MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1019 Mu

DATED 17th June 1896

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commission.

Recording proceedings of certain meetings of the Madras Municipal Commissioners.

## BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |

## FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |

18

[ 7 ]

# INDEXED.

*Miscellaneous.*

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.

G.O., DATED 17-6-96

No. 1019 m

*When given for copying.*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commissioner
Recording Proceedings
of certain meetings
of the Madras Munici-
pal Commissioner

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

*N.B.*—
A — Copy in full
B — Not to be copied
P — Copy abstract only
Q — Copy heading only

BACK PAPER, No. OF 189 .

FURTHER PAPER, No. OF 189 .

Copied by

Examined by

18 1896.

# Madras Municipality.

*From*

*The President,*

*Municipal Commission,*

MADRAS.

*To*

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St: George

G. No. 136 S. & E.

*Dated.* 10
*Despd.* 10 } June 1896.
*Recd.* 11 JUN. 96

*Encl.* 12

SUBJECT.

Forwarding proceedings as also Copies of the abstract proceedings of the meetings of the Commissioners held on 12, 21, 24, 26 and 27 February and 3rd March '96.

N
Misc Order No 1019 Mmisd 17-6-96

Recorded.

S.R 17/6/96

Rd W.D 15.6.96

12/96 a/12/96

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an Adjourned 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 Tuesday the 3rd March 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliyar Avargal.
Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, 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.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

---

*G.O., No.* 2140 *M., Local and Municipal, dated* 21*st December* 1895, *passing orders on the Drainage and Water-supply Schemes of the City of Madras.*

Proposed by Mr. E. H. Elliot and seconded by M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu—

"That while appreciating the earnest desire of Government to help the Commissioners in coming to a right decision on the question of the drainage of Madras and grateful for the guidance and advice that have already been afforded them the Commissioners, deeming it advisable to have further information and further professional opinion on the subject, suggest to Government the expediency of appointing a small Committee of experts to consider and report on the relative merits of the schemes that have been proposed, and would respectfully request Government to reconsider its order No. 2140 M., dated 21st December 1895, in the light of such recommendations as the Committee so appointed may see fit to make."

To this, as an amendment, Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker proposed and M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal seconded—

"That the subject be referred to a Committee consisting of the following members:—

The President,
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliyar Avargal,
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland,
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu,
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu,
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu,
H. Ormerod, Esq.,

instead of the Committee of experts."

Carried.

The meeting then terminated.

Municipal Office, Madras,
March 1896.

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

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

...ed by M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Ga... and seconded by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu—

"That the amount allotted in the Budget for law charges be passed on the understanding that no civil suit or criminal proceedings, other than those provided for under the Act, be instituted or defended without the sanction of the Standing Committee."

Carried.

M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu withdrew the following resolution of which he had given notice—

"That Government be requested to allow the Municipality interest on the Sinking Fund of the Water Works Loan of Rs. 14,30,000 at the same rate as the loan bears, viz., 4 per cent. instead of obliging the Municipality to hold the fund in Government securities bearing 3½ per cent. interest and selling at 6 to 7 per cent. premium, or allow the Municipality to discharge the Government loan with the existing Sinking Fund amounting to nearly Rs. 8,00,000 and a loan of 5,00,000 to be raised in the open market."

The meeting then terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
February 1896.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an Adjourned 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 Thursday the 27th February 1896, 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. Salla Gurusawmy Chetti Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
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.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

---

*Budget for* 1896-97.

Proposed by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam and seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster—

"That the meeting resolve itself into Committee."

Carried.

The meeting resumes.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster—

"That the Budget, as submitted by Standing Committee and amended in Committee, be passed for the following items:—

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| Receipts .. .. .. .. | 13,15,250 |
| Expenditure— | |
| Grant I— | |
| 1. New Works— | |
| (*a*) Communications .. .. | 15,060 |
| (*b*) Buildings .. .. .. | 4,300 |
| (*c*) Drainage .. .. .. | 800 |
| (*d*) Water-supply .. .. | 20,000 |
| (*e*) Miscellaneous .. .. | 530 |
| 2. Repairs— | |
| (*a*) Communications .. .. | 1,05,400 |
| (*b*) Buildings .. .. .. | 8,140 |
| (*c*) Drainage, Repairs to works, &c. .. | 1,69,700 |
| (*d*) Water-supply, do. .. | 49,810 |
| (*e*) Miscellaneous .. .. | 500 |
| 3. Establishment— | |
| (*a*) General .. .. .. | 28,410 |
| (*b*) Steam Road-roller .. .. | 1,700 |
| 4. Tools and Plant .. .. .. | 5,100 |
| 5. Miscellaneous .. .. .. | 16,170 |
| Grant II, Education .. .. .. | 13,190 |
| Grant III, Sanitation and Medical Services. | 3,60,130 |
| Grant IV, Miscellaneous Municipal Purposes .. .. .. .. | 1,69,420 |
| Grant V, Supervision and Management— | |
| (1) Salaries .. .. .. .. | 33,600 |
| (2) Head office .. .. .. | 6,220 |
| (3) Assessment and Collections .. | 52,270 |
| (4) Contribution to Audit Establishment. | 2,500 |
| Repayment of debts, Sinking Fund .. | 53 |
| Interest on Loan .. .. .. | 1,49 |
| Refunds .. .. .. .. | 5 |
| Pensions and Gratuities .. .. .. | 5,5 |

Carried.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa N Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. Rao Bah Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal—

"That during the official year 1896-97 the taxes be as proposed in the Budget—

1. Tax on arts, professions, trades and callings ( 103).
2. Tax on salaries (section 114).
3. Tax on buildings and lands at 10 per cent 119).
4. Payment for occupation of lands veste Commissioners (section 136).
5. Water-tax on buildings and lands at 4 the populous parts of the City and elsewhere (section 138).
6. Lighting-tax on buildings and lands at (section 148).
7. Tax on vehicles with springs and on an tion 153).
8. Tax on carts and other veh (section 164).
9. Tolls on vehicles and animals en cipal limits (section 170).
10. Tax upon places used for the and intoxicating liqu

Carried.

TES of the PROCEEDINGS of a SPECIAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS for the CITY of ADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on ednesday, the 26th February 1896, at 5 P.M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Munipal 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliyar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliyar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

---

No. 1.

*Revised Estimate for* 1895–96.

posed by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyundaram Chettiyar Avargal and seconded by .Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu—

t the revised estimate for 1895-96 be passed."

ried.

No. 2.

*Budget for* 1896–97.

posed by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyndaram Chettiyar Avargal and seconded by ly. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu—

"That the meeting resolve itself into Committee."

Carried.

The meeting resumes.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliyar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal—

"That the meeting adjourn till to-morrow, Thursday, 27th February 1896, at 5 P.M."

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
February 1896.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

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 24th February 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliyar Avargal.

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No. 1.

*Letter from the Honorary Secretary, Madras Athletic Association, dated 6th February* 1896, *stating the conditions under which an athletic ground will be opened in the People's Park.*

Recorded.

No. 2.

*Statement of landed property owned by Municipal out-door employes.*

Recorded.

No. 3.

*Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 24th January and 7th February* 1896.

Recorded.

No. 4.

*Statement of receipts and disbursements from April* 1895 *to January* 1896.

Recorded.

No. 5.

*Progress Report of works for December* 1895 *and January* 1896.

Recorded.

No. 6.

Mr. E. H. Elliot did not move the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

"While appreciating the earnest desire of Government to help the Commissioners in coming to a right decision on the question of the drainage of Madras, and grateful for the guidance and advice that have already been afforded them, the Commissioners, deeming it advisable to have further information and further professional opinion on the subject, suggest to Government the expediency of appointing a small Committee of experts to consider and report on the relative merits of the schemes that have been proposed, and would respectfully request Government to re-consider its Order No. 2140 M., dated 21st December 1895, in the light of such recommendations as the Committee so appointed may see fit to make."

The meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
February 1896.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an Adjourned 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 Friday the 21st February 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

---

*G.O., No.* 2140 *M., Local and Municipal, dated* 21*st December* 1895, *passing orders on the Drainage and Water-supply Schemes of the City of Madras.*

Proposed by Mr. J. DeCaster and seconded by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu—
"That the meeting resolve itself into Committee."
Carried.

The meeting resumes.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by the Honourable P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu—
"That the meeting adjourn till Tuesday the 3rd March 1896."
Carried.

Municipal Office, Madras,
February 1896.

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

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an Adjourned SPECIAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS fo the CITY of MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday the 12th February 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, 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.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Aiyar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

---

No. 1.

M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu withdraws the following resolution of which he had given notice :—

"That the Commissioners recommend to Government to retain the services of Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chettiyar for two years more, in view of working the Revenue Department at a time when new taxes may be imposed to meet the additional revenue required to work the New Drainage and Water works."

No. 2.

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal moved the following resolution of which he had given notice :—

"That the Commissioners very strongly recommend to Government the retention of the services of Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chetti, Revenue Officer, for a further period of two years."

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

To this as an amendment M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu proposed and Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker seconded—

"That in view of the fact that the post of Revenue Officer to the Municipality is a Government appointment, the Commissioners defer their recommendation until it is asked for by Government."

As a further amendment, Mr. E. H. Elliot proposed and M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu seconded—

"That the question be deferred until the Revenue Officer submits an application for extension of service."

The latter amendment on being put to the meeting was lost.

The original amendment was then put to the meeting and was lost.

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

No. 3.

*G.O., No.* 2140 *M., Local and Municipal, dated* 21*st December* 1895, *passing orders on the Drainage and Water-supply Schemes of the City of Madras.*

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal—

"That the meeting resolve itself into committee.'

Carried.

The meeting resumed.

Proposed by Mr. J. DeCaster and seconded by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker—

"That the meeting be adjourned till Friday the 21st February 1896."

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
February 1896.

MADRAS : PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.



SURGEON-LT. COL. WALKER :—I wish to refer to one or two remarks made by some of the speakers. My amendment is simply to refer the matter to the same committee that was originally appointed by the Commissioners. Doubtless they had some good reasons to report favorably on one of the schemes and we are informed by Surgeon-Major Maitland that the report was made under a misapprehension of certain important principles of the scheme ; when a member of that committee says that he signed the report under a misapprehension it is absolutely necessary that we should refer the matter to the same sub-committee for further report. Mr. DeCaster in making his suggestions apparently thought that Mr. Ellis and Mr. Loane might be asked to retire together into a closet and to come to an agreement about their respective schemes. That is absurd on the face of it, considering the status of these two officers. I do not think any superior officer would go into a room with his assistant to come to some agreement on a matter in which they differ. If Mr. Decaster reads Mr. Ellis' letter to the President he would find Mr. Ellis is not at all likely to come to any agreement on the scheme. With regard to the remark of Mr. Subrahmanyam that in the event of an epidemic occurring he would not go to non-professional men, I may tell you that schemes for meeting epidemics require the opinion of medical men and sanitarians but the actual carrying out of the schemes and the adopting of means to get rid of the epidemics is thrown upon local bodies.

The amendment of Surgeon Lt.-Col. Walker which runs as follows was carried :—

"That the subject be referred to a Committee consisting of the following members :—

The President.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
„ P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
H. Ormerod Esq., instead of the Committee of experts."

The meeting terminated.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an Adjourned SPECIAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS fo the CITY of MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday the 12th February 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M.R.Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, 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.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Aiyar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

---

No. 1.

M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu withdraws the following resolution of which he had given notice :—

"That the Commissioners recommend to Government to retain the services of Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chettiyar for two years more, in view of working the Revenue Department at a time when new taxes may be imposed to meet the additional revenue required to work the New Drainage and Water works."

No. 2.

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal moved the following resolution of which he had given notice :—

"That the Commissioners very strongly recommend to Government the retention of the services of Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chetti, Revenue Officer, for a further period of two years."

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

To this as an amendment M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu proposed and Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker seconded—

"That in view of the fact that the post of Revenue Officer to the Municipality is a Government appointment, the Commissioners defer their recommendation until it is asked for by Government."

As a further amendment, Mr. E. H. Elliot proposed and M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu seconded—

"That the question be deferred until the Revenue Officer submits an application for extension of service."

The latter amendment on being put to the meeting was lost.

The original amendment was then put to the meeting and was lost.

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

No. 3.

*G.O., No.* 2140 *M., Local and Municipal, dated* 21*st December* 1895, *passing orders on the Drainage and Water-supply Schemes of the City of Madras.*

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal—

"That the meeting resolve itself into committee.'

Carried.

The meeting resumed.

Proposed by Mr. J. DeCaster and seconded by Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker—

"That the meeting be adjourned till Friday the 21st February 1896."

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
February 1896.

MADRAS : PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

Genl. Dept.
13

G. No. 136

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.
General Department.

Madras, 10 June 1896.

From

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

*President, Municipal Commission.*

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures 12. I have the honor to submit herewith for the ---- information of Government full proceedings as also copies of the abstract proceedings of the Meetings of the Commissioners held on 12", 21", 24", 26" and 27" February, and 3" March 1896.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Lt.Col.

President, Muni. Comm.

**Proceedings of an Adjourned Special Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners of the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday the 12th February 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahamad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naydu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Aiyar Avargal.
Surgeon-Lt. Col. G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Lt. Col. J. Maitland.

## The Revenue Officer.

THE PRESIDENT :—Gentlemen, we had better take up this important question of drainage.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Before we go to that subject, I would request you take the question of Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar. It would'nt not take more than ten minutes and it is better that we send the recommendation soon, so that it may be in the hands of Government in time.

THE PRESIDENT :—The Commissioners do not object, I do not object to it.

The Commissioners agreed to the course suggested.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—There are two propositions on the subject ; and of the two, mine is longer. Therefore I withdraw the following resolution of which I gave notice :—"That the Commissioners recommend to Government to retain the services of Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chettiyar for two years more, in view of working the Revenue Department at a time when new taxes may be imposed to meet the additional revenue required to work the New Drainage and Water works."

Mr. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Gentlemen :—The resolution which stands in my name is as follows :—"That the Commissioners very strongly recommend to Government the retention of the services of Rai Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chetti, Revenue Officer, for a further period of

two years." In moving the resolution which stands in my name I hardly think it necessary to expatiate on the abilities of our Revenue Officer. The bare fact of our revenue, which was six lakhs in 1868, the year in which the Revenue Officer joined this Municipality, rising to about 13 lakhs, as it is at present, is enough to testify to his administrative abilities. If I may use the expression recorded of this officer by one and all of the Presidents, this Municipality was fortunate in having secured the services of an exceptionally efficient officer. That being so it may be asked what necessity there is for moving the present Resolution. I do so with reference to Article 503 of the Pension Code. The Article provides that "an officer in the superior service who has attained the age of 55 years may be required to retire, unless the local Government considers him efficient. But as the premature retirement of an efficient officer imposes needless charge on the State, this rule should be worked with discretion." The ruling of the Secretary of State in the matter is also worthy of note. It says, "I trust that the various Governments and Administrations will always be disposed to extend to this rule a very liberal interpretation, and that the State may in no case be deprived of the valuable experience of really efficient officers by the untimely exercise of the powers of compulsory retirement on pension." The views of the Government of India may also be usefully quoted here. The despatch says that "as some misapprehension appears to exist on the subject of the rules regarding the compulsory retirement of Uncovenanted officers after the age of 55 years, His honor the President in Council thinks it desirable to state that not only does Article 503 of these regulations not require the compulsory retirement of any efficient officer of whatever age, but that though the Article authorises the local authorities at their discretion to presume that an officer is inefficient at 55 years of age conditionally and at 60 years of age absolutely, yet the whole tenor of the rules is, that presumption shall be exercised with careful consideration, both for the individual who would suffer by being deprived of his appointment while capable of discharging his duties, and for the finance of the country, which would suffer were officers still efficient prematurely thrown upon the pension list." Following the tenor of the above despatches it has to be decided (1) Whether the Revenue officer is still capable and efficient, though he has attained the prescribed limit of age, to discharge his duties as satisfactorily as he had hitherto done. (2) Whether it would not be a hardship to deprive him of his appointment while he is still capable of discharging it efficiently; and (3) Whether the finance of the country would not suffer by prematurely compelling to retire while still efficient. The Revenue Officer is a servant of this Municipality, and as such he comes under the immediate observation of the President and Commissioners. It is therefore for the President and Commissioners to know or to say whether the Revenue Officer is still efficient to discharge the onerous duties of his office as he has done in the past. If so, I would ask who are the persons best fitted to furnish Government with this information. If the President and Commissioners are satisfied that the Revenue Officer by reason of old age and debility is no longer capable to render justice to his appointment, of course, he ought to make room for a better officer. If, on the contrary, we are convinced that this officer is still hearty and strong, still capable of discharging his duties efficiently, it is but just and fair, may I say, it is our duty to inform Government of this fact, and I have no doubt that Government will be pleased to consider our recommendation. Let us next see how if the extension now recommended is not granted it would affect the pension of this officer. As the pension will calculate on the average salary drawn for the past 5 years, the Revenue Officer, instead of drawing a pension of Rs. 400, will only draw something like Rs. 370 or Rs. 380, so that to use the wording of the Government of India's order this officer "would suffer by being deprived of his appointment while capable of discharging his duties."

Then again, the compulsory retirement of this officer whilst still efficient would entail additional expenditure, or in other words the finances of the country would suffer. We have to pay a pension of about Rs. 370 to the retiring man. His successor, who probably cannot be lower in grade than a fourth class Deputy Collector, must be paid something like Rs. 400, and if to these items we add the contributions that will have to be made, our expenditure on account of this appointment would be more than what it is at present. Lastly, it is now under contemplation to raise fresh taxes for meeting the drainage scheme. These new taxes in addition to the existing ones must be worked very carefully. You will admit that for the sufficient working of the various incidence of taxation a certain amount of experience, tact, and energy is indispensable. Who then is best suited for the place—who can better fill it than the present incumbent? I have no doubt that one and all of you would point to Rai Bahadur Ramasawmy Chetty as the person best suited for the place, and if that is so, I believe that my resolution will commend itself to you all.

Mr. THEAGAROYA CHETTIAR :—I second the proposition reserving my remarks if there is any necessity to make them.



Mr. V. VARADAPPA NAYUDU :—I want to know what his age is at present.

THE PRESIDENT :—He will be 62 in June next.

Mr. V. VARADAPPA NAYUDU :—I rise to oppose this absurd proposition, detrimental both to the interests of the rate-payers and the Municipality. If this be carried out, it will entail a large expenditure, which simply means additional taxation to the rate-payers, who are already crushed down under a heavy taxation; it will also encourage nepotism, which is now greatly prevalent in the Revenue Department of the Municipality. About 2 or 3 years ago the Government issued a G.O., in which the salary of the future incumbents of the Revenue Officership was fixed at Rs 350 a month, and thus a saving of Rs. 450 will be derived by the retirement of the present Revenue officer. The Government has extended the term of office of Rai Bahadur Ramasawmy Chettiar on more than two occasions, and I am afraid the Government will not retain him any longer even if the Commissioners send up their recommendations. Mr. Ramasawmy has served the Municipality sufficiently long, and I am certain he would have been tired of his services by this time, at least the Municipality must be tired of him now, and it is time that the Municipality or Mr. Ramasawmy must cease connection. If he is allowed to retire, rather if he is forced to retire, there will be a saving of Rs. 5,400 a year or Rs. 10,800 for the two years in which he is propose to continue in his office. Only the other day when I brought a proposition to establish a dispensary in each Division the Commissioners were of opinion that from want of funds such dispensaries could not be established. If this ten thousand and odd rupees be saved by his retirement, we can use the same more profitably in establishing dispensaries and thus help the sick-poor. An active person of ordinary abilities and intelligence on Rs. 350 will be able to do more work than a man in dotage, however willing he may be to work for his large salary. Mr. Ramasawmy is now more than 60 years, and considering his age he is not any more physically fit to carry on the most responsible and arduous duties appertaining to his office. No doubt he might have been a hard working officer in his prime of life, but this cannot be a reason for us to retain him still and make him work. He has sufficiently served the Municipality, and it is time that he must retire now, and we must allow him to enjoy his well-earned pension in peace. If we are his friends we must see him enjoy the remainder of his life free from the turmoil of life rather than compel him to end his days in harness. You are well aware that he never goes out on inspection duty, although inspecting and supervising the work of the low paid assessors is one of the most important duties appertaining to the post of the Revenue Officer. Some years ago, the Government in a G.O. noticed this dereliction of duty, and impressed the great importance of outdoor inspection of houses. Some time back, the President answered question put to him that no diary of inspection or outdoor work was kept by the Revenue Officer. This evidently means that he never goes out for inspection of houses to keep a check on his subordinates. You are fully aware that although he never goes out for outdoor work he never turns up to office at 10 or 11 A.M. as the other officers. He invariably comes to office at 2 or 3 P.M., and very seldom at 12. All these irregularities show that he is physically incapable to cope with his work, although he may be quite willing to work. It is not right on our part to retain a person who is physically incapable to work, when we know that we can get any number of vigorous persons who may give us better satisfaction in the performance of the duties of a Revenue Officer. I need not tell you gentlemen, that owing to want of proper inspection, supervision and management that the Municipality incurred a great loss from the tobacco tax and consequently we had to give it up. If the tobacco duties had been efficiently managed and supervised, we would not have lost that tax, which was calculated to yield 50 or 60 thousand or more, and which was never felt by any as a burden. There would have been no occasion to increase the existing taxes to meet the demands of the drainage scheme. Who is responsible for this great blunder? I think it is the Revenue Officer, whom some of the Commissioners want to retain for two years more. I do not see the slightest reason why a person who has failed to do outdoor work, who neglects to attend office punctually, and who blundered in the management of tobacco duties, should be retained in the office even long after he has passed his age. Another strong reason which urges me to oppose this proposition is, that in the Revenue Department of the Municipality nepotism is prevalent, and has caused a great heartburn among the subordinates of the department. There are in the Revenue Department, I am informed, no less than 16 subordinates directly or indirectly related to Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar. The following list will show the nepotism that is prevalent in the Revenue Department. G. Veerabudra Chetty, P. Ramanjum Chetty, Namasivoya Chetty, C. Kullapah Chetty, K. Appadoray Chetty, Thungavelu Chetty, M. Appu Chetty, T. Arunachella Chetty, S. Alaganatha Chetty, P. Raja Chetty, P. Kundasawmy Chetty, C. Checkra Chetty, are all of the same caste as the Revenue officer and are related to him in some way or other. P. Ruthnasabapathy Chetty is the Revenue Officer's grandson-in-law, P. Punchacharum Chetty is his nephew, and Massellamoney

Chetty is his son-in-law's brother. This list will speak for itself, and I need not dilate on the nepotism that is prevalent in the Revenue Department. When relatives of superior officer are employed under him, it is natural that much work cannot be turned out, and many of the faults that may be committed will be overlooked and thus the efficiency of the department lowered. Only the other day, I happened to be at the Municipal Office and asked the President to send for the attendance register of the Revenue Department, which he was good enough to send for. It was about half past 12 and the Revenue Officer as usual did not turn up in the office at that hour. The Superintendent brought the roll, when he was asked to produce a certain clerk against whose name it was marked as being present, the clerk was not to be found anywhere in the office; and the Superintendent gave some frivolous excuse for his absence at that hour, although he was marked as being present. Another irregularity I brought to the notice of the President, was that the house of a respectable rate-payer of the 5th Division was taxed for a certain half year, although the building was demolished long ago, and a reply from the Revenue Officer was sent to him that the building was excused from taxation on his letter. Of course the President wrote to me to say that it was the first mistake that he was aware of. Such irregularities and serious mistakes would not occur if there was no nepotism, and if the department was efficiently managed. All these irregularities pointed out that we want a vigorous, active Revenue Officer to eradicate the nepotism that is now prevalent and to reform the office. For these reasons I hope the Commissioners will do their duty they owe to the rate-payers whom they represent by putting the Revenue Department under a strict controlling officer, and allowing Rai Bahadur Ramasawmy Chettiar to enjoy the pension to which he may be entitled.

Mr. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—I do not know if I am in order in requesting you to give an expression of your opinion as to the competency of the Revenue Officer.

THE PRESIDENT:—I do not propose to give you my opinion on the matter. My reason for it is—I cannot help saying it—that the recommendation of the Commissioners is out of place. They put themselves in a position in which the Government might either accept their recommendation or not; or the Government might say "when we want your recommendation we will ask you for it." As I have told the Commissioners I never make a recommendation unless I am asked for it; and if the Government should ask my opinion I will give it, but until they do it, I decline to give it.

Mr. M. O. PARTHASARATHY IYANGAR:—Last time when his term of office was extended was any recommendation made by the Commissioners?

THE PRESIDENT:—No.

Mr. M. O. PARTHASARATHY IYANGAR:—Then is this the first of its kind?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes, as regards the extension.

Mr. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—Last time how was the extension made? Is it by Government or by his own application?

THE PRESIDENT:—Government extended it of their own motion and they then asked my opinion about it.

Mr. VARADAPPA NAYUDU:—Is it only upon one occasion or two occasions?

THE PRESIDENT:—Two.

Mr. VARADAPPA NAYUDU:—Am I in order in proposing an amendment?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

Mr. VARADAPPA NAYUDU:—I propose that this proposition be deferred until Government calls for the opinion of the Commissioners.

Mr. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—I do not know if it is usual for the Government to consult the Commissioners; they may consult the President. Suppose that contingency does not take place, then what are we to do?

Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—Then the question will be adjourned *sine die*.

SURGEON-LT. COL. WALKER:—I myself have drawn up a resolution on the subject; and I shall be very pleased to second Mr. Varadappa's amendment if he would be inclined to modify it thus:—"That in view of the fact that the post of Revenue Officer to the Municipality is a Government appointment, the Commissioners defer their recommendation until it is asked for by Government."



I would remark that in seconding this amendment I am not actuated even by the slightest antagonism towards Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar whose personal appearance even is known to me. I think this Municipal Council would place itself in a very invidious position if the Government should in reply to the recommendation say "when your opinion is asked for, you can give it." No doubt Government would put it courteously, but it is pretty certain that that would be the tenor of their reply. If that should be so, I do not think it would be in accordance with the dignity of this Municipal Council to place itself in such an invidious position. If Mr. Varadappa Nayudu would modify his amendment in the way suggested by me, I should be very pleased to second it.

Mr. VARADAPPA NAYUDU:—I have no objection to modify it in that way.

Mr. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAYUDU:—I rise to oppose the amendment as I think that we should not at all defer the consideration of this question. The original resolution has placed the whole facts before the Commissioners; and the Commissioners and the President are the most proper people to judge whether the Revenue Officer has been doing his work well or not, whether he is mentally and physically able to carry on his duties as recommended in the original resolution. By adopting the amendment we would only lose time in the consideration of this proposition: for the Government is not bound to consult us in this matter. Supposing before the subject is considered by the Commissioners, a communication is received from Government that Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar would be retired, then the original resolution would be practically useless. For these reasons I oppose the amendment.

Mr. ELLIOT:—May I ask, Sir, whether there is any application from the Revenue Officer for the extension of his services.

THE PRESIDENT:—No.

Mr. ELLIOT:—Then why should we presume that he wishes to continue in office?

Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM CHETTIAR:—If he wishes to remain in office he should have sent in his application already as is done in other offices.

Mr. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—This resolution was published in newspapers; and if he did not wish to continue in office he would have written in the papers to say so.

THE PRESIDENT:—So far as that is concerned I know he wishes to continue in office. He has spoken to me on the subject although he has not sent in any application.

Mr. ELLIOT:—If he has expressed a wish that his services should be continued, then it is necessary it should be conveyed.

THE PRESIDENT:—Certainly, but not until the Government ask for information.

Mr. ELLIOT:—I do not know if such a procedure is followed in Government offices.

THE PRESIDENT:—If he had put in an application I should have forwarded it to Government.

Mr. ELLIOT:—Then I propose "that the question be deferred until the Revenue officer submits an application for extension of service."

Mr. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY seconded the amendment.

SURGEON-LT. COL. WALKER:—That would mean the Commissioners would have to go to the Revenue Officer and request to him put in his application.

Mr. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—This is not the first time that we go with such an application before Government. We went before to Government in another case—that is when Mr. Ellis was taken into Government service as Sanitary Engineer. Then the Municipal Commissioners in view of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Loane thought it best in the interests of the Municipality that Mr. Loane should act for Mr. Ellis. We did it voluntarily and without any application from Mr. Loane. In the same way we do not think we would be doing anything wrong by passing this resolution of Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar. In public offices there was once a rule that after 55 years Medical certificate should be produced, but however that rule was cancelled, and it was left to the heads of departments to recommend to Government whether the services of any of the officials under them should be continued in the interests of public service. I think in the same way we would be justified in sending this proposition to Government as we are the masters of all the Municipal officials. I may here remark that the President, the Revenue officer, the Engineer and the Health Officer are all Municipal servants,

and as such they are the servants of the Municipal Councillors, therefore Municipal Councillors are the proper persons to recommend to Government for the extension of services of any of them that are in their services. I think the knowledge of Government must be much less than that of the Commissioners in this matter because we see what is going round us here and we are responsible for the work that is being done and therefore we are the proper person to judge in the matter.

The last amendment was put to the vote and lost, 5 voting for, and 8 against it.

Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM :—I should like to ask a question. Suppose the Revenue officer applied for pension, who would have to take that into consideration ? Who is the authority that would have to decide the question ?

Mr. KALYANASUNDARAM CHETTIAR :—The Accountant-General.

Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM :—He would tell how much he is entitled to. The Civil Service Code says that the "Local Government" shall admit such persons to pension. Who is the Local Government so far as the Municipal servants are concerned.

THE PRESIDENT :—The Commissioners.

Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM :—Then that is an important question that has to be decided. Under the rules quoted by Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar, an official after attaining the age of 55 may be retained by the "Local Government." I should like to know who is the Local Government so far as the Municipal servants are concerned.

THE PRESIDENT :—I cannot answer it as it is a legal point.

SURGEON-LT. COL. WALKER :—The Local Government is the Government of Madras.

Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM :—I am not quite sure about it. The Government of Madras has the power to appoint the President, the Revenue Officer, the Engineer, and the Health Officer, and has also power to remove them. This is not a question of appointment or removal, but it is a question whether an officer should be in active service or go into the pension list of the Municipality. It strikes me that a very important question arises whether the Municipal Commissioners ought not to be the primary party to decide whether in their opinion a particular man is so old as to be put on the pension list, or whether he is still efficient to be retained in active service. The Uncovenanted Service Code which we have adopted in all its entirety says that the "Local Government" should decide in every case where a man has attained the age of 55 whether he should be retained or not. It seems to me that so far as the Municipal servants are concerned, the Municipal Commissioners are the "Local Government" and they could keep a man even after 60. Even though the Government has the right of appointing them still it has not got the power of retiring them on pension. The Government may remove them for misconduct and shall remove them if $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Commissioners resolve to do so; but this is neither a case of appointment nor that of removal; strictly it is a case of retiring a man on pension and in such cases the Municipal Commissioners are the proper authority who have got to decide whether a person is to be put on the pension list or not. If it has been popularly thought that the Government of Madras is the authority to exercise that power, I say, though with a certain amount of defference that I have considerable doubt whether it was right in exercising that power which in my opinion ought to be exercised by the Municipal Commissioners themselves. If so we will have to decide whether Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar's services should be extended or not.

SURGEON-LT. COL. WALKER :—The term "Local Government" cannot be applied to a body such as the Municipal Council and it has never been so applied. As a matter of fact this Government has already dealt with the question of the continuance in service of the Revenue Officer. It is stated in the Civil Service Regulations that all officers should be retired at the end of 60, the Government took up the matter themselves. Am I right in saying that no reference was made to the Commissioners on that occasion ?

THE PRESIDENT :—They referred to me.

SURGEON-LT. COL. WALKER :—Having referred the matter to you they extended the term of his office for one year and again for another year. So the Government has never assumed for a moment that it was the Municipal Council that had the right of dealing with this question, and they dealt with it themselves twice. It would be a strange thing for the Municipal Commissioners to take up the matter



now and say to Government "you have no authority to deal with these cases, we are the "Local Government," and we think the term of office should be extended for two years." In the section referred to the "Local Government" means the Government of Madras, and does not refer in the slightest degree to the Municipality. With regard to the point raised by Mr. Theagaroya Chetty that Mr. Loane was recommended by the Municipality to act for Mr. Ellis, one of the posts in the Municipality was vacant for a time in the service of the Municipality and naturally the Commissioners recommended Mr. Loane to Government to fill up the vacancy for the time being by appointing him to that post. But that is quite a different from extending the services of an officer who has passed the limit of age laid down by the regulations under which he is serving.

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAYUDU :—I wish to know whether all subordinate officers of the Municipality are not subject to pension rules?

THE PRESIDENT :—Yes.

THE HON'BLE MR. P. RUNGIAH NAYUDU :—In the case of subordinate officers we refer to the Accountant-General to ascertain whether they are justly entitled to the pension declared by them. Up to this time there has been no application or recommendation for pension in the case of Gazetted officers or those officers appointed by Government.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think the question of "Local Government" is met by the definition of the words in other acts. A distinction is made between "Local Government" and "Local Authority." In the Tramway Act the "Local Authority" means the "Municipal Commissioners" and the "Local Government" the "Madras Government."

Mr. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAYUDU :—I am under the impression that all cases of pension are referred to the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT :—Also to the Accountant-General.

Mr. VENKATARAMANJULU NAYUDU :—We refer to the Accountant-General only to know how much a person is entitled to. Whether a person is entitled to get pension or not is decided by the Commissioners ; in this case as the Commissioners have to pay the pension if the Revenue Officer is retired, it is competent for them to recommend an extension of service.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I think we are digressing.

THE PRESIDENT :—So do I think.

Mr. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—With reference to the subject under discussion I wish to place before the Commissioners one or two aspects of the case which occurred to me. These are delicate matters for the Commissioners to give an opinion on and I wish that such subjects are not brought before the Committee. In saying that the Commissioners seem to me to have gone out of their way in bringing forward this proposition of recommendation, I am not to be understood as showing any want of appreciation of the Revenue Officer's excellent services. I do not think that even the Commissioners who are in sympathy with the proposition will have done any particular service to Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar considering the severe criticisms which the resolution has evoked from Mr. Varadappa. I think his zeal in having put forth so many facts and figures before us deserves commend. I am not prepared to say whether his criticisms are well founded or not; it is for you Mr. President to bestow what consideration you think fit, upon the criticisms that have been here brought forward formally by a member of this corporation. One can believe that we as Commissioners know our interests better than Government and it is quite open to us to take such measures for the best administration of the Municipal affairs as may strike us to be desirable. If we think that the retension of the Revenue Officer for two years more would be conducive to the interest of the Municipality it is quite open to us to do so. There has been precedents in favor of such recommendations. We should not look upon the subject entirely from the point of view of the Revenue Officer who has been an excellent officer for 25 years and has done commendable service during that time. Looking at it from the interest of the public and the Municipality, I consider that there is no reason why after 25 years the services of a gentleman who is so old as 62 should be retained in the Municipal service blocking the way from promotion of the younger men in the service. I have no doubt there are younger men who look forward to promotion and if the interests of the Municipality can be as well served by younger men there is no earthly reason why their prospects should be blocked by retaining in our service those who have been in our employment long enough. There is another consideration from the predilection

of a journalist. The country certainly wants a number of retired gentlemen interested in public affairs who have the vigour ability and zeal of Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar to devote their time and experience to public affairs after being relieved from the trammels of officials life, I think in that view Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar will be of great service to the public at large. Therefore from that point of view, it is rather unfortunate that the Commissioners should take the step proposed by the mover of the resolution. Even from the point of view of the Revenue Officer himself, there is no reason why he should not enjoy the few more years of his life in peace, and rest giving such time as he may command to the service of God and his country. Looking at the subject from all these points of view, it is not for us to press this matter upon Government. For these reasons I am disposed to sympathise with Mr. Varadappa Nayudu's amendment.

The amendment was put and lost.

Mr. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I do not want to say anything at this stage of the proceedings. I think in his zeal Mr. Varadappa Nayudu forgot to calculate the pension that we will have to pay Mr. Ramasawmy Chettiar when he said that there will be a saving of Rs. 5,400. In that case our gain will be nil.

THE PRESIDENT:—You can always make anything out of figures.

The original proposition was put and carried.

G.O., *No.* 2140 *M., Local and Municipal, dated* 21*st December* 1895, *passing orders on the Drainage and Water-supply Schemes of the City of Madras.*

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal—

"That the meeting resolve itself into Committee."

Carried.

The meeting resumed.

Proposed by Mr. J. DeCaster and seconded by Surgeon-Lt. Col. G. L. Walker—

"That the meeting be adjourned till Friday the 21st February 1896."

Carried.

Proceedings of an Adjourned 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 Friday the 21st February 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Ramakristnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R Ry. Rao Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

*G. O , No.* 2140 *M., Local and Municipal, dated* 21*st December* 1895, *passing orders on the Drainage and Water-supply Schemes of the City of Madras.*

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, before we take up the consideration of the subject of the agenda paper, I wish to say a word or two about the resolution, of which Mr. Elliot has given notice. Under the Act, no business can be transacted at an adjourned meeting, other than the business left unfinished at the previous meeting. But in the present case, this resolution of Mr. Elliot is practically a part of the meeting so that he could move it at any stage of the proceedings without giving any notice.

Proposed by Mr. J. DeCaster and seconded by M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu—

"That the meeting resolve itself into Committee."

Carried.

After discussing the subject for an hour and twenty minutes, the Commissioners resumed into meeting.

Proposed by M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by the Honourable P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu—

"That the meeting adjourn till Tuesday the 3rd March 1896."

Carried,

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 24th February 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M.R.Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu.
M.R.Ry. 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.

## The Madras Athletic Association.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, the first business before the Meeting is the letter from the Honorary Secretary, Madras Athletic Association, dated 6th February, 1896, stating the conditions under which an Athletic ground will be opened in the People's Park. The following is the letter referred to.

"With reference to your letter dated 6th January, 1896, I have the honour to state that the Madras Athletic Association are prepared to make the following provisions for the use of the ground by other Associations and recognised Clubs.

1. They are prepared to make the ground suitable for cricket and football matches and to construct a track round it for running and cycling.

2. They are prepared to maintain the ground and track in good order provided the same is entirely under their control.

3. They are willing to submit at the outset the plans they propose to carry out to the executive officers of the Municipality for sanction, and similarly to submit plans of any subsequent alterations or additions.

4. When the ground is not required by them for any matches or competitions carried on under their auspices, they are willing to allow it to be used by other Associations or recognised Clubs on payment of a suitable fee, provided always the ground is used for its legitimate purposes, and that such use will not damage the ground.

At present, the Committee of the Association are not prepared, in the absence of any data as to what the annual cost of maintaining the ground will be, to propose any scale of fees to be charged for the use of the ground."

I think this letter might be recorded.

Mr. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAYUDU :—I think it is better to have a proviso to the effect that the fee to be levied should be approved of by the Commissioners.

MR. N. SUBRAMANIAM:—I do not think that reservation is necessary.

THE PRESIDENT:—I think they will allow all recognized institutions to use the ground.

MR. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAYUDU:—Although we are not in order, yet I hope you will allow me to say, Sir, that it has been suggested by more than one speaker, that the Commissioners must have some sort of control, so as to prevent this association from charging exhorbitant fees in giving the use of the grounds to other institutions. What harm can there be in the insertion of that proviso? If there is some positive harm, I will not press it.

THE PRESIDENT :—They have got our last resolution and they evidently mean to submit the rules to us.

On the motion of Mr. Theagaroya Chetty, the letter was recorded.

## Miscellaneous.

The following were recorded.

1. Statement of landed property owned by Municipal out-door employes.
2. Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 24th January and 7th February, 1896.
3. Statement of receipts and disbursements from April 1895, to January 1896.
4. Progress Report of works for December, 1895, and January, 1896.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT did not move the following resolution of which he had given notice.

"While appreciating the earnest desire of Government to help the Commissioners in coming to a right decision on the question of the Drainage of Madras and grateful for the guidance and advice that have already been afforded them, the Commissioners, deeming it advisable to have further information and further professional opinion on the subject, suggest to Government the expediency of appointing a small Committee of experts to consider and report on the relative merits of the Schemes that have been proposed, and would respectfully request Government to reconsider its order No. 2140 M. dated 21st December, 1895, in the light of such recommendations as the Committee so appointed may see fit to make."

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 26th February 1896, 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. Balakistnama 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. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R. Ry. 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 Iyangar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

## Revised Estimate for 1895-96.

PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, the first business before the Meeting is the Revised Estimate for 1895-96. I do not know whether you wish to go into it; it is usual to pass it formally.

It was proposed by Rao Bahadur Kalyanasundara Chetty, seconded by Mr. Varadappa Nayadu and carried—"that the Revised Estimate for 1895-96 be passed" carried.

## Budget for 1896-97.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business before the Meeting is the Budget for 1896-97. I suppose you will go into Committee.

RAO BAHADUR C. KALYANASUNDARAM CHETTY, in proposing "that the meeting do resolve itself into Committee" said:—MR. PRESIDENT, With your permission I beg to make a few remarks on the Budget of 1896-97 now before us. Omitting the opening balance of Rs. 26,690, and also the figures shown under the head "Capital," the total receipts as estimated for the ensuing year are Rs. 12,85,560. This is Rs. 53,080 less than the revised estimate of 1895-96. The estimated receipts under the chief source of revenue, *viz*, rates and taxes show a decrease of Rs. 20,870, and this is ascribed to the fact that the arrear demand would be less than in the current year. From this it is evident that by the strenuous efforts of the Revenue Officer the revenue demand of each year is being collected without arrears.

The general revision of assessment on buildings having taken place 3 years ago with reference to their increased valuation, the present amount of income is not likely to rise hereafter unless the present rates of taxes are enhanced. Turning to the expenditure side, it has to be remarked that a great portion of the large amount of the opening balance, the water works loan of 4 lakhs raised in 1895, and also 1½ lakhs of Rupees, so kindly contributed by Government, in its G. O. No. 2123 Mis., dated 12th December, 1895, having been fully arranged for to be utilised in the current year, the revised estimate for 1895-96 is so high as Rs. 21,56,280, against the original estimate of Rs. 16,39,830 of that year. To restrict the expenditure to the ordinary collections, the charges for the year 1896-97 are estimated at Rs. 12,66,690, nearly 9 lakhs less than the revised estimate for 1895-96. It is gratifying to note that Rs. 3,500 have been provided for Divisional Dispensaries. Rs. 600, contribution for Sembiem Dispensary have been also provided for. From the statement of the proposed increase of salaries to the establishments in the various departments, it appears that in the case of 20 clerks increase amounting to Rs. 1,440 per annum have been proposed, and 79 hands to be newly entertained, thereby increasing the cost of the establishment by Rs. 4,668 per annum. I doubt whether under the rules for the preparation of Budgets, these items can be included in the Budget before they are formally sanctioned by Commissioners and Government. I have however, to note that on the strength of the remark made by Government recently, a suitable increase to the salary of Mr. Ellis should be provided for in the present Budget.

Mr. V. VARADAPPA NAYUDU seconded the proposition, which when put to the vote was carried.

After discussing the Budget for a long time, the Committee resumed into meeting.

It was proposed by Mr. P. M. Sivangnana Moodaliar, seconded by Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chetty and carried "that the meeting adjourn till to-morrow Thursday 27th February 1896 at 5 P. M." Carried.

## Proceedings of an Adjourned 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 Thursday the 27th February 1896, 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.
" R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
" Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
" M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
" C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
" P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
" P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
" M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
" G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
" 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.
" Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
" M. O. Parthasarathy Iyengar Avargal.
Surgeon-Major G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

### The Budget for 1896-97.

THE PRESIDENT:—Will somebody propose a resolution for going into Committee.

It was proposed by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam, seconded by Mr. DeCaster and carried "that the meeting resolve itself into Committee."

The Commissioners after discussing the Budget resumed into meeting.

It was proposed by Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty and seconded by Mr. DeCaster and carried:—"That the Budget as submitted by the Standing Committee and amended in Committee be passed for the following items.

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| Receipts ... ... ... ... ... | 13,15,250 |
| Expenditure— | |
| Grant I— | |
| 1. New Works— | |
| (a) Communications ... ... ... | 15,060 |
| (b) Buildings ... ... ... ... | 4,300 |
| (c) Drainage ... ... ... ... | 800 |
| (d) Water-supply... ... ... ... | 20,000 |
| (e) Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... | 530 |

| | | Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Repairs— | | |
| | (a) Communications ... ... ... | 1,05,400 |
| | (b) Buildings ... ... ... ... | 8,140 |
| | (c) Drainage, Repairs to works, &c. ... ... | 1,69,700 |
| | (d) Water-supply, do. ... ... ... | 49,810 |
| | (e) Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... | 500 |
| 3. Establishment— | | |
| | (a) General ... ... ... ... | 28,410 |
| | (b) Steam Road-roller ... ... ... | 1,700 |
| 4. Tools and Plant ... ... .. ... | | 5,100 |
| 5. Miscellaneous ... ... ... .... | | 16,170 |
| Grant II, Education ... ... ... ... | | 13,190 |
| Grant III, Sanitation and Medical Services ... ... | | 3,60,130 |
| Grant IV, Miscellaneous Municipal purposes ... ... | | 1,69,420 |
| Grant V, Supervision and Management— | | |
| (1) Salaries ... ... ... ... | | 33,600 |
| (2) Head office ... ... ... ... | | 6,220 |
| (3) Assessment and Collections ... ... .. | | 52,270 |
| (4) Contribution to Audit Establishment ... ... | | 2,500 |
| Repayment of debts, Sinking Fund ... ... ... | | 53,920 |
| Interest on Loan ... ... ... ... | | 1,49,220 |
| Refunds ... ... ... ... ... | | 5,000 |
| Pensions and Gratuities ... ... ... ... | | 5,550" |

Carried.

It was proposed by Mr. V. Varadappa Nayudu, seconded by Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chetty and carried :—

"That during the official year 1896-97 the taxes be levied as proposed in the Budget—

1. Tax on arts, professions, trades and callings (section 103).
2. Tax on salaries (section 114).
3. Tax on buildings and lands at 10 per cent. (section 119).
4. Payment for occupation of lands vested in the Commissioners (section 136).
5. Water-tax on buildings and lands at 4 per cent. in the populous parts of the City and 2 per cent. elsewhere (section 138).
6. Lighting-tax on buildings and lands at 1¾ per cent. (section 148).
7. Tax on vehicles with springs and on animals (section 153).
8. Tax on carts and other vehicles without springs (section 164).
9. Tolls on vehicles and animals entering the municipal limits (section 170).
10. Tax upon places used for the retail sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquors (section 179)."

It was proposed by Mr. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty, seconded by Mr. S. Gurusawmy Chetty and carried :—"That the amount allotted in the Budget for law charges be passed on the understanding that no civil suit or criminal proceedings, other than those provided for under the Act be instituted or defended without the sanction of the Standing Committee."

M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu withdrew the following resolution of which he had given notice. That Government be requested to allow the Municipality interest on the Sinking Fund of the Water Works Loan of Rs. 14,30,000 at the same rate as the Loan bears, *viz*, 4 per cent instead of obliging the Municipality to hold the Fund in Government Securities bearing 3½ per cent interest and selling at 6 to 7 per cent premium or allow the Municipality to discharge the Government Loan with the existing Sinking Fund amounting to nearly Rs. 8,00,000 and a loan of 5,00,000 to be raised in the open Market.

The meeting then terminated.

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## Proceedings of an Adjourned 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 Tuesday the 3rd March 1896, 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. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliyar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliyar Avargal.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
M. R. Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
E. H. Elliot, 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.
B. Lovery, Esq.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
Surgeon-Lt. Col. G. L. Walker.
Surgeon-Lt. Col. J. Maitland.

### The Drainage of Madras.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIYAR :—I should like to have some explanation from Mr. Ellis.

THE PRESIDENT :—We can have him up. Don't you go into Committee again?

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIYAR :—Yes, Sir, that will be more convenient.

THE PRESIDENT TO MR. ELLIOT :—Do you want to put your resolution ?

MR. ELLIOT :—Yes.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Then that should be done before we go into Committee.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT :—I beg to move the following resolution :—

"That while appreciating the earnest desire of Government to help the Commissioners in coming to a right decision on the question of the drainage of Madras and grateful for the guidance and advice that have already been afforded them, the Commissioners, deeming it advisable to have further information and further professional opinion on the subject, suggest to Government the expediency of appointing a small Committee of experts to consider and report on the relative merits of the schemes that have been proposed, and would respectfully request Government to reconsider its order No. 2140 M., dated 21st December 1895, in the light of such recommendations as the Committee so appointed may see fit to make."

I do not propose to say much on a subject about which I confess I know very little. I do not know how it is with my brother Commissioners; perhaps they are more fortunate than I am and may be able to arrive at a definite conclusion on the question. But, speaking for myself, I am not ashamed to confess that after a very honest effort to make myself acquainted with this subject in all its details, I have not been able to make up my mind on the particular question that is before us. Let us understand what this particular question is. We are not here to approve of any one particular scheme. If any one particular scheme were placed before us and if we were asked to say whether we would adopt that scheme or not, I do not believe we would be very long in making up our minds about it. However, that is not the question. The question before us is which of the two schemes proposed for our adoption is the better one. Now, Sir, that question to my mind would be a difficult one in any case, involving as it does considerations of a purely special and technical character, with which most of us are unfamiliar. But there are circumstances, I think, which make that question not only a difficult one, but rather a delicate one, and place us in a somewhat embarrassing position. If we take Mr. Loane's scheme—I turn to his scheme because in point of time his was the first to be prepared—we are confronted with certain facts. Mr. Loane's scheme was approved of by the Committee which was presided over by the President; that Committee I understand, deliberately preferred Mr. Loane's scheme, to Mr. Ellis'. The same preference was given to it by the Commissioners, and thescheme went up to Government with the support and approval of the Commissioners. Unfortunately, Government thought differently of Mr. Loane's scheme, and the Commissioners have been told that they did not understand it properly. I do not propose to enter into the discussion whether Mr Loane's scheme is the best or not. I am not competent to deal with the matter. It may seem to some that Mr. Loane's scheme possesses the merit of simplicity. I do not say it really possesses it, but it may seem to some as possessing it. It may be, too, that some of the Commissioners do not understand the force of the objection raised against the scheme by Government, *viz.*, that it is not in accordance with the principles of Mr. Cousin's scheme and that it does not lend itself to development and extension on the lines laid down by Mr. Cousins. Whatever may be the force of the objection and whatever may be the merits or demerits of Mr. Loane's scheme, to my mind, it labours under this one great disadvantage, it lacks the one thing needful, *viz.*, the support of Government without which no scheme can possibly be carried out. It was only recently that we had the good fortune to experience the liberality of Government, and I trust that I am not too sanguine when I entertain the hope, that if we go with Government in this matter we shall receive such liberal help from Government as will materially lighten the burden which the adoption of any scheme for the benefit of the City must impose on the people. As regards Mr. Ellis' scheme, whatever its intrinsic merits may be, it comes to us with certain advantages of what I may call an adventitious character. In the first place that scheme is the scheme of our Chief Engineer. If we are to retain Mr. Ellis in our service as our Chief Engineer, we are bound to repose confidence in his judgment, in his skill and knowledge. Apart from that, it is Mr. Ellis' scheme that is supported by Government on the strength of the opinion expressed by no less an authority than Col. Pennycuick. The scheme therefore comes to us with the weight of authority on its side and we must admit that. But while we bow to that authority, it seems to me that we cannot shut our eyes to certain facts. Those who have read Mr. Cousins' report must know how strongly he condemns the present open system drainage of Madras and how strongly he insists upon the necessity of having a system of covered channels. If there is one thing in Mr. Cousins' scheme which appears to me to be of a distinctive character, it is this feature, which I understand Mr. Ellis has lost sight of and proposes to abandon. Then, also, in the matter of house connections, there is a departure from Mr. Cousins' scheme. Now I quite understand that we are not bound to follow Mr. Cousin's scheme; and I also understand that his scheme has been practically abandoned There is no reason therefore why we should not adopt Mr. Ellis', or Mr. Loane's scheme, or any other scheme. But if we adopt Mr. Ellis' scheme, let us understand that it is not Mr. Cousins' scheme, and let us agree together to throw overboard all the suggestions of Mr. Cousins. This to a certain extent forces upon us the question why Mr. Cousins was got out, why all that trouble and expense were incurred. Are we going to retain that ancient and primitive system of drainage which Mr. Cousins condemns? These are questions which force themselves upon us. This then is the embarrassing position in which we are placed. We are now asked to make up our minds and decide between two schemes both prepared by our own officers and both possessing no doubt great merit, but to each of which some thing might be urged in the way of objection. That, I say, is a very embarrassing situation which ought never to have arisen. The scheme ought to have been put forward as the joint production of the Chief Engineer and his Assistant, I see no better way out of this embarrassing situation



than by moving the resolution which I have placed before you for your adoption this evening. My object in moving it is to take this matter out of the hands of the Commissioners, who as a body.—with all deference to them—are not competent to deal with this question and to transfer it to a smaller body of experts who will consider it dispassionately, who will give us the benefit of their knowledge and experience, and who are more likely to arrive at a correct decision in the matter than we are. It may be said that this has already been done for us by Government, that Government has decided the question. I admit that, to a certain extent, it has decided the question and it may seem unnecessary to go to Government. But on reflection I think it will be found desirable to take the course I recommend. The conclusion arrived at by Government was based manifestly on the opinion of Col. Pennycuick. Col. Pennycuick is no doubt a great authority in this matter, and I do not deny it; it would be presumption to deny it. But after all, it is the opinion of one man, and even the most eminent Engineers are not free from the common lot of us all—the liability to err; besides, it has been suggested,—I have heard it suggested—that Col. Pennycuick was on the eve of his retirement and he had not sufficient time and leisure to devote to this subject. However this may be, we have the opinion of only one Engineer, and it is desirable that that opinion should be confirmed by three or four Engineers. Perhaps there are some Commissioners who think that no sufficient reason has been shown why they should, abandon their former opinion. They may still be of opinion that sufficient justice has not been done to Mr. Loane's scheme. My suggestion would give Mr. Loane's scheme another chance. Take another reason. Mr. Ellis' present scheme is not the same as the one sent up to Government. You, Sir, describe it in your minute as a *compromise*. What the nature of that compromise is and how far Mr. Ellis' scheme has been altered since it went up to Government, I do not know. I think that is a good and sufficient reason why Mr. Ellis' scheme should go up to Government once more. Now perhaps it may be remembered that at the end of that long examination to which he was subjected, I asked the question whether, as a result of that examination, he saw any reason to change his views; and Mr. Ellis replied "No." Well, I was not surprised at that answer. It is one thing to be examined by a number of trained professional men, and it is another thing to be examined by a number of persons who have no special training. If the Committee which I recommend is appointed, Mr Ellis will be brought into contact with men trained in the same way as he has been, objections will be raised, suggestions will be made, and perhaps new ideas will be started; and I am not without hope that Mr. Ellis may see reason to modify his scheme. It may be said that the course I recommend would cause unnecessary delay. I cannot see why there should be any delay at all. This Committee is not to be asked to draw up any scheme; the question narrows itself down to a simple one—viz., which of the two schemes before us is the better. If a body untrained, and without any special knowledge can be expected to decide that question after two or three meetings, surely a body of trained men might be expected to do it in a much shorter time. Even if there should be a delay, that delay would not be an objection, if we feel sure that as a result of that delay, we shall get our money's worth and the best possible scheme. We have the assurance of Government that Mr. Ellis' scheme is the better of the two. If the Committee proposed to be appointed, after full consideration, arrives at the same conclusion, that assurance will be made doubly sure, and we shall feel as I have said that we have done all we could in this matter in the interests of those whom we represent.

Mr. M. Venkataramiah Chetty seconded the resolution.

Surgeon-Lt. Col. G. L. Walker:—Mr. President, I quite agree with Mr. Elliot when he says that there is but little chance of this very large Committee of the whole Council ever coming to a satisfactory conclusion on the question that is now before the Council, namely, the choice between several drainage schemes for the city of Madras. I am also in sympathy with him in believing that better results and a final opinion would be more quickly arrived at if the scheme was referred for consideration to a very much smaller Committee. But I entirely disagree from Mr. Elliot as to the constitution of that smaller Committee, and on that I desire to propose an amendment. Mr. Elliots' recommendation is that this small Committee should consist of Engineer experts. Now we have had recommendations on the drainage schemes of no less than seven engineers—seven experts—some of whom are of world wide reputation, especially in the matter of drainage and water-supply, and their advice on these schemes has been worked out with the most elaborate detail. After several meetings of the Committee of this whole Council, the Council is still in a state of muddle as to which of these schemes is the best. If now, Sir, the Commissioners take the word of other Engineers equally reputable and equally capable, I take it that the state of our muddle would be worse than now. I am far from saying that in a technical matter of this kind the suggestions of experts are not advisable. In the present instance it is

not only not advisable but it is absolutely unnecessary: but the time comes when that advice by its extreme multiplicity may only harass and embarass those who are considering it. A very wise man has no doubt said that "in the multitude of Councillors there is wisdom" but there is the homely proverb that "too many cooks spoil the broth" I think the time has arrived in this scheme when we have had enough, expert evidence. I think it will be very difficult to deal with the subject in a large Committee like this. Considering the evidence that has been elicited especially in the examination and cross-examination of Mr. Ellis and Mr. Loane, and having carefully read through all that has been written on the subject, I think that a smaller Committee selected from this Council might be expected to come to a satisfactory conclusion on the matter. There is another reason, Sir, why this matter should be referred again to a Committee of the Commissioners, and it is this. It is a point that Mr. Elliot has dwelt upon with some strength in proposing his resolution. Mr. Elliot has said that Mr. Loane's scheme was approved of by the special Committee that considered the subject and was definitely recommended to the Council for adoption. I have heard from one or two members of that Committee that when they recommended Mr. Loane's scheme, they were under a complete misapprehension as to certain details connected with it. If that be so, this scheme ought to be referred to the same Committee as it stands or possibly with the advantage of the addition of one or two more members. Therefore my amendment in this case will be as follows:—"That in view of the further information afforded in the statements of Mr. Ellis and Mr. Loane before the Committee of the whole Council, the subject of drainage under discussion be referred to the same special drainage Committee for further consideration and report, with the addition of the names of Messrs. Elliot and Theagaroya Chettiar, who have devoted a great deal of their time towards a fair solution of the difficulties that are before us."

Mr. C. Kalyanasundaram Chetty seconded the amendment.

Mr. E. H. Elliot:—There is one thing I wish to point out. Dr. Walker has told us that we have had Engineers upon Engineers sitting on this question. That is not quite the right way of putting it.

Surgeon-Lt. Col. Walker:—I wish to know whether Mr. Elliot is in order.

The President:—The amendment is not yet put before the meeting.

Mr. B. Lovery:—I propose the name of Mr. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu.

Mr. Elliot:—In the first place I propose the omission of my own name. As I said, I am not competent to deal with this question. I would suggest the name of Dr. Walker, as nobody has helped towards the solution of the question before us as much as Dr. Walker.

Surgeon-Lt. Col. Walker:—No.

Mr. Elliot:—Can I propose an amendment for the omission of my name?

Mr. N. Subrahmanyam:—You have expressed your intention. That will do.

Surgeon-Lt. Col. Walker:—I propose Mr. Ormerod's name, instead of Mr. Elliot's.

Mr. Elliot:—Dr. Walker's statement that Engineers after Engineers have sat on the question of drainage is misleading. The question has narrowed itself to this point—which of the two schemes before us is the better one. That is a different matter. Dr. Walker has told us in the course of his remarks that the Committee arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Loane's scheme was the best on certain facts which were misleading, and if certain circumstances had been before the Committee they would have arrived at a different conclusion. He implied that they might have arrived at a different conclusion.

The President:—He said that so far as he had information.

Mr. Elliot:—But there is nothing to show that the Committee would have acted differently if they had these circumstances before them.

Surgeon-Lt. Col. Maitland:—I am afraid that I must disagree both with Dr. Walker and Mr. Elliot. I think the reasons given by Dr. Walker for not appointing a Committee of experts apply with equal force to there being no necessity for appointing a Committee at all. This question has not only been considered by numerous experts as Dr. Walker has said, but by numerous Committees. The thing is we have got the opinion of Mr. Cousins who is supposed to be a sufficient authority and his opinion was considered by the Sanitary Engineer and the Chief Engineer to Government, and they both expressed their opinion that Mr. Cousin's scheme was a perfectly satisfactory one. That being the case, it seems to me that it is only a waste if time to go on considering and talking



over this question. The question really is are we to believe these gentlemen when they say that Mr. Cousin's scheme is a satisfactory one or are we to adopt the scheme which has been proposed by Mr. Loane of which we know nothing, and of which the details have not been worked out and which will necessitate in order to have them worked out, very considerable delay and very considerable expenditure and after all it may possibly end in nothing. All through the discussion of this question, I have not heard from anybody either the Commissioners or any of the Engineers any sufficient reason for not adopting Mr. Cousin's scheme. Nobody has shown the least objection to the scheme. When Mr. Loane was asked to speak on the subject, the only objection he could raise against Mr. Cousin's scheme was that sewers were laid so deep, that if repairs were necessary there would be a great delay. Of course that is admitted. Surely a small argument like that cannot overthrow what has been pronounced by every body as an excellent scheme. The only other objection urged against it is, its costliness and the impossibility of house connections throughout Madras. If we start with the fact that house connections are an impossibility throughout the town though they may be carried out in certain streets it is absolutely necessary that the scheme drawn up by Mr. Cousins should be modified in the manner suggested by Mr. Ellis *viz.*, to drop the house connections at present leaving them to be added at any future time. A further modification suggested by Mr. Ellis is the establishment of a pumping station at Napier Park of which the Chief Engineer to Government expressed his approval. As I said before nobody has shown any valid reason why we should not adopt Mr. Cousin's scheme forthwith. It seems to me that to refer the question to a Committee of Commissioners or experts is a waste of time. We have had all these various opinions that I alluded to, we had before us Mr. Ellis and Mr. Loane whom we have subjected to a very long cross-examination; surely after all this the Commissioners can make up their minds as to which scheme we should adopt. That Mr. Cousin's scheme has the approval of the highest engineering authorities in the Presidency is an argument in its favor. Are we not to adopt that scheme? are we to go on borrowing and spending more money on working out possibilities of Mr. Loanes' scheme. As a member of the Committee I wish to say a word in regard to the misunderstanding. The misunderstanding about Mr. Loane's scheme is that we were under the impression that the whole scheme of Mr. Loane has been fully worked out, levels have been taken and in fact that the scheme drawn up by him was exactly in as complete a form as Mr. Cousins' was. The fact I understood was that it was Mr. Cousins' scheme of drains that we adopted simply with the addition of high level mains; but we found out subsequently that we were perfectly wrong, that Mr. Loane's drains were carried in a different direction which involved a new survey. I therefore oppose both the resolution and the amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Rungiah Nayudu:—I am really sorry to observe that Dr. Maitland tells us that Mr. Loane's scheme is not Mr. Cousins' scheme but I say that Mr. Loane's scheme is Mr. Cousins' scheme with the difference that their methods of working are different. The one is to carry off the Sewage in covered sewers taking only the sewage of houses and rainfall within Court-yards—that is Mr. Cousins' scheme. Mr. Loane has proposed the same thing. But Mr. Ellis proposes not only to take away sewage of houses and rainfall within court-yards of houses but also the Street Sewage and the storm water in the streets. How can this be the same as Mr. Cousins' scheme? It was said by Dr. Maitland that no objection has been raised by any one here up to this time to the carrying of of the Sewage in brick sewers except that they would be too deep. We must know that we had our Sewers in Black Town; we had the Sewer No. 2 erected, and there was a good deal of hubbub made. We asked the Government to have it examined by experts. They came and examined it, they did not give a decided opinion against the Commissioners and they said that it was not "leakage" but only "sweating." I do not understand what "sweating" or "leakage" is. Afterwards we were obliged to spend a lot of money to put it right. The work was originally estimated to cost 7½ laks of rupees, by the professional gentlemen but we had to spend a little by little as the D. P. W. send supplemental estimates, to the extent of 12½ lacs. With regard to Mr. Cousins, scheme we have to go beyond the depth of the mean sea level and also the water level. We would find a great deal of difficulty in going down so deep and making drains. Besides we have to pump out water, and when we build Sewers so deep the houses situated close to Sewers may be affected and perhaps these houses may come down when we go so deep by their side. As far as I am concerned as a member of the Committee I had no misapprehension in the matter. Is it not possible for all of us now even after the information that we have received from both the Engineers to come to a conclusion in regard to the schemes. I say Government was wrong in stating that we misapprehended the principles of Mr. Cousins' schemes. They might have said that there would be a great delay in working out the scheme that we have recommended; that would be a proper answer for not approving

of our scheme but to say that we misapprehended Mr. Cousins' scheme is wrong. In what way have we misapprehended the principles of Mr. Cousins' scheme ?

SURGEON-LT. COL. MAITLAND :—They said that we misapprehended the principles of Mr. Loane's scheme.

HON'BLE MR. RUNGIAH NAYUDU :—They say that Mr. Loane's scheme is quite different from Mr. Cousins' scheme. But I say that it is exactly the same. Is the misapprehension on our part or on their part ? There is now a third scheme put forward before us in the shape of a compromise and I think it is eminently desirable the whole matter be referred to a Committee to enable us to come to a conclusion. With regard to experts we have had enough of them. In regard to Sewer No. 2 we are sadly disappointed in the matter. We have already the opinion of Mr. Tulloch, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Cousins and others. There is another thing that I should like to mention. In the commencement when there was a discussion between the President, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Loane and Col. Pennycuick, Col. Pennycuick had almost agreed to Mr. Loane's scheme, but afterwards I do not know what induced him to change his opinion. He has not given any reasons as to why he considered Mr. Ellis' scheme to be the better. Perhaps in the hurry of going to England he thought it was better. Therefore I think it is advisable to refer the matter to a Committee and to get their opinion on all the points raised before us.

SURGEON-LT. COL. MAITLAND then referred to the Government order wherein the Government, said the Commissioners misunderstood the principles of Mr. Loane's scheme.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIYAR :—Whilst heartily supporting the amendment proposed by Dr. Walker, I think it is my duty to point out the serious mistake made in the remarks of Dr. Maitland. Dr. Maitland said that we ought to adopt Mr. Cousins' scheme, excluding his house connection. You will remember that the backbone of Mr. Cousins' scheme is his house connections, for he says that he has expressly designed all his sewers to meet these connections only, so that if you exclude house-connections the whole scheme goes to the ground. Then again the Government has not ordered us to adopt the scheme of Mr. Ellis, and to take measures for carrying out that scheme. The wording of the Government order is "The Government prefers the adoption of Mr. Ellis' scheme"; although it has expressed that opinion, yet that opinion is not binding on the Commissioners. We have had a great deal of trouble at several special meetings to go into the question and to collect information on various points. They may be points connected with Engineering or points of ordinary common sense and we have collected a lot of information. Now the question is how are we to utilise this information in the best way we can. If the subject is referred back to the Select Committee, of course it will be able to go into the various points raised and to give its views on the subject. The report of the Committee will then come before the Commissioners who will either reject it or accept it. The whole matter will then go up before Government, and the Government has, I suppose, the power of vetoing. If they do veto it, after our decided opinion, our responsibility ceases and the responsibility will rest with Government. I therefore do not see the slightest objection to this subject being referred to a Select Committee as proposed by Dr. Walker.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar has overlooked this point in the G. O. The Government says, it is of opinion that the question of financing the scheme now decided upon will be considered later on after the details are submitted.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Further on it is stated that the Government prefers the adoption of Mr. Ellis' scheme.

THE PRESIDENT :—There is no reason why Government should not reconsider any recommendation.

MR. DECASTER :—The discussion of this subject, so far as it has gone, has disclosed the fact that not only all the Engineers disagree but the Commissioners themselves widely disagree. I am sorry I am not able to support Dr. Walker's amendment, because the subject has been before Government and has been considered by its Engineers already more than once; and I do not therefore think it is right that we should place the matter before Government again. I quite agree with Dr. Maitland in thinking that it is absolutely unnecessary to have a further Committee which would mean further delay; and I do not know whether further delay will bring in more enlightenment. I

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think that Mr. Ellis and Mr. Loane should be asked to come to an understanding on all the disputed points—at least they should make an endeavour to do so. This is only a suggestion. Having done that, they should be asked jointly to prepare a scheme which would comprise all that is good and practical in Mr. Cousins' scheme and their own schemes; and this should be done as expeditiously as possible, and the joint scheme submitted to the Commissioners after which the preparation of plans and estimates may be commenced.

MR. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAYUDU :—I think the question is so important that we ought not to decide it hastily, without considering the dangers that would attend our taking any precipitate action in a matter affecting the drainage scheme which is important in improving the sanitation of the City, and costs several laks of Rupees. In a matter like this, the Commissioners would be consulting the interests not only of the ratepayers but of sanitation, if they throw the responsibility on Government, unless they themselves understand all the schemes placed before them and are in a position to decide which of the schemes will best serve the Municipality. In that view I am certainly in favour of Mr. Elliot's resolution, but Dr. Walker's amendment does not at all take away the power of the Commissioners of ultimately referring the scheme to Government, and it does not deprive the Government of their right of expressing their opinion as to which scheme should be carried out. I would certainly support for the present Dr. Walker's amendment.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I think after all Dr. Walker's amendment seems to be very good for the present. There were examinations, cross examinations, there are papers from different Engineers and there are schemes placed by so many. Still we have not got anything in the shape of a Report which we can place before Government. If we at all pass a resolution adopting Mr. Ellis' scheme, or Mr. Loane's scheme or Mr. Cousins' scheme, we can simply put the resolution on paper which will go to Government without any explanation. If the amendment of Dr. Walker is carried, I think the Committee will go deeply into the whole subject; it will divide the subject into so many portions, and taking each portion will frame a certain report on it, so that the Commissioners may be in a position to place a good report before Government with all the recommendations that they can possibly make. In that way it would be of very great advantage to adopt the proposal of Dr. Walker. A few days spent on that say even a month, will not be a waste. There is so much difference between these several schemes in the matter of their cost that any time spent on it will not be a waste. I would even go further and say that money spent in taking levels and surveys will not be a waste. I do not think it necessary for me to go deeply into the subject for the present and I think it is better for us to refer the subject to a Committee.

MR. N. SUBRAHMANYAM :—I am afraid this amendment of Dr. Walker would only waste valuable time and would lead to no good. Suppose we do refer it to a Committee of Commissioners, they would not send in the report within less than three; they would probably take six months. When the Committee meet and submit this report we shall be no wiser. We shall then only know what half a dozen Commissioners think on the subject; On that opinion I would not be prepared to vote even Rs. 1000 and certainly not laks. This is a subject in which we want the help and advice of experts in engineering. We can tell them by experience what we want and also how much money we are prepared to spend and that Madras should be made more sanitary. But how the nuisance is to be got rid of is an entirely different matter to be decided upon the advice of men specially qualified by their training. Fancy an epedemic of cholera, or of small pox coming to Madras. Fancy Dr. Walker suggesting a committee of Commissioners who are interested in putting down the epedemic to devise means and measures to get rid of it. I think that nothing would be more absurd than that. Dr. Walker will be the first man to say that *we* ought not to consider them. They have a lot of men with special training to devise the necessary means. I think this is a matter analogous to it. We want the advice of experts in engineering who have studied the subject of drainage. We must eventually go to Government and through it get the advice of a small committee of experts. We have had so many different schemes all mainly depending upon the same idea of carrying sewage to a particular place in Madras. I think if we at once address Government and ask it to be good enough to comply with our request to appoint a body of experts we shall have the opinion on which we can safely act and spend laks of Rupees. It would be a great mistake for us to spend on other schemes laks of Rupees and we may after five years find that we have wasted all this money. For all these reasons I strongly oppose Dr. Walker's amendment, and when it comes to voting I should be very much in favor of Mr. Elliot's proposition.

SURGEON-LT. COL. WALKER:—I wish to refer to one or two remarks made by some of the speakers. My amendment is simply to refer the matter to the same committee that was originally appointed by the Commissioners. Doubtless they had some good reasons to report favorably on one of the schemes and we are informed by Surgeon-Major Maitland that the report was made under a misapprehension of certain important principles of the scheme; when a member of that committee says that he signed the report under a misapprehension it is absolutely necessary that we should refer the matter to the same sub-committee for further report. Mr. DeCaster in making his suggestions apparently thought that Mr. Ellis and Mr. Loane might be asked to retire together into a closet and to come to an agreement about their respective schemes. That is absurd on the face of it, considering the status of these two officers. I do not think any superior officer would go into a room with his assistant to come to some agreement on a matter in which they differ. If Mr. Decaster reads Mr. Ellis' letter to the President he would find Mr. Ellis is not at all likely to come to any agreement on the scheme. With regard to the remark of Mr. Subrahmanyam that in the event of an epidemic occurring he would not go to non-professional men, I may tell you that schemes for meeting epidemics require the opinion of medical men and sanitarians but the actual carrying out of the schemes and the adopting of means to get rid of the epidemics is thrown upon local bodies.

The amendment of Surgeon Lt.-Col. Walker which runs as follows was carried:—

"That the subject be referred to a Committee consisting of the following members:—

The President.

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

Surgeon-Major J. Maitland.

The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Naidu Garu.

M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.

" P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.

H. Ormerod Esq., instead of the Committee of experts."

The meeting terminated.

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