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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue - DEPARTMENT

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Read the following papers:—

- No. 1. From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cocanada, 29th November 1873, No. 13.

I have the honour to forward the Budget Estimates for the three Municipalities in this district for 1874-75.

2. The Profession-tax has been dispensed with, and this has caused a serious difficulty. The estimates for Expenditure have been cut down as low as they possibly could. New Public Works and Education have had to suffer; the Conservancy Establishments have been kept up as well as we could, and the lighting has been kept up, as the Commissioners have considered that it would not be well to see the lamp-posts without ever a light on them. Notwithstanding this reduction in the expenditure, I am afraid it will be absolutely necessary to raise some more funds. The least objectionable in my view will be to raise the House-tax to the maximum seven-and-a-half per cent. The Commissioners have not proposed this for Rajahmundry, because there has lately been a revision of the House-tax, by which more than Rupees 1,000 is expected in excess of this year's receipts, so it was considered best to adopt the revised register, and not at the same time raise the rate at which the tax is levied.

3. The Commissioners of the Ellore Municipality resolved not to increase the House-tax.

4. Those of the Cocanada Municipality have decided to ask Government to increase the rate to seven-and-a-half per cent. But they do this with reluctance, and wish that Government would allow them to tax the goods coming down by canal instead. On this subject, I enclose a memorandum drawn up by a Sub-Committee and accepted at a full meeting of the Commissioners.

5. I would point out that Cocanada is circumstanced differently from most towns. A large trade is carried on, a great quantity of goods are brought for exportation, and this merchandize pays nothing to the Municipality. The goods come by canal, and so come within the municipal limits without paying any toll, which they would have to pay, if they were brought on bandies. The greater part of the wealth of the town consists of merchandize thus brought in; and it is chiefly to protect this that the Municipality have incurred expense in taking some precautions against fire, and it is entirely to protect these goods that the Municipal Commission has decided not to allow thatched buildings to be newly put up in those particular parts of the town where these goods are mostly stored. Thus, others are put to expense on account of these goods which contribute nothing towards the expenses of the town. I must mention that the Commissioners were unanimous in the decision to advise Government to impose some such tax as this; and the meeting was attended by nearly all the members, many of whom are merchants, to whom these goods would be being brought.

6. But while I agree in thinking these goods should bear their share in the municipal expenses, I am quite prepared to admit there are difficulties in the way of imposing a tax on them. It would have to be imposed in the form of a toll on

each boat entering the municipal limits. Now it would hardly be right to tax the goods which were going straight to the shipping in the roads, and no distinctions could be well made at the place where tolls are taken. Again, it might appear that this tax would be liable to drive the goods down to Coringa, and keep them out of Cocanada; but I do not anticipate this, as it would cost shippers much more to put the goods on a ship from Coringa, than from Cocanada. I would, therefore, request Government to consider this matter. It could not be done without passing an Act to provide for it.

7. I will now go on to consider each Budget separately:—

(1.) RAJAHMUNDY.—The following shows the estimates compared with those of the present year:—

RECEIPTS.			CHARGES.		
	1873-74.	1874-75.		1873-74.	1874-75.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance	6,042	6,821	Grant I.—		
Surplus Pound Fund	...	100	New Works	700	...
House-tax	3,015	4,406	Repairs	1,350	1,350
Trades-tax	5,550	...	Establishment	372	...
Taxes on Vehicles	550	550	Tools and Plant	...	...
Registration of Carts	125	125	Grant II.	530	...
Tolls	2,000	2,000	Grant III.—		
Fees	550	550	Dispensaries	2,620	2,516
Fines	200	200	Vaccination	137	60
Endowments, &c.	620	1,194	Conservancy	8,118	5,942
Contributions from Local			Grant IV.—		
Funds	1,250	1,190	Lighting	740	1,896
Miscellaneous	2,676	3,165	Other items	300	300
			Grant V.—		
			Office	1,205	941
			Miscellaneous	2,144	144
			Total	18,216	13,149
Total	22,578	20,301	Balance... ..	4,362	7,152

The endowment balance includes the funded capital. I have omitted this in Statements I. and II., the alterations being made in red ink.

In the Budget of the present year, the surplus pound was omitted by mistake. It has been paid to the Municipality.

The House-tax has been increased, as I have said before, by adopting the revised register of the value of the houses. The endowments, &c., have risen chiefly through increased subscriptions, &c., to the Civil Dispensary. The rest of the items of receipts demand no notice.

In the expenditure, the expense of lighting, has very much increased, owing to more lamps having been put up; the Conservancy Establishment has been greatly reduced, and also the Office Establishment; the Miscellaneous items are reduced by the 2,000 Rupees which were put into the present year's Budget for the purchase of land.

Of the balance Rupees 7,152, a part, viz., Rupees 4,209, belongs to endowments; there are thus left Rupees 2,943 as the balance of the Municipal Fund; there should certainly be kept a balance of Rupees 1,348, so that about Rupees 1,600 of this balance might be further utilized. But I would leave it for the present in the balance, as I am inclined to think that the Conservancy Establishment has been reduced too low, and will require to be raised to be efficient. If it does not require to be raised, then Grants I. and II. might be made to the same as last year, when we see that the present Conservancy Establishment is sufficient.

(2.) ELLORE.—The following shows the receipts and expenditure proposed for the ensuing year compared with that of the current year:—

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	1873-74.	1874-75.		1873-74.	1874-75.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance	2,000	2,000	Grant I.—		
Assignments, &c.	100	50	New Works	4,250	2,000
House-tax	3,500	3,500	Repairs	4,000	2,000
Profession-tax	3,800	...	Other items	350	350
Tax on Vehicles	500	500	Grant II.—		
Registration of Carts	700	800	Salary Grants	126	750
Tolls	4,000	4,400	Results Grants	1,000	370
Fees	100	100	Inspection	174	...
Fines	100	100	Grant III.—		
Contributions from Local			Dispensary	1,400	1,400
Funds	1,500	1,000	Vaccination	150	150
Miscellaneous	130	100	Registration of Births and		
			Deaths	180	120
			Conservancy	3,100	2,500
			Grant IV.—		
			Lighting	150	150
			Public Bungalow	80	80
			Grant V.	1,386	1,386
				16,346	11,256
			Balance	84	1,294
				16,430	12,550
Total	16,430	12,550	Total	16,430	12,550

There is nothing that needs remark in the receipts. The expenditure on Conservancy is reduced, the other items under Grants II., III., IV., and V. are generally the same as this year; the only difference being caused by transferring some of the grant under Education from Results Grants to Salary Grants. There thus remain about Rupees 4,000, which have been divided between constructing and repairing Public Works. This sum is quite insufficient; the town is divided into two parts by the canal, and the trunk road passes through the town and over the canal by a bridge, which is not wide enough for two bandies to pass each other on, so money ought to be spent in widening it. There are other works in the town very necessary, but the money is wanting to carry them out.

(3.) COCANADA.—The following shows the receipts and expenditure of Cocanada Municipality:—

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	1873-74.	1874-75.		1873-74.	1874-75.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance...	790	1,200	Grant I.—		
Assignments...	200	200	New Works ...	6,650	3,000
House-tax ...	5,560	8,250	Repairs ...	2,650	3,500
Vehicle-tax ...	600	600	Other items ...	300	500
Tolls ...	3,800	4,000	Grant II.—		
Registration of Carts ...	150	160	Salary Grants ...	200	500
Profession-tax ...	6,000	...	Results Grants ...	150	250
Fees ...	1,050	1,400	Inspection ...	50	...
Fines ...	300	90	Grant III.—		
Endowments ...	4,290	3,738	Dispensary ...	3,340	3,338
Contributions from Local			Vaccination ...	180	244
Funds ...	500	500	Registration of Births and		
Miscellaneous ...	820	662	Deaths ...	...	...
			Conservancy ...	4,070	3,698
			Grant IV.—		
			Lighting ...	2,180	2,000
			Miscellaneous ...	...	250
			Choultries ...	150	120
			Streets and Avenues ...	500	500
			Grant V. ...	3,580	2,900
			Balance ...	...	...
Total ...	24,000	20,800	Total ...	24,000	20,800

The item of House-tax in the RECEIPTS is calculated on the increased rate of seven-and-a-half per cent., in anticipation of the sanction of Government being obtained for that, if they refuse to empower the Municipality to impose any fresh tax as requested.

Receipts from fines will be much reduced, as most of the prosecutions were for non-payment of Professional tax.

The other items of receipt call for no comment.

EXPENDITURE.—The Government will see how largely Public Works are reduced. Repairs are slightly increased owing to the formation this year of new roads.

The Commission have estimated for more expenditure next year on Education, as requested by the Government in their Order, No. 1600, dated 30th October 1873, Financial Department.

Conservancy has also been reduced in consideration of the want of funds.

The other items are much the same.

The Office Establishment has been considerably reduced by the abolition of the post of Manager, and the reduction of two peons.

8. If Government refuse to sanction the increase in the House-tax, and decline to permit the imposition of any further tax, I see no other way of getting on except giving up repairing the roads, and leaving the streets in darkness.

9. Thus, then, Government will see that funds are very much wanted by all the Municipal Commissions in this district. This arises from the action of Government in refusing to sanction the continuance of the Profession-tax, but not providing any other source of revenue. Government also contemplate requiring the Commissions to increase their expenditure by keeping Apothecaries instead of Hospital Assistants at the Dispensaries (I admit this will not make any difference just yet in this district), and they desire that more money be given towards elementary education, and that the funded capital of dispensaries should not be touched, but that the expenses of these institutions be defrayed rather from the other funds.

10. I quite agree with Government in thinking that in Municipalities expenditure should be decreased, rather than the rates of existing taxes be increased, or new taxes imposed, and the Municipal Commissions have done their best to act on that view. Still, with all their efforts, they have not been able to succeed so well but that the people will be able to see that the works are not advancing, and that education and sanitary measures are no longer undertaken, and considerable discredit will be thus thrown on the Municipalities. Now the people think these Commissions entirely Government institutions, and it would, therefore, be well if Government, while they withhold funds on the one hand, would try to relieve them on the other hand.

11. I would strongly advise Government to give up half the surplus Pound Fund to the Municipal Commissions, instead of, as at present, giving it to the Farm at Madras. That the present proceeding is illegal, I thoroughly believe; I cannot see that this fund is spent by the Magistrate of the district under the orders of Government. But I do not advise this on the ground of any illegality, because Government by ordering it show they do not believe it to be illegal; but I advise it because Government should hold out a helping hand to the Municipalities. I may remark that I asked the opinion of the Board of Revenue, and they said it would be utterly out of the question to transfer these funds to the Municipalities.

12. In another way Government might help these Municipalities without doing much harm to their other revenues; the Jungle Conservancy Fund, officers find great difficulty in spending. Of this, at all events, a part might be utilized by giving it up to the Municipalities.

No. 2. From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cocanada, 10th December 1873, No. 14.

I have the honour to forward the Budget Estimate of the Cocanada Municipality for 1874-75, to be substituted for that submitted with my letter of the 29th ultimo, No. 13. The paper sent to you was wrongly copied from an old draft, and may be returned to me.

2. I also enclose two lists of Municipal Commissioners of Ellore and Rajahmundry.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd March 1874.*

No. 3. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1874, No. 331.

The Budget Estimates of the Godavery Municipalities are submitted with the letters above recorded.

2 RAJAHMUNDY.—The estimates for 1874-75, as amended by Government, are compared below with those for the current year:—

RECEIPTS.			CHARGES.		
	1873-74.	1874-75.		1873-74.	1874-75.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward ...	6,012	2,612	Grant I.—		
Assignment by Government...	...	100	New Works ...	700	...
Rate on Houses ...	3,015	4,406	Repairs ...	1,350	1,350
Tax on Arts ...	5,550	...	Other items ...	372	...
Tax on Vehicles ...	550	550	Grant II.—	530	530
Registration of Carts ...	125	125	Grant III.—		
Tolls ...	2,000	2,000	Hospitals ...	2,620	2,696
Fees ...	550	550	Vaccination ...	137	60
Fines ...	200	200	Registration of Births and		
Endowments, &c. ...	620	1,194	Deaths ...		
Contribution from Local Funds	1,250	1,190	Conservancy ...	8,118	5,942
Miscellaneous ...	2,676	3,165	Grant IV.—		
			Lighting ...	740	1,896
			Other Miscellaneous pur-		
			poses ...	300	300
			Grant V.—		
			Office ...	1,205	941
			Miscellaneous ...	2,144	144
			Balance ...	4,362	2,233
Total ...	22,578	16,092	Total ...	22,578	16,092

3. The mistake pointed out last year of showing the funded capital of the dispensary as part of the balance in Statements I. and II. has been repeated in the statements submitted, notwithstanding the President's belief that the necessary alterations, had been made in red ink in his office. The correct balances are shown in the abstract given above!

4. In the statements submitted the proposed expenditure is adjusted so as to leave an unallotted municipal balance of Rupees 2,943. This the President admits to be too large, but considers that it should be left as it is, as he is inclined to think that the allotment for Conservancy has been reduced too low.

5. The contribution from the Local Fund Board for the dispensary should be included in column 6, Statement I.-A, in which case the total income of the institution will appear as Rupees 2,495-13-6, and as the allotment for a medical subordinate must be raised to Rupees 900 to provide for the entertainment of a passed Hospital Apprentice, the entry in column 11 will stand at Rupees 2,696-6-7, leaving a deficit balance of Rupees 200-9-1 to be made good from Municipal Funds. The provision for Education should be raised to Rupees 530, the amount provided in the Budget for the current year.

6. Even after the above alterations have been made, the unallotted balance of Rupees 2,233 will probably more than suffice as a working margin, but should it not do so, there appears no alternative but to have recourse to an enhancement of the rate of one of the existing taxes. A Supplemental Budget for the appropriation of the balance should be submitted at the earliest date on which the requirements can be estimated.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd March 1874.*

7. ELLORE.

RECEIPTS.			CHARGES.		
	1873-74.	1874-75.		1873-74.	1874-75.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward ...	2,000	2,000	Grant I.—		
Assignment by Government.	100	50	New Works ...	4,250	2,000
Rate on Houses ...	3,500	3,500	Repairs ...	4,000	2,000
Tax on Arts ...	3,800	...	Other items ...	350	589
Tax on Vehicles ...	500	500	Grant II.—		
Registration of Carts ...	700	800	Salary Grants ...	126	750
Tolls ...	4,000	4,400	Results Grants ...	1,000	370
Fees ...	100	100	Inspection ...	174	...
Fines ...	100	100	Grant III.—		
Contributions from Local			Hospitals ...	1,400	1,400
Funds ...	1,500	1,000	Vaccination ...	150	150
Miscellaneous ...	130	100	Registration of Births and		
			Deaths ...	180	120
			Conservancy ...	3,100	2,500
			Grant IV.—		
			Lighting ...	150	150
			Other items ...	80	80
			Grant V.—		
			Office ...		
			Miscellaneous ...	1,386	1,164
			Reserve ...		1,055
			Balance ...	84	...
Total ...	16,430	12,550	Total ...	16,430	12,550

8. In the case of Ellore also, the adjustment necessitated by the loss of an item of Rupees 3,800 in the income, has been effected by reduction of expenditure, aided by an anticipated increase of Rupees 400 from Tolls, and Rupees 100 from Registration of Carts.

9. The principal reductions are (1) Rupees 2,000 under New Works, (2) Rupees 2,000 under Repairs, and (3) Rupees 600 under Conservancy. These reductions are sanctioned by Government, and, before the end of the year, the Commissioners may probably be able to utilize the balance of Rupees 1,055, and the Public Works Reserve of Rupees 239, in carrying out some of those works for which no funds have been allotted, although they are considered very necessary.

10. COCANADA.

RECEIPTS.			CHARGES.		
	1873-74.	1874-75.		1873-74.	1874-75.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward ...	790	1,200	Grant I.—		
Assignment by Government.	1,640	200	New Works ...	6,650	3,000
Rate on Houses ...	5,500	8,250	Repairs ...	2,650	3,500
Tax on Arts ...	6,000	...	Other items ...	300	500
Tax on Vehicles ...	600	600	Grant II.—		
Registration of Carts ...	150	160	Salary Grants ...	200	500
Tolls ...	3,800	4,000	Results Grants ...	150	250
Fees ...	1,050	1,400	Inspection ...	50	...
Fines ...	300	90	Grant III.—		
Endowments, &c. ...	2,850	3,738	Hospitals ...	3,340	3,338
Contribution from Local			Vaccination ...	180	244
Funds ...	500	500	Registration of Births, &c.		
Miscellaneous ...	820	662	Conservancy ...	4,070	3,698
			Grant IV.—		
			Lighting ...	2,180	2,000
			Other Miscellaneous pur-		
			poses ...	650	870
			Grant V.—		
			Office ...		
			Miscellaneous ...	3,580	2,800
					100
Total ...	24,000	20,800	Total ...	24,000	20,800

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd March 1874.*

11. By the abolition of the Profession-tax, the Cocanada Municipality loses an income of Rupees 6,000, and as it has been impossible to make up for this by reduced expenditure, the Commissioners, after very careful consideration of the subject, have recommended the introduction of a toll on goods entering the town by the canal, or failing that, the increase of the rate of House-tax from five to seven-and-a-half per cent. As the first measure would admittedly involve legislative action, it is too late to consider it for the year 1874-75, and the necessary sanction is consequently accorded for the increase to the rate of the House-tax which, with minor increases under other heads, will render the estimated income for 1874-75 only Rupees 3,200 short of that for the current year.

12. This falling off in the income, together with increased allotments for Repairs and Education, have necessitated a reduction of Rupees 3,650 under the head of New Works, and of Rupees 680 under Supervision and Management. The mode in which the adjustment of the Budget has been effected is approved, but a further decrease of Rupees 130 must be made in such manner as the Commissioners may deem advisable to allow of the entertainment of a more highly-qualified officer for the charge of the dispensary.

13. Subject to the above remarks, the Budgets are passed, and the usual Notifications will issue. The Government regret that other considerations prevent their aiding the Municipalities in either of the modes suggested in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the President's letter.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Under the provisions of Section 38, Act III. of 1871 (The Towns Improvement Act), the Governor in Council authorizes the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Rajahmundry, in the Godavery District, to levy the following rates and taxes:—

- A rate on houses, buildings, and lands, according to the annual value thereof.
- Tolls on carriages, carts, and animals entering the municipal limits.
- Taxes on carriages, horses, and other animals as described in Schedule C. to the above Act annexed.
- Fees on the registration of carts.

Under the provisions of Section 38, Act III. of 1871 (The Towns Improvement Act), the Governor in Council authorizes the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Ellore, in the Godavery District, to levy the following rates and taxes:—

- A rate on houses, buildings, and lands, according to the annual value thereof.
- Tolls on carriages, carts, and animals entering the municipal limits.
- Taxes on carriages, horses, and other animals as described in Schedule C. to the above Act annexed.
- Fees on the registration of carts.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd March 1874.*

Under the provisions of Section 38, Act III. of 1871 (The Towns Improvement Act), the Governor in Council authorizes the Municipal Commissioners for the Town of Cocanada, in the Godavery District, to levy the following rates and taxes:—

- A rate on houses, buildings, and lands, according to the annual value thereof.
- Tolls on carriages, carts, and animals entering the municipal limits.
- Taxes on carriages, horses, and other animals as described in Schedule C. to the above Act annexed.
- Fees on the registration of carts.

(By order of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council.)

W. H. M. S.
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavery District.

- .. Public Works Department.
- .. Revenue Department.
- .. Board of Revenue.
- .. Accountant-General.
- .. Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
- .. Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
- .. Director of Public Instruction.
- .. President of the Local Fund Boards, Godavery District.

Exd. J. Wright.

