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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Municipal—Report.

No. 128. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 26th April 1875, No. 28 :—

I have the honor to forward the Vice-President's report on the Municipality of Caroor, which commenced its existence on the 1st November 1874.

2. Being newly established the Budget Estimate was liable to be corrected by after-experience; hence the variation in Receipts and Disbursements, which are fully detailed by the Vice-President.

3. As in Erode, the chief improvement is in the establishment of a new hospital and dispensary. The former dispensary was contained in a small room of the Taluq Cutcherry: the local officers were in favor of locating the new building just opposite the Cutcherry, in the middle of the town, but seeing the cramped and confined place I disapproved of the site and selected one in open elevated ground on the west, had the foundation excavated under my superintendence in December 1873, and with periodical reports as to progress had the building completed in ten months' time.

4. Since then it seems to have contained four in-patients (of course, there were none such in the Cutcherry), and the out-patients rose from 2740 to 6824.

Doubtless the erection of a separate hospital and dispensary contributed to this result, as females would never have resorted to a dispensary kept in a room of the Cutcherry.

5. The hospital is on the same plan as Erode—dispensary, &c., and two wards to be afterwards added to as funds admit. The locality is airy and healthy, and the institution will be a great boon to the people.

6. With reference to the remark about the advantages of pukka over trench latrines, and the quotation of the Sanitary Commissioner that "the Commission had better commence its operations by attempting to enrich the soil," it does not follow that trench latrines do not enrich the soil and do it in the cheapest way, and, before spending money on pukka latrines and composition of manure, the Commissioners would do well to ascertain if they will have a sale for the same; if not, they will have again to dig other trench latrines to bury it. There is no sale at Coimbatore for poudrette, and the only way the Municipality can get rid of it is by using it themselves in their gardens and topes; but if the Caroor Commission can effect a sale, or gift, of this valuable manure to the owners of the surrounding rice-fields, they will do a good work and justify their pukka latrines and consequent outlay.

From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Vice-President, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Caroor Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, dated Erode, 17th April 1875, No. 87.

The Municipal Commissioners of the town of Caroor have the honor to submit the annual report of their Proceedings for 1874-75 as required by Section 34 of the Towns Improvement Act, 1871. The Act came into operation on the 1st November 1874, and the report embraces, therefore, only the last five months of the year.

2. There was no balance to start with; the actual receipts amounted to Rupees 3,638-10-0 and the total expenditure was Rupees 2,863-0-7, leaving a balance in favor of the Municipal funds of Rupees 775-9-5.

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3. The marginal statement exhibits the actual receipts under each head and the corresponding Budget Estimate. The receipts, it will

	Actual.			Budget.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
1. Allotments by Government.	...	...	...	220	0	0
2. Tax on Houses, &c. ...	1,044	5	0	500	0	0
3. Tax on Vehicles, &c. ...	191	4	0	200	0	0
4. Registration of Carts ...	263	5	4	280	0	0
5. Tolls ...	2,039	9	0	1,050	0	0
6. Fees and Fines ...	100	2	8	60	0	0
7. Endowments ...	...	...	...	35	0	0
Total ...	3,638	10	0	2,345	0	0

be seen, exceeded the estimates by Rupees 1,293-10-0. The sum of Rupees 220 entered in the Budget under the head of "Allotments by Government" was for Surplus Pound Funds and Ferry-rents and has not yet been paid. Payments under this head are not made until after the close of the year. A sum of Rupees 72 not entered in the Budget, being the Government

contribution towards the pay for four months of the Medical Officer in charge of the dispensary, was received after the 31st March and is not shown in the accounts for 1874-75. The receipts from the house-tax more than doubled, and the receipts from tolls nearly doubled, the estimates. It was impossible to calculate what the tolls would realize, but the Commissioners think that the Budget Estimate of the house-tax was much too low. Rupees 2,000 yearly may safely be relied on as the least out-turn of the house-tax. The demand assessed for the period under report was Rupees 1,081-3-4: of this Rupees 1,044-5-0 were collected, Rupees 35-12-4 remitted on appeal, and Rupees 1-2-0 struck off as irrecoverable, leaving no arrears. The other items call for no remark. Rupees 35 entered under "Endowments" is still due.

4. The actual expenditure is compared with the estimates in the margin. Under New

	Actual.			Budget.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Grant I.—						
Public Works—						
1. New Works—						
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	126	2	9	50	0	0
2. Repairs—						
Communications ...	500	12	0	500	0	0
Total ...	626	14	9	550	0	0
Grant III.—						
Sanitation and Medical Services—						
1. Dispensary ...	456	4	1	400	0	0
2. Vaccination ...	20	0	0	20	0	0
3. Registration of Births and Deaths ...	28	0	0	28	0	0
4. Conservancy ...	609	5	10	621	0	0
Total ...	1,113	9	11	1,135	0	0
Grant IV.—						
Miscellaneous Municipal purposes—						
1. Lighting ...	75	15	4	50	0	0
2. Choultries ...	13	19	8	20	0	0
Total ...	89	10	0	70	0	0
Grant V.—						
Supervision and Management—						
1. Office ...	195	12	7	228	0	0
2. Miscellaneous ...	337	1	4	130	0	0
Total ...	532	13	11	358	0	0
Grand Total ...	2,363	0	7	2,123	0	0

Works, "Sanitary and Miscellaneous," the Budget allotment of Rupees 50 was found inadequate. Three trench latrines were constructed, two with bamboo screens and one with mud walls, and a cinerator was attached to the latter, which was not contemplated when framing the Budget. The rest of the grant was spent on toll-sheds and on the channel-bank which runs through the town. This bank was covered with long grass, and was resorted to by the people for the purpose of nature, and, in fact, was a great nuisance in the centre of the town. It was considered advisable to have the grass removed and a path opened along the bank to join two of the principal streets. What was before a nuisance has now become a pleasant walk, which it is intended to gradually widen and improve. Under Grant I., "Repairs," the estimate was only exceeded by 12 Annas; the 500 Rupees, as will be seen by Statement II.-A., Part II., were spent in repairing and greatly improving three of the principal streets of the town. Grant III. requires some remarks. The Municipality contributed 20 Rupees for vaccination to the Local Funds, and the

Commissioners have to complain that a monthly return of vaccine operations within municipal limits was not submitted to them. They have ample means and opportunity for checking such returns, and they have no doubt that when they address the President of the Local Fund Board on the subject, as they intend to do, he will direct that monthly returns be submitted during 1875-76. The Municipality cannot afford to have a vaccinator of its own, and yet it is essential that Municipalities should lead the way in seeing that all the children within municipal limits are vaccinated and that correct returns are kept. Item (d.) Toll establishment (2) Miscellaneous

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was not provided for in the Budget. It was intended at first that the tolls should be leased, but as

Note by President.

It was not considered necessary to forward a supplemental Budget for Rupees 248.

A. W.

establishment. The President did not forward this supplemental Budget for the sanction of Government, but informed the Commissioners that the balance in question as well as some savings caused by the President's having reduced the bill collector's pay from 10 Rupees to 8 Rupees

Note by President.

What Government noticed was not this discrepancy, but the omission to explain the not bringing forward the balance in the Budget of 1875-76 (vide G.O., No. 447, of 20th February 1875, Financial Department, paragraph 2).

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this was found impracticable a supplemental Budget was submitted to the President proposing to use the balance exhibited in the previous Budget towards defraying the cost of a toll might be used as proposed. This explains the discrepancy in the Budget balances of 1875-76, which the Government have noticed and desired to be explained. Under Grant IV. the lighting charges were slightly in excess of the estimate.

Cocoonut-oil was used, and the twenty-one lamps lighted nightly were those formerly provided by private subscriptions. It is intended to increase the number to forty-one in 1875-76, which number the Commissioners think will be amply sufficient to light the town thoroughly. The sum of Rupees 13-10-8 opposite Choultries, Grant IV., is the actual sum spent from MUNICIPAL funds and is entered as a negative balance in Statement I.-A. as the Government contribution was not received within the year under report.

5. To save explanations it is as well to state that a contribution of Rupees 350 from the Local Funds to the dispensary at Caroor has not been shown in the Municipal books. The Vice-President, as Sub-Collector, in the month of October 1874, that is, before the Municipality came into existence, addressed a demi-official letter to the Collector enclosing a list of private subscriptions and asking for something towards completing the out-houses of the dispensary. The Collector as President of the Local Funds granted Rupees 350, and this amount and the private subscriptions raised were kept by the Tahsildar and have almost now been expended.

6. The item of Rupees 500 entered as a recoverable balance was advanced out of the surplus Municipal funds to enable the Tahsildar to prepare and have in readiness Municipal carts, &c., for the ensuing year 1875-76; the balance, therefore, in reality in favor of the Municipality and available for 1875-76 will be as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Balance shown in Statement II. ...	775	9	5
Advance recoverable ...	500	0	0
Government contribution towards Medical Officer's pay received after 31st March ...	72	0	0
Endowment Fund ...	35	0	0
Pound Funds and Ferry-rents, say ...	220	0	0
Total ...	1,602	9	5

In addition to this the tolls for 1875-76 realized 900 Rupees over the Budget Estimate and the Budget of 1875-76 showed a balance of 127 Rupees. Altogether there will be an extra sum of Rupees 2,629-9-5 at the disposal of the Commissioners for 1875-76, for which they beg to annex a supplemental estimate.

7. A statement showing the number of deaths and births in the Municipality during the last five months of 1874-75, and the Medical Officer's report on the working of the dispensary, are forwarded for information.

8. Against a population of 7945 there were fifty-two deaths and sixty births. Twenty-one deaths arose from fever and twenty-nine from other causes. The town was free from small-pox and cholera. The death and birth-rates are lower than most authorities hold they should be; but a calculation for five months is of little worth. The first-class vaccinator, however, only vaccinated thirty-one children from November to March, and this is certainly not very satisfactory. The Commissioners will have before them in each month of 1875-76 the birth returns as well as

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the vaccination returns, and they hope to be able to report next year that all the children born, as returned, have been duly vaccinated.

9. The report on the dispensary is very encouraging. The new building, which the Deputy Surgeon-General considers in every way suited for the requirements of the town and neighbourhood, was handed over to the Medical Officer in October 1874. Since that time the number of out-patients has gradually increased. No less than 6824 patients were treated during the year against 2740 in 1873-74. The popularity of the dispensary is attributable, in a great measure, to the excellent officer that is in charge of it, and the Commissioners hope that he may not be removed owing to any exigencies of the service. Rather than lose him the Commissioners would be disposed to grant him a higher remuneration.

10. The Commissioners believe that they have effected great improvements in the town notwithstanding the short time the Act has been in operation and the limited sum allotted in the Budget. The three streets repaired are in capital condition. A good well has been sunk in proximity to the dispensary, which has proved a boon to the people in the neighbourhood. The town is thoroughly cleaned from day to day, and the three latrines afford accommodation to the poorest and neediest inhabitants of the town. The removal of the noxious vegetation on the channel-bank already referred to is in itself a great sanitary improvement. Much, however, remains to be done. The Sanitary Commissioner is of opinion that when funds are available Caroor should follow the example of Coimbatore and have pukka latrines. "Caroor," he observes, "had better commence its operations by attempting to enrich the soil," and "it is, of course, only in such latrines (PUCKA LATRINES), that the night-soil can be treated with ashes or earth to form a portable manure." The Commissioners, therefore, in their supplemental Budget have allotted Rupees 1,500 for constructing latrines out of the balance referred to in paragraph 6. They think that trench latrines are better suited for festivals and large gatherings, where necessity may justify them, than for a municipal town.

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

No. 129.

ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1875, No. 1078.

The subjoined abstract shows the actual receipts and expenditure of the Caroor Municipality during the five months of the year 1874-75 in which it was in existence compared with the estimates for that period:—

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	Estimates.	Actuals.		Estimates.	Actuals.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Assignment by Government	...	220	Public Works—		
Rates on Houses, &c.	...	500	New Works—		
Tax on Vehicles, &c.	...	200	Sanitary and Miscella-		
Registration of Carts	...	280	neous	50	126
Tolls	...	1,050	Repairs—		
Fees	...	40	Communications	500	501
Fines	...	20	Education	20	...
Miscellaneous	...	35	Hospitals	466	456
			Vaccination	20	20
			Registration of Births and		
			Deaths	28	28
			Conservancy	621	609
			Lighting	50	76
			Choultries	20	14
			Supervision and Manage-		
			ment	368	533
			Advances recoverable	...	500
			Balance	202	776
Total	2,345	3,639	Total	2,345	3,639

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2. The income exceeded the estimates by Rupees 1,294, or upwards of fifty-five per cent., the absence of data having led to the receipts from tolls and from the tax on houses, &c., being very much under-estimated. In reviewing the Budget, the Government animadverted on the fact that the receipts from tolls were estimated at as much as 44.7 of the total income, but the actual proportion was fifty-six per cent. The matter, however, need not be considered further until orders have been passed on the replies to G.O., dated 11th January 1875, No. 40.

3. The Municipality could not be expected to accomplish very much in so short a period; but what has been already done goes far to justify the recommendation of the local officers that the Act should be introduced into the town. The evident appreciation of the dispensary is particularly gratifying.

4. The Government observe that the Commissioners propose erecting "pukka" latrines as soon as funds are available, and they are inclined to agree with the opinion given in the report that trench latrines are better suited for festivals and gatherings of that kind for which temporary arrangements have to be made, than for the permanent conservancy of municipal towns.

5. The supplemental Budget for the utilization of the additional funds which it is now found will be available in the current year, is sanctioned as marginally noted; but the matter would have been more appropriately submitted for consideration in a separate communication.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Caroor.

- .. 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 District.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

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11/21/19
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9 June/75