

(1) Number of pages 8(2) Date of repair 20-8-40(3) Initials of the Referencer CP

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	206	Press
		Mis.
24-25		24-25
Dated	2-2-	18-75.

24/25 5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd February 1875.*

Municipal—Report.

No. 24. Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Cuddalore, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cuddalore, 18th January 1875, No. 226 :—

In obedience to the orders of Government contained in paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 3rd October 1874, No. 1666, I have the honor to submit the special report on the collection of house and land-rate arrears within the Municipality of Cuddalore therein called for.

2. At the commencement of the official year the outstanding arrears were as shown below :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Land rate	2,045	0	8
House rate	1,564	12	6
Total ...	3,609	13	2

Of this sum there have been collected up to the 31st December 1874 :—

	RS.	A.	P.
On account of land rate	910	11	8
Do. of house rate	635	10	2
Total ...	1,546	5	10

leaving a balance of Rupees 2,063-7-4, less Rupees 186-1-6 written off between April 1st and December 31st as irrecoverable, or Rupees 1,877-5-10 still to be collected. This sum is composed of—

	RS.	A.	P.
Land rate	1,095	8	2
House rate	781	13	8
Total ..	1,877	5	10

3. I enclose two statements, one showing the demand, collection and balance of house and land rate for every year since the Municipality has been constituted, which shows at a glance how matters have progressed ; and the other, particulars of all the house rates reported by the Bill Collectors as irrecoverable, the years for which due, and the reasons why each item is considered irrecoverable.

4. The arrears of land rate will, I think, be for the most part collected, but there are exceptional difficulties in Cuddalore in collecting such a rate because of the fields having no survey numbers, and because of the consequent impossibility of identifying a field without the assistance of the Curnam, who is not always to be got hold of. Since the issue of orders by the Collector to the Curnams to assist the Bill Collectors the land collections are beginning to come in more rapidly.

5. Another reason why the house and land rates are so much in arrears in this Municipality is that though so far back as 1871 a Municipal Survey of all the lands and house properties in the Municipality was commenced, and was finished many months ago, the Commissioners have been unable to get their Survey

Maps and Registers from the Revenue Survey Office, and are therefore unable to undertake what is most urgently needed, *viz.*, a thoroughly complete revision of all land and house rates. The existing rating was imposed in 1866-67, and has, with little alteration, remained unchanged ever since, although as the Statement No. 2 (if the Bill Collectors' statements are reliable) will show there have been great alterations in house property since that time. The Bill Collectors are paid by a percentage on collections, so that they can have little inducement to state a house as non-existent if it really exists, still the above statement reveals a very singular state of affairs, showing, as it does, that 614 huts, or assessable dwellings, have been pulled down or allowed to go to ruin during the last seven years. It requires, however, to be borne in mind that the new Towns Improvement Act only came into force in 1871-72, and before that time there was no exemption for house properties of a lower annual rent value than Rupees 6, and this may account for many huts and small houses being left on the rate books which are not now liable to assessment, and numbers of which may have been allowed to tumble down on their tenants removing elsewhere. I may add that the house-rate bills are sent to the Commissioners of the different Divisions for scrutiny and report before the sums outstanding in them are written off as irrecoverable.

6. I shall feel much obliged if the Government will order the Superintendent of Revenue Survey to send the Municipal Survey Plans and Registers as soon as possible to enable the Commissioners to place their house and land rating on a more satisfactory footing.

7. With reference to the remark of Government in paragraph 4 relative to the difference between the cost of the Municipal school for caste girls, as reported by me in the annual report for 1873-74, and as entered in the statement on account of Municipal schools, I have the honor to explain that the difference Rupees 35-4-1 is the amount of salaries due for March 1873-74, but paid in April 1874-75.

8. Arrangements have been made to move the locality where coir is macerated to a spot rather more to the north of the town.

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1875, No. 206.

The Government cannot consider this report satisfactory, and desire that the matter be specially alluded to in the next annual report, which should deal with the question of the collection of arrears up to the date of the report.

2. The Superintendent of Revenue will report with reference to paragraph 6 of the President's letter.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Cuddalore.

„ Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Obt. of {1875} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To
THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Cuddalore.
&c, &c, &c.

Dated February, 2nd.

Recd.

Encl

G.O., 2nd February 1875, No. 206.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 24-25.

Cuddalore Municipality.—The report on the outstanding balance on account of arrears of house and land rates, considered unsatisfactory.

30 Oct 1875 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures]

The first account, under the report satisfactory
and down that the matter is specially affected
is in the next annual report, which should deal
with the question of the collection of certain up to the
date of the report.
The information of the President may well report
with reference to the President's letter, & the
25/11/75

It is in the 1875/76 year.
The President of the
American Association
to the Chief Secretary
Government
1875/76

1875/76

1875/76
Received 21/1/76

1875/76
Enclosure 2. M^{rs}

Submitting a report
regarding the out-
standing balance as
called for in November
1875/76
of the 3rd October 1874.

25/11/75

President of the American Association
Secretary of the American Association
30/11/75

Govt. of 187 } Madras.

File 5

Municipal - Report

G. O., 2^d Feb. 1875, No. 206

Nos. 26-5-

Cuddalore Town. The report on the
outstanding balance on acct of repairs
of house and water, considered
unsatisfactory