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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
18th May 1875.*

Municipal—Report.

No. 136. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commissions, Coimbatore, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 23rd April 1875, No. 27:—

I have the honor to forward the report of the Municipality of Erode, compiled by the Vice-President, Mr. McWatters.

2. The report is a satisfactory one, and does not seem to call for any special remark.

3. As Government, however, expect that special improvements should be brought to notice, I may mention, as one of the chief, the construction of an hospital and dispensary, the site of which I selected, and superintended the digging of foundations, in December 1873. It is now completed, and has apparently, since September 1874, had eleven in-patients, while the out-patients have (no previous records having been kept) amounted to 3,469.

4. The plan is an economical one which I submitted for Government approval, and the building consists of a dispensary, operating and store-room, and two wards, for the treatment of male and female patients.

There is plenty of available space for the erection of other wards when funds admit and circumstances require them, but this plan is very suitable, in the beginning, to small places like Erode, costing only Rupees 3,000, instead of Rupees 19,000, as per the Standard Plan.

5. I superintended the first lighting of the town in January of last year, and there can be no doubt of the successful results of the operations of the late Vice-President, Mr. A. M. MacGregor, in the general improvement of the town.

From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Erode, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commissions, Coimbatore, dated Erode, 17th April 1875; No. 132.

The Municipal Commissioners of the town of Erode have the honor to submit the annual report of their proceedings with the usual statements for 1874-75.

2. The year opened with a larger balance than was anticipated, and a supplemental budget for Rupees 730 was submitted to Government and sanctioned in G.O., dated 17th July 1874, No. 1186.

3. Including this balance (Rupees 1,630-2-4) the receipts of the year were Rupees 8,916-0-2, and the total expenditure Rupees 8,789-0-3, leaving a balance in favor of the Municipal Fund of Rupees 126-15-11.

4. The actual receipts compared with the Budget Estimates are as follow:—

	Actual.			Budget.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. Allotments by Government	282	5	2	210	0	0
2. Rates on Houses, &c.	2,513	10	8	3,000	0	0
3. Taxes on Vehicles, &c.	517	12	0	500	0	0
4. Registration of Carts	492	0	0	500	0	0
5. Tolls	1,430	0	0	1,000	0	0
6. Magisterial Fines	204	8	0	50	0	0
7. Fees	250	12	0	500	0	0
8. Endowments	192	0	0	190	0	0
9. Miscellaneous	502	14	0	10	0	0
Total	6,385	13	10	5,960	0	0

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According to Statement IV. the current demand assessed on houses, &c., was Rs. 2,335-0-11; of this a sum of Rupees 2,018-9-10 was collected, and a sum of Rupees 34-15-5 written off as irrecoverable, leaving a balance uncollected at the end of the year of Rupees 281-7-8. The old arrears of previous years amounted to Rupees 557-11-6; of this Rupees 495-0-10 were collected, and Rupees 62-10-8 written off as irrecoverable. A great part of the current arrears have been collected since the close of the year. The difference between the receipts from houses and the Budget Estimate is attributable to a sum having been entered in the estimate as likely to accrue from the tax on lands which was for the first time imposed. This imposition created great opposition, and the Commissioners felt themselves bound to fix the annual rental of the lands at a very low but not at an unreasonable rate. The propriety of retaining the tax on lands will most probably be considered by the Commissioners before the close of 1875-76, and if necessary specially reported on to Government. The tolls realized Rupees 430 over the estimate, and the collections from fines were over four times the estimate. Rupees 50 was, however, far too low an estimate under this head if the conservancy clauses of the Act were to be properly worked. Government, on the whole, will notice an improvement in the matter of collections. The Commissioners, to effect what they have done and to guard against future arrears accruing, have been obliged to recommend the dismissal of one of the bill collectors, whose inefficiency has been a source of trouble from the commencement of the Municipality. Nothing was entered in the Budget under the head Assignments by Government. The sum of Rupees 216 entered under Statement I. 5. has been transferred to its proper head, and this with the surplus Pound funds makes the Government assignments Rupees 282-5-2. A sum of Rupees 900 received from the Local Funds towards the Dispensary subsequently to the submission of the Budgets is entered under Statement I. 5 opposite Hospitals. This and the increase in tolls accounts for the unusually large receipts of the year.

5. The expenditure as a consequence was much above the estimates especially under Grant I. The actuals and the estimates are compared in the margin under the different grants. The largest increased expenditure was under New Works, Sanitary, as the Local Fund contribution was devoted entirely to this purpose. Rupees 550 were entered in the Budget opposite New Works, Communications, instead of under Repairs, Communications, under which head the expenditure is shown (*vide* Statement II.). The works contemplated and undertaken, such as widening and improving a street and repairing certain roads, fall properly under this head. There was an unavoidable increase in the expenditure under Grant IV., Lighting, of nearly Rupees 200. No other items need explanation.

	Actuals.	Budgets.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Grant I.	2,992 8 6	1,950 0 0
Do. II.	218 0 0	250 0 0
Do. III.	4,013 14 4	3,854 0 0
Do. IV.	1,001 9 9	810 0 0
Do. V.	552 15 8	570 0 0
Total	8,789 0 3	7,434 0 0

Communications, under which head the expenditure is shown (*vide* Statement II.). The works contemplated and undertaken, such as widening and improving a street and repairing certain roads, fall properly under this head. There was an unavoidable increase in the expenditure under Grant IV., Lighting, of nearly Rupees 200. No other items need explanation.

6. The report of the Medical Officer in charge of the Dispensary on the working of that institution during the year is submitted for information. There has been an increase in the number of out-patients compared with the previous year of 2,253, the comparison is shown in the margin, and during the year under report eleven in-patients were treated. The usefulness of the dispensary is unmistakeable, and the officer in charge of it is deservedly popular.

1873-74.	1874-75.
1,253.	2,463.

7. The return of births and deaths for the year is also forwarded. There were 139 deaths and 185 births in a population of 7,817 against 171 deaths and 200 births on the previous year. Only two cases of small-pox occurred against nine the year before. The year under report was a healthy one. The percentage of births and deaths relative to the population might be considered too low, but the percentage of deaths to births seems to be correct enough and favors the correctness of the return.

8. The incidence of taxation (omitting tolls) was Rupee 0-6-10 per head of the population, and Rupees 1-15-1 per head of the taxpayers. In either case it was reasonably light.

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9. Sanitation.—The Sanitary Commissioner visited Erode during the year under report, and has placed on record his opinion (*vide* his letter to Government, dated 10th August, No. 1) that great improvements have been carried out for the good of the town, and that Erode is in an efficient sanitary state. During the year, besides the ordinary conservancy work, the Hospital latrine, kitchen, and dead-house were completed, the two Chuttrams at the Railway Station were put in thorough repair, two toll-gates were built, a new well was sunk, and several roads and one street were repaired. The combustible rubbish is still used for filling pits along the roadsides. The most important improvement was probably that effected in the Chucklers' hamlet, heretofore the abode of filth and nastiness. With some pecuniary assistance from Municipal funds the chucklers were induced to remove their abominably dirty huts. House-sites were then marked out by the Nuisance Inspector and Revenue Inspector so as to turn what was a huddled mass of dirty houses into wide and airy streets. The improvement was only commenced at the close of the year and met with great opposition. A rumour got abroad that the chucklers were to be removed out of the town, and it was not till a street was laid out and assistance really given that they were appeased. They now singularly enough demand far larger space to build on than can be given them. This is the way in which Government desire that the dirty and objectionable parts of the town inhabited by the poorest classes should be improved. The Commissioners intend to improve the pariah settlement in a similar way.

10. The accounts of the Municipality have been audited by Mr. Shepherd, and his report is forwarded for the information of Government.

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1875, No. 1081.

With his letter above recorded, the President of the Erode Municipality submits the annual report for the year 1874-75. The actuals of the year are compared with the estimates in the subjoined table:—

RECEIPTS.			CHARGES.		
1874-75.			1874-75.		
Estimate.		Actuals.	Estimate.		Actuals.
RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.	
Balance	1,630	1,630	New Works—		
Allotment by Government ...	210	282	Communications	550	...
Rates on Houses and Lands ...	3,000	2,514	Sanitary and Miscellaneous...	390	1,206
Tax on Vehicles, &c.	500	518	Repairs—		
Registration of Carts	500	492	Communications	700	1,281
Tolls	1,000	1,430	Sanitary and Miscellaneous..	280	419
Fees	100	1	Other Public Works Items. ...	30	87
Fines	50	204	Education	250	218
Contributions	...	900	Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	1,270	1,490
Endowments	190	192	Vaccination	50	50
Miscellaneous	410	753	Registration of Births and		
			Deaths	90	82
			Conservancy	2,240	2,391
			Lighting	590	772
			Choultries	120	120
			Miscellaneous	300	110
			Supervision and Management...	570	563
			Balance	160	127
Total	7,590	8,916	Total	7,590	8,916

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18th May, 1875.*

2. The income of the year exclusive of the opening balance amounted to Rupees 7,286, or Rupees 1,326 in excess of the estimate, a result which is mainly due to an increase of Rupees 430 under Tolls, and to a contribution of Rupees 900 on account of the Dispensary having been sanctioned from Local Funds during the year. The explanation given regarding the variation in the different items of receipt is satisfactory, and, as remarked by the Vice-President, a considerable improvement took place in the proportion of the demand realized within the year.

3. Additional funds being available, the expenditure exceeded the estimate (original and supplemental) by Rupees 1,359, of which Rupees 1,043 were devoted to Public Works, the Local Fund contribution of Rupees 900 having been on account of the Dispensary building. The difference between the estimate and the actuals under New Works and Repairs, Communications, is chiefly owing to a difference in classification, but the Government must point out that a project such as widening and improving a street was correctly shown in the estimate as a new work and not as a repair.

4. The operations of the Commissioners appear to have been very satisfactory, the principal work of the year being the completion of the new dispensary building, and the improvement of the "Chuckler Hamlet," the sanitary condition of which was formerly very objectionable.

5. The Government observe with pleasure that the new dispensary seems to be much appreciated by the people.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Erode.

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

Rzd. J. Wright.

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My Address.

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Dated May, 1845.

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G.O., 18th May 1875, No. 1081.

MAY.
Nos. 136-137.

Municipal Report.—The annual report on the working of the Brode Municipality during 1874-75, reviewed.
A^o 1200

Recorded,

2-6-75

5 June 1957