

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mis.
Dated	19 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

17

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
17th July 1871.

No. 144. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Kurnool, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Kurnool, 5th July 1871, No. 15:—

In reply to Government Order, dated 19th June 1871, No. 877, Public Department, sanctioning the Municipal Estimates of Kurnool, I have the honour to state that, as suggested by Government, the Commissioners have resolved to reduce tolls to half the rates specified in the schedule, and request sanction for the same.

2. There are several reasons against the enhancement of house-tax in this town. The removal of the regiment from this station has lessened the value of house property and reduced the rates of rent, and any increase in the percentage at this time would tell upon the income of householders, in several cases their only means of livelihood. Again, more than half the number of houses belong to Mussulmans, who as a class are very poor. Their houses were all built in the days of the Nawab when they were in prosperity, and enclose a good deal of space which renders it necessary to value them at a high figure, and, as the new Act has abolished the provision for exempting the poor, any increase of tax will, I think, be productive of great hardship. The tax, at the present rate of four per cent., is collected with great difficulty. In 1870 no less than 600 distress warrants were issued for recovery of arrears.

3. It is suggested that the supply of water to the town affords a good reason for the levy of the higher rate, but the present channels supply only a portion of the town with water and do not benefit a large number of inhabitants or the suburbs; and, until the Commissioners are able to establish a more complete system of distribution, the water-supply cannot be fairly assumed as a ground for increasing the tax all round the town.

4. The trade-tax also I consider objectionable so long as income-tax is levied. Trade in this town is very dull, and the tax, if introduced, will chiefly affect the poorer classes and neutralise the effect which is intended by the exemption accorded to them under the last Income-tax Act.

5. For these reasons, I proposed to enhance the tolls in preference to levying other taxes; but, as the Government have since resolved in their Order, dated 3rd May 1871, to purchase Police huts, the value of which amounts to Rupees 1,797-13-6, the necessity for additional taxation for the current year no longer exists. This sum, coupled with the postponement of some of the street improvements as suggested by Government, will make up for any deficiency.

6. I may also observe that the receipts from taxation of animals will be some 300 Rupees more than the amount already estimated, as, under Schedule C, I find that buffaloes are also liable to tax—an item not considered when the original estimate was first made.

37.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
17th July 1871.

P.S.—A memorandum showing the above changes is subjoined :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Amount of deficiency in the original estimate as revised by			
Government	2,371	10	6
Receipts from the sale of huts	1,797	13	6
Receipts from tax on buffaloes omitted in the original estimate	300	0	0
By postponement of street improvements	273	13	0
Total...	2,371	10	6

145. ORDER THEREON, 17th July 1871, No. 1080.

The levy of tolls is accordingly sanctioned, and the sanction will be notified in Gazette.

2. There appear to be valid grounds for the Commissioners' objection to raising the house-tax percentage; but, with the present minimum of incidence of income-tax, the reasons urged against the imposition of the municipal trades-tax are insufficient.

The revised proposals are, however, sanctioned for the current year.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Kurnool.

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8. The revised proposals are however mentioned for the current year.

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Annals

Dated July, 17th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 17th July 1871, No. 1080.

JULY.

Nos. 144-145.

Sanctioning the levy of certain tolls in the Kuruzul Municipality

Govt. of 1871 Madras.

Public

The Pres. Council. Secy.
Kurnool.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 17 July 1871, No 1080.

Nos. 144-145.

Sanctioning the levy of certain
tolls in the Kurnool muni-
cipality.