No. 36. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 5th June 1872, No. 9:—

I have the honour to forward the Annual Report of the Coimbatore Municipality for 1871-72 with detailed observations of the Commissioners and form as required in G. O., 4th May 1872, No. 627, Financial Department.

2. The chief points I am desired to remark on are the working of the institution and the feeling of the people (so far as it can be ascertained) regarding it, and an expression of opinion is required as to the effect of tolls on the traffic of the country, and, in particular, whether instances of oppression or irregularity on the part of the toll-collectors have come to notice.

3. *Working of the institution—Direct taxation.*—The only direct tax in this Municipality is the house-tax, nominally rated at 7½ per cent. on the valuation. It is paid without a murmur; but a year ago, when a revision was made by a Sub-Committee, there was a good deal of complaint as to the re-valuation, which I found on personal inquiry was not unfounded. I consequently disallowed the revision, more especially as the house-tax was then being raised from 5 to 7½ per cent.

Its incidence is 3½ Annas per head of the population as per Census of 1871.

4. *Indirect taxation.*—More than a third of the Municipal revenue is raised by tolls. The rate on a cart-load, say one-third ton of goods, is 2 Annas, which is not felt to be onerous, is really paid in the end by the consumers, who do not observe the hand of taxation therein, and the amount is inappreciable.

5. I am not aware of any other tax which would produce the same amount with less unpopularity; certainly, no direct tax would.

6. As regards its working, it has not lessened traffic judging by the rates at which the tolls are let. Large printed schedule boards are put up at each toll-gate, immediate redress is at hand; but no complaint of extortion has been made: the rates also are well known.

7. The other revenues of the Municipality are rents and fees. No professional or income-tax under another form is levied, and the people apparently receive full value for their money in the conservancy, lighting, paving, and improvement of their town.

8. *Improvements.*—As to these, the Commissioners, chiefly native, have entered into full detail in the body of their report, so that I need only summarize them—

(1.) *Latrines.*—Of late large sums have been spent in erecting these conveniences; they are characterized by comfort and decency. The female population are especially provided for, and care taken to ensure privacy. Much pollution of streets is thereby avoided.

(2.) The natural increase of population and overcrowding of the town has been met by the reclamation of a suburb, 16 acres in extent, formerly a wilderness of prickly-pear, but on high and airy ground.

(3.) Care has been taken, by the removal of noxious trades from the vicinity of the tank basin which forms the southern boundary of the town, to secure this basin from pollution of men and animals. It was a resort as a latrine; but

now, it is hoped, it will become an airy and healthy place of recreation. During most part of the year and during the short period when it is submerged the water will be less defiled than formerly. I may here mention that there is no possibility of obtaining a supply of running water to the town except during a short time in the year, and that the chief dependence of the people must be on wells.

(4.) Some new wells have been dug and others improved for the benefit of the poorer classes.

(5.) In the new part of the town broad roads and streets are laid out; in older parts lanes have been opened out for ventilation and traffic, suitable compensation being given for property thus invaded.

(6.) The old District Jail purchased by the Municipality has been adapted to the purposes of a market. There was a mistake about the transformation of the cell blocks into an open market instead of into bazaar shops, which, it seems, was what the people really required; but this was either not foreseen, or else not brought into due prominence. I found the alterations well advanced when I took charge of the Municipal affairs; however, and notwithstanding, the market will be financially successful from the rent of shops, and is a practical improvement.

(7.) The dispensary compound was enlarged by buying up adjacent huts, thus improving ventilation and affording room for the construction of requisite additions to the institution.

(8.) Some useless land in the basin of the tank is being reclaimed without diminishing the capacity of the tank. The reclaimed land is raised with silt from the bed and will be very suitable for topes, and thus the shallow waterspread will be lessened and the effluvium of drying mud or weeds diminished.

(9.) In conclusion, the Municipality is valuable in gradually educating the native community in self-government, in bringing classes together, and in evoking public spirit, a conspicuous instance of which I beg to bring to the notice of Government in our Honorary Secretary, M. R. R. Streeneevassa Charry, Sheristadar of the Session Court and Municipal Commissioner.

P. S.—The Annual Report of the Civil Dispensary having been received after the Municipal Commissioners had concluded their report, I have the honour to forward it also with observations, as directed in G. O. dated 2nd March 1872, No. 209.

2. Dr. Davis had charge of the hospital for nine, and Dr. Rogers for three, months of the year under report, during which the health of the town was good, cholera and small-pox almost absent, and intermittent fever easily yielding to treatment.

3. Dr. Davis specially adverts to a subject that was brought before the Municipality, that of introducing the Contagious Diseases' Act, in regard to the prevalence of venereal disease.

4. The Municipal Commissioners referred the subject for report by a Sub-Committee consisting of the Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of Police; but no joint report has been received, and the notes of Dr. Davis have been sent to the Native Commissioners, who have not yet pronounced their opinion.

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5th July 1872.

5. I notice that Dr. Davis is of opinion that the resort for treatment is far under his estimate of the prevalence of the disease, and he gives some reasons which, however, are not more applicable here than elsewhere, and he further notices the fact that the percentage of persons treated is as great here as where there are Lock Hospitals. Although indicating his predilections in favour of introducing the Act, yet to those who must undertake the responsibility of carrying out such a measure, the practical consideration of its probable working, the domiciliary visits, the possible abuse of authority, and other concomitants of the Act have to be weighed. The social conditions, when the Act is found of most service, are abnormal and doubtless justify measures which may inspire other communities with dissatisfaction.

6. The Lying-in Hospital has at last been resorted to. An institution of this sort, however, will only be resorted to by the very poorest class when the midwife is of the Pariah caste, and the education of native practitioners, male and female, in midwifery seems to afford the best prospect of improvement.

7. On the whole, the institution may be said to be popular under the skilful and kind treatment of its Civil Surgeons and their Assistants.

Report of the Municipal Commissioners of the Town of Coimbatore for the Official year 1871-72.

Before proceeding to notice the operations of the year in question we beg to offer some general remarks.

2. As generally is the case with most new institutions which are not looked on favourably by the public, more especially where they impose any expense on them, until they appreciate the advantages conferred by them, so, in respect of the introduction of the Municipal enactment, the people were not quite satisfied although no direct protestations were made; but, now that the enactment has been in force in Coimbatore since November 1866, there having already been since March 1865 a voluntary association under Act XXAI. of 1850 on a very limited scale with only one source of income, viz., the house-tax, and the public have had time to see the useful improvements that have from time to time been effected, they have become accustomed to it, and, far from being dissatisfied, we, as representatives of the *general public*, can safely assert that they view it with much satisfaction and do not grudge the expense that it has imposed on them but consider it doubly re-paid by the good derived. We also congratulate ourselves on the ready obedience of the towns-people to all legal Municipal authority and the still greater ease with which the taxes are collected. We have not heard a single complaint made of oppression on the part of the Municipal tax or toll-collectors, and have not had to resort to much coercion. We only do justice to our feelings and those of the public in saying that in administering the Act we are much indebted to our President for his ready and cordial co-operation, the unsparing and self-denying manner in which he has at all times attended to Municipal operations, and the valuable suggestions he has made in carrying them out. The different taxes imposed are very moderate, and we do not consider that they have proved onerous to the people.

3. The chief sources of income from taxation are noted in the margin. House-tax was levied at 7½ per cent. of the gross annual rental and yielded 24 per cent. of the total receipts. The assessment is very light, averaging about Rupees 1¼ per house, and is satisfactory to the public, as, indeed, was shown when a revision of assessment was lately attempted, which, however, was much objected to by the people, who with one voice declared that he present assessment, which was made in 1866, was the most proper one.

1. Tax on houses.
2. Do. on vehicles and animals.
3. Registration of carts.
4. Tolls.

4. The taxes on carriages and animals and the registration fees of carts are also considered by the people as moderate and as a great comfort and source of economy to them, inasmuch as otherwise they are liable to be stopped at the toll-gates every time they have to enter them, and in the end the payment of tolls might far exceed the tax.

5. The tolls which were let out on contract yielded a large proportion of the revenue, being nearly seven-sixteenths of it. They have yielded nearly the same amount annually from the commencement, and this, coupled with the absence of any complaint of oppression or irregularity in collecting them, is evidence that they have not had any depressing influence on traffic. We are not of opinion that they are felt heavily by the public; but we would adhere strictly to the present rates, which are but one-half of those fixed in the present Act. Although the tolls yield a large proportion of the Municipal revenue, still the Municipal Commissioners have to maintain the whole road from Pothanore Railway Station to the northernmost limit of the Municipality, a distance of 5½ miles, and also extensive portions outside the town, but within Municipal limits, of the Avenashy and Suttiamungalam roads, which are in themselves a distance of 2¾ miles, in all 8¼ miles. The chief heavy traffic passing through the town being on the Pothanore road from south to north, the road wears away much faster than other roads, and the repairs cost at least 300 Rupees per mile. The figures in the margin show the amounts expended on this road in the past years and that under review. The large outlays in former years explain the small expenditure in the year in question. During the heavy rains in December last, when large freshes came down the river Noyel which crosses this road, the bridge over it gave way, and a roadway across the bed of the river was made at a cost of Rupees 288-12-4.

Memo. of outlay on Pothanore road.
1866-67, Rs. 2,384; 1867-68, Rs. 611-3-0; 1868-69, Rs. 2,791-3-3; 1869-70, Rs. 1,376-0-1; 1870-71, Rs. 1,139-0-2; 1871-72, Rs. 771-5-4.
REMARKS.—The expenditure for 1871-72 includes the outlay for the road over the Noyel bed.

6. The house-tax having been raised from 5 to 7½ per cent., and the other taxes and the imperial income-tax also being continued to be levied, it was not thought expedient to impose the professional-tax, which is, in other words, a second income-tax.

7. Several petty dealers having been in the habit of exposing their goods for sale along the sides of the streets and roads, and the butchers having had their shops in the midst of crowded streets exposing the meat over uncovered drains thereby rendering the same unfit for consumption, it was thought expedient to provide a separate market place for these and for villagers bringing their wares for sale. The old District Jail having been vacated and being about the best and most convenient locality for the purpose, a loan of Rupees 10,000 was, with the permission of Government, contracted in the year 1870-71 in order to buy the building and make the necessary alterations. The original intention was to convert the buildings so as to adapt them for a daily market; but after this was carried out it was found that the alteration did not suit the requirements of the dealers, most of whom are the people of the town. It became, therefore, necessary to convert the open stalls into compartments fit to answer as covered shops, and this scheme has succeeded well, all the shops thus converted being without exception engaged. Further alterations are being effected. Several petty dealers who have no shops of their own also resort to the market, and it may be hoped that in course of time the market will prove a success. A row of butchers' stalls has also been erected at the easternmost end of the premises, and these are separated from the rest of the buildings by a high wall. This separate location of the meat market is in accordance with the feelings of the public, who do not like the meat being exposed for sale along with the other articles. The butchers are provided with raised platforms of brick-work where they sit, and hang their meat on iron hooks suspended from the roof. The floor is completely tarred. Two spacious water cisterns are provided near the stalls which are daily filled with water, and a separate toty is employed, who washes and keeps the place perfectly clean and tolerably free from smell. A row of trees intervenes between these stalls and the neighbouring building, as also a piece of garden land of a conveniently small size with a well having a copious supply of water. Graft mango and cocoanut trees were planted in the garden during the year, and several vegetables are being raised. The soil of this garden having been of a very inferior sort, pits have been dug and

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
5th July 1872.

filled in with rich soil, and it is in contemplation to adapt a portion of this garden for a Municipal nursery and for experimental cultivation of irrigated products. A set of latrines has also been erected for the use of the people resorting to the market. The Municipal office, which was before held in the Civil Court buildings, was removed to the hospital portion of the jail buildings altered for the purpose. It contains a spacious board-room, a room for the clerks and records, and two godowns for stores. The compound has been fenced with wire and wooden posts. The market already yields a monthly revenue of Rupees 160-6-0.

8. Many of the people having been in need of sites for houses it was thought expedient to utilize the north-west suburb of the town, which was in extent 16 acres, mostly covered with thick bushes of prickly-pear and hollows, but on high ground. The Municipality contributed the formation of broad streets or roads, while the people with their own labour levelled and cleared their building sites. Being mostly poor they could contribute labour for their own interest easier than money. They were also assisted to the improvement of a water-supply by an old well having been enlarged and improved. A pair of latrines was also erected for their and their neighbours' use. Several huts situated in close proximity to the dispensary, the compound of which had to be extended to make room for the erection of additional buildings, were removed and the owners granted sites in the north-western suburb. There were altogether 150 applications for sites, which were granted, and 29 houses have been already built—18 roofed with tiles and 11 with cocoanut leaves—and 61 are in course of construction.

9. Certain lanes too narrow to allow of a free passage for the scavengering carts were widened, and compensation was granted to the owners of the grounds taken for the purpose. Sites were purchased for the erection of latrines in these lanes. One of these latrines was constructed during the year and is being utilized, the other will be shortly commenced.

10. A large proportion of Municipal new works consisted in very well-planned and decent latrines on the dry-earth system. They are well protected by tiled roofs, completely ventilated, and are now being much appreciated. Each latrine has got a toty attached to it with a store of dry earth ready supplied. As soon as the people leave the latrines the toty sprinkles dry earth on the evacuations, which are afterwards swept up and carted away to a distance. Each* latrine with 12 seats costs Rs. 255, or Rs. 21-4-0 per seat. The Municipality find it cheaper to maintain their own bullocks and carts, being of opinion that this system is less expensive than the contract system. Bullocks as they begin to decline are sold in auction and new supplies are provided. There were altogether 16 single bullock carts and 11 double bullock carts. Six bullocks were sold as unserviceable; 18 bullocks were purchased in their stead. Six carts were also newly constructed. Each single bullock cart has attached to it two scavengers and each double bullock cart three, and all carts are furnished with shovels. The principal streets are cleaned twice a day. The rubbish is deposited in a place far away from the inhabited parts. It is found difficult to induce ryots to remove it to their fields even without payment, and steps are taken to prevent accumulations by burning it.

* There are altogether 15 Municipal latrines.

11. The town may be said to be in a fairly clean state. In order to secure an efficient supervision the town has been divided into six districts of convenient sizes, and each district is placed in charge of a Native Commissioner, the President exercising a general supervision over all divisions. This we consider is a very convenient arrangement, calculated the better to ensure proper efficacy in the working of the Municipal Act than employing a number of low-paid Nuisance Inspectors. There is also an officer called Superintendent whose duty is to carry out all instructions in respect of Municipal improvements.

12. The chief supply of drinking water is derived from wells, and they are looked after and cleaned when necessary. They are generally free from surface pollutions. There are two reservoirs which are entirely utilized for bathing and washing clothes. During the year under review five wells and one reservoir were cleaned and improved at a cost of Rupees 341-4-0. These reservoirs are drained as often as is necessary. The Peria and Valan Tanks, which form the southern boundary of the Municipality on the Pothanore road, also afford a supply of drinking water to the neighbourhood. These tanks are, however, dry during the greater part of the year, more especially

during the hot weather, when the low-lying lands in the outer waterspread emit effluvia of a very disagreeable odour. To prevent this a scheme has with the permission of Government been set on foot whereby part of this low ground, measuring in extent 67 acres, is to be reclaimed and planted with cocoanut and other trees. Some portion of it is also to be converted into a grazing and recreation ground. It was originally proposed to carry out this scheme with the Municipal funds, a measure which if adopted would have entailed an enormous outlay,* and in all probability have proved a failure from the low financial condition of the Municipality. Our thanks and those of the townspeople are due wholly to the valuable suggestion of our President that private enterprize should be had recourse to to carry out the scheme. The ground was accordingly marked out in separate plots and 33 acres sold in auction, which realized a sum of Rupees 2,370 in the year under report, thus affording a double advantage, viz., that of removing the nuisance and of furnishing funds with which the Municipality could carry out other improvements. We have every reason to suppose that this scheme will succeed well. It was decided in the year under report to remove a small village of chucklers which was situated along the outskirts of the Peria Tank, which from the dirty habits of those people and the noxious nature of their trade contributed not a little to create a nuisance about the locality notwithstanding all care on the part of the Municipality, and to pollute the water of the tank. This has been carried out in the current year and the site of the village rented out for a wood-yard. A sum of Rupees 1,753 was spent from the beginning in removing noxious trades.

* Estimate was Rupees 38,000.

13. During the dark nights, from the fifth day after full moon to the corresponding day after new moon, the town was lighted at a cost of Rupees 1,232-7-4—a great comfort to the people.

14. Fifteen streets and nine roads were repaired during the year, and ten culverts were built and the side ditches deepened to prevent damage to the roads by rain-water overflowing them. One street especially, which formed a communication between three principal streets, was full of rock and so uneven as to be impassable for carriages. It is now converted into a fine road. The streets and roads are in very good condition. A number of cocoanut trees have been planted along the sides of some of the streets, and more will be planted hereafter. These trees are thriving well. There were extensive bushes of prickly-pear in different parts of the town on both private and public ground. The Commissioners caused the owners of the former to remove them, and expended 116 Rupees in clearing those on the latter. A great deal was thus cleared, and a great deal more yet remains to be cleared, and this will be gradually effected.

15. On the whole, we are of opinion that the sanitary operations of the Commissioners have effected an improvement in the health of the town.

16. The Municipal Vaccinator vaccinated 1153 cases, and of these 1102 were successful.

17. The accounts were duly audited by Mr. Shepherd, of the firm of Messrs. Stanes and Rouse, and have been reported on as correct and satisfactory. The enclosed statements exhibit the transactions of the year.

28*th May* 1872. (Signed) STREENEEVASSA CHARRY,
Honorary Secretary.

Proceedings of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, dated 30th May 1872.

PRESENT:

A. Wedderburn, Esq., *President.*	Streeneevassa Charry.
R. Stanes, Esq.	Gnanabaranam Pillay.
Andoo Sett.	Mr. G. Martin.
Cooppoosamy Iyer.	Veerabadriaher.

Read Annual Report of the Municipal Commission drawn up by the Honorary Secretary, and approved of the same.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
President.

From W. E. SHEPHERD, Esq., to the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, dated Coimbatore, 13th May 1872.

I have the honour to report that I have audited the Municipal accounts for the year ending 31st March 1872 and found them perfectly correct.

The usual annual statement is herewith enclosed.

All documents, registers, and vouchers required by Regulations are kept and have been duly checked, and the accounts are quite clear and satisfactory.

Annual Report of the Civil Dispensary for the year 1871, *Coimbatore.*

	In-patients.	Out-patients.
Remained, 31st December 1870	6	19
Admitted since	157	5,874
Discharged	127	5,861
Died	24	16
Remaining, 31st December 1871	12	16
Average	9·54	29·64

General observations on the Civil Dispensary, Coimbatore, from 1*st January till* 1*st October* 1871, *by Surgeon W. Farquhar Davis,* M.D., F.R.C.S.

The Civil Dispensary at Coimbatore has continued during the last nine months to flourish. The amount of sickness treated as out-patients has been a considerable increase on the numbers for the same period of 1870, and the in-patients almost exactly the same, *i. e.*, 121, this against 123 last year. The former fact is very gratifying, showing, as it does, that in the more ordinary complaints common to the people very free resort is had to the institution.

The general state of health in the town during the past nine months has been decidedly good. Cholera has not shown itself, and small-pox has been almost entirely absent. Some prominence in the district and town was given to intermittent fever during the earlier months of the year; but the disease was mild and easily removed.

While on this part of the subject I may mention that a petition to the authorities to introduce a Health Act has been made and the following notes on the venereal disease submitted to the President of the Municipal Sub-Committee :—

"The venereal disease in the town of Coimbatore, I have reason to believe, is very common, and the instances of it treated, although numerous, do not, I well know, represent fairly the amount of the disease as compared with that of others for which free resort is had to the institution. The causes of this difference are not, of course, far too seek, and apart from the natural dislike entertained by the more respectable classes of the community to have such 'infirmities' made known is the fact that among the employés of Government (a noticeable proportion of the men) any such affection is positive bar to many of the privileges of the service, as regards pension, &c. The number of cases treated during the last four years are of themselves an indication of much venereal disease amongst the population, and compared with other places I think the average number (314) annually must be considered so. I find it on record that this is nearly as many as the annual numbers admitted into the Presidency Lock Hospitals.

Into the general question of its being advisable or otherwise to introduce a Health Act I do not feel inclined to enter; but, having seen several grave instances lately of utter ruin to health and life being the direct result of the "do-nothing" policy, my leanings as a Health Officer may fairly be guessed.

The fatal cases have been almost entirely those of persons sent by the Native Magistrates in a hopeless condition, and the hospital is thus made use of as a last resting place for worn-out tramps and other paupers."

No change has as yet taken place in the building or compound. There is every likelihood, however, of the unsightly huts in the north-west corner being speedily removed, the Collector

having applied to Government to sanction the ground being taken up. The female latrine might then be removed further back and thus make room for a separate building for contagious cases.

The funds of the institution are in a very fair state, and, although some little loss will result from the change of investment from 5 to 4½ per cent. Government paper lately ordered in the Financial Department, still the funded capital will go far to prevent the institution being nearly the burthen to the Local Funds or Municipality such institutions are in some other places.

The Lying-in Ward has just begun to be an accomplished fact. There have been six confinements, and, although quite natural, still in the infancy of the institution the difficulty is to induce any woman to come. I have also in connexion with this part of the charity attended cases in the town in which operative interference was necessary; but in each of them coma had already appeared and they were quite hopeless.

The Hospital Assistants have been changed repeatedly during the year. The permanent incumbent, so to speak, is 1st Class Hospital Assistant M. Veerasawmy Naidu. A reference to many former yearly reports will show what my estimate of the character of this subordinate is. From the date of my assuming medical charge (6th October 1871) to the end of the year neither cholera nor any epidemic disease has shown itself in Coimbatore, and the remarks of Surgeon Davis that "the general state of health in the town during the past nine months has been decidedly good" may be applied to the whole year. After the rains in November and December catarrhal fever became slightly prevalent in the district.

Compared with last year there has been a slight decrease in the number of in-patients and increase in the number of out-patients, as shown below :—

	In-patients.		Out-patients.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
1870...	176	31	5,520	2
1871...	162	24	5,874	3
Decrease...	14	7	Increase... 354	11

The surgical operations performed during the year are as follow :—

Nature of operations.	No.	Remarks.
Amputation of thigh	1	Successful.
Dislocation of shoulder joint	1	Reduced.
Fracture of left arm	1	Set, died.
Do. of left forearm	1	Set, and cured.
Do. of fingers	1	Set, do.
Foreign bodies in the nose	4	Extracted.
Do. in the ear	7	Do.
	5	

The financial statement is appended, which shows an expenditure of Rupees 402-15-7 in excess of receipts. This excess is, however, more than accounted for by the exceptional item in the expenditure of Rupees 620 for the purchase of land required for the extension of the dispensary compound.

In addition to the six cases mentioned by my predecessor three more women have been admitted in the Lying-in Ward. The benefits of this part of the institution are becoming more appreciated.

The purchase of the land required for the proposed new buildings has been effected, and the huts alluded to by Dr. Davis have been removed. Plan and estimates are in course of preparation for a caste ward, a contagious disease ward, separate operating room, and other essential requisites for an hospital.

During the last year 11 in-patients dieted themselves.

Coimbatore,
1*st January* 1872.

(Signed) C. J. ROGERS, Surgeon Major,
Civil Surgeon.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 5th July 1872.

No. 37. Order thereon, 5th July 1872, No. 871.

With his letter above recorded the President of the Coimbatore Municipality submits the annual report for 1871-72 accompanied by the statements prescribed by G. O. 28th October 1871, No. 1646.

2. The Municipal accounts were audited by Mr. Shepherd and found correct. The receipts for the 11 months ending the 31st March 1871 were Rupees 28,828 against the Budget estimate of Rupees 27,371, being chiefly derived from the house-tax and tolls. The surplus over the estimate is apparently attributable to the large sum (Rupees 2,771) derived from the sale of certain land in connexion with a reclamation scheme approved by Government. The collections during the year under review were much more satisfactory than in 1870-71. The arrears of the previous year were collected in full, and of the current demand there was a balance left of only Rupees 956.

3. The expenditure during the year was Rupees 25,781, or upwards of Rupees 2,800 over the Budget estimate. The balance in favour of Municipal funds was Rupees 3,046. The Government observe that nothing was contributed to the Local Fund Board of the Coimbatore Circle for the maintenance of the road between the Pothanore Station and Coimbatore, though in G. O., 21st June 1871, No. 891, the charge of this road was entrusted to the Local Fund Board and the Municipality debited with 1,500 Rupees for its maintenance. A sum of Rupees 781 only was spent, apparently by the Commissioners themselves, on the up-keep of this road including the portion lying within the Municipal boundaries.

4. The further information submitted with reference to the working of this Municipality, called for in G. O., 4th May 1872, which will be considered more fully in the general report to the Government of India, shows that as regards Coimbatore the working of Act III. of 1871 has been a great success. This, no doubt, is in a great measure due to the lively interest in the town manifested by the Municipal Commissioners.

5. The report on the Civil Dispensary is equally encouraging. There were 157 patients and 5478 out-patients treated during the year. The receipts were Rupees 2,144 and the expenditure Rupees 2,547: the excess in the expenditure is accounted for by the payment of Rupees 620 as compensation for land taken up in order to extend the dispensary compound. This institution has a balance in its favour of Rupees 22,246.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A, S. Rodgers.

Govt. of [illegible] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

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

Dated July, 5th.

Read.

G. O., 5th July 1872, No. 871.

JULY.
Nos. 36-37.

Passing orders on the report on the working of the Coimbatore Municipality for 1871-72.

5

Report of the Municipal Commissioners of the Town of Coimbatore for the official year 1871-72.

1. Before proceeding to notice the operations of the year in question, we beg to offer some general remarks.

2. As generally is the case with most new institutions which are not looked on favorably by the public, more especially where they impose any expense on them, until they appreciate the advantages conferred by them, so in respect of the introduction of the Municipal enactment, the people were not quite satisfied, although no direct protestations were made; but now that the enactment has been in force in Coimbatore since November 1866, there having already been since March 1865 a voluntary association under Act 26 of 1850 on a very limited scale with only one source of income viz. the house Tax, and the public have had time to see the useful improvements that have from time to time, been effected, they have become accustomed to it and far from being dissatisfied, are so, as representatives of the

General Public can safely assert that they view it with much satisfaction and do not grudge the expense that it has imposed on them, but Consider it doubly repaid by the good derived. x

We also Congratulate ourselves on the ready obedience of the Town people to all legal Municipal Authority and the still greater ease with which the taxes are Collected. We have not heard a single Complaint made of oppression on the part of the Municipal Tax or Toll Collectors and have not had to resort to much Coercion. We only do justice to our feelings and those of the Public in saying that in administering the Act we are much indebted to our President for his ready and Cordial Co-operation, the unsparing and self denying manner in which he has at all times attended to Municipal operations and the valuable suggestions he has made in Carrying them out. The different taxes imposed are very moderate and we do not Consider that they have proved onerous to the people.

3. The Chief sources of income from taxation are noted in the margin. Dance Tax was levied at 7½ per Cent

x I see no reason to alter my opinion that the Public generally are satisfied with the Municipal Taxation

of the gross Annual Rental and yielded 2¼ per Cent of the total receipts. The Assessment is very light averaging about 5s 6d per house and is satisfactory to the public as indeed was shewn when a revision of assessment was lately attempted, which however was much objected to by the people who with one voice declared that the present assessment which was made in 1866 was the most proper one.

4. The taxes on Carriages and Animals and the Registration fees of Carts are also Considered by the people as moderate, and as a great Comfort and source of economy to them inasmuch as otherwise they are liable to be stopped at the toll gates every time they have to enter them and in the end the prepayment of tolls might far exceed the Tax.

5. The tolls which were let out on Contract yielded a large proportion of the revenue being nearly 7/8 of it. They have yielded nearly the same amount annually from the Commencement and this Coupled with the absence of any Complaint of oppression or irregularity in Collecting them is evidence that they have not had any depressing influence on traffic. We are not of opinion that they are felt heavily by the public

but we would adhere strictly to the present rates which are but one half of those fixed in the present Act. Altho' the Tolls yield a large proportion of the Municipal Revenue still the Municipal Commissioners have to maintain the whole road from Pathanore Railway Station to the Northernmost limits of the Municipality a distance of 5½ miles and also extensive portions outside the Town, but within Municipal limits of the Avenashy and Puthanungalam roads which are in themselves a distance of 2¾ miles in all 8¼ miles. The chief heavy traffic passing through the Town being on the Pathanore road from South to North the road wears away much faster than other roads and the repairs Cost at least £300. Rupees per mile. The Statement in the margin shows the Amounts expended on this road in the past years and that under review. The large outlays in former years explain the small expenditure in the year in question. During the heavy rains in December last when large freshes came down the River Noyal which crosses this road, the Bridge over it gave way and a

road way across the bed of the River was made at a Cost of Rupees 288-12-4.

6. The house Tax having been raised from 5 to 7½ per Cent and the other taxes and the Imperial Income Tax also being Continued to be levied, it was not thought expedient to increase the Professional Tax which is in other words a second Income Tax.

7. Several petty dealers having been in the habit of exposing their goods for sale along the sides of the streets and roads and the Butchers having had their shops in the middle of Crowded streets excepting the meat door recessed drains thereby rendering the same unfit for Consumption it was thought expedient to provide a separate market place for these and for villagers bringing their wares for sale. The Old District Jail having been vacated and being about the best and most Convenient locality for the purpose a loan of Rupees 10000 was with the permission of Government, Contracted in the year 1870-71 in order to buy the buildings and make the necessary alterations. The original intention was to convert the buildings so as to adapt them for a daily market: but after this

was carried out it was found that the alteration did not suit the requirements of the dealers most of whom are the people of the Town. It became therefore necessary to convert the open stalls into compartments fit to however as covered shops and this scheme has succeeded well. All the shops thus converted being now without exception occupied. Further alterations are being effected. Several petty dealers who have no shops of their own also resort to the Market and it may be hoped that in course of time the Market will prove a success. A row of butchers' stalls has also been erected at the Eastern most end of the premises and these are separated from the rest of the buildings by a high wall. This separate location of the Meat Market is in accordance with the feelings of the public who do not like the meat being exposed for sale along with the other articles. The butchers are provided with raised platforms of brick work where they sit and hang their meat on iron hooks suspended from the roof. The floor is completely tarred, two spacious water cisterns are provided near

near the stalls which are daily filled with water and a separate boy is employed who washes and keeps the place perfectly clean and tolerably free from smell. A row of trees is between these stalls and the neighbouring building as also a piece of garden land of a conveniently small size with a well having a copious supply of water. Grafted mango and cocoanut trees were planted in the garden during the year and several vegetables are being raised. The soil of this garden having been of a very inferior sort, pits have been dug and filled in with rich soil, and it is in contemplation to adapt a portion of this garden for a Municipal nursery and for experimental cultivation of irrigated products. A set of latrines has also been created for the use of the people resorting to the Market. The Municipal office which was before held in the Civil Court buildings was removed to the Hospital portion of the Jail buildings allowed for the purpose. It contains a spacious board room, a room for the Clerks and records and two godowns for stores. The Compound has been fenced with

with wire and wooden posts. The Market already yields a monthly revenue of £18 per 100-6-0.

8. Many of the people having been in need of sites for houses it was thought expedient to utilize the North West Suburb of the Town which was in extent 16 acres mostly covered with thick bushes of prickly pear and hollows, but on high ground. The Municipality Contributed the formation of broad Streets or roads, while the people with their own Labor levelled and cleared their building sites, being mostly poor they could Contribute Labor for their own interest, easier than money, they were also assisted to the improvement of a water supply by an old well having been enlarged and improved. A pair of Latrines was also erected for their and their neighbours use. Several huts situated in close proximity to the Dispensary, the Compound of which had to be extended to make room for the erection of additional buildings, were removed and the owners granted sites in the North Western Suburb. There were altogether 150 applications for sites which were granted and 29 houses

have been already built. 18 provided with tiles and 11 with Cocoanut leaves and 61 are in Course of Construction.

9. Certain Lanes too narrow to allow of a free passage for the Scavengering Carts were widened and Compensation was granted to the owners of the grounds taken for the purpose. Sites were purchased for the erection of Latrines in these Lanes. One of these Latrines was Constructed during the year and is being utilized, the other will be shortly Commenced.

10. A large proportion of Municipal Town Works Consisted in very well planned and decent Latrines on the dry earth system, they are well protected by tiled roofs, Completely ventilated and are now being much appreciated. Each Latrine has got a Tub attached to it with a store of dry earth properly supplied. As soon as the people leave the Latrines the Tub sprinkles dry earth on the evacuations which are afterwards swept up and Carted away to a distance - each Latrine with 12 seats Cost - Rs per seat 25 5 or £ 2 2 1. 4 - per seat. The Municipality find it cheaper to maintain their own Bullocks and Carts being of opinion that this

× There are altogether 15 Municipal Latrines

system is less expensive than the Contract system. Bullocks as they begin to decline are sold in Auction and new supplies are provided. There were altogether 16 single bullock Carts and 11 double bullock Carts. 6 Bullocks were sold as unserviceable; 18 bullocks were purchased in their stead. Six Carts were also newly Constructed. Each single bullock Cart has attached to it two scavengers and each double bullock Cart three, and all Carts are furnished with utensils. The principal Streets are cleaned twice a day. The rubbish is deposited in a place far away from the inhabited parts. It is found difficult to induce ryots to remove it to their fields even with pay and payment, and steps are taken to prevent accumulations by burning it.

11. The Town may be said to be in a fairly clean state. In order to secure an efficient supervision, the Town has been divided into 6 Districts of Commissariat Sizes, and each District is placed in charge of a Native Commissioner, the President exercising a general supervision over all Sanitation. This we consider is a very Convenient arrangement, calculated the better to ensure proper efficiency in the working of the Municipal Act, than employing a number of low Paid Nuisance Inspectors. There is also an officer called Superintendent whose duty is to carry out all instructions in respect of Municipal improvements.

12. The chief supply of drinking water is derived from wells, and they are looked after and cleaned when necessary. They are generally free from surface pollutions. There are two reservoirs which are entirely utilized for bathing and washing clothes. During the year under review 5 wells and one reservoir were cleaned and repaired at a Cost of Rupees 341-4-0. These reservoirs are drained as often as is necessary. The Periá and Vilan tanks which form the Southern boundary of the Municipality on the Pollachi road also afford a supply of drinking water to the neighbourhood. These tanks are however dry during the greater part of the year, more especially during the hot weather, when the low lying lands in the outer water-spread emit effluvia of a very disagreeable odour. To prevent this a scheme has with the permission of

Government

Government been set on foot whereby part of this low ground measuring in extent 67 Acres is to be reclaimed, and planted with Cocoanut and other trees. Some portion of it is also to be converted into a grazing and recreation ground. It was originally proposed to Carry out this scheme with the Municipal funds, a measure which if adopted would have entailed an enormous outlay and in all probability have proved a failure from the low financial Condition of the Municipality. Our thanks and those of the Tamil people are due wholly to the valuable Suggestion of our President that private enterprise should be had recourse to, to Carry out the scheme. The ground was accordingly marked out in separate plots and 32 Acres sold in Auction which realized a Sum of Rupees 2370 in the year under report. This affording a double advantage Viz. that of removing the nuisance and of furnishing funds with which the Municipality Could Carry out other improvements. We have every reason to suppose that this Scheme will succeed well. It was decided in the year under report to remove a small village of Chuckles which was situated along

+ Estimate was Rs 3800/-

along the outskirts of the Peria Tank which from the dirty habits of those people and the noxious nature of their trade contributed not a little to create a nuisance about the locality notwithstanding all Care on the part of the Municipality and to pollute the water of the Tank. This has been carried out in the Current year, and the site of the Village planted out for a wood yard. A Sum of Rupees 753 was spent from the beginning in removing noxious trades.

13 During the dark nights from the 5th day after full moon to the Corresponding day after new moon the Town now lighted at a Cost of Rupees 1232.7.4 a great Comfort to the people.

14. 15 Streets and 9 roads were repaired during the year and 10 Culverts were built about the side ditches deepened to prevent damage to the roads by rain water overflowing them. One street especially which formed a Communication between three principal streets was full of rock and so uneven as to be impassable for Carriages. It is now Converted into a fine road. The Streets and roads are in very good Condition.

A.

A number of Cocoanut trees have been planted along the sides of some of the Streets and more will be planted hereafter. These trees are thriving well. There were extensive bushes of prickly pear in different parts of the Town on both private and public ground. The Commissioners caused the owners of the former to remove them and expended 116 Rupees in clearing those on the latter. A great deal was thus cleared and a great deal more yet remains to be cleared and this will be gradually effected.

15 On the whole we are of opinion that the Sanitary operations of the Commissioners have effected an improvement in the health of the Town.

16 The Municipal Vaccinator vaccinated 1153 Cases and of these 1102 were successful.

17 The accounts were duly audited by Mr. Shepherd of the Firm of Messrs. Hanes and Rouse and have been reported on as correct and satisfactory. The enclosed statements exhibit the transactions of the year.

28th May 1872

Honorary Secretary for Commissioners

President

Proceedings of the Municipal Commission

Coonoor dated 30th May 1872.

Present.

C. Wedderburn Esqr. President

R. Hawes Esqr.

Cundasett

Coopooswamy Iyer

Veeranna Pillay

Govindoo Pillay

Mr. G. Harris.

Veerabadra Aiker

Read annual report of the Municipal Commission, drawn up by the Honorary Secretary, and approved of the same.

Signed C. Wedderburn

President

True Copy

Secretary

President

Enclosure No 1

On a letter from the President Coimbatore Municipal Commission dated 5th June 1872 No 2

Report of the Municipal Commissioners of the Town of Coimbatore for the year 1871-72.

Dy Sec. 1111/72

27.

13

Coimbatore
May 13th 1872.

To

The President
Municipal Commission
Coimbatore

Sir.

I have the honor to report that I have audited the Municipal Accounts for the year ending 31st March 1872 and found them perfectly correct.

The usual Annual Statement is herewith enclosed.

All documents, Registers and Vouchers required by Regulations are kept, and have been duly checked, and the Accounts are quite clear and satisfactory.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servant
(Signed) J. M. C. Shepherd

True Copy

A Meadowcroft
President

Enclosure No 3

In a letter from the Presi:
:dent Coimbatore Munici:
:ipal Commission dated
5th June 1872. No 4.

Copy of Auditor's Report
for 1871-72.

Coimbatore Municipal Commission
for the year 1871–1872

Receipts

Balance from last year—						
At the Treasury—5350-9-10						
Deduct uncredited						
Deposit B 1895-0-0	3455	9	10			
With Secretary	300	"	"			
With Overseer	310	"	"	4065	9	10
Rate on houses and buildings	7185	10	5			
Tax on vehicles &c.	1479	8	4			
Registration of Carts	1432	4	"			
Tolls	9800	"	"			
Fees	40	"	5			
Fines	78	14	6	20016	5	4
Miscellaneous				4746	4	4
Uncredited deposits				2436	2	6
Total Rupees				31264	6	"

Disbursements

New works	7330	1	8			
Repairs	4894	14	11			
Education	542	5	4			
Sanitation & Medical Services	8937	8	3			
Miscellaneous Municipal purposes	2231	8	4			
Supervision and Management	1844	14	10	25781	5	4
Balance for next year						
At the Treasury	5148	"	8			
With Secretary	60	"	"			
" Overseer	275	"	"	5483	"	8
Total Rupees				31264	6	"

Coimbatore
13th May 1872

(Sd) W. C. Shepherd
Auditor

(True Copy)

A Chamberlain
President

Annual Report of the Civil Dispensary for the year 1871 Coimbatore.

	In Patients	Out Patients
Remained 31st December 1870.	6	19
Admitted since	157	5874
Discharged	127	5861
Died	24	16
Remaining 31st December 1871	12	16
Average	9.54	29.64

General observations on the Civil Dispensary Coimbatore from 1st January till 1st October 1871 by Surgeon W. Farquhar Davis. Ind. S. F. & C. S.

The Civil Dispensary at Coimbatore has continued during the last nine months to flourish, the amount of sickness treated as out Patients has been a considerable increase on the numbers for the same period of 1870; and the In Patients almost Exactly the same. 121, this against 123 last year. The former fact is very gratifying shewing as it does that in the more ordinary complaints common to the people

very free resort is had to the Institution.

The general state of health in the Town during the past nine months has been decidedly good. Cholera has not shown itself and small pox has been almost entirely absent: some prominence in the District and Town was given to intermittent fever, during the earlier months of the year, but the disease was mild and easily removed.

While on this part of the subject I may mention that a petition to the authorities to introduce a Health act has been made and the following notes on the Venereal disease submitted to the President of the Municipal Sub Committee.

"The Venereal disease in the Town of Coimbatore, I have reason to believe is very Common, and the instances of it treated although numerous, do not I well know represent fairly the amount

of the Disease, as compared with that of others for which free resort is had to the Institution: the causes of this difference are not of course far to seek and apart from the natural dislike entertained by the more respectable classes of the Community to have such infirmities made known, is the fact that among the employes of Government (a noticeable proportion of the men) any such affection is positive bar to many of the privileges of the service as regards pension &c. The number of cases treated during the last four years are of themselves an indication of much Venereal disease amongst the population and Compare with other places. I think the average number (314) annually must be considered so. I find it on record

that this is nearly as many as the annual numbers admitted into the Presidency Lock Hospitals.

As to the general question of its being advisable or otherwise, to introduce a Health act I do not feel inclined to enter but having seen several glaring instances lately of utter ruin to health and life being the direct result of the "do nothing" policy, my leanings as a health officer may fairly be guessed.

The fatal cases have been almost entirely those of persons sent by the Native Magistrates in a hopeless condition, and the Hospital is thus made use of as a last resting place for worn out tramps and other paupers.

No change has yet taken place in

in the building or compound there is every likelihood however of the unsightly huts in the North West corner being speedily removed, the Collector having applied to Government to sanction the ground being taken up. The female Latrine might then be removed further back and thus make room for a separate building for Contagious Cases.

The Funds of the Institution are in a very fair state, and although some little loss will result from the changed Investment from 5 to 4½ per cent, Government Paper, lately ordered in the Financial Department, still the Invested Capital will go for to prevent the Institution being nearly the burthen to the Local Funds or Municipality such institutions are in some other places.

The Lying in Ward has just begun to be an accomplished fact. There have been six confinements, and although quite natural, still, in the infancy of the Institution the difficulty is to induce any Women to come. I have also in connection with this part of the charity attended cases in the Town in which operative interference was necessary but in each of them Coma had already appeared, and they were quite hopeless.

The Hospital Assistant, have been changed repeatedly during the year; The permanent incumbent, so to speak is 1st Class Hospital Assistant M. Veerasamy Naidu, a reference to many former yearly reports will show what my estimate of the character of this subordinate is.

From the date of my assuming Medical charge (6th October 1870) to the end of the year neither cholera nor any Epidemic disease has now any Epidemic disease has shown itself in Coimbatore and the remarks of Surgeon Davis that "the general state of health in the Town during the past nine months has been decidedly good" may be applied to the whole year. After the rains in November and December, Cattarrhal fever became slightly prevalent in the District.

Compared with last year, there has been a slight decrease in the number of In patients and increase in the number of out patients as shown below.

In Patients		Out Patients	
Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1870. 176	31	5520	2
1871. 162	24	5874	3
Decrease 14	7	Increase 354	11

The Surgical operations performed during the year are as follows.

Nature of operation	No.	Remarks.
Amputation of thigh	1	Successful
Dislocation of shoulder joint	1	Reduced
Fracture of left arm	1	Set died
—Do— left forearm	1	Set & cured
—Do— Fingers	4	Set —do—
Foreign bodies in the nose	7	Extracted
—Do— in the Ear	5	—Do—

The financial statement is appended which shows an expenditure of Rs. 402-15-7 in Excess of receipts. This Excess is however more than accounted for by the exceptional item in the expenditure of Rs. 620- for the purchase of land required for the extension of the Dispensary Compound.

In addition to the six Cases mentioned by my predicessor, three more women have been admitted in the Lying in ward.

The benefits of this part of the institution are becoming more appreciated.

The purchase of the land required for the proposed new buildings has been effected, and the huts alluded to by Dr. Davis have been removed. Plan and Estimates are in course of preparation for a Caste Ward, a Contageous disease ward, separate operating room, and other essential requisites for an Hospital.

During the last year 11 In Patients visited themselves.

Coimbatore
1st January 1872.

Signed C. L. Rogers
Surgeon Major
Civil Surgeon

True Copy

Mendelaade
President

Financial statement Exhibiting the Working of the Coimbatore Civil Dispensary for the year 1871.

In Patients 157
Out Patients 5478
} 5635.

Dont print

Balance on hand on 1st January 1871		2264	14	8	Pay of Servants	612	2	8
Receipt in 1871					Supply of necessaries for sick	597	4	7
Interest	1344-5-10				European Medicines	222	2	7
Municipal Contribution	600-" -"				Country Medicines	53	5	6
Portion of Famine Fund.					Clothing	111	8	"
Received from Collectors for clothing &c	131-3-6				Bedding	36	2	"
Sale of medicines	53-13-11				Stationery	26	4	"
Miscellaneous	15-6-3	2144	13	6	Coir mats	48	13	5
Total Rupees		2479	12	2	Municipal Tax	7	8	"
Deduct Expenditure		2547	12	2	Contingencies	63	13	2
Balance		2224	"	"	Compensations given to parties	620	"	"
					Repairs Hospital buildings	106	9	2
					Miscellaneous &c	42	3	6
					Total Rupees.	2547	12	2

Coimbatore —
1st January 1872.

[Signed] C. J. Rogers.
Surgeon Major
Civil Surgeon.
True Copy

[Signed] Streeniwasa Chary
Secretary

Alexdalen
President

Enclosure No 4

In a letter from the
President Coimbatore
Municipal Commission
dated 5th June 1872. No 9.

Annual report of the
Civil Dispensary for 1871.

Rec'd 11th/72

Coimbatore Municipal
Commissioners Office
5th June 1872.

No 9.

From.

A. Maddenburn Esqre
President Municipal
Commission Coimbatore

To

The Honorable R. S. Ellis
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir. I have the honor to forward the
Annual Report of the Coimbatore Muni-
cipality for 1871-72 with detailed
observations of the Commissioners and
forms as required in G. O. 4th May 1872
No 627 Financial Department.

2. The chief points I am desired to
remark on, are the working of the Insti-
tution, and the feeling of the people
(so far as it can be ascertained) regard-
ing it, and an expression of opinion
is required, as to the effect of tolls on
the traffic of the Country, and in par-
ticular, whether instances of oppressi

or irregularity on the part of the toll Collectors have come to notice.

3 Working of the Institution – direct taxation.

The only direct tax in this Municipality is the house tax, nominally rated at 7½ per cent on the valuation. It is paid without a murmur. Last year, when a revision was made by a Sub Committee there was a good deal of Complaint, as to the re-valuation, which I found, on personal enquiry, was not unfounded, I consequently disallowed the revision, more especially, as the house tax was then being raised from 5 to 7½ per Cent.

Its incidence is 3½ Annas per head of the population, as per Census of 1871.

4 – No direct taxation.

More than a third of the Municipal revenue is raised by tolls. The rate on a Cart load – say ¾ ton of goods – is 2 Annas, which is not felt to be onerous – is really paid in the end, by the Consumers, who

do not observe the hand of taxation therein, and the amount is inappreciable.

5 – I am not aware of any other tax which would produce the same amount with less unpopularity. Certainly no direct tax would.

6 Regards its working – it has not lessened traffic, judging by the rates at which the tolls are let. Large printed Schedule Boards, are put up at each toll gate, immediate redress is at hand, but no complaint of extortion has been made. The rates also are well known.

7 The other revenues of the Municipality are rents, and fees. No professional or income tax – under another form, is levied, and the people apparently receive full value for their money in the conservancy, lighting, paving, and improvement of their town.

8 Improvements – as to these, the Commissioners, chiefly native, have entered into full detail, in the body of their report, so that I need only summarize them.

9 Lateries. Of late, large sums have been spent, in erecting these

conveniences. They are characterized by comfort and decency. The female population are especially provided for and care taken to ensure privacy. Much pollution of streets is thereby avoided.

(2). The natural increase of population and overcrowding of the Town has been met by the reclamation of a suburb, 10 acres in extent, formerly a wilderness of prickly pear, but on high and dry ground.

(3). Care has been taken by the removal of noxious trades from the vicinity of the tank basin, which forms the Southern boundary of the town, to secure this basin from pollution of men and Animals. It was a resort as a latrine, but now, it is hoped, it will become an airy and healthy place of recreation, during most part of the year and during the short period when it is submerged, the water will be less defiled than formerly. I may here mention that there is no possibility of obtaining a supply of running water, to the Town, except during a short time in the year, and that the chief dependance of the people must be on wells.

(4). Some new wells have been dug, and others improved for the benefit of the poorer classes.

(5). In the new part of the Town broad roads and streets are laid out, in older parts, lanes have been opened out for ventilation and traffic, suitable compensation being given for property thus invaded.—

(6). The old District Jail purchased by the Municipality has been adapted to the purposes of a Market. There was a mistake about the transformation of the Cell-blocks into an open Market, instead of into bazar shops which, it seems, was what the people really required. But this was either not foreseen, or else, not brought into due prominence. I found the alterations well advanced, when I took charge of the Municipal affairs; however, notwithstanding the Market will be financially successful, from the rent of shops, and is a practical improvement.

(7). The Dispensary Compound is undergoing improvements by levelling up adjacent holes which improving ventilation, and affording room for the Construction of requisite additions to the institution.

(8). Some useless land in the basin of

the tank is being reclaimed, without diminishing the capacity of the tank - the reclaimed land is raised with silt from the bed, and will be very suitable for tope, and thus the shallow water spread will be lessened, and the effluvium of decaying mud, or weeds, diminished.

4. In conclusion the Municipality is valuable, in gradually educating the Native Community in self government, in bringing classes together, and in evoking public spirit, a conspicuous instance of which, I beg to bring to the notice of Government, is our Honorary Secretary M. A. L. Muttucumaroosamy (Harry Sheriff) of the Supreme Court, and Municipal Commissioner. —

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obd.t Servt

A Mendis Labrooy
President.

P.S.

The Annual report of the Civil Dispensary having been received after the Municipal Commissioners had Concluded their report - I have the honor to forward it also with observations as directed in G.O. dated 2nd

March 1872. No. 209.

2. Dr. Davis had charge of the Hospital for 9 mo.d Dr. Segers for 3 months of the year, under report, during which the health of the Town was good, Cholera and small pox almost absent - and intermittent fever easily yielding to treatment. —

3. Dr. Davis specially adverts to a subject that was brought before the Municipality - that of introducing the Contagious Diseases Act - in regard to the prevalence of venereal disease. —

4. The Municipal Commissioners referred the subject for report by a sub Committee, Consisting of the Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of Police, but no joint report has been received, and the notes of Dr. Davis have been sent to the Native Commissioners, who have not yet pronounced their opinion.

5. I notice that Dr. Davis is of opinion that the resort for treatment is far under his estimate of the prevalence of the disease - and he gives some reasons, which, however, are not more applicable here than elsewhere - and he further noticed the fact that the percentage of persons treated is as great here, as where there are Lock Hospitals - although indicating his predilections in favor of [illegible]

introducing the Act yet to those who must undertake the responsibility of carrying out such a measure, the practicable Consideration of its probable working. the domiciliary visits, the possible abuse of authority, and other Concomitants of the Act have to be weighed. The Social Conditions when the Act is found of most service, are abnormal, and, doubtless, justify measures which may inspire other Communities, with this satisfaction.—

6. The Lying in Hospital has at last been resorted to. an institution of this sort, however, will only be resorted to by the very poorest class. when the midwife is of the Pariah caste; and the education of native practitioners, male, & female, in midwifery, seems to afford the best prospect of improvement.

7. On the whole, the institution may be said to be popular under the skilful and kind treatment, of its Civil Surgeons, and their Assistants.

A Mackintosh
President

Ptd. 21st June/71 pp. 179-181 Pub.
" 2nd March/72 " 3-4 Pub.
" 27th " " 270-275 "
" 4th May " " 38-39 "

Fwd. 1872 Dept.
Coimbatore Munpl. Commission

1872

From,
The President Munpl. Commn.
Coimbatore

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

Dated 5th
Received 8th } June 1872.

No. 9.

Enclosures- Nos. 5.

No. 1111

Subject
Coimbatore Municipality
Forwarding the Annual
Report of — for 1871-72.

G.O. 5th July/72 No. 870-872

Financial Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, dated 5th June 1872, No. 9.

Order thereon of Octad 5 July 1872 No. 871

With his letter above recorded the President of the Coimbatore Municipality submits the annual report for 1871-72 accompanied by the Statements prescribed by G.O. 28th October 1871, No. 1646.

2. The Municipal accounts were audited by Mr. Shepherd and found correct. The Receipts for the 11 months ending the 31st March 1871 were

were Rs 28,828 against the Budget Estimate of Rs 27,371 being chiefly derived from the House tax and tolls. The surplus over the estimate is apparently attributable to the large sum (Rs 2771) derived from the sale of certain lands in connection with a reclamation, Returns appended by Govt. The collections during the year under review were much more satisfactory than in 1870-71. The arrears of the previous year were collected in full, and of the current demand there was only a balance left of Rs 956.

3. The expenditure during the year was Rs 25,781 or upwards of Rs 2800 over the Budget Estimate. The balance in favor of Municipal funds was Rs 3046. The Govt observe that nothing was contributed

contributed to the Local Fund Board of the Coimbatore Circle for the maintenance of the road between the Pollachy Station and Coimbatore, though in G.O. 21st June 1871, No 891, the charge of this road was entrusted to the Local Fund Board, and the Municipality debited with 1500 Rs for its maintenance. A sum of Rs 781 only was spent, apparently by the Commissioners themselves, on the up-keep of this road including the portion lying within the Municipal boundaries.

4. The further information submitted with reference to the working of this Municipality, called

called for in G. O, 4th May 1872, which will be considered more fully in the General Report to the Government of India, shows that as regards Coimbatore the working of Act III of 1871 has been a great success. This, no doubt, is in a great measure due to the lively interest in the Town manifested by the Municipal Commissioners.

5. The report on the Civil Dispensary is equally encouraging. There were 157 patients and 5478 out-patients treated during the year. The receipts were Rs 2144. and the expenditure Rs 2547: the excess

excess in the expenditure is accounted for by the payment of Rs 620 as compensation for land taken up in order to extend the Dispensary compound. This institution has a balance in its favor of Rs 22,246.

[illegible]

To

The Presdt. of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore. 6

Public Works Dept. nil
Revenue Dept. "
Board of Revenue nil
Accountant General 6
Sanitary Commissioner 6
Inspr. Genl I. M. Dept. 6
Director of P. I. 7
President of the Local Fund Board Coimbatore 6

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Govt. of {1872} Madras.

Financial

To

The Asst. Bank. Commr.
Coimbatore

Dated July 5. } 1872, No. 871.
Recd.

Nos. 36-37

Passing orders on the report on the working of the Coimbatore Commissariat for 1871-72.