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(2) Date of repair _____
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	65	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	10.1.1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
24th December 1875.*

Municipal-Budget.

No. 127. Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission, Cuddalore, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cuddalore, 25th September 1875, No. 144:—

I have the honor to submit, for the sanction of Government, the Budget-estimate of the Cuddalore Municipality for the official year 1876-77.

2. OPENING BALANCE.—The revised Budget for the current year provides for an estimated closing balance of Municipal funds of only Rupees 17, the opening balance in 1876-77 is, therefore, estimated to be *nil*. A small balance of Rupees 250 of Endowment Fund will probably be in hand, and has been entered under that head.

3. The income from house and land-rates during the current year is estimated in the revised Budget at Rupees 6,000 for current and Rupees 2,000 for arrears as therein explained. For 1876-77 the Commissioners have resolved to take credit for the full revenue Rupees 7,000 as before, and for the collection of the balance (Rupees 1,000) of all arrears, except about Rupees 500, which will probably have to be written off as irrecoverable. They have appointed a Committee to go into the question of these arrears and to compel their payment, and in the event of the Committee's labors being as successful as I trust they will be, there is every chance that the whole or a great part of the Rupees 1,000 by which the current year's revenue from such rates was reduced will be recovered, in which case there will be an opening balance. The Commissioners, however, consider it safer not to count on this item in the Budget for next year. Surplus Pound Funds are taken at the same amount as in the current year's Budget.

4. TAX ON CARRIAGES AND ANIMALS.—The actuals of receipt under this head during the year 1874-75 were Rupees 3,248. The estimate for 1876-77 is, therefore, fixed at Rupees 3,000.

5. The fees from registration of carts call for no remark.

6. Tolls are estimated to yield Rupees 11,000, being a little less than what they sold for this year.

7. Fees and fines call for no remark.

8. The interest from the funded capital of the dispensary will be Rupees 1,080 instead of Rupees 1,170, because the said capital has been reduced by Rupees 2,000 owing to the purchase of a building out of it for a branch dispensary.

9. The other items of receipt call for no special notice.

10. The total receipts are estimated to amount to Rupees 29,200.

11. EXPENDITURE.—The Municipal Income is proposed to be expended under Grant I. in the erection of two or more latrines estimated to cost Rupees 1,000, and in repairs as shown in the detailed Statement II.-A. to the extent of Rupees

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2,570. A saving of Rupees 480 in the cost of Works Establishment is effected by substituting a Maistry on Rupees 10 for the Overseer on Rupees 50. The contribution to the Local Fund Board of the Cuddalore Circle of one-third of the tolls (*vide* G.O., dated 10th June 1875, No. 1258) absorbs Rupees 3,670 of the revenue at one sweep, and limits the operations of the Municipality considerably, and has compelled thus to reduce their establishments.

12. Under Education the allotment of Rupees 1,300 for results' grants is considered sufficient, being the same as that made for the current year.

13. UNDER GRANT III.—The cost of dispensaries is to remain unchanged for the present; but I have been requested by the Commissioners to see if a diplomaed midwife can be got on a lower salary than the present one (Mrs. King) whose services the Commissioners fear must be dispensed with owing to the falling off in the Municipal receipts and their inability to pay so highly for her services.

14. VACCINATION.—The Zillah Surgeon being of opinion that one Vaccinator in addition to the one attached to the dispensaries is sufficient for the Municipality, the services of only one man are provided for instead of two. The current year's Budget provision was made for two men on the results' system, who were to get Rupees 5 each, and a capitation allowance for successful cases. The Commissioners subsequently decided to revert to the former salary-system, and the provision above detailed provides for the salary of one man on Rupees 10 a month.

15. The cost of registration in this Municipality has been hitherto the highest of any in the Presidency except Madras. The Zillah Surgeon thinks the Divisional Inspectors may well do the work of reporting deaths and births to the Registrar at the Municipal Office, and the old Town Registrar is, therefore, to be dispensed with. There is thus a saving of Rupees 300 effected.

16. At a full meeting to discuss the Budget, the Native Commissioners carried a motion that the number of Sanitary Divisional Inspectors should be reduced from five to four, and two of the divisions thrown into one, and that in the amalgamated division an Assistant on Rupees 10 should be entertained. The Commissioners could not agree as to which two divisions should be united. I consider the abolition of an Inspector a great mistake, though, if the funds of the Municipality could afford it, I would recommend that an Assistant be appointed to each on Rupees 10. The Municipal divisions are very large as it is, and the amalgamation of any two will, I think, be more than one man can look after. A saving of Rupees 180 is thus effected in the Budget.

17. GRANT IV.—As no increase in the number of lamps is proposed the charges for establishment and contingencies remain unaltered.

18. The remaining items under Grant IV. call for no notice.

19. Under Grant V. the reduction is considerable. The per-centage of cost of establishment in this Municipality to receipts was always large, and the Manager having tendered his resignation it was accepted, and a saving of Rupees 1,200 is thus effected, counterbalanced by a probable charge of Rs. 600, which is provided for employing a man in his place and in that of the Works Overseer to supervise the work going on and the Inspectors of Divisions.

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20. The collection of land and house-rates in this Municipality is the weak point in its administration, but there is some excuse for the difficulty experienced in collecting the land-rates owing to the difficulty of identifying land without the aid of the Curnams, and to the still greater difficulty in fixing the responsibility for the rate on some individual. Vigorous action will, it is hoped, soon dispose of all arrears, and it is contemplated to rent the rates out, and thus get rid of the Bill Collectors, to whose supineness the existence of the arrears is to a great extent, originally due. Provision is made at 5 per cent. on the rates revenue for paying the former.

21. In accordance with the orders of Government contained in paragraph 1 of G.O., 2nd February 1875, No. 206, calling for a special report on arrears of land and house-rate up to date, I have the honor to state that the total amount of arrears outstanding on the last day of the year under report was as shown below:—

		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Land-rates	Old Arrears	990	14	1			
	Current Arrears	1,173	7	5			
					2,164	5	6
House-rates	Old Arrears	719	13	6			
	Current Arrears	811	6	10			
					1,531	4	4
					3,695	9	10

and that the amount since collected up to the 19th instant of the above amount is—

	RS.	A.	P.
Land-rates	546	6	1
House-rates	461	15	0
Irrecoverable and written off	390	0	0
	1,398	5	1

I have already stated that a Special Committee has been appointed to go into the question of these arrears and collect them, and I can only hope they may be successful, for it is hopeless to look for any improvement in the Bill Collectors.

22. The total expenditure under the different heads is as follows:—

	RS.		RS.
Grant I.	8,060		
„ II.	1,420		
„ III.	14,250		
„ IV.	2,690		
„ V.	2,390		
	28,810		
Receipts	29,200		
Balance	390	Municipal Fund	120
		Endowment Fund	270

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No. 128. ORDER THEREON, 24th December 1875, No. 2499.

The annexed abstract shows the Budget-estimates of the Cuddalore Municipality for 1876-77 as compared with those for the current year—

RECEIPTS.			CHARGES.		
	1875-76.	1876-77.		1875-76.	1876-77.
	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward ...	3,500	250	Grant I.		
Assignment by Government			New Works—		
Surplus Pound Fund ...	80	80	Communications ...	...	...
Rates on Houses ...	8,000	8,000	Educational... ..	1,000	...
Tax on Vehicles ...	2,500	3,000	Sanitary and Miscella-		
Registration of Carts ...	1,000	1,000	neous	500	1,000
Tolls ...	11,000	11,000	Repairs—		
Fees ...	200	200	Communications ...	3,500	2,570
Fines ...	150	100	Sanitary and Miscella-		
Endowments, &c. ...	1,850	1,860	neous	2,000	500
Local Fund Contributions ...	2,330	2,330	Other Items	750	320
Miscellaneous ...	1,250	1,380	Contribution to Local Funds	...	3,670
			Grant II.—		
			Salary Grants ...	...	...
			Results Grants... ..	1,300	1,300
			Inspection	120	120
			Municipal Schools		
			Grant III.—		
			Hospitals and Dispensaries	6,540	6,540
			Vaccination	840	170
			Registration of Births and		
			Deaths	650	350
			Conservancy	7,110	7,190
			Grant IV.—		
			Lighting	2,140	1,540
			Markets	150	100
			Choultries	630	660
			Travellers' Bungalows ...	200	220
			Other Items	50	170
			Grant V.—		
			Supervision	2,910	2,390
			Balance	1,440	390
Total ...	31,860	29,200	Total ...	31,860	29,200

2. The Budget figures being nearly the same as for the current year call for few remarks, and are passed as submitted. The Government note that the Municipality is reforming its charges for establishment. The reduction of the Office Manager's pay from Rupees 1,200 to Rupees 600, of the vaccination charges from Rupees 840 to Rupees 170, and of those for registration from Rupees 600 to Rupees 300, will doubtless prove an advantageous change. With reference to the President's remarks on the collection of land-rent within the Municipality, the Government do not fully understand how difficulties of identification can arise if

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the assistance of the Collector's Office is invoked. The Government will be glad to have a report on the working of the system proposed for farming the house and land-rates at the close of a year after its first introduction.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

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Report of 1875
FINANCIAL.

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

Sec. Sec.
Clerk Clerk

Dated December, 24th.

Witnessed

1877
Recd. — 8:16

S. L.

G.O. 24th December 1875, No. 2409

W. H. Miller
DECEMBER.
Nos. 127-128.

Municipal Budget. — Budget Estimates of the
Caldwell Municipality for 1876-77 referred.

24253

W. H. Miller

10. July 1876