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ADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	975	Press
B.P. No.		Mis. S.C.
Dated	5. 8. 1870	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th August 1870.*

No. 26. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Gooty, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Bellary, 2nd July 1870, No. 76 :—

I have the honour to enclose, in original, the report received from the Vice-President, Mr. J. Kelsall, of the Proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners of the Town of Gooty, for the year ending 30th April 1870.

2. This was the first year of the existence of the Municipality, and it was unfortunate in not enjoying regular European supervision. This arose from the absence of the Divisional Officer on other duty. The frequent change of the Vice-President arose from the fact that, in the beginning of the year, Gooty was the headquarters of the Head Assistant Collector. During the year it was made the headquarters of the Sub-Collector. This latter officer proceeded on leave. The gentleman who succeeded him held charge for six weeks, when he was removed, and the Head Assistant Collector again was in charge for the last fortnight of the Municipal year.

3. From Statement C. it will be observed that under "Tolls," "Tax on Carriages and Animals," "Registration of Carts," and "Fines, &c.," the actual far exceeded the estimated receipts. Statement B. shows that a large amount has been expended in the repairs of roads and in conservancy. No new works were undertaken.

4. The Vice-President has made a mistake in including a number of items under "Establishment," not properly belonging to that head. Deducting these, the expenditure on account of establishment has not exceeded the estimate. The actual expenditure ought to be entered as Rupees 991-6-6, and the actual under "Purposes other than those specified in Section 25," Rupees 711-12-0.

5. The sanctioned Government contribution was Rupees 1157; the sum now payable is Rupees 2369-8-6. Permission is now requested for the disbursement of the difference Rupees 1212-8-6.

From J. KELSALL, Esq., Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Gooty, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Gooty, dated 28th June 1870, No. 22.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Gooty Municipal Commission for the year 1869-70.

2. The town of Gooty was constituted a Municipality by G. O., No. 512, dated 20th April 1869. This was, therefore, the first year that the Act has been in force here. On this account it was the more unfortunate that the Vice-President was changed five times, and for several months there was no European supervision at all.

3. Forms A., B., and C., which I have the honour to enclose, give the details of the expenditure and receipts.

4. Form C. shows that the total receipts of the Municipality for the year, including a sum of Rupees 1647-11-0 still due by Government, amounted to Rupees 11,222-4-10. The actual receipts differed very much from the estimates, but now that some experience has been gained, this will doubtless not occur again. Owing to competition and other local and incidental causes the toll contract was taken up for more than four times the sum anticipated by the late President. With the exception of the rate on houses and buildings, the receipts under the other heads also exceeded the estimates.

5. Forms A. and B. give particulars of the expenditure during the year.

6. No new works were undertaken during the year. In the way of repairs the chief streets in the Fort and in the pettah were metalled and levelled throughout. Side drains were constructed

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and lined with stone. The Railway works, which are being carried on within the Municipality, have nearly doubled the ordinary labour rates. A channel was also constructed to carry off into the small tank the drainage water from the side of the hills, by which formerly the lower part of the Fort was flooded.

7. CONSERVANCY.—A staff of twenty-three sweepers and four conservancy carts is maintained. The streets are kept clean and the dust-boxes are emptied every morning, and the contents taken outside the Municipal limits. A large sum has been spent in eradicating prickly-pear, and the Commissioners propose to continue the work this year. I have never seen any town more overrun with this pestiferous plant than Gooty. A great deal has been exterminated, and it is hoped the work will be completed in the present year. The destruction has been thorough. The plant was dug up by the roots, exposed to the sun for several days till it became dried up and then burnt and buried. It was found that simple burial even at great depth was of little or no use. Three sites were selected as bandy stands, and these have been enclosed by a stone and mud wall. The one at the station is very large (70 by 120 = 8400 square yards). As many as 150 bandies at a time sometimes stop being laden with cotton. The other items explain themselves. The latrine was constructed by me on a place suggested by the late President. I had intended to build others, but nothing was done after my removal to Anantapore in June last. The place is a simple one. Two long parallel trenches are dug and are surrounded by bambu matting. The excreta are covered over with earth, and when the trenches are filled up the screen can be removed to another spot. The Commissioners are going to build other latrines on this plan, both in the town and near the Railway station.

8. ESTABLISHMENT.—The cost of the office establishment represents eight per cent. of the total expenditure. This percentage is I think too large, and I believe that the work may be conducted with fewer hands. A proposition to this effect will be discussed at the next meeting. A donation of Rupees 50 was made to the Civil Dispensary here, and monthly subscription of Rupees 5 is made to the same charity. Most of the other items such as numbering houses, erecting toll-tables, purchase of office furniture, are such as were necessary in the first year of Municipal existence, but will not appear in future reports.

9. GENERAL HEALTH.—The sanitary condition of the town has been good. There was an outbreak of cholera amongst Mr. Barnett's labourers at the station in June last, but there was only one case, and that a doubtful one, in Gooty itself. A cholera camp was formed beyond the limits of the Municipality, and all infected patients were taken there. The epidemic lasted for about three weeks, and some sixty-five persons died.

10. AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS.—The accounts were audited by P. Vundarajooloo Nayadu. His report I have forwarded to you with my letter, No. 21, dated 27th instant. He reports that every item is correct and duly supported by vouchers.

11. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION.—The Government contribution for the year at twenty-five per cent. of the sums raised and expended, the charge of the Police being deducted, amounts to Rupees 2369-8-6, of this Rupees 731-13-6 has been paid. I request that you will send me an order for the balance Rupees 1647-11-0. Supposing this is adjusted, the Municipal Commissioners closed the year with a balance of Rupees 1134-9-10.

No. 27.

ORDER THEREON, 5th August 1870, No. 975.

The receipts of the Municipality of Gooty are more than double the estimate owing to the tolls contract having been let for Rupees 6750, against an estimate of Rupees 1500. The tolls yielded more than three-fourths of the revenue. The collections from house-tax are barely half the estimated amount, and no remarks are made as to the deficiency. The Government disapprove of the Commissioners depending so largely upon the tolls. The house-rate should yield much more, and the Government suggest that the Trades-tax should be imposed. It is evident

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that there is ample opportunity of expending to advantage the funds which may be raised in the town; as the Commissioners have not only expended, and apparently usefully expended, the large receipts which they did not expect to get, but have been forced to exceed the funds in hand by Rupees 513-1-2. The gross receipts, including the sums drawn as State contribution, amount to Rupees 9574-9-10; but the expenditure within the year was Rupees 10,087-11-0. It does not appear where the money actually came from.

	RS.	A.	P.
Rate on Houses and Buildings.....	774	9	10
Tolls.....	6,750	0	0
Tax on Carriages, &c.....	681	12	0
Registration of Carts.....	287	0	0
Fines, &c.....	359	6	6
	8,853	12	4
State contribution.....	721	13	6
Total...	9,574	9	10

2. In the statement of expenditure the cost of dust-boxes, which appear to be permanent structures, and of enclosing the bandy-stands, should be charged to New Works. The donation and subscription to the Dispensary, and the rewards for killing dogs, are not charges within the scope of Section 25. The repairs to the office building should be debited to Repairs, and not to Establishment—Miscellaneous. The Government do not find improper debits under Establishment to the extent stated by the President in paragraph 4 of his letter. The large sum of Rupees 3405-4-2 was spent on the repair of roads. The Commissioners budgetted for an expenditure under all heads of only Rupees 5052, but this has been largely exceeded. The actual excess expenditure, Rupees 5035-11-0, is passed.

	RS.	A.	P.
New Works.....	845	0	0
Repairs.....	3,957	19	9
Conservancy.....	3,130	4	11
Police.....	528	11	11
Establishment.....	1,480	11	6
	9,892	7	1
Purposes other than those specified in Section 25.....	195	8	11
Total...	10,087	11	0

3. The actual cost of Police is not stated, and the Government are unable to order adjustments with reference to this head. Independently of the Police expenditure, the State contribution is Rupees 2340-14-9, and as the Commissioners have drawn Rupees 721-13-6, Rupees 1619-1-3 are now due.

4. The progress made in the Municipality of Gooty in the year under review, which was the first of its existence, is highly creditable to the Commissioners, considering the difficulties under which they laboured. The conservancy appears efficient, but the latrine accommodation should be increased. The Government note with satisfaction that, notwithstanding the fatal prevalence of epidemic cholera amongst the railway coolies in the neighbourhood, only one case, and that a doubtful one, occurred in the town itself.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Gooty.

„ Accountant-General.
„ Inspector-General of Police.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.
„ Board of Revenue.

Edw. J. Wright.

Govt. of 1870: 311 adms.

PUBLIC.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION

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Q. 6, 5th August 1870, 20 975.

AUGUST.
Nos. 26-27.

Reviewing the Annual Statements of Receipts and
Expenditure of the County Municipality for 1869-70.