

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 749 M.

DATED 13-4-98.

INDEXED. *Sp*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Council

Recording proceedings of a general meeting of the Madras Municipal Commissioners held on 31st January 1898

BACK PAPERS.

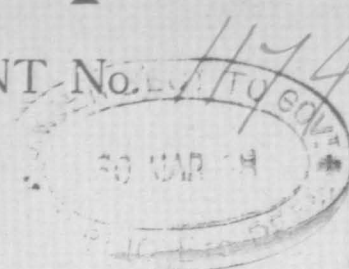
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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department,

CURRENT No. 1174



From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

N. M. C.
Order No. 749 M. C. 8 13/4/98

G. No. 691

Recorded.

K.R.
5/4/98
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Dated 19.3-98

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Enclosures 2.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
as also a copy of the abstract pro-
ceedings of a general meeting
of the Commission held on
31st January 1898.

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BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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 31st January 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 :

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George MOORE, Kt., C.I.E., *President*.
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Sulla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
The Hon'ble Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
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 Mazhar-ud-din Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. V. Masilamani Pillai Avargal.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R. Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

Audit Fee.

THE PRESIDENT :—The first business before the meeting is the consideration of endorsement No. 1,190, dated 17th November, 1897, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department on current No. 3148-M., re the increase of audit fee from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—You must explain to us the present situation.

THE PRESIDENT :—The only reason given is that the work has increased. We do not pay the Accountant-General in the same way as other Municipalities pay. We pay him a fixed sum of Rs. 2,500; whereas other Municipalities pay a certain per-centage.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—The Accountant-General speaks of prospective increase of work.

THE PRESIDENT :—That is drainage.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—But that will only be temporary.

THE PRESIDENT :—True, it is only temporary, but it spreads over 7 years.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—It may take some years to begin the work.

THE PRESIDENT:—He says that we are going to spend 3 lacs more next year. The question is whether the Commissioners recommend it.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Sometime ago there was an application from the Accountant-General to raise the fee from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000. The Standing Committee passed it while the Commissioners vetoed it. But the Government fixed it at Rs. 2,500. That was some 7 or 8 years ago.

THE PRESIDENT:—It was in 1891 the Government fixed it at Rs. 2,500.

MR. THEAGARAYA CHETTY:—Some time before that it was raised from 1,500 to 2,000.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—After all what they actually pay the auditors hardly comes to Rs. 1,700 a year.

MR. V. C. DESIKA CHARIAR:—That is the establishment.

MR. N. SUBRAMANYAM:—There is a big man to put his signature, that is of some value.

THE PRESIDENT:—They pay about Rs. 1,570.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I have taken the maximum.

THE PRESIDENT:—With the pensionary contribution it is something like 1,800.

MR. P. THEAGARAYA CHETTY:—I propose "that the Commissioners do not approve of the proposed increase."

MR. E. H. ELLIOT:—Why not we say that the Commissioners are not satisfied with the reasons assigned by the Accountant-General for the increase that was asked for.

THE PRESIDENT:—That is what the resolution amounts to.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I beg to second the resolution.

THE PRESIDENT:—I do not see how you can go into details as to reasons. You may simply say that this is sufficient for the work. He gives certain figures and you cannot controvert them.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT:—I ask this more with reference to the note that was circulated.

THE PRESIDENT:—That is the note of the Revenue Officer. I go further than the Revenue Officer and say that the increased expenditure is not a sufficient cause for increased remuneration. No doubt the work has increased to a certain extent but it has not increased to any appreciable extent.

MR. V. C. DESIKA CHARIAR:—I would suggest that the President should send a covering letter giving the views of the Commissioners, which are in agreement with the views of the President. The resolution was put to the vote and carried.

Mr. Ellis' increase of pay.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business is the G. O. No. 2758, M. Mis., dated 10th December, 1897, returning the application from Mr. R. E. Ellis, Municipal Engineer, for increase of salary, for obtaining the Commissioners' views thereon.

I wish to say a few words on this subject. In the first place I do not think that that note ought to have been put by a Commissioner. The substance of it is utterly incorrect, and I maintain that my procedure in forwarding Mr. Ellis' application direct to Government is perfectly regular. What would be the result if I sent it to Government in the face of the G. O. which says:—

"His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has, in compliance with the request contained in the resolution forwarded by the President of the Madras Municipal Commission, re-considered the G. O. No. 823, M. Mis., dated 13th May 1896. Having done so, he is obliged to adhere to the view therein expressed that it is beyond the functions of the Commissioners to make recommendations of the kind referred to. The Governor-in-Council is further of opinion that recommendations on such personal matters are likely to produce inconvenience and to hamper His Excellency-in-Council in the exercise of the functions which are specially reserved to him by the provisions of the Municipal Act. On matters which are not of a personal nature, however, the Government will always be glad to receive an expression of the views of the Commissioners."

When I sent up the Health officer's application I pointed to Government "that it has hitherto been customary to obtain the views of the Commissioners on similar applications before submitting them to Government, but in view of G. O. No. 1635 M. Mis., dated 23rd September 1896, I am somewhat at a loss to know how to act in a matter which may be considered personal."

If the application for increase of salary is not personal, then what is personal. So long as that Government Order exists, I have to forward applications of a similar nature to Government; and I should continue to do so till I am told that they should be sent to the Commissioners first. I do not think the Commissioners recognise the position in which I will place them. Suppose I sent it with the views of the Commissioners thereon what would be the result? The Government might turn round and say "what is the meaning of the Commissioners making recommendations? It has nothing to do with the Commissioners." That is why the article in the *Madras Times* is, to say the least of it, not correct. It talks about the Engineer going over the heads of the Commissioners. In fact he did not know that it was sent up to Government.

MR. P. THEAGARAYA CHETTY:—He asks for it in the letter. Will you please read it?

THE PRESIDENT:—He says "forward it to the Governor-in-Council for favorable consideration." Of course it must go to Government.

MR. V. C. DESIKA CHARIAR:—I think the President's procedure is perfectly legal. If he referred it to us, it would be placing us and himself in an unpleasant position. In sending back Dr. Cook's application the Government did not say that the order did not mean what the President understood it to mean.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT:—The course pursued by the President is the only right course to be pursued.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I beg to propose: "that the Commissioners recommend to Government that the increase of salary applied for by Mr. Ellis be granted to him." In G. O. No. 2758 M., dated 10th December 1897, Government asked the Commissioners for an expression of their views re the increase applied for by Mr. Ellis. Under Section 37 of the Act, the fixing of the salary of certain officers, and among them that of the Engineer, on their appointment, and the granting of an increase not exceeding a maximum is vested in the Governor in Council. In the case of the Engineer the maximum salary is Rupees 1,000. When an increase is to be granted, or how long an officer has to wait before he can hope for an increase is not laid down in the Act. It may, therefore, be naturally presumed that an officer may fairly apply for an increase, if he considers himself entitled to have earned it by the satisfactory discharge of his duties, and more especially if he has reasons to believe that he has given uniform satisfaction to his employers. Though in matters purely professional, we may not be competent judges for gauging the Engineer's work, still as men of intelligence and commonsense, we are in a position to say whether, during his tenure of office, Mr. Ellis has given satisfaction or not. So far as I am aware, the Commissioners have not had any occasion to find fault with the manner in which he has discharged his duties, nor am I aware of a single instance, in which there was an occasion for censuring him for any short-comings. I may, therefore, reasonably presume that Mr. Ellis has been discharging his duties very satisfactorily. If that is so, it is only natural of him to look to his employers for a recognition of his work, and it is left for you to say whether he deserves such recognition or not. I do not support the present application on the ground that the Engineers in the Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon and some other Municipalities draw a much larger sum than Rupees 1,000. Of course, the circumstances and means of each Municipality vary and must be taken into account. But considering the fact that Engineers, in Government, Railway, &c., employ, who passed from the College at the same time with Mr. Ellis draw over Rupees 1,000 in pay and allowances, and considering also the fact that although Mr. Ellis has been in our service since 1890, he was engaged in gaining experience in various Engineering works in England, such as Drainage, Docks, Railways, &c., which make him all the more valuable in Municipal service, I think it is not too much to grant him the small increase he applies for without grudging. Moreover, I find that Mr. Ellis, who joined in April, 1890, on Rupees 750, was allowed an increase of Rupees 50 at the end of two years. Then again at the end of four years he was granted another increase of Rs. 100 in April, 1896, which means an increment of Rs. 50 every two years. With April, 1898, he will be completing another two years, and will, in the usual course, be entitled to a further increment of Rs. 50. Then it is only a matter of Rs. 50 to complete the maximum. Considering the onerous and arduous nature of the Engineer's duties I think it very desirable that we should give him all possible encouragement. In a large department like that of our Public Works, you may easily imagine the amount of in-door work devolving on the Engineer, but that is not all. I think it will be as well for you to know what amount the Engineer has to do out of

Office, which if not done efficiently would involve a serious loss of Municipal funds. The out-door work of the Engineer briefly stated is as follows:—1. Check-measuring, Masonry and Earth works as well as Road materials. 2. Inspection of (a) lands to be acquired for Municipal purposes; (b) lands sold by the Municipality; (c) houses reported dangerous; (d) banks to be cleaned, low ground to be filled up and stagnant wells to be drained; (e) cart stands, municipal farms, pumping stations, markets, latrines, slaughter-houses, water-works stores, municipal stores, cholera sheds, segregation camps, burial grounds, municipal workshops, material depôts and 270 miles of metalled road; (f) defective drainage and lighting of streets, watering, avenue trees, encroachments and reform of roads; (g) lime kilns and dangerous trades, firewood bazaars, timber depôts and (h) new market buildings, drainage works, rubbish destruction, outfall channel and delivery channel. Now, gentlemen, unless any of us can make bold to say that in the discharge of either in-door or out-door work the Engineer has not come up to the mark, we shall not be justified in submitting other than a favourable recommendation. Surely it does not stand to reason that an officer should be allowed the maximum salary at the fag end of his service. I think it is more reasonable to grant it when an officer deserves it, so that he may be encouraged to do his utmost.

MR. MAZHAR-UD-DIN SAHIB :—In seconding this resolution of Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar I feel sure that you will not grudge Mr. Ellis the increase he asks for. You know there is no question about it that Mr. Ellis is an intelligent officer and as such, he has been discharging his duties to the entire satisfaction of both the Commissioners and the public; and thus he is entitled to the claim he makes. Mr. Ellis has got my unhesitating support and I hope that you will all make up your mind to recommend to Government to give him the increase.

MR. M. K. LAKSHMANACHARIAR :—
PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

In the interest of this Municipality nothing gives me greater pleasure than to rise and strongly support Mr. Ellis (our popular Engineer's) application for a small increase of Rs. 100 to his present salary.

2. His high qualifications as an Engineer and the past valuable services rendered by him in this Municipality are known to one and all of you. He is a valuable acquisition to the Municipality. He well deserves the small increase he asks for and we will not be doing our duty to this Town if we grudge giving it to him. The grant of it will certainly be an incentive to his further good work and I need hardly remind you of the circumstances under which we recently lost another able and conscientious officer in the person of Dr. Nield Cook whom we could have retained to work with us for several years to come and afford us the benefit of his sanitary knowledge and experience.

3. Mr. Ellis joined the Madras Municipal Commission on Rs. 750 in April 1890, salary raised to Rs. 800 in April 1892, salary raised to Rs. 900 in April 1896. There can be little doubt that it is absolutely necessary for the Municipal Engineer of the present day to be a competent Civil Engineer of great knowledge and varied experience, for he may at any moment be called upon to advise the corporation on a great variety of subjects and to act in the following capacities:—

- (1). As Engineer to advise and carry out schemes for water-works, drainage works.
- (2). As Engineer for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and aqueducts.
- (3). As architect and Engineer for the design and construction of markets, slaughter-houses, and rubbish destructors.
- (4). As Accountant to examine and rectify systems of keeping accounts and passing pay Sheets and Bills.
- (5). As Engineer and Surveyor in preparation of specifications, contracts and leases and in carrying out the provisions of the Municipal Act and other Acts dealing with explosion and Petroleum.
- (6). As Sanitary Engineer to prevent that which the medical officer of health is called upon to detect.

It is a rule in the office that all materials for the reform of roads costing Rs. 600 and above should be check-measured by the Engineer and you may often see him at any time between 6 A. M. and 9 A. M. measuring the granite, laterite and sand stacked by the sides of the roads. Likewise all the masonry works, and earth works such as repairs to Drains, Markets, Cart stands,

Slaughter-houses, Latrines, Hospitals, Cholera sheds, Segregation sheds, Engine sheds, Pumping Stations, costing over Rs. 100 have to be check-measured by the Engineer and these works entail inspection before, during the progress and after completion of the works.

All road materials stacked at the 5 material depôts have to be inspected by the Engineer.

There are 4 Sewage Pumping Stations in Madras and these are inspected by the Engineer from time to time and in addition to them may be enumerated

- (1) 7 Sewage Farms.
- (2) Napier Park.
- (3) Robinson Park.
- (4) People's Park.
- (5) Municipal Workshop.
- (6) Municipal Stores.
- (7) Water-works Stores.
- (8) Red Hills Channel and Bungalows.

And many other places and works which require the personal inspections of the Engineer from time to time.

In all cases of acquisition of land for burial grounds, cholera sheds, latrines and for the extension of the sewage farms and other purposes the sites are inspected by the Engineer.

Applications for the sale of Municipal land receive the Engineer's personal attention and in all cases where any doubt is likely to arise the site is inspected by him.

Sites for proposed lime kilns, firewood depôts, timber depôts, cracker bazaars, kerosine oil stores are personally inspected by the Engineer.

Reports from the Health Officer regarding the alteration of private latrines in many cases, require his personal inspection, likewise reports on dangerous buildings, fencing and cleansing tanks, draining stagnant water and filling up low ground.

Complaints from rate-payers regarding defective water-supply, insufficient lamps and defective drains call the Engineer to see for himself the state of affairs.

Street-watering, lighting, and avenues are all under the Municipal Engineer.

All the details of the new market, rubbish destructor buildings and chimneys, and drainage schemes were designed and worked out by him and these works necessitate his frequent inspection as the construction progresses.

He has under him an Assistant Engineer, Supervisors and Overseers, but he does not leave, all the works to them and this his staff knows perfectly well.

As regards the in-door work you have only to sit in the Engineer's Office for ten minutes or $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour to gain some idea of the numerous papers and questions that he has to deal with.

All Bills relating to the Public Works Department are passed by him, likewise all orders for coal, iron, wood, brass, oil, timber and a hundred other things.

All applications for repairs, erection of houses are submitted to the Engineer, likewise applications for pandals and licenses for dangerous trades.

The preparation of the Budget, Revised Budget Estimate, Progress Reports entails much careful attention and consideration.

All estimates for water-supply, drainage works, repairs to Buildings, Latrines, Markets, Slaughter-houses and reform of roads are framed under his supervision.

All specifications, contracts, leases for Municipal lands form a portion of his work.

The Municipal Engineer has enough work to keep him employed from 6 A. M. till 6 P. M. and it will be difficult to find another Engineer in the Government or Local Fund that gets through as much work in the day as the Engineer to this city and further it would be difficult to have any Government Officer who devotes his time in the mornings to Government service in addition to the regular office work or to find any harder working men than the Municipal officers.

4. In these circumstances, I beg to strongly recommend Mr. Ellis' application for favorable consideration.

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MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I have to say a few words in this connection. I am sorry to say that I oppose this motion. We have been hearing a good deal of the work of Mr. Ellis as Engineer. If all these things enumerated by Mr. Lakshmana Charriar were to be attended to by Mr. Ellis alone, it means a good deal for him. I suppose he has a number of assistants, a number of Supervisors, a number of Overseers, a number of Duffadars, and a number of peons who actually do the whole work. There are Surveyors in the office who do the work of surveying and preparing survey plans and everything else; the papers only go to the Engineer for signature. In fact the Engineer is almost a signing machine. What is it after all? The whole work is supervised by Overseers. I should say not even by Overseers but by Duffadars and Peons. Supervisors and Overseers sit in their two-wheeled or four-wheeled traps as the case may be, and just drive up the road. It was stated in evidence in the Egmore Police Court that one gentleman drives along the Poonamallee Road and sees how things are going on in the lanes. That is the way how our supervising business is conducted! It is simply superhuman for Mr. Ellis to supervise all those things, and if that be the case how can we give credit to Mr. Ellis for all these things? We must direct our attention to the practical side of the question. He came into our service in 1890 and has 8 years' service. Out of this the Government took him away for two years and he had some years' leave; and I think, as the *Madras Times* puts it, it is only four years' actual service we have had from him; and for this we have given him an increase of Rs. 150. We must consider what kind of Engineer we have. Mr. Ellis was in the South Indian Railway and he was drawing not more than Rs. 450 per mensem; and he joined the Municipality on a salary of Rs. 750. From 450 he was pitched upon us on 750—that is on an increase of Rs. 300, I do not know for what wonderful service. From this it is left for Government to say whether an increase is necessary. It is also left to Government to see that the Municipal funds are not wasted. As to the efficiency of the man we have heard a good deal at least from two of the Commissioners. But I think most of the Commissioners know what the efficiency of the person is. But for the very able subordinates he has I do not know what would have been the state of the Municipal Engineering work. As to comparing Mr. Ellis with Government Engineers and his friends who passed out along with him, they must have passed very good examinations for getting into Government service. Municipal service is not Government service, Railway service is not Government service. Government can spend any amount of money from people's pockets. Can we afford to do it? If you give him an increase of Rs. 100 a month it means an additional taxation of Rs. 1,200 a year on the population. If you are prepared to give the increase you must see whether we could get an equal amount of work. You must not give him the increase until you think he deserves it. For 4½ years' service you have already given him Rs. 150 and, as the *Madras Times* says, Rs. 2,000 in addition. I think Mr. Ellis can, very well wait for another year or more to get an increase from us.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I am sorry I have to oppose this motion and join my friend Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty. I wish it to be understood that I do not refer to any claim that Mr. Ellis may have or to the services he has done us. Most cordially and fully do we recognise the very valuable service he has done as the head of the Engineering Department. But the question has to be considered from other points of view. The more relevant question is whether the funds at our disposal justify us in giving him that increase; whether the money which is now proposed to be given as increase cannot be utilised for the better purpose of improving our administration. Is the increase proposed to meet any actual grievance? In considering this question there is fair room for difference of opinion. If we can afford to give him the increase I will be the first person to vote for it. We need money for so many other purposes. For Rs. 1000 we can get 25 or 50 dust-bins or can employ 25 peons or scavengers. Some gentlemen may laugh at my ideas, but I can assure you that these are our most urgent sanitary needs. I have no hesitation in saying that the greatest sanitary need is not so much the expert Engineer or the Health officer as the dust-bins, scavengers and rubbish carts—small things upon which local sanitation so much depends. Therefore I wish to urge upon you the great importance of husbanding all our resources and spending all the money we can upon the most important objects of supplying these small needs. Nor is it said that this increase is intended to meet any grievance. Has Mr. Ellis been badly treated or his merit undervalued or is his claim in any way ignored? No such proposal is urged. It is said that he is deserving of an increase. I wish to point out Mr. Ellis that there are many gentlemen in the department who have not had good luck to get their claims fully recognised.

That is due to circumstances. If the circumstances connected with our administration make it a matter of extreme urgency that our sanitary needs should be supplied, then we ought to put off a proposal of this kind and utilise the Rs. 100 in purchasing more dust-bins and more carts or in employing more scavengers and more peons. It is only in that way we can help the Municipal administration and improve the sanitary condition of the city. With these remarks I beg to support the views put forward by Mr. Theagaroya Chetty.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT :—When Mr. Ellis entered the service, was there any prospect held out to him of his pay being raised to Rs. 1,000? Was any promise to that effect made or implied?

THE PRESIDENT :—Nothing that I know of. It is the Government that appointed him, but the Act provides for the maximum.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT :—If the Act provides for the maximum, is it not fair to assume that an officer can expect to get his promotion from time to time.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARRIAR :—I entered the room with an open mind to listen to the objections against the application from Mr. Ellis, before deciding how I should vote. But having heard Mr. Theagaroya Chetty's objections and listened to Mr. Subramania Iyer's remarks, I have no doubt now what I should vote for. Mr. Theagaroya Chetty contends that the Engineer should be given no credit for what his Assistants, Range officers and Overseers are doing. This argument is hardly fair or sound, because it is so difficult to separate what has been done by the head of an administrative department from the work done by his assistants. The argument simply reminds one of the quarrel in the old celebrated fable between the stomach and the limbs of the human body; and if it be pushed further to its logical conclusions we might as well decide that neither the President of the Municipality nor His Excellency the Governor-in-Council was wanted, as they could not be credited with the work of those under them. The several officers of a department are dependent on one another and the function of its head is to organise chiefly, regulate and control the work of each. Therefore Mr. Theagaroya Chetty's argument is too futile to need further notice. As to Mr. Subramania Iyer's argument that money is wanted for more dust-bins and rubbish carts, that also is beside the question now before the meeting. It is the business of the Standing Committee to see such requirements provided for in the budget, for which there are other means of saving money. I shall not dwell upon the various duties, in-door, and out-door, of the Engineer as the head of the P. W. Department to be decided is simply whether the salary allowed to the extent of his responsibility. Now the question to be decided is simply whether the salary allowed to Mr. Ellis adequately covers all the ground indicated. This question calls for an answer, and I for one am inclined to reply in the negative and say that it is not adequate in one respect. Some very strong things are being said with regard to the action of the Commissioners who declined to give an increase to the salary of the late Health officer, and the consequent loss of his services just now when they seem to be most wanted. There are signs enough to show that there will be brimful of work for the Engineer in the closing years of this century and the rate-payers who are anxious already will take heart naturally when they see that we are trying to retain at least the experienced European Engineer to attack the common enemy,—the dangerous plague and famine that threaten to approach us—and are not dealing with his application as we did with Dr Cook's. It seems to me that our duty at present is not to disquiet and discourage the officers of our staff but to treat them liberally and we shall find that we have the Government and all thoughtful citizens at our back. To me, sir, of the older generation of Commissioners, with memories of the past respecting Mr. Standish Lee, to whom Madras is indebted for its cheap water-works project and who has done excellent work in Mysore, Mr. J. A. Jones, the energetic Drainage Engineer who was worried out to go and benefit the Mofussil Municipalities, Dr. Cook, whose loss to Madras is a gain to Calcutta at this moment, it would appear altogether unwise to terminate the application of Mr. Ellis as we did Dr. Cook's at a previous meeting.

MR. J. DECASTER :—I support the proposition to give an increase to Mr. Ellis on very different grounds from those stated by the previous speakers. The pay of the Engineer is 500 minimum and Rs. 1,000 maximum. Under ordinary rules of Government maximum salary is obtained by an officer after 5 years' service. Mr. Ellis has put in 8 years' service—that is over 5 years—and he is rightly entitled to draw his maximum. Recently we have lost our Health officer just because we wanted to be economical. Though our financial position is such that we must have

regard to economy, yet we cannot afford to lose officers. We lost our Health officer at a moment when there is plague or at any rate fear of plague because we would not give him an increase. The same may be the case with the Engineer also if we do not give him the increase. It is not nice to be constantly changing our officers. When we make such changes we always lose. When Dr. Cook went away he took away with him all his experience of 12 or 13 years. If we now withhold the increase to Mr. Ellis, goodness alone knows, he may also leave us and with him we may lose his experience too. I think on these grounds we must pass this resolution.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried, 11 voting for and 3 against it.

G. O. on the Administration Report.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next thing is the G. O. on the Administration report for 1896-97. There is hardly anything in it that I cannot answer.

The G. O. was recorded.

The Proceedings of the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT:—Next we come to the proceedings of the Standing Committee dated 15th December 1897 and 7th January 1898. In the proceedings of 15th December you have the bye-laws relating to licensed draughtsmen. We want to have licensed draughtsmen just as we have licensed plumbers.

DR. VARADAPPAH NAIDU:—Is there no fee for them?

THE PRESIDENT:—The same fee as for licensed plumbers.

DR. VARADAPPAH NAIDU:—Unless we fix the fees it will be difficult for house-owners to deal with draughtsmen.

THE PRESIDENT:—You can draw up a scale of fees and we can refuse license unless they conform to the scale.

On the motion of Dr. Varadappah Naidu seconded by Mr. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar, the proceedings of 15th December were deferred.

The proceedings of 7th January were recorded.

The Lighting of the City.

MR. MR. MAZHAR-UD-DIN SAHEB:—The resolution which stands in my name runs as follows:—“That arrangements be made for lighting the Municipal lamps on cloudy moonlight nights throughout and especially during the North East Monsoon.” In bringing forward this resolution I do not think it necessary to make an elaborate speech to impress upon you the necessity, the absolute necessity of supporting it. Your sad experience while driving on such nights which are as bad as dark nights on the Mount Road or on any other public road, must have convinced you of the utility of the suggested improvement. In Bangalore, Hyderabad and other places Municipal lamps are kept burning in dark nights as well as on other nights. It is a pity that Madras cannot boast of a similar measure. Considering the boon that my proposition, if carried, will confer on the public, I hope you will support this resolution; and I do not think that people will grudge to have a slight increase in lighting tax if that is required to meet the extra expenditure.

MR. M. K. LAKSHMANA CHARIAR seconded the proposition.

THE PRESIDENT:—With reference to this I may say that I quite agree with the proposal, and in sending out tenders for the last contract I had three scales, one of which was to light the city in the present way, another to light it between 6 p. m. and 12 p. m. every night. I should ask you to defer this proposition as I am at present under negotiations for lighting the city with oil gas. From a rough calculation I have made I think we can do the whole thing under 2 per-cent. We can light the whole of the city with oil gas for a lac.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—Not those incandescent burners?

PRESIDENT:—No.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—Have you asked the Electric Tramway Company whether they would take up the lighting?

THE PRESIDENT:—I have got tenders from them. They have again sent the tenders home. Not only in the matter of expense but in the matter of safety the oil gas is much better.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARIAR:—The monsoon has gone and we can afford to wait for sometime. Do you contemplate lighting the bye-lanes?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes, but with this difference that lamps will be 300 yards apart instead of 150.

On the motion of Mr. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar, seconded by Mr. P. Subramania Iyer, the consideration of the resolution was deferred.

Dr. J. Nield Cook.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—The resolution which stands in my name runs as follows:—

“That the Commissioners desire to place on record their appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. J. N. Cook during his tenure of office as Health Officer of the Municipality and the conscientious way in which he discharged his duties.” The resolution I now place before you for your acceptance needs no words from me to recommend it to you. You all know Dr. Cook and his work. I do not think there can be any doubt that during the time he was connected with the Municipality, Dr. Cook devoted himself heart and soul to the duties appertaining to his office. On occasions there might have been differences of opinion between himself and individual Commissioners, but I believe the Commissioners as a body have always found him exceedingly hard-working and bringing to his work an amount of zeal and energy which was exceptional. I have seen him in the middle of the day riding on his bicycle to inspect some infected locality and I believe the President himself would bear out how indefatigably and unstintingly he worked on all emergencies. Undoubtedly we have sustained a real loss by his leaving us—we have lost as Mr. DeCaster aptly put it, his 12 years' experience. There is however this fact to console us—that our Calcutta brethren are to benefit by our loss. I wish him every success in his new office.

THE PRESIDENT:—I do not think I need put this resolution to the vote (Voices ‘No, No’).

The resolution was then taken as carried.

The meeting then terminated.

Query to G. No: 691

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 31st January 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*.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
The Hon'ble Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
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. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. V. Masilamani Pillai Avargal.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmanacharriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M.R.Ry. V. O. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

No. 1.

Endorsement No. 1190, dated 17th November 1897, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras Local and Municipal Department, on current No. 3148-M, re the increase of audit fee from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000.

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

"That the Commissioners do not approve of the proposed increase."

Carried.

No. 2.

G.O., No. 2758-M, Mts. dated 10th December 1897, returning the application from Mr. R. E. Ellis, Municipal Engineer, for increase of salary for obtaining the Commissioners' views thereon.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur—

"That the Commissioners recommend to Government that the increase of salary applied for by Mr. Ellis, Municipal Engineer, may be granted."

Carried.

No. 3.

G.O., Nos. 2852-2853-M, dated 20th December 1897, reviewing the Administration Report for 1896-97.

Recorded.

No. 4.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 15th December 1897 and 7th January 1898.

Resolution No. 5 of 15th December 1897 be deferred.

The rest of the proceedings were recorded.

No. 5.

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur moved the following resolution of which he had given notice—

"That arrangements be made for lighting the Municipal lamps on cloudy moonlight nights throughout and especially during the N.E. monsoon."

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

Deferred to next meeting.

No. 6.

M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal moved the following resolution of which he had given notice—

"That the Commissioners desire to place on record their appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. J. N. Cook, during his tenure of office as Health Officer of the Municipality and the conscientious way in which he discharged his duties."

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
February 1898.

1/1124 Mo 1898

Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 691.

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 29 March 1898.
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.

From

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

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith for the infor-

Enclosures
2

-mation of Government full proceedings as also a copy of --

the abstract proceedings of a General Meeting of the Commis-

-sioners held on 31st January 1898.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Geo. Moore Lieut.-Col.,

President, Munl. Commn.

to the

2/11/98 Mr. G. Moore

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189

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

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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