

Local & Munl. (1898) Department

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1957 M

DATED 22-11-98.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl. Commission.

Recording full proceedings as also a copy of the abstract proceedings of a special meeting of the Madras Munl. Commr. held on 26th Augt. 1898.

BACK PAPERS.

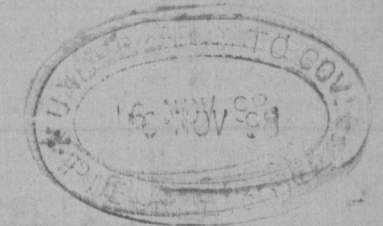
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Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 3517 Mo



From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

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Order

No 1957 mus 8 22/11/98

G. No. 861.

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Dated 15th November 1898

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Enclosures Two.

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SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings as
also a copy of the abstract pro-
ceedings of a Special meeting of
the Commissioners held on 26th
August 1898.

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 Chetti Street, Black Town, on Friday, the 26th 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., (*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 Gurusamy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. S. Subbaya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillay Avargal.
M. R. Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar 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. V. Masilamani Pillay Avargal.
Surgeon-Captain F. J. Crawford.
Eardly Norton, Esq.
M. R. Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

The Administration Report for 1897-98.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—Well, gentlemen, there is a quorum. It is past 5 o'clock and we have a lot of business to get through. We may therefore as well begin. This Special Meeting is convened for the purpose of considering the Administration Report; but as there are one or two resolutions to be moved by Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar, one of which touches very closely on the administration, I propose that his resolution bearing on the subject should be taken first. The resolution runs as follows :—

“ That with reference to Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar's letter to the Acting President, dated 22nd instant, informing him that certain questions (of which copies were enclosed) would be put at the next Special Meeting, calling for explanation on various points in the Administration Report for 1897-98 and the Acting President's reply thereto, referring to G. O., dated 31st March 1898, M. Mis., the Commissioners consider that the Acting President was entirely wrong, and that the Commissioners have every right under Section 61 C. to put such questions as they consider necessary and obtain proper explanation in approving or disapproving of the said report before its submission to the Governor-in-Council.”

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I think, Sir, there will be no need for me to move my resolution, if you are prepared to give me the necessary information. You are aware that we have every right under Section 61 to ask you questions. That section says that the Administration

MR. ELLIOT :—Has the Health Officer's attention been drawn to it ?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—Yes.

MR. ELLIOT :—Under the head of "sanitary defects" there is an expression made use of "horrible parcherries." Has anything been done to improve the condition of these parcherries ?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—We have done something in the 1st division. We have improved one of the worst places known as the Tinnevely Settlement on the east side of Singarathottam.

MR. ELLIOT :—Are they dealt with systematically one after another ?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—Yes, as far as funds can permit. We have got the sanction of Government to carry out improvements to six parcherries.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—I consider that paragraph 191 of the report the best paragraph—that is the one dealing with sanitary defects. In connection with this I should like to remark that in the matter of plague precautions printing and publishing pamphlets is not so useful as some organised movement on our part. I believe the time has arrived when we should open a list of Commissioners who are interested in their wards and who could go round the places and ascertain from the people whether the rubbish carts do come round and whether the necessary sanitary arrangements are carried out. In that way we can be useful to the Health Officer, who cannot be omnipresent, and it will open the door for the supply of unpaid volunteers in time of need. If you think that a separate proposition should be brought forward I give you notice.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—I think so.

MR. J. DECASTER :—Dhobi khanas are badly wanted in the City.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—A Committee is sitting over the subject.

MR. DECASTER :—It has been sitting long. There is also not enough control over the scavengers who are quite unmanageable. Unless these defects are remedied our sanitation cannot be much improved. I should like to know what is being done in regard to this matter. Is there any endeavour made to secure their services at all times ? Another point that I should like to touch upon is this. There is an imposing heading "improvements to parcherries;" but if we go and see what has been done, we find that it is only one parcherry which had a street put on. What about the other parcherries ? They are the places where insanitation is strongest and where insanitation has its own way.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I beg to move an amendment that the following be added to the original resolution :—"That considering the gradual decrease in the past few years in the income from the animal and vehicle tax, the Commissioners note with satisfaction the endeavours of the Revenue Officer, inasmuch as the tax, shows an increase of Rs. 5,246 over that of the previous year, notwithstanding the fact that a very large number of ponies and hackney carriages have been got rid of in consequence of Tramway extension." Many of you will remember that whenever the Administration Report came up for discussion during the past years, my friend Mr. Theagaroya Chetty always hammered at this particular point and pointed out that there was a great disparity between the income and the number of vehicles on spring. He thought that a very large number of them had been let off and if greater vigilance was exercised our revenue would not go down as it did in the past few years. Now we find that our last year's revenue is very creditable. Instead of there being a falling off as there ought to have been, there is an increase of over 4 or 5 thousand rupees. I think we should record our satisfaction at the way in which the Revenue Officer has worked it up.

MR. S. GURUSAMY CHETTY seconded the amendment.

MR. C. TIRUMALAYYA NAIDU :—The actual receipts of the year exceeded the revised estimate by Rs. 13,632. The receipts exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 94,127-3-0. According to a statement appended the total amount collected in each year under rates and taxes varied from 7½ lacs to 8¼ lacs for the last nine years; but for the year under review a little more than 10½ lacs was collected. For the collection of such a large amount no unduly coercive measures seem to have been adopted as will be patent from the fact that out of 246 magisterial prosecutions instituted as against 304 in the twelve preceding years, 231 cases were withdrawn on payment. Out of 14

warrants issued, 6 were adjusted by subsequent payment. The collection under taxes on buildings and lands was unprecedentedly high, being Rs. 4,200 over that of any previous year. I have no doubt that my brother Commissioners will join with me in placing on record our appreciation of the efforts of our Revenue Officer in this direction.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried.

The Drainage of the Town.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I beg to move the following proposition of which I gave notice :—

"That, considering the urgency for the carrying out of the new drainage scheme, the Commissioners respectfully submit that Government may be pleased to pass early orders on the proposals suggested by them in their Proceedings, dated 1st November 1897, as regards the means for financing the said scheme." I have only to say a few words on this proposition. The present abnormal death-rate in the city has apparently attracted the notice of everybody, and as one of the daily papers has observed, it has assumed an appalling magnitude. It cannot be denied that we are answerable to the public, and if we fail to show by deeds that we are neither lethargic nor indifferent in a matter of such vital importance, we should certainly deserve condemnation. Unless immediate measures are adopted, the death-rate in the city must be a standing blot on our administration. All that might be desired to bring about a better state of things could not be achieved until we have (1) a better system of drainage, (2) a better system of water-supply, and (3) a thorough cleaning of the streets and latrines. All these, of course, means money, and though the state of our finances are low, we should nevertheless try to do our best. As regards the question of better conservancy of the town, I have no doubt that the Commissioners will, in the very near future, be in a position to introduce substantial reforms when the Health Officer's scheme, which is now under consideration, is settled. In the matter of introducing a better system of water-supply, it is very much to be regretted that in the present impecunious condition of our funds, we cannot hope to make any advance or take it up in hand at once until the new drainage system is completed. We cannot hold out false hopes, for we can possibly do nothing immediately. No time therefore should be lost in starting with the drainage work and pushing it on to its early completion. Our proposals for financing the scheme were submitted to Government some ten months ago, and until Government is pleased to pass definite orders, nothing could be done. We have suggested to Government that with 12 lacs we could complete the main. For finding this amount the Act need not be modified and there can be no reason why at least this portion of our suggestion should not be sanctioned at once, leaving Government to take its own time for settling the question of funds for the entire scheme.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—With all deference to Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar I should like to ask whether we cannot take his speech as read.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I hope, Mr. President, you will not allow Mr. Krishnamachariar to disturb me.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—You must not disturb the meeting.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR (continuing) :—If the main is once laid, all the sewage that goes to add to the contamination of the much condemned Cooum could be diverted, and with that our responsibility, so far as the Cooum is concerned, would cease. Moreover, with the completion of the main, section after section could be taken up and all the sewage of each section could be diverted into the main and the grass farms in objectionable localities could be done away with. It is very desirable, therefore, to seek the early sanction of Government. It may be pointed out in this connection that in the matter of sanitation of this city the responsibility rests as much upon the Commissioners as upon Government. Local bodies such as ours are organised to help Government and to relieve to some extent the Imperial Exchequer. Madras is the capital of the Southern Presidency; it is the seat of Government—the home of all responsible officers of the State from the Governor downwards. The dangers arising from insanitation are not confined to those few who have succumbed to diseases, but the poison is diffused to work its mischief in others. As it is absolutely impossible to effect all the necessary reforms solely out of Municipal funds, which would mean the oppression of the people with heavier taxes, it is the duty of Government to come to our rescue. At

any rate we should, before long, apply to Government for substantial help to enable us to fulfil our trust. With these few remarks I leave the matter in your hands.

MR. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU :—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution moved by Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar. I reserve my remarks in case this resolution is opposed or other views are broached.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I think the proposition moved by Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar does not go far enough, because there are certain things which are going to the Legislative Council can be done. I beg to propose as an amendment that the following be added to the original proposition :—

“To permit the Commissioners to raise a loan of 12 lacs to carry out the high level main, to extend the Black Town Sewage Farm, thereby to keep the Coom perfectly free from the town sewage and to remove the Sewage Farms from their present objectionable localities as early as possible, and to sanction the raising of the duty on timber and firewood to the maximum limit provided in the Act, which will give an additional revenue of Rs. 70,000 a year to meet the interest and sinking fund on the loan raised and the working charges.”

I need not give any reasons for moving this amendment.

MR. S. GURUSAWMY CHETTY seconded the amendment.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I beg to propose “that the consideration of this subject be adjourned,” considering the lateness of the hour, the smallness of the meeting and the importance of the subject. It is not fair to the gentlemen who have left, to dispose of this subject at this meeting.

MR. J. DECASTER seconded the amendment.

MR. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU :—As the seconder of the original proposition I am willing to allow the amendment of Mr. Theagaroya Chetty to be added to it.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—As a proposer of the resolution I have no objection to it. But I strongly object to any adjournment as the matter is an important one.

MR. S. SUBBIAH CHETTY :—I strongly oppose the adjournment. All the Commissioners who attended this meeting knew full well that this proposition would be moved and carried. As this is a matter which simply reminds Government of a resolution already sent to them I do not see why there should be a full house.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I yield to none in the view that this question is an important one. It is a subject that ought not to be delayed, but considering that you have a meeting next week and the matter can be brought up without delay, I think it is due to the members that have gone away that we should defer the question.

The motion was then put to the vote and lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote and carried.

The meeting then terminated.

THOMPSON AND CO., PRINTERS, MADRAS.

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 Friday the 26th 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. 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. S. Subbaya Chetty Garu.
M.R. Ry. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar 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.
Surgeon-Captain F. J. Crawford.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

No. 1.

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal did not move the following resolution of which he had given notice—

“That, with reference to Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar's letter to the Acting President, dated 22nd instant, informing him that certain questions (of which copies were enclosed) would be put at the next Special Meeting, calling for explanation on various points in the Administration Report for 1897-98 and the Acting President's reply thereto referring to G.O., dated 31st March 1898, M. Mis., the Commissioners consider that the Acting President was entirely wrong, and that the Commissioners have every right, under section 61 (c), to put such questions as they consider necessary and obtain proper explanation in approving or disapproving of the said report before its submission to the Governor in Council.”

No. 2.

Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1897-98.

Proposed by M.R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu and seconded by M.R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal—

“That the Administration Report be adopted and forwarded to Government.”

Proposed by M.R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R. Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu—

“That the meeting resolve itself into Committee.”

Carried.

The meeting was resumed.

As an amendment M.R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal proposed and M.R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu seconded—

“That the following be added to the original proposition :— That, considering the gradual decrease for past few years in the animal and vehicle tax, the Commissioners note with satisfaction, the endeavours of the Revenue Officer, inasmuch as the tax under those sources, show an increase of Rs. 5,646 over that of the previous year notwithstanding the fact that a very large number of ponies, juktas, and

hack carriages have been sold and got rid of by their owners during the year in consequence of the tramway extension.”

Carried.

No. 3.

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

“That, considering the urgency for the carrying out of the new drainage scheme, the Commissioners respectfully submit that Government may be pleased to pass early orders on the proposals suggested by them in their Proceedings, dated 1st November 1897, as regards the means for financing the said scheme.”

M.R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu seconded. As an amendment M.R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu proposed and M.R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu seconded—

“That the following be added to the original resolution :— and to permit the Commissioners to raise a loan of Rs. 12 lakhs to carry out the high level main and extend the Black Town sewage farm thereby to keep the Coom perfectly free from Town sewage and to remove the sewage farms from their present objectionable localities as early as possible and to sanction the raising of the duty on timber and firewood to the maximum provided in section 341 of the Municipal Act which will give an additional revenue of Rs. 70,000 a year to meet the interest and sinking fund on the loan raised and the working charges.”

M.R. Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal proposed and Mr. J. DeCaster seconded—

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Lost.

The amendment became the original proposition with the approval of the mover and the seconder, which was then put to the meeting and carried.

The meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
August 1898.

Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 861.

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 15th November 1898.

From

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

President, Municipal Commission.



To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

SIR,

Fort St. George.

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 26th August 1898.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. Moore Lt.-Col.

President, Munl. Comm.

3517/m/98

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189

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

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
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