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Government {1898} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

<i>Recd.</i>	} 1898.	<i>Enclosures</i>
<i>Regd.</i>		<i>Spare copies</i>

G.O., No. 1362 M., 2nd August 1898.

AUGUST.

Administration Report.

Reviewing the — of the Coonoor Municipal Council for 1897-98.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From J. A. MARJORIBANKS, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Coonoor, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated 27th May 1898, No. 121.

I have the honour to submit the following report of the administration of the Coonoor Municipality for the financial year 1897-98 with statements in the prescribed forms.

I.—CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL.

2. The council consists of twelve members—all nominated by Government. Three vacancies occurred during the year, one by the resignation of Mr. W. F. Donaghue in December 1897, on his leaving Coonoor, and the other two on the termination of the appointments of Soomar Sait Sahib and Mr. E. Hall in January and March 1898, respectively; these vacancies have not been filled up pending the elections which are to take place hereafter agreeably to G.O., No. 2260 M., dated 15th October 1897. Of the nine councillors remaining at the end of the year, seven were Europeans and two Natives, viz., one *ex-officio*, one official, and five non-official members (Europeans), and two non-official members (natives). Mr. Marjoribanks' term of office as Chairman expired on the 30th November 1897, and he was re-elected on the 2nd December 1897. Twenty-four meetings were held during the year, and there were no adjournments for want of a quorum. The average attendance was as follows:—

[illegible]

II.—RECEIPTS.

A.—Receipts from Taxation.

3. The opening balance on 1st April 1897 was Rs. 4,173-10-4 and the receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 42,126-6-9. The principal variations between the actuals and the estimates are explained below.

4. *Tax on Arts, Rs. 1,676*.—The decrease below the revised estimate is owing partly to the amount under this head having been over-estimated and partly to several persons liable to the tax having left the station. The average incidence per head was Rs. 6-7-0.

5. *Tax on Buildings, Rs. 10,372-1-9.*—The receipts under this head show a slight decrease below the revised estimate owing to arrears outstanding at the end of the year, and the increase above the actuals is due to the construction of new houses. Five hundred and fifty-nine buildings were assessed at Rs. 10,642-10-10, the average incidence per house being Rs. 19-0-8.

6. *Tax on Lands, Rs. 3,192-5-3.*—The decrease below the revised estimate is due chiefly to the District Forest-officer having withheld payment of the tax due for 1897-98 on forest lands pending a reference which he wished to make to Government on the subject. The total extent of land assessed was 2,463 acres and 83 cents.

7. *Water-tax on Buildings and Lands, Rs. 2,812-3-0.*—The decrease below the revised estimate is owing to the arrears outstanding at the end of the year.

8. *Tax on Vehicles, Rs. 595, Tax on Animals, Rs. 1,243-4-0 and Tax on Carts, Rs. 158.*—The small decreases under these heads call for no remark.

9. *Tax on Private, Menial and Domestic Male Servants, Rs. 151.*—This tax was levied for the first time during the year and fell short of the estimated amount.

B.—Miscellaneous Receipts.

10. *Rent of Lands, Rs. 9.*—This amount was received for two plots of municipal land rented out to two individuals.

11. *Avenue Receipts, Rs. 10*—is the amount realized by the sale of road-side trees.

12. *Sale-proceeds of old Materials, Rs. 206-6-7*,—requires no particular remark.

13. *Conservancy Receipts, Rs. 1,010.*—The receipts under this head are nearly the same as those of the previous year.

14. *Sale-proceeds of Medicines, Rs. 3-14-3.*—As the sale of medicines was discontinued in this year, there were hardly any receipts under this head.

15. *Other Hospital Receipts*, Rs. 413-10-0.—This amount was collected from paying patients who resorted to the Coonoor hospital for treatment.

16. *Income from Markets, Rs. 10,000.*—Market-tolls and stall-fees were, as usual, put up to auction and realized Rs. 625 more than in the previous year. The following expenditure was incurred on the market, leaving its net receipts at Rs. 8,437-15-5 :—

								Rs.	A.	P.
Establishment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	558	10	8
Contingencies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182	7	7
Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	820	14	4
							Total ..	1,562	0	7

17. *Slaughter-house Fees*.—These fees realized Rs. 2,000, or Rs. 90 more than in the previous year.

18. *Warrant and Distrain Fees*, Rs. 1-4-0,—require no remark.

19. *License Fees, Rs. 431-6-0*,—require no remark.

20. *Cart-stand Fees, Rs. 640.*—The increase above the previous year arose from competition at the auction sale.

21. *Other Fees, Re. 1*,—was collected for granting extracts from the death register.

22. *Fines under Municipal and other Acts, Rs. 380-15-7.*—This is the amount of fines collected and remitted into the treasury to the credit of Municipal funds by the local magistracy.

23. *Grants and Contributions from Government, Rs. 3,742.*—The particulars of this amount are as follows: Rs. 80, one-third grant towards the pay of a drawing master; Rs. 1,000 in aid of the Coonoor hospital; Rs. 2,500 towards the maintenance of roads; and Rs. 162 from the Military department as compensation under Act XI of 1881 on account of tax on Military officers residing in the municipality for want of house accommodation in Wellington.

24. *Contributions from Local Boards, Rs. 600.*—This amount was received from the Nilgiri District Board, and consisted of Rs. 500 towards the expenses of the Cocnoor hospital and Rs. 100 for the upkeep of a part of the old forest road which lies beyond municipal limits.

25. *Other Grants and Contributions, Rs. 566.*—This is the amount of private subscriptions and donations received on account of the Coonoor hospital.

26. *Private Scavenging, Rs. 1,859-1-6.*—The increase above the estimates and actuals is due to the extension of the private scavenging service. Adverting to the remarks of Government in its Order, No. 1688 M., dated 29th July 1897, on this subject, the council would respectfully observe that every effort is being made to extend the scavenging service still further. Coonoor being a hill station, the

number of houses served by municipal agency fluctuates very much, and as the number shown in Statement XI is that taken on 31st March which is about the dullest time of the season, many houses are then generally vacant.

27. *Other Purposes, Rs. 25-8-0.*—This amount was collected for burying dead animals.

28. *Other Items, Rs. 26-6-10*—consist of fees received for stamping measures and other receipts as particularized in Statement I.

III.—EXPENDITURE.

29. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 42,862-8-2 and was distributed under the several grants as follows:—

	Rs.	Percentage.
Grant 1, Public Works	13,074	30.5
" 2, Education	2,007	4.7
" 3, Sanitation and Medical Services	18,712	43.7
" 4, Lighting and Miscellaneous	3,275	7.6
" 5, Supervision and Management	4,800	11.2
Repayment of Debt	906	2.1
Refunds, &c.	88	0.2
Total	42,862	100.0

30. *Grant 1, Public Works—New Works—Buildings, Rs. 298-9-0.*—This sum was expended in the construction of a drinking-water cistern near the Coonoor hospital.

31. *Repairs—Communications, Rs. 6,996-10-2.*—Besides carrying out the ordinary repairs to the roads, Walker's Hill, Orange Grove and Tiger Hill roads have been much improved by widening them in parts where they were narrow. The roads are all in good order.

32. *Buildings, Rs. 1,489-2-2.*—This amount was spent in repairing the buildings specified in Statement II-A.

33. *Drainage, Rs. 873-13-3.*—The greater portion of this sum was laid out in improving the drains of Pork Parcherry which needed it badly.

34. *Water-supply, Rs. 851-11-11.*—The water-supply channels have been kept in order—sluices repaired, and nearly all the wooden sluice gates have been replaced by granite ones.

35. *Tools and Plant, Rs. 168-9-6*—requires no remark.

36. *Grant 2, Education—Salary Grants, Rs. 1,291-10-8.*—Of this sum, Rupees 1,226-10-8 were paid to teachers in St. Anthony's school and Rs. 65 to a gymnastic instructor employed in the American and Church Mission schools.

37. *Result Grants, Rs. 138-5-0.*—Of this sum, the American Mission school earned Rs. 58 and the Church Mission school Rs. 80-5-0 against Rs. 92-10-0 and Rs. 105, respectively, in the previous year. The numbers of scholars under tuition and other particulars are shown in Statement V-B and in the statements furnished by the educational department submitted herewith.

38. *Inspection, Rs. 125-6-3.*—This sum was paid to the Nilgiri District Board, being the share of this municipality for Educational inspection.

39. *Miscellaneous, Rs. 451-15-0.*—Of this amount, Rs. 100 were paid as a grant for the extension of St. Anthony's school play-ground. Rs. 29 for books and maps and Rs. 15 for gymnasium apparatus to the same school, Rs. 49 as rent grant to the Church Mission school and Rs. 258-15-0 as salary and contingencies of the drawing master employed for teaching drawing in the three schools aided by this municipality.

40. *Grant 3, Sanitation and Medical Services—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Rs. 7,773-4-3.*—This is the total amount expended on the Coonoor hospital during the year for establishment, medicines, diet of patients and sundries and contingencies. The medical officer's report (enclosure No. 4) gives full particulars of the working of the hospital, and the council has much pleasure in again recording its entire appreciation of Surgeon-Major Reeves' constant and energetic attention to the affairs of the

hospital and carefulness in sanitary matters connected with the town. The 1st-class hospital assistant attached to the hospital is allowed free quarters, which are situated about 45 yards from the institution, and the 3rd-class hospital assistant is allowed a house-rent of Rs. 5 monthly, and resides in a house about 35 yards off.

41. *Contributions to Provincial Funds, Rs. 367.*—These contributions to the Medical College, for Sanitary Inspection, and Medical Reserve Staff were, as usual, paid on a requisition from the Accountant-General.

42. *Female Medical Practitioners.*—No such practitioners are trained in this municipality.

43. *General Health.*—It will be seen from the medical officer's report that "the general health of the people was fair throughout the year. There were eleven attacks of cholera, of which seven proved fatal. All the cases were directly or indirectly imported from the plains."

44. *Vaccination and Vital Statistics.*—The increase in vaccination contingencies is owing to the charge incurred for printing a new form of vaccination register. The following table shows the number of vaccine operations and that of births and deaths during the past two years:—

Years.	Number of operations by Municipal vaccinator.	Cost of each operation.	Number of births.	Rate per mille.	Number of deaths.	Rate per mille.
1896-97	637	RS. A. P. 0 8 3	243	40.2	257	42.5
1897-98	654	0 9 5	279	46.1	242	40.0

Of the 242 deaths noted above, 38 occurred amongst the floating population, making the death-rate of the inhabitants proper of Coonoor 33.7 per mille. One prosecution was instituted for failure to report a death.

45. *Conservancy.*—There were sixteen conservancy carts in use during the year for the removal of night-soil and sweepings and two hand carts for the removal of liquid sewage; the number of public latrines was twelve. The clearing of undergrowth, trimming of hedges, &c., have been duly attended to.

46. *Grant 4, Lighting Contingencies, Rs. 1,147-9-8.*—The increase above the actuals is owing to a few more iron lamp-posts and lanterns having been purchased during the year. The number of lights at the end of the year was 97, or six more than the number at the end of the previous year.

47. *Market.*—The floor of the beef butchers' stall has been paved with dressed stone, and the basement edges of four open stalls have been lined with dressed stone and the stalls otherwise put in order.

48. *Slaughter-houses.*—The number of cows and sheep slaughtered in these houses during the past two years was as follows:—

	Cows.	Sheep.
1896-97	1,646	10,790
1897-98	1,506	11,092

49. *Survey of Land, Rs. 12-7-8.*—This sum was paid on account of charges incurred by the Survey department in demarcating municipal lands.

50. *Other Charges, Rs. 658-6-8.*—The particulars of this amount are given in Statement II.

51. *Grant 5, Rs. 4,799-11-11.*—The items comprising this sum call for no remark.

IV.—REPAYMENT OF DEBT—REFUNDS AND CLOSING BALANCE.

52. *Repayment of Debt and Interest, Rs. 906.*—This sum is the aggregate of the instalments paid on account of the two drainage loans granted by Government, particulars of which will be found in Statement VIII.

53. *Refunds of other than current Collections, Rs. 88-2-6.*—This is the amount paid as refunds of tax on buildings which were vacant during the previous year.

54. *Balance.*—The year closed with a balance of Rs. 3,437-8-11.

55. *Excess Charges.*—A statement of charges incurred in excess of the sanctioned allotments amounting to Rs. 376-10-0 is submitted for the sanction of Government to remove audit objections.

56. It will be seen from the statement of revenue derived from the water and drainage tax (enclosure No. 2) that the income fell short of the expenditure by Rs. 1,023-4-2. This was due chiefly to the income during the year having been made up by the tax on buildings and lands being levied at 1 per cent. for the first, and at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the second, half-year, and the council proposes to adjust the deficit by a grant from general funds. It is hoped that the expenditure in the ensuing year 1898-99 will be fully covered by the income to be derived from the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. water and drainage tax to be levied on buildings and lands for both halves of that year.

57. This report was read and adopted by the council at its meeting held on the 26th instant.

58. The following statements are herewith submitted:—

- (1) Annual Statements I to XIII.
- (2) Statements showing the revenue derived from the water and drainage tax.
- (3) Memorandum of investments called for in G.O., No. 291 M., dated 25th February 1897.
- (4) Report of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, dated 25th April 1898, No. 249.
- (5) Four educational statements received from the Assistant Inspector of Schools, dated 11th May 1898.
- (6) Statement of excess charges.

ENCLOSURE.

Concise Annual Report on the working of the Coonoor Municipal Hospital for the year 1897-98.

I. Public Health.—The general health of the people was fair throughout the year. There were eleven attacks of cholera, of which seven proved fatal. All the cases were directly or indirectly imported from the plains.

II. Vital Statistics.—

Year.	Total births.	Total deaths.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel complaints.	All other causes.
1896-97	243	257	15	1	52	47	142
1897-98	279	242	7	1	37	38	159

III. Sanitation.—The following sanitary improvements were carried out during the year:—

- (1) Isolation shed for plague and other cases.
- (2) Beef-butchers' stall refloored with granite.
- (3) Sheet-iron tables supplied for mutton-butchers.
- (4) One hundred and seventy feet of open channel in front of Dhobypettah village has been piped.
- (5) Two hundred feet of open channel on Mission hill has been piped.
- (6) Wooden sluice gates have been removed and stone sluice gates substituted.
- (7) Seventy-three feet of new masonry drainage have been opened in the town.

The first great want of the town is a proper water-supply, and next to that is a suitable means of disposal of night-soil.

IV. Vaccination.—The following table gives the work done by the vaccinator during the year as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	Total number vaccinated.	Total successful.	Total number under one year.	Successful under one year.	Total number of primary vaccinations.	Total successful of primary.	Total number of re-vaccinations.	Total successful of re-vaccinations.
1896-97	637	619	296	292	553	544	84	75
1897-98	654	582	259	259	472	447	181	134

All these cases were done with glycerinated lymph preserved at the Central Depot, Ootacamund.

V. Hospitals (1).—There are 34 beds—20 male and 14 female—, but the accommodation is not sufficient without overcrowding for this number of beds.

(2) The roof of the main building wants retiling in some places, as it leaks during the rainy season.

Also a good deal of reflooring is required.

The furniture is in fair order.

(3) The hospital was inspected by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras on May 11th, 1897, and he made remarks regarding—

1. Overcrowding.
2. Out-patient department.
3. Kitchens.
4. Waring's Bazaar Medicines.
5. Store-room.
6. Operation-room.
7. Accommodation for native lying-in cases.

An extension to the maternity ward of the hospital is shortly to be made, which will to some extent relieve the overcrowding.

Preparations have begun to build a suitable out-patient department.

The kitchens have been put in good order.

Waring's Book on Bazaar Medicines has been procured.

Nos. 5 and 6 will be carried out when money is available.

(4) Recoveries.—

	RS.	A.	P.
From patients for diets and medicines	413	10	0
Subscriptions and donations	566	0	0
Total	979	10	0

(5) The following table gives the number of patients treated as compared with previous year:—

Year.	In-door.	Deaths.	Out-door.	Total.	Average.	
					In.	Out.
1893-94	349	27	8,445	8,794	12.14	59.48
1894-95	371	34	8,899	9,270	14.41	72.21
1895-96	439	30	10,677	11,116	14.50	75.03
1896-97	579	58	11,927	12,506	15.82	78.06
1897-98	697	44	13,546	14,243	22.47	80.59

The hospital is therefore increasing in popularity.

(6) The average mortality was small as compared with the previous year.

There was no septic disease acquired in hospital.

(7) *Operations.*—There were 402 operations, of which 387 were cured, 13 were relieved and 2 died.

(8) *Establishment*.—Another male-ward attendant is wanted, otherwise the establishment is sufficient.

(9) *Midwife*.—The midwife conducted 54 confinements against 40 last year.

VI. Dufferin Fund Dispensaries.—Nil.

COONOR,
25th April 1898.

(Signed) F. C. REEVES, Surgeon-Major,
District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Nilgiris.

N. Dis. on Cur. No. 752.

Forwarded. The report descends to too petty details, but is a record of very fair administration.

28th May 1898.

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Collector.

ORDER—No. 1362 M., dated 2nd August 1898.

The receipts and charges of the Coonoor Municipality for 1897–98 are compared below with the budget and revised estimates for the year and the actuals of 1896–97:—

	Actuals, 1896–97.	Budget estimate, 1897–98.	Revised estimate, 1897–98.	Actuals, 1897–98.
<i>Receipts.</i>				
Balance brought forward	Rs. 8,490	Rs. 3,480	Rs. 4,170	Rs. 4,174
Tax on Arts	1,263	1,250	1,790	1,676
Buildings and Lands	12,718	13,000	14,530	13,565
Water and Drainage tax on Buildings and Lands	1,660	1,670	3,200	2,812
Tax on Vehicles and Animals	1,672	1,500	1,850	1,838
Carts	170	160	160	158
Private Menial and Domestic Male servants (96-A)	100	70	200	151
Rent of Lands, Buildings, &c., and Sale-proceeds of Lands, &c.	1,050	2,000	1,010	225
Conservancy Receipts	222	200	370	418
Fees and Revenue from Medical Institutions	11,285	11,200	12,000	12,000
Income from Markets and Slaughter-houses	432	400	420	431
License Fees	583	510	650	642
Other Fees	236	150	400	381
Fines under Municipal and other Acts	4,011	4,020	8,730	3,742
Grants and Contributions from Government	600	600	600	600
" " " Local Boards	710	700	450	566
" " " other bodies	1,745	1,610	1,810	1,885
Recoveries for Services to Private Individuals	15	10	20	26
Miscellaneous	20	..	..	..
Loans	..	31,000	..	..
Advances recovered	..	..	..	..
Total	46,982	73,530	47,580	46,300
<i>Charges.</i>				
GRANT 1—				
New Works—				
Buildings	866	..	300	298
Water-supply	1,121	31,000	..	..
Repairs—				
Communications	7,996	7,000	7,000	6,997
Buildings	1,321	1,200	1,500	1,489
Drainage	1,645	1,650	1,650	1,520
Water-supply	1,969	2,060	2,070	1,409
Establishment	1,345	1,350	1,350	1,192
Tools and Plant and other Stores	118	180	180	169
Total	16,381	44,440	14,050	13,074
GRANT 2—				
Grants-in-aid—				
Salary Grants	1,263	1,300	1,300	1,292
Result	198	300	300	188
Building, Furniture, &c., Grants	306	300	300	193
Inspection	130	130	130	125
Miscellaneous	240	270	270	259
Total	2,137	2,300	2,300	2,007

	Actuals, 1896–97.	Budget estimate, 1897–98.	Revised estimate, 1897–98.	Actuals, 1897–98.
<i>Charges—cont.</i>				
GRANT 3—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hospitals and Dispensaries	5,655	6,000	8,070	7,773
Contributions	317	350	350	367
Vaccination	331	330	330	384
Registration of Births and Deaths	261	230	230	207
Conservancy, Road-cleaning and Road-watering	8,976	8,890	9,970	9,981
Total	15,540	15,800	18,950	18,712
GRANT 4—				
Lighting	1,437	1,400	1,600	1,574
Markets and Slaughter-houses	1,082	1,110	1,110	1,030
Public Garden, Survey of Land, Fire and other Charges	481	600	600	671
Total	3,000	3,110	3,310	3,275
GRANT 5—				
Supervision and Management	4,504	4,780	4,810	4,800
Repayment of Debts	484	510	510	505
Interest on Loans	422	400	400	401
Advances Recoverable	30	300	300	88
Refunds	310	..	..	..
Grand Total	42,808	71,590	44,630	42,862
Balance	4,174	1,940	2,950	3,438

2. Twenty-four meetings were held by the municipal council against 23 in the previous year. The average attendance of non-official members declined, but was nevertheless fair, while the attendance of officials, although it improved slightly, was still indifferent.

3. *Receipts*.—(1) Owing apparently to more careful assessment, the net current demand under the tax on arts and professions rose from Rs. 1,276 to Rs. 1,700, and its average incidence from Rs. 4-10-10 to Rs. 6-7-0. The rate of the tax on buildings was raised, during the year under review, from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the annual value and that of the water-tax from 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while the land-tax was levied at a uniform rate of Rs. 1-8-0 per acre. There was consequently a marked increase in the demands under these heads.

(2) The current collections under the taxes on arts and buildings continued to be good, but those under the land and water taxes again declined and were not satisfactory. The arrear realizations under all these heads were again excellent.

(3) A sum of Rs. 151 was realized from the tax on private menial and domestic male servants, which was levied for the first time during the year under review. There was an increase under the tax on animals, hospital receipts, market-rents and fines; but it is to be regretted that the income from the sale of sweepings was even smaller than in the previous year.

(4) The number of houses served by the private scavenging agency was the same as in the previous year, viz., 148, and the service continued to be worked at a profit of Rs. 584. The Government trusts that the efforts which are being made to extend the system will result in a marked improvement in the current year.

4. *Expenditure*.—(1) *Public Works*.—No new work of any importance was undertaken during the year. The expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 6,997 against Rs. 7,996 in 1896–97. The Collector has not reported on the condition of the town roads, but the Chairman states that they were all in good order.

(2) *Education*.—The net expenditure on education was Rs. 1,927 or 9.5 per cent. of the receipts from taxation, and all but Rs. 684 of this sum was devoted to primary education. As in the previous year, the municipal council maintained no school of its own, but aided one secondary school with salary grants and two primary schools with result grants. The attendance at these schools taken together remained almost stationary. No information has been furnished regarding the working of the salary grant school, an omission which should be supplied in future reports. The results of the grant examinations, though better than in the previous year, were still

indifferent, and more than one-half of the allotment for result grants was allowed to lapse. Some explanation of this should have been furnished. The omission should now be supplied. The total number of boys under instruction, however, rose from 67.2 to 68.9 per cent. of the male population of school-going age.

(3) *Medical Relief*.—There was an increase of 118 and 1,619, respectively, in the number of in- and out-patients treated at the municipal hospital, which is ascribed by the medical officer to the growing popularity of the institution. The midwife attended 54 cases of labour against 40 in the previous year, but her work is capable of further improvement. The attention of the municipal council is drawn to the remarks of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in paragraph V (2) of his report regarding the repairs required in the hospital building.

(4) *Vaccination and Vital Statistics*.—The total number of persons vaccinated during the year rose from 637 to 654, but the quality of the work again deteriorated, the percentage of reported success having fallen from 97.2 to 89 and the net cost of each successful operation rising from As. 8-7 to As. 10-7 or nearly two and a half times the general average for municipalities in 1896-97. Steps should be taken to reduce this in the current year. Infantile vaccination continued to receive fair attention.

The number of births registered during the year rose from 243 or 40.2 per mille of the population to 279 or 46.1 per mille, but the number of deaths fell, being 242 or 40 per mille against 257 or 42.5 per mille in the previous year. The large increase in the number of deaths over the normal rate is ascribed to deaths among the floating population.

(5) *Sanitation*.—The expenditure under this head amounting to Rs. 8,890 exceeded the budget allotment by 12.3 per cent. and was 23.7 per cent. of the total receipts. From paragraph III of the medical officer's report, it appears that fair attention was paid to the sanitary needs of the town, but a great deal remains to be done before its sanitation can be said to be satisfactory. The municipal council should take steps to devise a suitable means of disposal of night-soil, which is stated by the medical officer to be one of the great wants of the town.

5. *General Remarks*.—The year closed with a balance of Rs. 3,438 or 8.2 per cent. of the receipts. The excess in the expenditure over the sanctioned allotments, referred to in paragraph 55 of the Chairman's report, will be admitted in the accounts.

The administration of the municipality during the year under review continued, on the whole, to be satisfactory; but vaccination and the extension of the private scavenging system require closer attention. The testimony borne by the council to the good work done by Surgeon-Major Reeves is noted with satisfaction.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Coonoor.
" Collector of the Nilgiris.
" President, District Board, the Nilgiris.
" Accountant-General.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Surgeon-General.
" Sanitary Board.
" " Commissioner.
" " Engineer.
Editors' Table.

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

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G.O., No. 1362 M., 2nd August 1898.

AUGUST.

Administration Report.

Reviewing the — of the Coonoor Municipal Council for 1897-98.

a/15/8/98
P.R.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ--the following paper:--

From J. A. MARJORIBANKS, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Coonoor, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated 27th May 1898, No. 121.

I have the honour to submit the following report of the administration of the Coonoor Municipality for the financial year 1897-98 with statements in the prescribed forms.

I.—CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL.

2. The council consists of twelve members—all nominated by Government. Three vacancies occurred during the year, one by the resignation of Mr. W. F. Donaghue in December 1897, on his leaving Coonoor, and the other two on the termination of the appointments of Soomar Sait Sahib and Mr. E. Hall in January and March 1898, respectively; these vacancies have not been filled up pending the elections which are to take place hereafter agreeably to G.O., No. 2260 M., dated 15th October 1897. Of the nine councillors remaining at the end of the year, seven were Europeans and two Natives, viz., one *ex-officio*, one official, and five non-official members (Europeans), and two non-official members (natives). Mr. Marjoribanks' term of office as Chairman expired on the 30th November 1897, and he was re-elected on the 2nd December 1897. Twenty-four meetings were held during the year, and there were no adjournments for want of a quorum. The average attendance was as follows:—

Officials	Non-officials
1	1

[illegible]

II.—RECEIPTS.

A.—Receipts from Taxation.

3. The opening balance on 1st April 1897 was Rs. 4,173-10-4 and the receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 42,126-6-9. The principal variations between the actuals and the estimates are explained below.

4. *Tax on Arts, Rs. 1,676.*—The decrease partly to the amount under this head having been persons liable to the tax having left the station. Rs. 6-7-0.

5. *Tax on Buildings, Rs. 10,372-1-9.*—The receipts under this head show a slight decrease below the revised estimate owing to arrears outstanding at the end of the year, and the increase above the actuals is due to the construction of new houses. Five hundred and fifty-nine buildings were assessed at Rs. 10,642-10-10, the average incidence per house being Rs. 19-0-8.

6. *Tax on Lands, Rs. 3,192-5-3.*—The decrease below the revised estimate is due chiefly to the District Forest-officer having withheld payment of the tax due for 1897-98 on forest lands pending a reference which he wished to make to Government on the subject. The total extent of land assessed was 2,463 acres and 83 cents.

7. *Water-tax on Buildings and Lands, Rs. 2,812-3-0.*—The decrease below the revised estimate is owing to the arrears outstanding at the end of the year.

9. *Tax on Private, Menial and Domestic Male Servants, Rs. 151.*—This tax was levied for the first time during the year and fell short of the estimated amount.

B.—Miscellaneous Receipts.

10. *Rent of Lands, Rs. 9.*—This amount was received for two plots of municipal land rented out to two individuals.

11. *Avenue Receipts, Rs. 10*—is the amount realized by the sale of road-side trees.

12. *Sale-proceeds of old Materials*, Rs. 206-6-7,—requires no particular remark.

13. *Conservancy Receipts, Rs. 1,010.*—The receipts under this head are nearly the same as those of the previous year.

14. *Sale-proceeds of Medicines, Rs. 3-14-3.*—As the sale of medicines was discontinued in this year, there were hardly any receipts under this head.

15. *Other Hospital Receipts, Rs. 413-10-0.*—This amount was collected from paying patients who resorted to the Coonoor hospital for treatment.

16. *Income from Markets, Rs. 10,000.*—Market-tolls and stall-fees were, as usual, put up to auction and realized Rs. 625 more than in the previous year. The following expenditure was incurred on the market, leaving its net receipts at Rs. 8,437-15-5 :—

							R ^s .	A.	P.
Establishment	..	..	..	..	..	..	558	10	8
Contingencies	..	..	..	..	..	..	182	7	7
Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	820	14	4
Total							1,562	0	7

17. *Slaughter-house Fees*.—These fees realized Rs. 2,000, or Rs. 90 more than in the previous year.

18. *Warrant and Distrain Fees, Rs. 1-4-0*,—require no remark.

19. *License Fees*, Rs. 431-6-0,—require no remark.

20. *Cart-stand Fees, Rs. 640.*—The increase above the previous year arose from competition at the auction sale.

21. *Other Fees, Re. 1*,—was collected for granting extracts from the death register.

22. *Fines under Municipal and other Acts, Rs. 380-15-7.*—This is the amount of fines collected and remitted into the treasury to the credit of Municipal funds by the local magistracy.

23. *Grants and Contributions from Government, Rs. 3,742.*—The particulars of this amount are as follows: Rs. 80, one-third grant towards the pay of a drawing master; Rs. 1,000 in aid of the Coonoor hospital; Rs. 2,500 towards the maintenance of roads; and Rs. 162 from the Military department as compensation under Act XI of 1881 on account of tax on Military officers residing in the municipality for want of house accommodation in Wellington.

24. *Contributions from Local Boards, Rs. 600.*—This amount was received from the Nilgiri District Board, and consisted of Rs. 500 towards the expenses of the Cocnoor hospital and Rs. 100 for the upkeep of a part of the old forest road which lies beyond municipal limits.

25. *Other Grants and Contributions, Rs. 566.*—This is the amount of private subscriptions and donations received on account of the Coonoor hospital.

26. *Private Scavenging, Rs. 1,859-1-6.*—The increase above the estimates and actuals is due to the extension of the private scavenging service. Adverting to the remarks of Government in its Order, No. 1688 M., dated 29th July 1897, on this subject, the council would respectfully observe that every effort is being made to extend the scavenging service still further. Coonoor being a hill station, the

number of houses served by municipal agency fluctuates very much, and as the number shown in Statement XI is that taken on 31st March which is about the dullest time of the season, many houses are then generally vacant.

27. *Other Purposes, Rs. 25-8-0.*—This amount was collected for burying dead animals.

28. *Other Items, Rs. 26-6-10*—consist of fees received for stamping measures and other receipts as particularized in Statement I.

III.—EXPENDITURE.

29. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 42,862-8-2 and was distributed under the several grants as follows:—

	Rs.	Percentage.
Grant 1, Public Works	13,074	30.5
2, Education	2,007	4.7
3, Sanitation and Medical Services	18,712	43.7
4, Lighting and Miscellaneous	3,275	7.6
5, Supervision and Management	4,800	11.2
Repayment of Debt	906	2.1
Refunds, &c.	88	0.2
Total ..	42,862	100.0

30. *Grant 1, Public Works—New Works—Buildings, Rs. 298-9-0.*—This sum was expended in the construction of a drinking-water cistern near the Coonoor hospital.

31. *Repairs—Communications, Rs. 6,996-10-2.*—Besides carrying out the ordinary repairs to the roads, Walker's Hill, Orange Grove and Tiger Hill roads have been much improved by widening them in parts where they were narrow. The roads are all in good order.

32. *Buildings, Rs. 1,489-2-2.*—This amount was spent in repairing the buildings specified in Statement II-A.

33. *Drainage, Rs. 873-13-3.*—The greater portion of this sum was laid out in improving the drains of Pork Parcherry which needed it badly.

34. *Water-supply, Rs. 851-11-11.*—The water-supply channels have been kept in order—sluices repaired, and nearly all the wooden sluice gates have been replaced by granite ones.

35. *Tools and Plant, Rs. 168-9-6*—requires no remark.

36. *Grant 2, Education—Salary Grants, Rs. 1,291-10-8.*—Of this sum, Rupees 1,226-10-8 were paid to teachers in St. Anthony's school and Rs. 65 to a gymnastic instructor employed in the American and Church Mission schools.

37. *Result Grants, Rs. 138-5-0.*—Of this sum, the American Mission school earned Rs. 58 and the Church Mission school Rs. 80-5-0 against Rs. 92-10-0 and Rs. 105, respectively, in the previous year. The numbers of scholars under tuition and other particulars are shown in Statement V-B and in the statements furnished by the educational department submitted herewith.

38. *Inspection, Rs. 125-6-3.*—This sum was paid to the Nilgiri District Board, being the share of this municipality for Educational inspection.

39. *Miscellaneous, Rs. 451-15-0.*—Of this amount, Rs. 100 were paid as a grant for the extension of St. Anthony's school play-ground. Rs. 29 for books and maps and Rs. 15 for gymnasium apparatus to the same school, Rs. 49 as rent grant to the Church Mission school and Rs. 258-15-0 as salary and contingencies of the drawing master employed for teaching drawing in the three schools aided by this municipality.

40. *Grant 3, Sanitation and Medical Services—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Rs. 7,773-4-3.*—This is the total amount expended on the Coonoor hospital during the year for establishment, medicines, diet of patients and sundries and contingencies. The medical officer's report (enclosure No. 4) gives full particulars of the working of the hospital, and the council has much pleasure in again recording its entire appreciation of Surgeon-Major Reeves' constant and energetic attention to the affairs of the

hospital and carefulness in sanitary matters connected with the town. The 1st-class hospital assistant attached to the hospital is allowed free quarters, which are situated about 45 yards from the institution, and the 3rd-class hospital assistant is allowed a house-rent of Rs. 5 monthly, and resides in a house about 35 yards off.

41. *Contributions to Provincial Funds, Rs. 367.*—These contributions to the Medical College, for Sanitary Inspection, and Medical Reserve Staff were, as usual, paid on a requisition from the Accountant-General.

42. *Female Medical Practitioners.*—No such practitioners are trained in this municipality.

43. *General Health.*—It will be seen from the medical officer's report that "the general health of the people was fair throughout the year. There were eleven attacks of cholera, of which seven proved fatal. All the cases were directly or indirectly imported from the plains."

44. *Vaccination and Vital Statistics.*—The increase in vaccination contingencies is owing to the charge incurred for printing a new form of vaccination register. The following table shows the number of vaccine operations and that of births and deaths during the past two years:—

Years.	Number of operations by Municipal vaccinator.	Cost of each operation.	Number of births.	Rate per mille.	Number of deaths.	Rate per mille.
1896-97	637	RS. A. P. 0 8 3	243	40.2	257	42.5
1897-98	654	0 9 5	279	46.1	242	40.0

Of the 242 deaths noted above, 38 occurred amongst the floating population, making the death-rate of the inhabitants proper of Coonoor 33.7 per mille. One prosecution was instituted for failure to report a death.

45. *Conservancy.*—There were sixteen conservancy carts in use during the year for the removal of night-soil and sweepings and two hand carts for the removal of liquid sewage; the number of public latrines was twelve. The clearing of undergrowth, trimming of hedges, &c., have been duly attended to.

46. *Grant 4, Lighting Contingencies, Rs. 1,147-9-8.*—The increase above the actuals is owing to a few more iron lamp-posts and lanterns having been purchased during the year. The number of lights at the end of the year was 97, or six more than the number at the end of the previous year.

47. *Market.*—The floor of the beef butchers' stall has been paved with dressed stone, and the basement edges of four open stalls have been lined with dressed stone and the stalls otherwise put in order.

48. *Slaughter-houses.*—The number of cows and sheep slaughtered in these houses during the past two years was as follows:—

	Cows.	Sheep.
1896-97	1,646	10,790
1897-98	1,506	11,092

49. *Survey of Land, Rs. 12-7-8.*—This sum was paid on account of charges incurred by the Survey department in demarcating municipal lands.

50. *Other Charges, Rs. 658-6-8.*—The particulars of this amount are given in Statement II.

51. *Grant 5, Rs. 4,799-11-11.*—The items comprising this sum call for no remark.

IV.—REPAYMENT OF DEBT—REFUNDS AND CLOSING BALANCE.

52. *Repayment of Debt and Interest, Rs. 906.*—This sum is the aggregate of the instalments paid on account of the two drainage loans granted by Government, particulars of which will be found in Statement VIII.

53. *Refunds of other than current Collections, Rs. 88-2-6.*—This is the amount paid as refunds of tax on buildings which were vacant during the previous year.

54. *Balance.*—The year closed with a balance of Rs. 3,437-8-11.

55. *Excess Charges.*—A statement of charges incurred in excess of the sanctioned allotments amounting to Rs. 376-10-0 is submitted for the sanction of Government to remove audit objections.

56. It will be seen from the statement of revenue derived from the water and drainage tax (enclosure No. 2) that the income fell short of the expenditure by Rs. 1,023-4-2. This was due chiefly to the income during the year having been made up by the tax on buildings and lands being levied at 1 per cent. for the first, and at 2½ per cent. for the second, half-year, and the council proposes to adjust the deficit by a grant from general funds. It is hoped that the expenditure in the ensuing year 1898-99 will be fully covered by the income to be derived from the 2½ per cent. water and drainage tax to be levied on buildings and lands for both halves of that year.

57. This report was read and adopted by the council at its meeting held on the 26th instant.

58. The following statements are herewith submitted:—

- (1) Annual Statements I to XIII.
- (2) Statements showing the revenue derived from the water and drainage tax.
- (3) Memorandum of investments called for in G.O., No. 291 M., dated 25th February 1897.
- (4) Report of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, dated 25th April 1898, No. 249.
- (5) Four educational statements received from the Assistant Inspector of Schools, dated 11th May 1898.
- (6) Statement of excess charges.

ENCLOSURE.

Concise Annual Report on the working of the Coonoor Municipal Hospital for the year 1897-98.

I. Public Health.—The general health of the people was fair throughout the year. There were eleven attacks of cholera, of which seven proved fatal. All the cases were directly or indirectly imported from the plains.

II. Vital Statistics.—

Year.	Total births.	Total deaths.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel complaints.	All other causes.
1896-97	243	257	15	1	52	47	142
1897-98	279	242	7	1	37	38	159

III. Sanitation.—The following sanitary improvements were carried out during the year:—

- (1) Isolation shed for plague and other cases.
- (2) Beef-butcher's stall refloored with granite.
- (3) Sheet-iron tables supplied for mutton-butcher's.
- (4) One hundred and seventy feet of open channel in front of Dhobypettah village has been piped.
- (5) Two hundred feet of open channel on Mission hill has been piped.
- (6) Wooden sluice gates have been removed and stone sluice gates substituted.
- (7) Seventy-three feet of new masonry drainage have been opened in the town.

The first great want of the town is a proper water-supply, and next to that is a suitable means of disposal of night-soil.

IV. Vaccination.—The following table gives the work done by the vaccinator during the year as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	Total number vaccinated.	Total successful.	Total number under one year.	Successful under one year.	Total number of primary vaccinations.	Total successful of primary.	Total number of re-vaccinations.	Total successful of re-vaccinations.
1896-97	637	619	296	292	553	544	84	75
1897-98	654	582	259	259	472	447	181	134

All these cases were done with glycerinated lymph preserved at the Central Depot, Ootacamund.

V. Hospitals (1).—There are 34 beds—20 male and 14 female—, but the accommodation is not sufficient without overcrowding for this number of beds.

(2) The roof of the main building wants retiling in some places, as it leaks during the rainy season.

Also a good deal of reflooring is required.

The furniture is in fair order.

(3) The hospital was inspected by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras on May 11th, 1897, and he made remarks regarding—

1. Overcrowding.
2. Out-patient department.
3. Kitchens.
4. Waring's Bazaar Medicines.
5. Store-room.
6. Operation-room.
7. Accommodation for native lying-in cases.

An extension to the maternity ward of the hospital is shortly to be made, which will to some extent relieve the overcrowding.

Preparations have begun to build a suitable out-patient department.

The kitchens have been put in good order.

Waring's Book on Bazaar Medicines has been procured.

Nos. 5 and 6 will be carried out when money is available.

(4) Recoveries.—

	RS.	A.	P.
From patients for diets and medicines	413	10	0
Subscriptions and donations	566	0	0
Total	979	10	0

(5) The following table gives the number of patients treated as compared with previous year:—

Year.	In-door.	Deaths.	Out-door.	Total.	Average.	
					In.	Out.
1893-94	349	27	8,445	8,794	12.14	59.46
1894-95	371	34	8,899	9,270	14.41	72.21
1895-96	439	30	10,677	11,116	14.50	75.03
1896-97	579	53	11,927	12,506	16.82	78.06
1897-98	697	44	13,546	14,243	22.47	80.59

The hospital is therefore increasing in popularity.

(6) The average mortality was small as compared with the previous year.

There was no septic disease acquired in hospital.

(7) *Operations.*—There were 402 operations, of which 387 were cured, 13 were relieved and 2 died.