

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 319 M

DATED 7-3-99.

RECEIVED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl. Commission.

Recording full proceedings as also a copy
of abstract proceedings of a general meeting of
the Madras Munl. Commissioners held on 31st
October 1898.

BACK PAPERS.

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Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 687M.

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

G. No. 1198

Dated 27th February 1899

Received

Registered

Enclosures Two.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding full proceedings
as also a copy of abstract
proceedings of a general meeting
of the four members held on 31st
Oct 1898.

Handwritten:
Order No. 319 dated 27.3.99
Recorded.

Handwritten:
7/3/99

Handwritten:
27/3/99

G.O.	No.	Department	Date.

[illegible]

Incl(1) to G. No: 1198

PRESENT :

T. R. Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

(2) "That the Commissioner of Police be requested to issue orders in his department to see that all carriages and vehicles are lighted during the hours above specified, even during moon-light nights."

In doing so he said :—

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MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,—I believe you remember that Mir Muzheruddin Sahib moved a resolution some months back for the improvement of the lighting of Madras and at the suggestion of Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty a Committee was formed with a view to report the best way in which an improvement can be made. The Committee had several sittings and submitted a report regarding gas and electricity which ended in smoke and the whole question was again thrown out owing to the financial consideration to the misfortune of the citizens of Madras. Gentlemen, my resolution is a simple one and is intended to supply a long felt want to remedy a long standing grievance to put an end to the clamour of the people for better lighting. The present weather strongly supports my proposition that the lighting of Municipal lamps even in moon-light nights is indispensable. The moon-light nights, we have in this season are as bad as or even worse than the dark nights and the darkness is aggravated in some parts by the shadows of the huge trees on the side of the roads. The lighting of the Municipal lamps at all nights between 6 and 10 P.M. will improve the city lighting materially and will prove a boon to foot and other passengers and prevent the numerous accidents which we frequently hear and read in newspapers. To bring about this improvement I do not think it is necessary to raise the tax and with the present income we can manage. The system I propose. In this connection I wish to call your attention to the danger of not lighting carriages during the moon-light nights and I hope that our President will request the Commissioner of Police to see that all the carts and carriages and vehicles are lighted during the moon-light nights.

Mr. Muzheruddin Sahib seconded the resolution.

DR. VARADAPPA NAIDU :—May I know what will be the expenditure if this resolution be carried ?

THE PRESIDENT :—It is impossible to tell you. The Contractor himself cannot give you the information until he knows what he has to light. The proposal will necessitate the putting out on certain nights of one set of lamps at 10 P.M. and light the usual lights according to the schedule at 11 P.M. So that in some cases the lights which you put out at 10 P.M. will have to be relighted at 11 P.M. As far back as June I wrote to the Contractor about it and he replied as follows :—

“I beg most respectfully to submit the following few lines for your honor's kind consideration and favourable orders.

With reference to lighting the Municipal lamps during moon-light nights between 6 and 10 P.M., I beg to submit to your honor that I am ready to take up the additional lighting, at the rate, as I do now, for the average hours to be lighted. But in break nights or days when I shall have to light lamps at 11 P.M., I beg to submit to your honor that, as it will cause inconvenience to the public and expense to me in having it extinguished and relighted in such a short time, I should be allowed also for this one hour. This applies when all the Municipal lamps are to be lighted. If, on the other hand, only some of the principal streets are to be lighted, I beg to submit to your honor that I will not be able and am not, able to give my rates, before it can be known to me the names of the streets to be so lighted and the distance of the lights, as my lighters are able only to light 20 lights within specified distance. If the distance of the lamps are large, I will have to engage 2 men for what ought to be done by one, thus entailing me to double expense. Hence I am not able to give my rates, before ascertaining those facts. Hoping to be excused.”

This is rather a vague resolution—to say that we should light the principal streets from 6 to 10 P.M., and it also says such other roads and streets as the President may think necessary. I may deem that certain streets should be lighted while others may not think so. There is no doubt that an improvement in lighting is necessary, and the best thing to do is to go in for lighting from 6 to 12 or 6 to 3. The lighting of the streets till 3 A.M. is now carried on, on the representation of a former Commissioner of Police with a view to prevent burglary. I don't think that burglary is reduced after we began to light the streets till 3 A.M. I wrote to the present Commissioner also and he says that the principal thoroughfares should be lighted from 6 to 9 and the others up to 3 as usual. In regard to carriages being made to light their lamps on moon-light nights, the Police Commissioner has power under the Act to enforce this, but the Magistrate will

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not punish the people, because he holds if the Municipality would not light the lamps the carriages cannot be compelled to have their lights on.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB :—What was the system before this ?

THE PRESIDENT :—It was until 12 P.M.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB :—Every day ?

THE PRESIDENT :—No, according to the schedule.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB :—Why was it changed ?

THE PRESIDENT :—On the representation of the Commissioner of Police that burglaries will be prevented, if we light the streets until 3 A.M.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB :—The same objection may be raised if we light the lamps till 12 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT :—You will have to look to all the reasons. It is difficult to decide what streets should be lighted till 10 P.M. I think every street ought to be lighted. I do not think that anybody wants light after 12. If we light the city from 6 to 12 throughout, it will cost us Rs. 85,000 a year as against the present expenditure of Rs. 65,500 or Rs. 20,000 more a year. Nobody can tell you at this moment what Mr. Lakshmanachariar's proposal will cost.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Now you have heard what the President had to say. We are now spending the whole of the amount which we get from the lighting tax, and if we want to improve our lighting we will have to go in for additional taxation. Now that we are to launch ourselves into good many important schemes besides having to meet the plague charges, I think the time is not opportune to make a move in this matter, as people will grumble at any additional taxation at the present time. I therefore beg to propose “that the consideration of the subject be deferred *sine die*.”

Dr. V. Varadappa Naidu seconded the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT :—With reference to the question of taxation you cannot effect any improvement or alterations in the present system of lighting without increasing the tax. We have a closing balance of Rs. 6,620 on the 1st of April and if you go in for what I tell you, that is, for lighting the city from 6 to 12 we will want Rs. 20,000 more a year and you have the money enough only to go on for 5 months. If you want to light the city from 6 to 3 it will cost us Rs. 30,000 more. In any case you will have to increase the present tax to 2 per cent., the present rate being $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—I beg to move another amendment.

“That the Municipal lamps be lighted from 6 to 9 on moon-light nights and 6 to 12 on other nights.” This will suit all. I don't think we need any more money for doing it than what we spend now.

THE PRESIDENT :—You have got to take the Police Commissioner's wants. If you have no money to light the city till 3 A.M. you can tell the Police Commissioner so.

MR. W. D. SMITH :—I beg to second Mr. Krishnamachariar's amendment.

MR. M. K. LAKSHMANACHARIAR :—I accept Mr. Krishnamachariar's amendment.

MR. BALAKISTNAMA CHETTY :—If Mr. Krishnamachariar's amendment is carried the town will be placed at the mercy of the burglars. It is therefore better to continue the present system which was adopted a few years ago after communication with the Commissioner of Police.

MR. E. H. ELLIOT :—Mr. Krishnamachariar said that there would be no additional expense if his amendment is carried. Can you enlighten us on that ?

THE PRESIDENT :—I cannot tell you how it is.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—We are lighting till 3 o'clock at the request of the Commissioner of Police. But if you now light the city till 12 the Commissioner of Police will come down upon us.

THE PRESIDENT :—He cannot come down upon us, though he may not like it.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—He may say that the town is not safe.

THE PRESIDENT:—It is the duty of the Police Commissioner to make it safe.

MR. N. SUBRAMANIAM:—May I know what is the state of burglary since we began to light the city till 3 A.M. as compared with what it was before?

THE PRESIDENT:—I am not a repository of Police statistics.

MR. BALAKISTNAMA CHETTY:—I believe there is an order of Government to the effect that Municipal lamps should burn till 3 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT:—We did it on the representation of the Commissioner of Police. You have two things before you—either to alter the lighting of the city or to defer the consideration of the subject.

Mr. Eardley Norton proposed an amendment to Mr. Theagaroya Chetty's amendment. The amendment as further amended by Mr. Norton reads as follows:—

“That the consideration of this subject be deferred until the Commissioners are supplied with data as to the cost of the proposed alteration.”

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I accept it.

MR. W. D. SMITH:—According to the amendment of Mr. V. Krishnamacharriar there would not be any extra expenditure.

THE PRESIDENT:—Suppose I tell you it will cost you Rs. 10,000 more, what will you say? I have just as much ground for saying that as Mr. Krishnamacharriar has for saying that nothing more would be required.

MR. N. SUBRAMANIAM:—I would ask you to obtain from the Commissioner of Police what difference there has been in the number of burglaries since we began to light the city till 3 A.M., I believe it made no difference.

THE PRESIDENT:—I quite agree with you that it made no difference. I don't think that the burning of lamps is likely to be an obstacle in the way of burglars.

The amendment of Mr. Norton as agreed to by Mr. Theagaroya Chetty was put to the vote and carried.

The New Market of Mylapore.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business is the Resolution of M. R. Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu, re the construction of a Market at Mylapore prior to obtaining sanction from the Municipality.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—This question cropped up some 6 or 7 months ago and all the Commissioners have lost interest in it and I hope Mr. Balakrishnama Chetty will drop it.

MR. BALAKRISHNAMA CHETTY:—If it is the wish of the Commissioners, I have no objection to drop it.

MR. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—If you don't like to move it, you had better drop it.

MR. BALAKRISTNAMA CHETTY:—It is the property of the Commissioners and I will do what they desire.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—If it is not withdrawn I propose that it be dropped.

Mr. Balakristnama Chetty withdrew the following resolution of which he had given notice with the consent of the Commissioners:—“The Commissioners regret to place on record the grave dereliction of duty on the part of the Executive Officers of the Municipality in connection with the construction of the new vegetable market at Mylapore by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Bashyam Iyengar which was proceeded with and completed and opened *without the necessary sanction* being obtained prior to such construction and completion as required by Sections 265 and 267 of the Madras Municipal Act.”

Sanitation of the 1st Division.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next subject is the Resolution of M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu, re effecting sanitary improvement to the 1st Division.

MR. P. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—The resolution which stands in my name runs thus:

“Considering the extreme unsatisfactory state of the 1st Division, and the danger arising therefrom to the health of the city, a Committee, consisting of the President, the Commissioners of the 1st Division, Dr. Maitland, and Dr. Varadappa Naidu, be appointed to inspect and suggest such measures as are necessary to effect a radical improvement.” Gentlemen, this is a very small proposition indeed. It only asks you for a committee to go into the question and suggest what is necessary to improve the sanitation of the 1st Division. Gentlemen, some of you as old residents of Madras must know that the 1st Division was once the first in respect of health and a good many gentlemen that now live in town and a good many European gentlemen also had been residents of the 1st Division, owing to the healthy state of the place. It was actually then called the 1st Division as being the first in the city in point of health. But the insanitation of Madras has become so notorious that Madras is next to Cairo in point of health and perhaps the 1st Division is next to none. If you go a little further the central ward of the 1st Division stands pre-eminent and there is nothing like it in the whole world. It does not require any statistics to show that the death-rate of the centre ward is 105 to 110 per mille. With such figures it does not require anything from me to support this proposition, but as a mover of it I must say something. Well, gentlemen, what is the cause of good suburb of Madras turning out so bad? If some of you go that side you will see what is the real cause. It is some of those parcherries including the Tinnevely Settlement. The centre ward consists of a number of parcherries and is the worst part of the whole division. There is one known by the name of Singarathottam which means a beautiful garden. Next there is another parcherry called Meenatchiammenpettah and I do not know how that name is derived. That place is now the centre of all diseases. There is another place called Mottai-thottam which is another plague centre. In that way I can give you a lot of places which are the sources of dire diseases in the centre ward of the 1st Division. Now the question is are our Municipal executive looking into this matter? You must know that these parcherries have been existing for the last 100 years. These places are not paved, have no drains or latrines, so that the whole of the sewage and the filth keeps soaking into the ground. Suppose you go into Singarathottam and dig it as far deep as you like, you will find nothing but filth. How is it possible to keep that place clean and free from disease? That will be the question which the Committee will have to consider. The question very often came before the Commissioners and there was a committee called the sanitary defects Committee which sat in 1892 and sent in its report. In every year you will find in the Administration Report something said about it. I will read to you some paragraphs from the administration report which shows that it has attracted the attention of the executive and the executive are not able to say anything except that money is wanting (Here the speaker read a few extracts from an Administration report). Every year you will find from these passages that the President has been drawing the attention of the Municipal Commissioners and the sanitary authorities to the most unhealthy state of the 1st Division and especially the centre ward. We are doing nothing for it. No doubt some improvements have been made; Singarathottam is laid out into streets and with drains; and it is utterly useless to spend money in that way. If you just go to the place, the streets are all right. What about the land on which the huts are built? It is nothing but filth. I think the moneys spent in laying streets in parcherries without looking after the place on which the huts are built is money wasted. If you want any experience of these places I would request some of you to come down to one of these places after the rain ceases, you will then enjoy a little of the flavour that comes off the hutting ground and you will then be satisfied as to the necessity for making improvements to these places. Now I will read to you certain figures showing the death-rate of the Division.

Year.	Average death-rate of Madras.	1st Divn.	Centre ward of 1st Divn.
1894	41	43.2	51.1
1895	37.6	39.8	48.8
1896	37.8	43.7	52.1
1897	35.5	41.2	50.3

You don't want any more figures, gentlemen.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I beg to second the motion. Mr. Theagaroya Chetty need have given the details, as we are all convinced of the very insanitary condition of the 1st Division including the Tinnevely Settlement. The sooner we come to some conclusion about it, the better it would be for all parties concerned.

MR. EARDLEY NORTON:—I quite approve of the suggestion of Mr. Theagaroya Chetty and the statistics that we have heard from him to-night certainly make out a very strong case for investigation. My division is quite as bad as the 1st Division, and I therefore wish to add the 7th Division to the area of investigation.

THE PRESIDENT:—You had better include the whole of the town.

MR. EARDLEY NORTON:—Other Commissioners will probably include their divisions also. Three of the worst divisions in the town are the 1st, 5th and the 7th. The 5th is represented on the proposed committee and I do not know if Mr. Subramania Iyer cares to be included in this. So far as the 7th Division is concerned I have strong reasons to believe that it is very little behind the very worst parts of the 1st Division.

THE PRESIDENT:—It is worse in some parts.

MR. EARDLEY NORTON:—If it is worse, my appeal for its inclusion in the area for investigation is amply made out.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—What are your figures about mortality?

MR. EARDLEY NORTON:—Never mind about mortality. It is not necessary for me to quote the figures. I therefore propose an amendment that instead of the 1st Division be substituted "1st, 5th and 7th Divisions and the name of Mr. G. Subramania Iyer be added to the committee."

MR. W. S. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—I have great pleasure in seconding the amendment of Mr. Eardley Norton. From my experience I know that there are several parcherries and other places in the 5th and 7th Divisions which are quite as bad as, if not worse than, the worst part of the 1st Division. I appeal to the President to corroborate me or contradict me. I am not prepared to give statistics, which Mr. Theagaroya Chetty gave for the 1st Division. If the Tinnevely Settlement is a danger to the health of the city, there are parcherries in the 5th Division which are even a greater source of danger to the town.

THE PRESIDENT (interrupting):—It seems to me that everybody is proposing most irregularly.

LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—I must confess that I do not see the object of selecting these three divisions out of the whole city for this special investigation. If any investigation is to be made, it must include the whole city. Everybody is quite aware of the fearful state of the Tinnevely Settlement. Knowing all that we know about it and having had full information on the subject, I do not quite see what object can be gained by a committee sitting on this question. We know all about it and the only question is about funds. We know how to improve it. It seems to me the most reasonable thing to do is to call upon the Health Officer to make a report suggesting improvements, and if we can afford to carry them out we will do so. I must confess I do not see the benefit to be derived from this Committee; if the Committee is unnecessary for one division, it is still more unnecessary for three divisions. There are many other places in Madras which require to be improved. Personally I must ask to be excused for serving on this committee. I have been on every sub-committee for the last five years. I do not think I am shirking my duty when I say that I have no time to go to the 1st Division. The 1st Division is far away from my working place and besides is outside my jurisdiction and I have got no connection with it whatever.

MR. J. DECASTER:—All that Mr. Theagaroya Chetty has advanced in regard to 1st Division is mostly applicable to all the other Divisions,—I would say, especially to the 4th Division where the death-rate has been very high. If you are going to include anything at all, you must include the 4th Division.

DIWAN BAHADUR KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—I quite sympathise with Dr. Maitland in what he said. All that I have heard from Mr. Theagaroya Chetty is very good, but it sounded to me like ancient history. Ever since 1868 when the Commissioners were first appointed, the insanitary condition of the Tinnevely settlement has been recognised; but the only question is how to improve it.

The question reduces itself to one of funds. The best thing to do is to form building associations and create syndicates to raise money. That will be more patriotic than any other thing. What is the use of all this talk. Suppose you appoint a committee, what will be the result? In due course a report will be submitted and printed, and after the printer's charges are paid there will be an end of it, as we would have no funds. Funds are required for every improvement, and funds can only be raised by creating syndicates or building associations. These associations can acquire certain private places and clear these people into houses newly built and rented to them.

MR. G. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—I entirely agree with Dr. Maitland and Mr. Kristnamachariar in what they have said. It is wholly a question of funds and whenever the question of funds is raised we are all very sensitive about increased taxation. I have just observed an instance about our sensitiveness in this direction. We have not the courage to vote for increased taxation for improvement in the arrangement for the lighting of the city, which are disgraceful for a civilised town of the importance of Madras. How do we mean to provide funds for improving the sanitation which will cost 20 or 30 lakhs, if they would suffice? I would like to know whether the Commissioners are prepared to recommend increased taxation. They are afraid to become unpopular with the rate-payers. That is the secret. Everybody knows what the sanitary wants of the town are. Tones of suggestions—fiery suggestions—have been made by Dr. King for improving the city. It is not for want of knowledge that our sanitary administration is paralysed but from want of funds. I, for one, will undertake to write a long essay on the sanitary defects of the town. If we make up our minds to raise a loan of 30 or 40 lakhs for the improvement of the town then only we can make a thorough reform.

THE PRESIDENT:—I must say I agree with Dr. Maitland and Mr. G. Subramania Iyer. With regard to the improvement to the parcherries,—I have got some figures to show you what has been done in the 1st Division. When the question came up before, I advocated the policy of doing one parcherry at a time instead of doing a little bit in different parcherries. Since that time we spent out of Rs. 17,000—as much as Rs. 11,300 on the 1st Division on the improvement of Singara-thottam. It is impossible to do all the parcherries at once. If we are to improve all the parcherries in Madras it is impossible to do it with our present money.

MR. VENKATARAMANJULU NAIDU:—Is it not at the owner's risk that you improve Singara-thottam?

THE PRESIDENT:—No. The owner spent over Rs. 2,000. The only thing to do is to turn the people out of the land. Everybody knows that you cannot wipe out parcherries and put in their stead miniature palaces without money. If you find funds I will do away with the Tinnevely Settlement to-morrow. There is no use of having committees to recommend expensive schemes, unless money is forthcoming to put them into execution. That is simply the reason why nothing has been done. We can spend Rs. 50,000 on the improvement of parcherries, if we have money. There is no doubt that I look upon a part of Triplicane as infinitely worse than the 1st Division. I do not think that the 1st Division is so super-excellently bad. I really do not see what good you will get out of the committee. This question of improvements to parcherries comes up before the Standing Committee and any Commissioner can bring forward any suggestions he likes before the Standing Committee. As for the 1st Division, I don't think it had fared worse than the other divisions. Since 1894 out of a total of Rs. 18,89,610 that has been spent on public works Rs. 2,72,463 have been spent on the 1st Division, which is more than double of what has been spent on any other division.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—I think that is a mistake. I too got those figures. They include what has been spent upon laterite depôts in the 1st Division. With regard to the 7th Division I do not think it is as bad as the 1st Division. There the death-rate is 36, 37, 38, &c., and is nothing like 50.

The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY:—Before the proposition is put to the vote I should like to say a few words. Sometime ago the removal of these parcherries to other places was recommended but we had no funds to carry out the improvements. Of late we have become very bold in the matter of improvements. We have two grand schemes before us, one for the drainage and the other for

the water-supply of the town; and these schemes are going to cost us about 40 lakhs. We have sent up to Government a scheme for increased and additional taxation and we do not feel shy of taxing the people at all. If we find that it is necessary to remove the parcherries in the 1st Division to some other place, I do not think the Commissioners will feel shy of proposing an increased taxation. There is no use of carrying out costly drainage and water works schemes without improving these places. What is the use of giving drains to places when they cannot carry away the surplus water? Instead of doing any good by the drainage and water-supply schemes we will be doing a great deal of injury. It is these parcherries that should require our most earnest attention. We are now seeing what the state of the Bangalore pettah is. It is 100 or 200 years old and the place is soaked with all kinds of filth. It is not possible to do anything to that place; the whole place must be evacuated and the people must be made to go elsewhere. Perhaps the 1st Division will come to the same state. The moment we get plague—which God forbid—which is staring at our face, it is sure to catch the Tinnevely settlement and if it catches the Tinnevely settlement what is to become of all of us? Surely we will have to set fire to that place and we will have to give compensation to the owners. I think it is much better that we now take up the improvement of parcherries in hand and do what we can in the matter. Certain parcherries are altogether uninhabitable. I don't want the Committee to suggest elaborate schemes but I want them to go to places like those on Cassimode side and see what compensation we will have to give to hut owners if we want to remove them. I don't think the whole thing will cost us much. If we spend a lakh of rupees in the beginning, it will be quite enough. I think we are running a considerable risk by allowing the people to go on from bad to worse and from worse to worst. The time has come when something ought to be done.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY:—Can we have any rough idea as to what it would cost us to remove these parcherries to better quarters?

The proposition was put to the vote and lost 7 voting for and 14 against it.

On the motion of Mr. Theagaroya Chetty supported by Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar a poll was taken with the following result:—

Pro.

M. R. Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.

Eardley Norton, Esq.

M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avergal.

M. R. Ry. R. Balakrishnama Chetty Garu.

M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.

M. R. Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avergal.

Con.

M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.

M. R. Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avergal.

N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.

M. R. Ry. N. Appusudram Pillay Avergal.

M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangana Mudaliar Avergal.

M. R. Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avergal.

M. R. Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.

M. R. Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.

E. H. Elliot, Esq.

M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avergal.

J. DeCaster, Esq.

W. D. Smith Esq.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Maitland, I. M. S.

Tenders for Disinfectants, &c.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next subject on the agenda is the resolution of M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avergal, proposing to invite tenders for the supply of disinfectants, medicines, drugs, &c., required in connection with the Plague.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Gentlemen, I beg to propose "that in view of large expenditure incurred, or may hereafter be incurred, in the event of plague breaking out in the city, in the purchase, locally, of disinfectants, medicines, medical comforts and drugs, the Commissioners think it desirable that tenders should be invited, giving the shortest notice possible, for the supply of such medicines, &c."

Gentlemen, our policy has always been in the matter of purchasing articles to call for tenders, and this has been found to be the cheapest way of getting the articles. We make sure of the articles to be supplied by samples. The President has the right of rejecting the articles if they do not come up to the samples. From April to the middle of September, that is, for 5 months, we have spent about Rs. 6,495, of which a sum of Rs. 600 went towards the purchase of certain disinfecting medicines from England. If my proposal is carried it will effect a saving. Under these circumstances, I hope, gentlemen, you will raise no objection to my proposal.

Mr. M. K. Lakshmanachari seconded the proposition.

MR. MUZHERUDDIN SAHEB:—I should like to know the method adopted at present.

THE PRESIDENT:—The method is simply to buy what we want. It is absolutely impossible to do what Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar says. We do not know what we want. It was only last week that I purchased Rs. 5,000 worth of perchloride of mercury. I got the quotation from Madras and I was quoted the same price even in Bombay. If no plague comes here it will last for 4 years. But if the plague should unfortunately come in, it will last us only for 4 months. How are we to get samples of things which we may want at a moment's notice? It is impossible to call for an unknown quantity.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—As the President says it is impossible, I beg to withdraw my resolution.

THE PRESIDENT:—You may depend upon it, I will get them as cheap as possible.

Hour of Meetings.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next resolution is the resolution of M. R. Ry. M. K. Lakshmanachariar Avergal, proposing to change the hour of General Meetings of the Commissioners from 5 P.M. to 5-20 P.M. I do not think that the question of time at which the meeting should be held should form the subject of a resolution. I am quite prepared to have the meeting at any time you like.

MR. EARDLEY NORTON:—I am responsible for the resolution of Mr. Lakshmanachariar. The change will no doubt be an advantage to the lawyers of whom there is a fair proportion on the commission. Whether we like it or not, we have to listen to the words of wisdom of the High Court till 5 o'clock and we cannot at the same time be present at the Municipal Meeting to listen to the words of wisdom of our civic fathers. I think 5-15 will suit all of us. M. R. Ry. M. K. Lakshmanachariar Avergal, with the consent of the meeting, then withdrew the following resolution, of which he had given notice—

"That the time of the General Meeting be changed from 5 P.M. to 5-20 P.M. in order to suit the convenience of most of the Commissioners who cannot leave their business earlier."

THE PRESIDENT:—I am quite prepared to have it at 5-15. You know I don't begin the meeting till 5 minutes after the time.

5-15 P.M. was unanimously agreed to as the hour for commencing all future meetings.

The Bodyguard and the Municipality.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business is the endorsement No. 1027, dated 12th September, 1898, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, on current No. 2786, M., re enhanced conservancy allowance claimed by the Municipality from the Bodyguard. We have been supplying carts to several places on payment and it was found out that we have been supplying carts to the Bodyguard without payment. The only place where we conserve free is the General Hospital. The Lunatic Asylum pays for carts.

MR. EARDLEY NORTON:—Is there anything in the Act to say that we should do it free?

THE PRESIDENT:—If there is anything in the Act, the Government will not put it to us to waive our claim. The Government know they have no claim for it. The amount involved is a trifling one and if the Commissioners can waive it as a matter of grace, it will save a lot of correspondence with the Government of India.

It was proposed by Mr. Eardley Norton, seconded by Mr. M. Venkataramiah Chetty and carried, "that as an act of grace the Commissioners are prepared to waive their claim to the charge for the current year."

Proceedings on the Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT:—The next business is the consideration of the proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th September and 7th October, 1898.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—No. 8 of the proceedings of the 16th September relates to the purchase of a piece of land at the back of some ten houses in Choolay for making provision for the scavengers to get into those houses. You will see from the proceedings that I dissented in the matter, and it was carried by a majority. There is a street called Aurimuthu Maistry Street in Choolay. On the east side of the street there are large number of houses and every one of these houses has got a small door in front, by which the scavengers could go in. That is exactly the case with regard to 99 out of 100 houses in Madras. For the convenience of about 8 houses it was proposed to purchase the piece of land at a cost of Rs. 250. I believe there is some dispute about the amount. Of late there have been several proposals for opening lanes and streets in some places for the convenience of scavengers. There is a similar case with regard to Triplicane which has not yet been settled. There is another case in which Mr. Anandachari is one of the parties. I called for a statement of such cases from the Acting President, but I have not yet received it. Considering that we are hard up for money I think it is unwise to go in for the purchase of these small strips of land.

THE PRESIDENT:—Our own latrines have to be served.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—If this street is opened out what will be the result? There will be a dead wall on the side and it will invite people to commit nuisance. Under these circumstances I hope you will not sanction the purchase of this land.

MR. V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR seconded the proposition.

MR. P. SUBRAMANIA IYER:—As one of the members of the Standing Committee who were responsible for passing this thing, I may say that a complaint was made by a large number of inhabitants that the land belonged to a private person who levied black mail for the admission of scavengers. Myself, Mr. Sivangnana Mudaliar and the Engineer inspected the place and we thought that unless we opened out the place it was impossible to reach the houses. So far from agreeing with Mr. Pragasa Mudaliar I think that the place might be made better by the opening out of a lane. If the road is opened up the Municipal peon, and the scavengers will be able to go through it and the place will be kept clean. The cost is very little and the Health Officer considers the opening out of the lane is very necessary for the health of the locality. Myself, Mr. Sivangana Mudaliar and Mr. Loane inspected the place and thought it reasonable to open out the lane.

THE PRESIDENT:—As a matter of fact it was a Municipal land and it was encroached upon.

MR. PRAGASA MUDALIAR:—Mr. Subramania Iyer said that there was a complaint from a large number of people. It was only a complaint from the owners of a dozen houses. There are two sections the one sent a petition for it and the other a counter-petition against it.

THE PRESIDENT:—I am of opinion that the executive brought the question up themselves.

The proposition was lost and the proceedings of the Standing Committee were confirmed.

Miscellaneous.

The following were recorded:—Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from April to September 1898.

Progress Report of Works for August, September 1898.

The meeting then terminated.

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 October 1898, at 5 P.M., under the provisions of the City of Madras Municipal Acts I and VII of 1884 and II of 1892.

PRESENT:

The Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Moore, Kt., C.I.E., President.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
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.
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. Krishnama Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur A. Dhanakoti Mudaliar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Captain F. J. Crawford, I.M.S.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland, I.M.S.
M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

No. 1.

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

- (1) "That the Municipal lamps be lighted on moon-light nights between 6 and 10 P.M., principally in public roads and streets where traffic is great, and such other roads and streets as the President may deem necessary."
- (2) "That the Commissioner of Police be requested to issue orders in his department to see that all carriages and vehicles are lighted during the hours above specified, even during moon-light nights."

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur seconded.

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

"That the consideration of this subject be deferred until the Commissioners are supplied with data as to the cost of the proposed alteration."

As a further amendment M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Charriar Avargal proposed and Mr. W. D. Smith seconded—

"That the Municipal lamps be lighted from 6 to 9 on moon-light nights and 6 to 12 on other nights."

M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu's amendment on being put to the vote was carried.

No. 2.

M.R.Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu, with the consent of the Commissioners, withdrew the following resolution, of which he had given notice—

"The Commissioners regret to place on record the grave dereliction of duty on the part of the Executive officers of the Municipality in connection with the construction of the new vegetable market at Mylapore by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Bashyam Iyengar which was proceeded with and completed and opened without the necessary sanction being obtained prior to such construction and completion as required by sections 265 and 267 of the Madras Municipal Act."

No. 3.

M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice—

"Considering the extreme unsatisfactory state of the First Division, and the danger arising therefrom to the health of the city, a Committee, consisting of the President, the Commissioners of the First Division, Dr. Maitland, and Dr. Varadappa Naidu, be appointed to inspect and suggest such measures as are necessary to effect a radical improvement."

M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal seconded.

To this as an amendment Mr. Eardley Norton proposed and M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu seconded—

“That the words ‘fifth’ and ‘seventh’ be inserted between ‘first’ and ‘division’ in the original resolution and that the name of Mr. G. Subramania Iyer be added to the Committee.”

The amendment on being put to the meeting was lost.

The original resolution was put [to the vote and lost.

M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu, supported by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal, called for a poll, which was taken with the following result—

Pro.

M.R.Ry. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu Garu.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. R. Balakistnama Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. P. Subramania Iyer Avargal.

Con.

M.R.Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. C. S. Theagaroya Mudaliar Avargal.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
M.R.Ry. N. Appusundaram Pillay Avargal.
M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariar Avargal.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Lieut.-Colonel J. Maitland, I.M.S.

No. 4.

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

“That in view of the large expenditure incurred, or may hereafter be incurred, in the event of plague breaking out in the city, in the purchase, locally, of disinfectants, medicines, medical comforts and drugs, the Commissioners think it desirable that tenders should be invited, giving the shortest notice possible, for the supply of such medicines, &c.”

M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Chariar Avargal seconded

M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal, with the consent of the meeting, withdrew his resolution.

No. 5.

M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Chariar Avargal, with the consent of the meeting, withdrew the following resolution, of which he had given notice—

“That the time of the General Meeting be changed from 5 P.M. to 5-20 P.M. in order to suit the convenience of most of the Commissioners who cannot leave their business earlier.”

No. 6.

Endorsement No. 1027, dated 12th September 1898, from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, on Current No. 2786 M., re enhanced conservancy allowances claimed by the Municipality from the Body Guard.

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

“That as an act of grace the Commissioners are prepared to waive their claim to the charge for the current year.”

Carried.

No. 7.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 16th September and 7th October 1898.

Recorded.

No. 8.

Statement of receipts and disbursements from April to September 1898.

Recorded.

No. 9.

Progress Report of Works for August and September 1898.

Recorded.

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

Municipal Office, Madras,
November 1898.

Genl. Dept.
13.

G. No. 1198

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 27th February 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,

Enclosures
2

I have the honor to submit herewith for the information of Government full Proceedings as also a copy of Abstract Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Commissioners held on 31st October 1898.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Lt.-Col.

President, M.M.C.

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 688m

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

G. No. 1197

Dated

24th February 1899

Received

Registered

Enclosures *one*

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding proceedings of a
General Meeting of the Committee
held on 30th January 1899

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[illegible]

PRESENT:

President, Municipal Commission.

794

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Genl. Dept.
23.

G. No. 1197

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 24 February 1899.

From

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

President, Municipal Commission.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.

CURRENT No. 688m

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

SIR,

Fort St. George.

Enclosure:

Pursuant to Section 69 of the City of Madras
Municipal Act I of 1884 as amended by Madras Acts VII of
1884 and II of 1892, I have the honour to forward herewith
Minutes of the Proceedings of a General Meeting of the
Commissioners held on 30th January 1899.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Geo Moore

Lt.-Col.

President, Munl. Comm.

688/m/99

When given for copying _____
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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
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DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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