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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. Financial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

B.P. No.

444

Press

Mis.

Dated

17.2.1876 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Municipal Budget.

Read the following papers:—

No. 124. From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Saidapet, 16th November 1875, No. 108.

As directed in G.O., dated 11th October 1875, No. 1998, Financial Department, I have the honor to forward a detailed statement showing the receipts and charges of the Conjeveram Municipality for 1874-75 including all outstanding amounts, from which it will be observed that the amount expended in excess of the receipts and due to the contractors is Rupees 4,099, which is made up of Rupees 1,135 paid to contractors out of the deposits made by them as security for proper execution of the work and of Rupees 2,964 still remaining to be disbursed to them. As the former amount cannot be considered as a payment made, the whole of the above deficit has yet to be made good.

2. I also forward, as directed, a revised abstract estimate of receipts and charges for the current year, which shows that after excluding new works there is hardly any balance to meet this deficit.

3. As the Commissioners suggest in another letter recently received that the contractors should be paid, at all events in part, out of the Rupees 3,000 provided in the current year's Budget for road and street repairs, I beg to recommend that early sanction be accorded to this course as the payment is long overdue.

No. 125. From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Conjeveram, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Saidapet, 30th November 1875, No. 111.

I have the honor to forward the Budget of the Conjeveram Municipality for 1876-77 as passed by the Commissioners on the 3rd instant.

2. RECEIPTS.—No balance has been brought forward as the Municipality is, as the Government are aware, largely involved.

3. In the special Local Fund Budget for 1876-77 a sum of Rupees 40 was proposed to be transferred from Surplus Pound Fund to the Municipality, and this amount has been accordingly entered in the Budget.

4. With reference to paragraph 5 of G.O., dated 27th February 1875, No. 455, Financial Department, no credit has been taken for the Government contribution towards the pay of the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Civil Dispensary at Conjeveram, and on the same principle the contribution of Rupees 70 entered in the Budget on account of the salary of the Hospital Assistant attached to the above institution need not, in my opinion, pass through the municipal books.

5. Under the arrangements sanctioned in G.O., Financial Department, dated 30th July 1875, No. 1572, regarding adjustment of tolls at Conjeveram and Damal toll-gates, Rupees 3,000 were credited in the Local Fund Budget of the Chingleput Circle for 1876-77 as the amount due from the Municipality and

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12th February 1876.*

Rupees 850 debited as the amount payable to the above institution from Local Funds. These sums should have been debited and credited respectively in the Municipal Budget, which has not been done, but only the net receipts, Rupees 2,200, accruing to the Municipality from tolls have been entered.

6. The other items of receipts explain themselves and call for no remark.

7. *EXPENDITURE—Grant I.*—The entire receipts of the Municipality amount only to Rupees 16,460 against Rupees 21,010 estimated for the current year, and, as this sum is barely sufficient to meet the current expenses of the institution, nothing has been provided either for the construction or repair of roads or other communications.

8. *Grant II.*—The current year's allotment, Rupees 1,350, for payment of results grants has been repeated. The Inspector of Schools recommended a provision of Rupees 1,925 for the purpose, being of opinion that more schools will come under inspection and that many of the pupils of the present year will be prepared for higher standards during the next; but the Commissioners are unwilling, in the present state of their funds, to raise the grant any further, especially as there are three good schools in the town largely attended—one belonging to Patcheappah and two to the Free Church of Scotland Mission, one for boys and the other for girls—and as there are already thirty-two schools receiving results grants for the purposes of elementary education. Under these circumstances, the refusal of the Commissioners to make a larger allotment for payment of result schools seems to be reasonable and worthy of consideration.

9. *Grant III.*—Owing to the increased attendance of patients in the dispensary the grant for "Medicines and Supplies" has been raised by Rupees 70. The sum of Rupees 50 on account of Contingencies under Vaccination is for making small payments to indigent children to induce them to be vaccinated and for batta to mothers of vaccinated children supplying fresh lymph.

10. *Grant V.*—There is an increase of Rupees 220 in the cost of office establishment, due to the salary of the Head Clerk and of the bill collectors having been raised from Rupees 25 and 8 to Rupees 40 and 10, respectively. In explanation of the necessity for this measure the Vice-President writes as follows: "It was already admitted by the Commissioners that their Office Manager was too inadequately paid, viz., Rupees 25 per mensem, for the vast amount of out-door work he was called upon to perform, and in consideration of which he was allowed carriage allowance of Rupees 15 (*vide* their Proceedings, dated 10th June 1875, No. 9). It would be well, I think, to raise his pay to Rupees 40 per mensem from next year and make him attend also to the out-door duties. It should be remembered that since the curtailment of the pay of Manager, eighteen months ago, from Rupees 50 to what it is, his duties out of office have actually multiplied, none of which had been performed by the former incumbent. There are but two bill collectors for this large Municipality, large in area and population. They certainly deserve Rupees 10 each, which they were once getting, judging from the speedy collections they make."

I may here bring to the notice of Government that the establishment of this Municipality was twice revised by the late Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Crole,

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once with reference to G.O., dated 29th May 1872, No. 699, Financial Department, and the second time as reported in letter, No. 13, dated 27th January 1874, recorded with the Proceedings of Government, dated 7th April 1874, No. 550, Financial.

11. The rest of the items are almost the same as in the current year and require no explanation.

12. It will be observed that the Budget closes with a balance of Rupees 1,020, and this the Commissioners propose to expend, if not required for any emergent purposes, on the repair of roads, which is a very necessary work in a town like Conjeveram, where the pagoda cars are drawn over them annually.

No. 126. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1876, No. 307.

The position of the Conjeveram Municipality seems to be that they commenced the year 1875-76 with an outstanding debt of Rupees 4,099, to meet which no provision was made in the Budget for the current year, while the revised estimate of charges for the current year exactly balances receipts leaving the deficit untouched and excluding all new works.

2. The President requests sanction for meeting part of this deficit out of the unexpended portion of the current year's Budget provision for repairs, but this is not a matter for which any Government sanction is necessary. The first duty of the Commissioners is to pay their debts, and this liability must take precedence of all others.

3. So far as the means at their disposal will allow, the Commissioners must forthwith clear off their outstanding liabilities, and the Government look to the President to see that this is done at once.

4. Any amount which cannot possibly be provided in the current year must be entered as a deficit balance in the Budget Estimate for 1876-77, which will be returned for revision on this principle, and equilibrium must be established by cutting down expenditure to the utmost. The Government cannot sanction any proposals for increase of expenditure until this be done, but if it should involve absolute stoppage of all improvements and inadequate provision for maintenance of roads, &c., they will be prepared to consider the expediency of assisting the Commissioners with a moderate loan to enable them to tide over their difficulties in these respects. The G.Os. of 21st April and 11th October 1875 have already indicated the disposition of Government to aid them in this manner.

5. Proposals for this must, however, be distinct from the consideration of the Budget for 1876-77.

6. As a present measure of relief, the Government authorize the President to credit the Municipality with the difference between the pay of a Hospital Assistant at Rupees 72 and a Native Surgeon at Rupees 250 (less the Government contribution of 25 per cent.) for 1875-76, as the more expensive agency was retained by the Commissioners at the instance of Government and against their own intention. Should the Commissioners again propose to reduce their expenditure on the item, the Government will not urge them to expense beyond their means, but would suggest to them that a pensioned Apothecary might be engaged

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at considerably less cost than a Native Surgeon, while being probably much more efficient than a Hospital Assistant.

7. The Government will also be prepared to consider proposals for extending the profession-tax for 1876-77 to Class VI. in the Schedule should this be advocated by the President and Commissioners.

8. The President will take steps for giving immediate effect to these instructions, and the Government look for his further report at an early date.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

- .. Revenue Department.
- .. Public Works do.
- .. President, Conjeeveram Municipality.
- .. Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
- .. Sanitary Commissioner.
- .. Accountant-General.
- .. Director of Public Instruction.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

576

Revenue 1876 000000
Net 685

Obbt. of 1876: *Exadras.*

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 12th.

Issued

16

Recd.

16

Encl.

G.O., 12th February 1876, No. 307.

De. M. M.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 124-126.

Municipal Budget.—Certain measures of relief
proposed to the Conference. Municipality on
account of the inadequacy of their funds to meet
the demands on them.

No 444

Adopted

17 Feb 76