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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th May 1875.*

Municipal—Reports.

No. 161. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 30th April 1875, No. 6:—

I have the honor to submit the Annual Report on the Coimbatore Municipality for the year 1874-75:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
The total collections were	30,199	3	9
The expenditure	35,086	7	3
Showing a deficit of	4,887	3	6

The collections call for no remark, they were normal and full. As will be seen from last year's report, we began the year with a deficit of Rupees 1,394-15-9 which has increased by the amount of Rupees 4,887-3-6 to Rupees 6,282-3-3. The balance shown in the Auditor's statement of Rupees 717-12-9 to the credit of the Commission, when added to the total amount of deficit, viz., Rupees 6,282-3-3, makes an aggregate total of Rupees 7,000, which was the amount borrowed from Government during the year.

2. An explanation of the cause of increase will be given under each head.

3. In some items we have economized, viz., there is a saving of Rupees 675

10. *Sanitary and Miscellaneous, Repairs.*—The items of extra expenditure under this head were shown in paragraph 4 of this report.

11. The improvements in conservancy consisted in expenditure on manufacture and disposal of poudrette, drainage, and in the water-supply, of which a detail is given in paragraph 5.

12. *Ashes Conservancy.*—An enhanced economy of 50 per cent. in cartage and consequent increased efficiency have been combined by the cinerator and latrine system, as alluded to in paragraph 30 of my report of last year. The improvement is a most economical and valuable one to the Municipality.

13. *Improvement to Water-supply.*—By adopting the double bucket water-lift, for which we are indebted to Mr. Robertson of the Government Farms, by which one bullock does the work of two with a moiety of exertion, we have facilitated the water-supply of the market, slaughter-house, &c. A chain of reservoirs afford good-water for drinking purposes; secondly, water for washing; and, thirdly, for cleansing the meat market, the waste water being finally utilized in the garden. I calculated the work of a single bullock, and found it to raise with ease 2,000 gallons of water, 28 feet in the hour, and during five hours' work, 10,000 gallons per diem.

14. The same apparatus has been adopted for the cleansing of the slaughter-house, whose diluted foul contents are led away to nourish some acres of plantain and cocoanut trees, as well as flourishing crops of lucern and guinea grass which obtain a ready sale.

15. *Ornamentation of Market.*—An attempt has been made to beautify the market and make it a place of public recreation. Railings enclose parts where

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5. *Cleansing of Tanks, Wells and Drains.*—In the Budget Rupees 500 were allotted for cleansing tanks and wells; this was quite insufficient. The improvement of the water-supply necessitated larger outlay—opening new, deepening and fencing old wells, and cleansing reservoirs, cost Rupees 1,512 against Rs. 500; increase Rupees 1,012.

6. The Hospital Budget Estimate for medicines was Rupees 600, the actual cost Rupees 1,566. The items of increase were Rupees 966, arrears for former years due for medicines received from the Medical Stores, the amount was not known when the Budget was prepared. The Budget was Rupees 3,680, expenditure Rupees 5,114, excess Rupees 1,434.

7. *Miscellaneous Items.*—A number of necessities, such as tarred iron buckets for the latrines, furniture for new dead-house, excess cost of diet, Rupees 98. Bedding and clothing for patients in Hospital, excess Rupees 348. New water buckets for the double bucket water-lift, and an increased number of trees, which cost more to water, &c.; in fact, all the small items, aggregating a miscellaneous total of Rupees 760, could not have been dispensed with.

8. Usually the income is calculated and the expenditure pared down thereto, but when considerations of water-supply and the like affect a town, a loan is the legitimate resource, and this was applied for within the year.

9. The new works were roads in the new petta, culverts, and cinerators for burning rubbish.

10. Owing to greater economy in its use and in the items, under Rupees 100, there has been an aggregate saving of Rupees 2,700.

4. The increase of expenditure beyond the Budget Estimate consists of the following items:—

New Works—Communications.

	RS.	A.	P.
Culverts	546	0	0

Sanitary and Miscellaneous—New Works.

Apothecary's house	1,586	0	0
New Toll-house at Pullapolliem	205	0	0
Total	1,791	0	0

Repairs—Communications.

Extra road repair	330	0	0
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Sanitary and Miscellaneous—Repairs.

Repairs and improvements in Market	1,479	5	11
Railings and walls to dangerous roads	148	12	3
Tank reclamation	334	6	8
Repairs to Latrines	205	4	2
Repairs and improvements to Travellers' Bungalow	227	5	10
Up-keep of Gardens near Latrines	77	2	0
Shed in Bandypettah	87	11	11
Other Items	123	13	3
Total	2,683	14	0

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shrubs and flowers for ornament are planted; seats under trees have also been provided; similarly, in other shady spots like conveniences have been furnished.

16. Any relief to the eye from the glare of the perpetual sunshine in this arid town is an improvement, and with that view within the last few years 5,500 cocoanuts and many other kinds of trees have been planted. To guard them in their early stage as avenue trees, &c., was no easy matter, with herds of stray cattle and donkeys to eat down the young leaves, pilferers and mischievous people to steal and knock down the hedge protections; but this uphill work is now being crowned with success. A great expense is incurred in watering young trees. There is scarcely a shower from November till May, and 17 inches is the total rain-fall in the town.

Birth and Death Registers.

	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
Births... ..	653	700	710
Deaths	424	327	375

17. The birth and death returns I do not believe in. There is no doubt that the dryness of the climate, perflation by winds, and exceptional cleanness of the town are favorable to human life, but a birth-rate of 19.63 and a death-rate of 9 per mille are both abnormal. The errors of omission are not wilful, and would be aggravated by any payment by results system only in the other direction. I believe we get a representation of the better classes, but of the low caste population, whose children swarm like flies, I do not believe that one-third the number of births are reported,* and am taking steps for giving fuller publicity among the poorer classes to the sections of the Act relating to registration.

Vaccination.—1872-73, 3,591; 1873-74, 1,413; and 1874-75, 1,411.

18. The great return of vaccination for 1872-73 was the result of zeal communicated to the Commissioners; then ten per cent. of the total population, or thirty-three per cent. of those under ten years, were vaccinated. This could not be expected every year. Last year showed less than half the above numbers, of which this year again shows 1,115 successful. No doubt the Municipality having the vaccinator under their own control has much to do with success, and more than 1,000 successful vaccinations is very fair for one man.

19. There was no need of bodies of vaccinators perambulating together, the results were by one man unassisted, except by the advice and help of the Municipal Commissioners, and with no inducements, pecuniary or otherwise, for submitting to the operation, or communicating the results to others.

20. *Education.*—As regards elementary education, the Commissioners are unanimously of opinion that as large an allotment as their resources can allow is contributed to this head. They are by no means satisfied with the results grant mode of developing education, which is now, in a great measure, independent of such adventitious help. There is among almost all classes a desire of learning; there are numerous students ready to teach, issuing from the large high school

* In support of this view I may mention that from a return I obtained from the Rev. Mr. Jones of the Baptists and Burials in his native congregation, I learn that the birth-rate, as shown by the baptisms, is not under 51.31 per mille, the death-rate was low, 9.58 per mille.

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annually. There is a demand, and there is a supply, and the giving of grants to schools got up by the well-to-do classes tends to diminish school fees, leads to cramming for an examination, the correct adjudgment of results in which the Commissioners are by no means satisfied, is invariably of a reliable character.

21. They are themselves disposed to prefer the establishment of schools for some thousands of the neglected classes, *viz.*, the Shanars, Torriers, Pullers, Pariahs, and Chucklers who have none, and are unable to set them on foot, than to aid to decrease the expense of such as can be easily supported by their contributaries.

22. They wish to have Government sanction to this measure which will be at once carried out, and regarding which a separate communication has been made.

23. *Loans.*—Although there is an increase of Rupees 4,887-3-6 of expenditure over collections, the deficit is covered by a loan of more than that amount, *viz.*, Rupees 7,000. We have incurred loans to the extent of Rupees 10,000 for the market, Rupees 8,000 for improvement of new suburb, &c.; but much of such debt incurred at 4½ per cent. contains in itself a means of repayment. For instance, the market debt of Rupees 10,000, brings in a return of 20 per cent.; Rupees 1,600 for the Apothecary's house, returns 15 per cent.; the new Slaughter-house Rupees 1,400, returns 40 per cent.—Rupees 13,000 out of 18,000 giving an average of 22½ per cent.

24. The charitable loans, Rupees 3,000, to the poor to tile, instead of thatch, their houses will not be financially remunerative, but will be recovered with 4½ per cent. interest in full at the end of the term for which they are granted.

25. The money sunk in water improvements, Rupees 1,012, is for the health and comfort of the people.

26. Without borrowing money we could not have made the improvements. Total loans, Rupees 18,000.

27. Agreeably to G.O., No. 822, of the 12th June 1873, a return showing the incidence of the various rates and taxes is attached.

28. The audit report of Mr. W. E. Shepherd, of the Firm of Messrs. Stanes and Rouse is herewith forwarded.

29. *Municipal Dispensary and Hospital.*—With reference to the report on the Civil Dispensary herewith forwarded; with the view of more adequate inspection of private privies, and prevention of nuisance, a Deputy Inspector of Public Health.

Nuisances has been appointed, and a house-to-house visitation ordered, so it is hoped that the private privy cess-pits, of which there are some thousands, may in time be checked. One of the most difficult of sanitary problems is that of individual house dry-earth conservancy. The good effect of the public latrines on the general cleanliness of the town is most evident and satisfactory.

30. As regards the Civil Surgeon's allusion to the non-use of the Lying-in Hospital, except by low caste females—naturally it is the poor that come to such an institution, the better classer (as in every other country) prefer being attended in their own houses, but a Mahomedan or caste Hindoo midwife would be more generally employed than one of the Pariah caste.

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No. 162. ORDER THEREON, 20th May 1875, No. 1100.

The actual receipts and expenditure of the Coimbatore Municipality for the year 1874-75 are compared below with the estimates for that year:—

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	Estimate.	Actuals.		Estimate.	Actuals.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance	...	...	PUBLIC WORKS—		
Assignment by Govern-			<i>New Works</i> —		
ment	144	381	Communications	200	747
Tax on Houses... ..	9,400	9,131	Sanitary and Miscella-		
Tax on Vehicles	1,400	1,334	neous... ..	1,000	2,791
Registration of Carts ...	1,300	1,273	<i>Repairs</i> —		
Tolls	7,500	8,210	Communications	2,900	3,230
Fees	350	314	Sanitary and Miscella-		
Fines... ..	160	680	neous	402	3,086
Endowments	3,300	2,567	Other Public Works		
Contributions from Local			Items	1,492	795
Funds	1,000	1,000	Results Grants	1,000	948
Loan from Government ...	...	7,000	Inspection	100	100
Miscellaneous	3,050	5,310	Hospitals and Dispensaries...	3,680	5,114
			Vaccination	190	180
			Registration of Births and		
			Deaths	240	240
			Conservancy	8,214	8,460
			Lighting	1,740	1,587
			Miscellaneous	2,970	2,875
			Advances	...	2,010
			Refunds	...	1,395
			Supervision	3,080	2,924
				27,208	36,482
			Balance... ..	396	718
Total ...	27,604	37,200	Total ...	27,604	37,200

2. During the year, the Municipality increased their debt by Rupees 4,887, the total amount now owing by them being Rupees 7,000. Of this, Rupees 718 is still in hand, and the balance has been expended in really useful or necessary works, some of which will be reproductive as explained in paragraph 23 of the President's report.

3. Exclusive of the loan from Government, the receipts of the year exceeded the estimate by Rupees 2,596, the bulk of which is due to an increase in the miscellaneous sources of Municipal income. Statement IV. shows an uncollected balance of over nine per cent. of the demand which is not so satisfactory as in the preceding year.

4. The principal expenditure on New Works was an item of Rupees 1,586 on the house for the Apothecary in charge of the Dispensary, and under Repairs the most important item was an outlay of Rupees 1,479 in improving the market as described in paragraph 14 of the report.

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5. The expenditure on Education fell but little short of the estimate, and as G.O. F.D., dated 16th April 1875, No. 852. already intimated, the Government will be glad to receive the Commissioner's proposals for utilizing the funds available for education in such a manner as to render most assistance to the classes who are most in need of such pecuniary aid. The attention of the Director of Public Instruction will be directed to the observations contained in paragraph 20, in connexion with the pending revision of result grant rules.

6. As usual the Dispensary worked well, the increase being 1,135 amongst in-patients and 101 amongst out-patients. The total number was as marginally noted. Vaccination was also satisfactorily attended to, 1,411 operations having been performed at an average outlay of slightly over 2 Annas per head.

7. Conservancy received careful attention at the hands of the Commissioners the expenditure on that object of the Act amounting to Rupees 8,460 inclusive of Rupees 1,513 devoted to the cleansing of tanks and wells.

8. The expenditure on Avenues (Rupees 794) was considerable, but from paragraph 16 of the report the Government are satisfied that it was well directed.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Coimbatore.
.. 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.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

*Recd - 1875-245
No 359:2216*

Cost. of 1875: 300 adms.

FINANCIAL.

To
THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

Co.,
Co.,
Co.,

Dated May, 20th.

Inc. 500
" 11th
" 11th

G.O., 20th May 1875, No. 1100.

MAY.
Nos. 161-162.

Municipal Reports.--The annual report for
1874-75 on the Comptroller Municipality, reviewed.

1874/75
14 Jan 75