

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1675M

DATED 29-9-98

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl. Commission

Recording full proceedings as also copies
of abstract proceedings of meetings of the Madras
Munl. Commissioners held on 27th June and 25th
July 1898.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2933 *Mo*

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

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Order No 1675 *Mun*
29.9.28

G. No. 322

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Dated 12 September 1898

Received

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Enclosures 4.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
as also Copies of abstract pro-
ceedings of meetings of the
Commissioners, held on
27th June and 25th July 1898.

29/9/28

K.P.
16/11/28

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Incl (1) 4fw 322

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 27th June, 1898, 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 Sir George Moore, *Kt.*, *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.
Cawasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. S. Subbaya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
M. R. Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.
M. R. Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Surgeon-Captain F. J. Crawford.
M. R. Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

Permanent Assistant Health Officer.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, the first business this evening is the resolution of which Mr. Muzheruddin has given notice and which was up some time ago.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN moved the following resolution :—"that in view of the fact that Madras is rapidly growing in population, thereby necessitating the adoption of improved sanitary measures and precautions, and that the sanitation of the town as a whole is far from being perfect and satisfactory, as is proved by the constant heavy rate of mortality and the permanence of epidemics of virulent type, such as fever, small-pox and cholera, the Health Officer be at once relieved of a portion of his desk work by the appointment of a competent permanent assistant, so that he may be enabled to devote greater attention and more time to out-door work and exercise greater supervision and discipline over his subordinates."

Gentlemen,

There are two points to be considered in connection with this proposition, viz., (1) Is the sanitation of Madras really unsatisfactory? (2) Is it absolutely necessary that the services of another medical officer should be engaged? With regard to the first question I must say that the sanitation of the town as a whole is defective and imperfect; at any rate it is not what it should be. It is true that some improvements have already been made, and that Madras of these days is not the same as it was some twenty years back, but still a good deal remains undone. We should not rest content with the progress that has been made. The sanitation of any place is capable of

vast and effectual improvements. We must therefore make strenuous efforts to elevate the sanitary state of the city and bring it to perfection by all possible means and legitimate methods. Let us not be led away by the beauties of the city, natural and artificial, the works of arts, magnificent buildings and luxuriant parks. These are not the proper criterion of sanitation. Sanitation must be judged by the filthy streets and thoroughfares, by those portions of the town huddled with ill-ventilated houses occupied by our poorer living brethren and the rate of mortality. Penetrate, therefore, into the core of the crowded parts and wander through the celebrated gutters of the city. You will then painfully realise what the sanitation of our metropolis is. Gentlemen, what a scene of woes do the streets of Triplicane, Chintadripet and Black Town present! They are an eye-sore and focus of infection of the worst type. Wherever you go, gentlemen, squalidness and disease meet your eyes and morbid stench welcomes you with open arms. No one can imagine unless he sees the filthy and offensive condition of some parts of our city. The town as a whole is hideously filthy. There is no spectacle so miserable and disgusting as the parcherries scattered about in the city, and one's heart sickens at their horrible sight. In spite of these existing evils, gentlemen, you will be surprised to learn that about 41 tons of rubbish and 1,364 cubic feet of night soil are daily unremoved. Where is the rubbish and the night soil that is removed taken and deposited? It is deposited in depôts located in most unsuitable localities within the inhabited area. For instance, the Brick-kiln-road Depôt, containing as it does, about 4,45,567 cubic feet of filth, apart from being within the watershed of a large part of Madras, is within 50 yards of numerous dwellings. There are several depôts of this kind within the city. In addition to these, we have several sewage farms within the precincts of the town. I leave you to judge for yourselves, whether any town, with so many dirty parcherries, rubbish depôts, sewage farms, and with such a gigantic mass of rubbish and night soil unremoved every day, will be healthy. It cannot possibly be healthy. When the town itself is diseased, nothing which lives in it will be healthy, and this explains the appalling death-rate in this town. The average rate of mortality per day in Madras is 46.9, according to the vital statistics of 1896-97. Both Calcutta and Bombay compare favourably with Madras in this respect. The death-rate in Calcutta in the same year is 66.7 per day. The mortality in Bombay for the last 2 years has been something awful, but that is due to altered circumstances; but taking the vital statistics of 1894-95, we find the rate to be 74.9 per day. Calculated at Madras rate Calcutta should have 71 a day and Bombay 85. So you clearly see that mortality in Madras is higher than the two thickly populated towns in India. According to a table furnished by the Registrar-General of England, it will be seen that Cairo, Alexandria, Moscow and St. Petersburg are the only places in the world which can compete with Madras in the speedy destruction of their inhabitants. The Madras Commissioner, leaves this world $2\frac{1}{2}$ times quicker than there is any occasion he should, provided the conditions under which he resides were fairly good sanitarily. Cholera, small-pox, measles and fever are our four permanent foes. Last year there were 113 deaths from small-pox, 410 from measles, 5,700 from fever, and 169 from cholera. This year up to 31st March there were 108 attacks and 74 deaths from cholera. In January last small-pox and measles broke out with virulence and committed great havoc. Up to 31st March last, there were nearly 400 attacks and 60 deaths from small-pox and 345 deaths from measles. It is very likely a good number of cases might have been concealed and death reported as due to other causes. Well, gentlemen, in the face of such facts and convincing figures, shall we still suppose that Madras is not insanitary? Having done my best to prove the insanitary condition of Madras by facts and figures, I shall next proceed to discuss the second question. Let us first see what the multifarious duties of our Health Officer are. His work in the office is rather heavy. It consists of attending to complaints regarding sanitary matters, issuing licenses, examining plans of new buildings, attending to correspondence of vaccination and mortuary departments respectively, checking Sanitary Inspectors' diaries, and attending to cholera and small-pox reports. His outdoor work consists in the inspection of nearly 1,500 streets and lanes, 200 parcherries and hutting grounds, 220 public latrines, 38 markets, 8 muster-depôts, and the supervision and control of nearly 3,000 men. Being the chief of the Conservancy Department, it is his duty to attend to the muster of scavenging carts. Is it possible, gentlemen, for a single man to do full justice to such a large catalogue of onerous duties? It is certainly impossible. Calcutta, with a population of about 6 lakhs, has two Assistant Health Officers on Rs. 500 a month each, and one Superintendent of

Conservancy on Rs. 990 a month. Bombay, with a population of about 8 lakhs, has not less than 3 permanent assistants. It was only the other day I saw a notice in the papers for applicants for the post of three Divisional Health Officers on Rs. 600, rising to Rs. 1,000, a month each. Is it too much to ask for a single assistant for such an extensive town as Madras, which has a population of nearly 5 lakhs. Our Sanitary Commissioner lays great stress on the necessity of employing two medical officers, instead of one. He says for inquiry into the causes of diseases, there are no men specially appointed in Madras, but it is very necessary that two medical men should be entertained to carry out this important sanitary duty. He further states in his inspection notes of this Municipality that "to pay an officer the salary befitting the professional acquirements of a Health Officer of a town of 4,50,000 inhabitants, and then to ask him to see that scavengers are mustered at the proper hours and that the contractors produce the required number of bullocks, is, in my opinion, a simple waste of money. Such duties should be relegated, as I pointed out in my reports of 1882 and 1890, to a subordinate officer, who should fill the function of Superintendent of Conservancy. A salary of Rs. 300 would probably be required for a suitable man. Such a man, placed at the disposal of the Health Officer, would undoubtedly be of great utility in securing the correct working of the conservancy establishment." Gentlemen, the necessity of another medical officer to help and work with the Health Officer is absolutely essential. I may tell you that an assistant would be able to relieve the Health Officer of a portion of his office work as well as executive duties in connection with conservancy, and thus enable him to make frequent visits to the most insanitary parts, to inspect and offer advice as to the sanitary conditions of the water-supply and of sewage, to work in the laboratory for detecting adulterations when the Adulteration Act comes into force, and to adopt preventive measures to stamp out special diseases of the zymotic class. Having impressed on you the absolute necessity and urgency of appointing another medical officer, I shall conclude with a few remarks on the financial question. Let us not be daunted or baffled at the financial difficulties. Sanitation is a question of life and death. It is more important than building markets, constructing bridges or lighting the town with electricity or gas. We must improve sanitation at any cost, and whatever is spent on it is well-spent. The whole Sanitary Department requires a thorough reorganisation. One competent man is of greater help and service than scores of incompetent persons. Dr. Cook, while he was here, bitterly complained of the incompetency, inefficiency, and inadequacy of the sanitary staff. In his report to Government, he mentions, "No question that the staff and establishment is quite inadequate for the requirements of the town." The Madras Municipality has but one properly qualified man to 7 in Calcutta, and a similar disproportion is to be observed all the way down. Is it not a dead loss to the Municipality to feed such a large proportion of worthless men? Let us have a small band of really competent and thoroughly qualified men and earnest workers rather than an army of incompetent men, and within a few years, I assure you, Madras will become quite a different place from what it is at present from a sanitary point of view. Let no considerations of cost or expenses defeat our object. Spend we must on a matter of such prime importance, a matter which is directly concerned with the health and well-being of nearly 5 lakhs of human beings under our care. Dr. Parker says in his Hygiene; "It has been proved over and over again that nothing is so costly as disease and nothing is so remunerative as the outlay which augments health, and in so doing augments the amount and value of work done." Well, gentlemen, if you are hesitating to support this proposition on financial considerations, I can point out to you a little saving that has lately been effected in our expenses, and a portion out of it may be utilised for this purpose with great advantage. When the flushing of drains was under the charge of the Public Works Department, the annual expenditure for its maintenance was about Rs. 32,000, and it was recently amalgamated with the Health Department. It is calculated that about Rs. 17,000 a year would be sufficient for its upkeep, and thus there is a saving of nearly Rs. 15,000 a year, and out of this amount a few thousand may be devoted for this purpose without any extra pressure on the Municipal funds.

MR. LAKSHMANA CHARIAR:—Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding Mr. Mir Muzheruddin Sahib and endorsing his views so lucidly expressed in regard to the insanitary state of Madras and the imperative necessity of appointing a permanent Assistant Health Officer. If we are really anxious to see the health of our town improve, we must relieve the Health Officer of a

vast and effectual improvements. We must therefore make strenuous efforts to elevate the sanitary state of the city and bring it to perfection by all possible means and legitimate methods. Let us not be led away by the beauties of the city, natural and artificial, the works of arts, magnificent buildings and luxuriant parks. These are not the proper criterion of sanitation. Sanitation must be judged by the filthy streets and thoroughfares, by those portions of the town huddled with ill-ventilated houses occupied by our poorer living brethren and the rate of mortality. Penetrate, therefore, into the core of the crowded parts and wander through the celebrated gutters of the city. You will then painfully realise what the sanitation of our metropolis is. Gentlemen, what a scene of woes do the streets of Triplicane, Chintadripet and Black Town present! They are an eye-sore and focus of infection of the worst type. Wherever you go, gentlemen, squalidness and disease meet your eyes and morbid stench welcomes you with open arms. No one can imagine unless he sees the filthy and offensive condition of some parts of our city. The town as a whole is hideously filthy. There is no spectacle so miserable and disgusting as the parcherries scattered about in the city, and one's heart sickens at their horrible sight. In spite of these existing evils, gentlemen, you will be surprised to learn that about 41 tons of rubbish and 1,364 cubic feet of night soil are daily unremoved. Where is the rubbish and the night soil that is removed taken and deposited? It is deposited in depôts located in most unsuitable localities within the inhabited area. For instance, the Brick-kiln-road Depôt, containing of Madras, is within 50 yards of numerous dwellings. There are several depôts of this kind within the city. In addition to these, we have several sewage farms within the precincts of the town. I leave you to judge for yourselves, whether any town, with so many dirty parcherries, rubbish depôts, sewage farms, and with such a gigantic mass of rubbish and night soil unremoved every day, will be healthy. It cannot possibly be healthy. When the town itself is diseased, nothing which lives in it will be healthy, and this explains the appalling death-rate in this town. The average rate of mortality per day in Madras is 46.9, according to the vital statistics of 1896-97. Both Calcutta and Bombay compare favourably with Madras in this respect. The death-rate in Calcutta in the same year is 66.7 per day. The mortality in Bombay for the last 2 years has been something awful, but that is due to altered circumstances; but taking the vital statistics of 1894-95, we find the rate to be 74.9 per day. Calculated at Madras rate Calcutta should have 71 a day and Bombay 85. So you clearly see that mortality in Madras is higher than the two thickly populated towns in India. According to a table furnished by the Registrar-General of England, it will be seen that Cairo, Alexandria, Moscow and St. Petersburg are the only places in the world which can compete with Madras in the speedy destruction of their inhabitants. The Madrasee, says our Sanitary Commissioner, leaves this world $2\frac{1}{2}$ times quicker than there is any occasion he should, provided the conditions under which he resides were fairly good sanitarily. Cholera, small-pox, measles and fever are our four permanent foes. Last year there were 113 deaths from small-pox, 410 from measles, 5,700 from fever, and 169 from cholera. This year up to 31st March there were 108 attacks and 74 deaths from cholera. In January last small-pox and measles broke out with virulence and committed great havoc. Up to 31st March last, there were nearly 400 attacks and 60 deaths from small-pox and 345 deaths from measles. It is very likely a good number of cases might have been concealed and death reported as due to other causes. Well, gentlemen, in the face of such facts and convincing figures, shall we still suppose that Madras is not insanitary? Having done my best to prove the insanitary condition of Madras by facts and figures, I shall next proceed to discuss the second question. Let us first see

what the multifarious duties of our Health Officer are. His work in the office consists of attending to complaints regarding sanitary matters, issuing orders for new buildings, attending to correspondence of vaccination, checking Sanitary Inspectors' diaries, and the proposition was carried. His work consists in the inspection of the 220 public latrines.

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Standing Committee.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee of the 18th March were recorded.

THE PRESIDENT:—This is one about the late Revenue Officer's pension. You may remember that the auditors objected to time being allowed him to complete the service and referred the matter back. The Standing Committee say here that it was out of their power to grant the extension. There seems to be some doubt whether it is within their power or not. In the meantime the late Revenue Officer is appealing. I think therefore we may defer that question. This was agreed to.

Conservancy on Rs. 900 a month. Bombay, with a population of about 8 lakhs, has not less than 3 permanent assistants. It was only the other day I saw a notice in the papers for applicants for the post of three Divisional Health Officers on Rs. 600, rising to Rs. 1,000, a month each. Is it too much to ask for a single assistant for such an extensive town as Madras, which has a population of nearly 5 lakhs. Our Sanitary Commissioner lays great stress on the necessity of employing two medical officers, instead of one. He says for inquiry into the causes of diseases, there are no men specially appointed in Madras, but it is very necessary that two medical men should be entertained to carry out this important sanitary duty. He further states in his inspection notes of this Municipality that "to pay an officer the salary befitting the professional acquirements of a Health Officer of a town of 4,50,000 inhabitants, and then to ask him to see that scavengers are mustered at the proper hours and that the contractors produce the required number of bullocks, is, in my opinion, a simple waste of money. Such duties should be relegated, as I pointed out in my reports of 1882 and 1890, to a subordinate officer, who should fill the function of Superintendent of Conservancy. A salary of Rs. 300 would probably be required for a suitable man. Such a man, placed at the disposal of the Health Officer, would undoubtedly be of great utility in securing the correct working of the conservancy establishment." Gentlemen, the necessity of another medical officer to help and work with the Health Officer is absolutely essential. I may tell you that an assistant would be able to relieve the Health Officer of a portion of his office work as well as executive duties in connection with conservancy, and thus enable him to make frequent visits to the most insanitary parts, to inspect and offer advice as to the sanitary conditions of the water-supply and of sewage, to work in the laboratory for detecting adulterations when the Adulteration Act comes into force, and to adopt preventive measures to stamp out special diseases of the zymotic class. Having impressed on you the absolute necessity and urgency of appointing another medical officer, I shall conclude with a few remarks on the financial question. Let us not be daunted or baffled at the financial difficulties. Sanitation is a question of life and death. It is more important than building markets, constructing bridges or lighting the town with electricity or gas. We must improve sanitation at any cost, and whatever is spent on it is well-spent. The whole Sanitary Department requires a thorough reorganisation. One competent man is of greater help and service than scores of incompetent persons. Dr. Cook, while he was here, bitterly complained of the incompetency, inefficiency, and inadequacy of the sanitary staff. In his report to Government, he mentions, "No question that the staff and establishment is quite inadequate for the requirements of the town." The Madras Municipality has but one properly qualified man to 7 in Calcutta, and a similar disproportion is to be observed all the way down. Is it not a dead loss to the Municipality to feed such a large proportion of worthless men? Let us have a small band of really competent and thoroughly qualified men and earnest workers rather than an army of incompetent men, and within a few years, I assure you, Madras will become quite a different place from what it is at present from a sanitary point of view. Let no considerations of cost or expenses defeat our object. Spend we must on a matter of such prime importance, a matter which is directly concerned with the health and well-being of nearly 5 lakhs of human beings under our care. Dr. Parker says in his Hygiene; "It has been proved over and over again that nothing is so costly as disease and nothing is so remunerative as the outlay which augments health, so insures the amount and value of work done." Well, gentlemen, if you are hesitating Subordinates of the Municipality, I can point out to you a little saving. The Sanitary Overseer, who was informed of the breaking down of the street-cleaning machine, he utilised for this purpose to keep the street clean. When I met him last, I informed him that there are cases of cholera requested him to disinfect the houses where the cholera took place, to which he promised he would attend to but not seen to have even attempted to it. I would here admit that the street was pretty clean on the day when the Sanitary Overseer was present, but since then, I have not seen any of the officers passing by the street. I therefore request the Chairman to give the Sanitary Officers necessary orders in the matter.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
G. M. RUNGIAH,
A Resident."

portion of his desk work by giving him an able assistant. We know very well, gentlemen, that our present Health Officer has been selected from the Indian Medical Service to take care of the health of nearly 5 lakhs of people under his care and I need hardly mention that he has given us ample proofs of his capacity and efficiency, but we must always bear in mind that should there be any war or firing of guns again on the frontier, he may be taken away from us at a few hours' notice and we shall be left in a hopeless state. He will carry away with him all his schemes and suggestions for the improvement of the city and leave everything in an unfinished condition. If he has an Assistant permanently under him, he can teach him and train him, and the latter will be able to carry out all the former's schemes and suggestions even if he is taken away suddenly from us. I trust, gentlemen, that none of us will oppose such a sensible proposition on the frivolous ground of "no funds" not knowing how much money we have nor how much money we get. I may perhaps fittingly conclude by making a few observations regarding the manner in which we discharge our duties as Commissioners. Most of us after election think no more about the division and the rate-payers. We never fulfil all the promises and assurances made to the voters.

MR. S. GURUSAWMY CHETTY :—I call him to order.

THE PRESIDENT :—He is only speaking for himself.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—I wish to know whether these remarks apply to himself or to all the elected Commissioners.

THE PRESIDENT :—You must restrict your observations to your own experience. If you choose to stigmatise yourself, you may do so ; but you cannot be allowed to stigmatise all the Commissioners.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—Have you any complaint from the present Health Officer on the subject ?

THE PRESIDENT :—Read the resolution to the meeting.

MR. SUBBIAH CHETTY :—I should like to have your views on the matter.

THE PRESIDENT :—My views are, that, no doubt an Assistant Health Officer would be of very great assistance and would relieve the Health Officer of a great deal of routine and drudgery which takes up a lot of his time and prevents him from devoting more time to out-door work. A scheme is under preparation for the re-organization of the Health Department and the Health Officer himself has yet hardly grappled with the details. I think if you wait a little we would be in a position to tell what the Health Department really requires. I think very probably that an Assistant Health Officer will have to be appointed. At present we have a temporary man and I can't tell you how long he will be temporary. I think the question may very well be put off a little while until we go thoroughly into the question of the reorganization of the Health Department. That an Assistant Health Officer will have to be appointed I have no hesitation in saying. I think it is absolutely necessary. I think we might wait a little, especially as we have this temporary man doing duty.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN :—I have no objection to defer the proposition.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—I propose the consideration of the question be adjourned sine die.

MR. P. SUBRAMANYA IYER :—I second it. Shall we still discuss causes, my best to prove the proposition.

The multifarious duties of the proposition was carried.
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Standing Committee.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee of the 18th March were recorded.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee of the 1st April.

THE PRESIDENT :—This is one about the late Revenue Officer's pension. You may remember that the auditors objected to time being allowed him to complete the service and referred the matter back. The Standing Committee say here that it was out of their power to grant the extension. There seems to be some doubt whether it is within their power or not. In the meantime the late Revenue Officer is appealing. I think therefore we may defer that question. This was agreed to.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I should like to have some information regarding the prosecution of Rungiah, whether the sanction of the Standing Committee was obtained to the expenditure incurred.

THE PRESIDENT :—I will explain how matters stood. It was a Police prosecution and they put in a charge sheet. The charge was under the Penal Code but the prosecution was conducted by the Health Officer. In the middle of it the case took a curious turn. The Health Officer went away and there was nobody to conduct the prosecution and a lawyer had to be engaged. It was an ordinary charge sheet prosecution. There has been a great deal said about the case but as a matter of fact I am myself responsible for the prosecution. I found that three deaths reported in that street had not been entered as cholera but as fever. In one case the report sent in by Rungiah was that the child was suffering from cholera but the medical man attending on it said it was diarrhoea and not cholera at all. It was on that I directed the prosecution to be launched with a view to suppress these alarmist reports.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Have you taken any steps against the Overseer and the Sanitary Inspector ?

THE PRESIDENT :—You know perfectly well how things can be turned and twisted.

MR. P. SUBRAMANYA IYER :—What is the question before us ?

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—The question before us is the question of lawyer's fees.

MR. DESIKA CHARRIAR :—Was counsel or attorney engaged only after the Health Officer left ?

THE PRESIDENT :—Yes.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—This is the proposition I intend moving on the subject—"That the Commissioners view the prosecution launched against Rungiah under Section 182 of the Indian Penal Code as hasty, unnecessary, ill-advised and not calculated to promote good feeling between the rate-payers and the Municipality. Resolved also that, under the circumstances, the charges incurred in the said prosecution be borne by the executive concerned." A serious question like this should be dealt with very seriously too. The prosecution was launched against the man because he wrote this letter. (Here he read the letter).

"CUDDAPPAH RUNGIAH CHETTY STREET, PEREAMETTU,
MADRAS, 29th November, 1897.

THE CHAIRMAN,
Municipal Commission,
Madras.

SIR,

I beg to bring to your notice that cholera has broken out in this street and there were 2 cases, during the last week and another case has made its appearance this morning. The street is so insanitary that the disease will spread all round the quarter, as little care is taken by the Sanitary Subordinates of the Municipality. I am sorry I am obliged to bring this fact to your notice as the Sanitary Overseer, who was informed of the breaking out of the disease, has yet made any attempt to keep the street clean. When I met him last, I informed him that there are cases of cholera, and requested him to disinfect the houses where the cholera took place, to which he promised he would attend to but not seen to have even attempted to it. I would here admit that the street was pretty clean on the day when the Sanitary Overseer was present, but since then, I have not seen any of the officers passing by the street. I therefore request the Chairman to give the Sanitary Officers necessary orders in the matter.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

G. M. RUNGIAH,

A Resident."

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—Have we anything in the judgment that the prosecution was false, unfounded or malicious?

THE PRESIDENT :— No.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—It was a simple complaint to the President informing him there were two cases of cholera. The first step taken on this letter was that it went to the Health Department on the 1st December 1897. Then there was the report of the Sanitary Inspector, 5th Division, and upon the letter the following note was made :—(Here he read the note).
“SIR,

Cuddapah Rungiah Chetty Street is opposite to Messrs. Velcattachellam's Ice Factory.

2. The petitioner is a young Brahmin employed at Messrs. Parry & Co. newly come to this street.

3. I visited the street last evening at about 3 o'clock and again this morning. There are no cases of cholera.

4. Last month there were 3 deaths, in different houses and on different dates and they were registered as follows :

(1). An old woman aged 85 years died of General debility on the 24th November 1897.

(2). A female aged 18 years died from fever after 10 days duration on the 29th November 1897.

(3). A male child aged 3 years died from fever on the 30th November 1897.

5. The counterfoils of death certificates are herewith submitted for your information.

6. I saw the petitioner, the young Brahmin and he told me that all these three cases died from cholera and when I asked him how he knew they were to be cholera cases he said that Mr. Harris, a medical practitioner treated these cases.

7. I immediately went to Black Town and saw Mr. Harris. He told me that on the 30th November last he was taken to this street to see a child and it was a case of Diarrhoea and he did not see the child afterwards nor he heard anything about the child. His statement is herewith submitted. He did not treat the other two cases.

8. The Ward Overseer had been visiting this street daily and knew about these cases. The petitioner, the Brahmin, I hear spoke to the Overseer in an impertinent tone to burn sulphur and tar. The Overseer replied that he could not do so as they were not Cholera cases and it will only alarm the people.

D. JESUDASEN.”

Upon this the President said “Is there no way under the Penal Code to bringing men like these to book?”

THE PRESIDENT :—I shall always endeavour to bring them to book if I consider they are spreading alarm.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—The letter merely gave you information about cholera. Then comes the order to lay a charge under Section 182.

MR. W. D. SMITH :—What was the result of the prosecution?

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—The prosecution was thrown out. The charge is this—that he on or about the 29th November 1897, gave false information to the President of the Municipality stating that cases of cholera occurred in three houses in Cuddapah Rungiah Chetty Street thereby causing the President to use his lawful authority and order inspection and enquiry to be made in these houses to the annoyance of the people dwelling in them. Well, gentlemen, here is the judgment of the Magistrate. (Here he read the Judgment).

Gentlemen, this is the judgment. From this you will find clearly there was sufficient reason for the person to give the information to the President, but unfortunately the Sanitary Inspector and the Overseer of the division who generally report on these matters gave false information as

generally is the case with them. I can tell you a case when I myself was placed in a similar predicament.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I wish to know how these remarks bear upon the present question. The remarks made are based upon circumstances which we do not know and which we are not prepared to accept on your statement. If you wish to substantiate your statements by records, let us have the records circulated to us and then we will accept them.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—If some of the Commissioners do want information there is the correspondence between me and the President.

THE PRESIDENT :—I think you must restrict yourself to this case.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I want to show that this has been going on for a long time. This is the way in which the Municipal executive has been going on for a long time, giving false statements to the President, and the President who has such great confidence in his subordinates quietly writing off to the persons who give information that there was no such case as reported by him, or if an unfortunate fellow like Rungiah is caught he is prosecuted. Rungiah's case went on for a month or so, and perhaps he was obliged to engage a lawyer paying, perhaps Rs. 50 a day. He must have spent a good deal of money over this case. What for? For doing his duty as a citizen to point out any defect. It was the duty of the President to carefully go into this matter and to see such irregularities were remedied, instead of which he relied on the Sanitary Inspector who has been doing the same kind of thing from the time he was made Sanitary Inspector. This kind of procedure I believe, Sir, is to muzzle the public from making any complaints. If a man is prosecuted for making a complaint about his street, do you mean to say anybody in Madras will ever afterwards come forward and make complaints? The President ought to be very careful in these matters. I don't want to take away much of your time. You have heard the Judgment of the Magistrate and there the case is very clearly put.

MR. TIRUMALAYYA NAIDU :—In seconding the proposition, I beg to remark that when such complaints as that made by Rungiah are made to superior officers it is a healthy sign of the times. Instead of throwing cold water on such complaints it is the duty of the executive to welcome such information and thank the informant for the gratuitous help given. We cannot expect the Health Officer to stop in the streets all day, and if the executive find people coming forward to help them they should be grateful to them.

MR. SUBBIAH CHETTY :—I have an amendment to propose “that the Commissioners while sanctioning the expenditure incurred in connection with the prosecution of Rungiah, record their disapproval of the prosecution.” In proposing this amendment although I do not heartily endorse all the statements made by Mr. Theagaroya Chetty, I must say that the prosecution was an ill-advised one. The President ought to have called upon Rungiah to adduce such evidence as he can produce, before him and made an investigation into the case, and then if he was satisfied that the man had with bad intention made a false report he should have accorded sanction to prosecute the man. It is very unfortunate in this case that that procedure was not adopted. At the same time the President places confidence in his subordinates, and if anybody has misled the President in the present instance, the subordinates did. Therefore if any discredit is due, it is due to the subordinates and not to the President. I am sure you will all heartily endorse that statement of Mr. Theagaroya Chetty that if our money be spent on prosecutions like this it would certainly muzzle the mouths of the people and prevent honest men from making representations to the President. What alarm can be caused by making a report to the President that a certain death occurred and it was believed to be a case of cholera? The circumstances in the present case, as appears from the Judgment of the Magistrate do certainly warrant any resident making such a report as Rungiah did to the President. I don't see how it will in the least disturb the equilibrium of the executive of the Municipality if some report is made that cholera has broken out in a certain street. If he rushed to print and made the matter public which would certainly cause alarm, then I can understand the man being prosecuted for making a false report. The only authority he can go to in this case, he has gone to and that authority instead of making

the necessary enquiry has chosen to launch a prosecution. The present prosecution was launched and when the man who had the conduct of it had gone and when it was found that the Municipality would be placed in an awkward position, the President did his best to set matters right by securing legal assistance and he tried to prove what he thought was a true case.

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—I second the amendment. It seems to me to be a sensible one. Inasmuch as the expense was incurred at the instance of the President, we ought to sanction it. The second part of the resolution is also necessary to prevent future trouble.

MR. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR:—Who is the Sanitary Inspector referred to?

THE PRESIDENT:—Mr. Jesudasan.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—If I had an opportunity of reading the evidence it is quite possible I might come to a different conclusion. We should not proceed upon the *ipse dixit* of the Magistrate.

MR. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—The amendment is a vote of censure to the President and the executive. The President said in his opening remarks he alone was responsible for the prosecution, and therefore so long as the President had accepted the responsibility in the matter it is an imperative duty to go fully into the matter before passing an amendment which is a censure to the President. I followed Mr. Theagaroya Chetty in the extracts read and my opinion is this. The Magistrate finds his inability to convict the accused under the Penal Code because he thinks no guilt has been brought home to him, but the extracts read from the Judgment do not make it clear that the President acted hastily and without proper enquiry, or, that he did not act *bona fide*. From the enquiry made by the Magistrate some facts may have been elicited which go to impugn the veracity of the subordinate officers connected with the charge. If you find from the records that they did not do their duty as they ought to have done and that they did misinform the President, you will be justified if you simply sanction the expenditure and reserve the question as to how their conduct should be dealt with. If Mr. Theagaroya Chetty insists on his resolution being put to the vote, it will be best to circulate all papers with a statement from the President and then deal with the question finally. Now I cannot conscientiously vote for the amendment as it is a vote of censure to the President.

THE PRESIDENT:—I don't take it as a vote of censure. I don't see that the Commissioners should approve everything that I do. In the present case I take it that the Commissioners merely do not approve of what I have done. I did what I thought was the correct thing. To this day I do not agree with the Magistrate.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY proposed another amendment "that the Commissioners do sanction the expenditure."

This was put to the vote and carried.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY asked that poll be taken. This was done with the following result.

AGAINST:—Messrs. Subbiah Chetty, Tirumalayya Naidoo, Theagaroya Chetty and Bala-kistnama Chetty.

FOR:—Messrs. Cowasjee Eduljee, Venkataramanjulu Naidoo, Pragasa Moodelliar, Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur, Venkataramiah Chetty, Sivagnana Moodelly, P. Subramania Iyer, Lakshmana Chariar, W. D. Smith, H. Ormerod, Krishnama Chariar, Varadappa Naidoo and Dr. Crawford.

NOT VOTING:—Messrs. S. Gurusawmy Chetty, Appusundram Pillay, Desika Chariar and Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.

The rest of the proceedings was recorded.

Proceedings of 15th April 1898, were recorded.

Resolutions Nos. 10 and 14 of 15th May 1898, was deferred.

The rest of the proceedings were recorded.

Proceedings of 20th May 1898, were recorded.

Resolution No. 4 of 3rd June 1898, was deferred.

The rest of the proceedings was recorded.

Statement of receipts and disbursements from April 1897 to March 1898, was recorded.

Progress report of works for February and March 1898, was recorded.

MR. LAKSHMANA CHARIAR:—Gentlemen, I gave notice to bring forward a resolution regarding the lighting of Municipal lamps and carriages on moonlight nights. Perhaps, however, it will be more convenient if this matter is deferred until after the Lighting Committee that was lately formed gives its opinion. I therefore ask the matter be deferred until the next General Meeting.

This was agreed to and the meeting then dissolved.

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No.

Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetti Street, Black Town, on Monday the 23th July, 1898, at 5 P. M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT :

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.
Cawasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillay Avargal.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
Mir Muzher-ud-din Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Dewan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I propose that Mr. Cawasjee Eduljee do take the chair.

MR. P. M. SIVANGNANA MUDALIAR seconded the proposition.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR :—I think the senior member of the Commission is bound in duty to take the chair. He may then adjourn the meeting, as the President seems to desire it.

The resolution was carried.

THE CHAIRMAN :—It is the desire of the President that the meeting should be postponed till Friday next, i.e., the 29th instant, when he will be able to attend.

It was proposed by Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty, seconded by Mr. V. C. Desika Charriar and carried "that the meeting be adjourned till Friday next."

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M.R.Ry. B. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. S. Subbaya Chetty Garu.

Not voting.

M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.

Resolution No. 7 was deferred.
The rest of the proceedings was recorded.
Proceedings of 15th April 1898 were recorded.
Resolutions Nos. 10 and 14 of 5th May 1898, were deferred.

The rest of the proceedings was recorded.
Proceedings of 20th May 1898 were recorded.
Resolution No. 4 of 3rd June 1898 was deferred.
The rest of the proceedings was recorded.

No. 3.

Statement of receipts and disbursements from April 1897 to March 1898.

Recorded.

No. 4.

Progress Report of works for February and March 1898.

Recorded.

No. 5.

The resolution of M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal *re* lighting lamps on moon-light nights was deferred to next general meeting.

The meeting terminated.

G. M. J. MOORE, Lieut.-Col.,

President, Municipal Commission.

Municipal Office, Madras,
June 1898.

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 25th July 1898, at 5 P.M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT:

Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq. (voted to the chair in the absence of the President on account of ill-health).

H. Ormerod, Esq.

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

M.R.Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.

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

M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.

M.R.Ry. P. V. Krishnaswami Chetty Garu.

M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.

E. H. Elliot, Esq.

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.

J. DeCaster, Esq.

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.

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

M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.

M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.

Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.

M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.

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

M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.

"That under the provisions of section 73 of Act I of 1884, Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee do take the chair."

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.

That the meeting adjourn to Friday the 29th July 1898.

Carried.

Municipal Office, Madras,
July 1898.

COWASJEE EDULJEE,
Chairman.

G. No. 322

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 12th September 1898.

From

R.E. Ellis, Esq, M. Inst. C.E.

~~INSTR. COL. SIR GEORGE MOORE, RT., C. I. E.,~~

Ag: President, Municipal Commission.



To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith for the infor

Enclosures

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mation of Government full proceedings as also copies of --

Abstract proceedings of Meetings of the Commissioners held

on 27th June and 25th July 1898.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Ag: President, M.M.C.

18. 20. 1891

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DATED

REF TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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