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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1570	Press Mis.
Dated	10-12-1967	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th December 1867.*

No. 108. Read the following letter from the President of the Madras Municipal Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 29th November 1867, No. 65.

With reference to my letter of 13th instant, handing a copy of the Proceedings of the first General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras under Act IX of 1867 I have the honor to report that, at an adjourned Meeting of the Commissioners held yesterday, it was decided that the resolution proposed by Mr. Parthasarady Naidoo, seconded by Major Hearn, and carried at the said Meeting of 12th instant, as follows :—

“ That it be brought to the notice of Government that the present Collector has not been required to furnish security, and recommending that he be called upon to deposit 30,000 Rupees, one-half in Government Securities.”—
should be expunged from the Proceedings, as, no notice of the said resolution having been given, it was clearly irregular and inadmissible under Section 20 of the Municipal Act.

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At the adjourned General Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Madras under Act No. IX of 1867 held at their office in Errah Bauloo Chetty Street, Black Town, on Thursday the 28th day of November 1867, at noon.

Present.

Colonel C. A. Denison..... *President.*

Surgeon Major W. J. VanSomeren, Dr. D. H. Paterson, G. Narasimuloo Chetty Garu V. Kristnama Chariar, M. S. Shadagopa Moodelliar, Y. Vencataramiah Garu, C. Parthasarady Naidoo Garu, P. Somasoondrum Chettyar, C. V. Parthasarady Iyengar, Mr. J. W. Gantz, Mr. Cyrus Grant, L. Chengulroy Naicker, Major C. S. Hearn, Surgeon H. E. Busteed, Mr. Peter Orr, Mr. G. Hamnett, Colonel A. C. Silver, Mr. J. Higginbotham, Dr. J. Miller, Mr. J. Grose, Mr. J. J. Franklin, Janay Jahan Khan Bahadoor, Major J. H. M. Shaw Stewart, the Honorable Meer Humayoon Jah Bahadoor, M. Vencatasawmy Naidoo Garu.

The President addresses the Meeting as follows :—

MINUTE.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
28th November 1867.

GENTLEMEN,

The first thing I have to bring to your notice is on a point of order and an irregularity in our proceedings of the 12th instant, which I take blame to myself for having permitted. You are all aware to what I allude, viz., the resolution proposed by Mr. Parthasarady Naidoo, and seconded by Major Hearn, as to the amount of security to be taken from the Collector. No notice of this resolution having been given, it was clearly irregular and inadmissible under Section 20 of the Act, and although the latter portion of Section 22 says that “ no business shall be transacted at any adjourned Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the Meeting from which such adjournment took place,” I am of opinion that it would be clearly an illegal proceeding allowing this resolution, passed under a misconception, to stand on record, and, therefore, have to ask your permission to expunge it from the Proceedings of the 12th instant.

Mr. C. Parthasarady Naidoo requests that his Minute of 25th instant be read, expressing his opinion that the resolution passed at the last Meeting regarding the security to be furnished by the Collector was in order and not illegal.

The Minute is read by the Assistant to the President.

The President then asked whether the Meeting wished the resolution in question to be expunged from the Proceedings of the 12th instant, and, no member dissenting, it was resolved to expunge the same.

Produced again lists of establishments, both in-door and out-door, required for municipal purposes (ordered to lie over at General Meeting, 12th instant), viz:—

	Present Scale.			Proposed Scale.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
General Department.....	437	8	0	512	8	0
Assessor and Collector's Departments.	1,904	8	0	2,044	8	0
Executive Engineer's.						
In-door.....	202	0	0	292	0	0
Out-door.....	319	0	0	322	0	0
Per mensem...	2,863	0	0	3,171	0	0

Increase Rs. 308

Colonel Silver states that he has given the subject of the proposed establishments his full consideration, and is of opinion that the increase is moderate, and may be sanctioned. He, therefore, proposes that the establishments, amounting to Rupees 3171 per mensem, be passed.

Mr. G. Narasimuloo Chettiar seconds the resolution, which is put to the Meeting and carried.

Dr. Paterson reads the report of his Committee on the proposed increase and re-organization of the Conservancy Department, and submits a revised estimate, amounting to Rupees 11,097 per mensem, from which deduct cost of the present establishment Rupees 8943-8-0, the proposed monthly increase is Rupees 2153-8-0, or Rupees 25842 per annum, of which Rupees 5624 are expended on bullocks; but it is thought if tenders for longer periods were called for, contractors would come forward more willingly, and furnish better bullocks and at a lower rate.

Dr. Paterson remarks that the draft report was sent to the Municipal Office on Tuesday last, in connection to the Members of the Committee, but some delay took place, owing to the President having accompanied it by a Minute of his own on the subject, which he, Dr. Paterson, considers irregular, and he mentions it in the hope that such a proceeding will not occur again.

The President explains that he was desirous of carefully considering the Committee's Report, in order that he might be prepared to meet the several objections raised therein to the Sanitary Inspector's scale of establishment at the Meeting this day, and, therefore, he sent a Minute round with the draft, requesting it might be returned by Wednesday afternoon (yesterday) at 4 p. m.

The President then read a Minute by Janay Jahan Khan Bahadoor, dated 20th November 1867, recording his dissent from the Committee's Report.

The President also read a Minute by himself dissenting generally from the Report, and giving his reasons for so doing, but stating that, though he would not consider himself responsible for the proper conservancy of the enormous area under his charge on the reduced establishment proposed, he is, of course, prepared, if the Committee's Report is adopted, to do his best, as far as lies in his power, and takes the opportunity of tendering his best thanks to the Committee for the time and labor they have devoted to the subject.

Major Hearn explains the circumstances under which the Committee did not feel authorized to recommend so large an increase as that specified in the list of the proposed conservancy establishment, and that it was far from the wish of the Committee in any way to fetter the hands of the Executive Officers of the Municipality.

Colonel Silver observes that, as the report of the Committee has only now been read to the Meeting, it is desirable that it should be circulated. It was, therefore, resolved to print the Report and Minutes for circulation to the Commissioners.

The President then said that another subject was ordered to lie over for future consideration at the Meeting of the 12th instant, and a very important one too—it was “that a house and land rate at 10 per centum of their annual value be sanctioned for the ensuing year 1868,” which was proposed by himself, and seconded by Mr. J. J. Franklin at that Meeting.

Colonel Silver rose to object to the rate being raised to 10 per cent., and proposed, as an amendment, “that the house and land rate for 1868 do remain at 7½ per cent.” In proposing this amendment, Colonel Silver said—

“Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I rise to oppose this Resolution:—I beg to submit to my colleagues the following amendment to the Resolution that has just been proposed, namely, ‘that the house and land rate remain at 7½ per cent. for the year 1868.’

Gentlemen, I move this amendment on two grounds—1st, that an increase of the house and land rate over 7½ per cent. will fall with much severity on the poorer classes, who form a large proportion of the rate-payers in this Municipality, and, unless absolutely necessary, should not in my opinion be imposed; 2nd, on account of the very large amount of arrears of unpaid taxes with which we shall begin 1868—a large proportion of which may be fairly looked for under proper management and increased establishments as coming into our exchequer during 1868, plus the current demand for that year. Now, gentlemen, before entering a little into detail on these two points, I desire to disclaim the slightest wish or intention of impeding the action of our President by curtailing the means at his disposal for doing good. I believe there is no man in the community more desirous of doing good service among his fellow citizens than our President, and it is our duty to support and help him by every means in our power to perform efficiently the difficult task he has undertaken, for I know from the past experience that the office Colonel Denison holds is no sinecure, and its responsibilities have very much increased under this new Act. At the same time, we have a duty to perform to the rate-payers, to see that their money is efficiently and economically applied, and that heavier burdens are not laid upon them than the poorer among them are able to bear. I know from past experience, and you may take my word for it, as I was for many years Assessor, that a great majority of the rate-payers are wretchedly poor. I find that there were no less than 1364 distraints of property in town and suburbs for the current year. This I understand has now had the property sold and subsequently redeemed, but distraints where the property of the poor was actually sold in redemption of the rate. Had the new Act given the Commissioners discretionary power to raise the rate on houses above a certain annual value, and had the money been necessary, I would not now perhaps be objecting to an increase, but as the Act stands, the rate, if raised at all, must be raised on every house above an annual value of Rupees 14, or a dwelling that would rent for Rupees 1-3-0 per mensem, and you may imagine what sort of residence that is. However, I maintain that money is not wanted. Besides, gentlemen, you must remember that, perhaps, we may be soon called upon to impose upon the people a water-rate and a lighting rate, and that is an additional reason why we should not advance the house and land tax on the poorer classes—for 1868 at any rate. As to the necessity for the increase, I confess I am a little puzzled with the various statements that have been put before us, as no regular estimate of income and expenditure, as required by Sections 27, 28 and 29 of Act IX of 1867 has been submitted. Our President in his opening Minute tells us that ‘the income of the Municipality for 1868, under Act IX. of 1865 (the late Act) was estimated in round numbers at five lakhs, which left no margin for carrying out the many requirements of the town, viz., drainage and water supply, opening out broad streets from east to west of Black Town, improved conservancy, a new market, improved lighting, latrines and urinals; and without a considerable increase, it will be impossible even to begin improvements. The Liquor License Tax under the present Act is estimated to yield only Rupees 40,000, and the tax on Trades and Professions rather more than under the old Act.’ Under these circumstances, our President says that he is reluctantly compelled to ask for the levy of the maximum rate of 10 per cent. on houses and lands. On our sanctioning these taxes, our President says he will be in a position to estimate his income and expenditure for the coming year. Now, gentlemen, this latter proceeding strikes me as inverting the order of things, and not strictly in accordance with Sections 27, 28 and 29 of Act IX of 1867, which require a budget of proposed expenditure during the period to which it relates, and the manner in which it is proposed to meet such expenditure, to be submitted to us, and it shall then be at the discretion of the Commissioners to pass, reject, or modify all or any of

the items entered in the budget. In all Government Departments, we estimate and budget for our expenditure, and the revising authority curtails or sanctions as may be deemed expedient; and as we, the Commissioners, are the revising authority in the present instance, we should, of course, be very much guided in the taxes we impose by the expenditure we sanction. However, gentlemen, taking the estimate of income and expenditure as submitted to Government, under Act IX of 1865, for 1868 as our basis we have —

	RS.
House and land rate, at 7½ per cent	2,35,000
Tax on professions and callings.....	1,10,000
Carriage license.....	45,000
Tolls.....	42,000
Cart registration.....	12,000
Government contribution to roads.....	55,000
Rent of market stalls.....	30,000
Sale of hay.....	2,000
Total.....	5,11,000

Now this must be taken as a very moderate estimate, as I find the tax on trades and professions estimated at 88,587 Rupees less for 1868 than the demand for 1867. There may have been errors in assessing the tax for 1867, but 88,000 Rupees is a large margin to allow.

However, assuming the income for 1868 to be only 5,11,000 (my own belief is it ought to be more), we have as follows: —

	RS.
Balance in Bank on 31st October 1867.....	99,882
Government Securities	33,570
Advances recoverable from contractors, less a sum held in deposit.....	6,730
Income as estimated under Act IX of 1865 for 1868.....	5,11,000
Liquor license, under the new Act.....	40,000
Additional for tolls per accepted contracts.....	6,000
Arrears of house and land rate on 31st October for 1867.....	1,27,966
Arrears of tax on professions and callings up to 31st October 1867.....	3,49,807
Total.....	11,74,955

Perhaps a lakh of Rupees of these arrears never will be collected, but even then we have still over 10½ lakhs of Rupees due to the Municipal Exchequer during 1868. With reference to these arrears, I think the fact of their existence ought to engage the close attention of the Executive, as surely there must be a screw loose somewhere, as I find out of the tax on arts and professions, estimated to yield in 1867 Rupees 1,98,587, something less than sixteen thousand Rupees collected. We now come to the proposed expenditure. In this estimate of income and expenditure for 1868 under Act IX of 1865, we find the expenditure estimated made to tally exactly with income, viz., Rupees 5,11,000, under several headings; but as the sums entered are sums in the gross without detail of any kind, it is impossible to judge of them. I think that, in future, the estimate of expenditure should be furnished to us a little more in detail. For instance, new works and improvements are set down at Rupees 87,000. Now, I, for one, should like to know what these are before sanctioning the expenditure. If under this heading comes the item mentioned by our President in his opening Minute as "opening out broad streets from east to west of Black Town," I think he will make very little progress with Rupees 87,000. I have had a good deal of experience of this sort of thing, and I think that the attempt to open out broad streets from east to west of Black Town must be regarded as impracticable. In the first place, the value of property in Black Town is so great that it would take lakhs of Rupees to make anything like a beginning. The property could not be obtained except under the compulsory provisions of Act

VI of 1857; it would entail great hardship on the people, driving them houseless to obtain shelter elsewhere; and I know, having recently been engaged in the purchase of land for Government under Act VI of 1857, that the Natives have now great difficulty in obtaining building sites. The next item is repairs, Rupees 1,20,000; I suppose this refers to reform and repair of roads. All these gross sums are referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; but as these paragraphs are not furnished to us, we cannot tell what they are. The next item is lighting, Rupees 31,000; the next, conservancy, Rupees 1,24,000; but as this subject has been well considered by a Sub-Committee, we will be guided by their views. The next item is establishments, Rupees 92,981, this is exclusive of conservancy. I have only the same remark to make on this as on former items, that, being in the gross without detail, I am unable to judge of it, but I do not raise any objection to the small increase asked for by the President to the establishment of the Commissioners' Office, the establishment of the Assessor and Collector, and establishment of the Executive Engineer, although I must remark that the percentage the establishments bear to our income is great. The final item is contribution to the Police, Rupees 1,05,072—a heavy item. We now come to a rough draft of the Supplemental Budget for 1868 that has been submitted to us. The first item entered is, 'first instalment of probable expenditure for water distribution, Rupees 2,00,000,' but as our President in his opening Minute told us that the money for this purpose was to be borrowed from Government, and the Act specially provides that works of a permanent nature shall be constructed by borrowed money, I do not understand that we are required to provide anything more than the interest on the anticipated outlay for 1868. The next item is Rupees 5000 for additional latrines and urinals. The next is a market, Rupees 1,00,000; now with regard to this item, I think we ought to see the plans and estimates for it. I think, farther, we should have information in detail as to the unsuitableness of the present market; the impracticability of improving it, and what it is proposed to substitute for it. I, for one, am not prepared to vote away a lakh of Rupees of the people's money without fully comprehending how it is to be applied. The next item is additional lighting, Rupees 9000. The next item is Rupees 55,000, for increased conservancy establishments, which has been dealt with by Dr. Paterson's Committee, and reduced to about Rupees 25,000. The next item is Rupees 30,000 for iron boats. On this head, I think we should have full information from our President, as to whether the removal of the rubbish by boats is the plan finally determined upon. There have been several plans under discussion for removing or destroying the rubbish, viz., by rail, by boats, by cinerators, and I believe a plan by a Mr. Lyons, of which the outside public know nothing. I should like to hear from our President of the consideration that has been given to all these proposals, and of the final determination that has been come to before giving my assent to building more iron boats; but I quite agree with the suggestion of Dr. Paterson's Committee to build a few wooden ones as a temporary measure. The next item is Rupees 10,000 for more rubbish carts, Rupees 2450 for trolleys, but these items have been dealt with by the Sub-Committee on conservancy. Rupees 6000 is entered for registration of births and deaths. The total amount of the Supplemental Budget, as now before us, is Rupees 4,17,554, but I think it should be revised, and a fresh Budget for 1868, in accordance with Sections 27, 28 and 29 of the new Act, and more in detail, submitted at a future Meeting, when we can discuss, pass, or modify each item; but in support of my amendment, that the house and land rate for 1868 remain at 7½ per cent., I think I have said enough when I showed that for the coming year we have over 10 lakhs of Rupees due to the Municipal Exchequer.

I wish it to be distinctly understood that I make no objection to provide and set apart a portion of our funds for the payment of interest on borrowed money for works of great public improvement, such as the water distribution project, but that portion of the subject I would discuss when our President submits his revised estimate of income and expenditure for 1868, and on these grounds I submit my amendment."

The Honorable Meer Humayoon Jah Bahadoor seconded the amendment, and observed that, looking to the large outstandings of rates and taxes and the cash and securities in hand, he did not think there could be any necessity for increasing the rate on houses and lands in the coming year. Colonel Silver's amendment was then put to the Meeting and carried.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th December 1867.*

The President then said a Budget Estimate of income and expenditure for 1868 will be prepared with as little delay as possible and circulated to the Commissioners, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 27 to 30, and that a Special Meeting will be called to consider the same. The Budget will be prepared in the form laid down by Government for the guidance of the late Board, under Act IX of 1865.

Colonel Silver observed that full particulars of the proposed expenditure should be given as he was not prepared to vote away the money of the rate-payers, unless satisfied that the expenditure is necessary and for the public good.

Mr. G. Venkataramiah suggested that his letter to the President, dated 19th instant, and the forms annexed to it, should be laid before the proposed Special Meeting.

The President said the letter in question shall be circulated with the Budget Estimates, and it would be open to a Meeting to make such alterations in the forms as they considered desirable, but he was of opinion that, considering the great delay that would attend the introduction of any new forms, it would be better to follow those laid down by Government under the late Municipal Act, and defer the adoption of any amended forms until the Budget for 1869 is to be prepared.

The Meeting then terminated.

(Signed) C. DENISON,

President of the Madras Municipal Commission.

No. 109.

ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1867, No. 1570.

To be recorded.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,

Chief Secretary.

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For record
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In Vol. 1903/07

114
Municipal Commission Office
Madras 29th & November 1867

To the Chief Secretary to
Government.

Sir,
With reference to my letter of
13th Instant, handing a copy of the
Proceedings of the first General
Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners
for the Town of Madras under a let-
ter of 18th of 1867, I have the honor to report
that at an adjourned Meeting of
the Commissioners held yesterday,
it was decided that the resolution
proposed by Mr. Parthasarathy aiyadur,
seconded by Major & Hearn and carried
at the said Meeting of 12th Instant
as follows:-

"That it be brought to the

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ceedings, as no notice of the said
resolution having been given, it
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sible under Section 20 of the
Municipal Act.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Yours most Obedt servant
Charles Dawson
President of the
Marras Municipal Committee

Letter 184 Sept Letter 184 Sept

of
Board of Directors
separately 1845
separately 1845

Letter
1845

1845

Letter to the Directors from
the President of the Board
James Charles, the result
of the Board of Directors
1845

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Letter
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