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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated	15.5.1874	196

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
25th April 1874.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 233. From the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, President of the Municipal Commission, Combaconum, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vallam, 25th February 1874.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, the Budget Estimate of Receipts and Expenditure of the Combaconum Municipality during the year 1874-75 in the forms prescribed in G. O., dated 23th October 1871, No. 1646, together with a copy of the letter from the Vice-President containing explanatory remarks regarding certain items of receipts and charges.

2. The gross receipts of the Municipality have been estimated at Rupees 35,135 during the ensuing year against Rupees 48,000 during the current year. The decrease is mainly due to the fact that the Commissioners do not expect any balance whatever to begin this year with while they anticipated more than Rupees 13,000 as opening balance at the beginning of the current year. The reason for this want of balance is that the reconstruction of the roads, which fell into utter disrepair at the end of 1872-73, has cost considerably more than what was allotted in the Budget for that purpose.

3. Although the Commissioners proposed in the current year's Budget that the rate of the house-tax should be raised from five to 7½ per cent. and framed their estimate accordingly, yet, as Government directed that the proposal be postponed, they did not levy the tax at the enhanced rate. During the ensuing year they apprehend that the funds will be wanting even to meet the ordinary expenditure of the Municipality unless the house-tax is levied at the rate last mentioned as they have dispensed with the professional-tax during the current year also. A sum of Rupees 14,000 has, therefore, been put down under the head of "House-tax."

4. The Local Fund Board, Tanjore Circle, having, on the representation of the Commissioners, agreed to pay an increased contribution of Rupees 2000 to the Municipality on account of the Combaconum Dispensary, the said amount has been entered under the head of "Local Fund Contribution" in the present Budget. Provision has also been made for the same in the Budget of the Local Fund Board.

5. Several important works have been postponed owing to want of funds, and only a few petty works detailed in Statement II-A. have been provided for in the Budget, these being considered to be indispensable.

6. The Commissioners intend to take up a few schools under their management as directed in G. O., dated 22nd May 1872, No. 670, and have allotted Rupees 1,133 for them on a rough calculation. The allotment for results grants has, therefore, been put down as Rupees 483. The allotment for salary grants has, however, been raised to Rupees 1,014; but, a portion of this being for the girls' schools, will not have to be spent under G. O., dated 14th January 1874, No. 42.

7. Although the Commissioners have excluded the professional-tax from their Budget for 1874-75, yet, with a view to provide funds for the execution of some of the important works, such as the drainage of the town, during the next

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year they request the sanction of Government to levy that tax at a reduced rate. Such a proposal not being authorized by law I think that the tax may be allowed to be levied in full rates in the Combaconum Municipality until the drainage of the town is completed.

From T. GOVINDA ROW, Officiating Vice-President, to the Hon D. ARBUTHNOTT, President of the Municipal Commission, Combaconum, dated Combaconum, 25th January 1874, No. 110.

In forwarding, herewith, the Budget Estimate for the year 1874-75, prepared according to the Government Proceedings, No. 646, dated the 28th October 1871, I have the honour to make the following remarks with reference to certain items:—

House-tax.—Having had in the beginning of the current year a large opening balance the Commissioners during the present year levied this tax only at five per cent. But as no opening balance is expected for the Budget year, and owing to want of funds, the Commissioners were obliged to propose to levy the tax at the maximum rates.

Parapet wall round Burning-ground.—This burning-ground is situated on the northern side of the river Cauvery, fronting a crowded locality of the town, and is thereby a source of incessant nuisance to its neighbours. The Commissioners once contemplated its removal to a place out of the public view, but there arose so many religious objections that the Commissioners were obliged to abandon the scheme. The entire cost for a thorough improvement in point of sanitation would amount to upwards of Rupees 10,000. However, the Commissioners propose to start with the parapet wall and two flights of steps, these being considered the first important requirements for obstructing a horrible view of the burning of the dead bodies. The inhabitants of this town have agreed to contribute a moiety of the expense, and this sum of Rupees 1,160 is the other moiety to be borne by the Commissioners.

Parapet wall to Porthamraai Tank.—During the late Mahamagan festival this tank was pumped out to prevent accidents from drowning. While the steam pump was working a portion of the southern parapet wall of the tank together with the platform came down. If these be allowed to stand as they are at present there is every apprehension of the other portion also coming down. The Commissioners have consequently allotted a sum of Rupees 1,600 to replace them.

It may not be out of place to observe here that this tank is sadly in want of drainage. The waters of this tank being considered holy by the inhabitants it is always made use of for bathing purposes; but owing to want of drainage a sort of foetid fungoid substance collects on its surface rendering the waters of the tank noxious and offensive to the smell. With a view of providing a drainage to this tank the Commissioners have prepared plans and estimates, the total cost amounting to Rupees 2,120. The funds at the disposal of the Commissioners not allowing them to make an allotment in the Budget they have postponed the work until such time as they are able to undertake it. However, they are under the impression that if the professional-tax is sanctioned by Government at a reduced rate (a full copy of the Bill of the Government is enclosed) they can remove a long-standing and the most obnoxious nuisance.

Repairing Needamungalum Road with clay and sand.—About three or four years ago this road was metalled at a considerable cost and is now much worn out and requires complete repair. The cost comes to about Rupees 5,000. But for the same reasons as stated in the foregoing paragraph the Commissioners propose to repair the road with clay and sand, and if the professional-tax is sanctioned they hope they can repair the road with laterite.

In conclusion, I beg to observe that all possible reduction is made under the head of "Establishment" and no further reduction could be made under that head consistent with the efficient management of works of the Municipality.

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PROCEEDINGS of the Municipal Commissioners, Combaconum, dated 19th January 1874.

Present:

M. R. Ry. T. Govinda Row, Vice-President.
Lieutenant A. W. Smart.
Rev. H. Wannski.
M. R. Ry. K. Regunada Row.
T. Sundrappaiyar.
A. Anugragam Pillay.
Venkatapathie Kistna Settler.

Resolved that the Budget as revised by the Commissioners be passed.

Resolved that the President be requested to inform the Government that owing to want of funds the Commissioners were obliged to abandon the metalling of the Needamungalum Road, which it is now proposed simply to repair with clay and sand at a cost of Rupees 500, and also to put off several important works, such as the providing of a drainage for the town, &c., and that in case the Government allow the Commissioners to levy the professional-tax at a reduced rate the Commissioners may take up those works during the next year.

(Signed) T. GOVINDA ROW,
Officiating Vice-President.

No. 237. ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1874, No. 691.

The subjoined table is an abstract of the Budget Estimates of the Combaconum Municipality for the year 1874-75 compared with those for the current year:—

RECEIPTS.			CHARGES.		
	1873-74.	1874-75.		1873-74.	1874-75.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance	13,310	...	Grant I.—		
Assignment by Govern-	600	150	New Works—		
ment	13,100	14,000	Communications	10,000	712
House-tax	300	...	Buildings	1,310	3,426
Tax on Arts	1,510	1,400	Repairs—		
Tax on Vehicles	14,000	14,000	Communications	6,250	3,500
Tolls	1,260	1,200	Miscellaneous	350	2,130
Fees	150	200	Establishment	2,384	2,262
Fines	1,990	1,815	Tools and Plant	46	56
Endowments	...	...	Grant II.—		
Contribution from Local	1,510	2,000	Municipal Schools	330	1,133
Funds	270	370	Salary Grants	300	1,014
Miscellaneous	...	...	Results Grants	2,120	483
			Inspection	100	300
			Miscellaneous	...	70
			Grant III.—		
			Hospitals and Dispen-		
			saries	5,148	6,050
			Vaccination	150	150
			Registration of Births	284	200
			and Deaths	12,000	9,400
			Conservancy	...	...
			Grant IV.—		
			Lighting	2,270	1,920
			Choultries	110	...
			Watering Streets, &c.	170	50
			Travellers' Bungalows	...	110
			Grant V.—		
			Supervision	2,996	1,869
			Miscellaneous	304	300
			Balance	1,290	...
Total	48,000	35,135	Total	48,000	35,135

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2. The estimated income for the year 1874-75 falls short of that for the current year by Rupees 12,865, owing entirely to the current year's estimate showing an opening balance of Rupees 13,310. The sanction for the increase of the rate of house-tax, which was withheld in reviewing the current year's Budget, is now accorded; but until the drainage plans and estimates called for in G. O., dated 22nd May 1873, have been submitted the Government must decline to consider any proposal for the levy of the profession-tax, which has already been twice introduced and twice abolished in accordance with the wishes of the Commissioners. The drainage of the town, moreover, is a work which should be carried out by means of a loan, and an application for the requisite amount should be submitted as soon as the preliminaries have been completed and the work is ready to be taken in hand. The reduced amount available for Public Works is only a natural result of the current year's Budget having been framed so as to utilize an overgrown opening balance. The President is requested to expedite the report called for in paragraph 3, G. O., dated 30th January 1874, No. 156. The slight increase in the allotment for education is in the right direction. The particulars of the establishment in Municipal schools should have been given in Statement II.-B. The decrease in the allotment for Conservancy is considerable, but the Government observe that it is slightly in excess of the actual expenditure in 1872-73. The proposed decrease in the cost of supervision is satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CANNINGHAM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Combaconum.

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

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

5/10/1874

No. 1838.

Revised Report

Cost. of 1874 ~~SENDER~~

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,

Combarum,
Ec., Ec., Ec.

Dated April, 25th.

Recd. May 13.

Encl.

G. O., 25th April 1874, No. 691.

APRIL.

Nos. 233-237.

Ec. Ec.

Combarum Municipality.—The Budget Estimates of this Municipality for 1874-75, reviewed and passed.

20/12/74.

Lodged

15 May 74.