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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

23rd July 1877, No. 1956.

Municipal—Reports.

Read the following paper:—

No. 142. *From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Erode, to the President of the Municipal Commissions, Coimbatore District, dated 28th May 1877, No. 23.*

I have the honor, under the provisions of Section 34, Madras Act III of 1871, to submit the Annual Report of the proceedings of the Erode Municipal Commissioners for the official year 1876-77.

2. The receipts for the year were Rs. 7,710-9-5, against the Budget Estimate of Rupees 6,640.

3. The increase is chiefly due to the additional 600 Rupees sanctioned as a contribution from Local Funds towards building a residence for the Medical Officer in charge of the Dispensary, and to the opening balance proving larger than was estimated.

4. I have struck out of the statements Rupees 300 entered under receipts as a RECOVERED balance, and under expenditure as a RECOVERABLE balance. The Auditor, I think, has fallen into an error. At the commencement of 1876-77 there was no RECOVERABLE balance, although, on looking at the annual statements of that year, Rupees 385 are entered as recoverable. I may be wrong, but my impression is that these advances and recoveries, as they are called, should not appear in the annual statements if they refer solely to transactions within the official year. The head "Advances Recovered," under Statement I-12, refers, I think, to advances made in the previous year and recovered in the year under report, and, similarly, the head "Advances Recoverable" at the end of Statement II refers to recoveries to be made in the ensuing year. In the present instance the inclusion of the 300 Rupees under receipts renders the real total income fictitious by that amount, and, likewise, its inclusion at the end of Statement II naturally leads to the belief that the Municipality has that amount outstanding to be recovered in 1877-78, which is not the case. The 300 Rupees referred to were advanced for certain works and billed for, all within the year under report, and should be exhibited simply as an expenditure under the proper heads.

5. Correct vouchers have been filed for the two items referred to in paragraph 2 of the Auditor's report.

6. The Medical Officer's residence was completed within two months of the close of the year, and the rent—Rupees 24—has been included in Statement I-7. It was exhibited as a separate item in the old forms returned, under Statement I-7 (i).

7. The total expenditure was Rupees 7,440-10-10; the Budget Estimate was Rupees 6,640, leaving a balance of Rupees 269-14-7.

8. The principal or rather the only new work carried out during the year was the house for the Medical Officer in charge of the hospital. The estimate amounted to Rupees 1,200, of which the Local Fund Board contributed Rupees 600. The actual cost of the work was, however, Rupees 1,560. No provision was made in the

estimate for a kitchen, and as a kitchen was absolutely necessary the Municipality provided the necessary funds itself. The Medical Officer's house and the extra expenditure incurred for almost a double supply of medicines and instruments used up most of the funds at the Municipality's disposal. The extra medicines were urgently required owing to the previous officer in charge of the hospital having failed to indent for the necessary supplies.

9. The Results Schools have increased from five to eight, and the grants allotted have been exceeded by Rupees 53. The Budget allotment was Rupees 200, and the actual expenditure was Rupees 253.

10. The number of persons vaccinated was 119; the number successful eighty-eight; doubtful eight; and unknown twenty-three. There has been a falling off in vaccination compared with the previous year owing to the Commissioners having only had the partial services of the Taluq Vaccinator. Now the Erode and Caroor Municipalities have a vaccinator of their own, and better results are anticipated during 1877-78.

11. The number of deaths during the year was 303, and the number of births 193. Nearly half the deaths are attributable to cholera which has lately been more or less prevalent everywhere, and to which Erode is particularly exposed as a junction station.

12. The town has, as usual, been kept very clean, and the Commissioners have been greatly assisted in keeping it so by the advice and aid of Mr. Fewkes, the Hospital Apprentice in charge of the Hospital.

13. Several famine relief-works have been completed within the year which will prove of immense advantage to the town in a sanitary point of view. These works will find a place in the general report on relief operations for the Subdivision.

14. Municipal meetings are usually held on the 1st and 15th of each month; but in the year under report there was only a quorum in nine cases. The Tahsildar and Vice-President had their hands too fully occupied with relief-works to be able to attend many meetings, and without one or the other being present the Native Commissioners seldom put in an appearance, although notice is given them. I was led in consequence to recommend the appointment of Mr. Fewkes as a Commissioner.

No. 89.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The town of Erode is annually increasing in importance. I observed several new substantial houses built, and the condition of the town is one of continuous improvement. The house for the Hospital Apprentice near the hospital is a marked improvement.

2. The hospital is a great boon to the taluq in general as well as the town, 50 per cent. of those treated having come from outlying villages.

3. Education has been further fostered by additional grants for schools.

COIMBATORE,

9th June 1877.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
President.

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

CONCISE ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT on the WORKING of the CIVIL DISPENSARY, Erode, for the Official Year 1876-77.

GENERAL WORK.—Although numbers are not necessarily indicative of success or otherwise, it is satisfactory to be able to report an increased number of patients during the year as compared with the past, both amongst in and out patients. The numbers respectively are 82 and 6,587.

against 56 and 5,932, giving an increase of 25 in and 655 out patients. The results are tabulated in the following statement:—

	IN-PATIENTS.						OUT-PATIENTS.					
	Remained.	Admitted.	Total treated.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total treated.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.
1875-76	2	56	58	50	6	2	56	5,932	5,988	5,914	38	36
1876-77	2	82	84	73	9	2	36	6,587	6,623	6,553	11	59

A very large portion, amounting to about 50 per cent. of the entire number treated, were applicants from the outlying villages, travelling several miles to obtain the benefits of European Medical Science. The people have freely availed themselves of my services both in and out of the dispensary, as I have made it a fixed principle to encourage them to apply to me at all times irrespective of remuneration, thus endeavouring to demonstrate to them the high and noble characteristics of the honorable profession of Medicine.

SEASONAL PHENOMENA.—The climate of Erode during 1876-77 was characterized by a failure of the monsoon rains, of which 15.5 inches were registered. The prolonged drought reacted on the public health in more ways than one, as will appear hereafter.

WATER-SUPPLY.—One of the direct results of the failure of rain was, in a great measure, to affect the water-supply of the surrounding villages dependent upon wells for drinking purposes. That portion of the town lying near the Kallangaroyen Irrigation Canal which runs through it escaped the general calamity; but it has been observed that those who use the canal water suffered more or less from fever. The admissions for fever are relatively larger from that quarter of the town using the water of the irrigation canal.

The poorer section of the community living in a parcherry situated near a jungle stream, the bed of which, beyond municipal limits, is used by the surrounding hamlets as a burying-place, resorted to the stream for water, and when dry excavated pits for the same purpose. Fever of an obstinate type broke out in their midst, causing some mortality especially amongst those who neglected to apply at the dispensary for medical aid. The matter was brought to the notice of the Vice-President, who issued orders for the sinking of a well for the use of the parcherry, with a view, when ready, to forbid the further use of the stream for drinking purposes.

FOOD-SUPPLY.—Agricultural pursuits were of course paralyzed by the untoward condition of the seasons. Dry crops entirely failed, and wet cultivation shared much the same fate, except in the immediate vicinity of the Bhowany River and the local Irrigation Canal; nevertheless the market was fairly supplied at rates, however, ranging at famine prices. Widespread distress and consequent sickness resulted to the laboring poor, many of whom have been known to resort to the prickly-pear and aloes root for subsistence, with the attendant evil concomitants of bowel affections and diseases incidental to inanition.

A relief-camp was established in the town towards the close of the official year.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—Excepting an invasion of cholera and small-pox, which prevailed so generally over Southern India, the public health must be said to have been fair during the year under review, in so far as it was not affected by the famine towards the latter months of it. The prevailing diseases were fevers, rheumatism, diarrhoea, dysentery and the various forms of skin diseases. The only noteworthy feature in the medical history of this station was the admission of two cases of enteric fever as in-patients, both of whom resided in the parcherry and used the water of the objectionable jungle stream; and the conviction becomes irresistible, that, notwithstanding the distance of the burial-ground, percolation has something to do in the causation of this obstinate type of fever from which the parcherry has suffered. It is gratifying to report that both these cases were discharged cured.

EPIDEMICS.—Cholera prevailed generally in the surrounding villages throughout the year, the aggregate mortality recorded being 117. Considering the area over which the disease was spread, the comparatively small number of deaths is indicative of the mild form in which it prevailed. The town of Erode itself—thanks to its good sanitary arrangements—was free for five-sixths of the year, notwithstanding the unusual facilities for importation from its geographical position as the junction of two great railways. In the months of December and January a few cases occurred, but the conditions which usually favor the development and spread of the disease were wanting in the town, through the vigilance of its Municipal Officers, and so it soon died out. A sporadic case occurred in a prisoner in the Subsidiary Jail in the month of March. He

recovered and by wise precautionary measures the disease spread no further. Concurrently with cholera small-pox also prevailed pretty generally both in and out of the town, but the outbreak was a mild one, the prevalent form of the disease being of the discrete variety, with only one death reported. Although the natives do not object to accept the benefits of the vaccine prophylactic, yet when the disease once develops itself they do not avail themselves of medical treatment from some superstitious idea, and hence no cases presented for treatment at the dispensary. I do not believe that there was but one death from this formidable disease, which even in civilized countries claims a higher ratio of victims; but the fact of the Municipality having recorded but one death from small-pox, during a season when it prevailed in an epidemic form, is at least suggestive of the zeal of the Vaccine Department in the Collectorate of Coimbatore.

SURGICAL PRACTICE.—The surgical practice of the hospital has been of a limited nature, consisting principally of the removal of fatty tumours and circumcision for congenital phymosis. There were two or three graver cases, viz., the excision of a toe and of two index fingers, and an amputation of forearm, particulars of which are detailed under a separate heading. A rather severe case of accident was admitted in the person of a shepherd boy who fell off a tree and impaled himself upon a jagged end of a cut branch. The wound was on the right side, through which a portion of the lung protruded, and five of his ribs were found fractured. The patient was brought in a state of great exhaustion from profuse hæmorrhage. The wound was immediately attended to and dressed with carbolized lint, but gangrene of the lung supervened, and he expired in less than forty-eight hours.

SANITATION.—In the matter of sanitation Erode will compare favorably with many native towns with or without a Municipal Corporation. The streets are regularly swept and kept clean and free from all objectionable matter. There are no cesspools or manure pits to poison the atmosphere; the public latrines, eight in number, are painted with coal tar, and are properly conserved. The one in Potters' site has been abolished on the score of being too near human habitation.

ERODE,
1st April 1877.

(Signed) S. J. FEWKES,
Passed Hospital Apprentice in
Medical charge of Civil Dispensary.

1876-77.
CIVIL DISPENSARY, ERODE.
Annual Abstract Return of Sick.

In-patients	Europeans	Natives	АДМИТТИРОВАННОЕ.												Remained.	Out-patients	Europeans	Natives	Total treated.	Died.	Annual Average Strength.	Average Daily Number of Sick.
			1876.						1877.													
			April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.								
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	0.08	0.05		
	..	2	12	8	6	5	5	5	4	3	8	11	5	8	81	83	9	..	6.9	3.5		
	..	..	17	13	12	10	13	13	7	5	6	5	11	13	118	118	..	..	9.83	4.2		
	..	36	824	538	591	617	580	568	487	380	436	457	433	6,469	6,505	11	542.083	82.23				

ERODE,
1st April 1877.

(Signed) S. J. FEWKES,
Passed Hospital Apprentice in Medical charge of Civil Dispensary.

No. 143.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1877, No. 1956.

The subjoined abstract shows the receipts and expenditure of the Erode Municipality for the year 1876-77, compared with those for the preceding year, and with the estimates:—

RECEIPTS.			
	Actuals, 1875-76.	Estimates, 1876-77.	Actuals, 1876-77.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Rates on Houses and Lands	3,245	2,800	2,871
Taxes on Vehicles and Animals	570	500	517
Registration of Carts	554	500	504
Tolls	1,420	1,200	967
Assignments by Government	54	60	77
Contribution from Local Funds	700	1,000	1,600
Fines and Fees	401	100	111
Endowments	192	190	192
Miscellaneous	391	210	496
Advances Recoverable	389	..	..
Balance brought forward	127	80	376
Total	8,043	6,640	7,711

CHARGES.			
	Actuals, 1875-76.	Estimates, 1876-77.	Actuals, 1876-77.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT I.			
New Works—			
Communications	145	300	..
Buildings	451	..	1,560
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	76	..	152
Repairs—			
Communications	660	300	271
Buildings	375	300	75
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	18	..	90
Tools and Plant	..	10	..
Contributions to Local Funds	..	400	..
GRANT II.			
Results Grants	161	200	253
Inspection (Contribution)	50	50	50
GRANT III.			
Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,771	1,520	1,778
Vaccination	50	50	50
Registration of Births and Deaths	84	90	84
Conservancy	1,869	1,960	1,834
GRANT IV.			
Lighting	587	700	413
Choultries	120	120	120
Avenues and Watering Roads	96	100	75
Miscellaneous	154	..	89
GRANT V.			
Supervision and Management	622	540	547
Advances Recoverable	372	..	..
Refunds	6	..	..
Balances	376	..	270
Total	8,043	6,640	7,711

2. The total receipts from taxation amounted to Rupees 4,859 against an estimate of Rupees 5,000, the falling off being due to a portion of the toll receipts amounting to Rupees 483 being assigned as the Local Fund share. The Local Fund Board raised

their contribution to the hospital by Rupees 600 towards the cost of building a residence for the Medical Officer in charge. The other items of receipt call for no notice in detail. The Vice-President's remarks in paragraph 4 of his report regarding the circumstances under which recoverable advances should appear in the annual statements are correct.

3. The expenditure of the year amounted to Rupees 7,441 against an estimate of Rupees 6,640. The only new work carried out was the erection of a house for the Medical Officer in charge of the Dispensary, which is reported by the President to be a marked improvement to the town.

4. The expenditure on Education exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 92. One new school was established in the town during the year, and three were brought under inspection for the first time. From Statement V it appears that, including the attendance at the Government Taluk School, there were 270 boys attending the different schools, the estimated number of boys of a school-going age for the purposes of elementary education being 583. The number of girls at school rose from seven to ten, but it is apparent that little has as yet been done towards the development of female education.

5. The Dispensary did good work during an unhealthy season, and the Government notice with pleasure the testimony borne by the Vice-President to the aid given by the Hospital Apprentice in charge towards sanitary and conservancy operations generally.

6. The falling off in the number of vaccinations is to be regretted, but it is observed that better results are anticipated under new arrangements already introduced.

(True Extract.)

W. D. J. J. J.
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Erode.
 " 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.

Exd. J. Wright.

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FINANCIAL.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION

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