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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

_____ DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1558 Press Mis-

88-90

Dated 23-11-1892.

1 3/4

88-90

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 88. From the Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Bellary, 2nd November 1872, No. 96.

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of Government, Financial Department, dated 28th September last, No. 1292, I have the honour to forward revised statements of the actual transactions in the Ghooty Municipality between 1st May 1871 and 31st March 1872.

2. These statements are accompanied by memoranda showing the differences between the statements last submitted and the revised enclosures.

No. 89. From the Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Bellary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Bellary, 2nd November 1872, No. 97.

With reference to paragraph 17 of my letter, No. 82, dated 19th September last, I have the honour to submit, in original, the report of the Vice-President, Ghooty Municipality, on the working of the Towns' Improvement Act in that town.

From the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Ghooty, to the President of the Ghooty Municipal Commission, Bellary, dated Ghooty, 30th October 1872, No. 54.

I have the honour to furnish the information required by G. O., No. 627, dated 4th May 1872, and called for by you in your docket, No. 132, dated 19th September 1872.

The Ghooty Municipality has been in existence since the year 1869, and the yearly collection from different sources has been in 1869 about Rupees 9,574, in 1870 about Rupees 9,224, and in 1871 about Rupees 5,300.

This has proved insufficient for the carrying out of all desirable improvements, but a good deal has nevertheless been effected, and it is generally admitted that the condition of the town is very different from what it was before the introduction of Municipal institutions.

The five principal streets of the town are kept in repair by Municipal Funds; eight latrines (four for men and four for women) have been built and are cleared twice a day; stone drains have been built at both sides of the principal streets; wells have been fenced with walls three feet high to prevent accidents, and to protect them against the impurities of the surface drainage. The contents of the latrines are removed twice a day to the outside of the town where they are buried, and the sweepings of the town promptly removed as they accumulate, stored outside the town, and sold by auction about once a month. The public latrines are, I consider, a success. They are extensively used by respectable persons of both sexes, and the privacy they afford is evidently appreciated. The daily attendance at each latrine ranging from 300 to 500.

The town is lighted by twenty lamps at a cost of Rupees 28-12-0, or Rupees 1-7-0 for each lamp. This I consider extravagant. The work is done by contract, and is I fear unsatisfactorily performed in more ways than one. I, therefore, intend to change the system, and do the work by means of the Municipal subordinates, when I doubt not we shall obtain better results at a much smaller cost.

An Anglo-Vernacular School is maintained by Municipal Funds. The average attendance of boys was about fifty-nine during the past month.

By some unaccountable misunderstanding the Municipality has not, up to the present time, undertaken the maintenance of those portions of roads which lie between the outskirts of the town and the municipal limits. These will, however, be provided for in the next year's budget.

As regards the feeling of the people regarding these measures undertaken for their benefit I cannot say much. The Commissioners are of opinion that two-thirds or three-fourths of the population would hail with delight the abolition of everything connected with the Municipality. They find it irksome to have to do things by rule, and to have to pay taxes, however small, at times when they may not have the money by them. It is not, however, the weight of the taxes that they feel, but their compulsory nature, and though some of the Commissioners seem to think that the people would willingly forego the conveniences resulting from the money they are forced to contribute, I am convinced that the absence of them would now be severely felt, and that persons who are accustomed to have lamp-light at every principal turning in the town would very much object to darkness for a change.

The house-tax is the burden that reaches every one, but even that in its incidence seems very light when it is considered that what a poor man has to pay is only 6 Annas and 8 Pies a year; that is to say, he gives up what would support his family for one day out of 365.

Upon the whole, I am convinced that the grievances the people have to complain of in regard to municipal control and taxes are more sentimental than real, and the more enlightened of them are quite prepared to admit as much as that.

As regards oppression and extortion by the toll gate keepers there is not very much to be said that can be substantiated by facts. The Commissioners seem to think they have heard rumours of extortion, and the Tahsildar, while admitting that instances of such have been brought to his notice, is not apparently able to specify any in particular. A few days ago I had a complaint in writing from a gentleman to the effect that double toll (viz., 4 Annas a bandy) had been exacted from him when he was leaving the town at night. Now 2 Annas a bandy is the proper rate, and no toll is allowed to be collected from bandies leaving the town. So that here we have an instance of extortion practised upon a European gentleman, and submitted to, simply because it was night, and his time was probably too precious to admit of his turning back and complaining, and even had he done so he could not have obtained immediate redress. Moreover, he could not well refuse to pay, as the toll men when asked for their rules said they had not got them, and, for ought he could know, the collection on out-going bandies might have been sanctioned by some new rule. At all events this gentleman did, as I believe nineteen out of twenty natives would do under similar circumstances, viz., paid the demand and passed on, the only difference being that, probably, the native would not have taken the trouble to complain for the good of the public.

As regards the effect of toll collection upon the traffic, I believe in these parts it is almost *nil*, that is if the effect upon the traffic means the effect upon the supply of produce, &c., to the town.

There are instances in which bandies are unladen outside the town and their contents conveyed into the town by the human animal, but I do not call this an effect upon the traffic. Indeed I do not see how so small an impost could well affect traffic. The Commissioners assert that since the establishment of the Municipality there has been no difference in that respect.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
23rd November 1872.

No. 90. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1872, No. 1558.

In G. O., dated 28th September 1872, No. 1292, the statements submitted with the annual report on the working of the Ghooty Municipality were ordered to be returned for revision, as it was found that a system prevailed of debiting expenditure according to the month in which the liability was incurred, instead of on the date of the actual disbursement. The revised statements have now been received, and a marginal abstract is given of the financial position of the Municipality during the year under review. Even in the revised statements, however, there is a repetition of the error of including in the opening balance the arrear Government contribution drawn in the course of the year. The Vice-President is unable to account for several discrepancies between the Original and Revised Statements I. and II.; but the Government observe that, in the case of Statement I., the aggregate unexplained increase and decrease counterbalance each other. In the case of Statement II. a comparison of unexplained items leaves a deficit of only four pies. There are, however, several discrepancies between revised Statement II. and its accompaniments, regarding which no explanation has been attempted. For instance in Statement II.-A no entry is shown under New Works (*a*) Communications, and the entry under Repair (*a*) Communications does not correspond with that in Statement II. The detailed information shown in Statement II.-A is also far too meagre. In Statement II.-B the Office Establishment is shown as costing Rupees 1,012, while in the Statement II. the entry under the same head is only Rupees 1,004. From Statement III. it appears that of the deposit money Rupees 15 have been credited to Municipal Funds, but from the Auditor's statement in which the combined municipal and deposit balances are shown as Rupees 531, the Government presume that the amount was not credited during the year under review. The entry of the deposit balance in Statement II. was unnecessary. When deposits are credited to these general funds, they should appear as receipts under the head to which they pertain, but otherwise they should not appear in either Statement I. or Statement II. In Statement IV. explanation should have been given regarding the excess of the toll collections over the demand.

		RS.
	RECEIPTS.	
Current—		
	House-tax	1,111
	Tax on vehicles	529
	Registration of carts	367
	Tolls	2,629
	Fines	70
		4,706
	Education	57
	Miscellaneous	142
	Surplus Pound Fund	268
Arrears—		
	State contribution	302
	Balance	605
	Total	6,080
	EXPENDITURE.	
Public Works—		
	New Works	836
	Repairs	188
	Education	343
	Dispensary	126
	Conservancy	2,224
	Lighting	480
	Miscellaneous	173
	Supervision and management	1,204
		5,574
	Balance	506
	Total	6,080

2. The working of the Municipality during the year appears to have been fairly successful, and does not call for much remark. It is gratifying to learn that the health of the town has been good, and that no serious epidemic followed the

introduction of cholera into the town by some railway passengers. Sanitation appears to have been well attended to, and a beginning has been made under Education by the establishment of a Municipal School. The lighting of the town is at present inadequate, but the Government observe that steps are about to be taken towards an improvement in this respect.

3. With reference to G. O., dated 4th May 1872, No. 627, the Commissioners are of opinion that to escape the taxation the people would willingly forego the conveniences resulting from the establishment of the Municipality, but the Vice-President is convinced that the absence of some of the improvements would now be severely felt.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Bellary.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Inspector-General of Police.
,, ,, Indian Medical Department.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.
,, Director of Public Instruction.
,, Accountant-General.
,, President of the Local Fund Boards, Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of India Office,

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Bellary.
&c. &c. &c.

Dated November, 23rd.

Read.

Read.

G. O., 28th November 1872 No. 1558.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 88–90.

Reviewing the annual report on the working of
the Ghooty Municipality for 1871-72.

Ghooty Municipal Commrs. Office

No. 54. 30th October 1872.

To,

The President
Ghooty Municipal Commrs.
Bellary.

Sir,

I have the honor to furnish the information required by G. O. No. 627 dated 4th May 1872, and called for by you in your docket No. 132 dated 19th September 1872,—

The Ghooty Municipality has been in existence since the Year 1869, and the yearly Collection from different Sources has been in 1869 about 19574, in 1870 about 9224, and in 1871 about 5300,—

This has proved insufficient for the Carrying out of all desirable improvements, but a good deal has nevertheless been effected, and it is generally admitted that the Condition of the Town is very different from what it was before the introduction of Municipal Institutions,—

The 5 principal Streets of the Town are kept in repair by Municipal Funds—8 Latrines (4 for men and 4 for women) have been built and are cleared twice a day—stone drains have been built at both sides of the principal Streets—wells have been fenced with walls 3 feet high

high to prevent accidents, and to protect them against the inspections of the surface drainage- The Contents of the latrines are removed twice a day to the outside of the Town where they are buried, and the sweepings of the Town promptly removed as they accumulate stored outside the Town, and sold by auction about once a month- The public latrines are, I consider a success- They are extensively used by respectable persons of both sexes, and the privacy they afford is evidently appreciated- The daily attendance at each latrine ranging from 300 to 500,-

The Town is lighted by 20 lamps at a Cost of Rs. 28-12-0 or Rs. 1-7-0 for each lamp- This I Consider extravagant- The work is done by Contract, and is I fear unsatisfactorily performed in more ways than one- I therefore intend to change the System, and do the work by means of the Municipal Sub or deviater when I doubt not we shall obtain better results at a much Smaller Cost.-

An anglo-Vernacular School is maintained by Municipal Funds- The average attendance of boys was about 59, during the past month,-

By some unaccountable misunderstanding the Municipality has not up to the present time undertaken the maintenance of those portions of roads which lie between the outskirts of the Town and the Municipal limits- These will however be provided for in the next Year's Budget,-

As regards the feeling of the people regarding these measures undertaken for their benefit I Cannot say much- The Commissioners are of opinion that two thirds or three fourths of the population would hail with delight the abolition of every thing Connected with the Municipality- They find it irksome to have to do things by rule, and to have to pay taxes, however Small, at times when they may not have the money by them- It is not however the weight of the taxes that they feel, but their Compulsory nature- and though Some of the Commissioners Seem to think that the people would willingly forego the Conveniences resulting from the money they are forced to Contribute, I am Convinced that the absence of them would now be Severely felt, and that persons who are accustomed to have lamps lighted at every principal turning in the Town would very much object to darkness for a change

The House tax is the best law that presses every one, but even that in its incidence Seems very light when it is Considered that what a poor man has to pay is only

Only 6 annas and 8 pies a year – That is to say he gives up what would support his family for one day out of 365, –

Upon the whole I am convinced that the grievances the people have to Complain of in regard to Municipal Control and taxes are more sentimental than real, and the more enlightened of them are quite prepared to admit as much as that, –

As regards oppression and extortion by the Tollgate Keepers there is not very much to be said that Can be substantiated by proof – The Commissioners seem to think they have heard rumours of extortion, and the Police Report while admitting that instances of such have been brought to his notice, is not apparently able to specify any in particular – a few days ago I had a Complaint in writing from a gentleman to the effect that double toll (Rs 4 annas a bullock) had been exacted from him when he was leaving the Town at night – Now 2 annas a bullock is the proper rate, and no Toll is allowed to be collected from bandies leaving the Town – So that here we have an instance of extortion practised upon a European gentleman, and submitted to, simply because it was night, and his time was probably too precious to admit of his turning back and Complaining –

Complaining – and even had he done so he Could not have obtained immediate redress – moreover he could not well refuse to pay, as the Toll men when asked for their rates said they had not got them, and for ought he Could know the Collection on outgoing bandies might have been sanctioned by some new rule – at all events this gentleman did, as I believe 19 out of 20 natives would do under similar Circumstances, namely paid the demand and passed on – the only difference being that probably the native would not have taken the trouble to Complain for the good of the public –

As regards the effect of Toll Collection upon the traffic I believe in these parts it is almost nil – that is if the effect upon the traffic means the effect upon the supply of produce &c. to the Town –

There are instances in which bandies are unladen outside the Town and their Contents Conveyed into the Town by the human animal, but I do not Call this an effect upon the traffic Indeed I don't see how it could in any way well affect traffic – The Commissioners assert that since the establishment of the Municipality there has been no difference in that respect –

No 96

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Dated 2nd November 1872

From Acting
THE COLLECTOR OF
BELLARY.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Madras.

Sir

With reference to para 3 of the Proceedings of Government, Financial Department dated 28 September last No 1292, I have the honor to forward revised Statements of the actual transactions in the Gooty Municipality between 1st May 1871 and 31 March 1872.

2. These Statements are accompanied by Memoranda showing the differences between these Statements last submitted and the revised enclo

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedt: Servt

Acting Collector

Ex? A.H.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Acting Collector

Principal Collector
Rp 410
1-11-72

Rs 30 14/4 October 1872
Rs 30 14/4

Rs 2 2 0 hon Rs 2 4 0 Rs 1 14 0
Rs 54

Friendship the usual question
Called for viz Rs.
Rs. 62/4 dated 4th Sep 1872

Mr Field 2223/72

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

No 97 Dated 2d November 1872.

From Acting and President &c. &c.
THE COLLECTOR OF
BELLARY.

To The Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir With reference to para 17 of my letter No. 82 dated 19th September last, I have the honor to submit in original the report of the Vice President Gooty Municipality, on the working of the Towns Improvement Act in that town.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servant
A. Macleod
Acting Collector
& President &c. &c.

Ex. H. H. 47.

Dated 2d November 1872. DEPARTMENT.
BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
From Acting Collector of Bellary
To The Chief Secretary to Government
No. 97

To,
The Chief Secretary to
Government
Fort St. George.

Enclosure
Received 4th November 72.
No 2372 dated 28 Oct 72

Submitting report of Vice President Municipality of Gooty on the working of the Towns Improvement Act in that town.

Recd 28th Oct 1872
Ex. H. H. 47
12 Nov

the year under review. Even in the revised Statements however there is a repetition of the error of including in the opening balance the arrear Govt. contribution drawn in the course of the year. The Vice President is unable to account for several discre=pancies between the original and revised Statements I & II but the Government observe that in the case of Statement I the aggregate unexplained increase and decrease counter-balance each other. In the case of Statement II a comparison of unexplained items leaves a deficit of only 4 pice. There are however several discre=pancies between revised Statement II and its ac=companiments regarding which no explanation has been attempted. For instance in Statement II A no entry is shown under New Works (a) Communications and the entry under repair (a) Communica=tions does not correspond with that in Statement II. The detailed information shown in Statement II A is also far too meagre. The State=ment II B the Office establish=ment is shown as costing Rs 1012 while in Statement II the entry under the same head is only Rs 1004. From State=ment III it appears that of the deposit money Rs 15— have been credited to Mu=nicipal Fund but from the auditors Statement in which the combined Municipal and Deposit balances are shown as Rs 531 the Govt presume that the amount was not credited during the year under review. The entry of the deposit balance in Statement II was

was unnecessary. When deposits are credited to these general funds they should appear as receipts under the head to which they pertain. and otherwise they should not appear in either Statement I. or Statement II. Statement IX explanation should have been given regarding the excess of the toll collections over the demand.

The working of the Municipality during the year appears to have been fairly successful and does not call for much remark. It is gratifying to learn that the health of the town has been good and that no serious epidemic followed the introduction of Cholera into the town by some railway passengers. Sanitation appears to have been

been well attended to and a beginning has been made under education by the Establishment of a Municipal School. The lighting of the town is at present inadequate but the Government observe that steps are about to be taken towards an improvement in this respect.

With reference to G.O. dated 4th May 1892 No 627 the Commissioners are of opinion that if except the taxation the people would willingly forego the conveniences resulting from the establishment of the Municipality but the Vice President is convinced that the absence of some of the improvements would be severely felt.

I have &c

Bellary

To

The Presidt of the Board of Commrs
" Board of Revenue
" Revenue Department
" Public Works Department
" Inspector-General of Police
" Insps Genl Indian Presidency Depts
" Sanitary Commissioner
" Director of Public Instruction
" Accountant General
" President of the Local Fund Board,

Bellary