

[L. & M.]
[1,500-2,500-3,000]

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1567 M.

DATED 24-10-99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl Commission

Recording copies of full proceedings
as also copies of abstract proceedings of
a meeting of the Madras Munl Commission
held on the 31st July 1899.

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. 2721 m

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

G. No. 412

N. The

Order N. 1567 muis

24-10-99

Recorded.

23.10.99

24.10.99

Dated 16-10-99

Received 18 OCT 1899

Registered

Enclosures 2

Spare copies nil.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Full Proceedings of
Meeting of the Commissioners held
on 31st July 1899, together with the
abstract proceedings of the same
date.

18/10 23/10

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 412

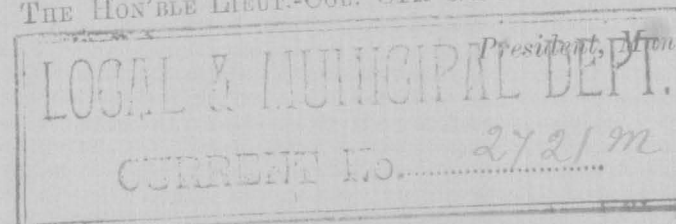
MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 16th October 1899.

From

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



To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

Enclosure^S
2

I have the honour to submit herewith for the
information of Government full proceedings as also a
copy of abstract proceedings of a Meeting of the Commis-
sioners held on 31st July 1899.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

George Moore Lt.-Col.

President, Munl. Comm.

Couch No. I to G. No. 412

Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Erra Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Monday, the 31st July 1899, at 5-15 p.m., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884, II of 1892 and II of 1899.

PRESENT :

R. E. Ellis, Esq., M. INST. C.E., Acting President.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Appasawmy Pillai Avargal.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasam 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.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.
M. R. Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. V. Masilamani Pillai Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Major F. J. Crawford, I.M.S.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M. R. Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. M. Punithavelu Mudaliar Avargal.

Reinstatement.

THE AG. PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, we have a quorum now. Let us begin our work. Before we proceed with our regular work you have to decide whether you reinstate Lt.-Colonel Maitland who has vacated his seat on the commission owing to his absence from three consecutive meetings.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—Does he express a wish to continue on the commission?

THE AG. PRESIDENT:—He said as much.

It was proposed by Mr. Theagaroya Chetty, seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster and carried that he be reinstated.

A New Hospital.

THE AG. PRESIDENT:—The first subject on the agenda paper is the G.O., No. 870 M., dated 20th June 1899, on the proposed New Hospital for Black Town. The papers have been in circulation and in the Government Order they ask for two things: one is, the Commissioners are requested to

state whether they have any objection to the site of the Infantry lines and the connected buildings being utilised for the construction of a New Hospital as suggested by the Surgeon-General; and the other is the President be requested to enquire of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality towards the upkeep of the New Hospital a sum of Rs. 14,000 which they are, and have been, incurring on the Native Infirmary. Well, gentlemen, I have been in communication with the Directors of the Monegar Choultry but I have had no definite reply as to what they wish to do in the matter.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Will you please read the Resolution passed by the Commissioners when the whole matter was submitted to Government. I think it was Mr. V. C. Desikachariar who moved the Resolution.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—This is the Resolution: "That plans and estimates be submitted to Government with the request that they will inform the Commissioners what assistance they are prepared to give them." Now that the subject has come before us, we may decide whether we ought to have a Hospital at all or not. We wanted to see what assistance the Government could give us, but we now find that the Government are not going to give us anything.

THE AG. PRESIDENT:—There are two questions to be decided. I do not know if we can very much get further in the matter until we have a reply from the Directors of the Monegar Choultry. That is one thing. The second thing is, that we ought to give a definite answer to Government with reference to the question they ask. The Government have practically decided that they are not going to give us very much assistance. I really do not see how we are going to get the funds for maintaining a Hospital of this stamp.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I beg to propose "That the subject of building a Hospital in Black Town be deferred *sine die*." My grounds for moving this Resolution are these: From the papers that have been circulated you will find that the cost of building a Hospital and maintaining it will be about Rs. 40,000 a year; and to meet this expenditure Sir George Moore and Lieutenant-Colonel Walker suggested that a sum of Rs. 14,000 a year might be got from the Monegar Choultry funds. They also wanted some assistance from Mr. Govindoss; but whether he will give us anything is problematical. We expected some assistance from Government, but the Government do not seem inclined to give us anything. Therefore we must fall back on our own resources and upon the help we can get from the Monegar Choultry. As Secretary to the Monegar Choultry I received a communication from the Ag. President asking the Directors whether they will be prepared to give Rs. 14,000 a year. But somehow or other the books of the Monegar Choultry do not show that they spend Rs. 14,000 a year, and they spend only Rs. 10,000. Their income is not as stated in the Government Order Rs. 22,000 a year but only Rs. 19,000. Out of the Rs. 10,000 now spent, a sum of Rs. 3,000 is spent on patients who are suffering from incurable diseases. The Government Order says that the Municipality, if they should build the Hospital, are not going to have a ward for incurable diseases; so that if the Monegar Choultry authorities contribute anything at all it will be a very small amount. For the information of the Directors I have prepared a statement of income and expenditure which I will not be wrong in placing before you and which will show you whether they will be prepared to give you any assistance or not. The income in the shape of interest on donations from various sources amounts to a total of Rs. 19,300. One or two days after I wrote to the President, I received a notice from the High Court that Rs. 1,036 forming Venkatasami Naidu's donation will be withdrawn. So that the income of the Monegar Choultry will really be about Rs. 18,300. The charges are

Depôt Choultry and foundling hospital	...	Rs. 5,000	0	0
Assessment in Monegar Choultry Buildings	...	" 457	8	0
Repairs to the Choultry Buildings	...	" 500	0	0
Rajah Sir S. Ramasamy Moodelliar's Lying-in-Hospital	"	5,000	0	0
Assessment in do	...	" 219	9	8
Total	...	11,177	1	8

Then comes the question of the Native Infirmary. If it is taken over by the Municipality, wards will be required for patients suffering from incurable diseases.

It will require a staff of	...	...	...	Rs. 1,128	0	0
Dieting patients	...	...	...	" 3,000	0	0
Medicines	...	...	...	" 500	0	0
Bedding and cloth	...	...	...	" 200	0	0
Total	...	...	...	4,828	0	0

After deducting the cost of dieting, medicines, establishments, &c., only Rs. 2,300 will remain; and this is the amount which the Directors of the Monegar Choultry can be in a position to grant instead of Rs. 14,000. I came by these figures as Secretary; and I do not think I am wrong in giving these figures. You will therefore not expect more than Rs. 2,500 from the Directors of the Monegar Choultry instead of Rs. 14,000. The Municipality are now spending on the Black Town Dispensary Rs. 7,500 which can be saved in the event of the New Hospital being built. Even after getting these two sums amounting to Rs. 10,000, the Municipality will still require Rs. 30,000 if they are to meet the cost and maintenance of the New Hospital. Now the question is whether we can afford in our present financial condition to incur this additional expenditure. With the drainage of Madras on hand costing about 30 lakhs, with the prospect of a water supply scheme costing about 15 lakhs, with the prospect of spending several lakhs of Rupees, rightly or wrongly, upon plague—we have already spent two lakhs—and with the white elephant which is just puffing there with a big trunk—the incinerator which was once estimated to cost Rs. 10,000 a year, but now estimated to cost Rs. 24,000 a year, an incinerator to burn on an average 60 cart loads of rubbish a day,

THE AG. PRESIDENT:—You are out of order. We are now on the question of the Hospital and not the incinerator.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—No doubt it is the question of Hospital that we are now discussing. I am telling you where all we have to spend money. The incinerator will cost us no less than Rs. 24,000 a year.

THE AG. PRESIDENT:—You say you are dealing with the question of expense. You can deal with the expenditure.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—For burning 60 cart loads of rubbish a day, we have to spend Rs. 24,000 a year. That is really a white elephant. With all this expenditure I ask you whether you will be in a position to spend Rs. 30,000 a year upon the New Hospital. There is one for the Northern part of Madras, and you are not charged a pie for it. Will it be right on the part of the Commissioners to build a Hospital at an expense of two or three lakhs and to maintain it at an additional cost of Rs. 30,000 a year and to impose another tax upon the poor rate-payers of Madras? I maintain that this is not the proper time for us to consider anything like a Hospital.

MR. SALLA GURUSAMI CHETTY, seconded the proposition.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—It must be remembered that when the question of building this New Hospital came up before the Commissioners, they did not commit themselves to any obligation that they would build a Hospital like this. They laid down most distinctly that their determination to build a New Hospital would depend upon the contribution which the Government may promise when the scheme is submitted to them. You will remember that Sir George Moore at that very meeting remarked that we have a right, if a Hospital is to be built, to demand a contribution from Government. Now as it appears that the Government are not prepared to give us a contribution the whole question must drop at least for the present.

The Resolution was put to the vote and carried.

Furlough of Sir George Moore.

The next subject in the agenda paper was the G.O., No. 894 M. Mis., dated 26th June 1899, extending by one month the furlough granted to the Hon. Lt.-Col. Sir George Moore, President, Municipal Commission.

The G.O. was recorded.

Registration of Deaths.

THE AG. PRESIDENT :—The next item is the Endorsement No. 718, dated 6th July 1899, on Current No. 1652 M., Local and Municipal Department, on the despatch from Government of India suggesting improvement in the system of Death Registration in the City of Madras.

You have seen the papers that have been in circulation. Government have referred the subject to us for remarks which should be submitted through the Sanitary Commissioner. Several Commissioners have made remarks on the papers which have been in circulation. I shall be glad to hear what you have to say further on the subject.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I think it is very necessary that there should be a better registration of deaths especially in the case of fevers. At present there is a large loop hole in our Death Returns. There is invariably a large number shown under the head "Various Causes." What the "Various Causes" mean, nobody knows. It is a great shelter to cover up diseases which are not known to the public. As the Government remark, I think that in the case, at any rate, of fever, it is necessary that timely intimation ought to be given to the authorities to enable them to satisfy themselves that a death is not due to any other cause than fever. This precaution is very necessary especially when plague is threatening us. I therefore propose "that to secure a more accurate registration of deaths a certificate signed by a duly qualified Medical Officer or a respectable gentleman resident in the street, or in the neighbourhood, should be furnished soon after the cremation or burial of the corpse."

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—I second the motion I remember that in the days of Surgeon-General Rankin the question of burying infants came up; and he said that before burial a certificate should be obtained. A committee which sat over it said that it was not possible to obtain anything of the kind. Any requisition after burial or cremation is reasonable. You will find from the Returns of Births and Deaths that there are more births in the Divisions where there are Lying-in Hospitals, than in others. But that does not show that other people have to report no births the imperfect and inaccurate information we now get is due to our inefficient or inadequate staff and to no fault of the rate-payers and residents.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I suppose the Government want to know whether we will adopt the Rules framed by them.

THE AG. PRESIDENT :—The Government simply ask for your views. As far as I can see the feeling of the Commissioners is against the adoption of such stringent measures as are mentioned in this G. O., and the Government are also disinclined to enforce any stringent methods in this respect.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Then it will be better to pass a Resolution saying that the Commissioners are not prepared to adopt these stringent rules.

MAJOR CRAWFORD, I.M.S. :—I think that registration of deaths is one of those reforms that Government can introduce if they are certain of the help of the people. I suggested when the papers went round that before burial or cremation a certificate should be obtained from a Medical Officer or a resident householder to the effect that "he has no reason to suspect that the patient died from causes other than that mentioned by the relations of the deceased." What I maintain is, that people in Madras are sufficiently far advanced in education to understand how they can help Government in this matter—the health administration of Madras. We have to begin in a small way and the adoption of my suggestion can in no way be a hardship. A Municipal Commissioner of a Division can in the absence of other people grant the certificate or get others to help him in this work. The family of the patient who dies should submit some sort of certificate to the burial ground keeper and Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar was kind enough to tell us something, but he stopped short. What is the difficulty in obtaining certificate before cremation? When the Government is introducing an Act it will help them to know where the difficulty lies.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR :—I can point out the difficulty which Dr. Crawford does not see. No doubt there are three or four Commissioners for each Division. Take, for instance, the 8th Division. It had no elected Commissioners for sometime. Dr. Maitland was the only Commissioner and he was away. The 8th Division is a very extensive one and it will not be easy for people

to seek the residence of Municipal Commissioners before they remove a dead body. Further, people cannot be expected to stay at home always to grant certificates.

MAJOR CRAWFORD :—If there is any such difficulty, why don't you appoint a dozen respectable people to grant certificates.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—We Hindus know what the difficulties are. We do not keep dead bodies for hours. Suppose a child dies, as soon as it is dead we remove the corpse. Why? Because if the dead body is kept at home there is pollution, and even the neighbours cannot cook. Under such circumstances the question is whether the corpse can be kept at home for any length of time.

MAJOR CRAWFORD :—Then be ready with the certificate before the patient dies.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Oh! (Laughter).

MR. SALLA GURUSAMI CHETTY :—We must hasten his death, I suppose.

MAJOR CRAWFORD :—I mean a certificate to the effect that he had been suffering from a certain disease.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Dr. Crawford assumes that the patient is going to die. Suppose in a family there is a widow with a number of children, do you know what difficulty there is to bring articles for carrying the dead body to the burial ground? I tell you, sir, you cannot understand what it is. I am very sorry that Dr. Crawford should have come forward to propose a thing like that.

MR. EARDLEY NORTON :—How many Registrars of Deaths have you?

MR. W. D. SMITH :—Why not ask Government to appoint a certain number of gentlemen to give certificates.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Seeing the feelings of the Commissioners I ask for permission to withdraw the Resolution.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—As a seconder I am not prepared to agree to this suggestion.

MR. W. S. VENKATRAMANJULU NAIDU :—What is the object of Government in appointing certain people to grant certificates. Not being professional men, they cannot diagnose diseases and cannot therefore grant certificates as to the cause of death. Their certificates will be of no value and will not help the accuracy of the returns published. Suppose a certain gentleman gives a certificate, how will it help you? There are certain localities where illiterate people live and where English educated gentlemen cannot be found. What is to be done in such cases? Who is to give a certificate in a Parcherry. We shall wait and see what takes place in Bengal. Considering the usages of Hindus, I do not think it will be advisable to introduce this measure.

MR. W. D. SMITH :—I beg to propose the following amendment :—"That the Government be invited to appoint a certain number of gentlemen in each Division to grant certificates as to the cause of death, failing certificates from a Medical Officer, without which no cremation or burial should take place."

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

MR. E. H. ELLIOT :—The primary duty is to get a certificate from a Medical Officer.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Is not this amendment a direct negative of the original motion?

THE AG. PRESIDENT :—No.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR : With reference to Mr. Smith's proposal let me mention that it was only a few days ago that a death took place at Mylapore. Neither Mr. Bhashyam Iyengar nor Mr. M. Desikachariar was there. The Doctor was not to be found and the cremation had to take place before 3 as a shower of rain was apprehended at 4 o'clock. Besides, the children and their mothers were starving. In these circumstances, it will be a calamitous proceeding to rule that a certificate should be got before cremation.

MAJOR CRAWFORD :—It would not take half a minute to get to the nearest house-holder.

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of a GENERAL MEETING of the MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS for the CITY of MADRAS, held at their Office Premises, No. 22, Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Monday the 31st July 1899, at 5-15 P.M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884, II of 1892 and II of 1899.

PRESENT :

R. E. Ellis, Esq., M. INST. C.E., Acting President.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Appaswami Pillai Avargal.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. S. Subbaya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangana Mudaliar Avargal.
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillay Avargal.
M.R.Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjula Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. V. Masilamani Pillai Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Major F. J. Crawford, I.M.S.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Aiyar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. Punithavelu Mudaliar Avargal.

No. 1.

Re-instatement.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster.
"That Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland, I.M.S., be re-instated."

Carried.

No. 2.

G.O., No. 870 M., dated 20th June 1899, on the proposed New Hospital for Black Town.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.

"That the subject of building a hospital be deferred sine die."

Carried.

No. 3.

G.O., Mis., No. 894 M., dated 26th June 1899, extending by one month the furlough granted to the Hon'ble Lieut.-Colonel Sir George Moore, President, Municipal Commission.

Recorded.

No. 4.

Endorsement No. 718, dated 6th July 1899, on Current No. 1652 M., Local and Municipal Department, on the despatch from Government of India suggesting improvement in the system of death registration in the City of Madras.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.

"That to secure the more accurate registration of death, a certificate signed by a duly qualified Medical officer or by some respectable gentleman resident in the street or neighbourhood should be furnished soon after cremation or burial."

Mr. W. D. Smith proposed an amendment seconded by M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.

"To secure the more accurate registration of death, that Government be invited to appoint a certain number of gentlemen residing in each division to grant certificate as to cause of death without which no cremation or burial should take place."

Mr. J. DeCaster proposed an amendment seconded by Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.

"That to secure accuracy, two or more registrars be employed in each division to grant the required death certificate after enquiries in all cases where doctor's certificates are not available."

M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu proposed an amendment seconded by M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.

"That the matter be deferred pending the experience the Calcutta Municipality might gain by the change in the registration."

M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu proposed an amendment seconded by M.R.Ry. V. Masilamani Pillay Avargal.

"As the Commissioners think that the proposed change in the registration is unsuited to the condition prevailing in Madras, that the subject be deferred pending the experience the Calcutta Municipality might gain in the matter."

M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Aiyar Avargal proposed an amendment seconded by Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.

"That to secure the more accurate registration of death a certificate signed by a medical attendant, a Municipal Commissioner or by any other respectable gentleman resident in the street or neighbourhood should be furnished within 48 hours after cremation or burial of the corpse."

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. M. Venkata-ramiah Chetty Garu.

"That the meeting be adjourned till the 14th August 1899."

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
August 1899.

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189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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

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