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Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1871 M

DATED 21-11-98.

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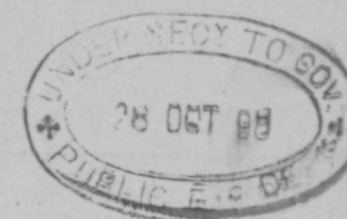
[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl. Commission

Recording full proceedings as also a
Copy of abstract proceedings of a special
meeting of the Madras Munl. Commn.
held on 1st August 1898.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 3327 Me



From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

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Order. No. 1871, Muns. 24/11/98

G. No. 763

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Dated 27 October 1898.

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SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
as also a copy of abstract pro-
ceedings of a Special Meeting
of the Commissioners held on
1st August 1898.

Luc(1) to f.no: 763

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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 Monday, the 1st August, 1898, at 3 p. m., under the provisions of the City of Madras, Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT :

R. E. Ellis, Esq., *Ag. President.*
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar, Avargal.
M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. S. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
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.
Surg. Lieut.-Col. J. Maitland.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar, Avargal.

The Lighting of the City.

THE AG-PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, we have a quorum now and we may as well begin. The meeting to-night is to consider the report of the Committee appointed by the Commissioners at their Meeting, held on the 28th February *re*: the lighting of the City of Madras. The report has been circulated to you already. There are one or two remarks which I wish to offer before we proceed to discuss the matter. The present revenue from the lighting-tax is Rs. 65,810 and the expenditure during last year was Rs. 69,580. We have a closing balance of Rs. 17,710 so that we shall be able to go on for 4 years more at the present rate of expenditure without increasing the taxation. The present tax is $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, and if it should be raised by $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. it would bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 13,000 which would bring the total revenue from the lighting tax to Rs. 78,000. In the concluding paragraph of the report, it is stated that Rs. 9,047 will have to be provided if we should resolve to adopt gas-lighting and if this be added to the present expenditure of sixty-nine thousand rupees and odd we shall be within the amount of Rs. 78,000 which would be raised by levying the tax at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—The additional expenditure of Rs. 9,000 and odd is for lighting the 2nd and 3rd divisions only.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—Yes.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—When our lighting expenditure is more than our income by Rs. 4,000 and odd, how is it that we have a closing balance?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT :—We had a closing balance for many years and that is how we are able to go on without raising the taxation in spite of the increased expenditure.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—That first thing that I should like to know is, if we decide upon either gas or any other light, whether we can introduce it before the end of the present contract.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—Certainly we can.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—The estimated expenditure for 1898-99 is Rs. 69,580 but at the end of para 12 it is stated that the cost of the present lighting is Rs. 34,500.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—That is taking certain assumptions, as to the cost of the oil. The oil alone is estimated to cost Rs. 35,500.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR:—Is there anything exclusive of the oil?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—The contractor has to light the lamps, fix the lamp-posts, supply the wicks and chimneys.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—The chimneys are ours.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—He has to repair them.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—For the lighting of the 2nd and 3rd divisions, we have to provide according to Messrs. Orr & Son's estimate, Rs. 1,50,000 for the plant.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—We want Rs. 7,140 for the sinking fund and interest and Messrs. Orr & Sons will undertake the lighting for Rs. 14,427.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—That is we have to find Rs. 1,50,000.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—We have to find Rs. 9,000 a year.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—It means you will have to go in for a loan of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lacs and we will have to give Rs. 14,427 as working charges.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—It has occurred to me since this report was written that perhaps the Commissioners might wish to make a smaller trial to begin with. We may start with pipes in exactly the same places that is in the People's Park, viz., the Sydenham's Road, across Chintadripett, Mount Road up to Cathedral and from the corner of the Round Tannah to the Beach. This experiment will cost about Rs. 40,000 and we have to provide Rs. 2,000 for the sinking fund and interest and Rs. 2,000 for maintenance. With an expenditure of Rs. 4,000 the experiment can be carried out and this will not necessitate the raising of the tax, for the closing balance in hand is ample for the purpose. The gasometer would be of a big size. I only suggest this in case the Commissioners should feel disposed not to incur a large expenditure in the trial.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—Will you be able to tell us which is the most populous place between 6 and 9 P. M.?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—I think it is the Wallajah Road.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I think the Flower bazaar and the Evening bazaar are the most populous places.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—I understand that the number of lights would be much fewer and the cost would be more. What is the difference between the cost of the present system of lighting and the proposed one?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—According to Messrs. Orr & Sons' first estimate for the whole city, the cost of maintaining each lamp is put down at Rs. 16 a year; the cost of the same according to the present system is just over Rs. 10. On the other hand in the proposed system the lamps might be further apart. If we can work at that figure which they do not guarantee the cost of the both would be very approximately equal. In their estimate for Black Town they tell us that it would cost Rs. 14,427 for 700 lamps which comes to Rs. 21 a lamp per year as against the original figure of Rs. 16.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—Why should it be more?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—Because they guarantee to work it. They say that if we work it ourselves we can do it cheaper. If the Commissioners have no objection they might make smaller trials.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR:—Are we to try it ourselves?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—That is a matter we have to decide hereafter. But I think it would be better to let Messrs. Orr & Sons do it.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—In para. 12 the Committee say that they have been trying with burners with circular wicks which gave three times the present light. I suppose the gas-light will be much stronger by several times.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—It is quite a different thing altogether.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Which lamp is it you tried. Is it one brought from the street or from the shop?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—From the street.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—Do you keep sample lanterns in the office?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—Yes.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—May I ask you again what would be the proportionate increase if the gas-light is introduced?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—If we light the whole town Messrs. Orr & Sons' estimate for each lamp is Rs. 16 per year as against Rs. 10 the present expenditure. If we reduce the lamps in the proportion of 16 to 10, the cost would be the same approximately.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—Then it would not cost us more.

MR. ELLIOT:—If we adopt gas light the increase would be due only to sinking fund and interest. Otherwise there would be no increase.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—Yes. If we take Black Town first we will have to borrow $1\frac{1}{2}$ lacs.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB:—In moving "that the question of lighting be deferred until the other immediate reforms of the drainage system, water-supply and the purification of the Coom are carried out," said:—

Now that the long expected report of the lighting committee is now before us for our consideration, it behoves us to inquire in what way the lighting arrangement of the city can be improved. No one can deny for a moment that the present lighting system stands in need of improvement. It seems to me that there are only two ways in which any improvement can be effected, namely, either by the introduction of Gas or Electricity or by the substitution of better class of burners in the place of the old ones. The question we have now to decide is whether we can afford to go in for Gas or Electricity in the present depleted state of our finances. We are already involved in debt over ears and head and it would be unwise on our part to borrow eight lacs or more for a luxury of this kind and thus add a fresh burden to the impecunious Municipal exchequer. No person with his wits about him will admit the necessity or wisdom of such a procedure.

Again the report throws no light whatever on the superiority of Gas over Electricity and that of Electricity over Gas. It simply contents itself by giving us the approximate cost of each. As regards the merits or demerits of the two, we are in the same position as we were before the formation of the Committee. Under these circumstances it is not advisable for us to make a leap in the dark and risk such a large sum of public money. It is better to wait until it is definitely and decisively settled that one is superior to the other. In Europe, it appears Electricity is supplanting Gas and it is only the other day I read in papers that the Singapur Municipality has given out Electricity. There seems to be a regular warfare between the two and we should patiently wait until the survival of the fittest. But in the meanwhile we should try to improve the present system in an economical way. Some are of opinion that if the terms of the contract are rigidly enforced the lighting will be greatly improved. This requires verification. What strikes me as indispensable is that the present burners should be renewed and replaced by superior ones. I believe, gentlemen, you have all seen the beautiful lamps fixed on the gateway of Messrs. W. E. Smith & Co.'s premises and surely they are more luminous than the tiny Municipal lamps. If they are introduced

in the place of our old ones our object will be gained and all the extravagant expenditure required to be sacrificed at the altar of gas or electricity will be saved. It is further contemplated to light Black Town with gas as an experimental measure, nothing appears to me more absurd and futile than this idea. Lighting Black Town with gas to my mind appears the same thing as decking a dead person with diamonds and rubies.—Black Town is not in need of gas-lighting so much as more dust bins, more sewage and rubbish carts and the energetic flushing of drains. In conclusion, gentlemen, I strongly protest against the introduction of either gas or electricity for some years to come and trust that you will all unanimously denounce any such scheme.

MR. S. GURUSAWMY CHETTY seconded the proposition.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR:—The mover of the present proposition was the first to move this question about lighting. It was at the instance of Mr. Muzheruddin Saheb that this Committee was appointed and after great pains the Committee has arrived at some conclusion. We ought to make a beginning sometime or other. The suggestion made by our Ag.-President as to shorter route is a good one and if this experiment proves a success we might extend it. So far as the streets of the greatest traffic are concerned, every one will admit that the lighting of them requires looking into. The road between the Senate House and the Wallajah Road has the heaviest traffic as well as that between Chintadripett and Mount Road. We can try the experiment without any additional taxation for three years and if we find it satisfactory at the end of the period we may introduce it permanently. We must try the experiment sometime or other and we ought not to wait, because there is a warfare between gas and electricity. If we are to wait till that battle is fought out elsewhere, I am afraid we may have to wait for a long time to come. I am therefore in favor of trying the experiment on a small scale on the route suggested by the Ag.-President especially as it would necessitate no fresh taxation. I therefore move "that the route pointed out by the Ag.-President be first experimented upon with gas-light and that the experiment be tried by contract without waiting any more."

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND seconded the amendment.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—Is this an amendment to the original motion?

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—It is hardly an amendment to the original motion which is for deferring the question altogether.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR:—If my amendment is not accepted, I will oppose the proposition of Mr. Muzheruddin Saheb. If you pass that proposition it would be practically shelving the question. I hope all of you will vote against it. It does not matter to me whether you accept my proposal or not. At least there will be an opportunity of considering the report.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—I hope that this proposition will not be accepted as it defers the whole question.

MR. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—If Mr. Muzheruddin's proposition is put to the vote and carried, the meeting disperses and it will be open to Mr. Desikachariar to bring in his proposition on some future occasion.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—I sincerely hope that the consideration of the subject will not be postponed. The question is admitted to be a serious one and it would be a pity to do away with the subject in the manner indicated. The mover of this resolution has objected to the proposal on the ground that it will cost eight lacs, I understand from the President that it would only cost us 1½ lacs. Therefore it appears to me that the expenditure has been greatly exaggerated. The mover's objection is that he is against spending any money on lighting when so much attention is required for sanitation. I do not see why one thing should interfere with another. It would not put us in any worse position, because we will get the funds we want from the lighting tax. He also complains that there has been no proof to show that if you adopt oil-gas it would be better than the present system. We could not have had a better demonstration than what was given by Messrs. Orr & Sons two months ago as to the superiority of gas-light over the present system. They gave us a capital demonstration of gas-light by lighting that portion of Mount Road which fringes on the Government House. Every one who saw it must be firmly convinced that the new system is a very

great improvement on the old system and is exceedingly good. There is no question whatever that if we adopt it, it will be twice as good as the old system. He also said that instead of adopting the oil-gas it would be better to adopt new burners like those at Messrs. Smith & Co.'s premises, but this also would cost us something. The burners used at Messrs. Smith & Co., are twice as costly as those used by the Municipality now. I had that information from one of the partners of Messrs. Smith & Co. You cannot have improved burners without an increased expenditure. Further they would require greater quantity of oil. If we are going for any increased expenditure on account of new burners why not we go in for gas light, an excellent specimen of which was shown to us the other day? I think it will be a great pity to give up the proposed experiment which does not involve any extra taxation whatever.

MR. ELLIOT:—I bow to Dr. Maitland's opinion. I am not sure that the adoption of the experiment would not involve extra expenditure. I presume it would.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—I referred to that in my remarks. We are already spending more than we receive from the lighting fund. There is already a sum of Rs. 4,000 to the bad every year. If we increase the lighting tax—which we must sooner or later—by ¼ per cent. it would bring in Rs. 13,000. That will cover the balance and give us Rs. 10,000 to the good which is ample for trying the system.

MR. VARADAPPA NAIDU:—Then you must increase the taxation.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—Any way you must increase it three years hence.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I have only a very few words to say in support of the proposition. There can be no question that the better lighting of the city would be a great convenience. But you must remember that before we wish to have conveniences we must have what is life and death to the inhabitants of Madras, drainage and water supply which are the most important needs of the city. The question of improved water-supply has been deferred because we have a very heavy expenditure to incur in connection with the drainage scheme. The question of finding funds for carrying out the drainage scheme is before Government. The Government has proposed certain ways and means but the Commissioners have dissented from them and sent in other proposals. Those proposals have long been before Government and we do not know what will be their end. The probability is that we may have to increase our taxation for carrying out the drainage scheme which is the first thing that ought to be attended to. The next question would be after the drainage scheme is carried out, the improvement of the water supply of the town which is more important than the lighting of the city. Until we are blessed with a proper system of drainage and water supply we ought not to think of any conveniences and luxuries. I, therefore, think that we should defer the present question for sometime. That does not mean that we are to shelve it altogether. We will have to wait for better times when we may be in a position to have some funds at our disposal and then we shall be most happy to carry it out.

MR. C. TIRUMALAYYA NAIDU:—I wish to move an amendment that circular burners be introduced.

THE AG.-PRESIDENT:—That is not an amendment.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried.

The meeting then terminated.

Ind (2) of no. 763

MINUTES of the 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 Monday the 1st August 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 :

R. E. Ellis, Esq., MEM. INST., C.E., Acting President.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroaya 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. S. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
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. Lakshmanacharriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Commissioners at their meeting held on 28th February 1898, re lighting of the City of Madras.

Proposed by Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur and seconded by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu—

“That the question of lighting the City with either gas or electricity be deferred until other more important reforms, such as the extension of the drainage system and the improvement of the present defective water-supply and the purification of the Cooum, are carried out.”

Carried.

The meeting terminated.

Municipal Office,
Madras, August 1898.

R. E. ELLIS,
Ag. President, Madras Municipal Commission.

Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 763.

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 27 October 1898.

From

The Honourable LIEUT.-COL. SIR GEORGE MOORE, KT., C. I. E.,

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT. President, Municipal Commission.

CURRENT No. 332 7/16

To

The secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures
2

I have the honour to submit herewith for the information of government full proceedings as also a copy of the abstract proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Commissioners held on 1st August 1898.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Emm Moore Lieut.-Col.

President, Munl. Comm.

1/27/20/98

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CURRENT No. _____

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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