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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1088	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
198-199		
Dated	9.4.	1873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th April 1873.*

No. 198. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department, dated 7th February 1873, No. 182 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 20th December 1872, G No. 286-C.

I HAVE the honour to forward, in accordance with Section 18 of the Madras Municipal Act, for publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, a statement of receipts and disbursements for eight months ending 30th November 1872, together with the Minutes of the Proceedings of a General Meeting held this day.

2. SUBJECT 1.—In asking the attention of Government to the discussion on Mr. Gantz's resolution, to apply to Government for power to regulate the storage of water in the irrigation tanks and the opening and the closing of the Cooum bar, I need hardly say that the subject emanated from the apprehensions which arose as to the unsafe condition of the Red Hills Lake and other large reservoirs during the recent heavy rains. Govern-

* That the attention of Government be called to the bad condition of the tank bunds within municipal limits, whereby risk was incurred during the recent floods, and that permission be applied for to act on emergent cases when the Executive Officers of the Municipality consider that danger has arisen.

ment will observe from the Resolution * adopted by the Commissioners that they ask for power to act only when danger is threatened and when, in the interests of the public, they cannot possibly

remain inactive, but adopt and carry out such measures as may be considered advisable. Hence it is hoped that Government will be pleased to sanction the request contained in the Resolution.

3. SUBJECT 5.—The next (or fifth) subject was the submission of the Administration Report of this Municipality for the official year 1871-72, and I have to solicit the attention of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor to the concluding portion of the accompanying Proceedings having reference to that report, and to observe that, in using in the first paragraph of it, the words by "direction of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras" and "their proceedings," I followed the etiquette observed in the preparation of the previous year's report, at the same time, having regard to the requirements of the 32nd Section of the Act, I could not well have made it as my report, following Colonel Denison's example in the case of the report for 1869, as I had not the honour of being connected with the Municipality during that period. In framing the report, I felt it my duty, as the responsible executive *pro tem.* of this office, to show the Government and the public what, in my opinion, appeared to be the cause for shortcomings and the remedial measures which suggested themselves to me which were submitted to a Committee for consideration, and which I still consider absolutely necessary for the better working of the taxes and of the departments engaged in their assessment and collection. The facts of the matter are briefly as follow, namely, instead of letting the Assessment Department to assess, and the Collector's Department to collect, the various rates and taxes, which would be a proper division of labour between the two departments, the Assessment Department, whose establishment is smaller than that of the Collector, is left to *assess all* the rates and taxes levied under the Municipal Act, and to collect all such rates and taxes, with the exception of the rates on houses, buildings, and lands, whilst the Collector is charged with the collection of the last-mentioned rates alone.

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I was strongly of opinion, in the interests of the Municipality, that some portion of the work now devolving upon the Assessment Department should be made over to the Collector either by each of those departments being made to do their legitimate duties of assessment and collection, respectively, or by the working of the wheel-tax, which had at one time been under the Collector, and was lately transferred to the Assessor, being re-transferred to the Collector, who was and is, I believe, willing to take it over, and who, in my opinion, as well as in the opinion of my predecessor, would be in a position to give it better attention. The Committee, to whom the question of the re-transfer was referred for consideration, having come to a conclusion different from mine on this point, as will be seen from the Proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 3rd October 1872, forwarded with my letter G No. 256-B, of this day's date, the Commissioners have taken objection to the Administration Report being submitted as under their directions or as containing their proceedings, basing such objection, as will appear from the accompanying proceedings, chiefly upon the difference of opinion between the Committee and myself as regards the re-transfer of the working of the wheel-tax to the Collector. I have, therefore, been compelled to alter the first paragraph of the Administration Report as suggested by the Commissioners.

4. **Sumner 8.**—The bye-law* proposed by Mr. Hamnett requiring all shopkeepers and tradesmen to put up boards with their names in English and Vernacular in front of their shops having been adopted by the Commissioners, I have to request that, if approved by Government, it may be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and finally confirmed as required by Sections 234 and 235 of the Municipal Act.

Ordered that the proceedings and statements be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and that the subject of paragraph 2 be referred to the Department of Public Works for consideration.

2. The proposed bye-law will be published as usual in *free* issues of the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 199.

ORDER THEREON, 9th April 1873, No. 1,653.

IRRIGATION, No. 13.

The resolution of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras, referred to in the letter from the Officiating President, is thus worded:—"That the attention of Government be called to the bad condition of the tank bunds within Municipal limits, whereby risk was incurred during the recent floods; and that permission be applied for to act in emergent cases, where the Executive Officers of the Municipality consider that danger has arisen."

2. The tanks referred to are those of Veyyarpandy, Perambore, Medum-lakkum, Kulpaikum, Kilpaik, and the Spur tank; while the Nungumbakkum and

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9th April 1873.*

Mylapore tanks are so situated as to immediately command property within the Municipal limits.

3. The Government consider that the objects proposed by the Commissioners will be best secured by the tanks being placed in a proper state of repair and provided with sufficient escapes for surplus water, the Engineer for the Municipality being invited to co-operate with the District Engineer in cases of emergency. The District Engineer, Presidency, will accordingly take measures for ascertaining what the requirements of the tanks are, and for carrying out promptly the work which may be necessary. In deciding the dimensions of the escape weirs, care should be taken to fix the maximum depth to be allowed on the crests at a level which will not seriously inconvenience properties on the margin of the waterspread. The selection of suitable sites for additional escapes, where required, should be undertaken in communication with the Executive Engineer of the Municipality, and with special reference to the outfall available for the surplus water. The bunds should be made one yard in height above the calculated *maximum* water level, but in order that, should the water rise higher, the bank may give way at a point or points where it will occasion the least injury, portions of the bund at shallow parts of the tanks, and together of about equal length with the surplus weirs, may be made only one foot above maximum water level. These low portions must be gravelled to prevent their being worn down below the fixed level, and occasioning accidental breaches.

4. It may be observed that the duty of opening the Coom bar was, after due consideration, left with the Public Works Department, in G. O., Public Department, 18th April 1871, No. 500, and, under the present organization of the department the District Engineer, Presidency, who resides in the Fort, is the officer in charge of the bar. The practice is to cut the bar when the water rises to a certain level on the gauge, and the Government consider that no better arrangement could be made.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Financial Department.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ District Engineer, Presidency.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies.

P. W. Dept

N^o 7088

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the March 1873
Read the following

Prop of the Madras Government
in the Financial Dept N^o 182 of 7th February 1873

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The resolution
of the Municipal Comm-
missioners of Madras,
referred to in the letter
from the Officiating Pro-
-sident, G. N^o 286 C, dated
20th December 1872, is
thus worded "That the
attention of Government
be called to the bad
condition of the Tank
burds within Municipal
limits

the tank is in a state of
decay and it is
proposed to pull the tank
up for repairs. I would say
that the Government are aware

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quies for the Municipi-
being invited to coope-
rate the District Engi-
in cases of emergency

PM

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surplus water. The
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W. 14/3/73

C.M.W.

The Financial Dept.
Chief Secy. of Legation
at Dept. of Secy. of Legation
16-4-73.

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1. P. C. L.

h^o 198-99.

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Ch 941

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

1. *Indo Financial Depto*

Date

Encl.

Encl.

G. O. 9 April 1873. No. 1088.

No. 1981/99

Tanks. Passing orders

M. Pr. in the Financial
Dept. communicating
letter from the President,
Madras Municipal
Commissioners, ap-
plying for power to
regulate the storage of
water in irrigation
tanks & the opening and
closing of the same &c.