

[L. & M.]
[1,000-29-0-99]

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1526 No

DATED 16-10-99

INDEXED.

DECEMBER

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague Expenditure.

Requesting the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to report fully the details of the — incurred and the grounds on which their request regarding contribution from Government is based.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 2555 m

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Enc

Order No. 1526 muni

16/10/99

G. No. 383

Recorded with reference to

G.O. 1498 M. dated 11th October 1899. Dated 28-9-99

2. With regard to the request Received 29 SEP 1899

of the Commissioners for a Contribution Registered

from Government towards Plague Expen. Enclosures 2

dition, the President is requested Spare copies int

to report fully the details of the charges

incurred and the grounds on which

their request is based.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding remarks of the
Commissioners on the Adminis-
tration Report for 1898-99

in continuation of this Office
letter No. 289 of 29 August 99
and the resolution regarding
contribution from Government
towards Plague expenditure.

V.R.
9/10/99

11/10/99

x on the administration report for
1898-99; copy of the review
put up below

To

The Presid. Muni Comm. Madras.

16/10/99

19/9/99
to be despatched
after the Madras
review

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 383

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 28th September 1899.

From

THE HON'BLE LIEUT.-COL. SIR GEORGE MOORE, KT., C.I.E.,
President, Municipal Commission.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 2555 M

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

Enclosures
2

In continuation of this office letter No. 289

dated 29th August 1899, I have the honour to forward the
remarks of the Commissioners on the Administration report
for 1898-99.

2 With reference to the resolution regarding
contribution towards Plague Expenditure it is unnecessary
for me to say anything.

3 The monthly reports that have been submitted
show that the Commissioners have expended Rs. 2,93,031
between October 1896 and September 1899.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. Moore

Lt.-Col.

President, Munl. Comm.

Enc 24489-3-00

what it is. In 1891-92 there are good many...

Remarks of the Commissioners
on

The Administration Report.

The President:- The first business, gentlemen, is the Resolution No.1 of the Commissioners passed at their special meeting held on 22nd August 1899 forwarding the Administration Report to Government and stating that their remarks will follow. Are there any remarks or is the Administration Report so good that you have no remarks to make?

Mr M.K. Lakshmanachariar:--- Mr President and my brother Commissioners, I beg to offer a few remarks regarding the administration of our Municipality during the past official year. As you are all aware, the year was one of the most critical on record. During the whole period, we lived in constant dread of the plague, which broke out in Bangalore in a severe form, and gradually extended to portions of Salem and North Arcot. Hundreds of people from the affected areas began to flock into this town every day, several of them eluding the vigilance of the officers specially employed by Government to examine them at the Arkonam station and grant passports; and the fell disease eventually found its way to Vellore, a most insanitary and crowded little town situated within a few hours journey by rail and only 80 miles by road from Madras. The period was one of intense anxiety; but the Hon'ble Col. Sir George Moore, the veteran head of our Municipality, was equal to the occasion. Though in indifferent health, he stuck to his post day after day, from morning till night, he was busy visiting every nook and corner of this large straggling city. Every Parchery, every filthy locality, which was likely to be a hot-bed of the disease, was thoroughly cleansed and disinfected - over eleven thousand houses and huts were cleansed in this way. All suspicious cases were promptly inspected and segregated, and although fifteen imported cases proved fatal, not a single indigenous

case occurred in the Town. It is impossible, gentlemen, to exaggerate the value of the services thus rendered by our respected President. But for his zeal and devotion, the Plague would certainly have broken out in our midst. By his known tact and judgment, he secured the sympathy and co-operation of the people in carrying out the necessary sanitary precautions and enforcing the segregation. It is earnestly hoped that his connection with our Municipality will continue for several years more.

I cannot conclude my remarks without some reference to the excellent work done by Captain Cornwall. As the immediate head of the health department, he had to bear the brunt of the work, and he discharged it in a manner which is beyond all praise.

I think also that we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr Hammick, Plague Commissioner, for his valuable advice and co-operation. Sir Arthur Havelock could not have made a better choice for this difficult and responsible duty.

Our grateful thanks are also due to several ladies and gentlemen for their generous support in establishing separate caste Hospitals for segregation; the chief amongst them being Mrs. Norton who kindly placed at the disposal of the Plague Committee, a spacious Bangalow duly equipped, for the use of gosha ladies.

My thanks are also due to Major Crawford, for his valuable help in establishing and working caste Hospitals in the sixth and seventh divisions.

I do not know whether it is proper etiquette to refer to the good work done by my brother Commissioners. I feel that I shall be wanting in my duty, if I do not make mention of the excellent work done by my colleagues. Messrs Desika Chary and Theagaroya Chetty and Mir Muzheruddin Saib Bahadur in connection with inoculation. Three of them daily attended the depots established in their respective divisions and got several hundreds of inhabitants inoculated with Dr Haffkin's serum.

One word more and I have done. This is the first year in which the drainage scheme which has been hanging fire for the last half a century, took practical shape. The problem was a puzzle to many a scientific Engineer, but it was reserved for the practical head of Mr Loane, to solve it successfully. The Mylapore drainage work which has been completed last year will remain a lasting monument of his ability and skill, as a practical Engineer.

Mr P. Theagaroya Chetty:-- On page 7 and on page 109 the income from tax on vehicles with springs and on animals shows an increase of 11 per-cent over last year. This is a very good improvement and as compared with the income of two or three previous years, the increase is almost about 15 per-cent. Though we expected a fall in the income owing to the tramway, yet we have an increase; but for my part, I am not satisfied with it yet. I have always brought to your notice that there is something not all right in that department. We must look into it carefully. A little attention on the part of the Revenue Department brought in this increase. Disclosures of late show us that there is something wrong in the department, and it is better that we look into the matter carefully and do the needful. From what I was told it appears that the books of this year have disappeared from the Revenue department; and if the Commissioners were to take it into their heads to look into the books of last year and compare the issue books with the Shroff's books I think we will be able to find out whether there has been any defalcation last year, and from that we can see whether there is any room for improvement in the department.

The President:- At any time you can look into the books.

Mr Theagaroya Chetty:-- Two or three commissioners may sit for an hour a day and check the Issue books with the Shroff's books and see if there are any discrepancies.

The President:- I shall have it looked into and afterwards if you like you can look into it.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- There is no doubt an improvement; but there ought to be a great deal more.

The President:- I think you are quite right in saying that there ought to be a great deal more.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- On page 11, paragraph 64 our income from fees for licenses, registration &c. has risen a good deal. In two years there is an increase of Rs. 9000, but there must be a good deal of increase in this.

The President:- The fact of the matter is that the more you get, the more you want.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- I was telling you year after year that there was something wrong. There is an improvement of Rs. 9000 within the last two years; and there is room for getting more. Paragraph 61 deals with income from license fees on import of timber and firewood. Turning to page 110 and 111 you will find that there is a steady fall in the collection of license fees on firewood.

In 1893-94 license fees amounted to				Rs.	21648.
„	1894-95	„	„	„	21192.
„	1895-96	„	„	„	20972.
„	1896-97	„	„	„	19489.
„	1897-98	„	„	„	19415.
„	1898-99	„	„	„	18800

you will thus find that there is a steady fall, the fall being about Rs. 3000 within six or seven years. Properly speaking, we ought to have had an increase as the population had increased at least by 10 per cent. There is no reason why there should be a fall of 15 per cent. in the income. Taking the increase of population to be at least by 10 per

cent there ought to be an increase of 25 per cent in the income. I think this steady fall requires an explanation.

Dewan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar:- Has there been any introduction of cheap coal into Madras ?

The President:- I don't think the people that use firewood will use coal.

Dewan Bahadur Krishnama Charriar:- Our own pumping stations at the Red Hills Lake may use it.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- Under the head of "Repairs and communications we spent last year much less than what we did previously.

The President:- Because we have not had money.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- I don't suppose the Commissioners declined to grant more money.

The President:- You have not got money to grant. We get as much as we can in the Revised estimate. We have to cut the supply according to the money we have got. We have just come in for Rs. 50,000 in the revised estimates. Probably it may be cut down to Rs. 30,000.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- Our roads are awfully bad.

The President:- There is no question about that; but it is one of grant.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- In page 16 you will find it stated "most of the main roads in the southern half of the City are in good form". A promise is given that attention is being paid to minor roads. Paragraph 122 on page 19 deals with the quantity of water used for non domestic purposes. Looking at page 140 you will find that our metres are all wrong.

The President:- I know that you ^{are} referring to the third quarter for which there had been a great fall. I have been trying to find out the cause of it. If you look into the figures for the fourth quarter you will find that there is a considerable increase.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- Either our metres must be wrong or there must be some miscalculation. On page 20 you will find under the head of "contributions" we have paid Rs. 8159. You will find that this amount has risen from Rs. 1346 in 1890. How comes this ?

The President:- I found out that one year they made all the calculations wrong.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- I hope you will go into it. In regard to sanitary defects, I will read to you a portion on page 35 as to what the cause of the spread of cholera in Madras is. "The first division consisting of the favourable quarters of the filthy paddy boilers, the Tinnevely Settlement, and the hutting grounds of Cassimode, Palmyracoopam, Aundiappa gramani garden suffered most." From this you will see that it is not the 6th or 7th Division that is the cause of harm for Madras, but it is the 1st Division.

The President:- The only thing to do is to remove these people. The drainage would not assist them in any way as it would be impossible to drain these horrible Parcherries.

Dewan Bahadur Krishnama Charriar:- Start a building society in Madras.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- On page 38, speaking of the cause of the infantile mortality, the Report says, "this can only be accounted for by the general ignorances of the masses in matters relating to management of birth and infancy, coupled with the existence of insanitary conditions and overcrowding in many parts of the town".

These reasons have always existed and I should like to know why there should be such a large rise this year and why it should be attributed to these reasons. On page 39, you will find a paragraph under the head "The price of food". Last year especially was a very bad year when the prices were very high; and poor people were not able to maintain themselves. That is the more likely cause of the infantile mortality than these two. On page 42, you will find a reference to Plague measures. Is it not time for us to ask Government to give us a moiety.² I wish to move a proposition on that. With regard to the removal of rubbish and night soil which is dealt with in page 58 I think there is not that diligence shown which ought to be shown. In 1887-88 with 255 carts we made two lakhs and eighteen thousand trips. But now with 279 carts we make only 2 lakhs and 11,000 trips.

The President:- Has not the Health Officer told you why ?

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- The reason given by him is not the proper one. He says "in previous years, the load carried by a cart was not taken into account. Every cart that went into the rubbish depot with a load, whether full or less, was considered to have made a trip, but now it is not so. The trips are ~~not~~ted according to the loads carried by the carts. A cart carrying a full load is considered to make one trip, and one carrying half, half a trip, and so on. Hence the difference". But this system was not adopted in the last official year. You see that in 1887-88 with 255 carts we made 218,567 trips whereas last year with 279 carts we made 211,956 trips. That is a difference of 10 per cent. We were doing ten per cent less work with more number of carts. You will find that whenever there has been a complaint from the people that rubbish was not removed we gave an additional complement of carts, and there was a rise; but immediately there was a fall, either because there was no rubbish to remove or I do not know what it is. In 1891-92 there were good men

that were doing two trips in the morning. But now information is given to me that very few carts make two trips.

The President:- Because the rubbish depots are further away.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- No. Rubbish depots are much nearer especially in the second division. (At this stage there was some informal talk as to where the rubbish is now deposited). I am told that no cart now makes two trips. I think, Sir, you will have to go into that question too. On page 59 you will find something about sanding latrines. This is a very great nuisance and I have been bringing it to your notice. Here we see a state of things which is simply horrible. Of the 58 sanded latrines only 12 were sanded and 46 were not sanded. This is simply unimaginable. A statement has been given to me which does not agree with the statement given in the Administration Report. There is not a single sanded latrine in the 3rd Division and yet here is an expenditure of Rs. 10-4-0 for sanding. Again in the 8th Division there are 13 latrines and not one was sanded according to the statement given; and yet there is an expenditure of Rs. 22-8-10, Going to page 61 you will find that the Lighting Inspectors appear to be great experts in walking. For, according to the figures given here they walk 19 miles a day. Each lamp was inspected 67 times in the year.

Mr. N. Subramanyam:- One can see the lamps from one end of the street.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- On page 149 you will find that a Rhinoseeros was purchased for the People's Park in June 1898, but not paid for as yet.

The President:- It is not purchased. I have offered the owner a certain amount, but he would not take it. He has been to the Viceroy about it. I had to take it into the People's Park on account of public safety. It was shut up in the City stable

stables in the Wallajah Road.

Mr. Theagaroya Chetty:- Going to page 159 I find that there is a good deal of fall in the number of out patients treated at the Royapettah Hospital, and it is attributed to the plague scare. The fall is about 8000. The plague scare began in November and lasted about a month or two when people might have been frightened. But the question is whether a fall of 8000 can be attributed to it. I propose "that the Government be moved as to contribution towards recouping the expenditure incurred on plague preventive measures." I do not want to say anything as every one here knows about it.

Mr. V.C. Desikacharriar - Seconded the Resolution which was put and carried.

Mr. J. DeCaster:- With reference to that part of the Report which treats of the health of the city I wish to ask if any special attention has been given to the notoriously unhealthy state of that portion of the town between the Second Line Beach and the Popham's Broadway where malarious fever is said to be prevalent.

The President:- That is not a remark, but a question. You may call attention to it if you like.

Mr. DeCaster:- Then I call attention to it with a view that attention may be given to it. It is a notorious thing and the Doctors have been speaking very loudly about it.

The President:- I think there is only one Doctor.

Mr. DeCaster:- There are others. They say that most of the cases in the General Hospital from this side of the town have been cases of malarial fever and cases of spleen.

The President:- Are you not speaking on the Report of a certain Medical Officer?

DeCaster:- I am speaking on the Report on the health of the City. People who know most about it are calling attention to it in such a way that people outside are beginning to ask as to what we are doing about it. I have found more than one Doctor condemning this part of the city very much. I think we ought to give some attention to it.

Print A

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Resolution referred to.

Resolution No.1 of the Commissioners at their Special Meeting held on 22nd August 1899 forwarding the Administration Report to Government and stating that their remarks will follow -

Proposed by M.R.By P. Theagaraya Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.By V.C. Desika Charriar Avargal -

"That Government be moved as to contribution towards recouping the expenditure incurred on Plague preventive measures".

Carried.

en signed for copying _____
 en copied _____
 en examined _____
 en signed _____ 11/10/10

189 .

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

MENT No.

OSURES TO C. No.

ER OF GOVERNMENT

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EMENT WITH DITTO.

ERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
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