Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 3337/6

Dated 28th November 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Ootacamund Municipal Council, Proc:
Local Dept: reviewing the Administration
Report of the — for 1896-97, Comp: 655
IV Circle.

[P.W. 25.
5,000—30-11-96.]

Indexed. 30/11

Public Works (1897) Dt. Current No. 11495

Government {1897} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. 19th Nov.
Regd. } 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies 8

G.O., No. 2232 M., 13th October 1897.

No 3337/97 dt 30.11.97

OCTOBER.

Communicated to the S.-G.-V. circular

Circulated 24/11/97 S.-G.-V. circular to the Collector

Administration Report.

Reviewing the — of the Ootacamund Municipal Council for 1896–97.

28/11/97

BACK PAPERS.

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From G. HAMNETT, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated 6th June 1897, No. 1075.

I have the honour to submit the administration report of the Ootacamund Municipality for the official year 1896–97, together with the prescribed statements and copies of the reports of the Civil Surgeon and of the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore Division.

I.—CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL.

2. The council consisted of two officials and fourteen non-officials. Both officials were Europeans. Of the non-officials four were Europeans, four Eurasians and six natives. Five vacancies occurred during the year, of which two were nominated and three elected. The elections were well contested, the native members securing a larger number of votes than the Europeans and Eurasians. The council held 29 meetings. There were two adjustments for want of a quorum. The average attendance at each meeting was 9·10 against 9·57 in 1895–96.

II.—RECEIPTS.

3. The general income, including the opening balance of Rs. 34,997–2–0, amounted to Rs. 2,58,479–4–6. This includes the grants and loans made by the Government to the extent of Rs. 1,40,000 for improving the water-supply and other miscellaneous improvements. The expenditure, including a fixed deposit of Rupees 1,00,000 in the Bank of Madras for twelve months, amounted to Rs. 2,21,554–15–5, leaving a balance of Rs. 36,924–5–1, of which Rs. 7,700 belong to the water-supply improvement and Rs. 29,224–5–1 to miscellaneous improvements and municipal fund.

4. The income derived from taxation amounted to Rs. 43,781–13–4 against Rs. 40,487–6–3, the actuals for 1895–96, and the revised estimate for 1896–97 of Rs. 45,250. The income, apart from taxation, was Rs. 21,841–15–0 against Rupees 21,861–2–2, the actuals for 1895–96, and Rs. 20,830, the revised estimate. Miscellaneous receipts amounted to Rs. 7,983–0–5 against Rs. 7,606–12–0, the actuals for the previous year, and Rs. 6,960, the revised estimate for 1896–97. It will be seen from these figures that the municipal revenue during 1896–97 has not declined under any head.

5. The balance outstanding on the 31st March 1896 was Rs. 3,550–6–8, of which Rs. 2,017–3–1 were collected, Rs. 350–12–9 were remitted and Rs. 394–14–8 written off as irrecoverable, leaving a balance of Rs. 787–8–2. The demand for 1896–97 was Rs. 61,043–1–9 against Rs. 56,452–12–9, the demand for 1895–96. The increase in 1896–97 may be ascribed to the increase in the rate of water-tax from 1 to 2 per cent. from the 1st October 1896 on houses which expressly benefited by the water-supply, to the increase in the house-tax by a revision of assessments in cases in which no annual revisions were made, to the increase in the market and cart-stand rents, and to the increase in private scavenging fees. Of the demand, as finally settled, viz., Rs. 61,043–1–9, Rs. 58,316–9–3 were collected and Rs. 177–1–6

remitted in connection with vacant houses, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,549–7–0 which, added to the previous year's balance of Rs. 787–8–2, amounts to Rs. 3,336–15–2, or Rs. 213–7–6 less than the balance remaining uncollected at the end of 1895–96.

6. *Tax on Buildings and Lands.*—There was no change in the taxation under this head during the year. The demand as finally settled on buildings was Rupees 30,190–15–11, showing an advance of Rs. 1,865–9–1. The increase during the last five years was Rs. 3,682. The demand on lands was Rs. 845–13–0 against Rupees 917–2–6 in 1895–96, the decrease was caused by the tax being calculated on the net, instead of on the gross, income of the Botanical gardens. Of the demand Rs. 776–1–0 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 69–12–0. The arrears last year amounted to Rs 38–4–0 and the uncollected balance on the 31st March 1897 stood at Rs. 108. The "Arrears of previous years" of 1895–96, viz., Rs. 479–3–10, has been raised in statement IV-B to Rs. 501–11–10 in consequence of fifteen acres of land at Bishopsdown having been assessed under the judgment of the High Court referred to in paragraph 3 of the administration report for 1895–96.

7. *The Water-tax on Buildings.*—The demand was Rs. 5,801–11–6, of which Rs. 5,424–6–11 were collected, Rs. 20–12–10 remitted for vacant houses, leaving a balance of Rs. 356–7–9 which, added to the arrears of the previous year, amounting to Rs. 77–4–11, leaves an unrealized balance of Rs. 433–12–8.

8. *Tax on Arts and Profession.*—The demand was Rs. 3,308–8–0, of which Rs. 3,037–8–0 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 271 which, added to the balance of Rs. 162 in 1895–96, raises the balance to Rs. 433. There was a decrease in the current demand of Rs. 91 owing to fluctuations in the number of persons in receipt of salaries and in the number of tradesmen.

9. *Tax on Vehicles, Animals and Carts.*—The estimate and revised estimate were fixed at Rs. 4,700 and Rs. 4,200, respectively. The amount actually realized was Rs. 4,357–10–4.

10. The number of processes which remained unexecuted on the 31st March 1896 was 429; issued during 1897, 1,624: total 2,053. Of this number 1,055 were executed and cancelled, 998 remained unexecuted and 32 warrants were cancelled on which no collections were made. The number of warrants withdrawn in consequence of payments having been made before distraint was 1,023. The number of prosecutions instituted was 269. In 220 cases payment was made before the court delivered judgment and 49 cases remained undisposed of. No property was distrained or sold in view to avoid the "public howl" which was raised in 1888–89 and referred to by the then Acting Collector in his endorsement, No. 42, dated 28th June 1889, on the annual report for the year.

11. The revenue, apart from taxation, amounted to Rs. 21,841–15–0 against Rs. 21,861–2–2 in 1895–96 and the revised estimate for 1896–97 of Rs. 20,830. In the revenue for 1895–96 was (as shown in paragraph 12 of the annual report for that year) included Rs. 2,144–5–7, the deposits of renters. Under sale-proceeds of night-soil the amount (Rs. 700) anticipated in the revised estimate has not been realized. Under educational fees there is an increase of nearly Rs. 400 due to an increase in the fees realized in the Breek's Memorial High school. The income from markets shows an increase of Rs. 635–13–4, but compared with the figures of 1891–92 there has been an increase of Rs. 4,660. Slaughter-houses show an increase of Rs. 212–8–0, but compared with 1891–92 there has been an increase of Rs. 1,905. Cart-stands also show an increase over 1891–92 of Rs. 705. License-fees show a falling off of Rs. 260–8–7 owing to licenses being withheld in consequence of parties not complying with the conditions prescribed. The increase under this head over 1891–92 is Rs. 575. Fines under Municipal and other Acts show an increase of Rs. 137–8–0 owing to prosecutions having been instituted in a large number of cases for infringement of the sanitary clauses of the Municipal Act.

12. *Grants and Contributions from Government*—amounted to Rs. 1,39,354–0–10, of which Rs. 1,00,000 are for the water-supply improvement and Rs. 30,000 for miscellaneous improvements, including a working balance of Rs. 5,000, which the Government were pleased to grant from Provincial funds to aid the municipality in carrying on the administration.

13. *Miscellaneous Recoveries on account of services rendered to Private Individuals.*—Private scavenging produced Rs. 281–4–0 over the revised estimate and (*ii*) Other purposes Rs. 792–8–1.

14. *Extraordinary and Debt.*—The Rs. 10,000 shown under loans from Government are for sanitary works to be undertaken during the year 1896–97. Much difficulty is, however, experienced in obtaining land within the town for the construction of small latrines to meet the needs of people who have no such accommodation attached to their dwellings.

III.—EXPENDITURE.

15. The expenditure in 1896–97, which includes a lakh of rupees invested in the Branch Bank of Madras, amounted to Rs. 2,21,554–15–5 against the revised estimate for the year of Rs. 2,42,590 and the actuals of 1895–96 of Rs. 1,37,032–5–7.

16. GRANT 1, PUBLIC WORKS.—The expenditure amounted to Rs. 57,271–10–2 against the revised estimate of Rs. 77,250 and the actuals for 1895–96 of Rupees 24,188–6–2. The excess over the actuals occurred by an assignment of Rs. 25,450 having been made to the Public Works Department for remedying defects in the main intercepting sewer and by an expenditure of Rs. 4,333–0–2 in connection with Mr. G. T. Walch's investigation and report for improving the water-supply of the town.

17. *New Buildings.*—The expenditure (Rs. 3,108–11–3) was considerably less than the allotment of Rs. 13,100 in the revised estimate, which included the loan of Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by the Government for sanitary works, &c. Of the expenditure incurred Rs. 1,460–15–8 were spent on the market, viz., for a platform, 85 feet long and 8½ feet broad, for exposing the fruit brought for sale on market days, Rupees 310–4–6; for paving the long verandah where sweetmeat, bread and other edibles, &c., are sold with Cuddapah slabs, Rs. 450; for enclosing the centre square of the market near the mutton butchers' stall to store the mutton remaining unsold instead of being removed to the butchers' houses, Rs. 473–8–0; and for sundry other repairs and improvements Rs. 227–3–2. The remaining sum of Rs. 1,647–11–7 was appropriated for erecting a shed with corrugated iron sheets and timber for the storage of straw Rs. 255–4–0, for improving the slaughter-houses Rs. 878–2–7, for metalling the cart-stand Rs. 99–7–0, for metalling the rubbish cart-stand Rs. 99–5–0 and for purchasing forty dustbins Rs. 315–9–0.

18. *Drainage, Rs.* 25,557–1–7.—As explained in the preceding paragraph, Rupees 25,450 were assigned for the main intercepting sewer, the balance (Rs. 107–1–7) was spent in building a cement drain in continuation of a drain built by a private individual in old agraharam to carry off refuse water Rs. 75, for completing a drain in the market Rs. 15–9–7 and for constructing a drain in Dogherty's lane at Mettucherry Rs. 16–8–0.

19. *Water-supply.*—Rs. 4,333–0–2 were disbursed to Mr. G. T. Walch to enable him to carry out his investigations for improving the water-supply.

20. *Miscellaneous Public Improvements, Rs.* 596–11–0.—The conservancy of the lake costs Rs. 309–5–0, clearing and cleaning the main stream Rs. 31–14–6, the Kandal stream Rs. 50, and improving the triangles at Charing Cross Rs. 205–7–6.

21. *Repairs—Communications.*—The allotment in the budget estimate was Rupees 10,000. On Mr. Tremenheere's representation of the bad condition of many of the roads, the Government were pleased to make a special grant of Rs. 5,000, thereby raising the allotment to Rs. 15,000, of which Rs. 14,580–11–5 were spent on 92 roads and lanes. The largest sums were spent on the Church Hill and Hadfield roads Rs. 531–10–9, Etirnne's road in continuation of South Lake road Rs. 599–14–9; South Lake road repairing and reforming from Willow Bund to Westmere Rs. 2,087–0–3; Kelso road repairs, improvements and fencing in connection with Charing Cross Rs. 609–4–0; Manjanakorai road used largely by carts bringing in road materials Rs. 685–9–0; Snowdon and Marlimund roads Rs. 661–13–9. The special grant has saved many of the roads and lanes from being entirely cut up and rendered unfit for use. The present condition of the roads is fair. The repair and reform of roads were carried out chiefly by contract.

22. *Repairs—Buildings.*—The revised estimate provided Rs. 1,800, but not more than Rs. 1,432–11–1 were spent during the year. The buildings on which more than Rs. 100 were spent were the market Rs. 421–3–5, municipal cattle-shed Rs. 163–3–11, municipal office Rs. 191–11–9 and repairing slaughter-houses Rs. 106–15–9.

23. *Repairs—Drainage, Rs.* 486–11–1.—The largest item of expenditure under this head was Rs. 279–14–3 on house-connecting drains to prevent the refuse water from the houses flowing on the streets. The other items relate to petty repairs and building a small revetment at the outfall of a drain on the Upper Bazaar road.

24. *Water-supply.*—The revised estimate provided for Rs. 1,180. The actual expenditure did not exceed Rs. 1,142–0–10.

25. *Establishment.*—The actual expenditure (Rs. 2,122–8–8) fell short of the revised estimate (Rs. 2,300) by Rs. 177–7–4, as the full strength of the establishment was not employed in consequence of the difficulty experienced in procuring an efficient overseer.

26. *Tools and Plant.*—The expenditure (Rs. 230–1–1) exceeded the revised estimate (Rs. 200) by Rs. 30–1–1. The increase was caused by the purchase of a larger number of tools than was anticipated when the estimate was prepared.

27. GRANT 2, EDUCATION.—The estimated provision in the budget for the year was Rs. 9,950. It was increased in the revised estimate to Rs. 10,770. The expenditure, however, did not exceed Rs. 10,387–8–1. The schools aided and maintained were the Breek's Memorial High school, Municipal bazaar and Kandal schools and the Muhammadan school, the Church Mission schools at Metucherry with a secondary department, Kandal, Bandyshola and old Ootacamund, the Wesleyan Mission school and St. Joseph's school.

28. *The Breek's Memorial High School.*—The changes made during the year were the creation of the post of an assistant master on Rs. 100 per mensem and a clerk on Rs. 15, the services of the Brahmin assistant on Rs. 60 being dispensed with and a Eurasian appointed in his place from January 1897. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing a suitable person for the post of assistant master and Mr. Kelly, who at present fills it, is not considered qualified by the Inspector of Schools, Western Circle. The teaching staff therefore is still not as efficient as it should be. Notwithstanding this, the number of boys in the school on the 31st March 1897 rose to 80 against 63 on the 31st March 1896. In the upper secondary there were 13, in the lower secondary 21 and in the primary school 46. The school received from Provincial funds Rs. 3,210–0–10. The school-fees, rent from Church cottage, &c., amounted to Rs. 3,470–12–0. The total receipts were therefore Rs. 6,680–12–10 against Rs. 5,406–15–0 in 1895–96. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,481–8–4 and exceeded the receipts by Rs. 800–11–6 which was met from Municipal funds. The average net cost per pupil in the upper secondary department was Rs. 52–12–8, in the lower secondary Rs. 11–12–7 and in the primary schools Rs. 3–6–2 against Rs. 106–8–10, Rs. 54–9–7 and Rs. 13–1–3 in the year 1895–96. The Inspector of Schools, Western Circle, in his report, dated the 27th May 1897, remarks—

"The general educational qualifications of the subordinate staff are not up to the mark. A graduate in science or mathematics should have been introduced as suggested in Proceedings No. 8349, dated 4th August 1896. Mr. Sidney Smith does not seem to hold any certificate in drawing".

"The further increase in the attendance since the last inspection is noted with satisfaction."

"The headmaster's suggestion to admit native boys into the school at the standard rate of fees is calculated to improve the strength. The appearance of a Badaga in the upper secondary section is encouraging."

"Public examinations—Matriculation, total failure; Lower Secondary, poor.

"General impression—The school is improving. The pupils were cleanly dressed and generally well behaved. Discipline and tone left nothing to be desired."

29. The average attendance in the secondary schools was 26 against 15 in 1895–96 and in the primary schools 137 against 132. The total number of boys in the schools aided and maintained from Municipal funds was 763 against 755 in 1895–96. The Assistant Inspector of Schools remarks in statement No. I that—

"On the whole the number of schools at the close of the year under review was one less, but the total number of boys under instruction was sixteen more than in 1895–96, and so there was some progress and the whole of it was confined to board and aided schools."

30. The percentage of children under instruction of school-going age taken at 15 per cent. of the population was 81·29 against 79·80 in 1895–96.

31. The educational officers are strong in their condemnation of the position of the Municipal bazaar school, but the municipal council cannot see its way either to remove the school to another building or to a better locality.

32. GRANT 3, SANITATION AND MEDICAL SERVICE.—The expenditure amounted to Rs. 25,571–11–6. It falls short of the revised estimate by Rs. 1,028–4–6, but exceeds the actuals for 1895–96 by Rs. 1,483–0–7. The full amount included in the revised estimate under Conservancy—Other charges was not spent, as the purchase of the five pairs of bullocks referred to in paragraph 15 (2) of the Chairman's letter, recorded in the Proceedings of Government, No. 595 M., dated the 18th March 1897, was postponed owing to the want of accommodation in the municipal cattle-shed which is now being enlarged from the loan of Rs. 2,300 obtained from the Government for the purpose. The contribution to St. Bartholomew's hospital and the apothecary was Rs. 799–13–4. The number of patients treated in the hospital was 19,966 during the year against 18,646 in 1895–96.

33. The work done by the municipal midwife is cited by the late Civil Surgeon in his report which is appended. She attended 42 cases, but was absent on leave for some time during the year on account of her marriage and her accouchement. With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1363 M., dated 14th August 1896, the municipal council has resolved that the minimum number of cases which the midwife should attend shall be six instead of four.

34. *Vaccination.*—The expenditure was Rs. 384–14–4 or Rs. 4–14–4 in excess of the revised estimate owing to an increase under contingent charges. The number vaccinated during the year was 1,160, of which 1,159 were successful, viz., 813 primary and 346 re-vaccination. Compared with 1895–96 there was a falling off of 70 cases, and this falling off is satisfactorily accounted for by the Civil Surgeon in his report which accompanies. The number of operations with animal lymph was 1,160, of which 1,159 were successful. The total number of successful operations was 76·86 per mille of population against 81·64 in 1895–96. The number of prosecutions instituted during the year was 196. The average cost of each successful vaccination was 5·3, the same as in the year 1895–96.

35. *Registration of Births and Deaths.*—The expenditure, viz., Rs. 290–0–9, exceeds the revised estimate by Rs. 10–0–9, the contingent charges having exceeded the provision made in the estimate for printing the new forms of registers of births and deaths prescribed by the Government. The registers show that the number of births was 591 and deaths 483 against 485 and 357 in 1895–96, or per mille per annum of 39·26 and 32·08 against 32·21 and 23·71 in 1895–96. Thirty-five prosecutions were instituted for failure to register. In 22 cases the parties were fined by the Magistrate to the extent of Rs. 10–6–0 and 13 cases were withdrawn, the parties having complied with the rules in force. In 1896–97 there were 106 births and 126 deaths above those in 1895–96. The Civil Surgeon has explained the cause of increase in deaths. In consequence of the prevalence of cholera in a village near Kaity, about three miles from Ootacamund, as well as in villages in the Coimbatore district, especially Méttupálaiyam, several cases were imported into the town; of these five proved fatal Prompt measures were, however, taken to disinfect the places where the patients were found or died and the disease was not allowed to spread.

36. *Conservancy and Road-cleaning cost Rs.* 18,869–4–7.—The cost fell short of the provision made in the revised estimate (Rs. 19,800) by Rs. 930–11–5, as the purchase of the five pairs of bullocks required for the conservancy department was postponed for want of accommodation in the municipal cattle-shed as stated in paragraph 32 above. The number of bullocks maintained was 51, of these two died. The number of night-soil carts was increased from 13 to 17 and rubbish carts from 12 to 17. There was one sewage cart only. Three night-soil hand-carts and five large iron buckets were, however, purchased from the Madras Municipality. The night-soil

continues to be deposited at the Titical depôt. The suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner in his notes of inspection of the town in June 1896 of securing night-soil depôts at places nearer the sites of collection was referred to a sub-committee of the municipal council on the 8th October 1896, but the sub-committee has not yet favoured the council with its views on the suggestion.

37. The number of latrines was 48. The proposal to build more in the town could not be carried out, as much difficulty has been experienced by the Revenue Department in acquiring the land needed for the purpose. It was found necessary during the year to remove two of the urinals in the market premises, and the number of urinals was thereby reduced from six to four. The number (46) of dustbins purchased during the year was larger than in previous years (viz., 20 per year). Notwithstanding this the total number stood at 170 against 171 in 1895–96, as 47 very old bins had to be rejected as being unserviceable.

38. *Private Scavenging.*—The allotment in the estimate and revised estimate was Rs. 2,610. The expenditure did not exceed Rs. 2,611–7–9. The number of houses conserved was 261 or one more than in the previous year. The actual income amounted to Rs. 5,781–4–0 against the revised estimate of Rs. 5,500 and the actuals of Rupees 5,238–12–0 in 1895–96. The excess is accounted for by the extra fees derived from the conservancy of temporary latrines constructed for the coolies employed on the lake reclamation scheme. The charges under "Contingencies, such as cost of scavenging carts, &c.," amounted to Rs. 230–15–8 against a provision of Rs. 50, as it was found indispensably necessary to provide large quantities of disinfectants and to print and circulate notices for the prompt collection of the scavenging fees due by private individuals. The expenditure under (*d*) Contingencies was Rs. 925–14–6 against an allotment of Rs. 900 in the revised estimate.

39. "*Epidemic Reserve.*"—The expenditure incurred under this head was in conformity with the rules prescribed by the Government in order, No. 1536 M, dated 9th September 1896, and amounted to Rs. 606–4–1 against a provision in the revised estimate of Rs. 750. The details of the temporary establishment employed on cholera duty, and the payments made for the purchase of disinfectants, &c., are given in the statement which accompanies this report, and the sanction of the Government is requested for the same.

40. GRANT 4, MISCELLANEOUS PURPOSES—*Lighting.*—The expenditure, viz., Rs. 3,478–2–10, is higher than that incurred in 1895–96 by Rs. 359–0–8 and the allotment (Rs. 3,460) in the revised estimate by Rs. 18–2–10. The reason for the increase in 1896–97 was given in paragraph 16 of the Chairman's letter recorded in G.O., No. 595 M., dated 18th March 1897. The lighting work is still carried on by contract. It is not quite as satisfactory as it should be, but considering the difficulties which the contractor has to overcome in making good the lanterns, lamps and chimneys which are stolen at nights by some person or persons, some allowance must be made for shortcomings. The present rate for lighting each light is As. 13–5 against As. 14 in 1896–97. The number of lamps during the year was 261 or ten more than in the previous year.

41. The market tolls and rents realized Rs. 8,985–13–4 against Rs. 7,810 in 1895–96 as shown in paragraph 41 of the annual report for that year. The expenditure, inclusive of interest on loans and sinking funds of Rs. 5,100, amounted to Rupees 7,366–8–7, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,619–4–9. The market premises were much improved during the year from the special grant given by the Government and the expenditure incurred amounts to Rs. 1,460–15–8. As the general market has not sufficient accommodation for many of the poorer butchers' shops, a small market near Butcher's street would enable the municipal council to remove the beef and mutton shops which now disfigure the Butcher's street and keep that street in cleaner and better order.

42. *Slaughter-houses.*—The amount (Rs. 4,612–8–0) realized under the head exceeds the revised estimate by Rs. 212–8–0, but falls short of the actuals of 1895–96 by Rs. 397–8–0. The expenditure under establishment and contingencies amounted to Rs. 273–6–3 and under repairs and improvements to Rs. 878–2–7, which amount, however, was met from the special grant given by the Government.

43. The council is of opinion that the provision of pens for cattle and sheep should not be deferred any longer, as the cattle and sheep brought up from the plains are not properly housed and the sanitary condition of the houses in which they are kept is very indifferent.

44. *The Chattram*—in old agraharam was maintained. The cost for establishment was Rs. 84 and for contingencies Rs. 36-9-1. The total expenditure (Rs. 120-9-1) exceeded the revised estimate by As. 9-1.

45. *Other Charges.*—The work done for private individuals amounted to Rupees 1,461-12-0 or Rs. 461-12-0 more than was estimated for. Rs. 6 were spent on rewards for killing dogs. The man who agreed to do the work would not continue it after he killed 26 dogs and no other man in the town could be induced to take his place. The charge Rs. 617-6-10 for printing exceeded the revised estimate (Rs. 500) by Rs. 117-6-10. The excess was caused by the more extended nature of the periodical proceedings of the municipal council. Other items also exceeded the revised estimate by Rs. 79-9-0, as many sign boards had to be renewed and new ones put up besides the renumbering of all doors of houses in the bazaar and villages.

46. GRANT 5, GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.—The charge for office establishment was Rs. 3,313-4-9 or Rs. 6-11-3 less than the revised estimate. The charge for establishment for collection of municipal taxes (Rs. 1,379-1-8) is Rs. 9-1-8 more than the revised estimate and is due to a payment of Rs. 11-9-5 having been made to a bill-collector for arrears of salary. The purchase of account books, paper, &c., amounted to Rs. 374-2-11. The excess of Rs. 74-2-11 is owing to a larger number of forms having been printed during the year. For the same reason the charge under (*d*) Office contingencies other than (*b*) (ii) is Rs. 47-13-6 more than the amount (Rs. 500) provided in the revised estimate. The contribution for central office and audit establishments amounted to Rs. 654.

47. *Repayment of Debt.*—Rs. 2,352-4-4 were paid towards Government loans, Rs. 1,900 were invested in Government securities on account of sinking fund for loans raised for the market and municipal office, Rs. 9-13-10 were paid for investment, and Rs. 6,217-11-8 for interest on loans obtained from the Government and private individuals.

48. *Refund of other than current Collections.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to only Rs. 1,524-2-5 against an estimated provision of Rs. 1,800. The expenditure included the sum of Rs. 710-1-11 due to the Forest department referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chairman's letter, No. 1034, dated 20th May 1896, and recorded in G.O., No. 1363 M., dated 14th August 1896.

49. *Investments.*—One lakh of rupees appertaining to the improvement of the water-supply to this town was, with the approval and sanction of the Government, placed in the fixed deposit in the Branch Bank of Madras for one year at 3 per cent. interest. The year will expire on the 1st October 1897.

50. CLOSING BALANCE.—The closing balance was Rs. 36,924-5-1.

51. GENERAL REMARKS.—(*a*) It is understood that Mr. G. T. Walch has submitted to the Government his report with plans and estimates for the improvement of the water-supply of the town.

(*b*) The defects in the main intercepting sewer are being now remedied under the supervision of Mr. J. F. Somers-Eve, Executive Engineer on special duty.

(*c*) The lake reclamation scheme has not progressed so rapidly as the council was led to hope when the work commenced last year.

(*d*) One thousand five hundred and seventy-five notices were issued during the year for cleansing and draining insanitary compounds of houses, repairing private latrines, lime-washing houses, trimming hedges, clearing noxious vegetation, and securing dilapidated and ruinous houses. The largest number (873) of notices were issued in the months of October and November 1896 when some cases of cholera were imported into the town. There were 308 prosecutions for non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and notices issued. Convictions were not obtained in all cases from the want of a special subordinate who could collect reliable evidence and conduct the prosecutions satisfactorily.

(*e*) The Marlimund and Dodabetta reservoirs had sufficient water in them to meet the wants of the town.

(*f*) This report was circulated and adopted by the municipal council at the meeting held on the 26th June 1897.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. COOK, M.B., Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated 31st May 1897, No. 219.

I have the honour to submit the annual concise medical and sanitary report on the municipal town of Ootacamund for 1896-97.

2. *Public Health.*—The general health of the people within the limits of the municipality was, on the whole, satisfactory. In the month of October cholera in a sporadic form made its appearance. Four cases were admitted to hospital and of these three died. Two deaths occurred in the town. The origin of the outbreak was traceable to importation from a place called Ellanalee Kaity where there was cholera at the time. As will be observed from the sub-joined table of vital statistics, there is an increased mortality under fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa as compared with the previous year. This is due in great measure to a greater number of cases of malarial fever, complicated with dysentery and diarrhœa, coming into Ootacamund for treatment from several of the malarious tracts on the Nilgiris. Several cases of pulmonary affections occurring amongst the lower orders of natives were also treated. Enteric fever was not very prevalent.

Vital Statistics.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total births	308	283	591
,, deaths	256	227	483

Causes of deaths.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cholera	4	1	5
Small-pox		*Nil.*	
Fever	78	78	150
Dysentery	15	9	24
Diarrhœa	14	14	28
Accidents	..	..	8
All other causes	148	120	268
Total ..	..	..	483

3. *Sanitation.*—As stated in last year's report, there are eight villages, excluding Ootacamund proper, that are conserved within municipal limits. The Chairman of the municipaliy, the ward councillors and the Civil Surgeon very frequently inspect the sanitation of all parts of the town. There are still 48 public latrines besides 4 urinals within the public market, and 24 scavengers are employed to attend to the conservancy of these places. Two hundred and sixty-one private latrines are conserved by municipal agency, 20 scavengers being employed for this purpose. As mentioned in the report of last year, the area of the town is 11 square miles, with 68 miles of metalled road, for whose surface sweeping there are 76 sweepers employed. The number of street lamps is 261 and the number of dustbins 170. Forty seven of the old ones were rejected as unserviceable

The number of carts for the removal of night-soil, rubbish and sewage was thirteen. In addition to these, four night-soil carts from Messrs. Burn & Co. with cylindrical revolving bodies, three night-soil hand-carts, five buckets from the Madras Municipality and five teak-wood rubbish-carts have been purchased. The sewage of streets and drains is carried off partly by the main sewer and partly by pipe sewers below the lake. For the re-alignment of the main sewer, a sum of Rs. 2,545 * has been sanctioned in G.O., No. 107 M., dated 27th January 1897 The work has just been put into hand. The reclamation of the upper lake is now rapidly progressing, and until this is finished and the sewage pipes put into thorough order, the health of the town will be greatly menaced. Every attention is given to the conservancy of the town, but the difficulty of getting natives to keep their houses and surroundings clean has yet to be overcome. The remarks *anent* the water-supply of the town mentioned in the last report hold good this year also. Mr. G. T. Walch who was appointed to make the necessary schemes for the general water-supply of Ootacamund has completed them and they are now before Government. Another source of water is from wells, of which there about 150 in the town. The water of some of them is good and of others inferior.

* Should be Rs. 25,450.

Vaccination.

Year.	Number of cases vaccinated.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.	Infantile.		
					Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.
1895-96	1,238	1,229	3	6	631	..	..
1896-97	1,160	1,159	..	1	575	..	..

In spite of the energetic manner in which the municipal vaccinator performs his duties and the institution of 196 prosecutions under the compulsory vaccination clauses, and the fact that number of operations is in excess of the birth-rate, there has been a smaller number than last year. This is due to the fact that the population of Ootacamund is of a floating character.

4. *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*—The municipality possesses no hospital of its own, and therefore contributes Rs. 500 annually towards the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's hospital and also gives an allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem to the medical subordinate attached to the hospital. The other medical institution is the Hamnett dispensary at Kandal, which is entirely supported by Mr. G. Hamnett, C.I.E., the Chairman of the municipality. A pensioned hospital assistant is still in charge.

The following shows the attendance of patients during the last two years :—

Year.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Total.
1895-96	975	17,671	18,646
1896-97	973	18,993	19,966

Ninety-two lying-in cases were attended to in hospital during the year. The reason of the decrease is due to a change of midwives in hospital and to the municipal midwife who practises outside becoming better known. The number of cases attended to by the latter during the year under report was 42.

D. No. 1433.

Forwarded.

2. *Paragraph* 5.—Statement IV-B shows that the arrears of Rs. 787 extend in part so far back as the year 1892 and concern private scavenging fees and taxes on arts, buildings, lands or water. A vigorous effort is needed to collect these old arrears at once or to ascertain which are irrecoverable. The statement seems to point to want of proper staff or organization. So too the balance of Rs. 2,549 out of the 1896-97 demand of Rs. 61,043 appears too large.

3. *Paragraph* 13.—The balance of Rs. 112 under private scavenging fees in statement IV-A would seem to show neglect of the orders of Government for collection prior to service.

4. *Paragraph* 14.—Application has been made to Government to compulsorily acquire land for latrines.

5. *Paragraph* 17.—The market and the slaughter-houses have been greatly improved.

6. *Paragraph* 28.—The Breek's Memorial school requires considerate treatment, as it is exceedingly hard to get an efficient staff on the pay that can be afforded, and yet the school on the whole is promising and meets a definite want at a cost not proportionately high.

7. *Paragraph* 34.—It has been observed that nearly all the prosecutions for non-vaccination were compounded.

8. *Paragraph* 35.—The improvement of vital registration is encouraging ; but, in view of the considerable increase in the town since the last census, it is probable that a per-milleage rate of 39·26 understates the births. The Civil Surgeon and the municipal or medical staff worked hard to arrest the cholera.

9. *Paragraph* 36.—The delay of the sub-committee on night-soil depôts from 8th October 1896 is regrettable.

10. *Paragraph* 40.—As the Chairman admits, the lighting of the town is defective.

11. *Paragraph* 45.—The number of uncared-for dogs constitutes a nuisance and sometimes a danger. Those which are ownerless should be killed even though higher rewards have to be given ; the others should not be allowed to escape taxation. It is observed from appendix B to statements IV A and B that no prosecutions were instituted in this respect.

12. *Paragraph* 51 (*d*).—One of the greatest needs of the municipality is a proper agency for conducting prosecutions ; the executive is at present very weak in this respect.

(Signed) J. H. TREMENHEERE,
Collector.

1*st July* 1897.

ORDER—No. 2232 M., dated 13th October 1897.

The receipts and charges of the Ootacamund Municipality for 1896-97 are compared below with the budget and revised estimates for the year and the actuals of 1895-96 :—

—	Actuals, 1895-96.	Budget estimate, 1896-97.	Revised estimate, 1896-97.	Actuals, 1896-97.
Receipts.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Balance brought forward	46,909	87,430	35,000	34,997
Tax on Arts	3,150	4,000	3,500	3,237
,, on Buildings and Lands	28,885	30,300	31,750	30,619
Water tax on Buildings and Lands	3,682	4,000	5,800	5,567
Tax on Vehicles and Animals	4,106	4,000	3,500	3,730
,, on Carts	664	700	700	628
Rent of Lands, Buildings, &c., and Sale-proceeds of Lands, &c. ..	1,322	1,300	1,360	1,389
Conservancy Receipts	1,425	500	700	497
Fees and Revenue from Educational Institutions	1,524	2,200	2,200	2,596
Income from Markets and Slaughter-houses	14,947	13,000	12,750	13,598
License Fees	1,107	1,200	1,200	939
Other Fees	1,459	1,220	1,470	1,535
Fines under Municipal and other Acts	77	100	400	538
Interest on Investments and Premium on Loans	..	..	750	750
Grants and Contributions from Government	54,166	9,620	1,39,470	1,39,354
,, ,, from other Bodies	..	60	60	..
,, Recoveries for Services to Private Individuals	7,545	5,700	6,900	7,974
Miscellaneous	62	20	60	9
Loans	..	50,000	10,000	10,000
Sale-proceeds of Government Securities, &c., and Realizations of Sinking Fund	478	500	570	507
Advances Recovered	521	30	30	15
Total ..	1,72,029	2,15,880	2,58,170	2,58,479
Charges.				
GRANT 1—				
New Works—	..	..	2,000	20
Communications	341	150	13,100	3,109
Buildings	539	..	28,670	25,557
Drainage	1,449	1,37,440	8,000	4,333
Water-supply	1,172	1,100	1,300	1,091
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	9,486	10,000	15,000	14,581
Repairs—	2,724	1,800	1,800	1,433
Communications	2,489	1,910	1,910	1,885
Buildings	2,731	2,210	2,820	2,765
Drainage	2,349	2,420	2,300	2,123
Water-supply	733	410	200	230
Establishment	175	100	150	145
Tools and Plant and other Stores	24,188	1,57,540	77,250	57,272
Contributions for Public Works				
Total ..				
GRANT 2—	35	80	..	..
Training Schools	6,791	7,250	7,700	7,482
Municipal Schools—	1,342	1,300	1,380	1,354
On the Salary System	1,202	1,200	1,100	1,043
,, Salary-result System	150	300	300	300
Salary Grants	87	80	100	78
Result ,, ...	127	130	130	130
Building, Furniture, &c., Grants	60	60	60	..
Inspection	9,794	10,400	10,770	10,387
Miscellaneous				
Total ..				

—	Actuals, 1895–96.	Budget estimate, 1896–97.	Revised estimate, 1896–97.	Actuals, 1896–97.
Charges—cont.				
GRANT 3—	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Hospitals and Dispensaries	234	210	210	203
Contributions	1,618	1,110	1,620	1,450
Vaccination	401	360	380	385
Registration of Births and Deaths	251	260	280	290
Conservancy, Road-cleaning and Road-watering	21,585	20,800	24,110	23,244
Total ..	24,089	22,740	26,600	25,572
GRANT 4—				
Lighting	3,119	2,900	3,460	3,478
Markets and Slaughter-houses	544	570	570	558
Choultries	111	100	120	121
Public Garden, Survey of Land, Fire and other Charges ..	3,414	1,030	2,210	2,865
Total ..	7,188	4,600	6,360	7,022
GRANT 5—				
Supervision and Management	8,840	8,900	9,140	9,268
Repayment of Debt	5,259	4,450	4,450	4,262
Interest on Loan	6,345	6,220	6,220	6,218
Advances Recoverable	28	..	..	30
Refunds	1,301	1,000	1,800	1,524
Investments	50,000	..	1,00,000	1,00,000
Balance	34,997	30	15,580	36,924
Grand Total ..	1,72,029	2,15,880	2,58,170	2,58,479

2. The municipal council held 29 meetings or one more than in 1895–96. The average attendance of the members declined slightly, but it continued to be good in the case of the officials and fair in that of the non-officials. Three seats were filled by election during the year and all of them were contested, 52 per cent. of the registered voters attending the poll.

3. *Receipts.*—(1) Deducting the opening balance and the special Government grants and loans, the total receipts from taxation and other sources were Rs. 83,482, being Rs. 3,362 more than in the previous year. Under the tax on arts and professions the net current demand decreased by Rs. 91, although the number of persons assessed was higher by 46. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 1,866 in the demand under the tax on buildings, due to the revision of the registers, and an increase of Rs. 2,025 under the water-tax, owing to the enhancement of the rate from one to two per cent. of the annual value. Under the land-tax the demand fell, being Rs. 846 against Rs. 917 in 1895–96, the decline being due to the assessment of the tax on the net, instead of the gross, income of the Botanical gardens. The method adopted for assessing the tax on these lands appears, however, to be irregular in as much as section 63 of Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897, contemplates an assessment with reference to the annual value, which is to be determined in accordance with section 65 and not on the income. Accordingly, if this is correctly understood to have been the principle of the assessment in the case of the gardens, the taxation should be revised without delay.

(2) The current collections under the principal taxes, which in respect of the land-tax improved appreciably, were on the whole good, but the arrear realizations under all these heads, while decidedly better than in the previous year, were still not satisfactory. The balances under these heads outstanding at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 3,128 against Rs. 2,962 on the 31st March 1896, the arrears dating as far back as 1892–93. These should be adjusted without delay. The number of coercive processes issued during the year was considerably larger than in 1895–96, but their execution was most dilatory, as many as 48·6 per cent. of the total number of warrants for disposal remaining unexecuted on the 31st March 1897. The reason, referred to in paragraph 10 of the report, for not proceeding to distraint or sale where such a course was authorised by the law is wholly untenable. This neglect, no doubt, accounts in large measure for the large outstanding arrears, the existence of which has been animadverted upon above. For the future the law should be enforced.

(3) The income from the sale of sweepings and night-soil, markets and slaughter-houses, and license fees declined; but under school-fees and fines it advanced, owing, in the case of the last mentioned, to the institution of a larger number of prosecutions.

(4) The number of houses served by the private scavenging agency was 261 or one more than in the previous year. Notwithstanding the repeated instructions of Government, the private scavenging fees were not collected in advance. This must be strictly attended to for the future. The slow extension of the system is very unsatisfactory, for only about twelve per cent. of the total number of houses assessed to the tax on buildings were under municipal control. The proportion should be very much higher in such a town as Ootacamund, the sanitation of which should be more in accord with European, than with Native, ideas. The service continued to be worked at a profit, amounting in the year under review to close on Rs. 3,000. Government has repeatedly insisted that the service is not to be made a source of municipal revenue, and steps should at once be taken to devote the surplus receipts to the improvement of the service or to the reduction of the fees. By the latter course the service will become more popular and acceptable to a larger number of householders.

4. *Expenditure.*—(1) *Public Works.*—The expenditure under Grant 1 amounted to Rs. 57,272 against the budget estimate of Rs. 1,57,880, the decrease being mainly due to the non-utilization of the provision for the water-supply scheme which was not ripe for execution. Owing, however, to the allotment of a sum of Rs. 4,333 for the investigation of this project, and of a sum of Rs. 25,450 for the realignment of the intercepting sewer, the charges exceeded the actuals of the previous year by Rupees 33,084. The latter work, which is the most important of the new works undertaken during the year, is under execution by the Public Works Department. Some improvements were also effected in the market and slaughter-houses at an aggregate cost of Rs. 2,339. The outlay on communications, towards the improvement of which a special grant of Rs. 5,000 was made by Government, amounted to Rs. 14,601 against Rs. 9,486 in 1895–96. The Collector has not reported on the condition of the town roads—an omission which should be supplied in future reports—but the Chairman states that they were in fair order.

(2) *Education.*—The net expenditure under this head was Rs. 3,706, or 8·5 per cent. of the income from taxation. About one-third of this sum was devoted to secondary, and the remainder to primary, education. The municipal council continued to maintain one secondary and three primary schools, and to aid with salary grants two secondary schools. One secondary and three primary schools were also aided with result grants against four primary schools in 1895–96. The attendance at the municipal secondary school increased, but at the primary schools taken together it declined. The only candidate sent up for the Matriculation examination was unsuccessful, and out of the six pupils who appeared for the Lower Secondary examination only one passed. The results of the departmental examinations, however, continued to be fair. At the aided schools the attendance increased, being 617 against 607 in 1895–96; the results of the grant examinations were fairly good and the allotment for result grants was fully utilized. The total number of boys under instruction in the municipal and aided schools was 763 or 64·3 per cent. of the male population of school-going age against 755 or 63·6 per cent. in 1895–96.

(3) *Medical Relief.*—As in previous years, the municipal council maintained no hospital of its own, but contributed Rs. 800 towards the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's hospital. The number of patients treated at this institution increased, being 19,966 against 18,646 in the previous year. The number of midwifery cases attended at the hospital fell from 132 to 92, the decrease being attributed by the Medical officer to a change of midwives and to the increasing popularity of the municipal midwife who practises outside. The latter, who, however, was absent from duty during a part of the year, attended only 42 cases.

(4) *Vaccination and Vital Statistics.*—The reported number of persons vaccinated during the year was 1,160 or 78 less than in 1895–96. The percentage of success according to the returns was 99·9 against 99·3. This percentage is extraordinarily high and more markedly so in view of the fact that nearly one-third of the total number of cases are entered as re-vaccinations. It would have been satisfactory

if the Medical officer had tested a certain proportion of cases and stated his opinion of the trustworthiness of the returns as the result of his verifications. Infantile vaccination declined slightly, the number of children under one year successfully vaccinated being 575 against 631 in 1895–96 and was only sixteen less than the registered number of births; but this comparison is of doubtful value owing to the large floating population in the town and the questionable trustworthiness of the birth returns. It is gratifying to note that there were no deaths from small-pox.

The number of births registered during the year increased from 485 to 591, exhibiting a rate of 39·3 per mille of the population. The registered deaths rose from 357 to 483 or 32·1 per mille of the population. The higher death-rate is attributed by the Medical officer to the larger number of cases of malarious fever brought into the town for treatment from the adjoining country. The attention of the council is drawn to the Collector's remarks in paragraph 8 of his endorsement.

(5) *Sanitation.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 23,244, being 11·8 per cent. in excess of the budget allotment and 27·8 per cent. of the total ordinary receipts. From the Civil Surgeon's report it appears that sanitation received fair attention. The dilatoriness on the part of the sub-committee in selecting sites for night-soil depôts is reprehensible. If this body does not dispose of the matter immediately, the municipal council should take it into its own hands. With regard to the scheme for the water-supply of Ootacamund prepared by Mr. Walch, the orders of Government upon it have been recently issued. The attention of the council is drawn to paragraph 11 of the Collector's endorsement. The entertainment of the temporary establishment referred to in paragraph 39, for which a proposition statement in the prescribed form should have been submitted, is sanctioned.

5. *General Remarks.*—The year closed with a balance of Rs. 36,924 or 44·2 per cent. of the total ordinary receipts; but the greater portion of this sum represents the unexpended portions of the allotments for works for the execution of which special grants and loans were given by Government.

The administration of the municipality during the year under review showed, in some respects, an improvement on that of the previous year, and was, on the whole, satisfactory so far as the funds at the disposal of the council permitted.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

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

Bxd. A. Raitt.

Public Works (1897) Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 2232 M., 13th October 1897.

No 3337/WD 80-11-97

Communicated to the S.

OCTOBER. III circle

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To
S.E IV circle

Administration Report.

Reviewing the — of the Ootacamund Municipal Council for 1896–97.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From G. HAMNETT, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated 6th June 1897, No. 1075.

I have the honour to submit the administration report of the Ootacamund Municipality for the official year 1896–97, together with the prescribed statements and copies of the reports of the Civil Surgeon and of the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore Division.

I.—CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL.

2. The council consisted of two officials and fourteen non-officials. Both officials were Europeans. Of the non-officials four were Europeans, four Eurasians and six natives. Five vacancies occurred during the year, of which two were nominated and three elected. The elections were well contested, the native members securing a larger number of votes than the Europeans and Eurasians. The council held 29 meetings. There were two adjustments for want of a quorum. The average attendance at each meeting was 9·10 against 9·57 in 1895–96.

II.—RECEIPTS.

3. The general income, including the opening balance of Rs. 34,997–2–0, amounted to Rs. 2,58,479–4–6. This includes the grants and loans made by the Government to the extent of Rs. 1,40,000 for improving the water-supply and other miscellaneous improvements. The expenditure, including a fixed deposit of Rupees 1,00,000 in the Bank of Madras for twelve months, amounted to Rs. 2,21,554–15–5, leaving a balance of Rs. 36,924–5–1, of which Rs. 7,700 belong to the water-supply improvement and Rs. 29,224–5–1 to miscellaneous improvements and municipal fund.

4. The income derived from taxation amounted to Rs. 43,781–13–4 against Rs. 40,487–6–3, the actuals for 1895–96, and the revised estimate for 1896–97 of Rs. 45,250. The income, apart from taxation, was Rs. 21,841–15–0 against Rupees 21,861–2–2, the actuals for 1895–96, and Rs. 20,830, the revised estimate. Miscellaneous receipts amounted to Rs. 7,983–0–5 against Rs. 7,606–12–0, the actuals for the previous year, and Rs. 6,960, the revised estimate for 1896–97. It will be seen from these figures that the municipal revenue during 1896–97 has not declined under any head.

5. The balance outstanding on the 31st March 1896 was Rs. 3,550–6–8, of which Rs. 2,017–3–1 were collected, Rs. 350–12–9 were remitted and Rs. 394–14–8 written off as irrecoverable, leaving a balance of Rs. 787–8–2. The demand for 1896–97 was Rs. 61,043–1–9 against Rs. 56,452–12–9, the demand for 1895–96. The increase in 1896–97 may be ascribed to the increase in the rate of water-tax from 1 to 2 per cent. from the 1st October 1896 on houses which expressly benefited by the water-supply, to the increase in the house-tax by a revision of assessments in cases in which no annual revisions were made, to the increase in the market and cart-stand rents, and to the increase in private scavenging fees. Of the demand, as finally settled, viz., Rs. 61,043–1–9, Rs. 58,316–9–3 were collected and Rs. 177–1–6

remitted in connection with vacant houses, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,549–7–0 which, added to the previous year's balance of Rs. 787–8–2, amounts to Rs. 3,336–15–2, or Rs. 213–7–6 less than the balance remaining uncollected at the end of 1895–96.

6. *Tax on Buildings and Lands.*—There was no change in the taxation under this head during the year. The demand as finally settled on buildings was Rupees 30,190–15–11, showing an advance of Rs. 1,865–9–1. The increase during the last five years was Rs. 3,682. The demand on lands was Rs. 845–13–0 against Rupees 917–2–6 in 1895–96, the decrease was caused by the tax being calculated on the net, instead of on the gross, income of the Botanical gardens. Of the demand Rs. 776–1–0 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 69–12–0. The arrears last year amounted to Rs 38–4–0 and the uncollected balance on the 31st March 1897 stood at Rs. 108. The "Arrears of previous years" of 1895–96, viz., Rs. 479–3–10, has been raised in statement IV-B to Rs. 501–11–10 in consequence of fifteen acres of land at Bishopsdown having been assessed under the judgment of the High Court referred to in paragraph 3 of the administration report for 1895–96.

7. *The Water-tax on Buildings.*—The demand was Rs. 5,801–11–6, of which Rs. 5,424–6–11 were collected, Rs. 20–12–10 remitted for vacant houses, leaving a balance of Rs. 356–7–9 which, added to the arrears of the previous year, amounting to Rs. 77–4–11, leaves an unrealized balance of Rs. 433–12–8.

8. *Tax on Arts and Profession.*—The demand was Rs. 3,308–8–0, of which Rs. 3,037–8–0 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 271 which, added to the balance of Rs. 162 in 1895–96, raises the balance to Rs. 433. There was a decrease in the current demand of Rs. 91 owing to fluctuations in the number of persons in receipt of salaries and in the number of tradesmen.

9. *Tax on Vehicles, Animals and Carts.*—The estimate and revised estimate were fixed at Rs. 4,700 and Rs. 4,200, respectively. The amount actually realized was Rs. 4,357–10–4.

10. The number of processes which remained unexecuted on the 31st March 1896 was 429; issued during 1897, 1,624: total 2,053. Of this number 1,055 were executed and cancelled, 998 remained unexecuted and 32 warrants were cancelled on which no collections were made. The number of warrants withdrawn in consequence of payments having been made before distraint was 1,023. The number of prosecutions instituted was 269. In 220 cases payment was made before the court delivered judgment and 49 cases remained undisposed of. No property was distrained or sold in view to avoid the "public howl" which was raised in 1888–89 and referred to by the then Acting Collector in his endorsement, No. 42, dated 28th June 1889, on the annual report for the year.

11. The revenue, apart from taxation, amounted to Rs. 21,841–15–0 against Rs. 21,861–2–2 in 1895–96 and the revised estimate for 1896–97 of Rs. 20,830. In the revenue for 1895–96 was (as shown in paragraph 12 of the annual report for that year) included Rs. 2,144–5–7, the deposits of renters. Under sale-proceeds of night-soil the amount (Rs. 700) anticipated in the revised estimate has not been realized. Under educational fees there is an increase of nearly Rs. 400 due to an increase in the fees realized in the Breek's Memorial High school. The income from markets shows an increase of Rs. 635–13–4, but compared with the figures of 1891–92 there has been an increase of Rs. 4,660. Slaughter-houses show an increase of Rs. 212–8–0, but compared with 1891–92 there has been an increase of Rs. 1,905. Cart-stands also show an increase over 1891–92 of Rs. 705. License-fees show a falling off of Rs. 260–8–7 owing to licenses being withheld in consequence of parties not complying with the conditions prescribed. The increase under this head over 1891–92 is Rs. 575. Fines under Municipal and other Acts show an increase of Rs. 137–8–0 owing to prosecutions having been instituted in a large number of cases for infringement of the sanitary clauses of the Municipal Act.

12. *Grants and Contributions from Government*—amounted to Rs. 1,39,354–0–10, of which Rs. 1,00,000 are for the water-supply improvement and Rs. 30,000 for miscellaneous improvements, including a working balance of Rs. 5,000, which the Government were pleased to grant from Provincial funds to aid the municipality in carrying on the administration.

13. *Miscellaneous Recoveries on account of services rendered to Private Individuals.*—Private scavenging produced Rs. 281–4–0 over the revised estimate and (*ii*) Other purposes Rs. 792–8–1.

14. *Extraordinary and Debt.*—The Rs. 10,000 shown under loans from Government are for sanitary works to be undertaken during the year 1896–97. Much difficulty is, however, experienced in obtaining land within the town for the construction of small latrines to meet the needs of people who have no such accommodation attached to their dwellings.

III.—EXPENDITURE.

15. The expenditure in 1896–97, which includes a lakh of rupees invested in the Branch Bank of Madras, amounted to Rs. 2,21,554–15–5 against the revised estimate for the year of Rs. 2,42,590 and the actuals of 1895–96 of Rs. 1,37,032–5–7.

16. GRANT 1, PUBLIC WORKS.—The expenditure amounted to Rs. 57,271–10–2 against the revised estimate of Rs. 77,250 and the actuals for 1895–96 of Rupees 24,188–6–2. The excess over the actuals occurred by an assignment of Rs. 25,450 having been made to the Public Works Department for remedying defects in the main intercepting sewer and by an expenditure of Rs. 4,333–0–2 in connection with Mr. G. T. Walch's investigation and report for improving the water-supply of the town.

17. *New Buildings.*—The expenditure (Rs. 3,108–11–3) was considerably less than the allotment of Rs. 13,100 in the revised estimate, which included the loan of Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by the Government for sanitary works, &c. Of the expenditure incurred Rs. 1,460–15–8 were spent on the market, viz., for a platform, 85 feet long and 8½ feet broad, for exposing the fruit brought for sale on market days, Rupees 310–4–6; for paving the long verandah where sweetmeat, bread and other edibles, &c., are sold with Cuddapah slabs, Rs. 450; for enclosing the centre square of the market near the mutton butchers' stall to store the mutton remaining unsold instead of being removed to the butchers' houses, Rs. 473–8–0; and for sundry other repairs and improvements Rs. 227–3–2. The remaining sum of Rs. 1,647–11–7 was appropriated for erecting a shed with corrugated iron sheets and timber for the storage of straw Rs. 255–4–0, for improving the slaughter-houses Rs. 878–2–7, for metalling the cart-stand Rs. 99–7–0, for metalling the rubbish cart-stand Rs. 99–5–0 and for purchasing forty dustbins Rs. 315–9–0.

18. *Drainage, Rs.* 25,557–1–7.—As explained in the preceding paragraph, Rupees 25,450 were assigned for the main intercepting sewer, the balance (Rs. 107–1–7) was spent in building a cement drain in continuation of a drain built by a private individual in old agraharam to carry off refuse water Rs. 75, for completing a drain in the market Rs. 15–9–7 and for constructing a drain in Dogherty's lane at Mettucherry Rs. 16–8–0.

19. *Water-supply.*—Rs. 4,333–0–2 were disbursed to Mr. G. T. Walch to enable him to carry out his investigations for improving the water-supply.

20. *Miscellaneous Public Improvements, Rs.* 596–11–0.—The conservancy of the lake costs Rs. 309–5–0, clearing and cleaning the main stream Rs. 31–14–6, the Kandal stream Rs. 50, and improving the triangles at Charing Cross Rs. 205–7–6.

21. *Repairs—Communications.*—The allotment in the budget estimate was Rupees 10,000. On Mr. Tremenheere's representation of the bad condition of many of the roads, the Government were pleased to make a special grant of Rs. 5,000, thereby raising the allotment to Rs. 15,000, of which Rs. 14,580–11–5 were spent on 92 roads and lanes. The largest sums were spent on the Church Hill and Hadfield roads Rs. 531–10–9, Etirnne's road in continuation of South Lake road Rs. 599–14–9; South Lake road repairing and reforming from Willow Bund to Westmere Rs. 2,087–0–3; Kelso road repairs, improvements and fencing in connection with Charing Cross Rs. 609–4–0; Manjanakorai road used largely by carts bringing in road materials Rs. 685–9–0; Snowdon and Marlimund roads Rs. 661–13–9. The special grant has saved many of the roads and lanes from being entirely cut up and rendered unfit for use. The present condition of the roads is fair. The repair and reform of roads were carried out chiefly by contract.

22. *Repairs—Buildings.*—The revised estimate provided Rs. 1,800, but not more than Rs. 1,432–11–1 were spent during the year. The buildings on which more than Rs. 100 were spent were the market Rs. 421–3–5, municipal cattle-shed Rs. 163–3–11, municipal office Rs. 191–11–9 and repairing slaughter-houses Rs. 106–15–9.

23. *Repairs—Drainage, Rs.* 486–11–1.—The largest item of expenditure under this head was Rs. 279–14–3 on house-connecting drains to prevent the refuse water from the houses flowing on the streets. The other items relate to petty repairs and building a small revetment at the outfall of a drain on the Upper Bazaar road.

24. *Water-supply.*—The revised estimate provided for Rs. 1,180. The actual expenditure did not exceed Rs. 1,142–0–10.

25. *Establishment.*—The actual expenditure (Rs. 2,122–8–8) fell short of the revised estimate (Rs. 2,300) by Rs. 177–7–4, as the full strength of the establishment was not employed in consequence of the difficulty experienced in procuring an efficient overseer.

26. *Tools and Plant.*—The expenditure (Rs. 230–1–1) exceeded the revised estimate (Rs. 200) by Rs. 30–1–1. The increase was caused by the purchase of a larger number of tools than was anticipated when the estimate was prepared.

27. GRANT 2, EDUCATION.—The estimated provision in the budget for the year was Rs. 9,950. It was increased in the revised estimate to Rs. 10,770. The expenditure, however, did not exceed Rs. 10,387–8–1. The schools aided and maintained were the Breek's Memorial High school, Municipal bazaar and Kandal schools and the Muhammadan school, the Church Mission schools at Metucherry with a secondary department, Kandal, Bandyshola and old Ootacamund, the Wesleyan Mission school and St. Joseph's school.

28. *The Breek's Memorial High School.*—The changes made during the year were the creation of the post of an assistant master on Rs. 100 per mensem and a clerk on Rs. 15, the services of the Brahmin assistant on Rs. 60 being dispensed with and a Eurasian appointed in his place from January 1897. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing a suitable person for the post of assistant master and Mr. Kelly, who at present fills it, is not considered qualified by the Inspector of Schools, Western Circle. The teaching staff therefore is still not as efficient as it should be. Notwithstanding this, the number of boys in the school on the 31st March 1897 rose to 80 against 63 on the 31st March 1896. In the upper secondary there were 13, in the lower secondary 21 and in the primary school 46. The school received from Provincial funds Rs. 3,210–0–10. The school-fees, rent from Church cottage, &c., amounted to Rs. 3,470–12–0. The total receipts were therefore Rs. 6,680–12–10 against Rs. 5,406–15–0 in 1895–96. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,481–8–4 and exceeded the receipts by Rs. 800–11–6 which was met from Municipal funds. The average net cost per pupil in the upper secondary department was Rs. 52–12–8, in the lower secondary Rs. 11–12–7 and in the primary schools Rs. 3–6–2 against Rs. 106–8–10, Rs. 54–9–7 and Rs. 13–1–3 in the year 1895–96. The Inspector of Schools, Western Circle, in his report, dated the 27th May 1897, remarks—

"The general educational qualifications of the subordinate staff are not up to the mark. A graduate in science or mathematics should have been introduced as suggested in Proceedings No. 8349, dated 4th August 1896. Mr. Sidney Smith does not seem to hold any certificate in drawing".

"The further increase in the attendance since the last inspection is noted with satisfaction."

"The headmaster's suggestion to admit native boys into the school at the standard rate of fees is calculated to improve the strength. The appearance of a Badaga in the upper secondary section is encouraging."

"Public examinations—Matriculation, total failure; Lower Secondary, poor.

"General impression—The school is improving. The pupils were cleanly dressed and generally well behaved. Discipline and tone left nothing to be desired."

29. The average attendance in the secondary schools was 26 against 15 in 1895–96 and in the primary schools 137 against 132. The total number of boys in the schools aided and maintained from Municipal funds was 763 against 755 in 1895–96. The Assistant Inspector of Schools remarks in statement No. I that—

"On the whole the number of schools at the close of the year under review was one less, but the total number of boys under instruction was sixteen more than in 1895–96, and so there was some progress and the whole of it was confined to board and aided schools."

30. The percentage of children under instruction of school-going age taken at 15 per cent. of the population was 81·29 against 79·80 in 1895–96.

31. The educational officers are strong in their condemnation of the position of the Municipal bazaar school, but the municipal council cannot see its way either to remove the school to another building or to a better locality.

32. GRANT 3, SANITATION AND MEDICAL SERVICE.—The expenditure amounted to Rs. 25,571–11–6. It falls short of the revised estimate by Rs. 1,028–4–6, but exceeds the actuals for 1895–96 by Rs. 1,483–0–7. The full amount included in the revised estimate under Conservancy—Other charges was not spent, as the purchase of the five pairs of bullocks referred to in paragraph 15 (2) of the Chairman's letter, recorded in the Proceedings of Government, No. 595 M., dated the 18th March 1897, was postponed owing to the want of accommodation in the municipal cattle-shed which is now being enlarged from the loan of Rs. 2,300 obtained from the Government for the purpose. The contribution to St. Bartholomew's hospital and the apothecary was Rs. 799–13–4. The number of patients treated in the hospital was 19,966 during the year against 18,646 in 1895–96.

33. The work done by the municipal midwife is cited by the late Civil Surgeon in his report which is appended. She attended 42 cases, but was absent on leave for some time during the year on account of her marriage and her accouchement. With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1363 M., dated 14th August 1896, the municipal council has resolved that the minimum number of cases which the midwife should attend shall be six instead of four.

34. *Vaccination.*—The expenditure was Rs. 384–14–4 or Rs. 4–14–4 in excess of the revised estimate owing to an increase under contingent charges. The number vaccinated during the year was 1,160, of which 1,159 were successful, viz., 813 primary and 346 re-vaccination. Compared with 1895–96 there was a falling off of 70 cases, and this falling off is satisfactorily accounted for by the Civil Surgeon in his report which accompanies. The number of operations with animal lymph was 1,160, of which 1,159 were successful. The total number of successful operations was 76·86 per mille of population against 81·64 in 1895–96. The number of prosecutions instituted during the year was 196. The average cost of each successful vaccination was 5·3, the same as in the year 1895–96.

35. *Registration of Births and Deaths.*—The expenditure, viz., Rs. 290–0–9, exceeds the revised estimate by Rs. 10–0–9, the contingent charges having exceeded the provision made in the estimate for printing the new forms of registers of births and deaths prescribed by the Government. The registers show that the number of births was 591 and deaths 483 against 485 and 357 in 1895–96, or per mille per annum of 39·26 and 32·08 against 32·21 and 23·71 in 1895–96. Thirty-five prosecutions were instituted for failure to register. In 22 cases the parties were fined by the Magistrate to the extent of Rs. 10–6–0 and 13 cases were withdrawn, the parties having complied with the rules in force. In 1896–97 there were 106 births and 126 deaths above those in 1895–96. The Civil Surgeon has explained the cause of increase in deaths. In consequence of the prevalence of cholera in a village near Kaity, about three miles from Ootacamund, as well as in villages in the Coimbatore district, especially Méttupálaiyam, several cases were imported into the town; of these five proved fatal Prompt measures were, however, taken to disinfect the places where the patients were found or died and the disease was not allowed to spread.

36. *Conservancy and Road-cleaning cost Rs.* 18,869–4–7.—The cost fell short of the provision made in the revised estimate (Rs. 19,800) by Rs. 930–11–5, as the purchase of the five pairs of bullocks required for the conservancy department was postponed for want of accommodation in the municipal cattle-shed as stated in paragraph 32 above. The number of bullocks maintained was 51, of these two died. The number of night-soil carts was increased from 13 to 17 and rubbish carts from 12 to 17. There was one sewage cart only. Three night-soil hand-carts and five large iron buckets were, however, purchased from the Madras Municipality. The night-soil

continues to be deposited at the Titical depôt. The suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner in his notes of inspection of the town in June 1896 of securing night-soil depôts at places nearer the sites of collection was referred to a sub-committee of the municipal council on the 8th October 1896, but the sub-committee has not yet favoured the council with its views on the suggestion.

37. The number of latrines was 48. The proposal to build more in the town could not be carried out, as much difficulty has been experienced by the Revenue Department in acquiring the land needed for the purpose. It was found necessary during the year to remove two of the urinals in the market premises, and the number of urinals was thereby reduced from six to four. The number (46) of dustbins purchased during the year was larger than in previous years (viz., 20 per year). Notwithstanding this the total number stood at 170 against 171 in 1895–96, as 47 very old bins had to be rejected as being unserviceable.

38. *Private Scavenging.*—The allotment in the estimate and revised estimate was Rs. 2,610. The expenditure did not exceed Rs. 2,611–7–9. The number of houses conserved was 261 or one more than in the previous year. The actual income amounted to Rs. 5,781–4–0 against the revised estimate of Rs. 5,500 and the actuals of Rupees 5,238–12–0 in 1895–96. The excess is accounted for by the extra fees derived from the conservancy of temporary latrines constructed for the coolies employed on the lake reclamation scheme. The charges under "Contingencies, such as cost of scavenging carts, &c.," amounted to Rs. 230–15–8 against a provision of Rs. 50, as it was found indispensably necessary to provide large quantities of disinfectants and to print and circulate notices for the prompt collection of the scavenging fees due by private individuals. The expenditure under (*d*) Contingencies was Rs. 925–14–6 against an allotment of Rs. 900 in the revised estimate.

39. "*Epidemic Reserve.*"—The expenditure incurred under this head was in conformity with the rules prescribed by the Government in order, No. 1536 M, dated 9th September 1896, and amounted to Rs. 606–4–1 against a provision in the revised estimate of Rs. 750. The details of the temporary establishment employed on cholera duty, and the payments made for the purchase of disinfectants, &c., are given in the statement which accompanies this report, and the sanction of the Government is requested for the same.

40. GRANT 4, MISCELLANEOUS PURPOSES—*Lighting.*—The expenditure, viz., Rs. 3,478–2–10, is higher than that incurred in 1895–96 by Rs. 359–0–8 and the allotment (Rs. 3,460) in the revised estimate by Rs. 18–2–10. The reason for the increase in 1896–97 was given in paragraph 16 of the Chairman's letter recorded in G.O., No. 595 M., dated 18th March 1897. The lighting work is still carried on by contract. It is not quite as satisfactory as it should be, but considering the difficulties which the contractor has to overcome in making good the lanterns, lamps and chimneys which are stolen at nights by some person or persons, some allowance must be made for shortcomings. The present rate for lighting each light is As. 13–5 against As. 14 in 1896–97. The number of lamps during the year was 261 or ten more than in the previous year.

41. The market tolls and rents realized Rs. 8,985–13–4 against Rs. 7,810 in 1895–96 as shown in paragraph 41 of the annual report for that year. The expenditure, inclusive of interest on loans and sinking funds of Rs. 5,100, amounted to Rupees 7,366–8–7, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,619–4–9. The market premises were much improved during the year from the special grant given by the Government and the expenditure incurred amounts to Rs. 1,460–15–8. As the general market has not sufficient accommodation for many of the poorer butchers' shops, a small market near Butcher's street would enable the municipal council to remove the beef and mutton shops which now disfigure the Butcher's street and keep that street in cleaner and better order.

42. *Slaughter-houses.*—The amount (Rs. 4,612–8–0) realized under the head exceeds the revised estimate by Rs. 212–8–0, but falls short of the actuals of 1895–96 by Rs. 397–8–0. The expenditure under establishment and contingencies amounted to Rs. 273–6–3 and under repairs and improvements to Rs. 878–2–7, which amount, however, was met from the special grant given by the Government.

43. The council is of opinion that the provision of pens for cattle and sheep should not be deferred any longer, as the cattle and sheep brought up from the plains are not properly housed and the sanitary condition of the houses in which they are kept is very indifferent.

44. *The Chattram*—in old agraharam was maintained. The cost for establishment was Rs. 84 and for contingencies Rs. 36–9–1. The total expenditure (Rs. 120–9–1) exceeded the revised estimate by As. 9–1.

45. *Other Charges.*—The work done for private individuals amounted to Rupees 1,461–12–0 or Rs. 461–12–0 more than was estimated for. Rs. 6 were spent on rewards for killing dogs. The man who agreed to do the work would not continue it after he killed 26 dogs and no other man in the town could be induced to take his place. The charge Rs. 617–6–10 for printing exceeded the revised estimate (Rs. 500) by Rs. 117–6–10. The excess was caused by the more extended nature of the periodical proceedings of the municipal council. Other items also exceeded the revised estimate by Rs. 79–9–0, as many sign boards had to be renewed and new ones put up besides the renumbering of all doors of houses in the bazaar and villages.

46. GRANT 5, GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.—The charge for office establishment was Rs. 3,313–4–9 or Rs. 6–11–3 less than the revised estimate. The charge for establishment for collection of municipal taxes (Rs. 1,379–1–8) is Rs. 9–1–8 more than the revised estimate and is due to a payment of Rs. 11–9–5 having been made to a bill-collector for arrears of salary. The purchase of account books, paper, &c., amounted to Rs. 374–2–11. The excess of Rs. 74–2–11 is owing to a larger number of forms having been printed during the year. For the same reason the charge under (*d*) Office contingencies other than (*b*) (ii) is Rs. 47–13–6 more than the amount (Rs. 500) provided in the revised estimate. The contribution for central office and audit establishments amounted to Rs. 654.

47. *Repayment of Debt.*—Rs. 2,352–4–4 were paid towards Government loans, Rs. 1,900 were invested in Government securities on account of sinking fund for loans raised for the market and municipal office, Rs. 9–13–10 were paid for investment, and Rs. 6,217–11–8 for interest on loans obtained from the Government and private individuals.

48. *Refund of other than current Collections.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to only Rs. 1,524–2–5 against an estimated provision of Rs. 1,800. The expenditure included the sum of Rs. 710–1–11 due to the Forest department referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chairman's letter, No. 1034, dated 20th May 1896, and recorded in G.O., No. 1363 M., dated 14th August 1896.

49. *Investments.*—One lakh of rupees appertaining to the improvement of the water-supply to this town was, with the approval and sanction of the Government, placed in the fixed deposit in the Branch Bank of Madras for one year at 3 per cent. interest. The year will expire on the 1st October 1897.

50. CLOSING BALANCE.—The closing balance was Rs. 36,924–5–1.

51. GENERAL REMARKS.—(*a*) It is understood that Mr. G. T. Walch has submitted to the Government his report with plans and estimates for the improvement of the water-supply of the town.

(*b*) The defects in the main intercepting sewer are being now remedied under the supervision of Mr. J. F. Somers-Eve, Executive Engineer on special duty.

(*c*) The lake reclamation scheme has not progressed so rapidly as the council was led to hope when the work commenced last year.

(*d*) One thousand five hundred and seventy-five notices were issued during the year for cleansing and draining insanitary compounds of houses, repairing private latrines, lime-washing houses, trimming hedges, clearing noxious vegetation, and securing dilapidated and ruinous houses. The largest number (873) of notices were issued in the months of October and November 1896 when some cases of cholera were imported into the town. There were 308 prosecutions for non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and notices issued. Convictions were not obtained in all cases from the want of a special subordinate who could collect reliable evidence and conduct the prosecutions satisfactorily.

(*e*) The Marlimund and Dodabetta reservoirs had sufficient water in them to meet the wants of the town.

(*f*) This report was circulated and adopted by the municipal council at the meeting held on the 26th June 1897.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. COOK, M.B., Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated 31st May 1897, No. 219.

I have the honour to submit the annual concise medical and sanitary report on the municipal town of Ootacamund for 1896–97.

2. *Public Health.*—The general health of the people within the limits of the municipality was, on the whole, satisfactory. In the month of October cholera in a sporadic form made its appearance. Four cases were admitted to hospital and of these three died. Two deaths occurred in the town. The origin of the outbreak was traceable to importation from a place called Ellanalee Kaity where there was cholera at the time. As will be observed from the sub-joined table of vital statistics, there is an increased mortality under fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa as compared with the previous year. This is due in great measure to a greater number of cases of malarial fever, complicated with dysentery and diarrhœa, coming into Ootacamund for treatment from several of the malarious tracts on the Nilgiris. Several cases of pulmonary affections occurring amongst the lower orders of natives were also treated. Enteric fever was not very prevalent.

Vital Statistics.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total births	308	283	591
,, deaths	256	227	483

Causes of deaths.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cholera	4	1	5
Small-pox		*Nil.*	
Fever	78	78	150
Dysentery	15	9	24
Diarrhœa	14	14	28
Accidents	..	..	8
All other causes	148	120	268
Total	..	..	483

3. *Sanitation.*—As stated in last year's report, there are eight villages, excluding Ootacamund proper, that are conserved within municipal limits. The Chairman of the municipaliy, the ward councillors and the Civil Surgeon very frequently inspect the sanitation of all parts of the town. There are still 48 public latrines besides 4 urinals within the public market, and 24 scavengers are employed to attend to the conservancy of these places. Two hundred and sixty-one private latrines are conserved by municipal agency, 26 scavengers being employed for this purpose. As mentioned in the report of last year, the area of the town is 11 square miles, with 68 miles of metalled road, for whose surface sweeping there are 76 sweepers employed. The number of street lamps is 261 and the number of dustbins 170. Forty seven of the old ones were rejected as unserviceable

The number of carts for the removal of night-soil, rubbish and sewage was thirteen. In addition to these, four night-soil carts from Messrs. Burn & Co. with cylindrical revolving bodies, three night-soil hand-carts, five buckets from the Madras Municipality and five teak-wood rubbish-carts have been purchased. The sewage of streets and drains is carried off partly by the main sewer and partly by pipe sewers below the lake. For the re-alignment of the main sewer, a sum of Rs. 2,545 * has been sanctioned in G.O., No. 107 M., dated 27th January 1897 The work has just been put into hand. The reclamation of the upper lake is now rapidly progressing, and until this is finished and the sewage pipes put into thorough order, the health of the town will be greatly menaced. Every attention is given to the conservancy of the town, but the difficulty of getting natives to keep their houses and surroundings clean has yet to be overcome. The remarks *anent* the water-supply of the town mentioned in the last report hold good this year also. Mr. G. T. Walch who was appointed to make the necessary schemes for the general water-supply of Ootacamund has completed them and they are now before Government. Another source of water is from wells, of which there about 150 in the town. The water of some of them is good and of others inferior.

* Should be Rs. 25,450.

Vaccination.

Year.	Number of cases vaccinated.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.	Infantile.		
					Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.
1895-96	1,238	1,229	3	6	631	..	..
1896-97	1,160	1,159	..	1	575	..	..

In spite of the energetic manner in which the municipal vaccinator performs his duties and the institution of 196 prosecutions under the compulsory vaccination clauses, and the fact that number of operations is in excess of the birth-rate, there has been a smaller number than last year. This is due to the fact that the population of Ootacamund is of a floating character.

4. *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*—The municipality possesses no hospital of its own, and therefore contributes Rs. 500 annually towards the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's hospital and also gives an allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem to the medical subordinate attached to the hospital. The other medical institution is the Hamnett dispensary at Kandal, which is entirely supported by Mr. G. Hamnett, C.I.E., the Chairman of the municipality. A pensioned hospital assistant is still in charge.

The following shows the attendance of patients during the last two years :—

Year.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Total.
1895-96	975	17,671	18,646
1896-97	973	18,993	19,966

Ninety-two lying-in cases were attended to in hospital during the year. The reason of the decrease is due to a change of midwives in hospital and to the municipal midwife who practises outside becoming better known. The number of cases attended to by the latter during the year under report was 42.

D. No. 1433.

Forwarded.

2. *Paragraph* 5.—Statement IV-B shows that the arrears of Rs. 787 extend in part so far back as the year 1892 and concern private scavenging fees and taxes on arts, buildings, lands or water. A vigorous effort is needed to collect these old arrears at once or to ascertain which are irrecoverable. The statement seems to point to want of proper staff or organization. So too the balance of Rs. 2,549 out of the 1896-97 demand of Rs. 61,043 appears too large.

3. *Paragraph* 13.—The balance of Rs. 112 under private scavenging fees in statement IV-A would seem to show neglect of the orders of Government for collection prior to service.

4. *Paragraph* 14.—Application has been made to Government to compulsorily acquire land for latrines.

5. *Paragraph* 17.—The market and the slaughter-houses have been greatly improved.

6. *Paragraph* 28.—The Breek's Memorial school requires considerate treatment, as it is exceedingly hard to get an efficient staff on the pay that can be afforded, and yet the school on the whole is promising and meets a definite want at a cost not proportionately high.

7. *Paragraph* 34.—It has been observed that nearly all the prosecutions for non-vaccination were compounded.

8. *Paragraph* 35.—The improvement of vital registration is encouraging ; but, in view of the considerable increase in the town since the last census, it is probable that a per-milleage rate of 39·26 understates the births. The Civil Surgeon and the municipal or medical staff worked hard to arrest the cholera.

9. *Paragraph* 36.—The delay of the sub-committee on night-soil depôts from 8th October 1896 is regrettable.

10. *Paragraph* 40.—As the Chairman admits, the lighting of the town is defective.

11. *Paragraph* 45.—The number of uncared-for dogs constitutes a nuisance and sometimes a danger. Those which are ownerless should be killed even though higher rewards have to be given ; the others should not be allowed to escape taxation. It is observed from appendix B to statements IV A and B that no prosecutions were instituted in this respect.

12. *Paragraph* 51 (*d*).—One of the greatest needs of the municipality is a proper agency for conducting prosecutions ; the executive is at present very weak in this respect.

1*st July* 1897. (Signed) J. H. TREMENHEERE,
Collector.

ORDER—No. 2232 M., dated 13th October 1897.

The receipts and charges of the Ootacamund Municipality for 1896-97 are compared below with the budget and revised estimates for the year and the actuals of 1895-96 :—

—	Actuals, 1895-96.	Budget estimate, 1896-97.	Revised estimate, 1896-97.	Actuals, 1896-97.
Receipts.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Balance brought forward	46,909	87,430	35,000	34,997
Tax on Arts	3,150	4,000	3,500	3,237
,, on Buildings and Lands	28,885	30,380	31,750	30,619
Water tax on Buildings and Lands	3,682	4,000	5,800	5,567
Tax on Vehicles and Animals	4,106	4,000	3,500	3,730
,, on Carts	664	700	700	628
Rent of Lands, Buildings, &c., and Sale-proceeds of Lands, &c. ..	1,322	1,300	1,360	1,389
Conservancy Receipts	1,425	500	700	497
Fees and Revenue from Educational Institutions	1,524	2,200	2,200	2,596
Income from Markets and Slaughter-houses	14,947	13,000	12,750	13,598
License Fees	1,107	1,200	1,200	939
Other Fees	1,459	1,220	1,470	1,535
Fines under Municipal and other Acts	77	100	400	538
Interest on Investments and Premium on Loans	..	..	750	750
Grants and Contributions from Government	54,166	2,620	1,39,470	1,39,354
,, ,, from other Bodies	..	60	60	..
Recoveries for Services to Private Individuals	7,545	5,700	6,900	7,974
Miscellaneous	62	20	60	9
Loans	..	50,000	10,000	10,000
Sale-proceeds of Government Securities, &c., and Realizations of Sinking Fund	478	500	570	507
Advances Recovered	521	30	30	15
Total ..	1,72,029	2,15,880	2,58,170	2,58,479
Charges.				
GRANT 1—				
New Works—				
Communications	..	..	2,000	20
Buildings	341	150	13,100	3,109
Drainage	539	..	28,670	25,557
Water-supply	1,449	1,37,440	8,000	4,833
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	1,172	1,100	1,300	1,091
Repairs—				
Communications	9,486	10,000	15,000	14,581
Buildings	2,724	1,800	1,800	1,433
Drainage	2,489	1,910	1,910	1,885
Water-supply	2,731	2,210	2,820	2,765
Establishment	2,349	2,420	2,300	2,123
Tools and Plant and other Stores	733	410	200	230
Contributions for Public Works	175	100	150	145
Total ..	24,188	1,57,540	77,250	57,272
GRANT 2—				
Training Schools	35	80	..	..
Municipal Schools—				
On the Salary System	6,791	7,250	7,700	7,482
,, Salary-result System	1,342	1,300	1,380	1,354
Salary Grants	1,202	1,200	1,100	1,043
Result ,, ...	150	300	300	300
Building, Furniture, &c., Grants	87	80	100	78
Inspection	127	130	130	130
Miscellaneous	60	60	60	..
Total ..	9,794	10,400	10,770	10,387

	Actuals, 1895-96.	Budget estimate, 1896-97.	Revised estimate, 1896-97.	Actuals, 1896-97.
Charges—cont.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
GRANT 3—				
Hospitals and Dispensaries	234	210	210	203
Contributions	1,618	1,110	1,620	1,450
Vaccination	401	360	380	385
Registration of Births and Deaths	251	260	280	290
Conservancy, Road-cleaning and Road-watering	21,585	20,800	24,110	23,244
Total	24,089	22,740	26,600	25,572
GRANT 4—				
Lighting	3,119	2,900	3,460	3,478
Markets and Slaughter-houses	544	570	570	558
Choultries	111	100	120	121
Public Garden, Survey of Land, Fire and other Charges	3,414	1,030	2,210	2,865
Total	7,188	4,600	6,360	7,022
GRANT 5—				
Supervision and Management	8,840	8,900	9,140	9,268
Repayment of Debt	5,259	4,450	4,450	4,262
Interest on Loan	6,345	6,220	6,220	6,218
Advances Recoverable	28	..	..	30
Refunds	1,301	1,000	1,800	1,524
Investments	50,000	..	1,00,000	1,00,000
Balance	34,997	30	15,580	36,924
Grand Total	1,72,029	2,15,880	2,58,170	2,58,479

2. The municipal council held 29 meetings or one more than in 1895–96. The average attendance of the members declined slightly, but it continued to be good in the case of the officials and fair in that of the non-officials. Three seats were filled by election during the year and all of them were contested, 52 per cent. of the registered voters attending the poll.

3. *Receipts.*—(1) Deducting the opening balance and the special Government grants and loans, the total receipts from taxation and other sources were Rs. 83,482, being Rs. 3,362 more than in the previous year. Under the tax on arts and professions the net current demand decreased by Rs. 91, although the number of persons assessed was higher by 46. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 1,866 in the demand under the tax on buildings, due to the revision of the registers, and an increase of Rs. 2,025 under the water-tax, owing to the enhancement of the rate from one to two per cent. of the annual value. Under the land-tax the demand fell, being Rs. 846 against Rs. 917 in 1895–96, the decline being due to the assessment of the tax on the net, instead of the gross, income of the Botanical gardens. The method adopted for assessing the tax on these lands appears, however, to be irregular in as much as section 63 of Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897, contemplates an assessment with reference to the annual value, which is to be determined in accordance with section 65 and not on the income. Accordingly, if this is correctly understood to have been the principle of the assessment in the case of the gardens, the taxation should be revised without delay.

(2) The current collections under the principal taxes, which in respect of the land-tax improved appreciably, were on the whole good, but the arrear realizations under all these heads, while decidedly better than in the previous year, were still not satisfactory. The balances under these heads outstanding at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 3,128 against Rs. 2,962 on the 31st March 1896, the arrears dating as far back as 1892–93. These should be adjusted without delay. The number of coercive processes issued during the year was considerably larger than in 1895–96, but their execution was most dilatory, as many as 48·6 per cent. of the total number of warrants for disposal remaining unexecuted on the 31st March 1897. The reason, referred to in paragraph 10 of the report, for not proceeding to distraint or sale where such a course was authorised by the law is wholly untenable. This neglect, no doubt, accounts in large measure for the large outstanding arrears, the existence of which has been animadverted upon above. For the future the law should be enforced.

(3) The income from the sale of sweepings and night-soil, markets and slaughter-houses, and license fees declined; but under school-fees and fines it advanced, owing, in the case of the last mentioned, to the institution of a larger number of prosecutions.

(4) The number of houses served by the private scavenging agency was 261 or one more than in the previous year. Notwithstanding the repeated instructions of Government, the private scavenging fees were not collected in advance. This must be strictly attended to for the future. The slow extension of the system is very unsatisfactory, for only about twelve per cent. of the total number of houses assessed to the tax on buildings were under municipal control. The proportion should be very much higher in such a town as Ootacamund, the sanitation of which should be more in accord with European, than with Native, ideas. The service continued to be worked at a profit, amounting in the year under review to close on Rs. 3,000. Government has repeatedly insisted that the service is not to be made a source of municipal revenue, and steps should at once be taken to devote the surplus receipts to the improvement of the service or to the reduction of the fees. By the latter course the service will become more popular and acceptable to a larger number of householders.

4. *Expenditure.*—(1) *Public Works.*—The expenditure under Grant 1 amounted to Rs. 57,272 against the budget estimate of Rs. 1,57,880, the decrease being mainly due to the non-utilization of the provision for the water-supply scheme which was not ripe for execution. Owing, however, to the allotment of a sum of Rs. 4,333 for the investigation of this project, and of a sum of Rs. 25,450 for the realignment of the intercepting sewer, the charges exceeded the actuals of the previous year by Rupees 33,084. The latter work, which is the most important of the new works undertaken during the year, is under execution by the Public Works Department. Some improvements were also effected in the market and slaughter-houses at an aggregate cost of Rs. 2,339. The outlay on communications, towards the improvement of which a special grant of Rs. 5,000 was made by Government, amounted to Rs. 14,601 against Rs. 9,486 in 1895–96. The Collector has not reported on the condition of the town roads—an omission which should be supplied in future reports—but the Chairman states that they were in fair order.

(2) *Education.*—The net expenditure under this head was Rs. 3,706, or 8·5 per cent. of the income from taxation. About one-third of this sum was devoted to secondary, and the remainder to primary, education. The municipal council continued to maintain one secondary and three primary schools, and to aid with salary grants two secondary schools. One secondary and three primary schools were also aided with result grants against four primary schools in 1895–96. The attendance at the municipal secondary school increased, but at the primary schools taken together it declined. The only candidate sent up for the Matriculation examination was unsuccessful, and out of the six pupils who appeared for the Lower Secondary examination only one passed. The results of the departmental examinations, however, continued to be fair. At the aided schools the attendance increased, being 617 against 607 in 1895–96; the results of the grant examinations were fairly good and the allotment for result grants was fully utilized. The total number of boys under instruction in the municipal and aided schools was 763 or 64·3 per cent. of the male population of school-going age against 755 or 63·6 per cent. in 1895–96.

(3) *Medical Relief.*—As in previous years, the municipal council maintained no hospital of its own, but contributed Rs. 800 towards the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's hospital. The number of patients treated at this institution increased, being 19,966 against 18,646 in the previous year. The number of midwifery cases attended at the hospital fell from 132 to 92, the decrease being attributed by the Medical officer to a change of midwives and to the increasing popularity of the municipal midwife who practises outside. The latter, who, however, was absent from duty during a part of the year, attended only 42 cases.

(4) *Vaccination and Vital Statistics.*—The reported number of persons vaccinated during the year was 1,160 or 78 less than in 1895–96. The percentage of success according to the returns was 99·9 against 99·3. This percentage is extraordinarily high and more markedly so in view of the fact that nearly one-third of the total number of cases are entered as re-vaccinations. It would have been satisfactory

if the Medical officer had tested a certain proportion of cases and stated his opinion of the trustworthiness of the returns as the result of his verifications. Infantile vaccination declined slightly, the number of children under one year successfully vaccinated being 575 against 631 in 1895–96 and was only sixteen less than the registered number of births; but this comparison is of doubtful value owing to the large floating population in the town and the questionable trustworthiness of the birth returns. It is gratifying to note that there were no deaths from small-pox.

The number of births registered during the year increased from 485 to 591, exhibiting a rate of 39·3 per mille of the population. The registered deaths rose from 357 to 483 or 32·1 per mille of the population. The higher death-rate is attributed by the Medical officer to the larger number of cases of malarious fever brought into the town for treatment from the adjoining country. The attention of the council is drawn to the Collector's remarks in paragraph 8 of his endorsement.

(5) *Sanitation.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 23,244, being 11·8 per cent. in excess of the budget allotment and 27·8 per cent. of the total ordinary receipts. From the Civil Surgeon's report it appears that sanitation received fair attention. The dilatoriness on the part of the sub-committee in selecting sites for night-soil depôts is reprehensible. If this body does not dispose of the matter immediately, the municipal council should take it into its own hands. With regard to the scheme for the water-supply of Ootacamund prepared by Mr. Walch, the orders of Government upon it have been recently issued. The attention of the council is drawn to paragraph 11 of the Collector's endorsement. The entertainment of the temporary establishment referred to in paragraph 39, for which a proposition statement in the prescribed form should have been submitted, is sanctioned.

5. *General Remarks.*—The year closed with a balance of Rs. 36,924 or 44·2 per cent. of the total ordinary receipts; but the greater portion of this sum represents the unexpended portions of the allotments for works for the execution of which special grants and loans were given by Government.

The administration of the municipality during the year under review showed, in some respects, an improvement on that of the previous year, and was, on the whole, satisfactory so far as the funds at the disposal of the council permitted.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

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

A. Raitt.

Public Works (1897) Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 2232 M., 13th October 1897.

No 333 Nd 30.4.97

OCTOBER. Communicated to the
S. E IV circle
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To S. E IV circle

Administration Report.

Reviewing the — of the Ootacamund Municipal Council for 1896–97.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From G. HAMNETT, Esq., Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Collector of the Nilgiris), dated 6th June 1897, No. 1075.

I have the honour to submit the administration report of the Ootacamund Municipality for the official year 1896–97, together with the prescribed statements and copies of the reports of the Civil Surgeon and of the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore Division.

I.—Constitution of the Council.

2. The council consisted of two officials and fourteen non-officials. Both officials were Europeans. Of the non-officials four were Europeans, four Eurasians and six natives. Five vacancies occurred during the year, of which two were nominated and three elected. The elections were well contested, the native members securing a larger number of votes than the Europeans and Eurasians. The council held 29 meetings. There were two adjustments for want of a quorum. The average attendance at each meeting was 9·10 against 9·57 in 1895–96.

II.—Receipts.

3. The general income, including the opening balance of Rs. 34,997–2–0, amounted to Rs. 2,58,479–4–6. This includes the grants and loans made by the Government to the extent of Rs. 1,40,000 for improving the water-supply and other miscellaneous improvements. The expenditure, including a fixed deposit of Rupees 1,00,000 in the Bank of Madras for twelve months, amounted to Rs. 2,21,554–15–5, leaving a balance of Rs. 36,924–5–1, of which Rs. 7,700 belong to the water-supply improvement and Rs. 29,224–5–1 to miscellaneous improvements and municipal fund.

4. The income derived from taxation amounted to Rs. 43,781–13–4 against Rs. 40,487–6–3, the actuals for 1895–96, and the revised estimate for 1896–97 of Rs. 45,250. The income, apart from taxation, was Rs. 21,841–15–0 against Rupees 21,861–2–2, the actuals for 1895–96, and Rs. 20,830, the revised estimate. Miscellaneous receipts amounted to Rs. 7,983–0–5 against Rs. 7,606–12–0, the actuals for the previous year, and Rs. 6,960, the revised estimate for 1896–97. It will be seen from these figures that the municipal revenue during 1896–97 has not declined under any head.

5. The balance outstanding on the 31st March 1896 was Rs. 3,550–6–8, of which Rs. 2,017–3–1 were collected, Rs. 350–12–9 were remitted and Rs. 394–14–8 written off as irrecoverable, leaving a balance of Rs. 787–8–2. The demand for 1896–97 was Rs. 61,043–1–9 against Rs. 56,452–12–9, the demand for 1895–96. The increase in 1896–97 may be ascribed to the increase in the rate of water-tax from 1 to 2 per cent. from the 1st October 1896 on houses which expressly benefited by the water-supply, to the increase in the house-tax by a revision of assessments in cases in which no annual revisions were made, to the increase in the market and cart-stand rents, and to the increase in private scavenging fees. Of the demand, as finally settled, viz., Rs. 61,043–1–9, Rs. 58,316–9–3 were collected and Rs. 177–1–6

remitted in connection with vacant houses, leaving a balance of Rs. 2,549–7–0 which, added to the previous year's balance of Rs. 787–8–2, amounts to Rs. 3,336–15–2, or Rs. 213–7–6 less than the balance remaining uncollected at the end of 1895–96.

6. *Tax on Buildings and Lands.*—There was no change in the taxation under this head during the year. The demand as finally settled on buildings was Rupees 30,190–15–11, showing an advance of Rs. 1,865–9–1. The increase during the last five years was Rs. 3,682. The demand on lands was Rs. 845–13–0 against Rupees 917–2–6 in 1895–96, the decrease was caused by the tax being calculated on the net, instead of on the gross, income of the Botanical gardens. Of the demand Rs. 776–1–0 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 69–12–0. The arrears last year amounted to Rs 38–4–0 and the uncollected balance on the 31st March 1897 stood at Rs. 108. The "Arrears of previous years" of 1895–96, viz., Rs. 479–3–10, has been raised in statement IV-B to Rs. 501–11–10 in consequence of fifteen acres of land at Bishopsdown having been assessed under the judgment of the High Court referred to in paragraph 3 of the administration report for 1895–96.

7. *The Water-tax on Buildings.*—The demand was Rs. 5,801–11–6, of which Rs. 5,424–6–11 were collected, Rs. 20–12–10 remitted for vacant houses, leaving a balance of Rs. 356–7–9 which, added to the arrears of the previous year, amounting to Rs. 77–4–11, leaves an unrealized balance of Rs. 433–12–8.

8. *Tax on Arts and Profession.*—The demand was Rs. 3,308–8–0, of which Rs. 3,037–8–0 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 271 which, added to the balance of Rs. 162 in 1895–96, raises the balance to Rs. 433. There was a decrease in the current demand of Rs. 91 owing to fluctuations in the number of persons in receipt of salaries and in the number of tradesmen.

9. *Tax on Vehicles, Animals and Carts.*—The estimate and revised estimate were fixed at Rs. 4,700 and Rs. 4,200, respectively. The amount actually realized was Rs. 4,357–10–4.

10. The number of processes which remained unexecuted on the 31st March 1896 was 429; issued during 1897, 1,624: total 2,053. Of this number 1,055 were executed and cancelled, 998 remained unexecuted and 32 warrants were cancelled on which no collections were made. The number of warrants withdrawn in consequence of payments having been made before distraint was 1,023. The number of prosecutions instituted was 269. In 220 cases payment was made before the court delivered judgment and 49 cases remained undisposed of. No property was distrained or sold in view to avoid the "public howl" which was raised in 1888–89 and referred to by the then Acting Collector in his endorsement, No. 42, dated 28th June 1889, on the annual report for the year.

11. The revenue, apart from taxation, amounted to Rs. 21,841–15–0 against Rs. 21,861–2–2 in 1895–96 and the revised estimate for 1896–97 of Rs. 20,830. In the revenue for 1895–96 was (as shown in paragraph 12 of the annual report for that year) included Rs. 2,144–5–7, the deposits of renters. Under sale-proceeds of night-soil the amount (Rs. 700) anticipated in the revised estimate has not been realized. Under educational fees there is an increase of nearly Rs. 400 due to an increase in the fees realized in the Breek's Memorial High school. The income from markets shows an increase of Rs. 635–13–4, but compared with the figures of 1891–92 there has been an increase of Rs. 4,660. Slaughter-houses show an increase of Rs. 212–8–0, but compared with 1891–92 there has been an increase of Rs. 1,905. Cart-stands also show an increase over 1891–92 of Rs. 705. License-fees show a falling off of Rs. 260–8–7 owing to licenses being withheld in consequence of parties not complying with the conditions prescribed. The increase under this head over 1891–92 is Rs. 575. Fines under Municipal and other Acts show an increase of Rs. 137–8–0 owing to prosecutions having been instituted in a large number of cases for infringement of the sanitary clauses of the Municipal Act.

12. *Grants and Contributions from Government*—amounted to Rs. 1,39,354–0–10, of which Rs. 1,00,000 are for the water-supply improvement and Rs. 30,000 for miscellaneous improvements, including a working balance of Rs. 5,000, which the Government were pleased to grant from Provincial funds to aid the municipality in carrying on the administration.

13. *Miscellaneous Recoveries on account of services rendered to Private Individuals.*—Private scavenging produced Rs. 281–4–0 over the revised estimate and (*ii*) Other purposes Rs. 792–8–1.

14. *Extraordinary and Debt.*—The Rs. 10,000 shown under loans from Government are for sanitary works to be undertaken during the year 1896–97. Much difficulty is, however, experienced in obtaining land within the town for the construction of small latrines to meet the needs of people who have no such accommodation attached to their dwellings.

III.—EXPENDITURE.

15. The expenditure in 1896–97, which includes a lakh of rupees invested in the Branch Bank of Madras, amounted to Rs. 2,21,554–15–5 against the revised estimate for the year of Rs. 2,42,590 and the actuals of 1895–96 of Rs. 1,37,032–5–7.

16. GRANT 1, PUBLIC WORKS.—The expenditure amounted to Rs. 57,271–10–2 against the revised estimate of Rs. 77,250 and the actuals for 1895–96 of Rupees 24,188–6–2. The excess over the actuals occurred by an assignment of Rs. 25,450 having been made to the Public Works Department for remedying defects in the main intercepting sewer and by an expenditure of Rs. 4,333–0–2 in connection with Mr. G. T. Walch's investigation and report for improving the water-supply of the town.

17. *New Buildings.*—The expenditure (Rs. 3,108–11–3) was considerably less than the allotment of Rs. 13,100 in the revised estimate, which included the loan of Rs. 10,000 sanctioned by the Government for sanitary works, &c. Of the expenditure incurred Rs. 1,460–15–8 were spent on the market, viz., for a platform, 85 feet long and 8½ feet broad, for exposing the fruit brought for sale on market days, Rupees 310–4–6; for paving the long verandah where sweetmeat, bread and other edibles, &c., are sold with Cuddapah slabs, Rs. 450; for enclosing the centre square of the market near the mutton butchers' stall to store the mutton remaining unsold instead of being removed to the butchers' houses, Rs. 473–8–0; and for sundry other repairs and improvements Rs. 227–3–2. The remaining sum of Rs. 1,647–11–7 was appropriated for erecting a shed with corrugated iron sheets and timber for the storage of straw Rs. 255–4–0, for improving the slaughter-houses Rs. 878–2–7, for metalling the cart-stand Rs. 99–7–0, for metalling the rubbish cart-stand Rs. 99–5–0 and for purchasing forty dustbins Rs. 315–9–0.

18. *Drainage, Rs.* 25,557–1–7.—As explained in the preceding paragraph, Rupees 25,450 were assigned for the main intercepting sewer, the balance (Rs. 107–1–7) was spent in building a cement drain in continuation of a drain built by a private individual in old agraharam to carry off refuse water Rs. 75, for completing a drain in the market Rs. 15–9–7 and for constructing a drain in Dogherty's lane at Mettucherry Rs. 16–8–0.

19. *Water-supply.*—Rs. 4,333–0–2 were disbursed to Mr. G. T. Walch to enable him to carry out his investigations for improving the water-supply.

20. *Miscellaneous Public Improvements, Rs.* 596–11–0.—The conservancy of the lake costs Rs. 309–5–0, clearing and cleaning the main stream Rs. 31–14–6, the Kandal stream Rs. 50, and improving the triangles at Charing Cross Rs. 205–7–6.

21. *Repairs—Communications.*—The allotment in the budget estimate was Rupees 10,000. On Mr. Tremenheere's representation of the bad condition of many of the roads, the Government were pleased to make a special grant of Rs. 5,000, thereby raising the allotment to Rs. 15,000, of which Rs. 14,580–11–5 were spent on 92 roads and lanes. The largest sums were spent on the Church Hill and Hadfield roads Rs. 531–10–9, Etirnne's road in continuation of South Lake road Rs. 599–14–9; South Lake road repairing and reforming from Willow Bund to Westmere Rs. 2,087–0–3; Kelso road repairs, improvements and fencing in connection with Charing Cross Rs. 609–4–0; Manjanakorai road used largely by carts bringing in road materials Rs. 685–9–0; Snowdon and Marlimund roads Rs. 661–13–9. The special grant has saved many of the roads and lanes from being entirely cut up and rendered unfit for use. The present condition of the roads is fair. The repair and reform of roads were carried out chiefly by contract.

22. *Repairs—Buildings.*—The revised estimate provided Rs. 1,800, but not more than Rs. 1,432–11–1 were spent during the year. The buildings on which more than Rs. 100 were spent were the market Rs. 421–3–5, municipal cattle-shed Rs. 163–3–11, municipal office Rs. 191–11–9 and repairing slaughter-houses Rs. 106–15–9.

23. *Repairs—Drainage, Rs.* 486–11–1.—The largest item of expenditure under this head was Rs. 279–14–3 on house-connecting drains to prevent the refuse water from the houses flowing on the streets. The other items relate to petty repairs and building a small revetment at the outfall of a drain on the Upper Bazaar road.

24. *Water-supply.*—The revised estimate provided for Rs. 1,180. The actual expenditure did not exceed Rs. 1,142–0–10.

25. *Establishment.*—The actual expenditure (Rs. 2,122–8–8) fell short of the revised estimate (Rs. 2,300) by Rs. 177–7–4, as the full strength of the establishment was not employed in consequence of the difficulty experienced in procuring an efficient overseer.

26. *Tools and Plant.*—The expenditure (Rs. 230–1–1) exceeded the revised estimate (Rs. 200) by Rs. 30–1–1. The increase was caused by the purchase of a larger number of tools than was anticipated when the estimate was prepared.

27. GRANT 2, EDUCATION.—The estimated provision in the budget for the year was Rs. 9,950. It was increased in the revised estimate to Rs. 10,770. The expenditure, however, did not exceed Rs. 10,387–8–1. The schools aided and maintained were the Breek's Memorial High school, Municipal bazaar and Kandal schools and the Muhammadan school, the Church Mission schools at Metucherry with a secondary department, Kandal, Bandyshola and old Ootacamund, the Wesleyan Mission school and St. Joseph's school.

28. *The Breek's Memorial High School.*—The changes made during the year were the creation of the post of an assistant master on Rs. 100 per mensem and a clerk on Rs. 15, the services of the Brahmin assistant on Rs. 60 being dispensed with and a Eurasian appointed in his place from January 1897. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing a suitable person for the post of assistant master and Mr. Kelly, who at present fills it, is not considered qualified by the Inspector of Schools, Western Circle. The teaching staff therefore is still not as efficient as it should be. Notwithstanding this, the number of boys in the school on the 31st March 1897 rose to 80 against 63 on the 31st March 1896. In the upper secondary there were 13, in the lower secondary 21 and in the primary school 46. The school received from Provincial funds Rs. 3,210–0–10. The school-fees, rent from Church cottage, &c., amounted to Rs. 3,470–12–0. The total receipts were therefore Rs. 6,680–12–10 against Rs. 5,406–15–0 in 1895–96. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,481–8–4 and exceeded the receipts by Rs. 800–11–6 which was met from Municipal funds. The average net cost per pupil in the upper secondary department was Rs. 52–12–8, in the lower secondary Rs. 11–12–7 and in the primary schools Rs. 3–6–2 against Rs. 106–8–10, Rs. 54–9–7 and Rs. 13–1–3 in the year 1895–96. The Inspector of Schools, Western Circle, in his report, dated the 27th May 1897, remarks—

"The general educational qualifications of the subordinate staff are not up to the mark. A graduate in science or mathematics should have been introduced as suggested in Proceedings No. 8349, dated 4th August 1896. Mr. Sidney Smith does not seem to hold any certificate in drawing".

"The further increase in the attendance since the last inspection is noted with satisfaction."

"The headmaster's suggestion to admit native boys into the school at the standard rate of fees is calculated to improve the strength. The appearance of a Badaga in the upper secondary section is encouraging."

"Public examinations—Matriculation, total failure; Lower Secondary, poor.

"General impression—The school is improving. The pupils were cleanly dressed and generally well behaved. Discipline and tone left nothing to be desired."

29. The average attendance in the secondary schools was 26 against 15 in 1895–96 and in the primary schools 137 against 132. The total number of boys in the schools aided and maintained from Municipal funds was 763 against 755 in 1895–96. The Assistant Inspector of Schools remarks in statement No. I that—

"On the whole the number of schools at the close of the year under review was one less, but the total number of boys under instruction was sixteen more than in 1895–96, and so there was some progress and the whole of it was confined to board and aided schools."

30. The percentage of children under instruction of school-going age taken at 15 per cent. of the population was 81·29 against 79·80 in 1895–96.

31. The educational officers are strong in their condemnation of the position of the Municipal bazaar school, but the municipal council cannot see its way either to remove the school to another building or to a better locality.

32. GRANT 3, SANITATION AND MEDICAL SERVICE.—The expenditure amounted to Rs. 25,571–11–6. It falls short of the revised estimate by Rs. 1,028–4–6, but exceeds the actuals for 1895–96 by Rs. 1,483–0–7. The full amount included in the revised estimate under Conservancy—Other charges was not spent, as the purchase of the five pairs of bullocks referred to in paragraph 15 (2) of the Chairman's letter, recorded in the Proceedings of Government, No. 595 M., dated the 18th March 1897, was postponed owing to the want of accommodation in the municipal cattle-shed which is now being enlarged from the loan of Rs. 2,300 obtained from the Government for the purpose. The contribution to St. Bartholomew's hospital and the apothecary was Rs. 799–13–4. The number of patients treated in the hospital was 19,966 during the year against 18,646 in 1895–96.

33. The work done by the municipal midwife is cited by the late Civil Surgeon in his report which is appended. She attended 42 cases, but was absent on leave for some time during the year on account of her marriage and her accouchement. With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1363 M., dated 14th August 1896, the municipal council has resolved that the minimum number of cases which the midwife should attend shall be six instead of four.

34. *Vaccination.*—The expenditure was Rs. 384–14–4 or Rs. 4–14–4 in excess of the revised estimate owing to an increase under contingent charges. The number vaccinated during the year was 1,160, of which 1,159 were successful, viz., 813 primary and 346 re-vaccination. Compared with 1895–96 there was a falling off of 70 cases, and this falling off is satisfactorily accounted for by the Civil Surgeon in his report which accompanies. The number of operations with animal lymph was 1,160, of which 1,159 were successful. The total number of successful operations was 76·86 per mille of population against 81·64 in 1895–96. The number of prosecutions instituted during the year was 196. The average cost of each successful vaccination was 5·3, the same as in the year 1895–96.

35. *Registration of Births and Deaths.*—The expenditure, viz., Rs. 290–0–9, exceeds the revised estimate by Rs. 10–0–9, the contingent charges having exceeded the provision made in the estimate for printing the new forms of registers of births and deaths prescribed by the Government. The registers show that the number of births was 591 and deaths 483 against 485 and 357 in 1895–96, or per mille per annum of 39·26 and 32·08 against 32·21 and 23·71 in 1895–96. Thirty-five prosecutions were instituted for failure to register. In 22 cases the parties were fined by the Magistrate to the extent of Rs. 10–6–0 and 13 cases were withdrawn, the parties having complied with the rules in force. In 1896–97 there were 106 births and 126 deaths above those in 1895–96. The Civil Surgeon has explained the cause of increase in deaths. In consequence of the prevalence of cholera in a village near Kaity, about three miles from Ootacamund, as well as in villages in the Coimbatore district, especially Méttupálaiyam, several cases were imported into the town; of these five proved fatal Prompt measures were, however, taken to disinfect the places where the patients were found or died and the disease was not allowed to spread.

36. *Conservancy and Road-cleaning cost Rs.* 18,869–4–7.—The cost fell short of the provision made in the revised estimate (Rs. 19,800) by Rs. 930–11–5, as the purchase of the five pairs of bullocks required for the conservancy department was postponed for want of accommodation in the municipal cattle-shed as stated in paragraph 32 above. The number of bullocks maintained was 51, of these two died. The number of night-soil carts was increased from 13 to 17 and rubbish carts from 12 to 17. There was one sewage cart only. Three night-soil hand-carts and five large iron buckets were, however, purchased from the Madras Municipality. The night-soil

continues to be deposited at the Titical depôt. The suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner in his notes of inspection of the town in June 1896 of securing night-soil depôts at places nearer the sites of collection was referred to a sub-committee of the municipal council on the 8th October 1896, but the sub-committee has not yet favoured the council with its views on the suggestion.

37. The number of latrines was 48. The proposal to build more in the town could not be carried out, as much difficulty has been experienced by the Revenue Department in acquiring the land needed for the purpose. It was found necessary during the year to remove two of the urinals in the market premises, and the number of urinals was thereby reduced from six to four. The number (46) of dustbins purchased during the year was larger than in previous years (viz., 20 per year). Notwithstanding this the total number stood at 170 against 171 in 1895–96, as 47 very old bins had to be rejected as being unserviceable.

38. *Private Scavenging.*—The allotment in the estimate and revised estimate was Rs. 2,610. The expenditure did not exceed Rs. 2,611–7–9. The number of houses conserved was 261 or one more than in the previous year. The actual income amounted to Rs. 5,781–4–0 against the revised estimate of Rs. 5,500 and the actuals of Rupees 5,238–12–0 in 1895–96. The excess is accounted for by the extra fees derived from the conservancy of temporary latrines constructed for the coolies employed on the lake reclamation scheme. The charges under "Contingencies, such as cost of scavenging carts, &c.," amounted to Rs. 230–15–8 against a provision of Rs. 50, as it was found indispensably necessary to provide large quantities of disinfectants and to print and circulate notices for the prompt collection of the scavenging fees due by private individuals. The expenditure under (*d*) Contingencies was Rs. 925–14–6 against an allotment of Rs. 900 in the revised estimate.

39. "*Epidemic Reserve.*"—The expenditure incurred under this head was in conformity with the rules prescribed by the Government in order, No. 1536 M, dated 9th September 1896, and amounted to Rs. 606–4–1 against a provision in the revised estimate of Rs. 750. The details of the temporary establishment employed on cholera duty, and the payments made for the purchase of disinfectants, &c., are given in the statement which accompanies this report, and the sanction of the Government is requested for the same.

40. GRANT 4, MISCELLANEOUS PURPOSES—*Lighting.*—The expenditure, viz., Rs. 3,478–2–10, is higher than that incurred in 1895–96 by Rs. 359–0–8 and the allotment (Rs. 3,460) in the revised estimate by Rs. 18–2–10. The reason for the increase in 1896–97 was given in paragraph 16 of the Chairman's letter recorded in G.O., No. 595 M., dated 18th March 1897. The lighting work is still carried on by contract. It is not quite as satisfactory as it should be, but considering the difficulties which the contractor has to overcome in making good the lanterns, lamps and chimneys which are stolen at nights by some person or persons, some allowance must be made for shortcomings. The present rate for lighting each light is As. 13–5 against As. 14 in 1896–97. The number of lamps during the year was 261 or ten more than in the previous year.

41. The market tolls and rents realized Rs. 8,985–13–4 against Rs. 7,810 in 1895–96 as shown in paragraph 41 of the annual report for that year. The expenditure, inclusive of interest on loans and sinking funds of Rs. 5,100, amounted to Rupees 7,366–8–7, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,619–4–9. The market premises were much improved during the year from the special grant given by the Government and the expenditure incurred amounts to Rs. 1,460–15–8. As the general market has not sufficient accommodation for many of the poorer butchers' shops, a small market near Butcher's street would enable the municipal council to remove the beef and mutton shops which now disfigure the Butcher's street and keep that street in cleaner and better order.

42. *Slaughter-houses.*—The amount (Rs. 4,612–8–0) realized under the head exceeds the revised estimate by Rs. 212–8–0, but falls short of the actuals of 1895–96 by Rs. 397–8–0. The expenditure under establishment and contingencies amounted to Rs. 273–6–3 and under repairs and improvements to Rs. 878–2–7, which amount, however, was met from the special grant given by the Government.

43. The council is of opinion that the provision of pens for cattle and sheep should not be deferred any longer, as the cattle and sheep brought up from the plains are not properly housed and the sanitary condition of the houses in which they are kept is very indifferent.

44. *The Chattram*—in old agraharam was maintained. The cost for establishment was Rs. 84 and for contingencies Rs. 36–9–1. The total expenditure (Rs. 120–9–1) exceeded the revised estimate by As. 9–1.

45. *Other Charges.*—The work done for private individuals amounted to Rupees 1,461–12–0 or Rs. 461–12–0 more than was estimated for. Rs. 6 were spent on rewards for killing dogs. The man who agreed to do the work would not continue it after he killed 26 dogs and no other man in the town could be induced to take his place. The charge Rs. 617–6–10 for printing exceeded the revised estimate (Rs. 500) by Rs. 117–6–10. The excess was caused by the more extended nature of the perio-dical proceedings of the municipal council. Other items also exceeded the revised estimate by Rs. 79–9–0, as many sign boards had to be renewed and new ones put up besides the renumbering of all doors of houses in the bazaar and villages.

46. GRANT 5, GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.—The charge for office establishment was Rs. 3,313–4–9 or Rs. 6–11–3 less than the revised estimate. The charge for establish-ment for collection of municipal taxes (Rs. 1,379–1–8) is Rs. 9–1–8 more than the revised estimate and is due to a payment of Rs. 11–9–5 having been made to a bill-collector for arrears of salary. The purchase of account books, paper, &c., amounted to Rs. 374–2–11. The excess of Rs. 74–2–11 is owing to a larger number of forms having been printed during the year. For the same reason the charge under (*d*) Office contingencies other than (*b*) (ii) is Rs. 47–13–6 more than the amount (Rs. 500) provided in the revised estimate. The contribution for central office and audit establishments amounted to Rs. 654.

47. *Repayment of Debt.*—Rs. 2,352–4–4 were paid towards Government loans, Rs. 1,900 were invested in Government securities on account of sinking fund for loans raised for the market and municipal office, Rs. 9–13–10 were paid for invest-ment, and Rs. 6,217–11–8 for interest on loans obtained from the Government and private individuals.

48. *Refund of other than current Collections.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to only Rs. 1,524–2–5 against an estimated provision of Rs. 1,800. The expenditure included the sum of Rs. 710–1–11 due to the Forest department referred to in paragraph 6 of the Chairman's letter, No. 1034, dated 20th May 1896, and recorded in G.O., No. 1363 M., dated 14th August 1896.

49. *Investments.*—One lakh of rupees appertaining to the improvement of the water-supply to this town was, with the approval and sanction of the Government, placed in the fixed deposit in the Branch Bank of Madras for one year at 3 per cent. interest. The year will expire on the 1st October 1897.

50. CLOSING BALANCE.—The closing balance was Rs. 36,924–5–1.

51. GENERAL REMARKS.—(*a*) It is understood that Mr. G. T. Walch has submitted to the Government his report with plans and estimates for the improvement of the water-supply of the town.

(*b*) The defects in the main intercepting sewer are being now remedied under the supervision of Mr. J. F. Somers-Eve, Executive Engineer on special duty.

(*c*) The lake reclamation scheme has not progressed so rapidly as the council was led to hope when the work commenced last year.

(*d*) One thousand five hundred and seventy-five notices were issued during the year for cleansing and draining insanitary compounds of houses, repairing private latrines, lime-washing houses, trimming hedges, clearing noxious vegetation, and securing dilapidated and ruinous houses. The largest number (873) of notices were issued in the months of October and November 1896 when some cases of cholera were imported into the town. There were 308 prosecutions for non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and notices issued. Convictions were not obtained in all cases from the want of a special subordinate who could collect reliable evidence and conduct the prosecutions satisfactorily.

(*e*) The Marlimund and Dodabetta reservoirs had sufficient water in them to meet the wants of the town.

(*f*) This report was circulated and adopted by the municipal council at the meeting held on the 26th June 1897.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. COOK, M.B., Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund, to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund, dated 31st May 1897, No. 219.

I have the honour to submit the annual concise medical and sanitary report on the municipal town of Ootacamund for 1896–97.

2. *Public Health.*—The general health of the people within the limits of the municipality was, on the whole, satisfactory. In the month of October cholera in a sporadic form made its appearance. Four cases were admitted to hospital and of these three died. Two deaths occurred in the town. The origin of the outbreak was traceable to importation from a place called Ellanalee Kaity where there was cholera at the time. As will be observed from the sub-joined table of vital statistics, there is an increased mortality under fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa as compared with the previous year. This is due in great measure to a greater number of cases of malarial fever, complicated with dysentery and diarrhœa, coming into Ootacamund for treatment from several of the malarious tracts on the Nilgiris. Several cases of pulmonary affections occurring amongst the lower orders of natives were also treated. Enteric fever was not very prevalent.

Vital Statistics.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total births	308	283	591
,, deaths	256	227	483

Causes of deaths.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Cholera	4	1	5
Small-pox		*Nil.*	
Fever ..	78	78	156
Dysentery	15	9	24
Diarrhœa	14	14	28
Accidents	..	..	8
All other causes	148	120	268
Total ..	..	..	483

3. *Sanitation.*—As stated in last year's report, there are eight villages, excluding Ootacamund proper, that are conserved within municipal limits. The Chairman of the municipaliy, the ward councillors and the Civil Surgeon very frequently inspect the sanitation of all parts of the town. There are still 48 public latrines besides 4 urinals within the public market, and 24 scavengers are employed to attend to the conservancy of these places. Two hundred and sixty-one private latrines are conserved by municipal agency, 20 scavengers being employed for this purpose. As mentioned in the report of last year, the area of the town is 11 square miles, with 68 miles of metalled road, for whose surface sweeping there are 76 sweepers employed. The number of street lamps is 261 and the number of dustbins 170. Forty seven of the old ones were rejected as unserviceable.

The number of carts for the removal of night-soil, rubbish and sewage was thirteen. In addition to these, four night-soil carts from Messrs. Burn & Co. with cylindrical revolving bodies, three night-soil hand-carts, five buckets from the Madras Municipality and five teak-wood rubbish-carts have been purchased. The sewage of streets and drains is carried off partly by the main sewer and partly by pipe sewers below the lake. For the re-alignment of the main sewer, a sum of Rs. 2,545 * has been sanctioned in G.O., No. 107 M., dated 27th January 1897. The work has just been put into hand. The reclamation of the upper lake is now rapidly progressing, and until this is finished and the sewage pipes put into thorough order, the health of the town will be greatly menaced. Every attention is given to the conservancy of the town, but the difficulty of getting natives to keep their houses and surroundings clean has yet to be overcome. The remarks *anent* the water-supply of the town mentioned in the last report hold good this year also. Mr. G. T. Walch who was appointed to make the necessary schemes for the general water-supply of Ootacamund has completed them and they are now before Government. Another source of water is from wells, of which there about 150 in the town. The water of some of them is good and of others inferior.

* Should be Rs. 25,450.

Vaccination.

Year.	Number of cases vaccinated.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.	Infantile.		
					Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.
1895-96	1,238	1,229	3	6	631	..	..
1896-97	1,160	1,159	..	1	575	..	..

In spite of the energetic manner in which the municipal vaccinator performs his duties and the institution of 196 prosecutions under the compulsory vaccination clauses, and the fact that number of operations is in excess of the birth-rate, there has been a smaller number than last year. This is due to the fact that the population of Ootacamund is of a floating character.

4. *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*—The municipality possesses no hospital of its own, and therefore contributes Rs. 500 annually towards the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's hospital and also gives an allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem to the medical subordinate attached to the hospital. The other medical institution is the Hamnett dispensary at Kandal, which is entirely supported by Mr. G. Hamnett, C.I.E., the Chairman of the municipality. A pensioned hospital assistant is still in charge.

The following shows the attendance of patients during the last two years :—

Year.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Total.
1895–96	975	17,671	18,646
1896–97	973	18,993	19,966

Ninety-two lying-in cases were attended to in hospital during the year. The reason of the decrease is due to a change of midwives in hospital and to the municipal midwife who practises outside becoming better known. The number of cases attended to by the latter during the year under report was 42.

D. No. 1433.

Forwarded.

2. *Paragraph* 5.—Statement IV-B shows that the arrears of Rs. 787 extend in part so far back as the year 1892 and concern private scavenging fees and taxes on arts, buildings, lands or water. A vigorous effort is needed to collect these old arrears at once or to ascertain which are irrecoverable. The statement seems to point to want of proper staff or organization. So too the balance of Rs. 2,549 out of the 1896–97 demand of Rs. 61,043 appears too large.

3. *Paragraph* 13.—The balance of Rs. 112 under private scavenging fees in statement IV-A would seem to show neglect of the orders of Government for collection prior to service.

4. *Paragraph* 14.—Application has been made to Government to compulsorily acquire land for latrines.

5. *Paragraph* 17.—The market and the slaughter-houses have been greatly improved.

6. *Paragraph* 28.—The Breek's Memorial school requires considerate treatment, as it is exceedingly hard to get an efficient staff on the pay that can be afforded, and yet the school on the whole is promising and meets a definite want at a cost not proportionately high.

7. *Paragraph* 34.—It has been observed that nearly all the prosecutions for non-vaccination were compounded.

8. *Paragraph* 35.—The improvement of vital registration is encouraging ; but, in view of the considerable increase in the town since the last census, it is probable that a per-milleage rate of 39·26 understates the births. The Civil Surgeon and the municipal or medical staff worked hard to arrest the cholera.

9. *Paragraph* 36.—The delay of the sub-committee on night-soil depôts from 8th October 1896 is regrettable.

10. *Paragraph* 40.—As the Chairman admits, the lighting of the town is defective.

11. *Paragraph* 45.—The number of uncared-for dogs constitutes a nuisance and sometimes a danger. Those which are ownerless should be killed even though higher rewards have to be given ; the others should not be allowed to escape taxation. It is observed from appendix B to statements IV A and B that no prosecutions were instituted in this respect.

12. *Paragraph* 51 (*d*).—One of the greatest needs of the municipality is a proper agency for conducting prosecutions ; the executive is at present very weak in this respect.

1*st July* 1897. (Signed) J. H. TREMENHEERE,
Collector.

Order—No. 2232 M., dated 13th October 1897.

The receipts and charges of the Ootacamund Municipality for 1896–97 are compared below with the budget and revised estimates for the year and the actuals of 1895–96 :—

—	Actuals, 1895–96.	Budget estimate, 1896–97.	Revised estimate, 1896–97.	Actuals, 1896–97.
Receipts.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Balance brought forward	46,909	87,430	35,000	34,997
Tax on Arts	3,150	4,000	3,500	3,237
,, on Buildings and Lands	28,885	30,300	31,750	30,619
Water tax on Buildings and Lands	3,682	4,000	5,800	5,567
Tax on Vehicles and Animals	4,106	4,000	3,500	3,730
,, on Carts	664	700	700	628
Rent of Lands, Buildings, &c., and Sale-proceeds of Lands, &c. ..	1,322	1,300	1,360	1,389
Conservancy Receipts	1,425	500	700	497
Fees and Revenue from Educational Institutions	1,524	2,200	2,200	2,596
Income from Markets and Slaughter-houses	14,947	13,000	12,750	13,598
License Fees	1,107	1,200	1,200	939
Other Fees	1,459	1,220	1,470	1,535
Fines under Municipal and other Acts	77	100	400	538
Interest on Investments and Premium on Loans	..	..	750	750
Grants and Contributions from Government	54,166	9,620	1,39,470	1,39,354
,, ,, from other Bodies	..	60	60	..
Recoveries for Services to Private Individuals	7,545	5,700	6,900	7,974
Miscellaneous	62	20	60	9
Loans	..	50,000	10,000	10,000
Sale-proceeds of Government Securities, &c., and Realizations of Sinking Fund	478	500	570	507
Advances Recovered	521	30	30	15
Total ..	1,72,029	2,15,880	2,58,170	2,58,479
Charges.				
Grant 1—				
New Works—				
Communications	..	..	2,000	20
Buildings	341	150	13,100	3,109
Drainage	539	..	28,670	25,557
Water-supply	1,449	1,37,140	8,000	4,333
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	1,172	1,100	1,300	1,091
Repairs—				
Communications	9,486	10,000	15,000	14,581
Buildings	2,724	1,800	1,800	1,433
Drainage	2,489	1,910	1,910	1,885
Water-supply	2,731	2,210	2,820	2,765
Establishment	2,349	2,420	2,500	2,123
Tools and Plant and other Stores	733	410	2 0	230
Contributions for Public Works	175	100	150	115
Total ..	24,188	1,57,540	77,250	57,272
Grant 2—				
Training Schools	35	80	..	..
Municipal Schools—				
On the Salary System	6,791	7,250	7,700	7,482
,, Salary-result System	1,344	1,300	1,380	1,354
Salary Grants	1,202	1,200	1,100	1,043
Result ,, ...	150	300	300	300
Building, Furniture, &c., Grants	87	80	100	78
Inspection	127	130	130	130
Miscellaneous	60	60	60	..
Total ..	9,794	10,400	10,770	10,387

—	Actuals, 1895–96.	Budget estimate, 1896–97.	Revised estimate, 1896–97.	Actuals, 1896–97.
Charges—cont.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT 3—				
Hospitals and Dispensaries	234	210	210	203
Contributions	1,618	1,110	1,620	1,450
Vaccination	401	360	380	385
Registration of Births and Deaths	251	260	280	290
Conservancy, Road-cleaning and Road-watering	21,585	20,800	24,110	23,244
Total	24,089	22,740	26,600	25,572
GRANT 4—				
Lighting	3,119	2,900	3,460	3,478
Markets and Slaughter-houses	544	570	570	558
Choultries	111	100	120	121
Public Garden, Survey of Land, Fire and other Charges	3,414	1,030	2,210	2,865
Total	7,188	4,600	6,360	7,022
GRANT 5—				
Supervision and Management	8,840	8,900	9,140	9,268
Repayment of Debt	5,259	4,450	4,450	4,262
Interest on Loan	6,345	6,220	6,220	6,218
Advances Recoverable	28	..	..	30
Refunds	1,301	1,000	1,800	1,524
Investments	50,000	..	1,00,000	1,00,000
Balance	34,997	30	15,580	36,924
Grand Total	1,72,029	2,15,880	2,58,170	2,58,479

2. The municipal council held 29 meetings or one more than in 1895–96. The average attendance of the members declined slightly, but it continued to be good in the case of the officials and fair in that of the non-officials. Three seats were filled by election during the year and all of them were contested, 52 per cent. of the registered voters attending the poll.

3. *Receipts.*—(1) Deducting the opening balance and the special Government grants and loans, the total receipts from taxation and other sources were Rs. 83,482, being Rs. 3,362 more than in the previous year. Under the tax on arts and professions the net current demand decreased by Rs. 91, although the number of persons assessed was higher by 46. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 1,866 in the demand under the tax on buildings, due to the revision of the registers, and an increase of Rs. 2,025 under the water-tax, owing to the enhancement of the rate from one to two per cent. of the annual value. Under the land-tax the demand fell, being Rs. 846 against Rs. 917 in 1895–96, the decline being due to the assessment of the tax on the net, instead of the gross, income of the Botanical gardens. The method adopted for assessing the tax on these lands appears, however, to be irregular in as much as section 63 of Act IV of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1897, contemplates an assessment with reference to the annual value, which is to be determined in accordance with section 65 and not on the income. Accordingly, if this is correctly understood to have been the principle of the assessment in the case of the gardens, the taxation should be revised without delay.

(2) The current collections under the principal taxes, which in respect of the land-tax improved appreciably, were on the whole good, but the arrear realizations under all these heads, while decidedly better than in the previous year, were still not satisfactory. The balances under these heads outstanding at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 3,128 against Rs. 2,962 on the 31st March 1896, the arrears dating as far back as 1892–93. These should be adjusted without delay. The number of coercive processes issued during the year was considerably larger than in 1895–96, but their execution was most dilatory, as many as 48·6 per cent. of the total number of warrants for disposal remaining unexecuted on the 31st March 1897. The reason, referred to in paragraph 10 of the report, for not proceeding to distraint or sale where such a course was authorised by the law is wholly untenable. This neglect, no doubt, accounts in large measure for the large outstanding arrears, the existence of which has been animadverted upon above. For the future the law should be enforced.

(3) The income from the sale of sweepings and night-soil, markets and slaughter-houses, and license fees declined; but under school-fees and fines it advanced, owing, in the case of the last mentioned, to the institution of a larger number of prosecutions.

(4) The number of houses served by the private scavenging agency was 261 or one more than in the previous year. Notwithstanding the repeated instructions of Government, the private scavenging fees were not collected in advance. This must be strictly attended to for the future. The slow extension of the system is very unsatisfactory, for only about twelve per cent. of the total number of houses assessed to the tax on buildings were under municipal control. The proportion should be very much higher in such a town as Ootacamund, the sanitation of which should be more in accord with European, than with Native, ideas. The service continued to be worked at a profit, amounting in the year under review to close on Rs. 3,000. Government has repeatedly insisted that the service is not to be made a source of municipal revenue, and steps should at once be taken to devote the surplus receipts to the improvement of the service or to the reduction of the fees. By the latter course the service will become more popular and acceptable to a larger number of householders.

4. *Expenditure.*—(1) *Public Works.*—The expenditure under Grant 1 amounted to Rs. 57,272 against the budget estimate of Rs. 1,57,880, the decrease being mainly due to the non-utilization of the provision for the water-supply scheme which was not ripe for execution. Owing, however, to the allotment of a sum of Rs. 4,333 for the investigation of this project, and of a sum of Rs. 25,450 for the realignment of the intercepting sewer, the charges exceeded the actuals of the previous year by Rupees 33,084. The latter work, which is the most important of the new works undertaken during the year, is under execution by the Public Works Department. Some improvements were also effected in the market and slaughter-houses at an aggregate cost of Rs. 2,339. The outlay on communications, towards the improvement of which a special grant of Rs. 5,000 was made by Government, amounted to Rs. 14,601 against Rs. 9,486 in 1895–96. The Collector has not reported on the condition of the town roads—an omission which should be supplied in future reports—but the Chairman states that they were in fair order.

(2) *Education.*—The net expenditure under this head was Rs. 3,706, or 8·5 per cent. of the income from taxation. About one-third of this sum was devoted to secondary, and the remainder to primary, education. The municipal council continued to maintain one secondary and three primary schools, and to aid with salary grants two secondary schools. One secondary and three primary schools were also aided with result grants against four primary schools in 1895–96. The attendance at the municipal secondary school increased, but at the primary schools taken together it declined. The only candidate sent up for the Matriculation examination was unsuccessful, and out of the six pupils who appeared for the Lower Secondary examination only one passed. The results of the departmental examinations, however, continued to be fair. At the aided schools the attendance increased, being 617 against 607 in 1895–96; the results of the grant examinations were fairly good and the allotment for result grants was fully utilized. The total number of boys under instruction in the municipal and aided schools was 763 or 64·3 per cent. of the male population of school-going age against 755 or 63·6 per cent. in 1895–96.

(3) *Medical Relief.*—As in previous years, the municipal council maintained no hospital of its own, but contributed Rs. 800 towards the upkeep of St. Bartholomew's hospital. The number of patients treated at this institution increased, being 19,966 against 18,646 in the previous year. The number of midwifery cases attended at the hospital fell from 132 to 92, the decrease being attributed by the Medical officer to a change of midwives and to the increasing popularity of the municipal midwife who practises outside. The latter, who, however, was absent from duty during a part of the year, attended only 42 cases.

(4) *Vaccination and Vital Statistics.*—The reported number of persons vaccinated during the year was 1,160 or 78 less than in 1895–96. The percentage of success according to the returns was 99·9 against 99·3. This percentage is extraordinarily high and more markedly so in view of the fact that nearly one-third of the total number of cases are entered as re-vaccinations. It would have been satisfactory

if the Medical officer had tested a certain proportion of cases and stated his opinion of the trustworthiness of the returns as the result of his verifications. Infantile vaccination declined slightly, the number of children under one year successfully vaccinated being 575 against 631 in 1895–96 and was only sixteen less than the registered number of births; but this comparison is of doubtful value owing to the large floating population in the town and the questionable trustworthiness of the birth returns. It is gratifying to note that there were no deaths from small-pox.

The number of births registered during the year increased from 485 to 591, exhibiting a rate of 39·3 per mille of the population. The registered deaths rose from 357 to 483 or 32·1 per mille of the population. The higher death-rate is attributed by the Medical officer to the larger number of cases of malarious fever brought into the town for treatment from the adjoining country. The attention of the council is drawn to the Collector's remarks in paragraph 8 of his endorsement.

(5) *Sanitation.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 23,244, being 11·8 per cent. in excess of the budget allotment and 27·8 per cent. of the total ordinary receipts. From the Civil Surgeon's report it appears that sanitation received fair attention. The dilatoriness on the part of the sub-committee in selecting sites for night-soil depôts is reprehensible. If this body does not dispose of the matter immediately, the municipal council should take it into its own hands. With regard to the scheme for the water-supply of Ootacamund prepared by Mr. Walch, the orders of Government upon it have been recently issued. The attention of the council is drawn to paragraph 11 of the Collector's endorsement. The entertainment of the temporary establishment referred to in paragraph 39, for which a proposition statement in the prescribed form should have been submitted, is sanctioned.

5. *General Remarks.*—The year closed with a balance of Rs. 36,924 or 44·2 per cent. of the total ordinary receipts; but the greater portion of this sum represents the unexpended portions of the allotments for works for the execution of which special grants and loans were given by Government.

The administration of the municipality during the year under review showed, in some respects, an improvement on that of the previous year, and was, on the whole, satisfactory so far as the funds at the disposal of the council permitted.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. Raitt.