

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 243 M

DATED 27-1-98

INDEXED. *ca*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Municipal Commission - Recording full
proceedings and also copies of abstract proceedings
of the ^{a general} meeting of the Madras Municipal
Commissioners held in September 1897

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 383M



From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

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Order No. 243 Muis 27.1.98

G. No. 518

Recorded
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26/1/98

Dated 19 January 1898

Received 24-1-98

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Enclosures 2.

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SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings as
also a copy of abstract proceedings
of a General meeting of the
Commissioners held on 27 Septem-
ber 1897.

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General Department,

LIEUT.-COL. SIR GEORGE MOORE, K.T., C. I. E.,
President, Municipal Commission.

SIR,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

your most obedient servant,
Earl Moore Lieut.-Col.,
President, Munl. Commn.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
891	37	Bureau of Education	May 1911

Enclosures

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Recd: to G. No. 518

Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners
for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises No. 22,
Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Monday the
27th September 1897, 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. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
The Hon'ble Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M. R. Ry. M. K. Lakshmanacharriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Walker.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalaiya Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M.R.Ry. S. Subbiah Chetty Garu.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland.
M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

Budget for 1897-98.

THE PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, we had better go on with business. The first business before the meeting is the G. O., No. 1549 M. Mis., dated 7th July, 1897, re Budget for 1897-98. Government has sanctioned the extra timber Inspector, but would not sanction the increase to the pay of Kanakapillais unless the present men are discharged and men better qualified are brought in.

The G. O. was recorded.

Exemption from License Fees.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next subject is the Endorsement No. 858, dated 9th August, 1897, of the Government of Madras on letter No. 1224 C., dated 7th July, 1897, from the Government of India, Military Department, re exemption of license fees on Government timber consigned to the Madras Arsenal and the Gun Carriage Factory. The Government of Madras do not make any remark but simply refer the question to the Commissioners. The question is whether the Commissioners can go beyond the Act. Under Bombay Municipal Act, the Government timber is specially exempted from Town Duties; but there is no such provision in our Act. Our Act simply says that all timber is to be taxed. With regard to vehicles and animals, Government property are specially exempted.

It was proposed by Mr. J. De Caster, seconded by Mr. M. Venkataramiah Chetty and carried "that the Commissioners do not see their way to exempt Government timber from payment of license tax under the provisions of section 341."

Proceedings of the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT :—Now we come to the Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th and 27th August, and 3rd September, 1897. I suppose you want to say something, Mr. Krishnamachariar, about building grants.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—I do want to say something, Sir, but I do not know whether this is the proper time for doing so.

THE PRESIDENT :—The Standing Committee resolved on the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction that the building grants be transferred to rents.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—I have to submit that there are the so-called Municipal schools to which we have been giving about Rs. 10,000 a year, for the last 25 years. What is the outcome? We have not got now a single school room, wholesome and healthy, away from street gutters and away from horse stables. These are the places where the rising generation is being educated. Infants particularly are very badly treated. They have no separate room and they are amidst unhealthy surroundings, and I do not think any instruction worth the name can be imparted under these conditions. I think we should get up model school houses instead of spending a sum of Rs. 1,000 a year upon what is called house rent. I think 3 or 4 thousand rupees a year ought to be set apart till we can provide model buildings for the large schools which are under our support. We have gone on spending money, as I have already said, for the last 25 years and I do not see any sign of that continued progress which we ought to expect. I think it highly desirable to raise the schools to a higher level of education. The only way to do it is to find decent buildings worthy of our Municipality. Up in the Mofussil, where for some years I worked, the provisions made for school buildings are more wholesome than what we have got here. The present state of affairs is a disgrace to all concerned and it is high time that we make an annual provision of three or four thousand Rupees for building suitable school-rooms on sites, healthy and wholesome, away from the bustle and noise of the bazaar and all the vicious surroundings and free from the smell of the gutters over which the pial schools are now located. Mr. G. Subramania Iyer who has just returned from England may be able to give us some information as to the condition of Board schools there. The School Masters are too poor to help themselves and we must give them some help. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction through the kindness of our President, and if there is an expression of opinion on the part of the Commissioners, I am sure that some parallel action will be taken. At present we simply give away our money and the return is very small.

THE PRESIDENT :—We are not on that point now. The question is about the transfer of building grants to rent.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—If we have proper buildings we can do something in the way of education. But at present we waste public money without a corresponding advantage. If any gentleman would second me, I shall be glad to propose "that the money be utilised for erecting school buildings."

THE PRESIDENT :—The question is whether the Standing Committee's recommendation that the building grant of Rs. 1,000 a year be transferred to rents is to be confirmed or not.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—I object to the transfer.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—If the matters stand as they are, will the Director of Public Instruction use his discretion in utilising them for rent?

THE PRESIDENT :—No.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—Have you paid any house rent?

THE PRESIDENT :—No.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—Then why should we give the School Masters an extra allowance to be spent on their own houses or their friends?

THE PRESIDENT :—Hitherto we have transferred building grants to results grants.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—Is our position altered by this transfer?

THE PRESIDENT :—No. You must frame a resolution for discussing the matter any further.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR proposed, and Mr. C. Thirumalayya Naidu seconded "that the resolution No. 7 of the proceedings of 16th of August be not confirmed."

MR. THEAGARAYA CHETTIAR :—What is the reason of this resolution of the Standing Committee?

THE PRESIDENT :—Because the Director of Public Instruction recommended it. The Asst. Inspector of Schools complains that he cannot spend the money on buildings.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—When was this?

THE PRESIDENT :—28th of July.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—That is before we moved in the matter. I have got a letter from the highest authority to say that if it was possible to go in for the construction of school-houses.

THE PRESIDENT :—That is not the point.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—If you have no objection, I will move an addendum—that "the question be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for report."

THE PRESIDENT :—The question has come from the Director of Public Instruction.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—That is simply a stereotyped thing. My resolution will run in these terms: "That resolution No. 7 of the proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th August, be not confirmed but that the question of accommodation for schools be referred to the Director of Public Instruction." I know that a circular is going round to all the districts calling upon the educational officers to report as to how such Primary schools are to be accommodated. They have just opened their eyes to the question and we also ought to go in for the construction of school-houses which is a legal step while payment of house-rent is not.

THE PRESIDENT :—The first thing we ought to do is to look after the sanitation of the city, and to make your children live before you teach them.

MR. C. THIRUMALAYYA NAIDU as the seconder of the original proposal consented to the alteration, proposed.

MR. THEAGARAYA CHETTY :—I think that if we attempt to provide buildings for about 140 schools, it will create a lot of difficulty, and an enormous sum of money will have to be expended.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—We cannot get a room under Rs. 500.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—I think the change proposed by the Standing Committee is in favour of improving the present condition of elementary institutions in Madras. Rs. 1,000 being paid away annually on the buildings as rent is actually a flea bite in giving these children better accommodation. Instead of purchasing new houses or improving old ones, if this money is given away as house rent I think it will enable the Schoolmasters and Inspectors to provide these boys with better accommodation. I think the change is more for the benefit of the elementary education than otherwise. Apart from that the whole question of the connection of the Municipality with elementary education is one deserving of consideration. It is absolutely anomalous state of things that with 4 lakhs of people the whole charge of elementary education of the boys should be borne by the Municipality to the extent of Rs. 10,000. There will be at least 20,000 boys—I mention this subject of course to correction—and we pay only Rs. 10,000. This anomalous state of affairs requires consideration at the hands of those who are interested in this matter. If the policy is to be pursued and insisted upon that for the elementary education of the boys, the Municipality alone is responsible, I think the whole question deserves re-consideration. I quite endorse the remarks of Rao Bahadur V. Krishnamachariar as to the miserable insanitary and absolutely dangerous accommodation which is now provided for elementary schools. I have seen schools placed next to the gutter and boys actually sitting upon the silt thrown on the sides. Therefore I should quite sympathise with Mr. Krishnamachariar's complaint that the accommodation for the elementary schools requires consideration. But I do not think the present change recommended by the Standing Committee will improve the state of things in that direction. Somebody else must pay, if not the Municipality, for providing better accommodation for these schools whose present condition is scandalous.

I quite sympathise with the proposal that the whole question of elementary education so far as it is supported by the Municipality requires consideration. I hope an opportunity will soon be taken to bring forward this question before proper authorities.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—I simply want to make one remark. If you go in for any change at all, let us go in for a structure or two every year which will be a model school-house for imitation by well-to-do parents.

SURGEON LT. COL. G. L. WALKER:—This provision of Rs. 1,000 under building grant has never been spent under that head.

THE PRESIDENT:—Pardon me. You cannot speak to the resolution now as the proposer has made the reply.

The original proposition was then lost.

Mr. Varadappah Naidu wished to have some information about the sale of certain lands at the rate of Rs. 3,700 per ground while the sale of an adjoining ground was recommended at Rs. 3,000.

The President replied that the man to whom the land was proposed to be sold at Rs. 3,700 per ground had a pial which belonged to the Municipality and handed over to him under recent ruling of the Court; and for the loss sustained, the Standing Committee proposed to put the extra price on it.

The proceedings were then confirmed.

The Question of Labour Law.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business is the resolution of which Mr. P. Subramania Iyer has given notice.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—Gentlemen, I take the liberty of sending you a memorandum setting forth the previous history of the subject and pointing out the necessity that exists for taking some action in the matter. As far as I am concerned no additional remarks need be made by me. Without some such provisions as the one I now propose the Sanitary Department cannot be effectively supervised. The legislation that I propose is not a penal one; it merely gives us the power which Bombay and Calcutta now have to insist upon people doing their duty and to give us reasonable notice when they want to quit us so that we may replace their services in time. Therefore I beg to propose: "That, in view of the serious and increasing difficulties experienced by the executive in exercising effectual control over the large establishment maintained for the proper and efficient sanitation of the city, and in view of the danger that may result therefrom, the Commissioners earnestly request the Government of Madras to be pleased to pass an Act on the lines of the Bombay Municipal Servants' Act, No. V. of 1890."

SURGEON LT.-COL. Maitland seconded the proposition.

SURGEON LT.-COL. G. L. WALKER:—I think this would be an extremely beneficial act and I beg to support the resolution.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—Are the papers connected with this circulated?

THE PRESIDENT:—No. But everything is found in the memorandum.

MR. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—That may be a special pleading of my learned friend.

THE PRESIDENT:—As far as I can see there is nothing in this bundle of papers that is not contained in this memorandum. It was a committee who recommended it and the Government did not entertain it.

MR. S. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—I should like to know whether the Municipality is not going to take up private scavenging. If the scavenging cess is not to be imposed, what is the use of passing an Act like this.

THE PRESIDENT:—That is a question on which everybody must form his own opinion. The Commissioners threw out the scavenging cess, the imposition of which the Government recommended and thereupon the Government threw out the labour law.

MR. S. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—If scavengers are not to be our men, why should we pass this law.

THE PRESIDENT:—There are our own scavengers and our own coolies.

MR. S. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—From past experience have you found any necessity for passing an Act like this?

THE PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. S. SUBBIAH CHETTY:—I propose "that the question be deferred." It was only this morning I received the memorandum of the mover and as it is a serious matter I think some time should be allowed for the Commissioners to go through it. In the meantime the papers connected with the subject may be circulated.

THE PRESIDENT:—Everything is in the memorandum.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I agree with Mr. Subbiah Chetty in requesting you to give us some time. The facts bearing upon this subject have not had the benefit of comments of responsible critics. I do not know if this memo, had the approval of the President and the other officers of the Corporation who have got the duty of exacting the task. Will you, Sir, as President, give us the benefit of your views?

THE PRESIDENT:—My views are quoted in the memorandum.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I think the Commissioners would like to hear your views on this question. Although the President of Bombay is in favour of this legislation, I think there is a question that is referred to.

PRESIDENT interrupting:—Are you going into the question? If you wish it to be deferred there is no necessity for arguing it.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I am merely giving reasons for seconding Mr. Subbiah Chetty.

THE PRESIDENT:—There is no use of arguing the question now unless you are going to dispose of it at the present meeting.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I would not detain you long, Sir, I see you are rather pressed for time.

THE PRESIDENT:—Not at all. I will stay here till 8 o'clock.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—Otherwise I could not understand your desire to make my speech cut short.

THE PRESIDENT:—I wanted you only to stick to the point.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—Our legislation might have the effect of frightening the people in taking Municipal service. That is an important point which requires consideration. If the effect of this legislation will be to frighten the people I think the remedy will be worse than the disease. I should like to have some more time given to the Commissioners to consider the question, so that on future occasions we may discuss it with greater deliberation. We shall be glad to have your views upon the question, Sir, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT:—I have given them.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—The memo. contains the remarks of the President as given in the latest Administration Report.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I am asking the President, Sir, and not you.

THE PRESIDENT:—When the question comes up for discussion I will state what I have to state.

RAO BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR also expressed his fear as to the effect of the proposed legislation upon the people who could neither read nor write. It was very important that the present President should give them advice as to the practicability of controlling the scavengers, &c., who form a particular class or union, with any advantage by means of legislation.

The amendment to defer the question was put to the vote and carried.

The meeting then terminated.

Recd. 4.9.1897

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 27th September 1897, 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. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
The Hon'ble Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. S. Theagaraya Mudaliar Avargal.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmanachariar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
R. F. Grant, Esq.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Walker.
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M.R.Ry. S. Subbiah Chetty Garu.
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland.
M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

No. 1.

G.O., No. 1549 M. Mis., dated 7th July 1897, re budget for 1897-98.

Recorded.

No. 2.

Endorsement No. 858, dated 9th August 1897, of the Government of Madras on letter No. 1224 C., dated 7th July 1897, from the Government of India, Military Department, re exemption of license fees on Government timber consigned to the Madras Arsenal and the Gun Carriage Factory.

Proposed by Mr. J. DeCaster and seconded by M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu—

"That the Commissioners do not see their way to exempt Government timber under the provisions of section 341."

Carried.

No. 3.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th and 27th August and 3rd September 1897.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu—

"That resolution No. 7 of 16th August 1897 be not confirmed; but that the question of accommodation for schools be referred to the Director of Public Instruction."

The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was lost.

The proceedings were recorded.

No. 4.

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

"That, in view of the serious and increasing difficulties experienced by the executive in exercising effectual control over the large establishment maintained for the proper and efficient sanitation of the city, and in view of the danger that may result therefrom, the Commissioners earnestly request the Government of Madras to be pleased to pass an Act on the lines of the Bombay Municipal Servants' Act No. V of 1890."

Surgeon - Lieutenant - Colonel J. Maitland seconded.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. S. Subbiah Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal—

"That the question be deferred."

Carried.

The meeting terminated.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
September 1897.

383 Nov 1897

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CURRENT No.

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