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Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

No. 34. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 17th January 1859, No. 49.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit, to be laid before Government, the accompanying Report of the operations of the Municipal Association established at Vizagapatam, during the past year of 1858.

2. The Report I think speaks for itself and needs little addenda. It briefly recapitulates the origin of the Association, and gives in some detail the labors of the Sub-Committee in the first year of its existence, showing the difficulties that have offered themselves, and how they have been surmounted.

3. The voluntary principle has thus succeeded admirably and beyond my expectations in Vizagapatam. The Association flourishes and is doing its work most efficiently. Unanimity prevails throughout all sections and classes of the inhabitants, and not a dissentient voice now exists to thwart the labors of the Committee. Nearly 5,000 Rupees are in hand, and the Association can at any time command an equivalent sum from one Native gentleman alone, who possesses both the means and the enlightenment to appreciate the great blessing of unanimity and combined action for the welfare of his fellow-townsmen, and I may here mention that that gentleman is Mr. Gujputee Rao, who has promised Rupees 5,000 in furtherance of the objects of the Society, at any time such assistance may be needed.

4. Some time ago, the Sanatory Association at Salem forwarded to me certain Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 3387, dated 23rd June last, on the subject of Municipal Reform in that town, and they asked me for any suggestions I might have to make in reference thereto, but the Board had so fully discussed the question as regarded Salem itself, that there was little to add in the way of a solution of the difficulties by which the question seemed to be surmounted. The people of Salem have always been difficult to deal with, and as far as my experience goes, are certainly behind other places in their social habits and feelings; and as the Board truly remarked, the Natives of this country generally are not sufficiently enlightened to understand or appreciate the great advantages and power of unanimity and combination for the common weal. Few will give of their substance to benefit their neighbours, and still fewer perhaps, of their time, to promote objects which they will not see so intimately pertain to their own comfort and health.

5. Act XXVI of 1850 has proved an abortive measure, and simply for the reasons so well set forth by the Board; and the now recognised fact that the people of India are not sufficiently advanced to legislate for themselves, demonstrates the necessity for making that enactment obligatory, instead of optional; for if the more enlightened part of the community are so woefully blind to their best interests, and are so indifferent to measures for the well-being of the masses of their countrymen, it is clear that the interference of the legislature becomes almost imperative, in fact the health and safety of the entire population of the empire demands such interference, and the recent proceedings and orders of the Commander-in-Chief in India and of the Supreme Government, clearly shew that attention to the subject is at last being excited. If towns and villages throughout this vast country were under some uniform sanative system instead of being left in utter neglect, which is now the case, epidemic disease would surely not so frequently prevail. I conceive it is the absence of even partial measures in this important direction, to which may be attributed the almost periodical visitations of disease amongst our rural population, to say nothing of our towns, and it has often surprized me when passing through a small hamlet or village favorably situated too for drainage and for the removal of its daily accumulations of filth that sickness and death ever leave it, in place of only being an occasional visitant; and I am confident, every officer of experience will have shared with me in this surprize, hence I am of opinion that people who can pay, and who won't pay should be made to pay towards the support of Institutions for the benefit of the common weal, nay rather, for the safety of their own health and lives.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

6. The parental authority over a child teaches that child duties and responsibilities, and the lesson is enforced where not willingly imbibed; in like manner in this country, where the relation of the Government to the governed has ever been regarded as that of parental, it would seem the duty of the State to compel its subjects to the performance of duties where the general health is at stake, and where those subjects cannot otherwise be made to understand either their responsibility or their obvious interests.

7. The people in India have been too long indulged, and the task of teaching self-government has perhaps been too long unheeded. Thus they look to their rulers for everything and will not stir hand or foot to benefit one another. In proportion as the fact is lamentable, so Government interference would seem indispensable.

8. But to revert to the voluntary principle. It is true the circumstances of Vizagapatam are not strictly analogous with those of Salem, and possibly of many other towns. There is perhaps greater wealth at the former place and greater facilities for executing sanitary schemes, and doubtless these points are not to be underrated, but they are not the only desiderata to ensure success, money could not do every thing, neither could nature unassisted by art. If an Association of the kind be on a proper basis, the poorest inhabitant as well as the richest may contribute their respective quota, as all do here without feeling it. Participating equally in the benefits derived, the tax should be as universal and diffused as the advantages, otherwise, practically the principle fails if the few have to pay for the many; and thus it is a willing spirit, a comprehensive idea of the advantages to all in each individual mind, which it is so desirable and indeed so requisite to inculcate, in order to ensure a proper and effectual carrying out of the voluntary principle, and it is in this respect that by great caution, care and judgment, the working Committee at Vizagapatam have so admirably succeeded as attested in their present report.

9. Of course the usual objections and the usual amount of opposition were experienced at the outset, and this will ever be the case with any thing novel. It was calculated upon, and as explained by the Committee, no interference was had with any who either objected or opposed. All were made clearly to understand, that payment of the assessment was strictly optional, and the demand from all objectors and opposers was studiously avoided. The result has been that individuals and bodies have now come forward of themselves, and have asked to be permitted to join and give their quota to an Institution to which they found their neighbours contributing, and to the advantages of which as time went on, they could not shut their eyes.

10. The causes of failure of the kindred Association at Salem, and of which I had the privilege of laying the foundation, have proved beyond the power of the local Committee to overcome, and no doubt they lie in the deep-rooted prejudice on the part of the people to any thing novel, and to their unhappy indifference to their social as well as national improvement, and while it is so, the fact is apparent, that wherever the voluntary principle, which it has been endeavoured to work out at Salem, does succeed, the case is exceptional, and I am only thankful that in the chief town of the district over which I have now the honor to preside, my efforts in the same direction have been attended with such complete success; but to go into the varied causes that have brought about so different a result in the two places would be of little profit, while they are sufficiently obvious to any one acquainted with the people, and the circumstances of the respective towns, but the inference I think is, that people who will not help themselves, should be made to do so by legislative interference, and so far from believing this would be felt oppressive, I am of opinion, that had the provisions of Act XXVI of 1850 been originally compulsory instead of voluntary, at this moment they would have been in full operation throughout the country, and all would before now have accepted and viewed the enactment as a boon and blessing.

11. It is here important I should remark, that at Vizagapatam, it is not the Europeans who have done the work, far from it, with the exception of one or two East Indian gentlemen who have lent their active aid, to the Native gentlemen alone is due the satisfactory result now reported on, and though I originated the Association and put it in motion; yet throughout the year, I have not attended the meetings half a dozen times. I purposely left matters to themselves, though in part under the guidance of my Assistant Mr. Pelly, who kindly volunteered his valuable services in co-operation with the Committee, but as the town of Vizagapatam was under

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

his immediate management, this arrangement I concluded was only right and almost unavoidable, while it was at the special request of the inhabitants, that he associated himself with them in giving effect to an Institution of so much promise and prospective good.

12. The subject of Intramural Interments has not escaped my notice, and it has been before Government, who at present have declined to seek the interference of the legislature. I purpose hereafter submitting definite proposals to get rid of the existing burying grounds belonging to different castes within the precincts of the town, but until eligible sites in lieu are fixed upon and accepted by the heads or representatives of the various classes, it would of course be in-politic and unreasonable to interpose authoritatively; and happily throughout the past year it has not been necessary to move in the matter. Vizagapatam having been peculiarly free from sickness of any kind, and perfectly free from cholera or other epidemic.

13. I will not prognosticate what another year may effect through the means of the Municipal Association. There is an infinity of other matters beyond mere sanitary reforms, which I believe has already engaged its attention, for instance, the establishment of a daily market suited to the wants of the place, plans for which are already before the Committee; the widening the streets; side-pavements, and lighting the town at night, all of which come within the proper scope of its operations, and are under consideration; and so soon as I have the leisure, I will endeavour to explain how Government assistance may I think be rendered to the objects of the Association in a variety of ways, without encroaching on its legitimate revenues.

14. In conclusion, I would observe that apart from the benefits arising to the town by the establishment of the Society, no inconsiderable good has resulted by bringing together the various classes of the inhabitants to consult for their mutual well-being. People who before had never met, and who as it was thought could have nothing in common, have now for the first time been brought together into almost daily intercourse, and each has given his vote or counsel when mutually deliberating on the best means by which to accomplish the object in hand, and for the promotion of the interests of all parties, irrespective of those class-interests hitherto operating so prejudicially to the introduction of measures for the common weal; and thus I believe enquiry would attest the pleasing fact that one effect of the Association has been in a great degree to sink those many differences and petty jealousies, which before were known to exist, and for which apparently there was no remedy.

Report of the Sub-Committee of the Vizagapatam Municipal Association for the year ending December 31st, 1858.

1. The Sub-Committee have the honor to submit for the consideration of the General Committee their report on the working of the Municipal Association during the past year, and at the close of the first year of its existence deem it advisable to briefly trace the progress of the Association, from the date of its formation.

2. At a numerously attended General Meeting convened in November 1857, the necessity of organizing a Municipal Association for the management of the multifarious matters connected with the interests of the town of Vizagapatam, more especially as regarded sanitary reform, was unanimously recognized, and it was resolved to appoint a General Committee of 36 Members, composed of 6 European, 10 Eurasian, and 20 Native gentlemen; and a Sub-Committee of 7 members, with power to add to their number, the Sub-Committee have availed themselves of this discretionary authority from time to time, consequent on some of the members originally nominated being unable from the nature of their respective occupations and other causes, to attend with regularity, the Sub-Committee held their first meeting on the 24th November 1857, from which date up to the 31st December 1858, they have met on 128 occasions, the average attendance being 5½.

3. A Donation list was opened at the General Meeting held on the 18th November 1857, and the amount entered in it amounted to Rs. 5,445-8, of this sum Rs. 5,196-12 have been realized, and the balance, viz, Rs 248-12 is still outstanding, we do not however consider the whole of this balance irrecoverable.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 3th February 1859.

4. When the Association was organized the original intention was to have cleansed the town thoroughly in the first instance by contract, as this system had been found to answer elsewhere, tenders were accordingly called for, but contrary to expectation none were received, this we attribute to the following causes, 1st, novelty of the work; 2nd, prejudice against undertaking work of this description which existed in the minds of the more affluent members of the Native community; 3rd, difficulty of ascertaining with precision the amount of work to be performed, and consequent reluctance to incur a risk of possible loss; and at the expiration of the limit specified within which tenders would be received, it became evident that the Sub-Committee would have to undertake the work from the commencement and as an experimental measure four carts with two coolies attached to each were entertained to clean the main street, which extends from Mrs. Sooria Prakasa Row's gate to the Custom-house; this was generally successful, though experience rendered subsequent modification advisable.

5. Much delay occurred in securing a house suited for municipal purposes, occasioned chiefly by an unexpected difficulty which arose relative to the one first selected, and it was not until the commencement of March that the present commodious premises were available.

6. The assessment and classification of property for the purpose of raising the necessary funds for the establishment of a municipal government, was completed in the month of April, 1870.

6. The assessment and classification of houses had been proceeded with from the commencement, but the system first adopted was not found suited to this town, and as another better adapted to its peculiar features was subsequently adopted, it is not necessary to enter into the details of the former, beyond remarking that it was not abandoned without adequate cause.

7. Towards the close of the month of February, after much deliberation, the Sub-Committee submitted the following revised scale of assessment consisting of 8 rates, varying from 4 Annas to 3 Rupees per annum, no dwelling being assessed below the former and those in excess of the latter.

Rs.	As.
0	4
0	8
0	12
1	0
1	8
2	0
2	8
3	0

and this met with the approbation of the General Committee. Here we may observe that on the formation of the Association it was laid down as a fundamental rule that no house however large was to be assessed beyond 3 Rupees per annum, and that no discretionary power on this point was vested in the Sub-Committee, after the experience we have now had, we consider that no rate lower than 4 Annas should be adopted, but are of opinion that the General Committee should re-consider their decision relative to a maximum rate of 3 Rupees and if a modification be decided on, we would suggest the addition of the following rates to those above mentioned, *i. e.*

Rs.	As.	P _s .
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	0	0
8	0	0
9	0	0
10	0	0

thus raising the number of rates to 15; we deem it right however to caution the General Committee that the advisability of making any modification in the existing rates is questionable, and

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

should be carefully considered ; for though we are of opinion that if this enhanced scale of rates on large houses had been adopted in the first instance, it would not have met with opposition, it by no means follows that this will now be the case, the minds of the rate-payers have become familiarized with a maximum rate of 3 Rupees and alteration may cause discontent, on the other hand it is to be observed that these remarks have been elicited by representations made to us from time to time, to the effect that the assessment does not bear equally on all houses, those containing 12 guddies only, paying as high a rate as those of three or four times the extent.

8. Having obtained the sanction of the general Committee to the above scale of rates, it became necessary to adopt some system of classification of houses which would be of general application, and in this lay the greatest difficulty we have had to contend with, it was clear that the system must be of easy application, and so simple and free from complication, as to admit of its being readily understood by all ; after various schemes had been proposed and their relative merits discussed, the Sub-Committee submitted the following as the one which appeared to them most simple and equitable, and least likely to afford ground of complaint ; to understand this it is necessary to observe that there exists a land measure in Vizagapatam known by the name of guddie, it contains 12 square yards, this measure is familiar to all, and the inhabitants generally in speaking of houses, large or small, describe them as houses of so many guddies ; adopting this familiar measure as our standard, we proposed the annexed scale of classification.

1st class 1	guddie.	5th class 5 & 6	guddies.
2nd „ 2	do.	6th „ 7 & 8	do.
3rd „ 3	do.	7th „ 9 & 10	do.
4th „ 4	do.	8th „ 11 & 12	do.

in the case of upstairs houses, the upper story being measured as well as the basement, this met with approval, and experience has shewn it to be generally acceptable ; we may here enter the modified classification which we would propose to meet the enhanced rates of assessment entered in the last para.

9th class	12 to 15	guddies.	13th class	30 to 35	guddies.
10th "	15 to 20	do.	14th "	35 to 40	do.
11th "	20 to 25	do.	15th "	40 to 50 & all above	
12th "	25 to 30	do.			

thus raising the number of classes to 15; the annexed Tabular statement shews at a glance the classification and assessment as they now exist, and as proposed in the event of any modification being decided on:—

Classification and Assessment as they now exist	Revised scheme submitting for consideration.
1. <u>General</u> 2. <u>Particular</u> 3. <u>General</u> 4. <u>Particular</u> 5. <u>General</u> 6. <u>Particular</u> 7. <u>General</u> 8. <u>Particular</u> 9. <u>General</u> 10. <u>Particular</u> 11. <u>General</u> 12. <u>Particular</u> 13. <u>General</u> 14. <u>Particular</u> 15. <u>General</u> 16. <u>Particular</u> 17. <u>General</u> 18. <u>Particular</u> 19. <u>General</u> 20. <u>Particular</u> 21. <u>General</u> 22. <u>Particular</u> 23. <u>General</u> 24. <u>Particular</u> 25. <u>General</u> 26. <u>Particular</u> 27. <u>General</u> 28. <u>Particular</u> 29. <u>General</u> 30. <u>Particular</u> 31. <u>General</u> 32. <u>Particular</u> 33. <u>General</u> 34. <u>Particular</u> 35. <u>General</u> 36. <u>Particular</u> 37. <u>General</u> 38. <u>Particular</u> 39. <u>General</u> 40. <u>Particular</u> 41. <u>General</u> 42. <u>Particular</u> 43. <u>General</u> 44. <u>Particular</u> 45. <u>General</u> 46. <u>Particular</u> 47. <u>General</u> 48. <u>Particular</u> 49. <u>General</u> 50. <u>Particular</u> 51. <u>General</u> 52. <u>Particular</u> 53. <u>General</u> 54. <u>Particular</u> 55. <u>General</u> 56. <u>Particular</u> 57. <u>General</u> 58. <u>Particular</u> 59. <u>General</u> 60. <u>Particular</u> 61. <u>General</u> 62. <u>Particular</u> 63. <u>General</u> 64. <u>Particular</u> 65. <u>General</u> 66. <u>Particular</u> 67. <u>General</u> 68. <u>Particular</u> 69. <u>General</u> 70. <u>Particular</u> 71. <u>General</u> 72. <u>Particular</u> 73. <u>General</u> 74. <u>Particular</u> 75. <u>General</u> 76. <u>Particular</u> 77. <u>General</u> 78. <u>Particular</u> 79. <u>General</u> 80. <u>Particular</u> 81. <u>General</u> 82. <u>Particular</u> 83. <u>General</u> 84. <u>Particular</u> 85. <u>General</u> 86. <u>Particular</u> 87. <u>General</u> 88. <u>Particular</u> 89. <u>General</u> 90. <u>Particular</u> 91. <u>General</u> 92. <u>Particular</u> 93. <u>General</u> 94. <u>Particular</u> 95. <u>General</u> 96. <u>Particular</u> 97. <u>General</u> 98. <u>Particular</u> 99. <u>General</u> 100. <u>Particular</u>	1. <u>General</u> 2. <u>Particular</u> 3. <u>General</u> 4. <u>Particular</u> 5. <u>General</u> 6. <u>Particular</u> 7. <u>General</u> 8. <u>Particular</u> 9. <u>General</u> 10. <u>Particular</u> 11. <u>General</u> 12. <u>Particular</u> 13. <u>General</u> 14. <u>Particular</u> 15. <u>General</u> 16. <u>Particular</u> 17. <u>General</u> 18. <u>Particular</u> 19. <u>General</u> 20. <u>Particular</u> 21. <u>General</u> 22. <u>Particular</u> 23. <u>General</u> 24. <u>Particular</u> 25. <u>General</u> 26. <u>Particular</u> 27. <u>General</u> 28. <u>Particular</u> 29. <u>General</u> 30. <u>Particular</u> 31. <u>General</u> 32. <u>Particular</u> 33. <u>General</u> 34. <u>Particular</u> 35. <u>General</u> 36. <u>Particular</u> 37. <u>General</u> 38. <u>Particular</u> 39. <u>General</u> 40. <u>Particular</u> 41. <u>General</u> 42. <u>Particular</u> 43. <u>General</u> 44. <u>Particular</u> 45. <u>General</u> 46. <u>Particular</u> 47. <u>General</u> 48. <u>Particular</u> 49. <u>General</u> 50. <u>Particular</u> 51. <u>General</u> 52. <u>Particular</u> 53. <u>General</u> 54. <u>Particular</u> 55. <u>General</u> 56. <u>Particular</u> 57. <u>General</u> 58. <u>Particular</u> 59. <u>General</u> 60. <u>Particular</u> 61. <u>General</u> 62. <u>Particular</u> 63. <u>General</u> 64. <u>Particular</u> 65. <u>General</u> 66. <u>Particular</u> 67. <u>General</u> 68. <u>Particular</u> 69. <u>General</u> 70. <u>Particular</u> 71. <u>General</u> 72. <u>Particular</u> 73. <u>General</u> 74. <u>Particular</u> 75. <u>General</u> 76. <u>Particular</u> 77. <u>General</u> 78. <u>Particular</u> 79. <u>General</u> 80. <u>Particular</u> 81. <u>General</u> 82. <u>Particular</u> 83. <u>General</u> 84. <u>Particular</u> 85. <u>General</u> 86. <u>Particular</u> 87. <u>General</u> 88. <u>Particular</u> 89. <u>General</u> 90. <u>Particular</u> 91. <u>General</u> 92. <u>Particular</u> 93. <u>General</u> 94. <u>Particular</u> 95. <u>General</u> 96. <u>Particular</u> 97. <u>General</u> 98. <u>Particular</u> 99. <u>General</u> 100. <u>Particular</u>

Class	Measurement in guddee.	Assessment			Class	Measurement	Assessment.		
		Rs.	As.	Ps.			Rs.	Ans.	Ps.
1st	1	0	4	0	1st	1	0	4	0
2nd	2	0	8	0	2nd	2	0	8	0
3rd	3	0	12	0	3rd	3	0	12	0
4th	4	1	0	0	4th	4	1	0	0
5th	5 & 6	1	8	0	5th	5 & 6	1	8	0
6th	7 & 8	2	0	0	6th	7 & 8	2	0	0
7th	9 & 10	2	8	0	7th	9 & 10	2	8	0
8th	11 & 12 & upwards.	3	0	0	8th	11 & 12	3	0	0
					9th	12 to 15	4	0	0
					10th	15 to 20	5	0	0
					11th	20 to 25	6	0	0
					12th	25 to 30	7	0	0
					13th	30 to 35	8	0	0
					14th	35 to 40	9	0	0
					15th	40 to 50 & upwards.	10	0	0

All godowns for storing rice, oil-seed, &c., irrespective of size, occupied but not used as dwellings. }

Godowns as before.

few houses of course will come within the last 3 classes but there are some.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

9. Consequent on a question raised relative to unoccupied houses, the following rule was adopted, *i. e.*, that when a proprietor could shew to the satisfaction of the Sub-Committee, that his house had been unoccupied for 60 consecutive days, his claim to remission would be taken into consideration, and remission made as per annexed scale. On houses unoccupied for

3 months $\frac{1}{4}$ of the assessment.

6 " $\frac{1}{2}$

9 " $\frac{3}{4}$

12 " the entire.

10. At this stage of our proceedings, a question was raised as to whether the proprietor or tenant was to be considered liable for the assessment, and not a little diversity of opinion was found to exist on this point, we decided that the former was the person to whom we ought to look, and have seen no reason to alter or modify that opinion.

11. The question was asked from time to time, how payment of the assessment was to be enforced against reculant house-owners, to this we replied that it was not our object to enforce payment, that we believed that such instances would be found to be exceptional, and that in such the following course would be adopted, no cart or cooly of the Association would be allowed to remove dirt from the premises of the objecting party, or the adjacent road, he or they would therefore have to do this at their own expense or submit to be fined by the Police for nuisance as heretofore; and a few of the smallest possible fines would exceed the annual assessment on the majority of dwellings, and experience has shewn that with a very few exceptions, house-owners will not of their own accord, keep their premises even in a tolerable state of cleanliness.

12. While the above scheme of assessment and classification was being matured, a map of the town was prepared on a scale of 2 feet to the mile, and the levels of all the streets were taken, in view to adopting a comprehensive system of drainage, this occupied 4 months, and involved an expenditure of Rupees 140-11-1, on its completion the town was divided into the four following divisions, and a separate map of each on an enlarged scale of 8 feet to a mile was prepared.

1st Division.—From Mrs. Sooria Prakasa Row's gate to the fort, bounded E. and W. by the main street and back-water.

2nd Division.—The entire fort on both sides of the main street.

3rd Division.—From the boundary of the Parcherry, to the Chengelrowpettah street.

4th Division.—From the Chengelrowpettah street, to the vicinity of the washing green, each division has its separate book in which are entered the name of the proprietor of each house, his caste, dimensions of the house, name of the occupant and assessment.

13. In view to the gradual construction of open drains about 1,800 cut stones have been in the course of preparation for some months, these are now ready for use, we purposed commencing this work at the close of the October rains, circumstances however which it is not necessary to advert to here prevented our fulfilling our intention, but this work can now be proceeded with.

14. It was not until the 10th March, that the classification and assessment of the houses, in even the main street was completed, but the system on which we purposed proceeding having been matured, the work proceeded rapidly, and was completed on the 25th May, the Assessor's rough books then shewed the number of dwellings of all sorts, inclusive of shops and godowns, to be 4,700, and the assessment thereon amounted to Rupees 3,164-4; our operations were confined to Vizagapatam, properly so called and did not include the large hamlet of Allepoor, the houses situated between Mrs. Sooriah's lower gate and the cemetery, or the village above the latter known as Sooriahpettah, no reasons exist why these suburbs should not eventually be brought within the influence of sanitary reform, but we have deemed it advisable to wait until the system has been for a time in full working order in the town itself, and the minds of the native community have become more familiarized with what is still a novelty, before including them within our limits.

15. On the question as to the periods at which the rates should be made payable being raised, diversity of opinion was found to exist, some advocating monthly, others quarterly, half yearly, and annual collections; arguments were not wanting in support of each, the question

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

however was left open until the completion of the classification and assessment, when we decided on one annual collection, the rates being regarded as falling due on the 1st day of the year, and the principal ground which influenced our decision was one of economy, taking the number of houses in round numbers at 4,700, monthly collections would have entailed the issue of no less than 56,400 receipts per annum, and this would have necessitated the entertainment of extra Writers and Bill-collectors, and an increased expenditure for printing and saderward, the prime cost of the printed receipts alone would have proved a serious item of expenditure, and though this argument does not apply with equal force to quarterly, or half yearly collections, experience has convinced us of the correctness of our views on this point.

16. When small sums have to be collected from numerous individuals, it is obviously of importance, that some system should be adopted, adequate to secure the rate-payers from imposition, and the assessment from loss, to meet this, receipts were printed in the enclosed* form in English and Telugoo.

Enclosure No. 2.

These are in the form of ordinary checks in books of 1,000 each, the Bills are filled up from the assessment books referred to in para. 14, and signed by the Chairman or a member of the Sub Committee, and the Bills of the division are given to each collector who on receipt of the assessment tenders the receipt to the rate-payer, in the evening he brings back his book with the amount collected, this is then compared with the entries on the first part of the receipts which have been torn off, and on its correctness being ascertained, the names of the persons who have paid, and the sums paid by each, are entered in the collection books of each division, and the amount realized remitted to the Treasurer, who forwards weekly under cover to the Chairman a report shewing the amount received, these weekly reports are compared with the collection books, and filed, and the substance of each entered in the proceedings for the day. An auditor was appointed to audit the accounts quarterly, but we are of opinion that one annual auditing will be found to be sufficient, and that the assignment of this duty to two members of the General Committee, to be selected at the last annual meeting, will be an improvement on the present system.

17. During the month of March it was proposed to substitute 60 Cavady coolies for the executive establishment then entertained, all were anxious to give this a fair trial, but the requisite number of coolies suited for, and willing to undertake the work, could not be procured in the town, and the demand for labor as well as the prejudice which exists against performing this description of work, any other being preferred to it, prevented our obtaining them from the surrounding villages, and the difficulties to be contended with in this respect may be estimated by the fact of there being more than one drain in Vizagapatam which only one of the numerous toties in the town will enter, the proposition was at length abandoned through inability to procure the requisite labor, we are however of opinion that a limited number of Cavady coolies might with advantage be employed to clean narrow lanes, which carts cannot enter, depositing their loads at given points, whence the accumulations might be daily carted to a distance, but we question (presuming the requisite labor to be available) whether this system would be successful, if carried out in its integrity. Too much of the coolies' time would be occupied in transporting their loads to a distance, and efficient supervision would be difficult and expensive.

18. Another proposition may here be adverted to, *i. e.*, the substitution of carts drawn by a single bullock for those now entertained, but this was over-ruled on the ground that the saving to be effected would not have borne a fair proportion to the diminished amount of work which would be performed by the smaller cart, the only saving in expense would have been one bullock, as a driver is requisite in both cases, and the chief item of expenditure in the construction of a bandy in this district being the wheels (iron axles being rarely used) a cart for one bullock, which would have required shafts, would have proved as expensive as one for a pair, it not more so, to a limited extent however this system might eventually be blended with the existing one.

19. Consequent on a strike among the coolies for a higher rate of pay, operations were wholly suspended for a short period, a little firmness, and some mutual concessions soon overcame this difficulty, of which there has not been a recurrence.

20. Without entering on a detailed account of the gradual alterations and modification made in the executive department, it will be sufficient to describe it in detail as it existed on the

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

1st June, and as it is now constituted; consequent on the success of the experimental measures for clearing the main street brought into operation in the preceding month of January, the executive department was gradually increased to 8 Bandies, 24 Coolies and 4 Toties, equally distributed over each of the four divisions. Thus on the 1st June our Establishment was constituted as follows:—

General Superintendent...	...	...	...	42	0	0
Superintendent of Carts and Coolies...	...	...	...	15	0	0
Writer...	...	...	...	10	0	0
8 Carts at Rupees 14 each per month...	...	...	...	112	8	0
24 Sweepers at 2 Rupees each per do. ...	...	...	...	48	0	0
4 Toties at do. do. ...	...	...	...	8	0	0
2 Collectors of rates at 6 Rs. each per do....	...	...	...	12	0	0
2 Peons at 4 Rupees each per do. ...	...	...	...	8	0	0
Office rent...	...	...	...	25	0	0
Saderward...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Total monthly expenditure ...				282	8	0

Prior to the completion of the assessment at the close of the month of May, we were not in a position to form any correct estimate of the annual amount which would be at our disposal, on completion of the assessment it became evident that the demand (even presuming this to be realized in full) would be inadequate to meet the current expenditure, and that if the donation fund was not to be drawn on from time to time to meet the deficiency, it would be requisite to curtail our expenditure; experience had at the same time demonstrated that the executive establishment was inadequate for the performance of the required work.

Estimating the assessment therefore in round numbers at Rupees 3,000 and omitting the odd Rupees amounting to 164-4, as not more than sufficient to meet remission on unoccupied houses and loss arising from unforeseen circumstances, the amount on which we had to frame our calculations became reduced to Rupees 3,000 or Rupees 250 per month, a sum adequate to keep the town in a fair state of cleanliness but not in excess of what is requisite for the purpose, keeping therefore in view the absolute necessity of reducing our expenditure, and at the same time increasing our executive department, we substituted the following for the then existing establishment.

Superintendent of executive establishment including horse allowance..	15
1 Writer.....	10
1 Assessor.....	8
4 Bill collectors at 4 Rupees each.....	16
4 Peons at 3 Rupees each.....	12
2 Hired carts at 8 Rupees each.....	16
7 do. the property of the Association, the drivers being paid 2-8 each..	17 8
26 Sweepers and 1 Maistry.....	68
4 Toties.....	10
Office rent.....	25
Saderward.....	2
199 8	

a comparison between the establishments as entered above, shews the alterations made, some of the items however call for explanation; the services of the general Superintendent were dispensed with as he had been long absent from illness, and the heaviest part of the work, *i. e.*, the classification and assessment had been completed during his absence, and without his assistance, and four members of the Sub-Committee expressed their willingness to undertake the immediate supervision of each of the divisions; a considerable reduction was effected in the item of bandy hire by the Association purchasing carts and cattle; the salary of the superintendent of executive department was reduced; one item alone shewing an increase, *i. e.*, collectors of rates calls for remark, and this was indispensable consequent on the delay in completing the classification and assessment, preparing the receipts, &c., and it was not until the month of July that the receipts for the 4th division were ready for distribution.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

21. The executive department shews an apparent increase of one bandy, two coolies and a maistry only, but independent of the larger amount of work performed by our own carts, the drivers are required to assist the coolies, which no driver of a hired bandy would do.

22. Of the sum of Rupees 250 Rupees 199-8 were thus disposed of, the balance being deemed adequate to cover incidental expences, arising from loss of stock, wear of carts, baskets, brooms, scrapers, &c., we are however still of opinion that the executive department is insufficient and consider that by a careful economy the number may be increased by four carts during the current year, *i. e.*, one for each division with coolies in proportion; to meet the extra expenditure a saving may be effected in the purchase of fodder when cheap, &c., and we have already adopted measures to procure a supply equivalent to a year's consumption when the price is low, but beyond a general reference it is not necessary to say more on this point at present.

23. The majority of the houses of the better class have cess-pools attached to them, situated outside the house, in or adjacent to the public street, and the common practice has heretofore been for private Toties to remove the contents in chatties during the night, discharging the same in the street at a short distance, generally before a neighbour's house, carefully avoiding those of their employers to prevent their being subjected to the prospect of a fine next day, many of the streets and lanes being of a sandy nature, the contents of the chatties were absorbed, and escaped observation, until the sun had risen, when the exhalations rendered manifest the trick which had been practised, but too late for there to be a chance of detecting the delinquent, to meet this a number of casks to be used on carts have been procured, the contents to be discharged at a distance from the town, and suitable carts are now in course of construction, but drainage alone will effectually remedy this evil.

24. A number of boards have been prepared for naming the streets, it will however be better to defer affixing them until after the revision of the classification and assessment, which it will be necessary to make during the present year.

25. There are at present only four market places in this town, one of which is large and commodious though badly situated, and the others are wholly unworthy of the name. The first is situated at the entrance to the town on the side most remote from the Fort, in the vicinity of the Semachellum road, this market should be placed under our supervision and we have addressed the Magistrate on this subject; the 2nd which is a small confined space of a few yards in extent, in which meat and vegetables only are retailed, is situated opposite the rice godowns in the main street; the 3rd is in Chengalrow Pettah; and the 4th in the Fort, the last being the worst of any, all classes are thus subjected to much inconvenience, the markets as they now exist are wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the town, and in view to remedy this we have had estimates and plans for a new market prepared, these have already been laid before the General Committee, but their decision has not yet been communicated to us.

26. The subject of intramural interments, and under this head, we include interments within the limits of private compounds which are not uncommon, as well as in the ordinary cemeteries, has occupied our attention; in the early part of the year the authorities were requested to decide on the legality of interference, our application has not yet been replied to, but in the event of the decision being in our favor we purpose taking the requisite steps for putting a stop to a practice so detrimental to the public health and comfort; prior however to any active measures being adopted, it will be necessary to make over to the various communities portions of land suited for cemeteries, rent free, in lieu of those they now hold, and in effecting this the assistance of Government will be requisite.

27. The want of an adequate supply of good water is much felt, and a proposition for remedying this has been laid before us, this however must be reserved for future consideration and report, but the main and indeed the only difficulty we will have to contend with in effecting our object in this respect will be want of funds adequate to meet the necessary outlay.

28. A passing remark on the general nature of the complaints that have come before us appears not uncalled for, the majority of these have been relative to the measurement of the houses, but they have not been as numerous as might have been expected, and have been easily adjusted; it was anticipated that objections would be raised to the subordinates of the

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

Association entering houses to measure them but not a single complaint has been preferred on this score, attributable doubtless to the principal person employed being a man of high caste.

29. We now proceed to comment briefly on the financial condition of the Association; as observed in para. 4, the donation list shews a total of Rs. 5,445-8 the amount realized being Rs. 5,196-12 and outstanding balance of Rs. 248-12, of the former a sum of Rs. 2,500 has been invested in the Government Savings Bank in the joint names of four members of the Association, this bears interest at 4 Rs. per cent. and one month's interest, amounting to Rs. 8-5-4, has been added to the amount invested, thus raising it to Rupees 2,508-5-4, the interest for the remaining 8 months, amounting to Rupees 68-10-8, has not yet been realized, but being due, the amount may be set down as 2,575.

* Enclosure No. 3. 30. The account* current shews that the donations have been drawn on to the extent of Rupees 2,695-12, but this was unavoidable during the first year, as the collection of rates did not commence until June, and then only in the smallest of the four divisions, and it was not until the 28th July, that we were ready to proceed with the collection generally, we are now in a position to refund the sum of Rupees 2,192-11-2, but deem it advisable to limit the amount to Rupees 1,000, as refund at present of the whole balance in hand would leave our successors without the means of meeting the current expenditure until the collection of rates for the present year commences, but it may be reasonably expected that the interest on the amount invested, and sum, which will be available for refund at the close of the current year, will raise the Donation Fund to its original amount and this desirable object once attained, the interest may be fairly devoted to the general purposes of the Association.

31. Our expenditure has extended over a period of 12 months, the total amount being 3,440-14-10, or in round numbers Rupees 286 per month, and this is in excess of the amount justified by the rates received, but it must be borne in mind, as mentioned in a former para. that it was not until the month of June, that we were in a position to form even a rough estimate, of the amount which would be at our disposal, and our monthly expenditure has since been considerably reduced, while the executive department has been strengthened, moreover sundry items of expenditure, and by no means inconsiderable ones, which will not recur, are included in the above, such as printing, 123-14, survey of town, 140-11-1, erecting bullock-sheds, 35-14-6, purchase of bullocks, 203-8, carts, 155-14-6, casks, 60 Rupees as well as such minor items as office furniture, and these in the aggregate amount to considerably more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the entire expenditure.

32. Of the rates a sum of 2,802-14 has been realized up to the date of our report, leaving a balance of 361-6 to be collected, of this a portion has since been realized, and but little doubt exists that the greater part of it will be collected before the close of the current month.

33. It has been usual for the General Committee to meet twice a month, on the 1st and 16th, we would suggest that one meeting in future will be sufficient, and in concluding, we beg to observe that the period for which we are appointed having drawn to a close, it becomes necessary for the General Committee to select a Sub Committee for the current year.

(Signed) C. R. PELLY, Chairman.
(") V. RAMEAH, Vice-Chairman.
(") G. N. GAJAPATE ROW, Treasurer.
(") G. McINTOSH.
(") M. VENKATANARRAIN ROW.
(") C. BAUPIAH.
(") DRAYHAUPT.
(") R. W. MEPPEN.

Municipal Association House, Vizagapatam,
8th January 1859.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) CHAS. W. READE,
Collector.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

Account Current from 1st December 1857, to 31st December 1858.				Cr.			
Dr.							
To Stationery...	40	10	7	By Donation...	5196	12	0
„ Printing...	123	14	0	Assessment collected up to 8th	2802	14	0
„ Office furniture...	22	11	0	January...			
„ Erecting bullock sheds	35	14	6	Interest for 9 months on 2,500 in-	75	0	0
„ Purchase of 6 casks.	60	0	0	vested in Savings' Bank.	49	0	0
„ Survey of town and mounting maps.	140	11	1	Sundries...	8123	10	0
„ Cleaning streets, prior to formation of permanent establishment.	45	1	4				
„ Constructing drains	53	15	5				
„ Purchase of 10 carts	155	14	6				
„ 8 pairs of bullocks.	203	8	0				
„ Fodder...	188	0	2				
„ Expense of executive establishment for 1 year, inclusive of house rent and saderward.	2368	10	3				
„ Sundries...	2	0	0				
„ amount invested in Savings' Bank.	2500	0	0				
„ amount carried to credit in new account.							
„ Balance in hand...	2058	11	2				
„ Interest...	75	0	0				
„ Sundries...	49	0	0				
		4682	11				
			2				
Total amount.....		8123	10	Total amount.....	8123	10	0

Statement shewing the amount of demands, collection and balance of Donation and Assessment.

No.	Demand.	Collection.	Balance.
1 Donation...	5445 8 0	5196 12 0	248 12 0
2 Assessment...	3164 4 0	2802 14 0	361 6 0
Total.....	8609 12 0	7999 10 0	610 2 0

E.E. (Signed) C. PELLY,

No. 35. ORDER THEREON, No. 153; dated 7th February 1859.

Mr. Reade submits for the information of Government a Report from the "Municipal Association" of Vizagapatam town, for the year ending 31st December 1858.

2. This Association, it appears, was established at the close of 1857 by a Committee of the leading inhabitants, consisting of 6 European, 10 Eurasian and 20 Native gentlemen. Operations were commenced by the opening of a Donation List, which was promptly filled up by contributions to the extent of upwards of Rupees 5,000; one wealthy Hindoo gentleman Guyputtee Row, offering to double the amount collected, at any moment the Committee might have occasion to embark in any considerable outlay beyond the resources of the income at present available. With this sum to commence with, the Committee proceeded to hire premises for the use of the Association, to purchase the requisite number of Carts and Cattle, and to organize an establishment of Superintendents, Coolies and Scavengers. The next step taken was to fix an Assessment on dwelling houses—it being agreed that that was the best mode of taxation—and

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th February 1859.

ultimately eight rates of Assessment were approved of, the minimum being 4 Annas and the maximum Rupees 3 per annum. It was notified that the payment of the Assessment was purely voluntary. Those who objected to pay were left to cleanse their own premises, and that portion of the street facing the same. The trouble of doing this for themselves, and the certainty of being fined by the Police whenever it was neglected, soon led the few who had at the out-set declined to join the Association, to give in their adhesion; and at present no less a sum than Rupees 3,000 a year, or Rupees 250 per mensem, is relied on as the permanent income of the Society, from the above very moderate annual rates; while its funded property amounts to Rupees 2,500.

3. The Governor in Council has perused the foregoing Report with very great interest, and views the results with the highest satisfaction. He observes that the attention of the Committee has been turned to the necessity of executing a thoroughly good system of drainage, and of improving the water supply. Levels have already been taken for the first of these objects. It is probable also that next year may see the streets widened, the towns lighted by night, and markets established wherever their presence is called for. Finally, the expediency of providing cemeteries for the different castes outside the town has not been lost sight of, and the subject is to be brought before Government, with a view of obtaining sanction for the free grant of new sites, so soon as the representatives of the different sects and families shall have assented to the arrangements proposed. The Governor in Council is ready to assure the Association that their applications will be liberally considered. Such public spirit as the people of Vizagapatam have evinced during the past year, is deserving of every encouragement.

4. Great credit is due to Mr. Reade who originated the Association, to Mr. Pelly the Chairman of the Sub Committee, and to the other gentlemen, Eurasian and Native, who have so ably assisted them. The Government cordially wish the Association every success, not only on account of the direct benefits it confers, as an Agency for Sanitary Reforms, but on account also of the desirable intercourse it promotes between the authorities of the District and all classes of the community.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Judicial Sept 7

No 153

Emc. 2/7 February 1859.

Read the following letter } New enter No 49
from the Collr of Vizagapatam } 2/17 Jan 3/59.

Mr Reade submit for the information of the
Govt a Report from the "Municipal
Association" of Vizagapatam Town,
for the year ending 31st December/58.
2. This Association, it appears, was established
at the close of '57 by a Committee
of the leading inhabitants, consisting
of 6 Europeans, 10 Eurasian & 20 Native
Gentlemen. Operations were commenced
by the opening of a Donation list, which
was promptly filled up by contributions
to the extent of upwards of Rs 5000;
one wealthy Hindu gentleman
offering to double the amount collec-
ted, at any moment the Committee
might have occasion to embark in
any considerable outlay beyond the re-
sources of their income at present available.
With this sum to set out with, the Committee
proceeded to hire premises for the use
of the Association, to purchase the requi-
-site number of carts & cattle, & to
organise an establishment of superinten-
dents, coolies & scavengers. The next
step taken was to fix an assessment
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but was the best mode of taxation -
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objected to pay were left to cleanse
their own premises, & that portion
of the street facing the same. The
trouble of doing this for themselves,
& the certainty of being fined by
the Police whenever it was neglected,
soon led the few who had at the
outset declined to join the associ-
ation, to give in their adhesion;
and at present no less a sum
than Rs 3000 a year, or Rs 250
per mensem, is relied on as the
permanent income of the Society,
from the above very moderate
annual rates, while its funded
property amounts to Rs 2,500.

3. The G. in C. has perused the foregoing
Report with very great interest, &
views the results with the highest satis-
-faction. He observes that the aban-
-don of the Committee has been turned
to the necessity of executing a thoroughly

8
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improving the water supply -
levels have already been taken for
the first of these objects. It is for-
-tunate that next year may see
the streets widened, the towns
lighted by night, & markets estab-
-lished wherever their presence is
called for. Finally, the expedi-
-ency of providing cement for
the different canals outside the
town has not been lost sight of,
& the subject is to be brought before
Govt, with a view of obtaining
donation for the free grant of
materials, so soon as the representa-
-tives of the different sects & fami-
-lies shall have assented to the
arrangements proposed. The G. in
C. is ready to assure the Association
that their applications will be
liberally considered. Such public
spirit as the people of Nagasaka
-town have evinced during the past
year is deserving of every encourag-
-ment.

4. Great credit is due to Mr. Brindle
who originated the Association, to Mr.
Pelly, the Chairman of the Council,
& to the other gentlemen European & native
who have so ably assisted them. The Govt
cordially wish the Association every suc-
-cess, not only on account of the direct

benefits it confers, as an Agency
for Sanitary Reform, but on
account also of the desirable
intercourse it promotes between
the authorities of the district &
all classes of the community -

J.P. D.H. 1/2 - 59.

To the Com^{rs} of the Corp^y of London
25th Feb 59

Received of the
Com^{rs} of the Corp^y of London
the sum of £100
for the year ending
31st Dec 58

In Dr. & Comrs. February

Judicial 1859, Depones

No. 153

Contract. Ministry of Bond

February 1859.

Reviewing the
Report of the Operations
of the Municipal Associa-
tion established at
Tegapohani during
the past year of 1858.
Submitted by the
Collector of the Trade.

34 435

34 435