd November 1894.

Proceedings of 16th November and 7th December 1894 were recorded.

Resolutions Nos. 13 and 14 of Proceedings of 19th October and No. 10 of 2nd November 1894 were recorded.

No. 2.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from April to November 1894.

Recorded subject to audit.

No. 3.

Progress Report of Works for October and November 1894.

Recorded.

No. 4.

M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal moved the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

"Having regard to the remarks made by the Government in their review of the administration of the Municipality during the year 1893-94, and to the various lapses and possible improvements in the administration to which the attention of the Commissioners is therein drawn, the Commissioners request the President to give them in a report the benefit of his opinion about them and about the means of remedying them so far as a remedy may be possible under existing circumstances."

M.R.Ry. R. Balajee Row Avargal seconded.

Carried.

The Meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
December 1894.

1
8 to 10 mo 8 95

1/10 to order 7/13 - 2/11

Madras Municipality.

From

The President,

Municipal Commission.

MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government

For Mr. Gore.

G. No. 725

Dated 8th

Despd. 8th

March 1895

Recd. 9th

Enc. 2

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
of a General Meeting of the Com-
missioners held on 19th December
1894, with abstract proceedings
of the same date.

Order of 16-3-95 No 460
Recorded.

1/11
15/3/95
M. S. S.

1/3 arsp.

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ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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No. 4604

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Municipal Commission, Madras.

Recording Proceedings of a
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Municipal Commissioners
held on 19th December 1894.
with abstract proceedings
of the same date.

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