

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1449 M

DATED 17 8 98

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl. Commission.

Recording full proceedings as
also copies of abstract proceedings of the
meetings of the Madras Munl. Commrs
held on 27th May and 17th June 1898.

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

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2652 M.

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

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Order No. 1449 Muis & 17/8/98

G. No. 199

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SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
as also copies of abstract proceed-
ings of meetings of the Commission-
ers held on 27th May and 17th
June 1898.

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 Friday the 27th May 1898, at 3 P. M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and I 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.
M. R. Ry. Sulla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. S. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillay Avargal.
M. R. Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
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. Dewan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland.

Constitution of the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT:—The first business before the meeting is the resolution of which Mr. Lakshmana Charriar gave notice.

MR. M. K. LAKSHMANA CHARRIAR:—The section to which my present resolution refers reads as follows:—

"The Commissioners shall at their first General Meeting in each year elect by ballot seven of their number, who, with the President, shall form a Standing Committee, and shall at a General or Special Meeting in like manner fill up all vacancies occurring during the year."

It has been remarked frequently of late that every Division of the city ought to be represented on the Standing Committee of the Municipality; under existing conditions there are eight divisions, whereas the Standing Committee can only comprise seven members other than the President, who of course represents the Executive. Consequently one division must always be left out. It is to remedy this that I suggest that the number be increased from seven to eight. Moreover this alteration would have the result that the Standing Committee would represent exactly one-fourth of the total strength of the commission and this, too, would be an improvement.

With these explanatory remarks I beg to move

"That Government be requested to amend the City of Madras Municipal Act I of 1884, by substituting in section 67 the word 'eight' for the word 'seven'."

Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—I am in favor of the principle which Mr. Lakshmana Charriar is advocating. But I think the resolution is defective. According to the resolution the 8 members of the Standing Committee may come out of one division while the other 7 would be left unrepresented. He should go further and state that one Commissioner should be elected from each division.

Mr. LAKSHMANA CHARRIAR:—I shall modify my resolution accordingly by adding "one from each division."

Mr. KRISHNASAWMY CHETTY:—Is there anything on record to show how the number 7 was arrived at?

THE PRESIDENT:—In 1892 when the Act was amended the Commissioners recommended that the number ought to be 8, but it was thrown out by Government.

Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Mr. Humayun Jah pleaded very hard for us at that time. They said that the President represented the 8th Division.

Mr. N. SUBRAHMANYAM:—If I am in order I should like to say a few words in support of this motion. I have noticed that during some years past one division sometimes gets two or three members on the Standing Committee. The result is that they—I don't blame them for it—watch keenly the interests of that particular division. It often happens that a division or two are not represented on the Standing Committee, and they do not get their wants as well represented by the Standing Committee as they should be. It is all very well to say that most of these matters come before the general body of the Commissioners. The budget for instance is placed before the Commissioners formally, but all the details are settled by the Standing Committee so that if a particular division is represented in the Standing Committee the whole matter affecting the division can be placed before the small body and discussed and the relative importance of the wants of each division may also be easily considered. The increase from 7 to 8 will not be such as to make the Committee unworkable. If every division is represented on the Standing Committee it should be, very useful and proper one.

Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I am not in favor of the proposition because I do not see the utility of it. Seven is a large enough number and I do not really see the principle, on which the matter has been brought forward. If the framers of the Act thought that a person residing in the extreme southern division could represent the extreme northern division, I do not see why we should make a resolution like this by saying that one Commissioner from each division should be on the Standing Committee. Considering that a proposition similar to this has been thrown out by Government, I think it is next to useless in submitting this again to Government.

Mr. J. DeCASTER:—I think the resolution is one which ought to commend itself to Commissioners. It is well that each division should be represented on the Standing Committee.

Mr. S. SUBBIAH CHETTY:—So far as I can gather from Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's remarks, his only doubt is that the Government might not sanction it. If we see very good reason for proposing this amendment, I do not see why we should lag behind in carrying this proposition, because the Government would veto it. The Government may grant or refuse the request, but that does not in the least prevent us from going to Government. In a matter like this, where there is likely to be any opposition on the part of Government, there must be a unanimous vote on the proposition.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARRIAR:—I quite approve of the principle advocated in the resolution, but I don't think the time has arrived to address the Government on this subject. We may do it when the Act is about to be amended.

The resolution was put to the vote and carried *nem con.*

Dhobie-Khanas.

Mr. W. D. SMITH moved the following resolution of which he gave notice:—

"That, having regard to the existence of small-pox in the Municipality of Madras and the possibility of the occurrence of plague, it is desirable that the conditions under which licenses for dhobies are granted be carefully revised, and that further protection be offered the public by the institution of public 'Dhobie-Khanas.'"

In doing so, he said:—When licenses are granted apparently no steps are taken to ascertain the fitness of the house, the source where the water is obtained or the suitability of the place where the washing is conducted. Licenses are in English and contain no directions as to the conditions on which they are granted. It is the common impression with the dhobies that they have to pay for licenses, hence the small number issued in proportion to the number of dhobies working. Many refused; no action has been taken to prevent the dhobie from carrying on his business; consequently the licenses granted are of little or no value and insufficient. For instance, the other day I went to 2 or 3 different dhobie-pettabs, and enquired for licenses. There was only one solitary license coming forth. They said that they paid some man two or three annas, and they thought that that was sufficient. In view of the possibility of plague occurring in Madras, it is highly desirable to have the Municipal rules revised so that a license granted should be more than a license in name. Each house, washing ground, water, &c., should be examined and the conditions under which each license is granted be printed in English and Tamil on the back of the license. But this does not go far enough. The public should have better means of protection. Wash-houses replete with all necessary appliances for the cleaning of clothes without the risk of infection should be provided. This end can only be obtained by the erection of such wash-houses in convenient parts of the town. The cost of these should be met by the Municipality who, to recover the outlay, should bring a charge on the customer of the dhobie requiring clothes to be washed in these places. Three forms of license should be issued: first, second, and third classes. Third class licenses should be granted after inspection of the dhobie's house, washing ground, water, &c., and these would generally meet the requirements of the poorer classes of inhabitants. First and second class should be in respect to the amount of charge levied, which should differ in accordance with the completeness of accommodation furnished and the class likely to be benefitted in the neighbourhood. It is a regrettable fact that large institutions like the General Hospital, Eye Infirmary, &c., should be compelled to send their clothes to dhobies. These institutions alone would pay for the up-keep of one or two dhobie-khanas.

Mr. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB:—It is with great pleasure I rise to second Mr. Smith's resolution. In doing so, I feel sanguine that the wishes of all the Commissioners are with me and I sincerely trust that in your own interest and that of the people, you will not hesitate to give practical effect to Mr. Smith's proposition. It is a wonder to me that a matter of such Sanitary importance was neglected for such a long period. I understand that our Sanitary Commissioner repeatedly hammered on this Municipality the necessity of establishing Dhobie-Khanas on Hygiene principles, but it is to be deeply regretted that no attempt was made to carry out his proposals. I see before me gentlemen belonging to the medical profession and I leave it to them to dilate on the subject. It is an indisputable fact that we are bodily in need of proper Dhobie-Khanas. The present method of washing our clothes in nools filled with stagnant water is fraught with great danger. I cannot state the exact number of deaths every year caused by the infection carried by clothing, but I am sure a lot of people become a prey to death every year by this source. Mr. Smith has made to-night startling revelations and has given us graphic description of the filthy way in which our clothes are washed, and so it is not necessary for me to cite more instances, but still I shall draw your attention to one or two cases given by our Sanitary Commissioner. It appears that in 1882 when Cholera was raging in Madras, one of the Sanitary Inspectors found a corpse covered with the sheet or table cloth of a European customer of a dhobie, and that numerous dhobies attacked with Cholera were personally seen by the Sanitary Commissioner vomiting and purging upon the floor which contained their customers' clothing. What is most amusing is that he found at the same period, the clothing of the President of the Municipality in the house of a dhobie whose child was lying dead of small-pox. Almost every civilized town in the world contains Dhobie-Khanas based on thoroughly sanitary principles and it will be a sort of slur on us if this long-felt want is not at once supplied and if this defect is not immediately removed or remedied.

Mr. P. THEAGARAYA CHETTY:—May I know what steps the executive have taken with regard to the licenses of dhobies before we vote on this resolution?

THE PRESIDENT:—I am very glad to have this opportunity of saying a few words. Although I quite agree in saying that the present state of affairs as regards washing is not satisfactory, still I must say that the allegation that there has been consistent neglect of precautions is

totally unfounded. In the 7th Division alone, 17 licenses were applied for, of which 13 were refused in 1897-98. On one application it is stated "the place is not white-washed", and again, after further inspection "since my last report the place has been white-washed and it is kept clean and the license for the year may be granted". It is also stated in the license where they wash; all the dhobies in the 7th Division go to Saidapet. It has been stated that they wash in dirty pools. If people would take the trouble to go to the Spur Tank, where the dhobies wash, they would find that they could not have a better place for washing. There they have pot wells. The real difficulty is not with regard to washing but with regard to storage of clothes. The only places where we allow them to wash are the Spur Tank, the tank in Washermanpettah, right away in Tondiarpet where there are wells, and also beyond the limits of Chetput. If they are found to wash in other places they are prosecuted. I do not say that every case is prosecuted. In some cases licenses are refused because the places are not suitable. The Sanitary Inspectors themselves inspect all the dhobie houses every month. Here are the returns for March:—First Division 13, 2nd Division 12, 3rd Division 16, 4th Division 22, 5th Division 5, 6th division 24, and in the 8th Division 53.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Those that do not take out licenses are prosecuted?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes. I have a statement about prosecutions showing the fines imposed on dhobies for depositing washings.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARRIAR:—Is there any record showing how many dhobies wash in Madras?

THE PRESIDENT:—119 licenses have been issued in 1897-98, but I cannot tell you whether that is the total number of dhobies.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I suppose that in one place there will be more than one dhobie.

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes. The dhobies from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions wash in Washermanpettah, those from 4th, 5th and 6th Divisions in the Spur Tank, and those from 7th and 8th Divisions in Saidapet and Cosapet. The statement that they wash in dirty pools is a most exaggerated one. As to consistent neglect, I may say that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Commissioners every year since 1893-94.

Extract from the Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1892-93, page 76.

The washing of Clothes.—This is carried on under very bad conditions in Madras. The clothes are soaked in any sort of filthy water and beaten on stones. Every dhobie is licensed, and it is stated in the license where he is to keep and wash the clothes, licenses being refused for washing in the Cooum river and other especially unsuitable places, and prosecutions issued for doing so, but it is impossible to do much good under present conditions. Public laundries have from time to time been started in the town, but for some reason or other have failed in competition with the dhobie. So the only thing that can be done is to improve the conditions under which the dhobie carries on his calling. Surgeon-Major King, in the report of the Committee of Three, published a plan of a model dhobie house, which is too costly and elaborate to be practicable, each dhobie being provided with 2 corrugated iron storing houses 10 feet in diameter and a large cemented platform with numerous drains and water-channels, besides the use of a common ironing house. All that is absolutely required is a strip of pavement, asphalted or cemented, with a slight V slope and a drain at the bottom, one side of the V to have taps, reservoirs, or tubs, and dhobie stones at intervals of 6 or 8 feet, one of each for each dhobie, unless two reservoirs were found necessary, the other side of the V to be used for the deposit of clean clothes. A drying ground could be made near to hand with posts and wires for hanging up the clothes and a common starching and ironing room be built for general use, the two great objects to be secured being, that the water used should be reasonably free from impurity and that the clothes should not be taken to the dhobies' house after being washed. About a hundred dhobies might be provided for at each place, the total number licensed in Madras being 218, which is far below the total number practising the trade, as many of them wash outside Municipal limits. It is believed that the dhobies themselves would appreciate the benefits of such an arrangement. At present they take out free licenses, but if a fee was imposed, which they could well afford, as they are not, as a rule, very poor, the cost of the undertaking might be wholly or partially recovered.

Extract from the Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1893-94, page 70.

The washing of Clothes.—This is carried on under very bad conditions in Madras. The clothes are soaked in any sort of water, frequently filthy, with no arrangement for carrying it off, and are beaten on stones. The clothes are stored in the dhobies' huts, which are often highly insanitary places. Every dhobie is licensed, free of charge, and it is stated in the license where he is to wash and keep the clothes, licenses being refused for washing in the Cooum river and other especially unsuitable places. Public laundries have from time to time been started in the town, but have failed in competition with the dhobie. Several suggestions have been made for dhobie houses with a water supply, cemented platforms and drains, but none of them have been carried out. A great many people wash the clothes they wear in the Temple tanks when they bathe in the morning. They are not permitted to bring other clothes to wash. In the Triplicane tank it is estimated that some hundreds of people daily wash themselves and their apparel.

Extract from the Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1894-95, page 64.

The washing of Clothes.—The dhobie business is badly in need of reform. The dhobies are licensed, but the measure is not very effective as there are no good places for washing in the town. Several suggestions have been made for public washing places for the dhobies, for the use of which they might be charged a small fee which would cover the outlay. The Sanitary Committee made recommendations to this effect. They will probably be given effect to in connection with the introduction of the proposed drainage scheme and the increase of the water supply, both of which are essential for good wholesome washing. The better class of dhobies keep the clean and soiled clothes entirely apart, but some of the poorer and lower class ones have no separate rooms but keep them all in one small hut.

Extract from the Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1895-96, page 62.

The washing of Clothes.—Licenses to dhobies are granted free. They are invariably refused, when clothes are to be washed in the Cooum and in other unsuitable places. The poorer classes of dhobies have no separate rooms for keeping soiled and washing clothes. The importance of public washing places has been brought from time to time to the notice of the Commissioners, but nothing can be done to give effect to the proposals until the introduction of a proper drainage scheme.

Extract from the Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1896-97, page 46.

The washing of clothes is badly in need of reform, though more supervision is exercised than was formerly the case. It is hoped that when the new sewers are laid down it will be found possible to construct public washing places for the dhobies on a simple plan that will meet sanitary requirements.

I wish to take this opportunity of refuting a statement made about consistent neglect in a public paper, not only because it is absolutely unfounded but because when it was made the Editor was in possession of these licenses and he published this article after that. In connection with that I will read to you a memorandum which I wrote the morning after this article had appeared in the *Madras Mail*:—One of the staff of the *Mail* came to the Municipal office between 12 and 1 on Wednesday the 20th April. He wanted information in connection with the resolution framed by Mr. Smith regarding the dhobies. He was shown the applications for licenses under section 332 for 1897-98 in the 7th Division and also the office register of licenses granted. Out of these licenses, 17 in number, 13 of them had been refused on application, but were granted on the premises being cleaned and put in order. The member of the staff admitted that supervision was exercised in a way of which he had no knowledge—that it was not simply a matter of form to apply and get them. He stated that he wanted this information to give it to the Editor. He took away the above licenses and register to show the Editor. About 2 o'clock Mr. Beauchamp himself came to the office carrying the licenses and register to return them. He had in his hands the proof of an article—I presume the one that appeared in the *Mail* of the 20th. I had in my hands the proceedings of the Commissioners of May 1886 by which the dhobies' licenses were made free. He discussed the question. I referred to the licenses and register which he had returned and pointed out that we did exercise supervision. He mentioned the case quoted in the *Mail* of the hut

in which the child was born, and admitted that this might be an isolated case which might occur anywhere. As he left the office I asked him what he was going to say. He replied "it is all right." In this case the Editor had full opportunity of getting both sides of the question, but he has deliberately suppressed all information as to what the Municipality does, and leads the public to suppose they do nothing, well knowing this not to be true.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—(A great shame).

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—I suppose you wrote to the *Mail*.

THE PRESIDENT :—I took other steps as regards the *Mail*.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Dhobies are not allowed to wash in the Coom and dirty pools.

THE PRESIDENT :—They are not allowed to wash anywhere except the places I have mentioned. I maintain that the accusation that there has been consistent neglect is one that is absolutely untrue. I do not say that the present state of affairs is on a proper footing. As I have already said the difficulty is not with regard to washing but is with regard to storage. How are you going to prevent that unless you give them proper store-houses to keep their things in? Anybody that talks of dirty pools, &c., has simply to go to the Spur Tank and see the pot-wells there.

SURGEON LT.-COL. J. MAITLAND :—I have seen stagnant water there.

THE PRESIDENT :—You would not see them wash in it. This is one of those things in which the public are misled by articles that appear in the papers. The statement that was made in this case ought not to have been made at all, because the information showing that the statement was not correct was in the possession of the person who published it. The Editor did not write the article and I know the person who wrote it.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—Is not that damaging to us?

THE PRESIDENT :—How can you stop it?

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY :—It is a wilful misrepresentation.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—If we have an epidemic we might stop it under the new sedition Act. If we are powerless in the matter I should regret it very much.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—The only way to stop it is to publicly contradict the statement.

THE PRESIDENT :—That is what I have taken this opportunity of doing.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Before we can pass a resolution like this, we must have good water supply. I do not know what takes place in the Spur Tank or any other tank. In the 1st Division I know all the dhobie-khanas. There is one just by the side of the Railway station. They have four wells from which they take water for washing purposes. There is a dhobie-khana in new Washermanpettah. There are two good wells there. I have seen these places very often in the 1st Division and they are all excellent places for washing purposes, and I do not think that you can find a better place in the whole of Madras. I do not know what we can do. A Committee may sit and may make some suggestions. The question is how you will carry them out. If you have a proper water supply and you have sufficient funds, you might erect proper dhobie-khanas according to modern civilisation. We are all undergoing change and want to follow western ideas, but where have we the funds sufficient to do all that is necessary according to western ideas? That is a question which the Commissioners will have to consider carefully. Last year when I went to Colombo I saw a steam laundry where the clothes were washed. Ordinary people cannot afford to have steam laundries, and the Municipality should provide them with public laundries. If we are to do all these, we should have recourse to additional taxation.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND :—It is a most extraordinary thing that whenever any subject regarding the public health of the people of Madras comes up for discussion, of late there have been members ready to jump up and oppose it in the spirit of the argument that we have just heard, that it is a very difficult question and requires a large sum of money. It cannot be admitted that because a thing is difficult we should sit with folded hands and do nothing. This is a matter which, as the President has pointed out, has been alluded to year after year in the Administration Report as a great necessity, and that has now been emphasised by the matter being brought up before Mr. Smith.

Now that the opportunity has come, instead of doing nothing we should try, if we can, to do something to bring about an improved state of affairs in this direction. The President has told us what the Municipality can do and what has been done. It is satisfactory for us to know that something is being done, but I cannot admit with the President that the water in which washing is done is not important.

THE PRESIDENT (interrupting) :—I did not say that the water was not of importance. What I say is that the conditions of washing are not so important as the conditions of storing.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND :—I think water also is an important factor—the purity of water in which the clothes are washed is one that ought to be attended to and also the storage of clothes washed. The President has also said that this question has been deferred until the drainage scheme is completed. But I do not see why we should wait till the drainage scheme is carried out in order to carry out this most important reform. It has been said very often that if the people are so dissatisfied with the present method of washing they would have complained about it, why the public has not spoken and complained. The complaint has been heard so often in private. But in addition to that many people, I know, for years past were so afraid of sending their clothes for washing that they wash them in their own compound. That is why the European public have not complained. Because they have safe-guarded themselves at their own expense by having the clothes washed in their own compound and thereby ensuring that the clothes are stored in healthy buildings and are not used improperly for various purposes by the dhobies such as for covering corpses. If the clothes are stored up in a place provided by the Municipality which can be inspected at any moment, they would not be used for any such purposes. I have not heard any reason why we should not take up this matter at once and endeavour to do something to improve the present condition under which washing is done in Madras, a condition admitted by everybody to be seriously defective and in many cases to bring about infectious disease. I would therefore gladly move "that a committee be appointed to consider and report upon Mr. Smith's resolution."

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARRIAR :—I beg to second that motion. I think the President is perfectly justified in refuting the statement made by the newspaper in question. The question for us to consider is not whether what the paper said is correct or what the President said is correct, but whether the experimental dhobie-khanas should be started somewhere so that they may be tried and their success or failure may be decided upon.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND :—I beg to propose that the Committee do consist of the following gentlemen :—"Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar, Mr. P. Subramania Iyer, Dr. Crawford, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ormerod and myself."

THE PRESIDENT :—Some two years ago I put in Rs. 6,000 for a dhobie-khana in Kilpauk, but I had to take it out for want of funds.

MR. SMITH :—I must say a few words about the resolution. I made it a point to call at several dhobie pettahs enquiring whether the men had licenses. At the first place I visited there was not a single license to be seen.

THE PRESIDENT :—Do you know their names?

MR. SMITH :—I do not know, but I can easily identify the persons.

THE PRESIDENT :—Where was it?

MR. SMITH :—Spur Tank. Not a single man had a license and no well was to be seen there. They were washing in little pools along the side of the Spur Tank full of frogs. From there I drove to the Railway crossing at Chetput near Dr. Vangeyzel's house. There was only one person that had a license. They were washing there in the Coom. I then went to Brick-kiln road where half a dozen were washing clothes for Europeans. Here too there were no licenses—at any rate they could not produce them at that time. I gave a week's time to them to produce the license. But the man never produced it. On the road to Perambore the place where the washing is carried on has on one side of it a tremendously large heap of manure. The other side is used as a public

latrine and frequented by pigs and other animals. In that place more than half a dozen dhobies were washing, the water used for the purpose being nothing but liquid manure.

THE PRESIDENT:—I don't deny that.

MR. SMITH:—It is simply outrageous that our clothes should be washed in such a manner.

THE PRESIDENT:—I don't deny all that, but what I say is that accusation that there has been consistent neglect is untrue. Licenses have been issued for several places mentioned by Mr. Smith.

MR. SMITH:—There is no doubt that there has been a great deal of neglect. If the Municipality had prosecuted these dhobies they would not have carried the washing under such circumstances.

THE PRESIDENT:—They have been prosecuted.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—While I reserve my remarks on the subject for a future occasion, I think, considering the population of this city, the committee proposed is far from being representative. I should therefore omit the names of Mr. Smith, Mr. Ormerod and Dr. Crawford and substitute in their place Dr. Varadappa Naidu, Mr. Gurusawmy Chetty and Mr. Sivangnana Mudaliar.

SURGEON LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—I am quite prepared to modify these names. I did not select the names, but I took them out of the list prepared by Mr. Smith. It struck me that there could be a more representative Committee. I do not certainly agree to the sweeping change that is proposed. I would like to retain Dr. Crawford.

After some desultory discussion the following names were finally resolved upon to form the Committee:—

Mr. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar, Mr. W. D. Smith, Surg.-Major Crawford, Mr. V. Varadappa Naidu, Surg.-Lieut.-Col. Maitland, Mr. Guruswami Chetty, and Mr. Hajee Badsha Sahib.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried.

Mr. Loane's allowance.

MR. M. K. LAKSHMANA CHARRIAR moved the following resolution of which he gave notice:—
“That Government be requested, in view of the intentions of the Commissioners and Government in granting carriage allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem to Mr. Loane, the Commissioners recommend to Government that the payment of the said carriage allowance be sanctioned for the period he was acting for the Engineer.”

In doing so he said:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

The Commissioners when framing the Budget for 1896-97 recommended an increase to Mr. Loane's salary of Rs. 100 in consideration that he had no increase of salary for 9 years and on account of the excellent work done by him, when he acted as Engineer in 1894-95, when he planned and carried out successfully the extension of the water supply costing about 4½ lacs.

Government when passing the budget regretted their inability to sanction the increase since the provisions of the Act did not permit of it, and remarked that when the Act was again revised the question of raising the officer's salary should be brought up.

The Commissioners on this G. O. requested Government to make the increase at least a personal allowance. The Government, however, replied that since a personal allowance was in reality an increase of salary it could not be granted, but suggested that since the Commissioners were desirous of adding to Mr. Loane's income, it might be done by granting him a special conveyance allowance. The Commissioners having accepted this proposal, recommended the same to Government for sanction.

Mr. Loane in 1897 acted for Mr. Ellis while he was away on leave for six months. During that period he continued to draw a special conveyance allowance which was granted to him specially by way of salary (until such time as provision may be made in the Act to give it to him as salary).

Under the Civil Service Regulations, when an officer in a lower grade acts for another in a higher grade he is entitled to an acting allowance equal to ¼th of the absentee's pay.

The Accountant-General takes exception to Mr. Loane having drawn a special conveyance allowance while he drew the acting allowance as Engineer, and now asks that either this allowance must be sanctioned to him by Government while he acted as Engineer, or that it be recovered from him.

Mr. Loane's salary with allowances amount to 525 Rs., while the salary fixed as Acting Engineer was 580 Rs., the difference being only 55 Rs. and not 180 which was ¼th of the Engineer's pay.

Under article 125 Mr. Loane should have drawn ⅓rd the difference between his salary and that of the Engineers which would be Rs. 783-5-4 and not 580. Exception has been taken by the Accountant-General to the ruling of this section in his case since the appointment of Engineer has never been held by a military officer; but the section is very clear on this point, for it does not state that the appointment must have been held by a military officer but states *such as may be held by a military officer*; and we have at this present moment a military officer as our Health Officer which is one of the three appointments falling under section 37 of the Act, and as it is open to Government at any time to appoint a Royal Engineer as Municipal Engineer. I therefore do not think the Accountant-General's ruling holds good in this case.

It is not my wish that we should argue with the Accountant-General as to the meaning of Sections. The points I would put before the Commissioners are these:—(1) Was it the intention of the Commissioners that when Mr. Loane acted as Engineer, he was to lose his carriage allowance of Rs. 100 a month and thus benefit only to the extent of Rs. 55 a month as against his increased responsibility? (2) Do the Commissioners consider that Mr. Loane *deserves* the carriage allowance? I take it that your answer to the former will be “no” and to the latter “yes”; in which case I ask you to urge upon Government that once again a way be found to grant a hard-working officer the allowance that the Commissioners consider he ought to receive.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR in seconding the resolution said:—As the resolution stands, it looks as if we are recommending to grant the allowance to Mr. Loane. As the said allowance has already been drawn by him, it is now proposed to ask Government to sanction it. I would therefore suggest a slight verbal alteration after words: “recommend to Government” “that payment of the said carriage allowance be sanctioned for the period he was acting for the Engineer.” If this is accepted by the mover, it may stand as the proposition before the meeting.

In support of this proposition I have only a few words to say. There is no doubt that we intended and that Government intended so too, that Mr. Loane was to draw this allowance in lieu of an increased salary, which, though we were anxious to give we were precluded from granting until sec. 44 of the Act was amended. You will remember that Government was not only most willing to meet the wishes of the Commissioners but has further suggested “that the question of taking power to increase the pay of this officer should be brought forward when the Act is under amendment.” Further the wording of the G. O. No. 1496 is very significant. In it Government observes “as however the Commissioners are desirous of making some addition to Mr. Loane's pay there would be no objection to their granting him a special conveyance allowance of Rs. 100, which, of course, need not necessarily be continued to his successor.” It is clear therefore that it was our intention when our resolution of 1896 was unanimously carried, no less than that of Government when this special allowance was sanctioned, that Mr. Loane was to enjoy this special concession in recognition of his services until the Act was amended. Thus Mr. Loane was drawing Rs. 400 his salary, and allowance Rs. 125, making in all Rs. 525, when he was appointed to act for the Engineer, Government fixed his deputation allowance at 20 per cent. of permanent incumbent's salary amounting to Rs. 180. The mere fact of Government fixing the deputation allowance does not, as supposed by the auditors, deprive Mr. Loane of the special allowance previously sanctioned by Government and which allowance was granted as a special case. Moreover, the G. O. fixing the acting allowance is silent as regards previous concessions in Mr. Loane's case. The inference drawn by the auditor in their letter of the 28th January 1898, No. 702, viz., that as this allowance was granted him by way of personal remuneration in consideration of the in-

sufficiency of his pay at the time, it should cease on the increase of his emoluments, is, I should think, erroneous. I see no reason for drawing this conclusion. The special carriage allowance of Rs. 100 was sanctioned by Government as the Commissioners were desirous of making an addition to Mr. Loane's pay which was Rs. 400. So long as the Act is not amended, Mr. Loane's pay must remain at Rs. 400—at the time Mr. Loane was acting for the Engineer though he was drawing a deputation allowance for extra work and increased responsibility, his pay was nothing more than Rs. 400—and therefore so long as his pay was Rs. 400—even when he was acting for the Engineer—it seems to me that there was nothing wrong in his having drawn the amount to which exception is taken by the auditors. Further the assumption of the auditors in the same letter, *viz.*, that this special allowance having been granted to him as Mechanical Engineer, he was not entitled to draw it whilst acting one which was attached to the office of "Mechanical Engineer" for it was an understood thing that this allowance was not to be continued to his successor. After all, the objection is only technical. The auditors only want the sanction of Government to be obtained for the payment of this allowance to Mr. Loane during the time he was acting for the Engineer. The difficulty would of course be removed if the resolution before the meeting is submitted to Government and sanction obtained thereon.

Considering the valuable services rendered by Mr. Loane, I have no doubt that our recommendation will be unanimous, and I hardly think that Government would reject our unanimous recommendation in the case of an officer who richly deserves every encouragement, an officer to whom the City of Madras is deeply indebted for the new drainage scheme and his successful house-connection, not to speak of his past arduous services.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

A New Loan.

MR. H. ORMEROD moved the following resolution of which he had given notice:

"That, in view of the condition of the water-pipes, the Commissioners resolve to raise a loan of Rs. 50,000, the amount entered in the water-supply estimates, at 4 per cent. interest with a sinking fund of Rs 380 repayable in 50 years, for the purpose of cleaning such pipes as require cleaning, thereby improving the water-supply."

In doing so, he said:—I have very little to say in support of my proposition. The pipes exhibited on the table speak for themselves. They are practically worthless as you can see for yourselves. The question is whether we should spend a little money in cleaning these pipes and see how the water-supply is improved before we proceed to spend some lakhs of rupees. There can be no question that by taking up these pipes and cleaning them at a very small expense, we can improve our water-supply a great deal. Complaints have been numerous that the water-supply is not what it ought to be. We have the water available, but we have not got pipes to distribute the water properly.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMA CHARRIAR:—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. This idea of cleaning the pipes is not a new one, but was contemplated some five and twenty years ago when the water-supply scheme was started.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried.

On the motion of Dr. Varadappa Naidu, seconded by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam the rest of the business on the agenda was deferred to the next General Meeting.

The meeting then terminated.

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 17th June 1898, at 5 P. M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Act I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT:

M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu (voted to the Chair in the absence of the President).

H. Ormerod, Esq.

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

Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.

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

Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib.

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

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.

J. DeCaster, Esq.

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

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

W. D. Smith, Esq.

Surgeon Captain F. J. Crawford.

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

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

Just before the meeting the Hon'ble Lt.-Col. Sir George Moore left the meeting room, leaving the Commissioners to conduct their meeting, owing probably to the fact that the subject which the Commissioners were going to discuss was one in which he was concerned.

The Dhobie Question.

MR. J. DECASTER:—In the absence of the President, I beg to propose under Section 73 of the Act that Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty do take the chair.

MR. COWASJEE EDULJEE seconded the proposition, which, when put to the vote, was carried.

THE CHAIRMAN:—I thank you, gentlemen, for the honour you have done me by proposing me to the chair this evening. This meeting is convened on the requisition of ten Commissioners to consider what steps should be taken in connection with the articles that appeared in the *Madras Mail* about the dhobie question.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN:—Gentlemen, I feel bound to remark that those gentlemen—

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR interrupting:—Is there any resolution upon which you are talking?

MR. MUZHERUDDIN:—I am not moving any resolution, but I am making a few general remarks.

THE CHAIRMAN:—According to rules somebody must propose a resolution before there is any discussion on the subject.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—If Mr. Muzheruddin is not going to move a proposition, I will move one. The object with which this special meeting is convened is known to you all, and I will therefore simply move the following resolution:—

"That the Commissioners desire (1) to place on record that in the regulation of dhobie trade, the President has, without unnecessarily harassing the dhobies, done all that could have been done, (2) to express their indignation that a public print should have so far failed to recognise the President's efforts in the matter as to have made an unfounded and unwarranted accusation against

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him of consistent neglect, (3) to record with regret that one of their number should have thought it fit to make a mis-statement to the Editor of the journal in question as to what took place at the meeting of the Commissioners held on the 27th May last."

I do not think it is necessary to say much in support of this resolution. No doubt the sanitary condition of the city of Madras is not altogether very satisfactory in its different branches. There are of course admittedly defects that could be pointed out. It could not be said that the measures adopted are perfect and of course we cannot hope to arrive at any perfection in sanitary measures in whichever branch it may be, unless we are able to put aside a very large sum. The first thing you have to consider now, gentlemen, is whether, in the regulation of this particular trade the President had done what might have been done. It was explained at one of our recent meetings that for purpose of regulating the dhobies, licenses have been issued to a very large number. Perhaps there may be some who have evaded the license. We know for a fact a very large number of licenses have been issued and in these licenses the places where they wash are specified; and whenever there has been an infringement of the regulation and terms of the license we have been told that parties have been prosecuted before the Magistrate. Of course it is an admitted thing that dhobie-khanas have not been provided for. I am informed that the Sanitary Commissioner has submitted plans for dhobie-khanas which consist of a shed or house for the dhobie to live in and on the opposite side two rooms, one for the storage of soiled cloths and the other for the storage of clothes that have been cleaned and are ready to be ironed. Taking into consideration the large number of dhobies in the city of Madras a very large number of dhobie-khanas will have to be provided. Roughly calculating we want nothing less than a lac of rupees if we want anything in the shape of perfection in this direction. To show the trade has not been neglected altogether there are reports of Overseers in which they make a special mention of the places where the dhobies wash and where they store the washed clothes. The reports of these Overseers may not be altogether satisfactory. Of course, you must expect from low-paid people deficient and unsatisfactory report. In the second place, you will have to consider whether the charge that was brought against the President, of consistent neglect in the matter of regulating dhobies, is fair. If, in my opinion, it is not libellous, I think it is very unfair and very unjustifiable. There are hardly any grounds upon which that charge could be maintained. It is a great pity that a journal like the *Mail* should have taken that attitude in regard to an officer that has done his utmost in the discharge of his work. What appears to me still more lamentable is that a charge is brought against the President of having said at one of the recent meetings that the Editor of the *Mail* has committed a breach of trust in connection with certain publications. I am informed that the President had denied it and that the Editor was called upon to contradict the statement. The Editor published the denial of the statement and has further written to say that he was not prepared to give the name of the informant and that it was one of the 32, meeting in this room. I think therefore, gentlemen, so far as official Reporter's report goes, and so far as most of the Commissioners present here can remember, there is no foundation for making such an utterance. The Reporter of the *Mail* was present here when the proceedings took place. He ought to have been the very first to give a report to the Editor. In the report of the proceedings which appeared in the *Mail* no mention is made of it, and it is only a thing that has cropped up subsequently. I am now informed that the breach of trust was not directed to the Editor of the paper, but to the writer of the article, and therefore I wish to correct what I have said before. With these remarks I leave the proposition in your hands.

MR. P. M. SIVANGNANA MUDALIAR:—

I second the proposition reserving right of speaking. MR. MIR MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB then said:—Gentlemen, I feel bound to remark that those gentlemen, who signed the requisition for convening to-night's meeting were rather ill-advised in the calling for it, especially as we heard the other day what our President had to say. I do not think that Sir George Moore was consulted by the originators of this meeting. If they had sought his advice on the matter, I am sure he would have expressed his disapproval. I quite disapprove of the idea of holding meetings with the object of fighting and waging war with the editors of newspapers whenever they criticise the action or condemn the conduct of the executive, high or low. On principle I strongly object to this sort of meeting, and I sincerely hope that this will be the last meeting of the kind. One in the position of Sir George should naturally feel the charge of

consistent neglect levelled against the Municipality rightly or wrongly by so influential a paper as the *Madras Mail*, but when he thinks that he was roughly handled and unfairly treated by the newspapers, the best course always open to him is to explain and say what he has to say whenever we meet here, and this Sir George had already done, and consequently there was no necessity whatever for our meeting to-night here for discussing an unpleasant subject such as this and thus rake up old sores. We ought to welcome criticisms, and nothing is so absurd as to resent it. However, be that as it may, it is a pity that personality has been introduced in this matter, and I think the writer of the article, whoever he is, has not the remotest idea of charging Sir George with personal negligence. In a general way he states that there has been a consistent neglect of precautions, and it might perhaps be wiser for us to charge him with exaggeration than to attempt to refute his accusations *in toto*.

MR. P. TIRUMALAYYA NAIDU:—May I ask you to inform me as to who were the signatories to that notice?

THE CHAIRMAN:—Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar, Mr. Venkataramanjulu Naidu, Mr. Sivangnana Mudaliar, Mr. Appusundaram Pillai, Mr. V. C. Desikachariar, Mr. S. Subbiah Chetty, Mr. M. K. Lakshmanachariar, Dr. Varadappah Naidu, Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty and Mr. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar.

MR. W. D. SMITH then read the following:—From every point of view there is much to be regretted that the personal element has been introduced into this question at all, for the question is one of a reform for the general good of the public of Madras at large and there is nothing personal about it in any way. The personal element was however introduced into it by the President when he declared at the former meeting that he knew who it was who had written the article in the *Madras Mail* and that it was not the Editor himself. The only implied meaning that we can attach to this declaration is that the President wished to impugn the value of the criticisms in the paper on the ground that they are the product of an interested or biased person whose identity he was well aware of. Having introduced this element of personality into discussion, it is due for the President that he should say, now that the matter is being carried so far, who it was that the President is pointing to. I may remark that I myself have been accused as the person referred to, and until the President does that it will be out of place to discuss further the personal element, as to the Commissioner who asserts that he heard the President say something with regard to a breach of trust or confidence on the part of the person that the President was alluding to as having written the article. We now know from the statement of the Editor himself that the article was written in his own office and that nobody outside his office had even seen the article except the President himself. Does the President's allusion to a particular, though nameless, person as being the author is shown to be without any foundation despite the absurd tone in which the statement was made? Will the President tell us what was in his mind when he made this statement? On the day following the meeting of the Municipality the Editor called at my place of business for some medicine, and in the course of conversation about the proceedings of the meeting asked who I thought the President could have been alluding to, and he added that he could only suppose that it was myself.

THE CHAIRMAN interrupting:—I do not think you are in order, in speaking on personal matters and of private conversations.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—It is nothing personal. This meeting has been convened by some of you gentlemen to discuss the articles. There is nothing personal in it. By this time all the personality is gone. (*Continuing*) I then replied that this could not possibly be the case. I have heard the President saying that there had been a breach of trust or confidence in the matter, and clearly such an expression could not apply to me. It is true that the statement of the President does not appear in the published reports of the meeting, but that is not an absolute argument against the phrase having been used. It is absurd to suppose that every word uttered during the meeting lasting an hour and a half could be included in a report of this nature.

THE CHAIRMAN:—I think it is completely personal and I do not think you are in order in speaking about it.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—Then I will say something about the article. (continuing) re: the remark "consistent neglect," the following remarks will go to show that the *Madras Mail* were justified in writing as they did. We deserve it, and it is just as well that these comments are made, as they tend to make us look up. It is true licenses are granted, but how many? For a population of 452,000 Madras can boast of 119 dhobies who have licenses and these licenses are only for storage, so this accounts for there being only one dhobie with a license during the inspection I spoke of at the last meeting. The 119 licenses actually issued are a mere nothing compared with the number of dhobies who must be carrying on their occupation. The Act expressly provides for licensing washing places as well as depositing places: yet this has never been carried out. The Act also provides for the framing of regulations respecting dhobie licenses, and these, as far as I know, have never been framed. Then again in view of the notorious fact that washing is done in a filthy manner (I saw myself), though the President said I exaggerated, have any prosecutions been instituted or fines imposed? If so, how many and the amount of each fine? Even now I find that the dhobies are still having their own way. Mr. H. C. King mentioned to me last night that his dhobie cannot produce his license, and he is not the only one who has made a similar complaint, and this further shows there is still a want of strict supervision.

THE CHAIRMAN:—In reply to the question put by Mr. Smith as to fines and prosecutions the President has left a statement which goes to show that there were some prosecutions and fines. For washing, the number of cases was 24, and fines amounted to Rs. 28-8-0; for washing and depositing, number of cases 23, and fines Rs. 24. Total number of prosecutions 69, and fines Rs. 71-8-0. That shows that there were several prosecutions and several fines inflicted upon the dhobies. That is for the year 1897-98, the last official year.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—May I know whether each of these licenses comprises a number of dhobies that wash in a place?

THE CHAIRMAN (Handing over a license form):—Here is the license form which contains a requisition to be signed by the dhobies.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN:—In the license the washing place is not mentioned.

THE CHAIRMAN sent for a few licenses, and after looking through a license, said:—It looks that licenses are granted for places where the cloths are washed and for places where they are stored.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—What date is that?

THE CHAIRMAN:—12-11-97. It is signed by Mr. J. N. Cook.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN:—Is that the only one that contains it?

THE CHAIRMAN:—There are many.

THE CHAIRMAN then sent for a bundle of licenses and circulated them among the Commissioners.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—If there is no other speaker I may say a few words. Mr. Smith has been prevented from giving a personal explanation.

THE CHAIRMAN:—It is a discussion between the President and himself.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—The President will be glad to hear what I have to say.

THE CHAIRMAN:—I have heard it and it, is personal.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—It is only 15 lines more and I should like to finish it. May I explain to the Committee here who have assembled to discuss certain articles what really took place as regards the words, 'breach of confidence'? I should like the meeting to hear what I have got to say in the matter. I trust you will permit me to go on and finish what I have to say. I am the last man to be personal in my remarks.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I should like to know whether Mr. Smith admits that he is the person referred to.

THE CHAIRMAN:—You are not in order.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—I admitted here that the person who mentioned the words, breach of confidence, was myself. You have not listened to what I have said and I hope you will allow me to finish it.

THE CHAIRMAN:—If there is nothing personal you may go on.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—Just listen. (Continuing) There were also other words of the President not reported, as for instance when he threw the written notes down on the table and bade the Reporters present to be careful that it was reported *verbatim*. However this may be the President has since denied that he used the phrase and I must of course accept the denial. He may possibly have forgotten that he said it and in the same way I may possibly have mistaken. There is no use of arguing the question any more, for there is no possibility of making two opposites agree, and if say therefore I must accept the President's denial and apologise if the mistake was in my part.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—Gentlemen, to cut a long story short you will permit me to move this amendment: "That with reference to the remarks in the *Madras Mail* the Commissioners think it sufficient to pass a vote of confidence in the President's administration of Municipal affairs." In moving this amendment I shall not take up your time with very many words. I believe many of you will remember what the late Mr. Gladstone said only a couple of years ago at the annual meeting of a Press Association in England. "If there was not such an institution as the public press we should find ourselves in a paradise of fools." We cannot therefore question, and I am sure our worthy President would not question, the right of any journalist to criticise matters of administration, Municipal or Imperial. At the same time, it is necessary that critics must work with due care and caution. The primary duty of a critic is to seek and to bring to light those facts which the busy public is only too apt to pass by, and to avoid slashing and smart writing which though cheap does more harm than good. Smart writing may pay for a time until it defeats itself. In the present case so far as I understand, ten of the Municipal Commissioners who signed the requisition consider certain newspaper remarks open to objection. We have the information placed before us that the President has done what he could in the matter of dhobie licenses. I am sure I am only expressing the uppermost thought of every Commissioner present, when I say that we have every confidence in the manner in which the President has administered the affairs of the Municipality. I therefore think that the amendment I propose gives expression to the general feeling.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN:—I beg to second it. I hope Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar will withdraw his proposition and allow us to pass this unanimously.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—We have every confidence in Sir George Moore. If the papers do pass remarks and say it is wanton neglect, Sir George Moore should not take it as a personal matter. It is not a personal matter.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—I have no objection to withdraw my proposition if Mr. Krishnamachariar would modify his proposition by adding "that the *Madras Mail* should withdraw its remarks".

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—I shall leave the *Madras Mail* to mind its own affairs and we shall mind our own.

THE CHAIRMAN:—As a Commissioner I have a right to say a few words on the subject. We find newspapers writing sensational articles on occasions when they want to moot some subjects or other. That has become almost the fashion with several newspapers though there may be some exceptions. In that way perhaps the *Madras Mail* wrote that sensational article and I don't think it is right that we should take any steps whatever to make them withdraw or apologise. I think this amendment serves all purposes.

The amendment was then put to the vote and carried, 9 voting for and 4 against it.

DR. CRAWFORD wanted to know when the dhobie committee was going to sit; but in the absence of the President, no reply could be had to this question.

The meeting then terminated.

Minutes of the PROCEEDINGS of a GENERAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS for the City of
MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on
Friday the 27th May 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.
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. S. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillay Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
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.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland.

No. 1.

M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal proposed the resolution of which he had given notice, seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster, to the effect that Government be moved to amend section 67 of Act I of 1884 as amended by Act II of 1892 by substituting 8 for 7. One member to be elected from each division.

Carried.

No. 2.

Mr. W. D. Smith moved the resolution of which he had given notice, viz.—

“That, having regard to the existence of small-pox in the Municipality of Madras and the possibility of the occurrence of plague, it is desirable that the conditions under which licenses for dhobies are granted be carefully revised and that further protection be offered the public by the institution of Public Dhobie Khanas.”

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur seconded.
Proposed by Surg-on-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland and seconded by M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal—

“That a Committee composed as follows be appointed to consider and report upon Mr. W. D. Smith's resolution—
“Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. J. Maitland.
“M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
“M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
“Surgeon-Captain F. J. Crawford.
“Mr. H. Ormerod.
“Mr. W. D. Smith.”

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu proposed and M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu seconded—

“That the names of M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu and M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu be substituted for M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal and Mr. H. Ormerod and Mr. Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Sahib be added.”

Carried.

No. 3.

M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal moved the resolution of which he had given notice, seconded by Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur, to the effect that, in view of the institution of the Commissioners and Government in granting a carriage allowance of Rs. 100 to Mr. Loane, the Commissioners recommend to Government that payment of the said carriage allowance be sanctioned during the time he was Acting Engineer.

Carried.

No. 4.

Mr. H. Ormerod moved the resolution of which he had given notice, seconded by M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal, to the effect that, in view of the condition of the water-pipes, the Commissioners resolve to raise a loan of Rs. 50,000, the amount entered in the water-supply estimates, at 4 per cent. interest with a sinking fund of Rs. 380 repayable in 50 years, for the purpose of cleaning such pipes as require cleaning, thereby improving the water-supply.

Carried.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu and seconded by Mr. N. Subrahmanyam—

“That the business undisposed of be deferred to the next General Meeting.”

Carried.

The meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
May 1898.

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2652 May 98

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 17th 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 :

M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu (voted to the chair in the absence of the President).
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliyar Avargal.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillay Avargal.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmanacharriar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Surgeon-Captain F. J. Crawford.
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.

To consider what steps should be taken in connection with the articles that recently appeared in the Madras Mail re the Dhubie question.

In the absence of the President it was proposed by Mr. J. DeCaster and seconded by Mr. Covasjee Eduljee—

“That, under the provisions of section 73, M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu do take the chair.”

Carried.

The following letter was read—

MADRAS,
7th June 1898.

To
The President,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Sir,

We, the undersigned Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, request you will be good enough to call for a special meeting of the Commissioners at the earliest date possible to consider what steps should be taken in connection with the articles which appeared recently in the Madras Mail re the Dhubie question.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servants,

Signed by 10 Commissioners.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliyar Avargal—

“That the Commissioners desire—

“(1) to place on record that in the regulation of the ‘Dhubie Trade’ the President had, without needlessly harassing the Dhubies, done all that could have been done ;

“(2) to express their indignation that a public print should have so far failed to recognize the President's efforts in the matter as to have made an unfounded and unwarranted accusation against him of ‘consistent neglect’ and

“(3) to record with regret that one of their number should have thought it fit, to make a mis-statement to the editor of the journal in question as to what took place at the meeting of the Commissioners held on the 27th May last.”

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariar Avargal proposed and Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur seconded—

“That, with reference to the remarks in the Madras Mail, the Commissioners think it sufficient to pass a vote of confidence in the President's administration of municipal affairs.”

Carried by majority.

The meeting terminated.

P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY,
Municipal Office, Chairman.

Madras, , June 1898.

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Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 199

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 10 August 1898.

From

R. E. Ellis Esq. M. Inst. C. E.
Lieut. Col. SIR GEORGE MOORE, RT., C. I. E.,

Ag. President, Municipal Commission.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL

CURRENT No. 2652 M.

To

The Secretary to Government

Local and Municipal Department,

SIR,

Fort Saint George.

Enclosure

4

I have the honor to submit herewith for the information of Government full proceedings as also copies of abstract proceedings of meetings of the Commissioners held on 27th May and 17th June 1898.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. E. Ellis.

Ag. President, M.M.C.

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