

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1627 M

DATED 3-11-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl Commission

Recording copies of full proceedings
as also copies of abstract proceedings
of the meetings of the Munl Commission
of Madras held on the 16th & 22nd August
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. 2822 m



From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Order No. 1627 mms 3 11-99

G. No. 452

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Enclosures 4

Spare copies nil

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Full proceedings of the
Meeting of the Commissioners held
on 14th and 22nd August 1899, together
with the Abstract Proceedings of the
same dates.

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 452

General Department,

Madras, 27 October 1899.

From.

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

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.

CURRENT No. 2822m

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

Enclosures
4

I have the honour to submit herewith for the
information of Government full proceedings as also copies
of abstract proceedings of the Meetings of the Commis-
sioners held on 14th and 22nd August 1899.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. Moore

Lt.-Col.

President, Munl. Commn.

Proceedings of an Adjourned 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 14th August 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*.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Appaswamy 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. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
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. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. V. Masilamani Pillay 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.

The Butchers' Strike.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Before we go on with the business of the meeting, I want to speak to you about a matter which is of interest to you all and the public generally—I refer to the strike of butchers. Though it is not in the Agenda paper, I wish to bring it before you as it is an important matter. The bye-laws which you framed and which were sanctioned by Government are now being enforced and the butchers have struck. They are under a false impression that they have to wear badges and consequently they struck. They have simply to take out licenses and the rest of the bye-laws is practically the same as those that have been in force before. If we give in now, we shall never be able to enforce them again. I would ask you, as Commissioners, to go round and persuade them that the only new bye-law is the one relating to the taking out of licenses.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR:—Had they not to take out licenses before?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—No.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR:—What is the license fee?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—One Rupee.

2822/m/99

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Are not sales absolutely prohibited in Slaughter Houses under the new by-laws?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—The Health Officer who is now present at the meeting will explain the matter.

THE HEALTH OFFICER:—By sale, you are perhaps alluding to the sale of meat. That is another misapprehension. The term "Meat" is not meant to include carcasses. By "Meat" one understands cut-up bodies. Cut-up bodies are not allowed to be sold in slaughter-houses. Carcasses are sold and taken to markets.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—If these people are really labouring under a misapprehension, it is well to give them a short time and explain the matter to them. These are ignorant people and magnify every little thing with the result that a great deal of inconvenience is caused to the public. The best thing would be not to enforce the bye-laws now, for a short time, and in the meantime the thing might be explained to them. I do not mean to say that you are to give up the bye-laws altogether simply because they have struck work. If there is anything that requires to be altered, that may be done without difficulty.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—If it is the general wish of the Commissioners that the bye-laws should be kept in abeyance, I shall do so. I will tell the butchers that they must take out licenses from the 1st of next month; and in the meantime you may endeavour to explain to them that there is nothing new in the bye-laws except the fact of taking out licenses.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB:—Was any time allowed to them?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Since March they knew it.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—Was it made known to them by beat of tom-tom?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—There were certain clauses introduced without knowing the custom in Slaughter-houses. People had some fear about badges; but when I explained the matter to most of them they got out of that fear now. The other day, I asked the Health Officer to give them time till the end of the month; and he consented to do so. I think by some mistake or other last Saturday morning the Municipal authorities asked them not to go into Slaughter-houses without licenses. That was a mistake, and that mistake caused all this trouble. These people combined and there was combination all over the city. There is something in the bye-laws which requires to be amended, and I think it is better that the bye-laws go before the Standing Committee so that they may go over them more carefully. It will take some time for the Standing Committee to revise them properly. I think, therefore, the revised bye-laws may be brought into force in the beginning of October and in the meanwhile let things go on as usual.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—In the meantime I want you to explain to them that licenses should be taken out by butchers.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—Who are to take out licenses is the difficulty.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Butchers.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—And also purchasers according to the new bye-laws. If any one wants to purchase a sheep, he will have to go there with a license.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—I want to enforce the licenses for butchers and butchers' assistants.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—It is better that we enforce the whole thing all at once.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Unless you pass a Resolution informally to the contrary, I am going to enforce the taking out of licenses from the beginning of the next month, everything else being kept in abeyance.

MAJOR CRAWFORD:—Mr. President, this is not in the Agenda.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—This is an important matter, and therefore I put it before the Commissioners.

MAJOR CRAWFORD:—It has been before the Commissioners since March last. Where is the urgency? Speaking for a very large section of the European community, I may say that we are quite prepared for small inconvenience the strike puts to.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—The Hindu community is not such a small community as could afford to get meat from Bangalore. Will you please define, sir, who a butcher is?

MR. DESIKACHARIAR:—The man that kills.

MR. W. S. VENKATRAMANJULU NAIDU:—Why not suspend the bye-laws for a month and give time to the butchers to be talked to. I thoroughly agree with the principle that butchers must be brought under control and licenses must be issued to them to bring them under proper control.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—This matter has been thoroughly discussed and the bye-laws have received the sanction of Government. Unless you pass some Resolution I am going to enforce that all butchers should take out licenses from the 1st of September.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—Is this the first time that butchers are going to be taxed?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Yes.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Considering that this subject is likely to be brought up before the Standing Committee and discussed, I think it will be well if the whole thing is left in abeyance till the 1st of October. Now the butchers are expected to take out licenses. Is there anything in the Municipal Act or in the new bye-laws defining who butchers are? There is no definition at all. Suppose you take a man before a Magistrate for not taking out the license, how is the Magistrate to be guided as to who a butcher is and where is he to draw the line of distinction? Unless the law lays down as to what a butcher is, it is impossible for the Magistrate to impose the penalty prescribed by the law. I would therefore propose "that the whole question of enforcing the bye-laws be deferred till the 1st of October." In the meantime the Standing Committee which meets next Friday will be able to formulate the thing. If as an urgent matter the thing is to be brought into force earlier than October, we shall bring it up at the next General Meeting. The whole question may then go up to Government if the alterations are material and at no distant date the whole thing may become law and can be enforced without any difficulty.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Of course this is very informal and I don't like that you should discuss the matter. You all know enough of it, I fancy, to be able to vote informally either for or against Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar's Resolution.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY seconded the Resolution.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT:—Is Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar right in moving this Resolution? You told us what your decision is. Is it right on the part of any Commissioner to stand up and move a Resolution?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—If the majority of you wish to delay the matter, I will do so.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—We are prepared to vote with you.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—But that is not the majority.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—This is an informal matter and we cannot go on further.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—You have brought forward the subject and I have a right to move that this be voted upon. If you had not brought forward the subject I could have no such right.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—You just told us what you wish to do. We are prepared to agree with you.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—The majority has to agree with me.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—That will be shown by a show of hands.

The Resolution was put and carried, twelve voting for and six against it.

MR. DESIKACHARIAR:—The matter must be discussed.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—This is not before the meeting. We have not begun our meeting as yet.

Registration of Deaths.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—You will remember that at our last meeting we were discussing the question of Death Registration. The amendment before the meeting when we adjourned was the one proposed by Mr. G. Subramania Iyer and seconded by Mr. Muzheruddin Sahib—"that to secure a more accurate registration of deaths a certificate signed by a medical attendant, Municipal Commissioner, or any other respectable gentleman resident in the street or in the neighbourhood, should be furnished within 24 hours after cremation or burial of the corpse."

MR. P. M. SIVANGNANA MUDALIAR :—May I know Mr. Venkatramanjula Naidu's amendment?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—His amendment is "that as the Commissioners think that the proposed change in the Registration of Deaths is unsuited to the conditions prevailing in Madras, the subject be deferred pending the experience that Calcutta might gain in the matter."

MAJOR CRAWFORD :—There are two suggestions here and they differ from mine in that they make the production of the certificate obligatory *after* burial or cremation of the dead body. I am of opinion that the dead body should not be burned or buried without the previous production of the certificate. When once the dead body is disposed of, we have no hold on people to compel them to produce the certificate.

MR. S. SUBBIAH CHETTY :—I wish to say one or two words in reply to what Dr. Crawford has said. It is certainly against the sentiment of Hindus to ask a person to go about for a certificate before cremation. I think it is right to say that it would be wounding the feelings of the relations of the deceased to insist upon a certificate being produced before cremation. With regard to Europeans, they are as cool over their dead bodies as they are before they are dead. I think they have cool brains and do things in a systematic way. But we Hindus lose our presence of mind and are not in a position to do any business when we see a corpse. It requires great courage to get a certificate having a corpse before us. I think it would certainly be respecting the feelings of Hindus as a nation not to insist upon a certificate being produced before cremation. No doubt it would look very singular to Europeans when it is said that Hindus cannot conveniently get a certificate before cremation; but whatever that may be, in Madras at least the majority of inhabitants are Hindus, and I think, it would only be conceding a point in their favour if this concession is allowed. The time fixed by Mr. Subramania Iyer that within 48 hours after cremation the certificate should be obtained is not sufficient. According to present rules, report should be made to the Registrar of Births and Deaths within 7 days from the date of birth or death. That is not a satisfactory state of things. So much time should not certainly elapse from the date of death to the date of registration. But in a case like this I think it would be doing justice to the feelings of the people who inhabit this place if we could strike a mean and say that within four days of the death the relations of the deceased should produce the certificate similar to the one proposed. With regard to the suggestion that it should be a certificate by a Commissioner or a respectable resident of the place, I think it is certainly unnecessary. I do not see why a certificate should be obtained in that way when these Municipal officers are on the alert taking the necessary steps to find out the cause of death. It should be in the interests of the public that a certificate should be obtained and I have no objection to that being done. I am against the amendment to the extent that it limits the time to 48 hours and that it requires the certificate from a Municipal Commissioner or a respectable resident. I think these two restrictions ought to be removed.

MR. P. M. SIVANGNANA MUDALIAR :—Gentlemen, you all know that when a person is applied to for a certificate he has to base it on hearsay information. The Municipal Commissioner or any other respectable citizen will certainly think twice before giving a certificate on hearsay information for fear of laying himself open to a prosecution. A medical attendant can safely grant the certificate because he bases it on his own knowledge of things; whereas a resident is not expected to know all the particulars of the disease and is therefore not in a position to grant the certificate except on the information which he may get from those that are in the house. That information may happen to be untrue; and if untrue, what is to be the result? The very first thing that will take place is the prosecution of this gentleman who is considered respectable enough to grant the certificate, and he will have to appear before the Police Court because the certificate furnished by him happens to be

untrue. In such a state of affairs no respectable citizen will ever come forward to grant the certificate unless as has been suggested by somebody, Government nominates some persons and makes it compulsory on their part to grant certificates. I do not know whether it would be of much use to have men nominated by Government; because the moment they feel the responsibility of their position they would certainly demand fees for certificates granted by them. It appears to me that Section 397 of the Municipal Act is sufficiently clear and enables us to have a correct entry being made and it throws the duty of making correct entries on the Registrar. If it is the duty of the Registrar I can well understand his being able to go about and getting information necessary for purposes of record. If we find that the number of Registrars is not sufficient the only course we have to adopt is to increase their number and to limit their scope of action. I think it would be safer to throw the burden on the Registrar and not on the residents.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I suppose the whole thing has cropped up out of deficient registration where more than half the deaths are put down to unknown causes. The mistake is not in the people who go there to register deaths. But it is the Municipal Commissioners and the Municipal Executive that are responsible for it. They have certain columns in the Register for noting deaths such as cholera, fever, diarrhoea, dysentery and the rest are put down under "Other Causes." If I go to the Registrar and tell him that a man died of elephantiasis or diabetes, under what head will he put it? He will put it under the head "Other Causes." In that way 95 per cent. of deaths if not cent. per cent are put down under that heading. If we rectify that fault, the question of certificates need not be considered at all. The best thing for us to do is to ask the Executive to prepare Registration sheets in such a way as to have some more columns for important diseases.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER :—Are not these headings adopted in all parts of the country or, are they local?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—Probably what was meant by "Other Causes" was that the Registrar should put down the other causes, *viz.*, the description of the disease and not put a tick under the heading. Instructions could be given to the Registrars to do this in future. What Mr. Theagaroya Chetty said does account for a large number of deaths appearing under "Other Causes."

Mr. Subramania Iyer's amendment was put to the vote and lost.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—With regard to Mr. Venkatramanjula Naidu's amendment, I may say that the conditions of Madras are quite different to those of Calcutta. In Calcutta, you will find in every street Medical shops, Ayurvedic dispensaries, Homeopathic dispensaries and what not. It is easy for Calcutta people to obtain certificates from Hakims or Doctors; whereas in Madras, in certain places it is difficult to find a dispensary within one mile circle.

Mr. Venkatramanjula Naidu's amendment was put to the vote and carried.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—The next business in the Agenda is the consideration of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th June and 7th July 1899, and Resolution No. 19 of 17th March and Resolution No. 9 of 11th April 1899.

There is a question of Schedule under Section 372 which was referred back to the Standing Committee. Their Resolution is that the classification should be in accordance with the lines laid down by Government in their order. There is also the question of the Tramway in the Proceedings of the 11th April. Mr. Norton made a note whether we had any power to grant a concession to Mr. Numbermal Chetty until the Tramway people refuse to do the work. It appears that no plans have been submitted and it seems to be a sort of blank scheme. If anything definite comes up we may consider it then.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—I must call the attention of the Executive to the state of the road through which the new Tramway line passes, *viz.*, the Wall Tax Road, the Choolai Bazaar Road, and the road near the Salt Cottars. On the side where the line is laid, the road, is half a foot higher than the rest. The water that collected on the road during the last rains is still stinking there.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—The Acting Engineer's attention has been called to it and will be called again.

The Proceedings were recorded.

Receipts and Disbursements.

Statements of receipts and disbursements from April 1898, to March 1899, and for April and May 1899, were recorded.

Progress Report of Works.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Now, we come to the Progress Report of works for February and March and April and May 1899.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I find from the Progress Report that some of the Divisions—1st, 2nd, 3rd and 7th Divisions—are very much neglected in the matter of progress. The other day I got a statement from the Executive showing that in the last two official years, out of 24 roads in the 1st Division only one road was repaired.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—That means that other roads were all right.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—There is one road which is called good—that is the road which was repaired—8 roads middling, 9 roads bad, 6 roads very bad. In the 2nd Division, there are 56 roads of which only three were repaired. What are these 3 roads? The General Hospital Road, Iyapillai Lane, and Venkatachella Mudali Street, which is perhaps a small bit of lane. In the 3rd Division there are 41 roads, out of which only 4 were reformed, viz., the North Beach Road, Moore Street, Popham's Broadway and Munnady Street. In the 7th Division, 9 roads were reformed, viz., the Mount Esplanade Road, Mount Road, Wallajah Road, Body Guard Road, Westcott Road, Pycroft's Road, Annachella Chetty Street—this is perhaps a native quarter—and Nallatambi Mudali Street. You will find from this that certain roads which are used by a certain class of people were reformed, whereas all other roads which are passed by other classes of people are neither touched nor cared for. If you, gentlemen, were to go from the General Hospital Road, up to Trivatore Toll Gate which is one of the most important roads in Madras, you will find with the exception of a small portion about two furlongs, which was repaired lately, the rest is simply disgraceful to the Municipality. Who passes that road and why it has not been repaired, you can guess. Going to Division, 11, roads were repaired. From this you will see that some quarters are very much neglected while others are taken care of very much. I think it will be better for us to call the attention of the Executive to see to the whole town not partially as they do, but impartially and do the needful and to give equal distribution of favours as you say.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—I will endeavour to carry out Mr. Theagaroya Chetty's wishes and I will call the attention of the Engineer to the points mentioned and see what we can do.

The Progress Report was recorded.

The Public Works Department.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—The next matter is Mr. Pragasu Mudaliar's resolution of which he gave notice.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—As you are already aware, my resolution runs to the following effect:—“that the Commissioners regret to observe that for want of efficient control and supervision in the P. W. D. a piece of Municipal land to the north of the Elephant Gate Police Station, 2nd Division, was allowed to be built upon in March last; that the approval or disapproval of the plan of a building to be erected being vested in the President alone by Section 265 of the Act, the permission granted by the Engineer to build upon the said land and the consequent alienation of the land in question is irregular and illegal. The Acting President is called upon to explain how this had occurred, and to take due notice of the conduct of the subordinates who are responsible in the matter.”

My only object in bringing this resolution is, to check irregularities in the department and not from any anti-religious feelings. If the Commissioners should decide that the building already completed should be pulled down, I should be very sorry for it, partly because it may be hurting the feelings of a large community, and partly because this building would not have seen the light of the day, but for the connivance, nay, the active assistance of some person or persons in the Public

Works Department. If, in consideration of those facts, it is decided to permit the building to stand, I should only be too glad to support it, in which case, either the land on which the building stands must be leased or sold.

I shall now very briefly state the facts of the case and I would ask you to note particularly each incident in the chain of these facts. In August 1893, one Koopu Pandaram applied for this very piece of land. The then Overseer reported, that it was Municipal land and the party was accordingly informed, “that he cannot build unless he purchases the land.” The party accordingly applied for sale, and, in submitting it to the President, the Engineer observed, “not recommended. If land is to be covered with buildings, the Municipality might let out the site on lease.” In December 1893 this was placed before the Standing Committee and the application was refused. This is the first stage of the case.

In January 1899 one Perumal Rajah again applied for permission to build on this very land, submitting a plan. A perusal of the application and plan will show that they do not furnish all the information required to be given by the Act, and under ordinary circumstances, the papers would have been returned to the party, but it was sent on to the Overseer. The latter, like a prudent and careful man, returned the application with the remark, “Whether party could be allowed to erect a building on Municipal land.” It is for you to see what the Supervisor ought to have done. The matter ought to have been reported to the Engineer, but no. The Supervisor sends a letter to party asking him “to produce Collector's certificate.” Is it not strange, to call upon the party to produce Collector's certificate, when as a matter of fact it was known, that a certificate could not be produced as the land was Municipal property. The party sends a reply to the Supervisor (a most objectionable practice) in which he says “that the temple, now in ruined condition, was built by his ancestors, that he proposes to rebuild it, that it does not belong to anybody, and that he cannot produce Collector's certificate.” Supervisor calls on the Overseer again “to put up application and plan with his report.” Why the Overseer should be called upon to report again, it is for you to see.

On the 31st January 1899, Overseer reported to Supervisor thus:—“I do not think we can grant permission on Municipal land as it will be difficult to get it back if the land is again required by the Municipality.” After keeping the papers with him for ten days, Supervisor makes the following report to the Engineer on the 10th February 1899:—“Submitted to the Engineer. The temple is in existence with no superstructure. I see no objection to grant permit for roofing the same.” This report is certainly very ingenious. The statement “Temple is in existence,” is entirely false. What the Supervisor intended to mean by the expression “with no superstructure,” I cannot understand. He wished it to be understood evidently, that the walls were all standing and that permission was only sought “for roofing the same.” That the Supervisor intended it to be understood so, is evident from the recommendation he makes, viz., “I see no objection to grant permit for roofing the same.” The Engineer however promised to see the place. On one of the papers in the file a note is made by Supervisor “inspected by the Engineer” “20th February 1899” this is a very important entry, i.e., that the site was inspected by the Engineer on the 20th February. But eight days afterwards on the 27th February Supervisor submits papers to Engineer in which he remarks, “this was inspected by you to-day. Permission may be granted to erect the temple as per plan.” I would draw your special attention to the statement “was inspected by you to-day.” The question is, was it inspected by the Engineer on the 27th? If it is so, the Engineer must have inspected the building once on the 20th and again on the 27th. My own inference is that the Engineer must have inspected some other building on the 27th to which probably he had no objection, and the Supervisor apparently has utilized it for the purpose of obtaining permission for the objectionable building. There is also another point in this report of the Supervisor. He recommends that permission may be granted to erect the temple as per plan, you will remember that in his report of the 10th February to which I have already alluded to, the Supervisor says that “there is no objection to grant permit for roofing same,” but he says now, that “permission may be granted to erect as per plan.” One may naturally ask, was the plan for “roofing” or for erecting the entire building, walls inclusive? It is evident that the Supervisor gradually and stealthily was working his way to see this objectionable building come into existence. On the above report, to the Supervisor, the Engineer's order was, “may be allowed.” On the 4th

lying at the top of the pad on his office table. If such things could be done in open daylight, where is the safety?

Mr. S. Subbiah Chetty seconded the resolution.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—With reference to the Supervisor, I will just read to you my memorandum—

“The Supervisor’s action in dealing with the application to build a temple on the land to the north of the Police Station in Wall Tax Road is not satisfactory.

He did not report to me that there had been any previous application about the land and it was his duty to do so.

When the Supervisor sent the papers up to the Acting Engineer he did not report that there was any encroachment on public land nor did he bring the matter to the Acting Engineer’s notice as he should have done in a case of this sort.

Two months have elapsed since the prosecution and conviction and he has not brought the matter up for orders.

On the other hand he placed a letter before the Acting Engineer for signature which would have accorded sanction if it had been signed, without bringing to notice exactly how the matter stood.

Coming as this does on top of his recent action in connection with the road material, I have no other course open than to dispense with his services and he accordingly is given a month’s notice from the 1st August.

The Acting Engineer will take action to remove the building.”

Mr. V. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—What about the Head Clerk?

Mr. P. M. SIVANGNANA MUDALIAR :—Did you call for any explanation from the Supervisor?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—I called him up and spoke to him.

Mr. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—Did you send for a written explanation? We must have it before us.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—If the Supervisor likes to appeal to the Standing Committee, he can do so. I have dismissed him. There is an end of the matter so far as the Supervisor is concerned.

Mr. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—What about the Head Clerk?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—There is a reference to him in Mr. Pragasa’s speech personally. I do not think there is sufficient reason for taking further action in the matter. Now that Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar has brought it to my notice I shall not forget it.

Mr. S. SUBBIAH CHETTY :—I am not for blaming any particular individual in the department. First of all, I blame the whole department. I think the mistake commenced with the Head Clerk and ended with the Supervisor. If we take the chain of events into consideration, we see that the initial mistake was committed by the Head Clerk. The Supervisor was not in our service in 1893. If there has been any correspondence with reference to building on this land, it is the duty of the Head Clerk to place all the papers before the Engineer. With reference to the Overseer, my friend has been pleased to say that he was driving one nail after another. The Overseer who is in charge was in charge of the division in 1893. And if he came to know that it was Municipal land, he must have had some knowledge of the locality. When the papers went to the Overseer it was his duty to enquire in the office whether there are any papers in connection with the locality. It is not enough to say that this is Municipal land and the temple should not be built. He failed in his duty by not making the enquiry and not finding out the old records. Instead of driving one nail after another, he could have driven all the nails together. The Overseer is therefore not free from blame. As for the Supervisor I am not here to defend his conduct. He is also to blame. All the proceedings were taken in due course. All applications will have to pass through certain stages. I do not know whether there has been any deviation from the proper procedure in

the present instance. If there was any deviation, it was the duty of the head of the department to find out the deviation and correct the mistake. I would take out all the general rules observed, with reference to the granting of sites of buildings, and see if they have been observed, and if everything that has been done has been done according to the rules of the department. Therefore although I will not certainly blame the Engineer much, yet I think, the Engineer was to a certain extent responsible for this. When there was a report that it was Municipal land, it was the duty of the Engineer to call for the Head Clerk and ask him what applications had been made with reference to this property before, to see whether this application should be granted. The Engineer cannot of course be expected to go into the records, because he is a man of business. When the Overseer says one thing and the Supervisor says another thing and the papers are brought before him he would certainly be discharging his duty if he called for all the papers in connection with this land. I should therefore say that the Engineer also is not free from blame. I certainly support Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar, but I will not throw the whole blame on the Supervisor.

Mr. E. H. ELLIOT :—If Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar could not be persuaded to withdraw the proposition, I would suggest that the discussion of this question be adjourned.

Mr. M. K. LAKSHMANACHARIAR :—We have heard sufficiently from Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar and Mr. Subbiah Chetty. I should like to know when these things happened,—how many months ago or years ago and in whose time was it?

Mr. THEAGARAYA CHETTY :—It began in 1893.

Mr. M. K. LAKSHMANACHARIAR :—Who was the Engineer and in whose time was this done?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—Are you speaking to the Resolution?

Mr. M. K. LAKSHMANACHARIAR :—I am asking for information.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—You are out of order in asking for information. You can speak to the Resolution either for or against it. But you are out of order in asking a question. You can make a statement if you like.

Mr. M. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—I second Mr. Elliot’s Resolution for adjournment.

Mr. ELLIOT :—I think the whole thing ought to drop after the statement of the Acting President that the Supervisor had been dismissed. The Commissioners should not endeavour to apportion the blame among the subordinates. It should be left to the head of the department to apportion the blame among his subordinates.

Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—Let my Resolution be put in the usual course.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—The matter has been thoroughly threshed out.

DEWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—Very likely Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar would prefer some definite way in which you might take steps to prevent the recurrence of such irregularities.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—It is impossible to have a perfect office.

DEWAN BAHADUR KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—Some steps will have to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such things. If you undertake to do this, the discussion may be closed.

Mr. THEAGARAYA CHETTY :—I beg to propose an amendment to the proposition that is moved by Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar “that a committee be appointed to go into the working of the department.”

On the motion of Mr. Subbiah Chetty the consideration of this subject as well as the other subjects in the Agenda was adjourned to the next General Meeting.

The meeting then terminated.

Ench. II to G. No. 452

Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the City of Madras held at their Office premises, No. 22, Errabalu Chetty Street, Black Town, on Tuesday, the 22nd August 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., *Ag. President*.
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Appaswami Pillai Avargal.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Cawasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. S. Subbaya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar Avargal.
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
M. R. Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillai Avargal.
M. R. Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
Mir Muzher-ud-din Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Dewan 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. Tirumalaya Naidu Garu.
M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland, I.M.S.
M. R. Ry. M. Punithavelu Mudaliar Avargal.

Election to the Legislative Council.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT:—Gentlemen, the first business before the meeting is to recommend a candidate to fill a seat on the Legislative Council under the provisions of G.O., dated 12th July 1899, No. 81, Legislative. The procedure hitherto has been is to record your votes on cards.

Votes were taken by ballot with the result that Mr. Norton obtained 24 votes.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT thereupon said:—Twenty-four being a majority, Mr. Norton is elected for recommendation to the Legislative Council.

MR. NORTON:—Mr. President, it is a most unexpected pleasure that I should have been elected unopposed. All that I can say is I value the honour doubly, for this Council has thought fit to recommend me unanimously for nomination to the Legislative Council. I do not know if an elected member can do very much, but in so far as any one in that position can do anything to help the affairs of the Municipal Council of Madras, I need not say that you may rely upon me absolutely.

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Encl no III to G. No 452

MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of an ADJOURNED 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 14th August 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.
- M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. P. M. Appaswamy 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. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
- Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
- M.R.Ry. N. Appasundaram 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. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
- M.R.Ry. V. Masilamani Pillay 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.

No. 1.

Endorsement No. 718, dated 6th July 1889, 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.

The amendment proposed by M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal and seconded by Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur at the meeting held on 31st July 1899, namely,—

"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," was put to the meeting and lost.

Then the amendment proposed, at the same meeting, by M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu and seconded by M.R.Ry. V. Masilamani Pillay Avargal, namely,—

"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," was put to the meeting and carried.

No. 2.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th June and 7th July 1899, and Resolution No. 19 of 17th March and Resolution No. 9 of 11th April 1899.

Recorded.

No. 3.

Statement of receipts and disbursements from April 1898 to March 1899 and for April and May 1899.

Recorded.

No. 4.

Progress report of works for February and March and April and May 1899.

Recorded.

No. 5.

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice :—

"That the Commissioners regret to observe that for want of efficient control and supervision in the P.W.D., a piece of municipal land to the north of the Elephant Gate Police Station, 2nd Division, was allowed to be built upon in March last, that the approval or disapproval of the plan of a building to be erected being vested in the President alone by section 265 of the Act, the permission granted by the Engineer to build upon the said land and the consequent alienation of the land in question is irregular and illegal. The Acting President is called upon to explain how this had occurred, and to take due notice of the conduct of the subordinates who are responsible in the matter."

M.R.Ry. S. Subbayya Chetty Garu seconded.

Proposed by Mr. E. H. Elliot and seconded by M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu :—

"That this and the remaining subjects be deferred till next general meeting."

Carried.

The meeting then terminated.

R. E. ELLIS,
Ag. President, Municipal Commission.
Municipal Office, Madras,
August 1899.

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Encl. to II to Gp. No. 452

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 Tuesday the 22nd August 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.
- M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. P. M. Appaswami Pillai Avargal.
- M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
- Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
- M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. S. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangana Mudaliar Avargal.
- Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.
- Haji Mahomed Abdul Hadi Badsha Saheb.
- 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. Krishnamachariar Avargal.
- M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
- M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
- M.R.Ry. V. Masilamani Pillay Avargal.
- M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
- M.R.Ry. Bai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
- W. D. Smith, Esq.
- Major F. J. Crawford, I.M.S.
- Eardley Norton, Esq.
- M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalaya Naidu Garu.
- M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
- Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland, I.M.S.
- M.R.Ry. M. Punithavelu Mudaliar Avargal.

No. 1.

To recommend a candidate to fill a seat on the Legislative Council under the provisions of G.O., dated 12th July 1899, No. 81, Legislative.

A ballot was taken with the following result :—

	Mr. Eardley Norton	..	..	..	..	Votes.
The President and 3 others not voting.						24
Mr. Eardley Norton was therefore duly elected as the candidate recommended by the Municipality to fill a seat on the Legislative Council.						

No. 2.

Administration Report of the Madras Municipality for 1898-99.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal and seconded by Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur—

"That the report be adopted and forwarded to Government."

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu proposed and M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu seconded—

"That the report be forwarded to Government and that the remarks of the Commissioners will follow."

Carried.

The meeting terminated.

Municipal Office, Madras,
August 1899.

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

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