

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 202 M

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Report — Communicating, with remarks,
to all Municipal Councils the consolidated —
on the audit of the account of
the District municipalities for 1896 —

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government {1899} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 202 M., 15th February 1899.

FEBRUARY.

Audit Report.

Communicating, with remarks, to all Municipal Councils the consolidated — on the accounts of the District Municipalities for 1893-97.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From W. J. F. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Assistant Accountant-General and Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, to the Accountant-General, dated Camp, Vizianagram, 3rd January 1899.

I have the honour to submit my annual consolidated report on the accounts of the District Municipalities of this Presidency for the year 1896-97. As in previous years, the delay in its submission is due to the tardy return of the audit notes by some of the Municipalities, the chief offender on this occasion being the Vizagapatam Municipality, which only despatched the notes during the recent Christmas holidays, whereas they should have returned not later than the beginning of July 1898. In other words they were nearly six months late, and this notwithstanding the issue of three ordinary reminders, a special letter and a telegram followed by two letters to the Collector asking him to call on the Chairman to forward the notes without further delay. I think some notice should be taken of the matter. The only notes which have not yet been received are those of the Cannanore Municipality, but in this case the Chairman is not responsible for the delay. Owing to the heavy nature of the special investigation ordered in G.O., Mis. No. 569 M., dated 14th March 1898, and to the fact that the Assistant Inspector who conducted it fell ill and was obliged to take leave soon after the work was finished, the notes were only recently handed over.

2. In the following cases also the return of the notes was greatly delayed, the number of reminders that had to issue being shown against each. Several of these are Municipalities in which a similar delay was noticed last year, and it is to be regretted that notwithstanding the remark made by Government in paragraph 2 of its order No. 777 M., dated 18th April 1898, no improvement has been shown in this respect:—

Name.	Number of reminders.
Tanjore	3
Cocanada	3
Mangalore	3
Kumbakonam	3 and a special letter.
Trichinopoly	3 do.
Mannargudi	3 do.
Rajahmundry	3 do.
Tellicherry	3 do.
Masulipatam	3 do.

and a telegram.

3. For some years past it has been the practice to append to this report a statement showing in considerable detail the various repeated defects found in each Municipality. This, I consider, is unnecessary. In the first place the system of showing only repeated defects is an unreliable one. For, unless the auditing officer specially remarks in each case that the defect in question was noticed in the previous

year, there is every probability of its being taken as a new one when the statement is prepared for submission with the consolidated report. It is true the compiling clerk is expected to compare the objections raised in the year under report with those of the previous one, but it is impossible for him to remember the whole of a year's objections when going through the subsequent year's notes, and the figures given by him as representing the repeated defects cannot therefore be relied on. Further, much labour is involved in the preparation of the statement, and even if it were accurate, I would recommend its abolition, as it is, in my opinion, neither practicable nor necessary to attempt to distinguish between errors which have been observed before and those noticed for the first time. The general efficiency of the several Municipalities from an account point of view can be tested more easily and accurately by an enumeration of the total number of defects discovered in each case and I accordingly append a statement drawn out on these lines. The Municipalities, it will be observed, have been divided into four groups, viz., heavy, medium, light and very light, with reference to their net receipts and are arranged in each group in their order of merit, while by way of comparison with the previous year, column 3 shows the position occupied by each Municipality in that year, also with reference to the total number of errors. The figures in column 2 are taken from the audit notes, wherein the defects are set forth in detail, and there thus seems no necessity to burden the report with an elaborate statement occupying several pages of print as has hitherto been the practice. It is trusted this arrangement will meet with the approval of Government. Each sub-paragraph of the notes has been counted as a separate defect, as it is frequently found convenient to group together objections falling under a particular head:—

Statement of defects.

Name of Municipality.	Number of defects.	Order of merit of previous year.	Name of Municipality.	Number of defects.	Order of merit of previous year.
<i>Heavy.</i>			<i>Medium—cont.</i>		
1. Ootacamund	23	1	21. Cuddalore	101	20
2. Salem	42	4	22. Vellore	112	17
3. Negapatam	47	6	<i>Light.</i>		
4. Cocanada	51	5	1. Tirupattūr	14	3
5. Kumbakonam	63	8	2. Palamecottah	16	10
6. Tanjore	64	10	3. Tirupati	18	5
7. Calicut *	69	3	4. Karūr	19	8
8. Bellary	82	2	5. Mayavaram	19	14
9. Madura	95	9	6. Chidambaram	22	6
10. Trichinopoly	143	7	7. Chicacole	23	18
<i>Medium.</i>			8. Vaniyambadi	26	11
1. Nellore	16	5	9. Periyakulam	26	1
2. Bezvada	17	3	10. Cochin	28	16
3. Guntūr	18	1	11. Tiruvannamalai	28	†
4. Vizianagram	18	9	12. Coonoor	30	2
5. Berhampur	21	16	13. Mannargudi	33	17
6. Conjeevaram	25	13	14. Erode	34	13
7. Tellicherry	30	10	15. Anakapalle	35	12
8. Palghat	30	8	16. Srivilliputtūr	35	15
9. Tinnevely	33	6	17. Gudiyattam	43	7
10. Ellore	38	7	18. Srirangam	52	9
11. Coimbatore	38	11	19. Dindigul	53	4
12. Tuticorin	43	2	<i>Very light.</i>		
13. Cuddapah	55	18	1. Bimlipatam	16	1
14. Mangalore	56	15	2. Palni	23	2
15. Adoni	59	4	3. Chingleput	29	†
16. Cannanore *	60	19	4. Parlakimedi	30	6
17. Masulipatam	64	14	5. Ongole	40	3
18. Rajahmundry *	75	21	6. Walajapet	47	4
19. Kurnool *	86	12	7. Anantapur	72	5
20. Vizagapatam	100	22			

* Defalcations were reported in these Municipalities.

† The audit of 1896-97 was the first of its kind.

4. From the above statement it will be seen that the Municipalities of Ootacamund, Nellore, Tirupattūr and Bimlipatam are the best in their respective groups, though

closely followed by several others, especially among the medium and light Municipalities, while Trichinopoly, Vellore, Dindigul and Anantapur are the worst. Generally speaking it may be said that in the following cases the accounts are not well kept:—

1. Cocanada.	8. Cannanore.	14. Vellore.
2. Kumbakonam.	9. Masulipatam.	15. Mannargudi.
3. Tanjore.	10. Rajahmundry.	16. Gudiyattam.
4. Calicut.	11. Kurnool.	17. Srirangam.
5. Bellary.	12. Vizagapatam.	18. Dindigul.
6. Madura.	13. Cuddalore.	19. Anantapur.
7. Trichinopoly.		

5. The orders of Government may be obtained on the following points:—

(a) *Temporary Appointments.*—The question is whether in the case of temporary servants appointed by the Chairman under section 42 (2) of the revised Act, the subsequent sanction of Government is necessary in addition to the requirement of the Act that every such appointment be reported at the next following meeting of the Council, presumably for confirmation. In G.O., No. 2288 L., dated 5th October 1889, it has been decided that the sanction of Government is required for the entertainment of temporary establishment under the corresponding section of the Local Boards Act, and as this order has been communicated to all Chairmen of Municipal Councils, a doubt arises whether similar sanction is necessary in the case of Municipal appointments made under the new Act. If this question is answered in the negative, it would be well to define the words "temporary servants" in order to prevent misconception.

(b) *Deposits.*—Deposits received from renters of tolls, markets, &c., are in some Municipalities credited to the revenue head as soon as they are received, in accordance with the instructions contained in G.O., No. 1040 M., dated 28th June 1895. This, however, causes inconvenience in the case of deposits paid towards the end of the year on account of the next official one, more especially in the preparation of the demand, collection and balance statement (*vide* the explanations furnished in the statement attached to the Ootacamund Municipal audit reports for 1896-97 and 1897-98), and a partial modification of the order is therefore suggested. For the future all Municipalities may be instructed to credit such deposits to the revenue head concerned, only after the commencement of the year to which they relate.

(c) *Pumping Stations.*—In Municipalities where water-works have been introduced, large sums are spent in the pumping stations on the purchase of coal, oil, &c., but these are not susceptible of check either by the Municipal Council, or my staff, as professional knowledge is necessary for the determination of the quantities required for daily or monthly consumption. Such Municipalities may, perhaps, be asked to fix a scale in consultation with the professional authorities.

(d) *Hospital Receipts.*—There is at present no uniformity in regard to the method of accounting for the sale-proceeds of medicines, &c., and some difficulty is consequently felt in checking the realisations and seeing that they have been duly credited to the Municipalities. To obviate this it would be well to prescribe a register for adoption in all Municipal hospitals where medicines are sold to the public or where recoveries are effected for diet charges, and the following simple form is suggested. If it meets with the approval of Government, the necessary instructions will be issued as to the manner in which it should be posted in the hospital and checked in the Municipal office:—

No.	Name.	Amount due.	Amount paid.	Date of payment.	Date of remittance into Municipal office.	Balance, if any, at end of year.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

(e) *Securities.*—There are no definite rules at present as regards the taking of security from Municipal employes, and the omission has once or twice been brought to my notice by Chairmen. It seems desirable that some orders should issue as to the classes of servants from whom security should be taken, as has been done in the case of Local Fund employes, and the following list is submitted for the consideration of Government:—

- (i) Secretary when not a Government servant.
- (ii) Manager or head clerk.
- (iii) Shroff.
- (iv) Bill collectors.
- (v) Sanitary inspectors, when entrusted with the collection of Municipal money.
- (vi) Overseer.
- (vii) Storekeeper.
- (viii) Peons who take remittances to the treasury, if considered necessary by the Council.
- (ix) Generally all employes who have to deal with Municipal money or stores.

As regards the nature of the security to be demanded, a rule similar to that contained in article 77, Local Fund Code, is suggested, and if approved circular instructions on the subject will issue.

(f) *Advances.*—In some Municipalities large advances are made to Councillors for the purchase of materials, live-stocks, &c., or the execution of works. The amounts are frequently drawn long before they are required for disbursement, and their adjustment is also in many cases unduly delayed owing to the unwillingness of the office staff to trouble the Councillor in the matter, while for the same reason proper vouchers are not always insisted on. It is desirable for obvious reasons that the Council should deal directly with the vendor or contractor, and this view has once or twice been accepted by Government in their reviews of individual audit reports, but no general orders on the point has yet been passed. It would be well if all Councils were asked to discontinue, as far as possible, the system of advances to Councillors.

6. The general state of the accounts must still be considered unsatisfactory, though there are many Municipalities, especially among the minor ones, to which this remark does not apply. The audits revealed the fact that much closer supervision is required, especially as regards the collection of receipts, for as pointed out last year very little control is exercised over the operations of the bill collectors, and the same may be said of the office staff itself. It is to be hoped that with the appointment of Secretaries to all the larger Municipalities, which are usually the worst from an account point of view, a gradual improvement will be effected.

L.F.D. No. 691.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, Fort St. George.

I agree with the suggestions made by the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
11th January 1899.

(Signed) T. HESKETH BIGGS,
Accountant-General.

ORDER—No. 202 M., dated 15th February 1899.

Communicated to all Municipal Councils.

2. It is unsatisfactory to observe that there has again been much delay in some of the Municipal offices, especially in those of Tanjore, Cocanada, Mangalore, Kumbakonam, Trichinopoly, Mannargudi, Rajahmundry, Tellicherry, Masulipatam and Vizagapatam, in returning the audit notes to the Accountant-General. The delay in

the case of Vizagapatam, extending to nearly six months, seems very discreditable. The Chairmen of the Municipal Councils concerned are requested to explain fully the delay and take steps to prevent its recurrence.

3. The arrangement proposed by the Inspector in paragraph 3 of his report is approved.

4. The Chairmen of the nineteen Municipal Councils referred to in paragraph 4, more particularly those of Trichinopoly, Vellore, Dindigul and Anantapur, whose accounts were in the worst condition, are requested to report the action which they propose to take to secure better results in future. The Government observes with pleasure the comparative excellence of the accounts in the Ootacamund Municipal office.

5. (1) *Paragraph 5 (a).*—The Inspector is referred to G.O., No. 1663 M., dated 27th September 1898, in which the question now raised by him has already been decided.

(2) *Paragraph 5 (b), (d) and (e).*—The Inspector's suggestions are approved.

(3) *Paragraph 5 (c).*—The proposal made by the Inspector will be referred to the Sanitary Engineer for remarks.

(4) *Paragraph 5 (f).*—The system of making advances to Municipal Councilors should be discontinued.

6. It is regretted that the general results of the audit were again unsatisfactory and that notwithstanding the remarks in paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 777 M., dated 18th April 1898, the supervision exercised over the collection of revenue was far from adequate. The Chairmen of Municipal Councils are requested to devote their special and personal attention to this matter in future, and the Government shares the hope expressed by the Inspector, that the appointment of Secretaries will effect a gradual improvement in the state of the accounts of the larger Municipalities.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
„ all Collectors.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Sanitary Engineer.
„ the Surgeon-General.
Editors' Table.

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

Government {1899} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Proof for approval.

KR
23-2-99

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Enclosures

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(4) *Paragraph 5 (f).*—The system of making advances to Municipal Councilors should be discontinued.

6. It is regretted that the general results of the audit were again unsatisfactory and that notwithstanding the remarks in paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 777 M., dated 18th April 1898, the supervision exercised over the collection of revenue was far from adequate. The Chairmen of Municipal Councils are requested to devote their special and personal attention to this matter in future, and the Government shares the hope expressed by the Inspector, that the appointment of Secretaries will effect a gradual improvement in the state of the accounts of the larger Municipalities.

(True Extract.)

for Secretary to Government.

To all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
 „ all Collectors.
 „ the Accountant-General.
 „ the Sanitary Engineer.
 „ the Surgeon-General.
 Editors' Table.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From W. J. F. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Assistant Accountant-General and Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Madras, to the Accountant-General, dated Camp, Vizianagram, 3rd January 1899.

I have the honour to submit my annual consolidated report on the accounts of the District Municipalities of this Presidency for the year 1896-97. As in previous years the delay in its submission is due to the tardy return of the audit notes by some of the Municipalities, the chief offender on this occasion being the Vizagapatam Municipality, which only despatched the notes during the recent Christmas holidays, whereas they should have returned not later than the beginning of July 1898. In other words they were nearly six months late, and this notwithstanding the issue of three ordinary reminders, a special letter and a telegram followed by two letters to the Collector asking him to call on the Chairman to forward the notes without further delay. I think some notice should be taken of the matter. The only notes which have not yet been received are those of the Cannanore Municipality, but in this case the Chairman is not responsible for the delay. Owing to the heavy nature of the special investigation ordered in G.O., Mis. No. 569 M., dated 14th March 1898, and to the fact that the Assistant Inspector who conducted it fell ill and was obliged to take leave soon after the work was finished, the notes were only recently handed over.

2. In the following cases also the return of the notes was greatly delayed, the number of reminders that had to issue being shown against each. Several of these are Municipalities in which a similar delay was noticed last year, and it is to be regretted that notwithstanding the remark made by Government in paragraph 2 of its order No. 777 M., dated 18th April 1898, no improvement has been shown in this respect:—

Name.	Number of reminders.
Tanjore ..	3
Cocanada..	3
Mangalore ..	3
Kumbakonam ..	3 and a special letter.
Trichinopoly ..	3 Do.
Mannargudi ..	3 Do.
Rajahmundry ..	3 Do.
Tellicherry ..	3 Do.
Masulipatam ..	3 Do.

and a telegram.

3. For some years past it has been the practice to append to this report a statement showing in considerable detail the various repeated defects found in each Municipality. This, I consider, is unnecessary. In the first place the system of showing only repeated defects is an unreliable one. For, unless the auditing officer specially remarks in each case that the defect in question was noticed in the previous

year, there is every probability of its being taken as a new one when the statement is prepared for submission with the consolidated report. It is true the compiling clerk is expected to compare the objections raised in the year under report with those of the previous one, but it is impossible for him to remember the whole of a year's objections when going through the subsequent year's notes, and the figures given by him as representing the repeated defects cannot therefore be relied on. Further, much labour is involved in the preparation of the statement, and even if it were accurate, I would recommend its abolition, as it is, in my opinion, neither practicable nor necessary to attempt to distinguish between errors which have been observed before and those noticed for the first time. The general efficiency of the several Municipalities from an account point of view can be tested more easily and accurately by an enumeration of the *total* number of defects discovered in each case and I accordingly append a statement drawn out on these lines. The Municipalities, it will be observed, have been divided into four groups, viz., heavy, medium, light and very light, with reference to their net receipts and are arranged in each group in their order of merit, while by way of comparison with the previous year, column 3 shows the position occupied by each Municipality in that year, also with reference to the total number of errors. The figures in column 2 are taken from the audit notes, wherein the defects are set forth in detail, and there thus seems no necessity to burden the report with an elaborate statement occupying several pages of print as has hitherto been the practice. It is trusted this arrangement will meet with the approval of Government. Each sub-paragraph of the notes has been counted as a separate defect, as it is frequently found convenient to group together objections falling under a particular head:—

Statement of defects.

Name of Municipality.	Number of defects.	Order of merit of previous year.	Name of Municipality.	Number of defects.	Order of merit of previous year.
<i>Heavy.</i>			<i>Medium—cont.</i>		
1. Ootacamund	23	1	21. Cuddalore	101	20
2. Salem	42	4	22. Vellore	112	17
3. Negapatam	47	6	<i>Light.</i>		
4. Cocanada	51	5	1. Tirupattūr	14	8
5. Kumbakonam	63	8	2. Palamcottā	16	10
6. Tanjore	64	10	3. Tirupati	18	5
7. Calicut *	69	3	4. { Karūr	19	8
8. Bellary	82	2	5. { Mayavaram	19	14
9. Madurai	95	9	6. Chidambaram	22	6
10. Trichinopoly	143	7	7. Chidacole	23	18
<i>Medium.</i>			8. { Vaniyambādi	26	11
1. Nellore	16	5	9. { Periyakulam	26	1
2. Bezwada	17	3	10. { Cochin	28	16
3. { Guntūr	18	1	11. { Tiruvannāmalai	28	†
4. { Vizianagaram	18	9	12. Coonoor	30	2
5. Berhampur	21	16	13. Mannārgudi	33	17
6. Conjeeveram	25	13	14. Erode	34	13
7. { Tellicherry	30	10	15. { Anakāpalle	35	12
8. { Palghat	30	8	16. { Srivilliputtūr	35	15
9. Tinnevely	33	6	17. Gudiyāttam	43	7
10. { Ellore	38	7	18. Srirangam	52	9
11. { Coimbatore	38	11	19. Dindigul	53	4
12. Tuticorin	43	2	<i>Very light.</i>		
13. Cuddapah	55	18	1. Bimlipatam	16	1
14. Mangalore	59	15	2. Palni	23	2
15. Adóni	59	4	3. Chingleput	29	†
16. Cannanore *	60	19	4. Parlākimedi	30	6
17. Masulipatam	64	14	5. Ongole	40	3
18. Rajahmundry *	75	21	6. Walajapet	47	4
19. Kurnool *	86	12	7. Anantapur	72	5
20. Vizagapatam	100	22			

* Defalcations were reported in these Municipalities.

† The audit of 1896-97 was the first of its kind.

4. From the above statement it will be seen that the Municipalities of Ootacamund, Nellore, Tirupattūr and Bimlipatam are the best in their respective groups, though

(e) *Securities*.—There are no definite rules at present as regards the taking of security from Municipal employes, and the omission has once or twice been brought to my notice by Chairmen. It seems desirable that some orders should issue as to the classes of servants from whom security should be taken, as has been done in the case of Local Fund employes, and the following list is submitted for the consideration of Government:—

- (i) Secretary when not a Government servant.
- (ii) Manager or head clerk.
- (iii) Shroff.
- (iv) Bill collectors.
- (v) Sanitary inspectors, when entrusted with the collection of Municipal money.
- (vi) Overseer.
- (vii) Storekeeper.
- (viii) Peons who take remittances to the treasury, if considered necessary by the Council.
- (ix) Generally all employes who have to deal with Municipal money or stores.

As regards the nature of the security to be demanded, a rule similar to that contained in article 77, Local Fund Code, is suggested, and if approved circular instructions on the subject will issue.

(f) *Advances*.—In some Municipalities large advances are made to councillors for the purchase of materials, live-stocks, &c., or the execution of works. The amounts are frequently drawn long before they are required for disbursement, and their adjustment is also in many cases unduly delayed owing to the unwillingness of the office staff to trouble the councillor in the matter, while for the same reason proper vouchers are not always insisted on. It is desirable for obvious reasons that the Council should deal directly with the vendor or contractor, and this view has once or twice been accepted by Government in their reviews of individual audit reports, but no general orders on the point has yet been passed. It would be well if all Councils were asked to discontinue, as far as possible, the system of advances to councillors.

6. The general state of the accounts must still be considered unsatisfactory, though there are many Municipalities, especially among the minor ones, to which this remark does not apply. The audits revealed the fact that much closer supervision is required, especially as regards the collection of receipts, for as pointed out last year very little control is exercised over the operations of the bill collectors, and the same may be said of the office staff itself. It is to be hoped that with the appointment of Secretaries to all the larger Municipalities, which are usually the worst from an account point of view, a gradual improvement will be effected.

L. F. D. No. 691.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, Fort St. George.

I agree with the suggestions made by the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

FORT ST. GEORGE.
11th January 1899.

(Signed) T. HESKETH BIGGS,
Accountant-General.

Local & Munl. (189⁹) Department.

CURRENT No. 162M

Order

From

The Accountant General
M. A. M.

No. $\frac{278}{691}$

Dated 11th January 1899

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Consolidated report
on the audit of the accounts of the
District Municipalities in this presi-
-dency for 1896-97.

Pass

Please put this into type

Y.B.

18/1/99

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Camp. Vizianagram.

3rd January 1899.

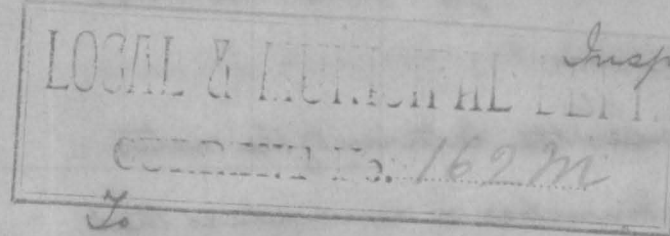
From

W. J. F. Williamson Esq^{re}

Assistant Accountant General and

Inspector of Local Fund Accounts,

Madras.



The Accountant General,

Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit my annual consolidated report on the accounts of the District Municipalities of this Presidency for the year 1896-97. As in previous years the delay in its submission is due to the tardy return of the audit notes by some of the Municipalities - the chief offender on this occasion being the Vizagapatam Municipality, which only despatched the notes during the recent Christmas holidays, whereas they should have returned not later than the beginning of July 1898. In other words they were nearly 6 months late, and this notwithstanding the issue of 3 ordinary reminders, a special letter and a telegram, followed by two letters to the Collector asking him to call on the Chairman to forward the notes without further delay. I think some notice should be taken of the matter. The only notes which have not yet been received are those of the Cannanore Municipality but in this case the Chairman is not responsible.

for the delay. Owing to the heavy nature of the special investigation ordered in G. O. No 569 M. D. dated 14th March/98, and to the fact that the Assistant Inspector who conducted it fell ill and was obliged to take leave soon after the work was finished, the notes were only recently handed over.

2. In the following cases ^{also} the return of the notes was greatly delayed, the number of reminders that had to issue being shown against each. Several of these are Municipalities in which a similar delay was noticed last year, and it is to be regretted that notwithstanding the remark made by Government in para 2 of its order No 777 M. dated 18th April 1898, no improvement has been shown in this respect.

Name	No of Reminders	Remarks	Name	No of Reminders	Remarks
Tanjore	3		Mannargudi	3	and special letter
Gocanada	3		Rajahmundry	3	- Do -
Mangalore	3		Tellicherry	3	- Do -
Thimbarum	3	and a special letter	Masulipatam	3	- Do - and a telegram.
Trichinopoly	3	- Do -			

3. For some years past it has been the practice to append to this report a statement showing in considerable detail the various repeated defects found in each Municipality. This, I consider, is unnecessary. In the first place the system of showing only repeated defects is an unreliable one. For unless the auditing officer specially remarks in each case that the defect in question was noticed in the previous year, there is every probability of its being taken as a new one when the statement is prepared for submission with the report. It is true

Disputed Audit P

True the compiling Clerk is expected to compare the objections raised in the year under report with those of the previous one, but it is impossible for him to remember the whole of a year's objections when going through the subsequent year's notes, and the figures given by him as representing the repeated defects cannot therefore be relied on. Further much labour is involved in the preparation of the statement, and even if it were accurate, I would recommend its abolition, as it is in my opinion neither practicable nor necessary to attempt to distinguish between errors which have been observed before and those noticed for the first time. The general efficiency of the several Municipalities from an account point of view can be tested more easily and accurately by an enumeration of the total number of defects discovered in each case and I accordingly append a statement drawn out on these lines. The Municipalities, it will be observed, have been divided into four groups, viz: heavy, medium, light and very light, with reference to their net receipts and are arranged in each group in their order of merit. While by way of comparison with the previous year, Column 3 shows the position occupied by each Municipality in that year, also with reference to the total number of errors. The figures in Column 2 are taken from the audit notes, wherein the defects are set forth in detail, and there thus seems no necessity to burden the report with an elaborate statement occupying several

of print as has hitherto

4
 seem the practice. It is trusted this arrangement will meet with the approval of Government. Each sub-para of the notes has been counted as a separate defect, as it is frequently found convenient to group together objections falling under a particular head.

Statement of Defects.

Name of Municipality	Number of defects	Order of merit of municipalities	Name of Municipality	Number of defects	Order of merit of municipalities
Heavy.					
1. Cochin	23	1	20. Vizagapatnam	100	22
2. Salem	42	4	21. Cuddalore	101	20
3. Nagapatnam	47	6	22. Vellore	112	17
4. Cocanada	51	5	Light.		
5. Kumbakonam	63	8	1. Tirupattur	14	3
6. Tanjore	64	10	2. Palamcottah	16	10
7. Calicut	69	3	3. Tirupati	18	5
8. Bellary	82	2	4. Karur	19	8
9. Madurai	95	9	5. Mayavaram	19	14
10. Trichinopoly	143	7	6. Chidambaram	22	6
Medium.			7. Chittoor	23	18
1. Vellore	16	5	8. Vaniyambudi	26	11
2. Bezwada	17	3	9. Periyakulam	26	1
3. Sivakasi	18	1	10. Cochin	28	16
4. Vizianagaram	18	9	11. Tiruvannamalai	28	⊗
5. Berhampore	21	16	12. Coonoor	30	2
6. Congerwarum	25	13	13. Mannargudi	33	17
7. Tellicherry	30	10	14. Erode	34	13
8. Palghat	30	8	15. Anapatti	35	12
9. Tirunelveli	33	6	16. Tiruvallur	35	15
10. Vellore	38	7	17. Gudiyattur	43	7
11. Coimbatore	38	11	18. Tirurangam	52	9
12. Tuticorin	43	2	19. Dindigul	53	4
13. Cuddalore	55	18	Very light.		
14. Mangalore	56	15	1. Bimlipatam	16	1
15. Adoni	59	4	2. Palni	23	2
16. Cannanore	60	19	3. Chingleput	29	⊗
17. Masulipatam	64	14	4. Parlakimidi	30	6
18. Warrangal	75	21	5. Angola	40	3
19. Warangal	86	12	6. Walajpet	47	4
			7. Anantapur	72	5

reported in 1st. 2nd.

of 1896-97 was the first.

dated Audit R.

5

4. From the above statement it will be seen that the Municipalities of Cochin, Salem, Tirupattur and Bimlipatam are the best in their respective groups, though closely followed by several others, especially among the medium and light Municipalities, while Trichinopoly, Vellore, Dindigul and Anantapur are the worst. Generally speaking it may be said that in the following cases the accounts are not well kept.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Cocanada | 11. Kurnool |
| 2. Kumbakonam | 12. Vizagapatnam |
| 3. Tanjore | 13. Cuddalore |
| 4. Calicut | 14. Vellore |
| 5. Bellary | 15. Mannargudi |
| 6. Madurai | 16. Gudiyattur |
| 7. Trichinopoly | 17. Tirurangam |
| 8. Coimbatore | 18. Dindigul |
| 9. Masulipatam | 19. Anantapur |
| 10. Rajahmundry | |

5. The orders of Government may be obtained on the following points—

(a) Temporary Appointments — The question is whether in the case of temporary servants appointed by the Chairman under Section 42 (2) of the revised act, the subsequent sanction of Government is necessary in addition to the requirements of the act that every such appointment be reported at the next following meeting of the council, presumably for information. In G.O. No 2285 dated 5th October, 1907, it has been decided that

8
some orders should issue as to the classes of
servants from whom security should be taken, as
has been done in the case of Local Fund Employees,
and the following list is submitted for the con-
sideration of Government.

- (i) Secretary, when not a Government servant,
- (ii) Manager or Head Clerk,
- (iii) Shroff,
- (iv) Bill Collectors,
- (v) Sanitary Inspectors, when entrusted with the
collection of Municipal money,
- (vi) Overseer,
- (vii) Storekeeper,
- (viii) Peons who take remittances to the Treasury, if
considered necessary by the Council,
- (ix) Generally all employees who have to deal with
Municipal money or stores.

As regards the nature of the security to be demanded,
a rule similar to that contained in article 77 Local
Fund Code is suggested, and if approved circular
instructions on the subject will issue.

(f) Advances. - In some Municipalities large
advances are made to Councillors for the purchase
of materials, live-stocks &c, or the execution of works.
The amounts are frequently drawn long before they
are required for disbursement, and their adjustment
is also in many cases unduly delayed owing to the
unwillingness of the Office staff to trouble the coun-
ciller in the matter, while for some reason proper
books are not always kept. It is desirable for

dated Audit R

9
for obvious reasons, that the Council should deal
directly with the Vendor or Contractor, and this view
has once or twice been accepted by Government,
in their reviews of individual audit reports, but
no general order on the point has yet been passed.
It would be well if all Councils were asked to
discontinue, as far as possible, the system of
advances to Councillors.

b. The general state of the accounts must still
be considered unsatisfactory, though there are
many Municipalities, especially among the minor
ones, to which this remark does not apply. The Audits
revealed the fact that much closer supervision is
required, especially as regards the collection of
receipts, for as pointed out last year very little control
is exercised over the operations of the bill Collectors,
and the same may be said of the office staff itself.
It is to be hoped that with the appointment of
Secretaries to all the larger Municipalities, which are
usually the worst from an account point of view, a
gradual improvement will be effected.

I have etc.

(Signed) W. J. F. Williamson.

Assistant Accountant General
and Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

L.F.D.
691

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Department, Fort Saint George

I agree with the suggestions made by the
Inspector of Local Fund Accounts.

Acctt Genl's Office.
Fort St George
1st May 1891.

Accountant Ge

Final
Consolidated Audit Report-

for 1896-97.

P.S.
ORDER

13.2.89
No. 157497 58
Communicated to all Municipal

Councils.

with spec. ref 6
Secretaries para. 5(c)
of report.

The list is right enough.
Mt
J. M.

2. It is unsatisfactory to observe that there has again been much delay in some of the Municipal Offices, especially in those of Tanjore, Coconada, Mangalore, Kumbakonam, Trichinopoly, Mannargudi, Rajahmundry, Tellicherry, Masulipatan, and Vizagapatam, in returning the audit notes to the Accountant-General. The delay in the case of Vizagapatam extending to nearly six months, ^{seen} is very discreditable. The Chairmen of the Municipal Councils concerned are requested to explain ^{fully} the delay and take steps to prevent its recurrence.

3. The arrangement proposed by the Inspector in para. 3 of his report is approved.

4. The Chairmen of the nineteen Municipal Councils referred to in para. 4, more particularly those of Trichinopoly, Vellore, Dindigul and Anantapur, whose accounts were in the worst condition, are requested to report the action which they propose to take to secure better results in future.

The Govt. observes with pleasure the
5. (1) Paragraph 5(a). The Inspector is referred to G.O. No. 1663 M., dated 27th September 1898, in which, the question now raised by him has already been decided.

(2) Paragraph 5(b), (d) and (e). The Inspector's suggestions are approved.

(3) Paragraph 5(c). The proposal made by the Inspector will be referred to

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x Comparative Excellence of
the ac. IS in the Botac?
Municipal Office.

the Sanitary Engineer for remarks.

(4) Paragraph 5(f). The system of making advances to Municipal Councillors should be discontinued.

6. It is ~~to be~~ regretted that the general results of the audit were again unsatisfactory and that notwithstanding the remarks in para. 5 of G.O. No. 777 M., dated 18th April 1898, the supervision exercised over the collection of the revenue was far from adequate. The Chairmen of Municipal Councils are requested to devote their special and personal attention to this matter in future, and the Government shares the hope expressed by the Inspector, that the appointment of Secretaries will effect a gradual improvement in the state of the accounts of the large Municipalities.

Like para. 6 of the Inspector's letter.

V.S.
10/3/99

AT
11 2 99

To

copy 2
4/8/99 { All Chairmen of municipal councils ✓
" Collectors ✓
The Accountant-General ✓
" Sanitary Engineer ✓
" Surgeon General. ✓
1/3/99
Editors' Table.

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16-2-99

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27-2-99

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1-3-99

4-3-99

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