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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	35	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated	8-11-1872	196 .
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
1st November 1872.

Read again letters from the President of the Municipal Commission, Vellore, dated 15th and 22nd August 1872, Nos. 39 and 43, and recorded in the Proceedings of 19th October 1872, No. 1422.

No. 9. ORDER THEREON, 1st November 1872, No. 1492.

The receipts of the Vellore Municipality for the year 1871-72, inclusive of the

RECEIPTS.		RS.
<i>Current—</i>		
Rate on houses, &c...	...	3,033
Tax on arts	...	3,464
Tax on vehicles	...	1,548
Registration of carts	...	747
Tolls	...	11,200
Fees	...	241
Fines	...	21
		20,254
<i>Arrears—</i>		
Rate on houses	...	5,230
Tax on arts	...	4,480
		29,964
Miscellaneous	...	3,009
Balance brought forward	...	2,870
Government grant to Cantonment	...	
Roads	...	1,110
Total	...	36,953

EXPENDITURE.		RS.
<i>Public Works—</i>		
New Works	...	5,986
Repairs	...	2,690
Establishment	...	660
		9,336
Education	...	1,208
Dispensary	...	750
Vaccination	...	106
Registration of births and deaths	...	166
Conservancy	...	6,351
Lighting	...	1,068
Market	...	551
Miscellaneous	...	814
Supervision and management	...	2,752
Advances recoverable	...	3,453
Refunds other than of current taxes	...	35
		26,590
Balance	...	10,363
Total	...	36,953

opening balance, amounted to Rupees 36,953, and the expenditure to Rupees 26,590, leaving a balance in hand, at the close of the year, of Rupees 10,363. This large balance is partly attributable to the receipts having exceeded the estimate (Rupees 32,160) by Rupees 4,793, but the expenditure also fell short of the amount entered in the budget by Rupees 5,579. This appears to have been, to a great extent, a consequence of a disagreement between the Commissioners and one of their Contractors leading to somewhat extensive litigation which, so far as yet reported, has resulted in the Commissioners' favour.

2. The total demand, current and arrears, at the beginning of the year, amounted to Rupees 36,903. Of this Rupees 27,559 (including a refund of Rupees 153) were collected, and Rupees 217 remitted, so that, at the end of the year, there was an uncollected balance of Rupees 9,127, which would not have been so large except for the delay occasioned at Vellore, as elsewhere, by the revision of the assessment during the year. Before the end of June Rupees 3,581 were collected, and Rupees 3,821 written off as irrecoverable, thus reducing the balance to Rupees 1,725.

3. The Government are glad to learn that the Commissioners themselves now undertake the duty of valuing and assessing the house-tax, instead of leaving

it in the hands of a paid subordinate as reported by the President to have been the previous practice.

4. The President animadverts very strongly on the way in which the Vice-President, Major Scarle, has been in the habit of carrying on works without

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,

1st November 1872.

estimates and making payments without the sanction of the Commissioners. The Vice-President states that he merely carried on a practice which he found in existence when he assumed office, and, as his course of procedure must have been very well known to the Commissioners, the Government cannot but assume that he was supported by the opinion of the majority. The system is, however, open to many objections, and the Government consider that the Vice-President should have power within certain limits in ordinary cases, up to, say, 50 Rupees, such expenditure being reported and passed monthly; but that all other expenditure should be regularly voted, special meetings being convened in cases of urgency which cannot be of frequent occurrence.

5. The principal items of expenditure under the head of "Public Works" are, Rupees 1,500 for the construction of a slaughter-house; Rupees 2,048 for repairs to roads; Rupees 1,244 for latrines; and Rupees 768 for drains. Under Education Rupees 855-4-0 were paid as result grants to nineteen Prial Schools, and Rupees 353 towards the cost of the Educational Inspectorate of the district. The Civil Dispensary was not handed over until after the close of the official year, hence a contribution of Rupees 750 was paid to the Managing Committee. Vaccination did not make much progress, only 334 persons having submitted to the operation. The expenditure on lighting amounted to Rupees 1,068. Kerosine was substituted for oil from the commencement of the current year. The sum of Rupees 3,453, entered in the accounts as an advance recoverable, was expended on the construction of Police Lines for Government. The new market does not appear to have been a success hitherto, but it is to be hoped that the alterations about to be made will have the beneficial effect looked for.

6. The Auditor's report shows that the accounts are satisfactorily kept. Exception has been taken by the Commissioners to certain remarks in this report, but the Government consider that the Auditor did his duty in bringing to notice that expenditure had been incurred without the sanction of the Commissioners.

7. The remarks made by the President, regarding the administration of the Municipality under the Vice-Presidentship of Major Searle, have been disposed of in a separate Order.

(True Extract.)

C. Searle
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Vellore.

- „ Board of Revenue.
- „ Revenue Department.
- „ Public Works „
- „ Inspector-General of Police.
- „ „ „ Indian Medical Department.
- „ Sanitary Commissioner.
- „ Director of Public Instruction.
- „ Accountant-General.
- „ President of the Local Fund Boards, North Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Cost. of 1872 Address.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

Dec.,

Dec.,

Dec.

Vellore,

Dated November, 1st.

Recd. " *82.*

Encl.

G. O., 1st November 1872, No. 1492.

No. 1111

NOVEMBER.
No. 9.

Reviewing the annual report on the working of
the Vellore Municipality for 1871-72.

H-35

Encl. 11

8 Nov 72.