L. & M.
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Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1310 M

DATED 6th August 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commission.

Recording proceedings of the meetings of the Commissioners held on 29th April and 27th May 1896.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

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Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT.
G.O., DATE 6. 8. 96
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BACK PAPER, No. OF 189 .

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

FURTHER PAPER, No. OF 189 .

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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G. No. 232

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.
General Department.

Madras, 28 July 1896.

From
R.E. Ellis, Esq., Mem. Inst., C.E.,
~~Lieut.-Col. G. M. J. MOORE, C.I.E.,~~
Ag. President, Municipal Commission.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures
4

I have the honor to submit herewith for the --- information of Government full proceedings as also copies of the abstract proceedings of the Meetings of the Commissioners held on 29th April and 27th May 1896.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. E. Ellis.

Ag. President, Muni. Commn.

Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday the 29th April 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. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. C. Yetherajulu Nayudu Garu.
Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Varadarajulu Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subbarayalu Chetty Garu.
The Hon'ble V. Mahomed Sheriff, Khan Bahadur.
M. R. Ry. M. Ramakistnaiya Pantulu Garu.
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E. H. Elliot, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu.
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M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiyar Avargal.
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.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Aiyar Avargal.
Surgeon-Lt. Col. G. L. Walker.
M. R Ry. V. C. Desika Chariar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P Subramania Iyer Avargal.

Standing Committee.

IE PRESIDENT :—The first business is the election of 7 members for the Standing Committee for the ensuing year. You may mark off the names of those whom you elect on the paper.

MR. DESIKA CHARIAR :—Before the Commissioners give in their papers I wish to make a few suggestions in the matter of the election of members.

THE PRESIDENT :—Are you going to make a resolution ?

MR. DESIKA CHARIAR:—Not a resolution. I wish to make a few remarks.

THE PRESIDENT :—You cannot speak except on a resolution. There is no resolution before the meeting. The business is the election of members for the Standing Committee.

MR. DESIKA CHARIAR :—Preliminary to that, I suppose I can make a few remarks. I want to see all Divisions fairly represented, and that some are not left out altogether.

THE PRESIDENT :—You had better make a resolution.

MR. DESIKA CHARIAR :—Will I be in order ? There will be the question of notice, I suppose.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—I don't think such a resolution will be in order.

THE PRESIDENT :—I don't think it would. The Act says that 7 members should be elected. It does not restrict the Commissioners to Divisions.

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Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday the 27th May 1896 at 5 P. M. under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

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M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. O. Parthasarathy Iyangar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Surgeon-Lt. Col. G. L. Walker.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

Reinstatement of a Commissioner.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, before we proceed to the business on the agenda, you have got to settle whether you are going to reinstate Mr. B. Lovery who has vacated his seat on the Commission, owing to absence from three consecutive General Meetings. Mr. Lovery was not able to attend the last Meeting on account of his illness.

MR. DECASTER:—Is he desirous of being reinstated?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. DECASTER:—Then I propose "that we exercise the power of reinstating him."

MR. M. O. PARTHASARATHI IYANGAR seconded the proposition.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA AIYAR:—Considering his old age and the long service he has done to the Municipality I think we may allow him to retire, and give the public an opportunity of getting a younger person.

THE PRESIDENT:—He is one of the oldest Commissioners, and I think he would feel it, if you do not reinstate him.

The Commissioners then resolved to reinstate him under the provisions of Section 28 of Act I of 1884.

G. O. on the Revised Estimate for 1895-96 and the Budget for 1896-97.

THE PRESIDENT:—The first subject on the agenda is the consideration of G. O. dated the 4th May 1896, No. 758 M., reviewing the Revised Estimate for 1895-96 and the Budget for 1896-97.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—

The Resolution which I propose moving is in these terms:—

"In recording G. O. No. 758, dated 4th May, 1896, the Commissioners, in view of the valuable and specially arduous nature of the work performed by Mr. Loane, Assistant Mechanical Engineer, request the sanction of Government for the payment of a 'Local allowance' of Rs. 100 per

temporary sheds, we would not be acting up to the spirit of the Government order; but if we exclude them, and include only *pucca* buildings, then the working of these byelaws would not be harsh.

SURGEON-LT.-COL. WALKER:—Removal of huts once erected is as difficult as that of houses. The City of Madras is ruined by promiscuous buildings. I am strongly in favour of demanding the submission of plans and details in the case of any fresh building of whatever kind.

MR. S. GURUSAWMI CHETTY:—Mr. Desikachariar has made a mistake in saying that these huts are temporary. He does not understand that the policy of the Commissioners has been to prevent the building of huts in an irregular line. These draft bye-laws are not as stringent as the old ones.

RAI BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR.—The poor people who are to live in huts will not be asked to furnish plans and details but only the owners of such huts. I am not sure if sufficient force is given to the sections of the law requiring people to provide means for sufficient ventilation and drainage.

THE PRESIDENT:—They have to show them in their plan.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR:—They make these means only temporary for the purpose of securing their license. They should be told to make them permanent.

THE PRESIDENT:—They are bound to stick to the plan, and if they deviate from the plan, they will be prosecuted.

RAI BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR:—The next door gentleman may object to it.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—There is the Civil Court.

THE PRESIDENT—Then we come to the question of the rights of individual. We can only attend to the plans of buildings before us.

The Proceedings of 24th April and 1st May were recorded.

THE PRESIDENT:—In the proceedings of the 15th May, we have the question of the application of the Revenue Officer for an Assistant in view to the work that he has to do.

MR. V. VARADAPPAH NAYUDU:—In connection with this subject I wish to say a few words. On the recommendation of the Establishment Committee, the Account Department was separated from the General Department and given over to the Revenue Officer, and now that Revenue Officer wants that to be taken off from his hands.

THE PRESIDENT interrupting:—Beg your pardon. That is at my suggestion. When he asked for an Assistant, I asked him if he could not reduce the Establishment and he said "no." I then asked him whether if the Account Department was taken over to the General Department, that would assist him and he said "it would."

MR. V. VARADAPIAH NAYUDU:—I propose "that the Commissioners consider it inexpedient to appoint an assistant to theRevenue Officer or to transfer the Accounts Branch of the Revenue Department to the General Department." I am not in favour of any proposition which will entail an unnecessary expenditure on the Municipal funds, and be an unnecessary burden on the rate-payers, who are groaning already under a heavy Municipal taxation without a corresponding gain to them. In the consideration of the question before us whether we have to allow an assistant to the Revenue Officer or to transfer the Account Department, to the General Department we have to consider whether we are justified as custodians of public money by simply voting to appoint an assistant, whether by doing so we rightly discharge the responsible trust bestowed on us by the ratepayers, whose representatives we are. To know all about the transfer of the Account Department from the General Department to the Revenue Department, I have to call your attention to the Report of the Establishment Committee appointed on 13th July 1888. This Committee consisted of the President, the Engineer, and the Revenue Officer, who were then called the Vice-Presidents the Hon'ble P. Rungiah Naidu, Messrs. E. Thiruvengada Mudali, W. S. Gantz, Hon'ble Rai Bahadur P. Ananda Charlu, Salem Ramasawmy Mudali, N. Subramaniem, J. P. Nicholas, Dewan Bahadur Ragoonatha Row, and Rai Bahadur Runganatha Mudali, M. A. This Establishment Committee actually held eighteen meetings, and after the subject was thoroughly discussed, submitted a very able report which was adopted by the general body of the Commissioners and the Government of Madras. This Committee has submitted their report in which it says:—"According to the arrangements which are in operation at present, this grant refers to two departments, *viz.* (1) the General Department and Stores, and (2) the Assessment and Collection Department

The latter Department includes under it the Sub-Divisional Department of payment for the Occupation of Municipal Lands and a Cash Department. The necessity for the reforms and changes proposed by the Committee will not be obvious unless a clear statement is given of the system in force at present. The so-called General Department is general only to the extent of being under the control of the President, who is very properly the general head of all departments of the Municipal Office. This General Department has hitherto been doing the very special work of examining and auditing and passing all bills for payment, and of issuing cheques for such payments. Money came into the Municipal exchequer in a great variety of ways. The rates and taxes of which the Revenue Vice President is specially in charge came through him. Other miscellaneous items of revenue flowed through other channels, the Public Works Vice President having sometimes been allowed to collect such sums as had to be paid on orders passed by him in his capacity of Municipal Engineer. These small irregularities in the matter of revenue collection long remained unnoticed and unchanged and it is only recently that steps have been taken to make all revenue pass through one and the same hand, *viz*, that the Revenue Vice President. As to the Cash Department under the Revenue Vice President, its chief duty was to receive and remit the daily collections to the Bank. The only other duty that this department had to discharge was to draw at the beginning of each month the salaries to be disbursed to the Revenue Establishment only. The work of disbursement was in the case of Public Works and Conservancy Establishments done by subordinates of those Departments.

Grant V. Supervision and Management.

"Government have repeatedly remarked that there was a double system of accounts in regard to finances which was unnecessary, and they have called upon the Commissioners to remedy this superfluous state of things. It is no matter for wonder that the very peculiar system in vogue at the Municipal Office should be unintelligible to outside observers, who have not been initiated into the secrets of a system that has shaped itself on no pre-existing model. A General Department doing special work is so far a riddle to read, but there is more in the situation deserving of study. Revenue may refer only to the money that comes in, but everywhere the chief officer whose duty it is to look after the in-comings is also responsible for the out-goings, responsible of course, only to the extent that no money goes out except on a proper voucher. Take the Deputy Collectors in charge of District Treasuries. These officers have charge of receipts and disbursements, and in their case, there is no unnatural separation of the function of receiving from the function of disbursing. Such being the state of things outside the Madras Municipal Office, Government naturally conjuctured that payments were checked first in the Revenue Department and then again in the General Department. Gratifying as it may be to assert that there has been no such waste of energy it is a yet a matter for regret that so peculiar a system should have been adopted, and that the very important work of internal audit should have so long been denied the benefit of having been supervised by the Revenue Vice President, whose proper work it is, and who may reasonably be expected to give to it far more time and attention than the President who must have a great variety of important duties to perform unconnected with finance, and who cannot be assumed to pay that attention to figures which his signing of cheques on the authority, not of the Revenue Vice President but of the General Department, would imply. The Committee is strongly of opinion that all anomalies should be put an end to in the matters of finances. There should be but one department for receiving and for paying money and that department should be under the management of a well paid officer like the Revenue Vice President. The Committee unanimously resolving to carry out this scheme, the General Department was reconstituted so as to give the President that amount of clerical and other assistance which he might require in doing his really general work. The effect of the re-organization was to reduce the expenditure under this head from Rs. 592-8-0 to Rs. 299-8-0. The saving of Rs. 293 thereby effected is mostly nominal as the Accountants and Clerks paid therewith have to be added to the staff under the Revenue Vice President who would under the new system have a disbursement and Account Department, added to his present establishment.

"In regard to the department of stores the Committee is not in a position to propose any changes at present.

"It has been already stated that the Committee considers it a matter of the first importance that the auditing of accounts and issuing of cheques which were hitherto done by the General Department should no longer be done by that department but should be a part of the work supervised by the Revenue Vice President. In consequence of this reform the staff under the direct orders of the Revenue Vice President has to be divided into two parts, the Assessment and Collection Department, and the Treasury and Account Department. In regard to the Assessment and collection department, some members of the committee were of opinion that the work of assessment should be kept distinct and separate from the work of collection, but on the representations made by the Revenue Vice

of inspecting and supervising the work of assessors for this short time of ten months, I think we would steer clear of all difficulties in the matter of giving an assistant which would burden the Municipal finance and of asking a Gentleman who honestly says he cannot cope with the work to do the work. With these two-fold objects I would like to propose the amendment for your acceptance.

THE PRESIDENT :—In the first place that is not an amendment, and in the next place, even if it was, it ought not to be passed as it would directly interfere with my prerogative as to the assignment of duties to the officers of the Municipality. Outdoor inspection moreover, is part of the Revenue Officer's Work.

RAI BAHADUR C. KALYANASUNDRUM CHETTIAR:—If I am in order I would like to say a few words. As Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar says, Rai Bahadur Ramasawmi Chettiar having completed twenty-five years of service we are not to dictate to him as to what his duties are. He knows his duty; and as he is to retire shortly, it is much better to leave to his own discretion and to his sense of duty, the question of inspection work. He knows his work well; he knows where to go, and when to go When there is any real necessity, let him go out; and it is unbecoming on our part to speak desparagingly of a gentleman who has done so much service to the Municipality, just on the eve of his retirement.

The resolution was then put and carried.

The rest of the Standing Committee proceedings was recorded.

The meeting then terminated.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of a GENERAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS for the CITY of MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Wednesday the 29th April 1896, at 5 P.M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

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Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Walker.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

No. 1.

Election of Members of the Standing Committee.

The Commissioners having proceeded to elect by ballot seven members of the Standing Committee, the following gentlemen were elected and obtained the number of votes opposite their names:—

	VOTES.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu ..	21
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal ..	16
Haji Muhammad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.	16
The Hon'ble P. Rungiah Nayudu Garu ..	15
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu ..	14
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Nayudu Garu	12
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal	11

No. 2.

Application from the Bishop of Mylapore, dated 11th March 1896, *for the diversion of St. Thomé High Road.*

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal—

"That, under the provisions of section 234 of the Act, the Commissioners request the sanction of His Excellency the Governor in Council for diverting that portion of the St. Thomé High Road in front of the Roman Catholic Cathedral as shown in the plan, on the terms proposed by the Bishop of Mylapore."

Carried.

No. 3.

Award of the Arbitrators in the matter of the Municipality versus *Messrs. Muhammad Ally Jeevajee & Co.*

Recorded.

No. 4.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 20th March and 10th April 1896.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by Haji Muhammad Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib—

"That the consideration of resolution No. 12 of 10th April 1896, *re* revision of schedule of fees, be deferred till next General Meeting."

Lost.

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

"That kerosine oil be added to the list of combustibles."

Carried.

The rest of the proceedings were recorded.

No. 5.

Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Walker withdrew the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

"That the tax on bicycles be reduced from Rs. 6 to Rs. 3 per annum."

The meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
May 1896.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

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M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

No. 1.

Reinstatement.

The Commissioners reinstate Mr. B Lovery under the provisions of section 28 of Act I of 1884.

No. 2.

G.O., dated 4th May 1896, *No.* 758 *M., reviewing the Revised Estimate for* 1895–96 *and the Budget for* 1896–97.

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

"In recording G.O., No. 758, dated 4th May 1896 the Commissioners, in view of the valuable and specially arduous nature of the work performed by Mr. Loane, Assistant Mechanical Engineer, request the sanction of Government for the payment of a 'local allowance' of Rs. 100 per mensem to the said officer till such time as the Act is so amended as to legalize the granting of an increase to his present salary."

Carried.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Kalyanasundaram Chettiar Avargal and seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster—

"That the thanks of the Commissioners be conveyed to Government for the further additional grant of Rs. 1,50,000 from Provincial funds."

Carried.

No. 3.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 24th April and 1st and 15th May 1896.

Proceedings, dated 24th April and 1st May 1896, were recorded.

With reference to resolution No. 9 of the proceedings of 15th May 1896, *re* proposal for an Assistant to the Revenue Officer, M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu proposed and M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal seconded—

"That the Commissioners consider it inexpedient to appoint an Assistant to the Revenue Officer or to transfer the Accounts Branch of the Revenue Department to the General Department."

Carried.

The rest of the proceedings were recorded.

The meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
May 1896.

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"That the thanks of the Commissioners be conveyed to Government for the further additional grant of Rs. 1,50,000 from Provincial funds."

Carried.

No. 3.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 24th April and 1st and 15th May 1896.

Proceedings, dated 24th April and 1st May 1896, were recorded.

With reference to resolution No. 9 of the proceedings of 15th May 1896, *re* proposal for an Assistant to the Revenue Officer, M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Nayudu Garu proposed and M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal seconded—

"That the Commissioners consider it inexpedient to appoint an Assistant to the Revenue Officer or to transfer the Accounts Branch of the Revenue Department to the General Department."

Carried.

The rest of the proceedings were recorded.

The meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
May 1896.

Genl. Dpte
45

1896.

Madras Municipality.

From

Ags
The President,

Municipal Commission,

MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St: George

G. No. 232

Dated 28
Despd. 28 July 1896.
Recd.

Encs: 4.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings as also Copies of the abstract proceedings of the meetings of the Commissioners held on 29th April and 27th May 1896.

Revised Order

Recorded.

1/7/96

4-8-96

31/7 a

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} 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

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