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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1218	Press
R.P. No.		Mis. ✓
Dated	2. 8. 1876	196

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Municipal—Report.

No. 185. Read the following letter from G. McWATTERS, Esq., Vice-President, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Erode Municipal Commission, dated Coimbatore, 24th April 1876, No. 2, :—

I have the honor to submit the Annual Report on the working of the Erode Municipality for 1875-76. The usual statements are appended as likewise the additional Return called for in G.O., dated 3rd December 1875, No. 2365, showing the actuals for 1874-75, the budget allotments for 1875-76, and the actuals for 1875-76. The accounts were audited by Mr. Shepherd and found correct. Mr. Shepherd's report is also forwarded.

2. *Receipts.*—The total receipts were Rupees 8,042-11-9, or about Rupees 1,430 more than the budget allotment. The house valuation was revised and the rate was raised from 5 to 7½ per cent.; the tolls fetched 100 more than was estimated, and the magisterial fines accumulated to Rupees 400. The season was a peculiarly unhealthy one, and it was found necessary to enforce the conservancy clauses of the Act with greater strictness than before; hence the increase in fines and the increase in receipts generally.

3. *Expenditure.*—The total expenditure was Rupees 7,666-9-7, leaving a balance of Rupees 376-2-2. The Municipality devoted all its available funds to Sanitary and Miscellaneous, New Works and Repairs, in consequence of cholera having made its appearance. This will account for some slight variations under Grant I and Grant III between the expenditure and the budget allotments. The late Hospital Assistant in charge of the dispensary omitted to forward his indent for medicines for 1874-75, and this necessitated a supplemental supply during the year at a cost of upwards of Rupees 250. There was a slight saving under Conservancy Establishment and Lighting, and, although there was but an allotment of Rupees 200 for Results Grants, only Rupees 160 of this were actually expended. The item of Rupees 85-15-6 under Grant V, Miscellaneous, for stamp paper, &c., was the expenditure incurred in connexion with the suit about the Potters' site at Erode which it is hoped Government will refund to the Municipality. No other items of expenditure appear to call for notice.

4. *Mortuary Returns.*—The number of deaths reported during the year was 271 and the number of births 176. The proportion between deaths and births is evidently incorrect, but it must be borne in mind that cholera was prevalent for some months and carried off about 100 people.

5. *Vaccination.*—275 persons were vaccinated and 236 cases were successful. This shows a great improvement over former years.

5. *Dispensary.*—The dispensary has progressed most satisfactorily and is greatly appreciated. The number of out-door patients increased from 5469 in 75 to 5932 in 1875-76 and the in-patients likewise from 11 to 36. The Assistant in charge is forwarded for the information of the Commission. He is very attentive to his work, and has rendered on several occasions great assistance to the Commissioners.

Sanitary state of the Town.—Erode never was in a more sanitary state. The streets no doubt are capable of improvement and drains are much needed, but the Municipality has not funds enough for these purposes. The energy of the Commissioners, among whom the town is divided, is devoted in great part to conservancy proper or to seeing that the town is kept thoroughly clean, and they have been successful in this respect. The prickly-pear near the jungle stream between the town and the Railway station has been completely removed and new latrines and an epidemic shed constructed on the site. The latrines are most convenient for the Railway passengers, and enable the vicinity of the station to be kept much cleaner than it used to be.

INCIDENCE OF THE VARIOUS DUTIES AND TAXES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ERODE, 1875-76.

District and Place in which levied.	Population.	Description and Object of Tax.	Classes from and Property upon which levied.	Number of Tax-payers.	Amount of Tax.	INCIDENCE OF TAX.		Act or Order under which and date from which levied.
						Per Head of Population.	Per Head of Tax-payers.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Coimbatore District. Erode Town.	7,817	{ 1. Rates on Houses and Buildings, at 7½ per cent. 2. Rates on Lands and Buildings, at 7½ per cent. 3. Taxes on Carriages, Horses, &c. 4. Fees on Registration of Carts 5. Tolls at half rates Total ...	...	1,415	RS. A. P. 2,902 12 4	RS. A. P. 3 5 11	2 0 11	G.O. of 29th September 1871, No. 1478.
			...	47	81 0 6	0 0 1	1 11 7	
			...	257	570 4 0	0 1 2	2 3 6	
			...	140	554 8 0	0 1 2	3 15 1	
			...	...	1,420 0 0			
			...	...	5,528 8 10	0 8 4	9 15 1	

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21st June 1876 No. 1137.

Concise Annual Report on the working of the Civil Dispensary, Erode, for the year 1875-76.

In reporting on the working of the Civil Dispensary for the official year 1875-76 it is satisfactory to state that there has been a decided improvement in the attendance of out-door patients; the year closed with 5932 patients on the roll as against 3469 in the preceding year, giving an increase of 2463 patients. The average attendance has been 71.2 against 44.6 in 1874-75. The number of in-door patients has also greatly increased; the number registered for the year 1874-75 was eleven and that for the present year 1875-76 is fifty-six. The institution is still appreciated, not only from the large proportionate increase that the year has recorded, but also from the fact that a large number of patients are those who have come from the surrounding villages and hamlets ranging from ten to fifteen miles distance—proof that European medical science is steadily gaining ground in the confidence of the people.

2. *Climate*.—The short period that I have been in charge of the station prevents me from making any definite report on the seasons and climate of the place. The monsoons are said to have set in later than usual, and the fall of rain is regarded as insufficient; the crops have therefore been much affected and a scarcity seemingly arising for both food and water amongst the poorer classes. The months from August to December were pleasant enough, but the months of January, February, and March were severe and oppressive. Strong winds prevailed about August and February, giving rise to catarrhal affections.

3. The chief prevailing diseases during the year were fever, rheumatism, dysentery, simple conjunctivitis, and various forms of skin affections. Regarding the first complaint (fever), I may remark that the station bears the reputation of being exceedingly feverish during the whole year, but I have not been able to discover any good grounds for this opinion so generally entertained, nor does my experience, however limited, justify the imputation. The cases presenting at the dispensary are not disproportionately numerous, nor is the type of a malignant nature. The great majority of cases applying for treatment have been mild attacks, arising from exposure to cold and wet, which have readily yielded to ordinary treatment. The cause for the prevalence of any fever amongst the native population is, in my opinion, owing to a large portion of them making use of the water of the Calingroyan Channel for drinking purposes without filtration. This channel flows from the ancient across the Bowhany River, eight miles by road from Erode, but its course is so meandering that it passes through about sixteen miles of land before it reaches this place, gathering in its course much decaying vegetable matter, and hence I am disposed to believe that much of the prevailing fever may be attributed to this cause rather than to the general unhealthiness of the climate of the station itself, as those parts of the town where the people do not make use of this channel water are more or less free from fever. If the people could be persuaded to use well water in preference to channel water, the probability is that fever will be reduced to a minimum; but there is little hope of bringing about this result, as the sanctity of the waters of the Bowhany in the estimation of the people and the general convenience will always prove great obstacles for their disuse.

4. There has been nothing noteworthy with regard to the cases generally that have presented themselves for treatment. As stated already, dysentery, rheumatism, conjunctivitis, and skin diseases formed the large majority next to fever, and were found to be amenable to the ordinary forms of treatment. In venereal diseases only the sufferers unhappily put off applying for timely aid, restrained either by shame or, what is more probable, from apathy, as they appear to hold syphilis as a matter of but little moment until threatened with secondary symptoms.

5. *Epidemics*.—Cholera made its appearance in this station in July, before my taking charge and during the absence on leave of my predecessor, when the dispensary was in temporary charge of 2nd-Class Hospital Assistant Ramaswamy Naidoo, No. 663. I find that during that period of one month there were registered seventy-six cases, of which twenty-eight proved fatal. When I assumed charge cholera was said to be still prevalent, but the cases that were brought to me for treatment as cholera appeared to be more choleraic diarrhoea yielding readily to treatment. In

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January again this disease made its appearance, having been brought into the town by pilgrims returning from the Streerungam festival; happily there were not many cases, and the disease did not linger long. Erode being a junction station is exposed on that account to greater liability to importation of such epidemics. The treatment adopted with some success consisted in astringents, the inhalation of the sulphurous acid gas by the burning of sulphur, and the free administration of large quantities of lime-juice. The number of cases treated for cholera was fifteen and the recoveries under this form of treatment eight, giving a percentage of fifty.

6. Small-pox made its appearance during the last two months of the year, but I have not heard of any mortality in the town arising from this cause. There were no cases treated at the dispensary.

7. *Surgical Operations*.—No surgical operations of any importance were performed—a few cases of circumcision performed for congenital phimosis, and two minor amputations, one of a little finger and the other of an index finger, all of which proved successful.

8. *Sanitation*.—The sanitary condition of the town is very satisfactory. Considerable improvements have been made, and are still going on. An epidemic shed and two new latrines have been constructed, the latter especially for the convenience of those arriving by rail and who remain here only for a few hours. The nuisance complained of in previous years of a part of the town being filthy from the want of such has been remedied. The epidemic shed will also prevent the spread of epidemics when brought into the town. The roads are all kept very clean, regularly tarred and cared for. The town is well lighted and it bears a clean appearance, and it may be safely said, in respect to these matters, that Erode is second to no municipal town of its size and age.

ERODE,
1st April 1876.

(Signed) S. J. FEWKES, *Passed Hospital Apprentice,*
In medical charge of Civil Dispensary, Erode.

No. 32.

Forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government. The President notes with satisfaction the attention which has been paid to the improvement of the sanitation of this small Municipality but important junction station. He inspected the town and hospital during the year under report and is happy to corroborate the Vice-President's favorable report.

COIMBATORE,
29th April 1876.

(Signed) G. McWATTERS,
for President.

No. 186.

ORDER THEREON, 21st June 1876, No. 1137.

The President submits the report of the Erode Municipality for the year 1875-76 with the following comparative financial statement showing progress.—

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RECEIPTS.

Actuals for 1874-75. Budget for 1875-76. Actuals for 1875-76.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Balance brought forward	1,630	2	4				126	15	11
Assignments and Allotments by									
Government	282	5	2	280	0	0	54	2	4
Rates on Houses, &c.	2,513	10	8	2,750	0	0	3,244	8	2
Tax on Vehicles, &c.	517	12	0	500	0	0	570	4	0
Registration of Carts	492	0	0	500	0	0	554	8	0
Tolls	1,430	0	0	1,300	0	0	1,420	0	0
Fees	0	12	0	10	0	0			
Fines	204	8	0	70	0	0	400	12	0
Endowments	192	0	0	190	0	0	191	15	0
Contribution from Local Funds	900	0	0	700	0	0	700	0	0
Miscellaneous	752	14	0	310	0	0	390	9	8
Advances Recoverable							389	0	8
Total	8,916	0	2	6,610	0	0	8,042	11	9

CHARGES.

Actuals for 1874-75. Budget for 1875-76. Actuals for 1875-76.

GRANT I.—PUBLIC WORKS—

New Works—

Communications				690	0	0	145	0	0
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	1,206	0	10	100	0	0	526	12	4

Repairs—

Communications	1,281	0	3	505	0	0	660	0	9
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	418	13	5				392	13	10
Tools, Plants, and Contingencies	86	10	0						

GRANT II.—EDUCATION—

Results Grants	168	0	0	200	0	0	160	8	0
Contribution for Educational Inspectorate	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0

GRANT III.—

Hospitals	1,490	15	1	1,528	0	0	1,771	6	8
Vaccination	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0
Registration of Births and Deaths	82	0	0	84	0	0	84	0	0
Conservancy	2,390	15	3	1,996	0	0	1,868	10	1

GRANT IV.—

Lighting	772	1	1	726	0	0	586	10	9
Choultries	120	0	0	120	0	0	120	0	0
Watering Streets and Planting Avenues	92	1	6	50	0	0	96	0	0
Clearing Prickly-pear	17	7	2				149	4	0
Other Purposes							5	0	9

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Actuals for 1874-75. Budget for 1875-76. Actuals for 1875-76.

GRANT V.—

Office	281	14	6	316	0	0	314	5	9
Miscellaneous	281	1	2	180	0	0	308	3	4
Refunds other than current							5	13	4
Taxes							37	0	0
Advances Recoverable							70	2	2
Balance	126	15	1						
Total	8,916	0	2	6,610	0	0	8,042	11	9

2. The aggregate receipts including the opening balance, amounted to Rupees 8,043 against an estimate of Rupees 6,610. The excess is the result of an increase in almost all the sources of revenue, the most conspicuous being the house-tax and fines. The house-rate was raised from 6 to 7½ per cent., and the house valuation was at the same time revised; this accounts for an increase of Rupees 731 over the actuals of 1874-75. The estimate for 1875-76 was evidently fixed too low. The increase under fines was due to the strict enforcement of the conservancy provisions of the Municipal Act in consequence of an outbreak of cholera within the town. The current receipts were, on the whole, Rupees 1,306 in excess of the estimate and Rupees 630 in excess of the actuals of the preceding year. The Demand, Collection, and Balance statement is eminently satisfactory, the whole of the demand, with the exception of a small portion of the house-tax, which was written off as irrecoverable, having been collected.

3. The total charges amounted to Rupees 7,667, or Rupees 1,057 in excess of the estimate, but Rupees 1,122 below the actuals of 1874-75. Of this amount Rupees 1,725, or 22·5 per cent., was the expenditure under Grant I; under Grant II, Rupees 211, or 2·7 per cent.; under Grant III, Rupees 3,774, or 49·2 per cent.; under Grant IV, Rupees 956, or 12·5 per cent.; and under Grant V, Rupees 623, or 8·6 per cent. The allotment under Grant I was exceeded by Rupees 430, but this also is explained by works and repairs necessitated by the appearance of cholera. The same reason accounts for an increase under Hospitals and Dispensaries. Under Conservancy and Lighting a saving was effected. The increase under Grant V is in consequence of miscellaneous charges incurred to the amount of Rupees 128 and not provided for in the budget. One of the items of charges, viz., Rupees 86, was the cost of stamp paper, &c., incurred in connexion with a civil suit on the subject of the Pottan's site at Erode, and the Vice-President expresses a hope that this will be refunded by Government. Orders have already been passed on this subject in G.O., dated 23rd May 1876, No. 909.

4. The disproportion between the educational charges and the total expenditure is marked. The allotment was the small sum of Rupees 250, but even of this 20 per cent. was unutilized. The Governor in Council desires that the subject may receive the serious consideration of the Commissioners and that adequate arrangements may be made for providing elementary instruction within the town. The means for doing so have been indicated in paragraph 3 of G.O., dated 3rd May 1876, No. 781.

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5. Vaccination shows improvement, and the report on the working of the dispensary is very satisfactory, the number of out-patients having increased during the year from 3469 to 5932 and the number of in-patients from 11 to 56. The remarks in the Dispensary Report regarding the supply of drinking water are worthy of consideration. The Governor in Council notices with pleasure the testimony borne by the President to the efficiency of the sanitary arrangements in the newly-established Municipality.

6. The President's endorsement scarcely indicates due appreciation of his position under the Act as responsible for its administration.

(True Extract.)

*W. H. Col
Chief Secretary*

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

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

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