



# BACK PAPERS.

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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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# Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 3159 m



From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,  
Madras.

*Misc.*

Order

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*13/12/99*

G. No. 524

*Recorded.*

*JKA*  
*12/12/99*

*99-12-11*

Dated *7*-12-99

Received

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Enclosures 2

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# SUBJECT.

Submitting for the information of  
Government full proceedings as also  
a copy of abstract proceedings of an  
Adjourned General Meeting held on 1-9-99

# BACK PAPERS

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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 Friday, the 1st September 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. M. Appasawmy 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. P. M. Sivangna Mudaliar Avargal.  
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.  
J. DeCaster, Esq.  
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.  
Eardley Norton, Esq.  
M. R. Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.  
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.  
M. R. Ry. M. Punithavelu Mudaliar Avargal.

## Water-Supply.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT SAID :—The first business before the meeting is the resolution of Mr. Lakshmanachariar to raise a loan of five lakhs of rupees for the improvement of the water-supply of the town. I will tell you to begin with, just how the matter stands. It dates as far back as December 1895, when the Government approved of a scheme for improving the water-supply amounting to 6½ lakhs. Subsequent to that there was a Committee formed of Commissioners who recommended the drainage works in preference to the water-supply scheme. This Report was dated 6th November 1896, adopted by the Commissioners on the 18th November 1896 and submitted to Government on the 19th November 1896, when it was promised that the proposals for water-supply would follow. A Report was prepared by the Engineer in January 1897, and came before the Commissioners in March 1897, when it was deferred as the Commissioners wanted an estimate for pipes in every street where none existed. The Acting Engineer submitted a proposal in May 1897, to cost 16 lakhs. On the 28th of June 1897, it was resolved that the estimate amounting to 16 lakhs was submitted to Government for favourable consideration. The Government delayed passing orders pending the submission of plans and an expression of the views of the Commissioners on the proposals of financing the scheme. The plans have been under preparation, and the Government was addressed on the 7th October 1898 that the matter was not being pressed as there seemed little chance of carrying out the work until the drainage works were completed.

MR. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY :—I distinctly remember that our President was of opinion that the extension of water-supply would not only interfere with drainage works but would be practically unwholesome to the health of the City.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—That is also touched upon in the Administration Report. It is pointed out that 8 millions gallons of water are brought into the Town daily while only 4 millions gallons are removed and a large quantity of water remains in the Town.

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MR. VENKATRAMIAH CHETTY :—That was the danger the President had in view when we proposed to take up the water works scheme.

MR. M. K. LAKSHMANA CHARIAR :—Since the Drainage scheme costing about 30 lakhs of Rupees is now in hand, there will be much difficulty in raising funds for the extension and improvement of our water-supply which it is estimated will cost over 16 lakhs. The present suffering of the people is simply indescribable and any elaborate comments on it are needless. The 5 lakhs I now propose asking for is for the following purposes :—

(1) Rs. 50,000, the estimated amount of compensation proposed to be paid for the removal of the villages which drain into our Red Hills Lake.

(2) Rs. 25,000 be spent in raising the crest of the escape weirs at the Red Hills Lake so that a larger body of water may be secured and our annual pumping charges saved. This work will have to be done by the Government D. P. W. With reference to this expenditure, I think if Government be approached they will do the work at their own cost since the ryots will also be benefited by this step and the Government will only be completing a work, for re-storing to the Red Hills Lake, the quantity of water that used to be annually stored there from 1872 to 1885—when the bund breached and since which time the level of the Lake was reduced.

(3) Rs. 1,25,000 to be spent in cleaning the remainder of our pipes, substituting new ones for those found eaten through ; with Rs. 50,000 given last year for this purpose, 150,000 feet of pipes were so done.

(4) Rs. 2,00,000 be spent on the construction of two new reservoirs similar to that known as the Trivellyan Basin, one to be built on the ridge at Mylapore and the other near the Seven Wells in Black Town; water will be stored in these cisterns at night and from them distributed by day at which period the supply at present is very defective in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 8th Divisions.

(5) Rs. 1,00,000 for further extension of the water-supply within the Town. There are many places in the Town where important dwellings have been erected, but where there is no water-supply. With these words, I beg to move "that Government be asked to permit the Commissioners to borrow five lakhs of rupees for the improvement of our water-supply."

Mr. J. D'Caster seconded the proposition.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB :—I should like to know whether a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 is sufficient to carry out the improvements in water-supply.

MR. SIVANGNANA MUDALIAR :—It was 16 lakhs that was originally mentioned.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—16 lakhs was the approximate estimate prepared by Acting Engineer to provide for pipes in every street where none existed. Plans have since been prepared, but an estimate was not prepared as Sir George Moore did not think it necessary to do so because there was very little prospect of the thing being carried out.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I wish to say a few words. You will remember that Mr. Cousins prepared a scheme both with regard to drainage and water-supply. The estimated cost for a complete scheme under both heads was put down at 60 lakhs. Of course the Commissioners had the matter under consideration and at one time they were for giving preference to the water-supply scheme; but after due consideration they thought that the drainage scheme had a prior claim for various reasons. Accordingly the drainage was taken up and will be completed in the course of a few years. The question of defective water-supply also came up before us and the Commissioners went in for a complete scheme costing 4 lakhs by laying down the two auxiliary and giving a better supply to the 1st Division.

It was still thought that the water in some places was very defective. Any how the Engineer was called upon to frame an estimate to remove the defect. The estimate came to about 16 lakhs. The thing went up to Government and it came back for detailed plans and estimates. In the meantime the President thought it was absolutely impossible for the Commissioners to have anything left for the extension of water-supply scheme as they would have to incur a very heavy expenditure on the drainage scheme. Accordingly the matter has been left in abeyance. I think my friend's suggestion is to spend Rs. 50,000 for the removal of the villages. We do not know

what the amount will come to. It is under contemplation to preserve the tank from contamination, and the matter is still not decided and is in correspondence with the Collector of Chingleput. Our Engineer has also been called upon to submit an estimate for putting a fence along the channel. We cannot say what that may come to. Any how that is a thing which must be done, because so far as the water which is now supplied to the Town is concerned it must be preserved from contamination and a measure, such as this is absolutely necessary. With regard to the raising of the weir of the tank, my friend has put it down at Rs. 25,000. I do not know on what data he has based this information. You will remember that sometime ago we advocated that the bund of the tank should be restored to its former level so that a larger quantity of water may be stored in the tank. But the Government then thought that it would be dangerous to raise the bund of the tank. Engineers always change their opinion and the present Chief Engineer for Irrigation thought that steps ought to be taken for storing a larger sheet of water in the Red Hills Tank and accordingly a suggestion was made by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that shutters should be put over the weir of the tanks so that during the flood, water may be let out and just about the close of the floods the shutters may be put in and thus a larger sheet of water may be preserved. This year the Public Works Department have actually been raising mound and necessarily there has been a larger storage of water. The President has written to the Chief Engineer to give us an approximate estimate of the cost of putting the shutters over the weir, and I do not believe he has received any reply. Probably the Government will go in for a large share of that expenditure. Then my friend has put down one lakh of rupees for each of the two cisterns. One in the extreme North and the other in the South. Until we completely finish the water-supply scheme, the proposed expenditure may not be of much use and it would be a waste of money because when, by a large expenditure of some lakhs of rupees, we give ample water to the Town, these reservoirs would be of no use. I think therefore it is rather an opportunity to go in for these 5 lakhs at the present moment, considering specially that we have got to face a very large amount in connection with the drainage scheme. I am therefore not in favor of the proposition.

MR. V. C. DESIKA CHARIAR :—Gentlemen, I do not for a moment doubt that we have to raise a very large amount for completing our drainage scheme, but if we are to wait till then for our water-supply, you will all agree that the sufferings which have been going on for a length of time will continue until that. It is only when you are able to spend 16 lakhs the whole estimate will be completed and everybody will have water. But when will that be. You say that you must finance the drainage scheme before you go in for the smallest extension of water-supply. Time after time when we apply for extension of water-supply the executive naturally say that they have no funds. In the last budget, nothing was allotted for water-supply extension. Certainly many of you are aware that in some places at any rate there is a dire necessity for water-supply and time after time the Engineer's Department prepared estimates but on account of want of funds they were obliged to say that the work could not be undertaken. So far as the cleaning of pipes is concerned I submit that it is a matter of very urgent necessity. I requested Mr. Loane to come and inspect the water from a particular tap in Mylapore. The water looked reddish like a solution of iron or some other substance. This remark equally applies to other divisions. Some portions of pipes have already been cleaned and the cleaning of other pipes is absolutely necessary whether you are going to allow small extensions or not. If you do undertake this work this would not in any way delay the drainage scheme. You are going to borrow 12 lakhs for the drainage scheme and two additional lakhs would not appreciably retard the progress of the drainage scheme. I move as an amendment, that after the words 'permit the Commissioners' add 'to raise a loan of Rs. 2,00,000 for cleaning the existing pipes and for further extensions for which estimates have already been prepared but which for want of funds have not been carried out.'

Mr. Muzheruddin Sahib seconded the amendment.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—How do you finance your scheme.

MR. DESIKA CHARIAR :—By a loan.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—How do you propose to meet the sinking fund and interest on the loan. I do not for a moment deny that our pipes do require cleaning but you don't tell us how you propose to meet the expenditure and how you propose to repay the loan.

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Mr. DESIKA CHARRIAR :—I dare say the Executive will be able to help us in the matter and will tell us how far we are in a position to raise this loan even if it is necessary to go to Government. We must pass this subject to finding out ways and means for meeting the sinking fund and interest and if you agree with me in the general principles, we may pass this amendment. I have not looked at the question of finance carefully; when Mr. Lakshmana Charriar gave notice of the proposition, I thought he would have come prepared with the necessary figures, and even now I do not think it would be very difficult to meet the sinking fund and interest on a loan of 2 lakhs of rupees. If necessary, a portion of the drainage work may be left in abeyance. Even for the purpose of cleaning pipes, we require water, and I believe that in a couple of years, our pipes will be choked, unless we clean them in the meantime.

Mr. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—With regard to the water-supply scheme, the Sanitary Commissioner has stated that until the drainage scheme is finished the water-supply scheme cannot be taken up by the Municipal Commissioners, because Madras is already water clogged and that malarial fever is due to such water clogging. In his opinion until the drainage scheme is completed no water-supply scheme must be taken up. The Government has sent his remarks to the Commissioners.

Mr. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB :—This is for improving the water-supply and for the cleaning of pipes wherever necessary.

Mr. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—There is the initial difficulty as to financing the loan. Let him take some time to discover the means and in the meantime I propose an adjournment of the question.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—There is one great difficulty in Mr. Desika Charry's proposal *viz.*, that mere extension would in no way improve the water-supply in Madras, but it would simply divert water from one part of the Town to another. Until a complete scheme is carried out, we shall not benefit the Town to any appreciable extent by adding pipes to the main. With reference to the cleaning of pipes what Mr. Desika Charry says is very true. I should like to see a small sum devoted, say Rs. 50,000 for the purpose, but as the meeting is not full, this matter might very well be adjourned.

On the motion of Mr. Venkataramiah Chetty seconded by Mr. Norton, it was resolved "that the subject be adjourned till the next General Meeting."

### Public Works Department.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—The next business is the resolution of Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar.

Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I beg to move the following resolution of which I gave notice :—  
"That a Committee consisting of Messrs. V. Varadappa Naidu, P. Theagaroya Chetty, Mir Muzheruddin Sahib, W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu, P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar with the President be appointed to enquire into and report fully whether there has been any material improvement in the working of the P. W. Department by the appointment of two additional Supervisors since 1895-96; whether their retention and continuance is in any way beneficial to the Municipality and further to suggest such other measures as may be considered necessary for the efficient working of the P. W. Department in relation to roads, lighting, &c."

I do not think it necessary to say much on this resolution. Up to 1895-96 we had two Supervisors. When the budget of 1895-96 was sent up to Government the entertainment of two additional Supervisors was recommended on the grounds that the area over which their work extended was so scattered that it was not possible for them to attend to it as efficiently as expeditiously as could be desired. In a Government Order, dated 22nd April 1895, the Government said "it is at present more than ever necessary that the Commissioners should curtail rather than enhance their permanent and recurring charges upon their revenues in view of the necessity that will shortly arise, of a very large expenditure on Sanitary Scheme, and His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that the Commissioners should under these circumstances have made increase in salaries and the creation of additional appointments, a leading feature in their proposal for the ensuing year."

The Acting Engineer in a letter, dated 1st of May 1895, says that "if Government cannot sanction the entertainment of two Supervisors at present, I beg that the Overseers may be granted a horse allowance to enable them to go over the work in their Division daily." The thing was

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again sent up to Government and the President stated that it was very necessary to entertain two additional Supervisors, sanction should be granted, so that closer supervision might be exercised in several divisions. On these representations the Government sanctioned their entertainment in July 1895. You will have simply to consider whether by the appointment of these two additional Supervisors there has been any increased expedition or efficiency in the work turned out by them. We have recently been considering how things were being managed. The Acting President will admit that these Supervisors come in as middlemen between the Engineer and the Overseer. There is a great deal of division of responsibility. We cannot assign or fix the responsibility on either the Supervisor or the Overseer. As a matter of fact in 75 per cent. of the cases what the Supervisor reports is the information that he obtains from the Overseer. Let us consider what is the procedure adopted in the office. Suppose the President receives a letter, he sends it on to the Engineer who sends it through the office to the Supervisor. What does he do? He does not make any enquiries but sends it on to the Overseer of the Division. The Overseer makes the report and the Supervisor in the majority of cases says, "forwarded to the Engineer for information." In the first place you will see there is a great deal of waste of time in this division of responsibility. Instead of these people acting as middlemen between the Engineer and the Overseers, the best course would be that there should be an efficient office assistant in the office who ought to be solely an office assistant. These Supervisors are not merely out-door officials, but also in-door officials who carry on a lot of correspondence connected with the Engineer Department. This leads to a great deal of abuse. The best course will be that these people should have nothing whatever to do with the office or with the carrying on of the correspondence. We have already seen that the department requires an efficient staff, and that things are not as they ought to be in an office. It would be better that we go into the details and see what remedy can be applied and it is with the object of bettering the working of the department, I bring this proposition forward. There is one other thing which struck me. Since the two additional Supervisors were appointed, one was put entirely in charge of the roads, that is, one man was to look after the roads from the further end of the South to the further end of the North. This of course is too large an area. It is absolutely impossible for any one man to carry on this extensive inspection at least efficiently. The President, when this suggestion was made by the Engineer, stated at the time, that the experiment might be given a trial; two years have now elapsed and we have all seen what the condition of the roads has been during this period. I think a radical change ought to be made in the staff—whether that means any reduction or increase, it does not signify much. I think it will be well to go into the working of the department and see what actually these people have to do—whether the work is too much for any single man to do or whether they have not got enough to do. These are matters into which the Committee will be able to go. I hope that in this view this resolution will meet with your approval.

Mr. SALLA GURUSAWMY CHETTY :—I beg to second the resolution and in doing so I may say that the observations of Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar do require consideration. There is no doubt that there is room for reform to be effected. This resolution is a harmless one altogether. As the Committee's report will be placed before the Commissioners, it will be left to the Commissioners to act upon the recommendation of the Committee or not.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT :—I think what Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar has stated is very sound. There is no doubt the enquiry to be made will do no harm but may do a considerable amount of good. If the question is gone into nothing but good can come out of it.

Mr. Sivangnana Mudaliar, proposed that the mover of the resolution be added to the Committee.

Mr. Muzheruddin Sahib seconded the amendment.

Mr. SALLA GURUSAWMY CHETTY :—If Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar has no objection, there need be no amendment.

Mr. PRAGASA MUDALIAR :—I have no objection.

Mr. J. D'CASTER :—I am not going to speak in opposition to the resolution. All that the resolutions ask for can be got from the President. He must have been watching the working of the department and ought to be able to give the information that we want. If after getting the report from the President, things do not look all right, it will be time for to call for a Committee to go

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 Friday the 1st September 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. M. Appasawmy 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. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.  
Mahomed Sheriff Khan Bahadur.  
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.  
J. DeCaster, Esq.  
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.  
Eardley Norton, Esq.  
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.  
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Chariar Avargal.  
M.R.Ry. M. Punithavelu Mudaliar Avargal.

No. 1.

M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal moved the following resolution of which he had given notice—

"That Government be asked to permit the Commissioners to borrow five lakhs of rupees for the improvement of our water-supply."

Mr. J. DeCaster seconded.

To this, as an amendment, M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal proposed and Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur seconded—

"That after the words 'permit the Commissioners' add 'to raise a loan of Rs. 2,00,000 for cleaning the existing pipes and for further extension for which estimates have already been prepared but for want of funds have not been carried out.'"

M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu proposed and Mr. Eardley Norton seconded—

"That this subject be adjourned till the next General Meeting."

Carried.

No. 2.

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

"That a Committee consisting of Messrs. V. Varadappa Naidu, P. Theagaraya Chetty, Mir Muzheruddin Sahib, W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu, P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar with the President be appointed to enquire into and report fully whether there has been any material improvement in the working of the P. W. Department by the appointment of two additional supervisors since 1895-96; whether their retention and continuance is in any way beneficial to the Municipality, and further to suggest such other measures as may be considered necessary for the efficient working of the P. W. Department in relation to roads, lighting, &c."

M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu seconded.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal—

"That M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal's name be added"

This was accepted by proposer and seconder.

Carried.

No. 3.

*Proceedings of the Standing Committee dated 21st July and 4th and 18th August, Resolutions Nos. 3 (i-vi) of 17th March and 2 of 26th May 1899.*

The proceedings dated 21st July, 4th and 18th August 1899 were recorded, excepting item 10 of 21st July re diversion of St. Thomé High Road, to be deferred and papers circulated.

Items 3 (i-vi) of 17th March and 2 of 26th May 1899 were recorded.

No. 4.

*Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from April to July 1899.*

Recorded.

No. 5.

*Progress Report of works for June and July 1899.*

Recorded.

No. 6.

M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal moved the following resolution of which he had given notice—

"That the Municipal lamps be lit till 3 A.M. instead of 12 in the night as at present; that provision be made for lighting them every night from 6 to 9 from 15th October to 15th January."

M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu seconded. Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu—

"That the subject be adjourned and papers circulated, and that an estimate be framed showing the extra cost of the system proposed by M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal."

Carried.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,  
September 1899.

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.

General Department,

Madras, 7<sup>th</sup> December 1899.

G. No. 524

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,

For St. George.

Sir,

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL LEPT.

CURRENT No. 3159M.

Enclosures

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I have the honour to submit herewith for  
the information of Government full proceedings as also  
a copy of abstract proceedings of an adjourned General  
Meeting of the Commissioners held on 1st September  
1899.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*Geo. Moore* Lt.-Col.

President, Munl. Commn.