Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Read the following

5th September 1883, No. 1953, Financial.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers:—

From Brigade-Surgeon G. BIDIE, M.B., C.I.E., Officiating Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 6th July 1883, No. 739.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, my inspection notes on Coonoor Municipality.

Enclosure.

Inspection Notes of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner for Madras on Coonoor.

Inspected, 30th June 1883.

The amenity of the station has been greatly impaired by the cutting down of portions of the sholas, between the bazaar and the road leading up from it past the Library. This will probably subject some of the lower parts of the Settlement to violent rushes of storm-water when heavy rain falls, and may also interfere with some springs. It was further mentioned to me that the trees in a beautiful ravine below "Glenview Hotel" are likely to be cleared away. This will have the effect of drying up a perennial spring in the bottom of the shola, from which excellent drinking water is got at present for "Glenview" and several private houses. I do not know that Government or the Municipality can interfere, but it seems a duty to bring these matters to notice, as they are likely to have a prejudicial influence on one of the most favourite and most beautiful of Indian hill sanitariums.

Roads.—The main roads are in fair order, but some of the smaller bazaar roads are in a bad state. The wooden bridge at the top of the new ghât road requires early attention, as some of the cross-beams and platform-planks are in a state of decay and appear, to a non-professional eye, dangerous.

Drainage.—The existing system of drains is very bad, although the natural facilities for drainage are excellent. In some parts of the main bazaar and on Mission Hill, the sewage and drinking water must get mixed. The existing drains are open ruts in a porus soil, so that there must be constant soakage towards lower levels. They are also often much water-worn and with depressions, which virtually form cess-pools and smell abominably. The local volunteers parade on a grass plot behind the Municipal office, and I was told that before a parade, they are obliged to ask the Municipal Inspector to prevent, during drill, the discharge of sewage from the hill above, as it includes in the morning the washings of the pails of a public latrine.

Dust-bins.—These number thirty, of which twenty-five are made of corrugated iron, and five are wooden tubs. It was observed that the people are very careless and do not always take the trouble to put refuse into the bins, but throw it down in the streets. Some energetic measures ought to be taken to prevent this. Four carts are employed for the conveyance of ordinary refuse, part of which is consumed in a cinerator situated on the old ghât-road, and the ashes used to mix with the night-soil, which is conveyed to this place in three close carts. When the process of mixing is going on, the smell, I was informed, is very bad and deters visitors from using Barlow's road, which was intended to be, and would be, one of the most pleasant drives in the place but for this nuisance. In this and in some other respects, good arrangements and intentions have, in this station, been vitiated by the want of a little judicious forethought at the outset. The undergrowth in some places near the bazaar and also on the hills above is very dirty, and the smell highly offensive.

Latrines.—There are nineteen public latrines which do not seem sufficient considering the scattered nature of the Settlement. In erecting latrines, several cardinal points require attention. In the first place they ought to be in a convenient position, as the people will not go to

any great distance, if they can help it, to reach a convenience of this kind. In the next place they ought to be as clean and as well adapted to native habits as circumstances will admit. If they are on a bad plan so that the floors get sloppy or soiled with filth, the people will not, and cannot be expected to use them. I saw at Coonoor a simple screen latrine which, owing to its filthy state, I should have been sorry to have entered with boots on: how then can we expect the natives to enter such a place with bare feet? In short we must make these structures decent and convenient if we wish them to be of any use. The present *pucka-built* public latrines in Coonoor are not constructed on a very good plan, and the flooring gets into bad repair. They might be altered at a trifling cost, so as to bring them into conformity with the public latrines in Ootacamund station. Screen latrines, of which there are three, are not suitable for a station like this, and ought to be replaced by permanent structures. Good latrine accommodation is one of the first and most necessary steps towards proper conservancy in a town. The public latrine behind "Glenview" stables was found very dirty and in bad repair. It is much too small, there being only four seats, viz., two for males and two for females. During "the season" there will probably be over 150 servants in this neighbourhood, all of whom must either go to this latrine or to some natural cover in the neighbourhood. Need it be said that, under existing circumstances, they generally prefer the latter alternative, and that the undergrowth is in a very filthy state. I went that way in the morning and the smell encountered and appearance of several human heads amongst the bushes were sufficient to indicate the state of matters without closer inspection. It is, I believe, intended to erect a larger latrine in this quarter, and this ought to be done at once. Private scavengering is at present undertaken to a very small extent by the Municipality, but should be extended. Efforts should also be made to get house-holders to erect private latrines for the accommodation of their servants. Hitherto Coonoor has been remarkably healthy, but if the present careless system of conservancy is persevered in, sooner or later the usual consequences of such neglect will follow, and the repute of the station as a sanitarium be ruined. The existing conservancy establishment is as follows:—

	1 Inspector.	
	For Hospital	2 Sweepers.
	,, ,, night-soil ..	2 Scavengers.
	,, Slaughter-house ..	1 Scavenger.
	,, Market	2 Sweepers.
General Conservancy.— ..	1 Peon.	
	3 Scavengers	1st Class.
	2 ,, ...	2nd ,,
	2 ,, ...	3rd ,,
	2 ,, ...	4th ,,
	5 Drivers.	
	1 Gram-boiler.	
Road-cleaning Establishment.—	7 Sweepers.	
Private Scavengering.— ..	3 Scavengers.	
Water-course Conservancy.— ..	2 Peons.	
	2 Coolies.	

Water-supply.—The present mode of distribution is simply loathsome, as the water cannot fail to get mixed with filth and sewage. The apathy of the rate-payers must be very great when they submit to use such an impure supply, and the fact that they continue to use it with apparent impunity is simply wonderful and doubtless partly due to an acquired tolerance which may, however, be unduly strained. *Settling-basins* to clean and economise the water are very urgently needed, and might be excavated behind Sim's Park. The water might then be let on during the day only and should be conveyed thence and distributed in pipes. By the present arrangement, the health state of the sanitarium is, in my opinion, greatly endangered.

Slaughter-houses.—These are situated a little below the head of the Old-Ghât-Road, and consist of a *killing-house* which is much too small and low in the roof, and of a *cutting-up-house*. I found the flooring of both buildings broken, so that much soakage of dirty fluids must take place, and outside these was a heap of the filthy contents of the stomach and bowels of animals recently killed. It appears also that the supply of water is not so large as it should be, and that it is liable to be cut off occasionally as it passes through private grounds higher up the hill. But the most extraordinary part of the arrangement is the presence of two public latrines between, and in close proximity to, the killing and cutting-up-houses. In fact the air generally, at the time of my visit, was pervaded by the smell from the latrines and from the offal outside the slaughter-house. How such a system could have been sanctioned and perpetuated by the Municipality I fail to understand. Every piece of meat prepared for market in this place must be exposed to an atmosphere saturated with the odour of human excrement, and also to the visits of flies which are plentiful and very cosmopolitan in their wanderings. Is it to be wondered at that residents in Coonoor complain that the meat will not keep? Dr. Johnson who kindly accompanied me during my inspection mentioned that it is proposed to build another slaughter-house on the other side of the valley, on a site commanding a perennial water-supply. No time should be lost in

carrying out this scheme, provided the water-supply is sufficiently pure and the locality suitable in all respects.

Markets.—The market place is kept clean and suitable arrangements made.

Lighting.—The Inspector informed me that there are 62 kerosine lamps belonging to the Municipality, and the public roads are fairly lighted.

Hospital.—I went round the hospital and found it clean and generally in good order.

MADRAS, *6th July* 1883.

(Signed) G. BIDIE, Brigade-Surgeon, M.B., C.I.E., *Officiating Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.*

No. 1302.

Forwarded to the President, Municipal Commission, Coonoor, for very early remarks.

OOTACAMUND, *11th July* 1883.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN, *Acting Under Secy. to Govt.*

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Coonoor.

From F. BRANDT, Esq., Collector of Nílgiris and President, Coonoor Municipal Commission, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Coonoor, 27th July 1883, No. 73.

I have the honor to return, with remarks, the report of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner upon his inspection of the Coonoor Municipality.

2. I asked the Vice-President and Commissioners to offer any comments that they might have to make on the report, and am myself now inspecting the place in communication with him.

3. Dr. Bidie is right in his supposition that the cutting of sholas, of which he speaks, is done by private proprietors only. The sholas on Government ground are carefully preserved by the Commissioners. It is not possible to prevent private persons from clearing, but the Commissioners may, perhaps, be able to impress on owners of private grounds that damage may be done to their grounds as well as to public property by indiscriminate felling.

4. An estimate for repairing the bridge in so far as it is under the Municipality was passed before Dr. Bidie made his report. The bridge across the stream over which the main road runs is under the Local Fund Board. I shall lay Dr. Bidie's remarks before the Board, and take steps for having what is necessary done. The Commissioners consider that a more substantial bridge should be built, and I am inclined to agree with them and will, if possible, provide funds.

5. *Drainage.*—The Commissioners were, I know, fully alive to the requirements of the town and the unsatisfactory condition of the drainage before Dr. Bidie's inspection. They had themselves brought to my notice the urgent necessity for a systematic drainage scheme, and have, as they say, repeatedly brought the matter to the notice of Government, with a view to obtaining a special grant from Government. The matter is really pressing; but I do not see how, with a very limited means at their disposal, they can do what is required. I do trust it may be possible for Government to give this Municipality a grant for this and other sanitary requirements. The circumstances of the Municipality are exceptional, their means very limited. If there is any prospect of a grant for the purpose next year, an estimate could be passed.

Latrines.—What I have already seen of this station shows me that Dr. Bidie's remarks are in no way exaggerated. The number of public latrines is not sufficient; those that there are are not large enough, nor are they well designed, nor well kept. But there seems to have been considerable misapprehension on the part of the Commissioners as to their powers in respect of compelling owners of private premises to keep latrines for the use of their servants and followers. I had written to the Commissioners on this subject before, and will again press the subject. It seems to have been

thought that the Commissioners were bound to provide public latrines for the use of private establishments. I find that the large hotels here have no latrines of their own, and that what there are are served by the Municipality. This is a state of things which must be at once put a stop to. It is impossible for places like these large hotels to be kept clean without proper latrine-accommodation, and this the proprietors *must* provide for themselves. The matter will be impressed most strongly on the Commissioners again, and I hope effective steps will be at once taken.

Dust-bins.—Precisely the same difficulty is encountered elsewhere : it is extremely difficult to catch the persons who throw the rubbish on to the ground instead of into the bins; but one or two successful prosecutions keep the nuisance under for a while.

Undergrowth.—The Commissioners ought to treat as noxious vegetation any undergrowth used as a cover for committing nuisance ; a clearance is now being made in several places of such undergrowth.

Water-supply.—The rate-payers have plenty of water, and pay nothing for the use of it ; no doubt it is much contaminated, and that it would be very desirable to have it conveyed and distributed in pipes. Again it is a question of funds. The Commissioners are as well aware, as the Sanitary Commissioner, of the importance of clean water-supply ; a scheme and estimate were submitted to Government, but laid aside for want of funds. A water-rate could not be imposed, which would cover the interest on the capital ; the Municipal Commission has not the funds, and Government will not lend, unless the scheme can be proved to be remunerative.

I do trust that Government may be in a position before long to afford to this Municipality some assistance such as they have liberally given to Ootacamund, the requirements of the two stations being somewhat similar and peculiar with reference to their requirements and the means at their disposal.

Slaughter-houses.—The position of these, their proximity to latrines, and to the place where night-soil is supposed to be converted into poudrette, is most objectionable ; it is, as Dr. Bidie says, difficult to conceive how these several places could have been located in one and the same neighbourhood.

I am now consulting with the Vice-President how at once to remedy some of the evils at all events.

Here again the Vice-President and Commissioners had themselves represented to me prior to Dr. Bidie's inspection the necessity for reform, and are only too well aware that the present arrangements are really intolerable.

6. The Commissioners conclude their remarks thus:—"They trust that the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner's report will induce Government to reconsider their applications for a grant to meet those urgent wants, as they have done as much as they can with their present limited means."

7. I am aware how many calls there are on the Government for grants from Provincial Funds, but I must plead for this Municipality.

8. At the same time I do not admit that all that could have been done has been done, but hope that very considerable improvements can be effected even with the means at present at disposal.

From F. BRANDT, Esq., Collector of Nílgiris and President, Coonoor Municipal Commission, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 9th August 1883, No. 82.

In continuation of my letter, No. 73, dated 27th July 1883, I have the honor to submit, for information of Government, a memorandum written after personal inspection of the Coonoor Municipality during a week's stay there.

2. It would, I think, greatly encourage the Vice-President and Commissioners if some prospect could be held out that Government may possibly be able next year at least to afford assistance from Provincial Funds towards the drainage and water-supply of Coonoor— really pressing wants—and that, if the slaughter-houses and sale

of poudrette can be shown to be remunerative (as to which I have little doubt) Government would be prepared to sanction a loan for these purposes. Without this I do not see how any really effective steps can be taken to remedy the present very unsatisfactory state of things *in these respects.*

3. As to the latrine question, the matter is, as I have attempted to show, to a great extent in the hands of the Commissioners themselves.

4. Referring to the remarks of Government in paragraph 11, G.O., 12th July 1883, No. 1469, Financial Department, regarding omission of the Vice-President and Commissioners to comment on the sanitary condition of the town, I trust that the report of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner and the memorandum now submitted will be considered sufficient.

Notes on Inspection of the Coonoor Municipality.

The sanitary condition of Coonoor is not at all satisfactory. The remarks of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner are by no means too severe.

2. The state of things near the slaughter-houses is such that I really cannot understand how the Commissioners can have allowed it ever to have to come into existence or tolerated it. It is not too much to say that it is a scandal to the administration.

3. Slaughter-houses, latrines and what is called a cinerator, and a poudrette shed (as it is styled) are all crowded into a small space close to a public road. One can see into the slaughter-houses from the public road : from the road which leads past the slaughter-houses and latrines to the "mixing shed," I saw a cow slaughtered in the open, the blood streaming down over the hill towards the Coonoor river ; the washings from one latrine actually pass through a slaughter-house. The place is disgusting beyond description : the first morning I went there I was very nearly sick. All the night-soil and other filth is carried past the slaughter-houses to the "mixing-house," which is about fifty or sixty yards only from the former and just below Barlow's road.

The so-called cinerator is a dome-shaped receptacle, the top of which is all broken to pieces. Dr. Bidie's remarks as to the foul flies passing from latrines to slaughter-houses, and *vice versâ* and the effect thereof on the meat would occur to any one. I cannot conceive how any Commissioner, if he had ever seen it, could have failed to urge the necessity of reform. I know that Dr. Johnson is fully alive to the horror of the place.

This state of things should not be tolerated any longer.

4. The first thing to be done was to remedy to some extent the worst evil. I suggested that at all events the latrines should be at once closed. The Vice-President agreed and said he would have the necessary orders given that day.

Anything is better than that these latrines should be used as they are, and flushed, and the water with its scourings sent through the further slaughter-house ; far better that the people should go into the jungles or elsewhere to ease themselves. But the Commissioners must find another site or sites for these latrines as soon as possible.

5. Then the carting of the night-soil to the mixing shed should be stopped so long at least as the slaughter-houses remain where they are. The Municipality makes a large profit by sale of the night-soil and sweepings. Rs. 2,000 or more this year. It is unquestionable that they have no right to make such a profit while they do not take proper steps to render the stuff inoffensive, and so dispose of it as not to be a public nuisance.

The Commissioners of Coonoor are far more fortunate than those of Ooty who, in the absence of the demand for the stuff in its natural state, have to cart it two miles or more and there bury it not only without any profit at all, but at great cost.

The system of "mixing" is as disgusting as it can well be. Night-soil, road sweepings, foul straw and manure is thrown into a vat round which are no walls, but which has a roof ; then ashes from the so-called cinerator are thown in, the stuff is then pounded by a man with his feet ; it is then again put into the contractor's carts and taken away to coffee estates.

It would be better, seeing that it would save carting past the slaughter-houses, uncarting and loading again, if this stuff were taken straight away to the estates. I believe it is said those who have bought the manure might object to take it "all natural," but unless there is a clause in the agreement that the stuff shall be "mixed" by the Municipality, I do not see they could object ; then if it is part of the agreement (as I suppose it must be) that the contractors shall remove it in their carts from the "mixing shed," if the stuff was taken to the estates in the Municipal closed carts, allowance for cost of cartage should be made by the contractors.

But the Commissioners are bound in common decency to convert the night-soil into real "poudrette" before carting it further through the public streets than is absolutely necessary.

It cannot (unless buried and left there altogether) be turned into inodorous poudrette without a proper drying shed and pug-mill. These should be provided.

The matter is one of urgent importance and I trust that the Commissioners will at once give their attention to it, and do *something* on the lines suggested, or devise something better if they can.

A proper cinerator should be built.

6. The Commissioners had, I understand, already resolved to build new slaughter-houses.

And first as to a site: one has been selected on the other side of the Coonoor river. I saw this. I am extremely doubtful if buildings could be placed on the precipitous side of the hill selected and an approach thereto made. I doubt if there is room. This should be ascertained. In other respects, the place is well hidden from view, but the beasts would have to be driven down the Main Ghât road for some way.

Then as to cost: it is said the Municipality has very inadequate funds, and this is true.

But the thing must be done. The slaughter-houses pay well; a loan must be asked, looking at the urgency and seeing that (as I believe) it could be shown that the object is remunerative. I see no reason to doubt that Government would grant a loan. I look to the Vice-President and Commissioners not to rest until this really crying nuisance is abated.

7. The next subject is *latrines* and the sanitary state of the place generally.

I have already stated* my views as to public and private latrines; but I believe the majority of the Commissioners do not agree with me and are inclined to allow the present state of things to continue.

* Letter No. 73, dated 27th July 1883.

I can only again urge my views, and denounce the present state of things as strongly as I can.

8. The state of the compounds attached to two of the principal hotels is very bad.

By Glenview (the upper part) close to he public road there is, from the stink always present, clearly a latrine among vegetation; there is not a latrine proper or other place for the numerous servants and house-keepers anywhere near; by the side of the high road near Gray's, the same. Several complaints have been made, but nothing has been done. There does not appear to have been a single notice served, still less a prosecution for keeping these and other private compounds in a filthy state.

9. Private scavengering fees are paid by Natives in considerable numbers. I believe I am correct in saying that only two Europeans pay such fees; that there are not, I believe, more than two private latrines attached to houses occupied by Europeans in the Municipality: in the Glenview Hotel premises (and I believe also at Gray's) there is a *public* latrine, *served by a Municipal scavenger who resides on the premises and for this the Proprietors of the Hotel pay not a farthing.*

10. I have been asked to request Government to obtain for the Municipality a piece of ground just across the road between whereon to put this "public latrine," and this at the cost of two acres of land elsewhere.

I am perfectly satisfied that there is at least no urgent need of a *public* latrine in this neighbourhood at all; that it would simply still be for the use of the hotel and its servants and servants and horse-keepers of visitors; public latrines are infinitely more urgently needed elsewhere. I must now finally decline to have anything to do with making a recommendation to Government and obtain this bit of land for this purpose.

The owners of hotels and private houses must supply their own requirements.

The latrine at Glenview ought, in view of the urgent requirements for latrines in the town proper, to be removed at once and placed elsewhere, and proprietors of hotels and houses should be prosecuted if they do not keep their premises clean, and this they cannot do without providing proper and sufficient latrine accommodation.

If this be done, it will set free Municipal funds which it is true are urgently wanted for other purposes.

11. But unless the Commissioners bestir themselves and enforce the powers given them under the Act, there can be no improvement, and the unsanitary state of the town will drive people away if it does not result in an epidemic.

At present no accommodation being provided by owners of private property, either their own grounds must be fouled—as it is clear many are—or the servants must foul public grounds; it cannot be said that this is a state of things which cannot be prevented under the Act. I saw some "tatty" latrines than which nothing could be more objectionable.

12. I would also point out that a great deal might be done in the way of dry-conservancy *trenches*; where night-soil has been *effectually* buried, there is no more satisfactory way of dealing with it.

Provided that trenches sufficiently deep are dug and the night-soil thoroughly covered, no harm can be done. If the place is selected, so that there can be no percolation to sources or water-supply and is constantly inspected, this is by far the cheapest way of disposing of offensive matter; this can be done by private proprietors on their own grounds. After a time the manure becomes perfectly inodorous and can be used with great advantage.

This plan has lately been adopted under the supervision of the Special Sanitary Officer here. I have watched the result, and it is in every way satisfactory, *provided there is effectual and constant supervision.* It is in force in the Jail compound, in the grounds of Government House, and at old Ooty.

13. *Drainage and Water-supply.*—These are beyond the means of the Commissioners to deal efficiently with the funds at their disposal. And I do not think that they can show any chance of their being directly remunerative works; therefore it is no use suggesting application for a loan.

But I would suggest that the Commissioners consider and report on such a scheme of drainage as is absolutely necessary for the health, safety and decency of the town—restricting themselves to that, I will strongly urge on Government the desirability of affording a certain amount of assistance from Provincial Funds, such as has been given in the case of Ooty Municipality. The exceptional requirements of the latter have been recognized, and liberal assistance has been given. The requirements of Coonoor are similar in character and not less in proportion.

14. So with the water-supply: so much only as is most necessary should be done at first, and the most limited amount attempted at first; it is at present useless to think of piping or covered channels further up than Sims' Park, but to preserve and protect the water from this point would do an immense amount of good and would prevent the extravagant waste which there is no doubt goes on among the proprietors of lands above the town.

15. I consider that it is incumbent on the inhabitants and proprietors of property in Coonoor to submit to the imposition of a water-rate—that it would eventually be to their profit to do so there is little doubt; it is not to be expected that Government will give, or even contribute largely to, the cost of a scheme for water-supply without any return whatever either to Government or the Municipality.

I shall be obliged if the Commissioners will consider and report what rate might fairly be imposed, how it shall be levied; it would then be possible to see what percentage would be recoverable on the outlay.

16. The Commissioners in their remarks on Dr. Bidie's late inspection state that schemes for drainage and water-supply have been drawn up and submitted to Government. They are requested to collect or give references to all papers connected with such schemes, and at the same time to consider and report whether those schemes might not be carried out in part at first, or so modified that there should be a reasonable chance of obtaining from Government a grant from Provincial Funds.

17. While dealing with this subject, I would respectfully submit to Government that for the efficient supervision of this Municipality, I doubt if the Medical Officer in charge has sufficient time. The office work requires constant attention, the carrying out of the administration falls practically on the Vice-President, the other gentlemen on the Commission are so fully occupied with their own private properties and interests that they cannot afford apparently much more time and assistance than can be given at Municipal meetings.

18. I would also venture to point out that as Vice-President, the Medical Officer is placed in a difficult and invidious position. If he sternly and fearlessly prosecutes nuisances, brings to light things which require reform and amendment in a sanitary point of view, it can hardly be otherwise than that he should give offence in some cases, and this may possibly interfere not only with his popularity, but his chances of private practice. I do not mean for a moment to insinuate that the knowledge that this is so has influenced or would be allowed knowingly to influence Medical Officers, but if pressure is required, I do not see where it is to come from elsewhere; the Medical Officer gets no remuneration, not even horse allowance for his trouble.

19. The Commissioners have themselves expressed an opinion that it is desirable to have a paid Vice-President. I am not at all sure that it would not be, in the end, as they themselves say, more economical to have a paid Vice-President. For myself though I may be considered retrogressive, I believe the best thing would be to have as Vice-President a European official independent of all local interests—and I may add that this view was expressed to me by one at least of the non-official Commissioners themselves—but I am afraid there is little or no possibility of a European officer's services being available.

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
President, Coonoor Municipality.

ORDER—dated 5th September 1883, No. 1953, Financial.

These papers bring to light a very disgraceful state of things in the Coonoor Municipality. Conservancy, both public and private, especially the latter, has been grossly neglected. The arrangements for the disposal of night-soil and rubbish are

offensive to a degree, in spite of the fact that the Municipality derives a large profit from this source. The Municipal latrines are insufficient in number, filthy in condition, and in bad repair, the consequence being that the undergrowth in all directions reeks with human ordure. The system of water distribution is described as "loathsome" and the condition of the slaughter-house as "disgusting beyond description."

2. The Municipal Commissioners appear to think that nothing can be done to remedy these revolting evils, unless done at the expense of the country generally. The Governor in Council, however, cannot hold out any hope of aid from Provincial Funds until the Commissioners shall have exhausted all their sources of taxation, and he observes that the means at present lying unutilised at their disposal are more than sufficient for the immediate purposes of reform.

3. As regards the prevention of nuisances and the enforcement of domestic conservancy, the general conservancy clauses of the Towns Improvement Act III of 1871 (Madras), Sections 96 to 151, confer ample powers on the Commissioners.

4. It would doubtless be impossible to execute from current revenues the various works of public improvement shown to be urgently required, but there is nothing to prevent the Municipality from seeking permission to raise a debenture loan in the open market under the Local Authorities Loans Act, and the Government have already in G.O., dated 18th December 1882, No. 1975, Mis., expressed their willingness to consider favorably any such application. Such works need not be remunerative in order to justify such an application. As regards the security on which such a loan might be raised, the Government observe that there are sources of taxation as yet unutilised, which might be made available to cover the interest on the sum borrowed, and to provide a sinking fund. The House-rate, for example, might be raised from the present rate of 5 per cent. to the maximum of 7½ per cent., and would thus be made to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 2,425 per annum. The rates on Land might also be raised. At present they compare with those levied in the Municipality of Ootacamund as follows :—

	Per Acre.	
	Ootacamund.	Coonoor.
	RS.	RS.
Potatoe and Vegetable gardens	2	1
Tea and Coffee	3	
Gum and Acacia	2	1
Shola land	1	
Cinchona	2	..
Peat land	5	..
Grass land	¼	⅛
Native cultivation	..	½

These rates might be doubled, and so yield an additional revenue of Rs. 1,650 per annum. On the whole then, the Commissioners have additional sources of revenue at their command, amounting to at least Rs. 4,000 per annum, which would be sufficient to cover interest at 5 per cent. and to provide a sinking fund at 2½ per cent. on a loan of 50,000 rupees. Nor would this increase of taxation be oppressive, as the completion of such works would certainly enhance the value of house and landed properties in the town. It is, therefore, only equitable that such works should form a charge on the rates on houses and lands. Should a water-supply scheme be carried out, a price should be put upon the water supplied to private individuals, and the cost of branch pipes from the main recovered from the house-owners concerned. The water works, as well as such works as new slaughter-houses, &c., might thus be made to yield a profit on the outlay.

5. As to the desirability of appointing a paid Vice-President, the Government consider such a course open to serious objection; but they would not object to the appointment of a *Secretary* on the same salary, viz., Rs. 200. Such an officer would be the Vice-President's *alter ego*, and would be chiefly employed in inspection and other out-door duties.

6. The Public Works Department will be requested to expedite the transmission of the Chief Engineer's remarks called for by endorsement No. 1327, dated 15th November 1882, on the plans for a scheme of water-supply submitted by the Coonoor Municipal Commission.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Coonoor.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

Orderthereon No: 2717 Dd 27 Septr 83

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer Fourth Circle, who will expedite the report ~~called for~~ called for in memo No: 2137/C dated 22nd Novr 1882

(True Extract)

Sd/- A. B. Majr. R.E.

under Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

Refered to
Cho 54.20
29-10-83

P6 No-3305 W, to be issued 20-11-83 - to be issued this day?
21/11.

To
The Superintending Engineer
Fourth Circle
Sub Dept. with copy enclosed
[illegible]

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 5th September 1883, No. 1953.

SEPTEMBER.

Municipal—Sanitary.

Passing orders on correspondence regarding the sanitary condition of Coonoor.

With order

B 2717 W 27-9-83

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From Brigade-Surgeon G. BIDIE, M.B., C.I.E., Officiating Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 6th July 1883, No. 739.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, my inspection notes on Coonoor Municipality.

ENCLOSURE.

Inspection Notes of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner for Madras on Coonoor.

Inspected, 30th June 1883.

The amenity of the station has been greatly impaired by the cutting down of portions of the sholas, between the bazaar and the road leading up from it past the Library. This will probably subject some of the lower parts of the Settlement to violent rushes of storm-water when heavy rain falls, and may also interfere with some springs. It was further mentioned to me that the trees in a beautiful ravine below "Glenview Hotel" are likely to be cleared away. This will have the effect of drying up a perennial spring in the bottom of the shola, from which excellent drinking water is got at present for "Glenview" and several private houses. I do not know that Government or the Municipality can interfere, but it seems a duty to bring these matters to notice, as they are likely to have a prejudicial influence on one of the most favourite and most beautiful of Indian hill sanitariums.

Roads.—The main roads are in fair order, but some of the smaller bazaar roads are in a bad state. The wooden bridge at the top of the new ghât road requires early attention, as some of the cross-beams and platform-planks are in a state of decay and appear, to a non-professional eye, dangerous.

Drainage.—The existing system of drains is very bad, although the natural facilities for drainage are excellent. In some parts of the main bazaar and on Mission Hill, the sewage and drinking water must get mixed. The existing drains are open ruts in a porus soil, so that there must be constant soakage towards lower levels. They are also often much water-worn and with depressions, which virtually form cess-pools and smell abominably. The local volunteers parade on a grass plot behind the Municipal office, and I was told that before a parade, they are obliged to ask the Municipal Inspector to prevent, during drill, the discharge of sewage from the hill above, as it includes in the morning the washings of the pails of a public latrine.

Dust-bins.—These number thirty, of which twenty-five are made of corrugated iron, and five are wooden tubs. It was observed that the people are very careless and do not always take the trouble to put refuse into the bins, but throw it down in the streets. Some energetic measures ought to be taken to prevent this. Four carts are employed for the conveyance of ordinary refuse, part of which is consumed in a cinerator situated on the old ghât-road, and the ashes used to mix with the night-soil, which is conveyed to this place in three close carts. When the process of mixing is going on, the smell, I was informed, is very bad and deters visitors from using Barlow's road, which was intended to be, and would be, one of the most pleasant drives in the place but for this nuisance. In this and in some other respects, good arrangements and intentions have, in this station, been vitiated by the want of a little judicious forethought at the outset. The undergrowth in some places near the bazaar and also on the hills above is very dirty, and the smell highly offensive.

Latrines.—There are nineteen public latrines which do not seem sufficient considering the scattered nature of the Settlement. In erecting latrines, several cardinal points require attention. In the first place they ought to be in a convenient position, as the people will not go to

any great distance, if they can help it, to reach a convenience of this kind. In the next place they ought to be as clean and as well adapted to native habits as circumstances will admit. If they are on a bad plan so that the floors get sloppy or soiled with filth, the people will not, and cannot be expected to use them. I saw at Coonoor a simple screen latrine which, owing to its filthy state, I should have been sorry to have entered with boots on: how then can we expect the natives to enter such a place with bare feet? In short we must make these structures decent and convenient if we wish them to be of any use. The present *pucka-built* public latrines in Coonoor are not constructed on a very good plan, and the flooring gets into bad repair. They might be altered at a trifling cost, so as to bring them into conformity with the public latrines in Ootacamund station. Screen latrines, of which there are three, are not suitable for a station like this, and ought to be replaced by permanent structures. Good latrine accommodation is one of the first and most necessary steps towards proper conservancy in a town. The public latrine behind "Glenview" stables was found very dirty and in bad repair. It is much too small, there being only four seats, viz., two for males and two for females. During "the season" there will probably be over 150 servants in this neighbourhood, all of whom must either go to this latrine or to some natural cover in the neighbourhood. Need it be said that, under existing circumstances, they generally prefer the latter alternative, and that the undergrowth is in a very filthy state. I went that way in the morning and the smell encountered and appearance of several human heads amongst the bushes were sufficient to indicate the state of matters without closer inspection. It is, I believe, intended to erect a larger latrine in this quarter, and this ought to be done at once. Private scavengering is at present undertaken to a very small extent by the Municipality, but should be extended. Efforts should also be made to get house-holders to erect private latrines for the accommodation of their servants. Hitherto Coonoor has been remarkably healthy, but if the present careless system of conservancy is persevered in, sooner or later the usual consequences of such neglect will follow, and the repute of the station as a sanitarium be ruined. The existing conservancy establishment is as follows:—

	1 Inspector.	
	For Hospital	2 Sweepers.
	„ „ night-soil ..	2 Scavengers.
	„ Slaughter-house ..	1 Scavenger.
	„ Market	2 Sweepers.
General Conservancy.— ..	1 Peon.	
	3 Scavengers	1st Class.
	2 „	2nd „
	2 „	3rd „
	2 „	4th „
	5 Drivers.	
	1 Gram-boiler.	
Road-cleaning Establishment.—	7 Sweepers.	
Private Scavengering.— ..	3 Scavengers.	
Water-course Conservancy.— ..	2 Peons.	
	2 Coolies.	

Water-supply.—The present mode of distribution is simply loathsome, as the water cannot fail to get mixed with filth and sewage. The apathy of the rate-payers must be very great when they submit to use such an impure supply, and the fact that they continue to use it with apparent impunity is simply wonderful and doubtless partly due to an acquired tolerance which may, however, be unduly strained. *Settling-basins* to clean and economise the water are very urgently needed, and might be excavated behind Sim's Park. The water might then be let on during the day only and should be conveyed thence and distributed in pipes. By the present arrangement, the health state of the sanitarium is, in my opinion, greatly endangered.

Slaughter-houses.—These are situated a little below the head of the Old-Ghât-Road, and consist of a *killing-house* which is much too small and low in the roof, and of a *cutting-up-house*. I found the flooring of both buildings broken, so that much soakage of dirty fluids must take place, and outside these was a heap of the filthy contents of the stomach and bowels of animals recently killed. It appears also that the supply of water is not so large as it should be, and that it is liable to be cut off occasionally as it passes through private grounds higher up the hill. But the most extraordinary part of the arrangement is the presence of two public latrines between, and in close proximity to, the killing and cutting-up-houses. In fact the air generally, at the time of my visit, was pervaded by the smell from the latrines and from the offal outside the slaughter-house. How such a system could have been sanctioned and perpetuated by the Municipality I fail to understand. Every piece of meat prepared for market in this place must be exposed to an atmosphere saturated with the odour of human excrement, and also to the visits of flies which are plentiful and very cosmopolitan in their wanderings. Is it to be wondered at that residents in Coonoor complain that the meat will not keep? Dr. Johnson who kindly accompanied me during my inspection mentioned that it is proposed to build another slaughter-house on the other side of the valley, on a site commanding a perennial water-supply. No time should be lost in

carrying out this scheme, provided the water-supply is sufficiently pure and the locality suitable in all respects.

Markets.—The market place is kept clean and suitable arrangements made.

Lighting.—The Inspector informed me that there are 62 kerosine lamps belonging to the Municipality, and the public roads are fairly lighted.

Hospital.—I went round the hospital and found it clean and generally in good order.

MADRAS,
6th July 1883.

(Signed) G. BIDIE, Brigade-Surgeon, M.B., C.I.E.,
Officiating Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

No. 1302.

Forwarded to the President, Municipal Commission, Coonoor, for very early remarks.

OOTACAMUND,
11*th July* 1883.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Coonoor.

From F. BRANDT, Esq., Collector of Nilgiris and President, Coonoor Municipal Commission, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Coonoor, 27th July 1883, No. 73.

I have the honor to return, with remarks, the report of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner upon his inspection of the Coonoor Municipality.

2. I asked the Vice-President and Commissioners to offer any comments that they might have to make on the report, and am myself now inspecting the place in communication with him.

3. Dr. Bidie is right in his supposition that the cutting of sholas, of which he speaks, is done by private proprietors only. The sholas on Government ground are carefully preserved by the Commissioners. It is not possible to prevent private persons from clearing, but the Commissioners may, perhaps, be able to impress on owners of private grounds that damage may be done to their grounds as well as to public property by indiscriminate felling.

4. An estimate for repairing the bridge in so far as it is under the Municipality was passed before Dr. Bidie made his report. The bridge across the stream over which the main road runs is under the Local Fund Board. I shall lay Dr. Bidie's remarks before the Board, and take steps for having what is necessary done. The Commissioners consider that a more substantial bridge should be built, and I am inclined to agree with them and will, if possible, provide funds.

5. *Drainage.*—The Commissioners were, I know, fully alive to the requirements of the town and the unsatisfactory condition of the drainage before Dr. Bidie's inspection. They had themselves brought to my notice the urgent necessity for a systematic drainage scheme, and have, as they say, repeatedly brought the matter to the notice of Government, with a view to obtaining a special grant from Government. The matter is really pressing; but I do not see how, with a very limited means at their disposal, they can do what is required. I do trust it may be possible for Government to give this Municipality a grant for this and other sanitary requirements. The circumstances of the Municipality are exceptional, their means very limited. If there is any prospect of a grant for the purpose next year, an estimate could be passed.

Latrines.—What I have already seen of this station shows me that Dr. Bidie's remarks are in no way exaggerated. The number of public latrines is not sufficient; those that there are are not large enough, nor are they well designed, nor well kept. But there seems to have been considerable misapprehension on the part of the Commissioners as to their powers in respect of compelling owners of private premises to keep latrines for the use of their servants and followers. I had written to the Commissioners on this subject before, and will again press the subject. It seems to have been

thought that the Commissioners were bound to provide public latrines for the use of private establishments. I find that the large hotels here have no latrines of their own, and that what there are are served by the Municipality. This is a state of things which must be at once put a stop to. It is impossible for places like these large hotels to be kept clean without proper latrine-accommodation, and this the proprietors *must* provide for themselves. The matter will be impressed most strongly on the Commissioners again, and I hope effective steps will be at once taken.

Dust-bins.—Precisely the same difficulty is encountered elsewhere: it is extremely difficult to catch the persons who throw the rubbish on to the ground instead of into the bins; but one or two successful prosecutions keep the nuisance under for a while.

Undergrowth.—The Commissioners ought to treat as noxious vegetation any undergrowth used as a cover for committing nuisance; a clearance is now being made in several places of such undergrowth.

Water-supply.—The rate-payers have plenty of water, and pay nothing for the use of it; no doubt it is much contaminated, and that it would be very desirable to have it conveyed and distributed in pipes. Again it is a question of funds. The Commissioners are as well aware, as the Sanitary Commissioner, of the importance of clean water-supply; a scheme and estimate were submitted to Government, but laid aside for want of funds. A water-rate could not be imposed, which would cover the interest on the capital; the Municipal Commission has not the funds, and Government will not lend, unless the scheme can be proved to be remunerative.

I do trust that Government may be in a position before long to afford to this Municipality some assistance such as they have liberally given to Ootacamund, the requirements of the two stations being somewhat similar and peculiar with reference to their requirements and the means at their disposal.

Slaughter-houses.—The position of these, their proximity to latrines, and to the place where night-soil is supposed to be converted into poudrette, is most objectionable; it is, as Dr. Bidie says, difficult to conceive how these several places could have been located in one and the same neighbourhood.

I am now consulting with the Vice-President how at once to remedy some of the evils at all events.

Here again the Vice-President and Commissioners had themselves represented to me prior to Dr. Bidie's inspection the necessity for reform, and are only too well aware that the present arrangements are really intolerable.

6. The Commissioners conclude their remarks thus:—"They trust that the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner's report will induce Government to reconsider their applications for a grant to meet those urgent wants, as they have done as much as they can with their present limited means."

7. I am aware how many calls there are on the Government for grants from Provincial Funds, but I must plead for this Municipality.

8. At the same time I do not admit that all that could have been done has been done, but hope that very considerable improvements can be effected even with the means at present at disposal.

From F. BRANDT, Esq., Collector of Nílgiris and President, Coonoor Municipal Commission, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 9th August 1883, No. 82.

In continuation of my letter, No. 73, dated 27th July 1883, I have the honor to submit, for information of Government, a memorandum written after personal inspection of the Coonoor Municipality during a week's stay there.

2. It would, I think, greatly encourage the Vice-President and Commissioners if some prospect could be held out that Government may possibly be able next year at least to afford assistance from Provincial Funds towards the drainage and water-supply of Coonoor— really pressing wants—and that, if the slaughter-houses and sale

of poudrette can be shown to be remunerative (as to which I have little doubt) Government would be prepared to sanction a loan for these purposes. Without this I do not see how any really effective steps can be taken to remedy the present very unsatisfactory state of things *in these respects.*

3. As to the latrine question, the matter is, as I have attempted to show, to a great extent in the hands of the Commissioners themselves.

4. Referring to the remarks of Government in paragraph 11, G.O., 12th July 1883, No. 1469, Financial Department, regarding omission of the Vice-President and Commissioners to comment on the sanitary condition of the town, I trust that the report of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner and the memorandum now submitted will be considered sufficient.

Notes on Inspection of the Coonoor Municipality.

The sanitary condition of Coonoor is not at all satisfactory. The remarks of the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner are by no means too severe.

2. The state of things near the slaughter-houses is such that I really cannot understand how the Commissioners can have allowed it ever to have to come into existence or tolerated it. It is not too much to say that it is a scandal to the administration.

3. Slaughter-houses, latrines and what is called a cinerator, and a poudrette shed (as it is styled) are all crowded into a small space close to a public road. One can see into the slaughter-houses from the public road: from the road which leads past the slaughter-houses and latrines to the "mixing shed," I saw a cow slaughtered in the open, the blood streaming down over the hill towards the Coonoor river; the washings from one latrine actually pass through a slaughter-house. The place is disgusting beyond description: the first morning I went there I was very nearly sick. All the night-soil and other filth is carried past the slaughter-houses to the "mixing-house," which is about fifty or sixty yards only from the former and just below Barlow's road.

The so-called cinerator is a dome-shaped receptacle, the top of which is all broken to pieces. Dr. Bidie's remarks as to the foul flies passing from latrines to slaughter-houses, and *vice versâ* and the effect thereof on the meat would occur to any one. I cannot conceive how any Commissioner, if he had ever seen it, could have failed to urge the necessity of reform. I know that Dr. Johnson is fully alive to the horror of the place.

This state of things should not be tolerated any longer.

4. The first thing to be done was to remedy to some extent the worst evil. I suggested that at all events the latrines should be at once closed. The Vice-President agreed and said he would have the necessary orders given that day.

Anything is better than that these latrines should be used as they are, and flushed, and the water with its scourings sent through the further slaughter-house; far better that the people should go into the jungles or elsewhere to ease themselves. But the Commissioners must find another site or sites for these latrines as soon as possible.

5. Then the carting of the night-soil to the mixing shed should be stopped so long at least as the slaughter-houses remain where they are. The Municipality makes a large profit by sale of the night-soil and sweepings. Rs. 2,000 or more this year. It is unquestionable that they have no right to make such a profit while they do not take proper steps to render the stuff inoffensive, and so dispose of it as not to be a public nuisance.

The Commissioners of Coonoor are far more fortunate than those of Ooty who, in the absence of the demand for the stuff in its natural state, have to cart it two miles or more and there bury it not only without any profit at all, but at great cost.

The system of "mixing" is as disgusting as it can well be. Night-soil, road sweepings, foul straw and manure is thrown into a vat round which are no walls, but which has a roof; then ashes from the so-called cinerator are thown in, the stuff is then pounded by a man with his feet; it is then again put into the contractor's carts and taken away to coffee estates.

It would be better, seeing that it would save carting past the slaughter-houses, uncarting and loading again, if this stuff were taken straight away to the estates. I believe it is said those who have bought the manure might object to take it "all natural," but unless there is a clause in the agreement that the stuff shall be "mixed" by the Municipality, I do not see they could object; then if it is part of the agreement (as I suppose it must be) that the contractors shall remove it in their carts from the "mixing shed," if the stuff was taken to the estates in the Municipal closed carts, allowance for cost of cartage should be made by the contractors.

But the Commissioners are bound in common decency to convert the night-soil into real "poudrette" before carting it further through the public streets than is absolutely necessary.

It cannot (unless buried and left there altogether) be turned into inodorous poudrette without a proper drying shed and pug-mill. These should be provided.

The matter is one of urgent importance and I trust that the Commissioners will at once give their attention to it, and do *something* on the lines suggested, or devise something better if they can.

A proper cinerator should be built.

6. The Commissioners had, I understand, already resolved to build new slaughter-houses. And first as to a site: one has been selected on the other side of the Coonoor river. I saw this. I am extremely doubtful if buildings could be placed on the precipitous side of the hill selected and an approach thereto made. I doubt if there is room. This should be ascertained. In other respects, the place is well hidden from view, but the beasts would have to be driven down the Main Ghât road for some way.

Then as to cost: it is said the Municipality has very inadequate funds, and this is true. But the thing must be done. The slaughter-houses pay well; a loan must be asked, looking at the urgency and seeing that (as I believe) it could be shown that the object is remunerative. I see no reason to doubt that Government would grant a loan. I look to the Vice-President and Commissioners not to rest until this really crying nuisance is abated.

7. The next subject is *latrines* and the sanitary state of the place generally.

I have already stated* my views as to public and private latrines; but I believe the majority of the Commissioners do not agree with me and are inclined to allow the present state of things to continue.

* Letter No. 73, dated 27th July 1883.

I can only again urge my views, and denounce the present state of things as strongly as I can.

8. The state of the compounds attached to two of the principal hotels is very bad.

By Glenview (the upper part) close to he public road there is, from the stink always present, clearly a latrine among vegetation; there is not a latrine proper or other place for the numerous servants and house-keepers anywhere near; by the side of the high road near Gray's, the same. Several complaints have been made, but nothing has been done. There does not appear to have been a single notice served, still less a prosecution for keeping these and other private compounds in a filthy state.

9. Private scavengering fees are paid by Natives in considerable numbers. I believe I am correct in saying that only two Europeans pay such fees; that there are not, I believe, more than two private latrines attached to houses occupied by Europeans in the Municipality: in the Glenview Hotel premises (and I believe also at Gray's) there is a *public* latrine, *served by a Municipal scavenger who resides on the premises and for this the Proprietors of the Hotel pay not a farthing.*

10. I have been asked to request Government to obtain for the Municipality a piece of ground just across the road between whereon to put this "public latrine," and this at the cost of two acres of land elsewhere.

I am perfectly satisfied that there is at least no urgent need of a *public* latrine in this neighbourhood at all; that it would simply still be for the use of the hotel and its servants and servants and horse-keepers of visitors; public latrines are infinitely more urgently needed elsewhere. I must now finally decline to have anything to do with making a recommendation to Government and obtain this bit of land for this purpose.

The owners of hotels and private houses must supply their own requirements.

The latrine at Glenview ought, in view of the urgent requirements for latrines in the town proper, to be removed at once and placed elsewhere, and proprietors of hotels and houses should be prosecuted if they do not keep their premises clean, and this they cannot do without providing proper and sufficient latrine accommodation.

If this be done, it will set free Municipal funds which it is true are urgently wanted for other purposes.

11. But unless the Commissioners bestir themselves and enforce the powers given them under the Act, there can be no improvement, and the unsanitary state of the town will drive people away if it does not result in an epidemic.

At present no accommodation being provided by owners of private property, either their own grounds must be fouled—as it is clear many are—or the servants must foul public grounds; it cannot be said that this is a state of things which cannot be prevented under the Act. I saw some "tatty" latrines than which nothing could be more objectionable.

12. I would also point out that a great deal might be done in the way of dry-conservancy *trenches*; where night-soil has been *effectually* buried, there is no more satisfactory way of dealing with it.

Provided that trenches sufficiently deep are dug and the night-soil thoroughly covered, no harm can be done. If the place is selected, so that there can be no percolation to sources or water-supply and is constantly inspected, this is by far the cheapest way of disposing of offensive matter; this can be done by private proprietors on their own grounds. After a time the manure becomes perfectly inodorous and can be used with great advantage.

This plan has lately been adopted under the supervision of the Special Sanitary Officer here. I have watched the result, and it is in every way satisfactory, *provided there is effectual and constant supervision.* It is in force in the Jail compound, in the grounds of Government House, and at old Ooty.

13. *Drainage and Water-supply.*—These are beyond the means of the Commissioners to deal efficiently with the funds at their disposal. And I do not think that they can show any chance of their being directly remunerative works; therefore it is no use suggesting application for a loan.

But I would suggest that the Commissioners consider and report on such a scheme of drainage as is absolutely necessary for the health, safety and decency of the town—restricting themselves to that, I will strongly urge on Government the desirability of affording a certain amount of assistance from Provincial Funds, such as has been given in the case of Ooty Municipality. The exceptional requirements of the latter have been recognized, and liberal assistance has been given. The requirements of Coonoor are similar in character and not less in proportion.

14. So with the water-supply: so much only as is most necessary should be done at first, and the most limited amount attempted at first; it is at present useless to think of piping or covered channels further up than Sims' Park, but to preserve and protect the water from this point would do an immense amount of good and would prevent the extravagant waste which there is no doubt goes on among the proprietors of lands above the town.

15. I consider that it is incumbent on the inhabitants and proprietors of property in Coonoor to submit to the imposition of a water-rate—that it would eventually be to their profit to do so there is little doubt; it is not to be expected that Government will give, or even contribute largely to, the cost of a scheme for water-supply without any return whatever either to Government or the Municipality.

I shall be obliged if the Commissioners will consider and report what rate might fairly be imposed, how it shall be levied; it would then be possible to see what percentage would be recoverable on the outlay.

16. The Commissioners in their remarks on Dr. Bidie's late inspection state that schemes for drainage and water-supply have been drawn up and submitted to Government. They are requested to collect or give references to all papers connected with such schemes, and at the same time to consider and report whether those schemes might not be carried out in part at first, or so modified that there should be a reasonable chance of obtaining from Government a grant from Provincial Funds.

17. While dealing with this subject, I would respectfully submit to Government that for the efficient supervision of this Municipality, I doubt if the Medical Officer in charge has sufficient time. The office work requires constant attention, the carrying out of the administration falls practically on the Vice-President, the other gentlemen on the Commission are so fully occupied with their own private properties and interests that they cannot afford apparently much more time and assistance than can be given at Municipal meetings.

18. I would also venture to point out that as Vice-l'resident, the Medical Officer is placed in a difficult and invidious position. If he sternly and fearlessly prosecutes nuisances, brings to light things which require reform and amendment in a sanitary point of view, it can hardly be otherwise than that he should give offence in some cases, and this may possibly interfere not only with his popularity, but his chances of private practice. I do not mean for a moment to insinuate that the knowledge that this is so has influenced or would be allowed knowingly to influence Medical Officers, but if pressure is required, I do not see where it is to come from elsewhere; the Medical Officer gets no remuneration, not even horse allowance for his trouble.

19. The Commissioners have themselves expressed an opinion that it is desirable to have a paid Vice-President. I am not at all sure that it would not be, in the end, as they themselves say, more economical to have a paid Vice-President. For myself though I may be considered retrogressive, I believe the best thing would be to have as Vice-President a European official independent of all local interests—and I may add that this view was expressed to me by one at least of the non-official Commissioners themselves—but I am afraid there is little or no possibility of a European officer's services being available.

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
President, Coonoor Municipality.

Order—dated 5th September 1883, No. 1953, Financial.

These papers bring to light a very disgraceful state of things in the Coonoor Municipality. Conservancy, both public and private, especially the latter, has been grossly neglected. The arrangements for the disposal of night-soil and rubbish are

offensive to a degree, in spite of the fact that the Municipality derives a large profit from this source. The Municipal latrines are insufficient in number, filthy in condition, and in bad repair, the consequence being that the undergrowth in all directions reeks with human ordure. The system of water distribution is described as "loathsome" and the condition of the slaughter-house as "disgusting beyond description."

2. The Municipal Commissioners appear to think that nothing can be done to remedy these revolting evils, unless done at the expense of the country generally. The Governor in Council, however, cannot hold out any hope of aid from Provincial Funds until the Commissioners shall have exhausted all their sources of taxation, and he observes that the means at present lying unutilised at their disposal are more than sufficient for the immediate purposes of reform.

3. As regards the prevention of nuisances and the enforcement of domestic conservancy, the general conservancy clauses of the Towns Improvement Act III of 1871 (Madras), Sections 96 to 151, confer ample powers on the Commissioners.

4. It would doubtless be impossible to execute from current revenues the various works of public improvement shown to be urgently required, but there is nothing to prevent the Municipality from seeking permission to raise a debenture loan in the open market under the Local Authorities Loans Act, and the Government have already in G.O., dated 18th December 1882, No. 1975, Mis., expressed their willingness to consider favorably any such application. Such works need not be remunerative in order to justify such an application. As regards the security on which such a loan might be raised, the Government observe that there are sources of taxation as yet unutilised, which might be made available to cover the interest on the sum borrowed, and to provide a sinking fund. The House-rate, for example, might be raised from the present rate of 5 per cent. to the maximum of 7½ per cent., and would thus be made to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 2,425 per annum. The rates on Land might also be raised. At present they compare with those levied in the Municipality of Ootacamund as follows :—

	Per Acre.	
	Ootacamund.	Coonoor.
	RS.	RS.
Potatoe and Vegetable gardens	2	1
Tea and Coffee	3	
Gum and Acacia	2	1
Shola land	1	
Cinchona	2	..
Peat land	5	..
Grass land	¼	⅛
Native cultivation	..	½

These rates might be doubled, and so yield an additional revenue of Rs. 1,650 per annum. On the whole then, the Commissioners have additional sources of revenue at their command, amounting to at least Rs. 4,000 per annum, which would be sufficient to cover interest at 5 per cent. and to provide a sinking fund at 2½ per cent. on a loan of 50,000 rupees. Nor would this increase of taxation be oppressive, as the completion of such works would certainly enhance the value of house and landed properties in the town. It is, therefore, only equitable that such works should form a charge on the rates on houses and lands. Should a water-supply scheme be carried out, a price should be put upon the water supplied to private individuals, and the cost of branch pipes from the main recovered from the house-owners concerned. The water works, as well as such works as new slaughter-houses, &c., might thus be made to yield a profit on the outlay.

5. As to the desirability of appointing a paid Vice-President, the Government consider such a course open to serious objection; but they would not object to the appointment of a *Secretary* on the same salary, viz., Rs. 200. Such an officer would be the Vice-President's *alter ego*, and would be chiefly employed in inspection and other out-door duties.

6. The Public Works Department will be requested to expedite the transmission of the Chief Engineer's remarks called for by endorsement No. 1327, dated 15th November 1882, on the plans for a scheme of water-supply submitted by the Coonoor Municipal Commission.

(True Extract.)

Edmundstone

for Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Coonoor.
,, Public Works Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

82

2137 C 22-11-82

Pr Cons 808

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd. 20/9 Encl.

G.O., 5th September 1883, No. 1953.

B 2717 xx 27-9-83

SEPTEMBER.

Municipal—Sanitary.

Passing orders on correspondence regarding the sanitary condition of Coonoor.

Rc 2717 w 27-9-83

To Communicated to the S.E. South Circle who will expedite the report called for in Memo No. 2137 C a/22d Nov. 1882.

Cy. 219

G.S.A.

Dw 17/9

S.E. South Circle

Communicated with copy of Memo No 2137 C

2 Copies Sent to Govt