

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1804	Press Mis.
Dated	6-12-	19 1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th December 1871.*

No. 25. Read the following letter from the President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cattiwak, 26th May 1871, No. 68:—

With reference to the Order of Government, dated the 3rd instant, No. 583, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from the Vice-President, from which it will be seen that a sum of Rupees 649-14-0 was paid from the municipal fund for the erection of a Police Station and a hut, and that the amount to be repaid by Government on their account is Rupees 237-6-6, as shown in the margin.

Amount paid from the Municipal Fund		Rs. A. P.
Deduct—	...	649 14 0
Amount paid as Government contribution	...	162 7 6
Refund by the Superintendent of Police	...	250 0 0
		412 7 6
Total	...	237 6 6

From the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram, dated Conjeveram, 19th May 1871, No. 98.

In acknowledging the receipt of the Government Order, dated 3rd May 1871, No. 583, I have the honour to state, for your information, that from the municipal funds Rupees 649-14-0 were paid, on the 1st February 1868, for the erection of a Police Station and a hut for the Head Constable at Vishnu Cunchi. This amount is included in Rupees 5,401-2-8, which appears as having been paid for the Police in Government Order dated 2nd September 1868, No. 1106. The Government should have, therefore, contributed Rupees 162-7-6 towards the buildings. The Commissioners have virtually paid Rupees 487-6-6 for them. On the payment of what remains, viz., Rupees 237-6-6, after deducting from the above amount the sum of Rupees 250, which the Superintendent of Police has recently refunded, the Government will become entitled to the two buildings, of which the Police Station is now in course of construction.

No. 26. From the President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Sydapet, 8th September 1871, No. 213.

I have the honour to forward a copy of the Commissioner's report on the working of the Municipality of Conjeveram, together with the statements of receipts and disbursements for the year 1870-71.

2. The amount collected during the year was Rupees 26,976-2-4, to which the cash balance in hand of the previous year, viz., Rupees 2,644-2-3, being added, the total receipts amounted to Rupees 29,620-4-7. This is a great deal more than the collections of the year preceding, the increase being due to the State contribution having been drawn both in arrears (Rupees 2,976-10-9) and current (Rupees 3,534-9-0) as well as to the increased collection, Rupees 10,906-13-7, of house and trades taxes on account of the arrears of previous years.

		Rs. A. P.
House tax	...	6,934 13 7
Trades tax	...	5,072 0 0
Total	...	10,906 13 7

3. Notwithstanding the remarks of Government regarding the backward state of the collections of 1869-70, I regret to state that the current collections of house and trade taxes were as before small; out of Rupees 13,654-6-9, demand for the year, only Rupees 2,400-7-2 were collected, leaving the large balance of Rupees 11,253-15-7. This could have been avoided if the bills had been issued in time, early in the year as required by the Act. To this remissness the Commissioners

have added the error of issuing bills for eleven instead of twelve months under a mistaken impression that the last municipal year was to close with March instead of April 1871. This, however, has been since rectified by them under instructions from me.

4. It may perhaps not be out of place to notice here, though the subject does not strictly fall within the scope of a report for 1870-71, that, since the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, No. 944, dated 29th June 1871, Rupees 7,814-1-11 were collected in July and August last on account of the arrears of 1870-71, and exertions will be made to reduce the balance still further.

5. The total expenditure was Rupees 20,392-7-10, against Rupees 23,830 sanctioned in the budget.

6. The Commissioners did very little in the way of giving the town the benefit of improved communications; for, although Rupees 6,600 was provided chiefly for roads, a sum of Rupees 315-12-3 only were expended under the head of "New Works." This shall not be the case this year. The outlay on repairs was Rupees 377-9-0, chiefly for levelling the streets and repairing the latrines.

7. The conservancy of the town, which cost Rupees 6,356, is the most satisfactory feature in the working of the Municipality in the year under review. Particulars are given in the Commissioner's report, and I may here draw the attention of Government to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner, quoted at paragraph 7, approving of the state of the town. The sanitary arrangements, too, adopted on the occasion of the annual festival, and reported on by me separately, were successful in so far as there was no outbreak of cholera, and have received the approval of Government.

8. Owing to the appointment of temporary hands to assist in the collection of the large arrears outstanding, the charge for establishment has slightly exceeded the budget allotment.

9. Under the head "Police Charges," a total of Rupees 8,620-3-9 were expended; Rupees 5,179-4-0 on account of charges due for former years, and Rupees 3,440-15-9 current expenditure in 1870-71 on this account. This last amount includes Rupees 17-2-1 overdrawn from, and since refunded to, the Municipality. The Superintendent's account of receipts and charges for the year is herein enclosed, and is not defective as supposed by the Commissioners, the transactions for the whole year being exhibited correctly.

10. With reference to the remarks of the Commissioners at paragraph 12, regarding the inadequacy of the strength of the Police force to the requirements of the town, I am in correspondence with the Superintendent of Police on the subject, as I am not prepared to endorse the opinion of the Commissioners at present.

11. The amount expended for purposes other than those specified in Section 25 of the Act was Rupees 2,139-15-5, which is inclusive of Rupees 763-7-5, the cost of lighting, and Rupees 1,200 the municipal contribution for the Dispensary.

12. I request sanction for writing off the 1,000 Rupees stated by the Commissioners at paragraph 4 to be irrecoverable.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Twenty dust-bins ...	122	13	11
A road leading to the Dispensary ...	192	14	4
Total ...	315	12	3

13. The Auditor, a copy of whose report is herewith forwarded, does not speak favourably of the manner in which the accounts and registers are kept. The mistakes noticed by him have all been pointed out to the Commissioners, and will, doubtless, receive their attention and be avoided in future.

14. The delay in submitting this report was caused by the demand, collection, and balance statement returned to the Commissioners for revision, with reference to the Government Order of the 29th June 1871, No. 944, having been only recently returned; its correctness had to be ascertained previous to submitting this report.

From the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Conjevoram, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Conjevoram, dated Conjevoram, 8th July 1871, No. 141.

I have the honour, by desire of the Commissioners, to submit this my annual report, the fourth of its kind, on the working of this Municipality during the municipal year 1870-71. The usual statements of the receipts and disbursements during the year, and a statement from the Superintendent of Police, showing the actual police charges of 1870-71, accompany as two enclosures.

2. The receipts of the year, viz., Rupees 26,976-2-4, are nearly double of those of the previous year, the increase being explained by the fact that, from house and trade taxes, larger collections were made during the year than in any other years, by increasing the establishment of collection which had six temporary hands employed additionally during the greater part of the year, and that while license, registration, and tolls exhibit a small increase—each too small to need an explanation—the miscellaneous receipts rose, much of them being refunds of advance and deposits, which are not receipts exactly, and through an omission on the part of the Commissioners the Government contribution of Rupees 2,975-10-9 was received in arrears.

Receipts—Current and Arrears.

	1869-70.			1870-71.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
House and trade taxes ...	8,358	9	9	13,307	4	9
Registry and license ...	1,234	0	0	1,558	11	4
Tolls ...	4,462	8	0	4,487	8	0
Miscellaneous ...	221	0	8	1,112	8	6
Government contribution ...	...	...	...	6,510	3	9
Total ...	14,476	2	5	26,976	2	4

	1869-70.			1870-71.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
New Works ...	1,507	0	0	315	12	3
Repairs ...	29	0	0	377	9	0
Conservancy ...	6,162	6	9	6,356	2	5
Police ...	4,601	14	1	8,620	3	9
Establishment ...	1,713	1	6	2,582	13	0
Charges of other than those of Section 25 ...	2,270	11	7	2,139	15	5
Total ...	16,284	1	11	20,392	7	10

3. As they stand the disbursements show but a small increase, but would have risen considerably, proportionately to the receipts, had the Government contribution overdrawn, and the balance of police charges been paid before the close of the year. This has not been done pending the order of Government on the budget that has been submitted for 1871-72, it being the last budget to bear these two items.

Under these heads, the Commissioners have got to pay to the Government Rupees 560-11-4, and Rupees 1,141-4-6 respectively, for which latter *vide* paragraph 12.

It is a thing to be regretted, of course, that any Government contribution drawn should have to be refunded; but this cannot be helped under the circumstance that collections from current sources have been insignificant, which cannot have been otherwise, since all the bills of 1869-70 had not been delivered to the bill collectors till November 1870, that is to say, for almost six months of the year next to that to which the bills related, and since the assessments of 1871-72 were not revised and settled till February last, that is to say, till the eleventh hour.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Government contribution received in 1870-71 ...	3,584	9	0
Do. do. at one-third of current receipts ...	2,973	13	8
Net to be refunded ... (the charges for April last to be added - <i>vide</i> paragraph 12).	560	11	4
Amount due to Police ...	1,141	4	6
Total ...	1,701	15	10

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4. The balance of demand on the last day of the year, represented in the margin, speaks

	House.			Trade.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1866-67	13	4	0	11	0	0
1867-68	53	15	0	204	0	0
1868-69	138	11	6	512	0	0
1869-70	1,416	8	2	1,925	0	0
1870-71	4,901	0	11	5,214	14	8
Total	6,528	7	7	7,866	14	8

unfavourably of the efficiency of the collecting establishment. The bill collectors should use more energy. The Commissioners have resolved to write off the accounts that portion of the balance that is irrecoverable. They hope that they will not have more to lose in this way than 1,000 Rupees.

5. Twenty dust-bins were built during the year under the personal superintendence of the Commissioners, and the consequence has been that much saving and solidity of structure were ensured. There are parts of the town that want dust-bins, but this is to be a work of the current year.

A road was laid to the Dispensary which has been removed to an open plain on the eastern side of the town, and which would be wholly inaccessible, but for the road.

6. Very many streets, which were uneven, have been levelled.

The five latrines that the Municipality has were repaired.

7. The Conservancy Department has thirty-eight toties and seventeen carts strong. Two of the toties are employed in cleaning the five latrines. The others, with the carts, which are hired, are sweeping the streets. The latter are kept clean.

In his report upon the Municipality, Dr. Cornish remarks: "It is only due to the Commissioners to record that, so far as the public streets and waste places were concerned, I found the town much free of excrementitious filth than is usually the case where a large number of men reside."

8. The municipal vaccinator, whose salary is Rupees 15 per mensem, operated upon 676 persons, of whom 409 are reported to have been successfully operated on, 267 cases being either doubtful or unsuccessful.

9. The usual May festival passed off without much bustle or concourse of pilgrims, the Magistrate having notified that to attend the festival would prove dangerous to life, because cholera had been and was prevailing in town, and there existed a great scarcity of water. For the sanitary arrangements during the festival Rupees 600 were placed by the Commissioners at the disposal of the Assistant Collector deputed for the occasion, and Rupees 99 were directly spent by them in maintaining three water-pandals. During the festival of Acombara Nader, another deity of the town, the streets were watered for the comfort of the pilgrims. This is not so important a festival as the one for which the Government provide sanitation, but the festival needs a little attention, if it not be costly.

10. During the earlier months of the year, cholera, which had broken out in September of 1869 or thereabouts, was seizing a victim here and another there about the town, fortunately without assuming a virulent aspect. Disinfectants were brought and gratuitously distributed to the infected, and a Hospital Assistant, who had been sent for the purpose, visited parties suffering from the pestilence and rendered medical aid.

11. Places overgrown with prickly-pears, which shelter serpents, besides being an obstruction, were divested of them much to the comfort of the persons living near, and the amount expended on this head has a great part of it to be recovered from the owners of the sites. Eight cart-stands have been appointed, and the Commissioners will see that the carts do not congregate elsewhere. This will be considered an improvement, I trust.

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12. The Police were paid Rupees 3,423-13-8. The Police force of the town, consisting of thirty constables, is wholly inadequate to the demands of a large town like Conjeveram, which extends over an area of five square miles nearly. On account of the Police Rupees 1,141-4-6 remain to be paid to the Government, the same being the difference between the payments that have been made by the Commissioners and the actual amount of Police charges incurred during the year, as per statement of the Superintendent of Police.

Not knowing that the Government contribution has this time to be calculated upon the current collections of the year, which are smaller than the disbursements, the Superintendent of Police puts three-fourths of his actuals only as what the Commissioners should have paid. This mistake has been rectified.

The Superintendent of Police unaccountably omits to enter the charges of April last, which having already lost much time in waiting for his statement, I beg to request that you will be pleased to learn from him for the information of the Government, and add it to the net amount in the margin.

13. The lighting was performed with satisfaction. The Commissioners have recently got iron lamp-posts and lanterns, forty in all, from the Government Foundry, and they will be soon brought into use.

14. The Dispensary, invaluable in towns of which the inhabitants are ignorant, is proving itself very useful. This institution is ill-accommodated and ill-furnished, and the Commissioners will grudge no expense towards improving the furniture when the new Dispensary building is completed, endeavouring, as the Commissioners now are, to procure to it a central position in the town. The addition of a caste Dresser to the staff will be a boon and a relief to the overworked Surgeon.

15. The five pagoda tanks, upon which the townsmen depend for their water supply, were flushed into in November last, and were it not for the attempt, they would have been dry during the last May festival, and would be so now also.

16. The Municipality had the good fortune of being visited by the Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Cornish, in July last, and the principal suggestions of his were:—

- A survey of the town is necessary.
- The refuse carts should be larger and drawn by better bullocks.
- There should be an European or East Indian Nuisance Inspector for the inspection and conservancy of the backyards of the people.
- The cart rubbish should not be deposited near water sources, and should be sold off periodically.
- There should be ten or twelve small latrines of the kind he recommends built in the thickly-populated parts for the use especially of the females, children, and strangers.
- The supplying channel to the tanks of the town should be repaired, and the tanks stored with water and restricted to particular purposes.
- The roads should be metalled.

17-(a.) A survey map of the town has been ordered in Proceedings, dated 8th May 1871, No. 21.

(b.) It has been resolved for the present to build twelve refuse carts which will hold much rubbish, and the work is soon to be commenced.

(c.) With all deference to Dr. Cornish's views, the Commissioners cannot help remarking that no European or East Indian will be permitted to enter the backyards by the people who are notoriously bigotted.

(d.) The Commissioners have changed the sites of the rubbish depôts, and Dr. Cornish will in his next visit be satisfied with their positions. The rubbish is sold as often as desirable during the year.

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- (e.) The Commissioners have resolved to build the latrines, and are now looking for sites.
- (f.) The water-supply question has been the subject of a separate letter from Dr. Cornish to the Government, and of the Government Order, dated 12th January 1871, No. 53. You have submitted the report called for, and when the Government Order thereon is known the work will be commenced. There is some difficulty, however, about appropriating the tanks, which a large number of them, being the most useful, belong to the pagodas, and are supposed to be holy. Any interference in the use of these tanks is almost an impossibility, and shall be so for some more years. Dr. Cornish says, "Those of the tanks within the precincts of pagodas, it would doubtless be difficult to interfere with." The conservation of the tanks beyond the walls of the pagodas will soon engage the attention of the Commissioners.
- (g.) The Commissioners have already contracted for the supply of jelly and gravel towards metalling a few roads.

From P. BUNGARIAH, Auditor of the Municipal Accounts, Conjeveram, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram, dated Sydapet, 23rd June 1871.

Agreeably to your Memorandum, dated the 12th ultimo, No. 58, I respectfully beg to report that I have audited the accounts of the Municipality of Conjeveram for 1870-71, or from 1st May 1870 to 30th April 1871.

2. The total collections during the year under report, including the balance of the preceding year, amounts to Rupees 29,620-4-7, and the total expenditure of the year was Rupees 20,392-7-10, leaving a balance of Rupees 9,227-12-9 in favour of the Municipality on the 30th April 1871.

3. A large collection was made from the balance of arrears outstanding at the beginning of the year 1870-71 under the heads noted in the margin.

House tax
Trade "

4. I have examined the registers of house and trade

taxes, and found the assessment therein entered properly calculated.

5. I beg to bring to your notice that the house-tax bills are issued half yearly, and separate bi-annual registers have been accordingly prepared in the previous years; but during the year under report, one register only was prepared for two half years simultaneously, and the bills were issued in February 1871 for the collection of taxes of the two half years at one and the same time. It is evident that this is contrary to the provisions of Section 39 of the Act, which requires the realization of the *full* assessment of the year from and after the end of the first quarter. If the Commissioners had only followed the course laid down in the section above referred to, there would be no room for so large a margin in the collections of the subsequent year.

6. With regard to the trade-tax, I am sorry to observe that, in February 1871, the bills have been issued though distinctly for the two half years, still in the same manner as detailed in the above paragraph. If the Commissioners had adopted measures to issue bills at distinct periods in each half year, and commenced collections within the time prescribed in Section 46, I am certain that almost the whole demand of the assessment of the year would have been realized.

7. I take this opportunity to bring to your notice that the several taxes for the half year ending 30th April 1871 have been imposed five-sixths only, with reference to paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of Government, dated 4th March 1870, No. 265.

8. In laying down the above rule, the Government anticipated that the municipal year under the new law will commence on the 1st April instead of on the 1st May, and directed that, where the amount of the tax exceeds or is equivalent to six Annas, it should be so calculated (from November 1870 to March 1871), but the Commissioners seem to have been entirely mistaken, and they have thus erroneously calculated the tax on houses, which, being below six Annas, should not have been calculated in the manner pointed out in the Proceedings above referred to.

9. In their subsequent order, the Government have declared that the estimates of the Municipality, under Act X. of 1865, for the *whole* year (1870-71), has already been sanctioned. From

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this it can be easily inferred that the order for levying the tax five-sixths only, should be considered as having been cancelled, and it is really surprising that the order dated so far back as 2nd November 1870, No. 141, and so important to the administrative interests of the Municipality, should have been either lost sight of, or totally disregarded by the Commissioners.

10. I regret I was not able to ascertain, from the present state of the registers of the house and trade taxes, the actual balance to be realized, no date of collection having been entered in the registers. This may be attributed to paucity of hands in the establishment and be rectified when the increased establishment provided for in the estimate for 1871-72 is sanctioned.

11. The registers for 1870-71 have not been prepared with due care and attention.

12. The collections from the several sources entered in the cash account have been carried under their proper heads and remitted to the treasury.

13. A book is kept for registering carriages and animals as well as carts, and licenses are granted on payment of the prescribed tax. A counterfoil of every license issued since the receipt of the Order of Government, dated 12th August 1870, No. 1010, is preserved in the office; but no

December 1870,
January 1871.
February.

* 12th August 1870.

such counterfoils are to be found for the licenses issued in the months marginally noted, as none were kept it would appear for want of forms. Licenses were, however, granted during the months above noted in the printed forms which were used, but previous to the receipt of the Government Order, * No. 1010.

14. A registry is kept for licenses granted for temporary erections, but counterfoils of such licenses are not preserved. I believe it to be desirable that, as in the case of licenses for carriages, animals, &c., counterfoils of all licenses granted for temporary erections should also be kept in the office.

15. A memorandum of miscellaneous receipts is not filed in a book as was suggested by Mr. Brecks, President of Coonoor Municipality, in his letter to Government dated 24th June 1870, No. 26, paragraph 3. I have asked the Vice-President to mend at once the above defect, which is allowed to predominate notwithstanding the contents of Mr. Brecks' letter having been duly communicated to the Commissioners.

16. I beg to state that every item of disbursement is supported by vouchers with the exception of Rupees 2-11-6 under the head of "Roads or Streets" subordinate to "II., Repairs," and also vouchers for charges incurred on account of petty contingencies, but similar charges are usually incurred under the sanction of the Commissioners.

17. A sum of Rupees 99 was also adjusted in the cash-book on the 31st March 1871 by crediting on account of "License fees for temporary erections," and debiting to "Charges incurred for maintaining water-pandals during the grand festival of Davarajasawmy in May 1870," although eleven months have elapsed between the dates of the festival and of adjustment of the amount.

18. The above sum appears to have been collected in May 1870, but no entry has been made in the register kept in the office for the purpose; neither are any vouchers forthcoming in support of the charge said to have been incurred.

19. I must here remark that the collections made on the 15th July 1870, under the heads noted in the margin, were credited in the cash-book on the 31st January 1871, and the sum of Rupees 100, received from the Taluq Treasury on the 10th, was brought into the cash-book on the 12th August 1870.

20. The collections detailed in the margin were twice inserted in the cash-book, and subsequently entered on the payment side as a "redundancy."

21. The discrepancies above detailed, and few other minor ones deserving notice, have been pointed out by me to the Vice-President, who assured me that he will see that no similar mistakes occur in future.

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22. The tolls leviable upon all carriages, carts, and animals entering the municipal limits have been leased out by sale in public auction to the highest bidder, during the year 1870-71, for Rupees 3,850.

23. I beg to enclose a statement showing the actual receipts and disbursements for the year under report.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1871, No. 1804.

1871, NO. 1804.

The receipts of the Municipal Commissioners of Conjeveram are shown in the marginal abstract from which the Government have omitted the receipts from deposits. Such, it has been repeatedly ruled, are not to be shown in these statements, which are intended to show only the receipts and disbursements of the municipal fund.

2. Beyond the fact that the current collections are extremely small owing partly to remissness and partly to the demand having been assessed for eleven months only, and that the bulk of the

Current—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Rate on houses	1,984	4	6
Tax on arts, &c.	416	2	8
Tolls	3,850	0	0
Taxes on vehicles, &c.	1,018	1	4
Registration of carts	540	10	0
License fees	155	0	0
Fines, &c.	281	4	0

State contribution	8,245	6	6
Arrears—	8,534	9	0

Rate on houses	5,834	13	7
Tax on arts, &c.	5,072	0	0
Tolls	637	8	0
State contribution	2,075	10	9

Other receipts	14,520	0	4
Advances recovered	256	2	6
Balance	320	0	0
	2,644	2	3

Total ... 29,520 4 7

remark. The Government have, in separate orders, specially animadverted on the slackness of the collections in Conjeveram.

					Rs. A. P.		
3. The expenditure in the improvement of the town has been, as in former years, next to nothing. Only Rupees 534-5-0 were spent on repairing and metalling roads, though the roads are admittedly in a wretched state, and though Rupees 6,600 were provided in the budget. This delay is not in accordance with the expressed intentions of the Commissioners, and is much to be regretted. Road-making is probably expensive in Conjeveram, but material can be procured by rail, and the Commissioners have ample funds for the purpose.							
New Works	...	...	...	...	315	12	3
Repairs	...	...	...	...	877	9	0
Conservancy	...	...	...	...	6,356	2	5
Police	...	...	...	...	8,603	1	8
Establishment, &c.	...	...	...	...	2,582	13	0
Other purposes					18,235	6	4
Advance recoverable	...	...	...	...	2,089	15	5
					17	2	1
					20,342	7	10
					9,177	12	9
Total					29,520	4	7

secured by rail, and the Commissioners have ample funds and ought to utilize them. The conservancy outlay is certainly satisfactory in amount, and the Government are glad that the Sanitary Commissioner testifies to its general efficiency as regards street cleanliness. The establishment charges are disproportionately high.

4. The President appears to be in error in stating that the whole Police charges of the year are included in the Police Superintendent's account. It relates to twelve months, as did the previous ones, but does not include the charges for April 1871 to be paid, according to practice, in the following month. Three-fourths of these charges are still to be paid by the Commissioners. The President will ascertain the amount and cause the payment to be made. The Commissioners appear to have paid in full the balance of charges due for 1868-69 and 1869-70, and

marginal abstract from which the Government have omitted the receipts from deposits. Such, it has been repeatedly ruled, are not to be shown in these statements, which are intended to show only the receipts and disbursements of the municipal fund.

2. Beyond the fact that the current collections are extremely small owing partly to remissness and partly to the demand having been assessed for eleven months only, and that the bulk of the receipts come under the head of arrears, the statement of receipts calls for no

years, next to nothing. Only Rupees 534-5-0 were spent on repairing and metalling roads, though the roads are admittedly in a wretched state, and though Rupees 6,600 were provided in the budget. This delay is not in accordance with the expressed intentions of the Commissioners, and is much to be regretted. Road-making is probably expensive in Conjeveram, but material can be pro-

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three-fourths of those for the twelve months ending March 1871, with an excess of Rupees 17-2-1 which it appears has since been refunded.

5. The State contribution is to be struck on the current receipts and will be Rupees 2,748-7-6. Including the Police remission for 1870-71 the Commissioners have received Rupees 4,675-13-6, and have therefore to refund, in addition to the proportion of the charges to be paid for April 1871, Rupees 1,927-6-0.

6. In his letter, No. 68, dated 26th May 1871, the President submits a claim of the Commissioners for reimbursement of their expenditure, Rupees 649-14-0, on a Police Station and hut in 1867-68. Deducting from the net outlay, Rupees 487-6-6, three years' depreciation, and the sum already refunded by the Superintendent of Police, the sum now payable is Rupees 183-8-10, the disbursement of which is sanctioned.

7. The Government have to remark, in conclusion, that the Auditor's report reveals much laxness in the keeping of the accounts and irregularity in the mode of collecting the taxes. The Government trust that his suggestions will be attended to by the Commissioners.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram.
 „ Public Works Department.
 „ Board of Revenue.
 „ Accountant-General.
 „ Inspector-General of Police,
 „ Sanitary Commissioner.

Said date 8th September
1871.

No 213

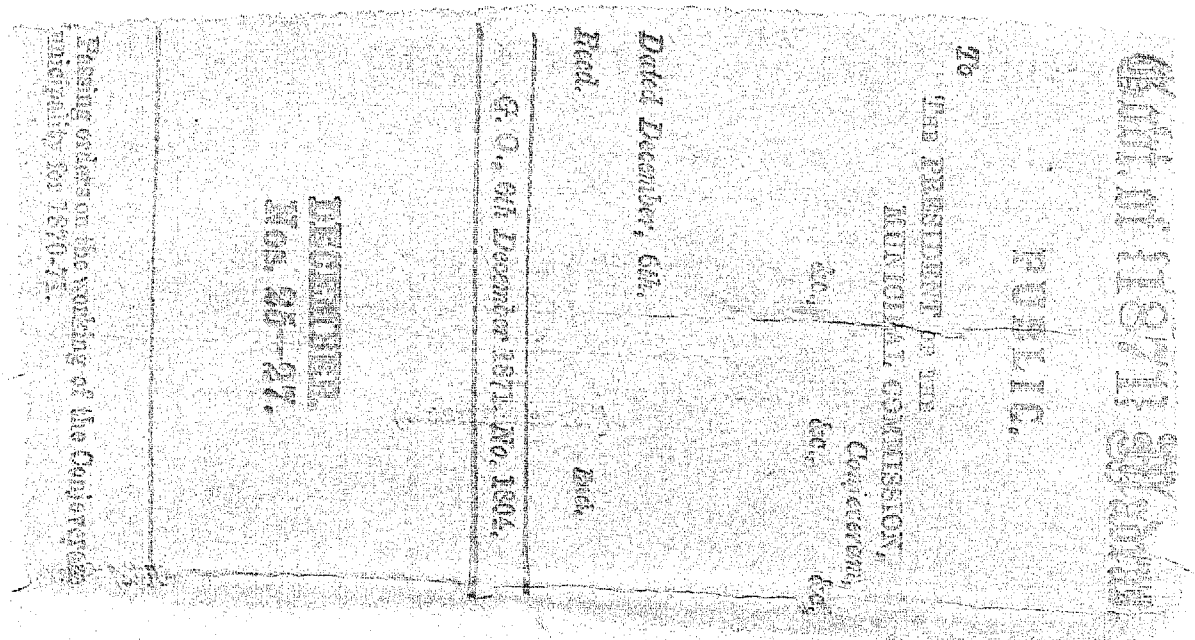
From,

R. W. Barlow Esq^r
President, Municipal Commission
Conjeveram.

To
The Honorable R. S. Ellis Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government,
Sir, I have the honor to forward

a copy of the Commissioner's report
on the working of the Municipality
of Conjeveram, together with the State-
ments of receipts and disbursements
for the year 1870-71.

2 The amount collected during
the year, was Rs. 26,976-2-4, to which
the cash balance in hand of the
previous year vizt Rs. 2,644-2-3 being
added, the total receipts amounted
to Rs. 29,620-4-7. This is a great deal
more than the collections of the year
preceding, the increase being due to
the State contribution having been
drawn



drawn both in arrears (Rs. 2,975-10-9)
and current (Rs. 3,534-9-0) as well as
to the increased collection Rs. 10,906-
13-7 of House and Trades Taxes on
account of the arrears of previous
years.

House Tax - 5,334-13-7
Trades Tax - 5,572-...
10,906-13-7

3 Notwithstanding the remarks
of Government regarding the backward
state of the collections of 1869-70, I
repret to state that the current
collections of House and Trade Taxes
were as before small; out of Rs.
13,654-6-9, demanded for the year, only
Rs. 2,400-7-2 were collected, leaving
the large balance of Rs. 11,253-14-7.
This could have been avoided if
the bills had been issued in time,
early in the year as required by the
Act. To this mismanagement, the Com-
missioners have added the error of
issuing bills for eleven instead
of twelve months under a mistaken
impression.

13
impression that the East Municipal
year was to close with March instead
of April 1871. This, however, has been
since rectified by their under in-
structions from me.

4 It may perhaps not be out
of place to notice here, though the
subject does not strictly fall with-
in the scope of a report for 1870-71,
that since the receipt of the Proceed-
ings of Government No. 9th dated 29th
June 1871, Rs. 7,814-1-11 were collected
in July and August last on account
of the arrears of 1870-71, and exertions
will be made to reduce the balance
still further.

5 The total expenditure
was Rs. 20,395-7-10 against Rs. 22,820
sanctioned in the Budget.

6 The Commissioners did
very little in the way of giving the

Lower the benefit of improved com-
munications, for although Rs 6600
was provided chiefly for roads,
a sum of Rs 24-12-3 only were
expended under the head of "new works";
this shall not be the case this year.

The outlay on repairs was Rs 374-9-
chiefly for levelling the streets and
repairing the latrines.

7. The conservation of the
Larus, which cost Rs 6356, is the
most satisfactory feature in the
working of the Municipality in
this year under review; particulars
are given in the Commissioners'
report, and I may here draw the
attention of Government to the
remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner,
quoted at para 7, approving of the
state of the Town. The sanitary
arrangements

20 Durbins - 122-12-11
Road leading
to the Dispensary 192-14-6
315-12-3

arrangements too adopted on the
occasion of the annual festival,
and reported on by me separately,
were successful in so far as there
was no outbreak of Cholera, and
have received the approval of Go-
vernment.

8. Owing to the appointment
of temporary hands to assist in
the collection of the large arrears
outstanding, the charge for esta-
blishments has slightly exceeded
the budget allotment.

9. Under the head "Police &
Charges" a total of Rs 8,630-5-9 was
expended, Rs 5179-4-0 on account of
charges due for former years, and
Rs 3450-15-9, current expended
in 1870-71 on this account. This
last amount includes Rs 17-2-1

overdrawn from, and since refunded
to the Municipality. The Super-
intendent's account of receipts
and charges for the year is here-
by enclosed, and is not objected
as supposed by the Commissioners,
the transactions for the whole
year being exhibited correctly.

10 With reference to the
memorandum of the Commissioners at
para 13, regarding the inadequacy
of the strength of the Police force
to the requirements of the Town,
I am in correspondence with the
Superintendent of Police on the
subject, as I am not prepared
to endorse the opinion of the
Commissioners at present.

11 The amount expended
for

15^a 6
for purposes other than those
specified in Section 25 of the Act,
was Rs 2,139-15-5, which is inclusive
of Rs 763-7-5, the cost of lighting,
and Rs 1,300, the Municipal con-
tributions for the Dispensary.

12 I request sanction for
writing off the 1,000 Rs. stated by the
Commissioners at para 4 to be
irrecoverable.

13 The Auditor, a copy of
whose report is herewith forward-
ed, does not speak favorably of
the manner in which the accounts
and registers are kept. The mis-
takes noticed by him have all
been pointed out to the Commis-
sioners and will, doubtless, receive
their attention and be avoided in
future.

The

14 The delay in submitting
this report was caused by the De-
mand Collection and Balance
Statement returned to the Com-
missioners for revision, with
reference to the Government Order
of the 29th June 1871 No 944, having
been only recently returned, its
correctness had to be ascertained
previous to submitting this report.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed^t Servant.

M. W. Barlow
President.

17
No 8 Camp Battiwah
26th May 1871
From,

P. W. Barlow Esq
President, Municipal
Commissioner, Conjevaram.

To,
W. Huddleston Esq
Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,
With reference to the Order of Govern-
ment, dated the 3^d Instant, No 583, I have
the honor to forward copy of a letter from the
Vice President, from which it will be seen,
that a sum of Rs 649-14- was paid from
the Municipal Fund for the erection of a
Police Station and a hut, and that the amount
to be re-paid by Government on their account
is Rs 237-6-6, as shown in the margin.
I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed^t Servant

M. W. Barlow
President.

* Amount paid from the Municipal Fund — 649-14-
deduct
Amount paid as Govt Contribution — 1427-6
Balance by the Govt of Police — 237-6-6
1427-6-6

24. 6. 71

Public - 1871 Depost

From
The President Municipal
Commission, Conjeveram
To The Chief Secretary to
Government

Dated 8th 3rd September 1871.
No. 13

No. 213

(4 vector)

No. 1936

Forwarding the an-
nual report of the

Conjeveram Municipal

- City for the year 1870-71

26

22/12
1871

Public Department,

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from
the President of the Munici-
pal Commission, Conjeveram
dated 26th May, 8th September
1871 Nos 68 & 213.

Order thereon 6th Decr 71 No. 1886

The receipts of the
Municipal Commissioners
of Conjeveram are shown in
the Marginal Abstract from
which the Government have
omitted the receipts from
deposits. Such, it has been
repeatedly ruled, are not to
be shown in these state-
ments which are intended
to show only the receipts
and disbursements of the
Municipal fund.

Current.

Rates on houses	1984-4-6
Tax on Arts &c	416-2-8
Tolls	3850-0-0
Taxes on Vehicles &c	1018-1-4
Registration of Carts	540-10-0
License fees	156-0-0
Fines &c	281-4-0
	8245-6-6
State Contribution	3534-9-0
Arrears.	
State on houses	5834-13-7
Tax on Arts &c	5072-0-0
Tolls	637-8-0
State Contribution	2975-10-9
	14520-0-4
Other receipts	256-2-6
Advances recovered	320-0-0
Balance	2644-2-3
	29520-4-7

L. Beyond the fact
that

that the current collections are extremely small owing partly to remissness and partly to the demand having been assessed for 11 months only; and that the bulk of the receipts, come under the head of arrears, the statement of receipts calls for no remark. The Government have, in separate orders, specially animadverted on the slackness of the collections in Conjeeveram.

3. The expenditure in the improvement of the town has been, as in former years, next to nothing. Only Rs 534-5-0 were spent on repairing and metalling roads, though the roads are admittedly in a wretched state, and though Rs 6600 were provided in the budget. The Commissioners are prolific of resolutions but backward in carrying them

This delay is not in accordance with the expressed intentions of the Government & is much to be regretted.

New works	315-12-3
Repairs	377-9-1
Conservancy	6356-2-5
Police	8603-1-8
Establishment	2582-13-0
	<u>18235-6-4</u>

Other purposes	2089-15-1
Advance recoverable	17-2-1
	<u>20342-7-10</u>
	<u>9177-12-9</u>
	<u>29520-4-7</u>

~~into effect~~ Road making is probably expensive in Conjeeveram, but material can be procured by rail and the Commissioners have ample funds and ought to utilize them. The conservancy outlay is certainly satisfactory in amount, and the Government are glad that the Sanitary Commissioner testifies to its general efficiency as regards street cleanliness. The establishment charges are disproportionately high.

4. The President appears to be in error in stating that the whole police charges of the year are included in the Police Superintendent's account. It relates to twelve months, as did the previous ones, but does not include the charges for April 1874 to be paid, according to practice, in the following month. Three fourths of these charges are still to be paid by the Commissioners. The President

will

will ascertain the amount & cause the payment to be made. The Commissioners appear to have paid in full the balance of charges due for 1868-69 and 1869-70 and three fourths of those for the 12 months ending March 1871 with an excess of Rs 17-2-1 which it appears has since been refunded.

5. The State contribution is to be struck on the current receipts and will be Rs 2748-7-6. Including the Police remission for 1870-71 the Commissioners have received Rs 4675-13-6 and have therefore to refund, in addition to the proportion of the charges for April 1871, Rs 1927-0-0.

6. In his letter No 68 dated 26 May 1871 the President submits a claim of the Commissioners for reimbursement of their expenditure Rs 649-14-0 on a police

5245	6. 6
2748	7. 6
3534	9. 0
1141	4. 5
4675	13. 6
1927	0. 0

police station and that in 1867-68. Deducting from the net outlay Rs 487-6-6, three years depreciation, and the sum already refunded by the Superintendent of Police, the sum now payable is Rupees 183-8-10, the disbursement of which is sanctioned.

7. The Government have to remark in conclusion that the auditor's report reveals much

accounts and irregularity in the mode of collecting the taxes. The Government trust that his suggestions will be attended to by the Commissioners.

The Hon^{ble} Mr. C. Conjeram
 - P. W. Hept
 - Board of Rev.
 - Acc^t Genl
 - Insp. Genl of Police
 - Sanitary Comm^{ee}

11/11/71
 dispd 11/12/71

Cont. of 187 } **Index.**

To Public
the Just. Court.
Congress
in

Dated Dec 6 }
Recd. 1871, No. 1874

Nov. 25-27.

Being added on the 18th
of the Congress in
- 1870-71.