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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	63	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 10. 10. 1965

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
30th September 1872.*

No. 198. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Palmanair, 23rd August 1872, No. 40 :—

In continuation of my letter of the 15th instant, No. 39, I have the honour to submit, herewith, the accompanying copy of the annual report,* with audited accounts received from the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission of Wallajahpett, for the official year 1871-72.

2. I have no remarks to offer, as the report speaks for itself, beyond observing that the Municipality is satisfactorily and steadily managed, and that the Commissioners work harmoniously for the advancement of the Municipality in their charge.

From the Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Wallajahpett, to the President of the Municipal Commissions, North Arcot, dated Wallajahpett, 19th August 1872, No. 77.

The accounts of the Municipality having been audited by Mr. Antonio and found correct, I have the honour to forward Statements 1, 2, 3, and 4 for the year 1871-72, as required by Government in their Proceedings in the Public Department, dated 28th October 1871, No. 170.

Receipts and Disbursements.—The amount collected during the year, inclusive of balance brought forward from last account, is Rupees 9,231-12-1. This is exclusive of deposits from contractors and appellants which does not fall under the head of Receipts proper. The amount expended is Rupees 9,136-4-2, leaving a balance of Rupees 95-7-11 in favour of the Municipality, or inclusive of deposits Rupees 967-9-3.

Population.—The final census of the town was taken during the year; the population is 12,047, which, compared with last census (10,993), shows an increase of 1054.

The number of deaths during the year has been 314, and that of births 350.

Health.—The health of the town during the year has been remarkably good; it has been totally free from cholera. This favourable circumstance is doubtless attributable, in a great measure, to the cleanliness of the town and to the supply of pure water. Just at the time of the unhealthy season the most stringent measures had been adopted for the removal of the sweepings, &c., that were secured in the backyards of houses for compost.

(b.) *Vaccination.*—One hundred and ninety-three persons were vaccinated during the year and all the operations proved successful. In order to the extensive propagation of vaccination, the Commissioners have ordered the vaccinator to attend at the Ranipett Dispensary as often as possible, and to vaccinate, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Scudder, in medical charge of the institution, such persons as are willing to submit to the operation.

NEW WORKS AND REPAIRS.—(a.) *Roads and Streets.*—The Imperial Trunk Road was put under thorough repair; the other roads were slightly repaired. A very narrow lane which formed a dangerous communication between Chozaveram Cawder Saib's Street and Smith's Street was blocked up, there being a proper road close by.

(b.) *Ponds and Wells.*—Venayaga Chetty's, Agambaraswara Swamy's, and Royajee's ponds, and one well in the market, were repaired. Silt was removed from Venayaga Chetty's and Agambaraswara Swamy's ponds. The feeder to the latter was also put in thorough repair. As passengers were in the habit of bathing and of washing clothes in the drinking water ponds, known as Agambaraswara Swamy's and Tandai Chelinga Cuppee Chetty guntas, it was found necessary to depute a peon to put a stop to it. Two ruined and useless wells were filled up in Chetty and Peruma Moodelly's Street.

(c.) *Drains.*—Nine drains across roads and eleven lineal yards of side-drain along the north side of the Great Western Road were constructed during the year.

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- (d.) *Latrines*.—Two are in course of construction in the centre of the town near the market.
- (e.) *Markets*.—The market was completed during the year and arrangements made for letting the stalls from May 1872.
- (f.) *Dust-boxes*.—One hundred were constructed and the same number repaired during the year.
- (g.) *Miscellaneous*.—One lamp-post was put up in the new market.

Two thousand one hundred and eighty-one square yards of land were cleared of prickly-pear during the year.

As suggested by Mr. Robinson, when on a visit to this Municipality during the year, a plot of ground, overgrown with prickly-pear and other noxious vegetation, interspersed with pits used as latrine at the north-east of the town approximate to the railway approach road, was bought, cleared, filled up, and fenced in, to be eventually converted into a park.

Conservancy.—It was found by experience that five scavengers' carts were amply sufficient for the cleaning of the town, provided the working of them were placed under the immediate supervision of proper maistries; the complement was, therefore, reduced from six to five, and the saving effected by the reduction absorbed in the employment of a maistry for each division. This arrangement worked well, and in practice it proved to be better than the old system. During the year the cleaning of the town for the ensuing year (1872-73) was given on contract at a rate favourable to the Municipality, allowing the contractor to enjoy the collected sweepings, and giving him a sum of Rupees 650 annually as a remuneration. By getting the work done on contract, it is expected that an annual saving of about Rupees 400 will be effected in the expenditure under the head.

Towns' Improvement Act.—With reference to Proceedings of Government, dated 4th May last, No. 627, in the Financial Department, the Commissioners beg to forward a statement in the form therein called for, and to report that the feeling of the townspeople in general and of the traders in particular regarding the working of the Act is not very favourable, notwithstanding the many benefits they enjoy under it. This is not out of any want of appreciation on the part of the intelligent portion of the community of the value of sanitary improvements, but because of their having to pay two different taxes on trades and professions (one in the shape of an Income-tax and the other in the shape of a municipal trade-tax) just at a time, too, when the trade is not half as good as that of many other municipal towns, which, comparatively speaking, may well be said to be flourishing. As stated in my letter of the 19th July 1872, No. 72, cotton and betel-nut formed the chief trade prior to the extension of the railway to Bellary and Bangalore; the town had then been used by the merchants of these places as a central emporium for the export of the two commodities in question to Madras, Pondicherry, Vellore, and other towns. Now that the railway has changed the course, Wallajahpett has ceased to be a mart for the sale of cotton and betel-nut, and as a necessary consequence business has been reduced to a very low state. In order, however, to accommodate taxation to the state of trade in the town, and to lighten the pressure, it would be better if, as a special case, Government were pleased to exempt it from the operation of one of the Acts at least, say the Income-tax Act.

As to the effect of tolls on the traffic of the country, the Commissioners are of opinion that the levy of it has, to a certain extent, impeded the free import of grain into the town. To evade tolls cultivators for the most part carry their produce for sale to Arcot, which is situated at the short distance of three miles from Wallajahpett and is free from municipal taxation, and the inhabitants of Wallajahpett are at times driven to the disagreeable necessity of looking to that town for cheap supplies, while the traders in their town have to suffer from scanty imports and loss of customers. To prevent a non-municipal town from being benefitted at the expense of a municipal town, and to preserve the equilibrium as far as prices of grain are concerned, it is very desirable that all towns of importance, not situated at a respectable distance from a Municipality, should be

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brought under the operation of the Act. No instances of oppression or irregularity on the part of toll collectors have been brought to notice during the year.

House rates.—In view to make a thorough revision of the house-tax assessment for the ensuing year, returns were called for from house-owners under Section 46.

No. 199. ORDER THEREON, 30th September 1872, No. 1300.

An abstract is given in the margin of the receipts and expenditure of the Wallajahpett Municipality during the year 1871-72, as shown in Statements I. and II. accompanying the annual report. In these accounts the opening balance is given at Rupees 1,134, while it is shown as Rupees 745 in G. O., dated 10th January 1872, No. 28.

RECEIPTS.		Rs.
Current—		
House rate	...	539
Tax on arts	...	1,985
Tax on vehicles, &c.	...	197
Registration of carts	...	417
Tolls	...	3,249
Fees	...	187
Fines	...	3
		6,577
Arrears of taxes	...	1,072
Government contribution for trunk road	...	225
School fees	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	207
Balance brought forward	...	1,134
Total	...	9,232

EXPENDITURE.		Rs.
Public Works—		
New Works	...	1,408
Repairs	...	791
Establishment	...	411
Education	...	110
Vaccination	...	114
Registration of births and deaths	...	1,980
Conservancy	...	389
Lighting	...	2,086
Market	...	561
Miscellaneous	...	1,437
Supervision and management	...	9,136
Balance	...	96
Total	...	9,232

2. The current collections under "Taxes on Arts" are shown in Statement I. as Rupees 1,985, and in Statement IV. as Rupees 2,287. The column provided for estimates in Statements I. and II. has not been filled up. In Statement II. the expenditure on Arts is entered at Rupees 1,408, while in Statement II-A it is shown at Rupees 2,367. It is also to be noted that items 3 and 4 under Grant V. should have appeared under Grant IV., Miscellaneous.

3. The Commissioners have omitted to forward the Auditor's report, and the Government are unable to form any opinion as to the actual state of the collections until the discrepancies above mentioned have been explained.

4. It is gratifying to observe from the report that the Municipality is keeping up its reputation for steady and satisfactory progress, and the Government trust that the conservancy of the town will continue to be thoroughly carried out under the contract system newly introduced.

5. With reference to G. O., dated 4th May 1872, No. 627, the Commissioners report that the feeling of the townspeople is not very favourable to the Act, and attribute it to the imposition of the tax on arts simultaneously with the Income-tax. The Government will be glad to consider any proposals that may suggest themselves to the Commissioners for raising sufficient funds for the improvement of the town without having recourse to this particular impost, but it is improbable that the Income-tax can really affect the bulk of the municipal tax-payers.

6. Tolls are considered to have impeded the traffic owing to traders preferring to take their goods to the neighbouring town of Arcot, which is free from municipal taxation. The Collector of North Arcot is requested to state his opinion

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as to the expediency or otherwise of introducing Act III. of 1871 into that town also.

(True Extract.)

C. L. A. M.
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Acting Collector of North Arcot.

- „ Board of Revenue.
- „ Revenue Department.
- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Inspector-General of Police.
- „ Inspector-General, 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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Dabt. of 1872 *Madras.*

FINANCIAL.

To
THE ACTING COLLECTOR OF
NORTH ARCOT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 30th.

Recd. *Actd 10th*

Rs 100

G. O., 30th September 1872, No. 1300.

See Price

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 198-199.

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

11.63.

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