

[L. & M.]
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Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 403 M

DATED 21-3-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl. Commission.

Recording copies of full proceedings as
also of abstract proceedings of a general meeting
of the Madras Munl. Commissioners held on
28th November 1898.

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. 826 m



From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

K misc.
Order No. 403 dated 21/3/99

G. No. 1389

Recorded.

Dated 14 March 1899

Received

Registered

Enclosures Two.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding ^{copies of} full proceedings
as also a copy of abstract-
proceedings of a general meeting
of the Commission held
on 28 November 1898.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Lt. Col. Sir George Moore, *Kt.*, C.I.E., President.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Cowanjee Eduljee, Esq.
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.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
E. H. Elliot, Esq.
Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
J. DeCaster, Esq.
M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnamacharriar 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.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Lt.-Col. J. Maitland, I.M.S.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

"That a loan of 8 lakhs be raised for the purpose of making all the possible sanitary improvements in the pacherries and other filthy localities of the City."

Mr. J. DeCaster seconded.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar
Avargal and seconded by Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee—

"That in view of the memorandum to be shortly submitted by the President on the drainage scheme, this resolution be deferred."

Carried.

No. 2.

G.O., No. 1865 M., *Mis.*, dated 1st November 1898, informing that Government of India will be moved to lend the Municipal Commissioners, Madras, a sum of 2 lakhs for plague expenses.

Recorded with thanks.

No. 3.

*Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 21st
October and 4th November 1898.*

Recorded.

No. 4.

M.R.By. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu moved the first portion of the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

“ That the Government be requested to make necessary arrangements to detain for 10 days' quarantine all persons coming from Bangalore and other plague-infected localities in a camp specially selected and built between Arkonam and Perambur.”

"That all articles of food from Bangalore be prevented from being imported into Madras till Bangalore is pronounced free from the plague epidemic."

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

M. R. R. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu, with the consent of the meeting, withdraws the whole of the resolution.

No. 5.

After the disposal of the ordinary business of the meeting the Commissioners passed the following resolution :—

a "The Commissioners desire to protest against the subordination of their President and themselves to the Plague Commissioner and express their hope that, in view of the large and tried experience of their President in whom they place a full belief, the Government will exempt the Municipality of this city from the jurisdiction of the Plague Commissioner."

The meeting terminated.

G. M. J. MOORE, Lt.-Col.,

President, Municipal Commission.

Municipal Office,
Madras, December 1898.

Serial to G. No. 1389

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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 28th November 1898, at 5-15 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 Lt. Col. Sir George Moore, Kt., C.I.E., President.
- H. Ormerod, Esq.
- M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
- Cowasjee Eduljee, Esq.
- M.R. Ky. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. M. Venkataramiah Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. S. Subbayya Chetty Garu.
- M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivagnana Mudaliar Avargal.
- M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
- E. H. Elliot, Esq.
- Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur.
- J. DeCaster, Esq.
- M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadar V. Krishnamachariar 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.
- W. D. Smith, Esq.
- Eardley Norton, Esq.
- M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
- M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
- Lt.-Col. J. Maitland, I.M.S.
- M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 1.

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

"That a loan of 3 lakhs be raised for the purpose of making all the possible sanitary improvements in the parcherries and other filthy localities of the City."

Mr. J. DeCaster seconded.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee—

"That in view of the memorandum to be shortly submitted by the President on the drainage scheme, this resolution be deferred."

Carried.

No. 2.

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Recorded with thanks.

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M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu moved the first portion of the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

"That the Government be requested to make necessary arrangements to detain for 10 days' quarantine all persons coming from Bangalore and other plague-infected localities in a camp specially selected and built between Arkonam and Perambur."

"That all articles of food from Bangalore be prevented from being imported into Madras till Bangalore is pronounced free from the plague epidemic."

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

M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu, with the consent of the meeting, withdraws the whole of the resolution.

No. 5.

After the disposal of the ordinary business of the meeting the Commissioners passed the following resolution:—

"The Commissioners desire to protest against the subordination of their President and themselves to the Plague Commissioner and express their hope that, in view of the large and tried experience of their President in whom they place a full belief, the Government will exempt the Municipality of this city from the jurisdiction of the Plague Commissioner."

The meeting terminated.

G. M. J. MOORE, Lt.-Col.,

President, Municipal Commission.

Municipal Office,
Madras, December 1898.

The Hon'ble Lt. Col. Sir George Moore, *Kt.*, C.I.E., President.
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M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnamacharriar Avargal.
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M.R.Ry. M. K. Lakshmana Charriar Avargal.
W. D. Smith, Esq.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Lt.-Col. J. Maitland, I.M.S.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

"That a loan of 3 lakhs be raised for the purpose of making all the possible sanitary improvements in the pacherries and other filthy localities of the City."

Mr. J. DeCaster seconded.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar
 Avargal and seconded by Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee—

"That in view of the memorandum to be shortly submitted by the President on the drainage scheme, this resolution be deferred."

Carried.

G.O., No. 1865 M., Mis., dated 1st November 1898,
informing that Government of India will be moved
to lend the Municipal Commissioners, Madras, a
sum of 2 lakhs for plague expenses.

Recorded with thanks.

*Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 21st
October and 4th November 1898.*

Recorded.

M.R.By. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu moved the first portion of the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

“That the Government be requested to make necessary arrangements to detain for 10 days' quarantine all persons coming from Bangalore and other plague-infected localities in a camp specially selected and built between Arkonam and Perambur.”

"That all articles of food from Bangalore be prevented from being imported into Madras till Bangalore is pronounced free from the plague epidemic."

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

M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu, with the consent of the meeting, withdraws the whole of the resolution.

After the disposal of the ordinary business of the meeting the Commissioners passed the following resolution :—

"The Commissioners desire to protest against the subordination of their President and themselves to the Plague Commissioner and express their hope that, in view of the large and tried experience of their President in whom they place a full belief, the Government will exempt the Municipality of this city from the jurisdiction of the Plague Commissioner."

The meeting terminated.

G. M. J. MOORE, Lt.-Col.,

President, Municipal Commission.

Municipal Office,
Madras, December 1898.

Serial to G. No. 1389

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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 28th November 1898, at 5-15 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 Lt. Col. Sir George Moore, *Kt.*, *C.I.E.*, President.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
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M.R.Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M.R.Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
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.
N. Subrahmanyam, Esq.
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W. D. Smith, Esq.
Eardley Norton, Esq.
M.R.Ry. C. Tirumalayya Naidu Garu.
M.R.Ry. G. Subramania Iyer Avargal.
Lt.-Col. J. Maitland, I.M.S.
M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

No. 1.

Mir Muzheruddin Sahib Bahadur moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

"That a loan of 8 lakhs be raised for the purpose of making all the possible sanitary improvements in the parcherries and other filthy localities of the City."

Mr. J. DeCaster seconded.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal and seconded by Mr. Covasjee Eduljee—

"That in view of the memorandum to be shortly submitted by the President on the drainage scheme, this resolution be deferred."

Carried.

No. 2.

G.O., No. 1865 M., *Mis.*, dated 1st November 1898, informing that Government of India will be moved to lend the Municipal Commissioners, Madras, a sum of 2 lakhs for plague expenses.

Recorded with thanks.

No. 3.

Proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 21st October and 4th November 1898.

Recorded.

No. 4.

M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu moved the first portion of the following resolution of which he had given notice:—

"That the Government be requested to make necessary arrangements to detain for 10 days' quarantine all persons coming from Bangalore and other plague-infected localities in a camp specially selected and built between Arkonam and Perambur."

"That all articles of food from Bangalore be prevented from being imported into Madras till Bangalore is pronounced free from the plague epidemic."

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

M.R.Ry. V. Varadappa Naidu Garu, with the consent of the meeting, withdraws the whole of the resolution.

No. 5.

After the disposal of the ordinary business of the meeting the Commissioners passed the following resolution:—

"The Commissioners desire to protest against the subordination of their President and themselves to the Plague Commissioner and express their hope that, in view of the large and tried experience of their President in whom they place a full belief, the Government will exempt the Municipality of this city from the jurisdiction of the Plague Commissioner."

The meeting terminated.

G. M. J. MOORE, Lt.-Col.,

President, Municipal Commission.

Municipal Office,
Madras, December 1898.

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 28th November 1898, at 3-13 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 Lt.-Col. Sir George Moore, *Kt.*, C.I.E., *President*.
H. Ormerod, Esq.
M. R. Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu.
M. R. Ry. R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal.
Covasjee Eduljee, Esq.
M. R. Ry. Salla Gurusawmy Chetty Garu.
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M. R. Ry. P. M. Sivangnana Mudaliar Avargal.
M. R. Ry. P. V. Kistnasawmy Chetty Garu.
E. H. Ellior, 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.
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Lt.-Col. J. Maitland, I. M. S.
M. R. Ry. V. C. Desika Charriar Avargal.

Improvements to Parcherries.

THE PRESIDENT:—The first business before the meeting is the consideration of a resolution of which Mr. Mir Muzheruddin gave notice.

MR. MIR MUZHERUDDIN SAHIB:—I beg to propose:—"that a loan of 3 lakhs be raised for the purpose of making sanitary improvements in the Parcherries and other filthy localities of the City."

GENTLEMEN:—Considering the large number of Parcherries in the City, I am fully aware, that a sum of 3 lakhs would not be sufficient to clean them in a manner so as to free them completely from filth, pollution and infection, but still some improvements which are absolutely necessary to increase the comforts and to secure the health of the people inhabiting them can be effected.

There can be, no doubt, that the Parcherries are grossly insanitary and the executive cannot fairly be blamed for leaving them at the mercy of filth-bred diseases which cause frightful loss of human life every year. They have been doing all that was possible with the inadequate funds at their command. In the last meeting Sir George Moore told us that he spent not less than Rs. 18,000 on a single Parcherry. This is no doubt very satisfactory. While admitting that the sanitary staff has a peculiar claim to the merit of not having been idle in doing all that was practicable towards the eradication of the sanitary defects of these horrible spots which are inhabited mostly by people who are, as a rule, great sinners, in the practice of sanitation, I must observe that their filthy condition is simply indescribable. In most of them drainage and water-supply, the two main sanitary factors, are totally absent. Drainage and the extension of water-supply are

their most urgent sanitary wants. Each hut has a catchpit but it is more a curse than a blessing to the inmates. The number of taps in each Parcherry is, as a rule, quite insufficient to meet the demand of those unfortunate people for water and the result is that they are driven to the necessity of using defiled well-water both for drinking and domestic purposes. The outbreak of cholera is chiefly due to the sources of water-supply being unprotected and proof is by no means wanting that such is the case.

Any scheme for the reformation of Parcheries should, I think, embrace the following improvements, *viz.*, (1) construction of side drains, (2) introduction of pipe water, (3) closing of the existing wells, (4) metalling streets, (5) building more latrines and urinals. In addition to these improvements each Parcherry should be provided with more dust-bins, rubbish and night-soil carts.

I have no doubt that all of you are fully and painfully convinced of the necessity and urgency of putting the Parcheries on an improved sanitary basis. Assuming then that you are in favour of adopting measures for ameliorating the sad condition of these hot-beds of mortal diseases, of these filthy areas inhabited by the most unfortunate people gasping for bread and breath, the only question that needs to be decided at once is whether improvements should be carried out immediately or on some future date.

Insanitariness of the city is the topic of the day. It is the subject of wild speculations and it has caused such a howl of fury as never was heard before. Having regard to the enormous death rate, to the public dissatisfaction, to the rapid and startling dynamite of plague looming in the air, these urgent and loudly demanded sanitary measures, measures of substantial and immediate benefit to the country, should not be allowed to lapse into abeyance. Let us therefore put our hand to the execution of this important work which is deemed to be imperative in point of principle and necessary for the security of human life. Let us not shrink from our legitimate responsibility or evade it by transparent devices. Unless we do something, nothing can possibly be done. They will not improve themselves by any natural process and if left to themselves they will grow worse and these words and venture to hope that you will unanimously vote in favour of my resolution.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—Is this motion in order under the Act?

THE PRESIDENT :—I doubt whether it comes under Section 209 of the Act, whereby the Commissioners are at liberty to raise loans for works of a permanent nature which may be undertaken, under the provisions of the Act. The question is whether the improving of the Parcheries is a work of a permanent nature. Most of these Parcheries are of private property, and if we had a proper system of drainage, we could insist upon the owners of these Parcheries draining them at all events into our drains. At present the real secret why we are so helpless is that we have not got drainage in a way in which we can lead side drains into sewers to be taken away by them. You cannot give them extra water-supply until you give them drainage to take it off. Therefore the whole thing hinges upon the question of drainage. I have just drawn up a memorandum, which is printed, and which will go round to the Commissioners in a day or two, in which I solve the question of raising the money. I hope we will get 28 lakhs. The broader principles are that we should ask the Government of India to give us a loan of Rs. 14,30,000 and allow us to liquidate the existing loan of an equal amount, so that we should have in hand 8½ lakhs of rupees which we have kept as sinking fund towards that loan. The Government have sanctioned an increase of the vehicles and animal tax which will give us Rs. 37,000 a year, and there is the proposal to raise the timber tax by Rs. 70,000, so that the whole thing will give us Rs. 1,07,000 a year; deducting what we should lose if the Government of India should sanction this new loan of Rs. 14,30,000, we shall then have over Rs. 90,000 left, which will enable us to raise a loan of 20 lakhs and odd. That, together with 8½ lakhs which you have got in hand in the shape of existing fund, will give us 28½ lakhs. Besides that, I maintain that the purification of the Coom depends mainly upon the removal of sewage that we drain into it from Chintadripett, Egmore and Komaleeswarenpettah. The estimate for drainage of these 3 sections comes to 14 lakhs. I do not think it would at all be unreasonable to ask the Government to give us the money which they proposed to spend upon the Coom towards our drainage scheme. If we can successfully remove all sewage that goes into the Coom, the Coom will be very clean, and will not require any

canal at all to clean it. I look upon the canal to the Coom as a greater source of danger to the health of the town than the Coom itself, as it only extends the area of pollution and gives more area to the sewage, which is now kept in the river itself, to extend along the canal. I am perfectly confident if you extend the drainage through Komaleeswarenpett, Chintadripett and Egmore and remove the sewage from the Coom, the Coom will in two or three years be a perfectly sweet river. I therefore think that the question of improving the Parcheries may be deferred until we can see if the Government of India is prepared to meet us in the matter. I don't think it is too much to ask the Government of India to come forward and give us a loan of Rs. 14,30,000, re-payable in 50 years, and to allow us to liquidate the present loan. If the Government of India should meet us in this matter, we shall be in a position not only to carry out the whole of our drainage scheme, but we shall have a certain amount left which will enable us to drain these Parcheries and take away the drainage from them as it ought to be taken away.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR :—Improvement to Parcheries is not a work of permanent nature.

THE PRESIDENT :—I certainly think that under the meaning of the Act it is not a work of permanent nature.

MR. VENCATARAMIAH CHETTY :—We need not consider it now, as it is going to be deferred.

MR. R. N. PRAGASA MUDALIAR proposed and Mr. Cowasjee Eduljee seconded the following amendment: "that in view of the memorandum shortly to be submitted by the President on the Drainage Scheme, the Resolution do stand over."

The amendment was put to the vote and carried.

Loan of 2 lacs for Plague Expenses.

The following was recorded with thanks:

G.O. No., 1865 M. Mis., dated 1st November, 1898, informing that Government of India will be moved to lend the Municipal Commissioners, Madras, a sum of 2 lakhs for plague expenses.

Proceedings of Standing Committee.

THE PRESIDENT :—The next business is the proceedings of the Standing Committee, dated 21st October and 4th November, 1898. As far as I am concerned there is only one subject in the proceedings of the 4th November about which I should like to say one word. The Standing Committee recommended the raising of a loan of Rs. 1,50,000 for drainage. I think this may stand over.

This was agreed to by the Commissioners.
The proceedings were recorded.

A Plague Preventive Measure.

THE PRESIDENT :—The next subject is the consideration of a resolution of which Mr. Varadappah Naidu has given notice in regard to the imposition of quarantine on arrivals from affected areas. I do not think that there is much use in putting this resolution to the meeting. You cannot fight against the whole world, gentlemen.

DR. VARADAPPAN NAIDU then moved the following resolution :—"That the Government be requested to make necessary arrangements to detain for 10 days quarantine all persons coming from Bangalore and other plague-infected localities in a camp specially selected and built between Arkonum and Perambore." In doing so he said:

PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.

The proposition which is now brought before you is only an echo of the voice of the Madras public. I am forced to move this proposition to-day at the request of many residents of the 5th Division.

Since the outbreak of plague in Bangalore, people from that City have been migrating to Madras daily in large numbers, and with all the vigilance and passport system, more than half a dozen cases have occurred among these arrivals. But if a quarantine had been established in a place between Arkonum and Perambore to detain all Bangalore passengers by rail even these

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half-a-dozen cases would not have occurred; there would have been not so much anxiety and there would be no occasion for such grand preparations as we are now making for the reception of plague. The President in a memo. sent to the Commissioners has invited their attention to Plague Regulation, page 76, para. 9, but there it is not said that segregation of railway passengers from an infected locality is impossible but it speaks of the impossibility of land quarantine on account of the several paths by which people may escape observation. But almost all arrivals from Bangalore to Madras are by rail and there would be no difficulty to carry on the quarantine system.

There are quarantine camps at Tungabhadra and Hospet where every passenger is examined and detained and these camps are working smoothly. All Native states in the North and West of India have their quarantine camps at their frontier and they are working without any friction. I don't see why the same may not be done to protect a Presidency capital as Madras with 4 lakhs of rapiers. If a quarantine camp be put up anywhere between Perambore and Arkonum, Madras would be safe and there would not be so much of waste of Municipal fund. How ridiculous and absurd is to allow all arrivals from plague stricken Bangalore to come and mix with the residents of Madras without any other restriction than making them march to plague inspection station for ten days. This procedure is not consistent with the commonsense view of the rules for prevention of plague. The segregation of people in a house where an imported case occurs is not consistent with the rules when the people from a plague stricken locality is allowed freely into Madras.

So it behoves us as the representative body of the rate-payers of Madras to pass the resolution unanimously.

MR. THEAGARAYA CHETTY:—I second the proposition and reserve my remarks.

LT.-COL. MAITLAND:—It seems to me that it would be a great pity if this meeting is to waste its time in discussing this measure at all, seeing that it is quite impossible that it could ever be sanctioned, and considering that it is against the rules laid down so clearly and distinctly by the Government of India in the plague rules which have been published and of which I suppose every Commissioner has a copy. It is distinctly laid down that this principle is a wrong principle. Government would never accede to any proposition of this sort being carried out and for the very good reason which has been acknowledged by the convention held at Venice a year before the last. If we begin to make restrictions which will entail great hardships and difficulties, we would find that the people would manage to evade the rules in every possible way. The principle on which quarantine has been carried out for many years in England and which is now acknowledged and followed by most continental countries is that these restrictions must be of such a sort that they will not interfere with the ordinary passenger traffic or communication between different countries in any way which will entail hardship to the people, because if you once do so people will commence to evade the law in every possible way. Besides, it is absolutely impossible for anybody to put on a perfect quarantine unless we put on a cordon round the city of Madras which I do not suppose any one would advocate for a moment. As I have already said I do not see there is any value in discussing this point, for the Government of India have laid down the principle and they are not going to have camps for healthy people being detained there as it is proposed to be done in the resolution moved.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR:—I should like to say one word with reference to the proposition. In addition to the many difficulties pointed out by Government in their orders, there is one other difficulty in enforcing quarantine. There will be a regular panic in the place where there is plague already. Everybody will try to get out of the place as soon as possible, because they would be detained for 10 days. At present unless they are actually suffering from plague they would not be detained. An initial mistake has been made in thinking that segregation is the same as quarantine. Segregation is for suspected people. The moment a person is suspected to be suffering from plague he is detained for 10 days, the period of incubation. But if quarantine is to be enforced you will have all the healthy people also put into the shed, in which case you must have sheds large enough to form a town. If people coming from different localities are to be segregated between Arkonum and Perambore, you will have to erect a town by itself. A few weeks back the Mysore people tried to segregate people with the result they had to spend Rs. 2,000 per day on the people segregated. When they found that their resources were not equal to the occasion, they had to give it up. Now the Madras Government has given up these stringent rules which were first enforced in Bombay even with reference to segregation. Suppose instead of Bangalore having got plague, Madras got it:

what would be the result? Would you like that quarantine should be established for us? We will certainly feel it inconvenient. It is all very well for people in Madras at present to say that quarantine should be enforced, but they will not bear the same thing when plague comes into Madras. Besides land quarantine is very difficult to enforce as compared with sea quarantine. It is not in many places that passengers arrive from steamers. They have to land at certain fixed places. But in the case of land, people may arrive through many ways and it is difficult to make the necessary arrangements. As I have said already you will have to look at the question of expenditure. When you detain a man you will have to provide him with all his necessaries. In Mysore one man wanted most costly luxuries on the ground that he used to have them while he was at home. As pointed out by the President it would be against the whole world to keep up quarantine.

THE PRESIDENT:—My object in sending up the memorandum to you is to stop the discussion on the subject. I quite agree with Dr. Maitland in thinking that there is no use in discussing this resolution when there is no likelihood of its being carried out. In the first place, Government of Madras cannot send it on, even if they wanted it, as the Government of India would not listen to it. I may tell you that when at Bangalore on the occurrence of the first case of plague I telegraphed to the Government of Madras and strongly recommended that they should cut off all communication between Guntakal, Hubli and Bangalore; they wrote back and said that it was impossible and that all they could do was to put on an inspection station at Jolarpet which they did. If the communication had been cut off between Bangalore, Hubli and Guntakal, plague could not have got in as much as it has done now. Professor Haffkine proposed more than a year ago to draw a cordon all round Bombay, but it was knocked on the head. Bombay is a place where they could have done it with the greatest ease. But what can you do in Madras? I really don't think, gentleman, there is really any use in carrying out this resolution. It is only waste of time.

MR. GURUSAWMY CHETTY:—After the discussion we have had and the valuable remarks that fell from the President, Mr. Varadappah Naidu may consider the advisability of withdrawing the resolution.

DIWAN BAHADUR V. KRISHNAMACHARIAR:—If the proposal of Dr. Varadappah Naidu would not be acceptable some other course may be adopted. In Bangalore we know that when plague appeared the men were moved from the Barracks into open space. I think the best thing to do will be to disinfect everybody. Can you not disinfect all people that come from Bangalore at some station?

THE PRESIDENT:—They are all disinfected before they leave Bangalore.

DR. VARADAPPAH NAIDU with the consent of the meeting withdrew his proposition.

DR. VARADAPPAH NAIDU desired also to withdraw the second resolution which ran as follows: "That all articles of food from Bangalore be prevented from being imported into Madras."

till Bangalore is pronounced free from the plague epidemic."

THE PRESIDENT:—It is just as well that I should give you what information I obtained from the Sanitary Commissioner. I telegraphed to him while he was at Guntakal and he replied to me by wire thus:—

"Your wire 24. I consider there is risk by importation of food but slight impracticable to prevent by legislation, litter and waste packing materials should be incinerated where feasible, have directed my office to send you former correspondence on the subject."

The further correspondence is this:—

"Demi Official from LIEUT.-COLONEL W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.Ph., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to M. HAMMICK, Esq., Plague Commissioner, Madras.
DEAR MR. HAMMICK,

Your letter re vegetables from Bangalore.

I think issue of an order as to burning of all litter and baskets would suffice. It is hopeless to expect to stop infection by attention to merchandize—but the detail as to litter is essential in respect to all imports from an infected locality. Second hand baskets might reasonably be regarded as dangerous in that they may be stored in the houses of sufferers from plague. Although

6
unless contaminated with damp earth from an infected part, retention of infection for long is not likely. I send herewith a summary on the question from old proceedings.

Yours sincerely,
W. G. KING."

" PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

Circular No. 3,
General No. 109, dated 8th October, 1898.

The Collector of Tinnevely has asked the Plague Commissioner whether steps should be taken to prevent the import of European vegetables and supplies from Bangalore on account of the danger of infection. The Plague Commissioner has consulted the Sanitary Commissioner on this subject and issues the following instructions :—

It is hopeless to expect the stop of infection by attention to merchandise, and it is therefore not necessary or advisable to issue any orders prohibiting the import of vegetables from Bangalore. Persons who obtain supplies from Bangalore are, however, strongly advised to burn all the litter and straw in the baskets which arrive and either to destroy the baskets or, at all events, thoroughly disinfect them. Any basket may reasonably be regarded as dangerous, as it may have been stored by sufferers from plague. Unless, however, they have been contaminated with damp earth from infected localities, the retention of infection for long by baskets is not likely. Collectors are requested to give the widest publicity to these remarks and endeavour to persuade people as far as possible to cease importing eatables from Bangalore until danger of plague has passed; and, in any case, to attempt to ensure that the precautions mentioned above are always observed

(Sd.) M. HAMMICK,
Plague Commissioner."

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Are we to understand that baskets carry the infection and not the vegetables?

THE PRESIDENT :—There is not so much danger from that source.

MR. V. C. DESIKACHARIAR :—With regard to vegetables, they are all boiled before they are taken.

MR. VENKATARAMIAH CHETTY :—What about the fruits? Do you boil them before they are taken?

MR. THEAGAROYA CHETTY :—Flowers are wet things and I think generally carry infection.

LT.-COL. MAITLAND :—If we expose them to the sun, it will be all right.

Dr. Varadappab Naidu with the permission of the meeting withdrew the second proposition.

The meeting then terminated.

G. No. 1389

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 14th March 1899.

From

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

President, Municipal Commission.

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
826 m

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 26th November 1898.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Geo. Moore Lt.-Col.

President, Munl. Commn.

14/3/99

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