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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

11th October 1877, No. 2482.

Municipal—Reports.

Read the following paper :—

No. 80. *From A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 27th June* 1877, *No.* 62.

I have the honor to forward the Annual Report on the working of the Ootacamund Municipality during the official year 1876-77. The Report for Coonoor has been called for and will be sent as soon as received.

2. *Receipts.*—The ordinary income of the Municipality, including balance, was Rupees 34,991-2-5, the extraordinary receipts Rupees 1,500, making a total of Rs. 36,491-2-5, against the ordinary income (including balance) of last year Rs. 27,444-4-6 and extraordinary receipts Rs. 15,420, or a total of Rupees 42,864-4-6, showing a net decrease of income available for expenditure of Rupees 6,373-2-1. Excluding the balance and extraordinary receipts, such as loans from Government, the income of the Municipality was Rs. 29,492-0-10 against Rs. 27,313-12-6 last year, or an actual increase of Rupees 2,178-4-4. There has been an increase of receipts during the year under review in every item of rates and taxes, especially in the house and land rate collections ; the increase under this head being over Rupees 3,000. The collection of arrears also shows an increase of more than Rupees 700. The increase generally in the receipts is to be attributed to the greater efficiency of a better-paid office establishment in collecting the taxes, there having been an uncollected balance of only Rupees 366 at the close of the year, of which 80 Rupees has since been collected.

Miscellaneous receipts show a falling off, principally owing to the decrease in the sale of poudrette, and work done for private parties. Regarding the former it is to be attributed to less poudrette having been manufactured owing to want of a shed, to diminished sales to planters owing to the bad season, and to difficulty of procuring cartage. The Municipal Commissioners have discontinued the practice of executing work for private parties, and the receipts are the payments for works undertaken in the previous year, but not fully executed.

3. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure during the year under review having been classified differently in the accounts proper, the following table taken from the abstracts shows the actual expenditure on each head as compared with that of last year. The variations, as compared with the Budget Estimates, are shown in the new classification and are explained in Statement VI-B accompanying the report :—

——	Actual Expenditure in 1875-76.	Expenditure in 1876-77.	Difference.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Grant I	19,151 3 3	11,266 4 4	—7,884 14 11
Do. II	1,209 13 4	1,131 13 4	— 78 0 0
Do. III	7,053 11 11	9,793 8 3	+2,739 12 4
Do. IV	6,525 1 7	10,069 15 10	+3,544 14 3
Do. V including advances recoverable ..	3,425 12 10	3,580 0 2	+ 54 3 4
Total ..	37,365 10 11	35,841 9 11	....
Balance ..	5,498 9 7	649 8 6	....
Grand Total ..	42,864 4 6	36,491 2 5	....

4. The decrease under Grant I is entirely under the head Communications. Owing to the insufficiency of their funds, the Commissioners have not expended any money on New roads, and have curtailed the expenditure on Repairs to the lowest possible limit. Under these two heads there has been a total decrease of Rs. 9,117-5-8. This reduction of expenditure, which was rendered absolutely necessary by the defective state of the water-supply and sanitation generally, and the consequent calls on the Municipal Funds for their improvement, is to be regretted, especially with reference to the allotment for repairs. The roads are far from being in good order and cannot be kept in better order without increase of the maintenance grants. There are 9½ miles of Municipal roads in the town, over most of which there is a considerable traffic, and thirty-two miles of bridle roads. In addition to these roads, Government keep up about seventeen miles of roads, some of which also require thorough overhauling and barrelling.

The money saved from the allotment for Repairs has been expended on Sanitary and Miscellaneous New Works, the expenditure under which shows an increase of Rupees 1,838-9-11. During the year the water-supply has been improved at a cost of Rupees 4,140, a new poudrette shed costing Rupees 540 has been constructed, and Rupees 250 have been expended on timber for the Reclamation.

In accounting for the decreased expenditure under New Works, it is further to be observed that in the preceding year the Municipality borrowed from Government Rupees 15,420 against Rupees 1,500 in the year under report, and also that during the latter year they had to pay Rupees 5,680 on account of loans.

5. UNDER GRANT II, the difference of expenditure is trifling and calls for no remarks.

6. GRANT III.—The Municipality have paid the arrears and current annual contribution to St. Bartholomew's Hospital and have increased their expenditure on conservancy from Rupees 6,711-11-11 to Rupees 8,435-4-8, or an increase of Rupees 1,723-8-4.

7. UNDER GRANT IV the following variations occur:—

"Lighting"—a decreased expenditure of about Rupees 500.
"Purchase of land"—an increase of Rupees 950.
"Watering streets and avenues"—a decrease of Rupees 300.
"Work done for private parties"—a decrease of Rupees 700.
"Manufacture of poudrette"—a decrease of Rupees 580.
"Grass Farm"—a decrease of Rupees 540.

8. UNDER GRANT V the expenditure is the same as last year, the only difference being the distribution between Establishment and Contingencies, owing to the Collection establishment (costing Rupees 298) heretofore charged under Contingencies being included in the permanent establishment. The Manager's salary has also been increased during the year.

9. *Vaccination.*—During the year under review 946 persons were successfully vaccinated against 601 in 1875-76, an increase of 50 per cent. The cost of each successful operation was As. 3-5¼.

10. I beg to call special attention to the remarks in paragraph 32, Clause (13) of the report, and to the application of the Commissioners for a refund of Rupees 162 paid on account of the Police Guards employed in guarding convicts on the Reclamation work. The Municipal Commissioners consider that the work is a Government work and ask for a refund. In any case, considering the totally insufficient income of the Municipality, I trust that Government will excuse the Commissioners from the sum still due by them on this account, about Rupees 1,480.

11. The great want in this Municipality is an efficient system of conservancy, drainage, and water-supply. The Commissioners have done their utmost with the limited means at their disposal to improve the sanitation of the place, but what they have done is only a drop in the ocean and the town is in about as bad a state as it well can be. During the year under report the Commissioners have, out of an available income of Rs. 36,491-2-5, expended on the above objects Rs. 16,069 as detailed below, or 44 per cent. of their income; while if the repayment of debt (Rupees 5,686) is deducted from their available income, their expenditure for the above purposes has been 52 per cent:—

NEW WORKS.

	RS.	A.	P.
Water-supply	4,140	0	0
Poudrette Depôt	540	0	0
Reclamation	252	0	0
Repairs to Latrines	482	2	8
Do. to Water-supply	156	0	0
Water-supply Establishment	794	10	6
Hospitals	1,000	0	0
Vaccination	206	4	0
Conservancy	8,435	4	3
Manufacture of Poudrette	63	0	0
Total	16,069	5	5

12. The Commissioners have already submitted, for the sanction of Government, part of a scheme for the thorough improvement of the water-supply and have applied for a loan of Rupees 20,000. The estimates for the remaining portion of the scheme are ready and will soon be submitted with an application for a further loan of Rupees 1,03,692, which will bring the total cost of the scheme to Rupees 1,23,692. More than this the Commissioners cannot do, as they have pledged themselves to the utmost limit; and all other works of improvement in the town, such as new roads and buildings, and improvement of existing roads, will have to be indefinitely postponed. The drainage scheme remains. It will be most costly and cannot be carried out without Government aid. These matters will, however, more properly form the subject of special reports to Government. I only mention them now to show that the Municipal Commissioners have expended as much as possible, and are willing to expend as much more as they can get on sanitation generally.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. T. KNOX, Esq., Honorary Secretary of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, dated Ootacamund, 15th June 1877, No. 58.

The Municipal Commissioners of Ootacamund have the honor to furnish the usual Annual Report of their Proceedings in the year 1876-77, with the statements and accounts prescribed in G.O., 25th April 1877, No. 1347.

2. The year was characterized throughout by financial pressure. Though the collections under all important heads, except Poudrette, show a considerable increase as compared with the previous year, the undischarged liabilities of that year, amounting to Rupees 4,700, swallowed up all the increase and imposed upon the Commissioners the necessity of exercising a rigid parsimony in all branches of expenditure. Even the Conservancy establishment could not be always maintained in full efficiency, and many important petty works in the way of repairs and maintenance had to await better times; hence it is that this report shows no new works except such as could not possibly be dispensed with or deferred. These were, the new poudrette shed (Rupees 540) which is really of a reproductive nature, and the formation of banks on the Peyton's Hill Road and on part of the new Kotagherry Ghaut Road (Rupees 1,500), both absolutely necessary for the public safety. But payment of the latter charge was deferred until the next year, under the concession granted in G.O., of the 2nd March 1877, No. 913-A. With the exception of this sum and the sum due for repairs of roads by the Public Works Department (Rupees 2,400), and the demand made by Government for payment of the cost of the Police guards required for convicts employed by Government on their Reclamation scheme (Rupees 1481-9-4), a demand which the Commissioners trust may not be enforced, the Municipal Fund had no outstanding liabilities.

3. The house and land rates were collected within the year, except a small balance of Rupees 366.

The carriage and animal tax and the cart-tax were also collected within the year, with very few exceptions. Certain peculations which occurred chiefly in the previous year but which came to

light in this year, have been specially reported to Government and need not now be dwelt upon. They had but a very slight influence upon the receipts of this year.

4. In the month of December the Commissioners made an application to Government for a Public Works Loan of Rupees 20,000, to enable them to improve the northern water-supply channel and construct additional reservoirs. On receipt of the Government order expressing willingness to make the proposed loan, the preparation of the plans and estimates was put in hand in order to the submission of the detailed scheme as directed by Government.

5. Towards the close of the year the Commissioners formed a strong opinion that the question of drainage in Ootacamund should be dealt with as a whole, and that their original intention of devoting a fixed sum yearly to that purpose was not likely to lead to a satisfactory result, and they accordingly resolved to request Government to cause plans and estimates to be prepared. They feel the matter to be of such grave importance that they are ready to go to the utmost limit of their resources to compass their object; but the cost of thoroughly efficient drainage is likely to be very heavy and possibly more than the finances of the town can bear, and bearing this in mind they thought that in the circumstances of Ootacamund, as the seat of Government for half the year, and as the chief civil Sanitarium of Southern India, so close to the Military Sanitarium of Wellington, as to render it probable that the existence of epidemic or endemic disease in Ootacamund would affect that place, the Government would prefer in the public interest to supplement local resources by a grant from the State Revenues in order that the work may be carried out with complete efficiency, rather than leave the future health of the settlement to depend on what might be done by a scheme limited in its scope and efficiency by the necessity of fitting it into the somewhat shallow pockets of Ootacamund.

6. The public health was fairly good for the first six months of the year. A few cases of cholera occurred, but only a few, and they were all imported cases. But afterwards a serious outbreak of small-pox took place which was dealt with by the usual sanitary measures in the affected localities and by increased vaccination, as the people took fright and became anxious for the prophylactic.

7. In the month of March cholera was imported, and, in spite of all the sanitary measures that were adopted under the instructions of the Medical Officer, became epidemic for the first time in twenty-three years. The famine had raised the price of food to a great height, and the want of rain which had caused the famine in other parts, by diminishing the supply of water for some wells were opened up, but the bulk of the people betook themselves to the lake, until warned against it, or to private wells equally polluted.

8. Insufficient and unusually bad water doubtless fully account for the sickliness of the last few months; but it is not improbable that the retention of the waters of the lake at their highest level and so causing subsoil pollution has had a good part in it too. For several years past the waters have been run off to dry the bed of the lake above the Willow Bund, lowering the water level by some four or five feet; this has of course equally drained off the subsoil water in the low land adjoining that part of the lake. But in this year, likely to be from other causes abnormally unhealthy, the subsoil water has been kept as high as possible: it would perhaps be found to be only three or four feet under the floors of the houses along parts of the lower bazaar road. It is known that the presence of subsoil water near the surface is an insanitary condition where subsoil and surface soil are so thoroughly polluted. It is a matter which will require very careful consideration before next dry season comes round, whether or not the level of the lake ought to be permanently lowered for sanitary reasons.

9. The addition to the Breeks' Memorial School, towards which the Municipality largely contributed, has been completed. Rupees 600 is paid annually to this school as a grant-in-aid. It contains elementary classes, but it is principally for the sake of the higher classes that the grant is made. Though the Government do not require the Municipalities to undertake anything beyond elementary education, yet as there is no other means of supplying the want of a Zillah School, a want which until the institution of this school pressed heavily on certain classes in Ootacamund, the Commissioners feel that the support of such a school is a fair charge upon their educational grant.

10. The only changes in among the Members of the Commission were the substitution in the President's place of Mr. Comyn for Mr. Cockerell on the 21st October, and of Mr. Webster for Mr. Comyn on the 13th December 1876.

11. It was found necessary in the beginning of the year to entertain a Manager on an enhanced salary adequate to the responsibilities of his position. Improvements were made in the manner of keeping accounts and of paying and receiving money as recommended in the Auditor's report on the accounts of 1875-76.

12. The roads were under the charge of the District Engineer and were maintained in good order throughout the year; all but very petty works and petty conservancy works and repairs are executed by the Public Works Department with satisfactory results in economy and efficiency.

13. The Auditor's report is annexed. The short remittances are connected with irregularities already alluded to; the deficiencies were made good. From the beginning of July to the end of the year the books and accounts have been kept with just regularity, but with a few trifling errors. Of the two old cheques issued, which were not cashed, one (Rupees 60) has since been cashed, and it has been ascertained that the other (for Rupees 100) came to the hands of the payee and was by him passed to another person, but has not been yet cashed..

14. For the purpose of comparing the actuals of this with the actuals of the previous year a balance sheet in the old form is annexed, but the accounts of the year are submitted, also in the new forms, prescribed in G.O., 25th April 1877, No. 1347. Owing to sub-divisions of the old minor headings it would be impossible without great and needless delay to make up the accounts of 1875-76 in the new forms.

15. *Receipts.*—The gross receipts of the year were Rupees 36,491-2-5½ against an estimate of Rupees 26,000. From this sum deducting Rupees 5,499-1-7½ the opening balance, and Rupees 1,500 borrowed in anticipation of taxes, the ordinary receipts of the year are Rupees 29,492-0-10, being Rupees 3,592 above the Budget Estimate exclusive of the opening balance, and Rupees 2,180 above the actuals of 1875-76. Every important item of receipt, except poudrette, shows an increase whether the estimate of this year or the actuals of the previous year be taken for comparison; this fact may be chiefly attributed to the greater efficiency of a better paid office establishment in collecting the taxes and other Municipal dues.

16. (1). The opening balance consisted of the ordinary Municipal balance of Rupees 1,359-1-7½ and a sum of Rupees 4,140 portion of the loan of Rupees 12,420 drawn in March but not paid over to the District Engineer until April 1876. The regular opening balance was kept so high in order that the establishments and monthly bills might be paid at the proper time.

(2). The Surplus Pound Fund accounts having been made up for fifteen months, the share falling to the Municipality was larger than usual and was Rupees 145-6-9.

17. (3). (*a.*) The rates on houses and lands realized Rupees 14,155-14-7, being Rupees 2,155-14-7 above the estimate and Rupees 3,300 above the preceding actuals. This increase is due to the collection of arrears to the amount of Rupees 1,379 and to the collection of almost the April last, whereof Rupees 80 has since been collected, and the balance was [illegible] the other hand remissions to the amount of Rupees 631 must be set off against the credit, reducing the net proceeds of the tax to Rupees 13,524.

(*b*). The vehicle and animal tax brought in Rupees 3,236-2-3, being Rupees 636 above the estimate and Rupees 750 above the preceding actuals.

(*c*). The tax on registration of carts produced Rupees 470 against an estimate of Rs. 200 and preceding actuals Rupees 294. This is due to greater strictness in registration.

(*d*). The Municipal cart-stand and other fees came to Rupees 1,834-12-0 against an estimate of Rupees 1,600 and previous actuals of Rupees 1,681. The increase is chiefly due to the higher price paid for the right of collecting the cart-stand fees, which was sold by auction for a year for Rupees 1,420 in March 1876, and for Rupees 1,600 in March 1877. Ten months' kists were received at the former rate and two months' kists at the latter; thus the cart-stand fees came to Rupees 1,450, and the other fees to Rupees 384-12-0.

(*e*). *Magisterial Fines, Rupees* 85. There were few prosecutions under the Act and Bye-Laws as the Commissioners, owing to insufficient Sanitary establishment, were not in a position to enforce the penal provisions of the law, and as most of the existing Bye-Laws were found to be illegal.

18. The total receipts under this head were Rupees 19,781-12-10, being Rupees 3,281 above the estimate and Rupees 4,293 above the actuals of the year 1875-76.

19. 7, *Miscellaneous.* (*a*). The rents of the Municipal Market (or rather the right of collecting the market fees) were sold by auction in March 1876 for Rupees 3,350, and ten months' kists at that rate were paid in 1876-77. In March 1877 they were sold for Rupees 3,400, and two months' kists at that rate were paid in advance.

The balance is the rent of a stall in the market-house which was let out for a short time. The estimate was Rupees 3,000, and the preceding actuals 2,766; but these and the cart-stand and slaughter-house rents are taken low, as the results of an auction are so uncertain.

(*b*). The Slaughter-house fees brought in Rupees 2,841-15-4, being ten months' kists at Rupees 2,810 a year, and two months at Rupees 2,860. The balance is private slaughter-house fees. The preceding actuals were Rupees 2,685.

(*c*). Rupees 1,677-14-4 were paid by private persons for scavengering done for them by the Municipal establishments. This item is becoming steadily more and more productive as the public take advantage of the Municipal staff to relieve themselves of the conservancy of their houses and compounds; but, of course, this does not represent profit, because it involves the enter-

tainment of a large establishment. The estimate for the year was Rupees 700 and the previous actuals Rupees 781.

(*d*). The sale of materials brought only Rupees 30-10-0. Old materials were largely used up for various purposes and thus little came to be sold.

(*e*). The sale of poudrette realised only Rupees 1,071-6-6, against an estimate of Rupees 2,000 and preceding actuals of Rupees 2,861. This serious falling off in so important an item of Municipal income is partly owing to the great difficulty of obtaining carts, as the grain traffic made heavy demands on the carriage of the country, and partly to the badness of the season, which led planters to abstain from manuring more than was absolutely necessary.

(*f*). The sale of Measures realized Rupees 54-4-0, about equal to the estimate and preceding actuals Rupees 50 and 58, respectively.

(*g*). Burying dead animals, Rupees 32-4-0. This is really a portion of the private scavengering business, as it consists of payments made by private persons for the removal and disposal of dead animals by the Municipal Establishment.

(*h*). Fines and Savings, Rupees 10-11-8, call for no remark.

(*j*). The grass farm was abandoned at the close of the preceding year; thus there are neither receipts nor charges.

(*k*). Rupees 1,500 was borrowed from the Bank as already stated.

(*l*). Work done for private persons, Rupees 365-3-7. This is a balance due for work undertaken in the preceding year, for which accounts were closed in this year. The Commissioners have ceased to undertake private work unless it be strictly of a sanitary nature.

(*m*). Refunds, Rupees 32-2-6,
(*n*). Avenues,
(*o*). Sale of sweepings, Rs. 21,
} These items call for no remark.

20. Comparing the actuals of this head with the estimate and with preceding actuals, after deduction from the estimate and actuals of the minor heads *k* and *m* in each year, the receipts are Rupees 9,472-10-9 against Rupees 9,170 and Rupees 11,196. Deducting the private work in each year, the actuals are Rupees 9,107 and Rupees 9,417. These sums may be said to represent regular Municipal income. The deficiency in this year is accounted for [illegible]

21. Advances recoverable are only Rupees 60, being part repayment of an advance made to an Inspector to buy a pony.

22. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure and closing balance were Rupees 35,841-9-11 and Rupees 649-8-6¼ respectively, against estimates of Rupees 25,950 and Rupees 50, and preceding actuals of Rupees 37,365 and Rupees 5,499-1-7¼. In order to compare justly the actuals and estimates it is necessary to deduct Rupees 4,140 part of the loan of 1875 and Rupees 4,500 used for repayment of temporary advances, Rupees 500 due to the Hospital in 1875-76, and Rupees 1,200 or thereabouts paid in adjustment of the previous year's liabilities. The ordinary expenditure of the year is thus found to be Rupees 25,500. Deducting from these items the sums of Rupees 4,140 and Rupees 1,500 which set off against equivalent receipts, a sum of Rupees 4,700 had to be found among the different heads of charge. The increase in the receipts provided Rupees 3,592 and the opening balance Rupees 1,250. A rigid economy in all branches of expenditure was necessary to secure the sum required and the closing balance of Rupees 649.

23. GRANT I.—*New Works*—(*a*). *Communications, Rupees* 15.—There was no expenditure beyond this small sum, as there was no funds available for the contemplated work.

(*b*). *Educational, Rupees* 1,000.—This is the balance of the grant-in-aid of the extension of the Breeks' Memorial School. The expenditure this year is Rupees 250 in excess of the allotment as it was last year Rupees 250 below the allotment of Rupees 1,000.

(*c*). *Sanitary and Miscellaneous, Rupees* 5,152-15-0.—Of this Rupees 4,140 went to the water channel for extension and piping a portion, Rupees 540 is the cost of a new shed for manufacture and storing of poudrette, Rupees 252 was paid for timber used for Reclamation purposes, Rupees 115 was paid for grassing and levelling a portion of the Commissioner's Hill, and the balance was the cost of various petty works. The estimate was Rupees 1,000, which is just the expenditure exclusive of loan funds. The preceding actuals were Rupees 3,300; but in this year every expense was avoided as far as possible.

24. (2). *Repairs, Communications, Rupees*, 2,412-13-9.—Rupees 2,207-14-0 for maintenance of roads were paid to the District Engineer who has charge of the important roads. The balance consists of petty repairs to paths not in charge of the District Engineer. The estimate was Rupees 4,000 which was the sum spent in the preceding year when the expected visit of the Prince of Wales led to extra expenditure.

Sanitary and Miscellaneous, Rupees 856-10-2.—This represents the usual repairs and painting of latrines, slaughter-houses, drains, and such like. The only considerable item was Rupees 156

for repairs to the water channels. The charges slightly exceeded the estimate of Rupees 810, but were considerably less than the preceding actuals Rupees 1,340. Had funds been available a quantity of work much needed would have been done in repairs of fences and the like.

25. (3). *Establishment.*—The estimate was Rs. 1,200 and the preceding actuals were Rs. 846, but only Rupees 142-6-8 was spent as this establishment was abolished and only the expenditure of March 1876 payable in April came into account, when the Commissioners resolved to execute all works by the Public Works Department, this establishment was unnecessary.

(4.) *Tools, Plant and Contingencies* came to Rupees 554-5-3 against an estimate of Rupees 500 and previous actuals Rupees 1,355. Rupees 364 was the price of a mowing machine brought out from England, and the rest was for various requirements to keep up stock. As so little work was done this year, there was little demand for tools and plant.

(5.) *Repayment of Public Works Loan, Rupees* 1,132-0-6.—The charge on account of the loan of 1875, being Rupees 621 in repayment of principal and Rupees 511-0-6 for interest. But in the G.O. of the 3rd February 1877, No. 384, on the Budget for 1877-78, the Government has directed that repayment be by half-yearly instalments of Rupees 474-2-4. The payment in the year was therefore excessive by Rupees 183-11-10.

26. The total of this grant is Rupees 11,266-4-4, against an estimate of Rupees 8,760 and actuals of Rupees 19,151 in 1875-76.

27. GRANT II—*Education.*—(1). *Salary Grants, Rupees* 881-13-4.—Monthly grants of Rupees 50 and Rupees 30-2-8 are paid to the Breeks' Memorial School and to the Church Mission School. But as they drew grants for only 11 months there is a slight difference between actuals and estimates.

(2). *Contribution to Local Fund Board.*—Rupees 50 was paid in this year as in last year for the services of a Local Fund Board Inspecting Schoolmaster.

(3). *Results Grants* to the amount of Rupees 200 were paid—Rupees 101-8-0 to the Roman Catholic School and Rupees 98-8-0 to the Church Mission School.

28. The whole grant amounted to Rupees 1,131-13-4, against an estimate of Rupees 1,200 and last year's actuals Rupees 1,209. The Commissioners understand that Mr. Garthwaite, the Inspector of Schools, was fully satisfied with the provision for elementary instruction in Ootacamund when he visited it last year.

29. GRANT III—*Sanitation and Medical Services.*—(1). *Hospitals, Rupees* 1,000.—A double contribution was paid to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as the contribution due in 1875-76 had not been paid.

(2). *Vaccination* cost Rupees 206-4-0, within Rupees 10 of the estimate, and the same as in the year before: 1,005 persons were vaccinated in the year; in 946 successful cases, 57 unsuccessful cases and 2 cases of unknown result. According to these figures 10 per cent. of the whole population of Ootacamund according to the last census was vaccinated. Even allowing for ordinary increase of population and for the extra floating population not in account at the census the proportion is very high. The cost of each case was Annas 3-3⅜ and of each known successful case Annas 3-5¼.

The successful vaccinations were 601 in 1875-76. The entertainment of an extra Vaccinator at the end of the year greatly affected the members this year, and the efforts of the Vaccinators were aided by the fears of the people at the outbreak of small-pox.

(3). *Registration of Births and Deaths* cost Rupees 152, the amount of the estimate, and a little more than in the previous year when it cost Rupees 138. There were 357 births and 416 deaths. The former were at the rate of 35·7 and the latter at the rate of 41·6 per thousand taking the population at 10,000 as we may do seeing that it was 9,982 at the last census and is not likely to have increased much. The figures in 1875-76 were 331 and 225, respectively. The mortality was almost double that of previous year; but it must be kept in mind that while nothing happened to affect the births to any material extent, the influx of famine-stricken men and women from the plains, who only just straggled into the district and were sent to Ootacamund Hospital only to die, or who died on the road and were registered as dying in Ootacamund, added greatly to the mortality, which in an unusually unhealthy season would in any case have been high. Small-pox accounts for 58 deaths and cholera for 24.

30. (4). *Conservancy*—

	RS.	A.	P.
(*a*.) Establishment	5,033	2	7
(*b*.) Sanitary Service	1,756	8	9
(*c*.) Contingencies	1,645	8	11
Total ..	8,435	4	3

The ordinary Conservancy establishment was maintained throughout the year. The sanitary service consists of six iron carts for removal of night soil and offal from the slaughter-houses and eight wooden carts for removal of the town sweepings. Five iron carts and six rubbish carts drawn by ten pairs of bullocks and one horse are almost always in use: of course, the number at any one time in use varies occasionally. No estimate for Sanitary service was made, as the cost of these carts was formerly divided between the contingencies of this head and Repairs to Communications. Thus the actuals of this and the last year cannot be fairly compared, nor can this year's actuals be compared properly with the estimate. These were Rupees 6,360 estimate and Rupees 6,711 actuals in 1875-76. The cost of the sanitary service was materially increased by the famine prices of grains, not foreseen when the Budget was framed If the proceeds of the sales of poudrette and the sums received for private scavengering and burying dead animals be deducted the net cost of this head will be found to be only Rupees 5,655.

31. The whole charges under this head came to Rupees 9,793-8-3, against an estimate of Rupees 7,230 and preceding actuals Rupees 7,053.

32. GRANT IV—*Miscellaneous Municipal purposes.*— (1). *Lighting* cost Rupees 1,568-15-6, against an estimate of Rupees 1,300 and previous actuals Rupees 2,096. In the former year a certain amount of work had been done in putting up lamps. This year no new work was done. The excess above the allotment is due to the sudden enhancement of the price of kerosene oil.

(2). *Choultries* cost Rupees 44, and in 1875-76 Rupees 37-8-0.

(4). The cost of purchasing land was Rupees 1,459-11-6, against an estimate of Rupees 1,400. The similar charge in 1875-76 was Rupees 500. In 1875 the Commissioners bought a piece of land near the Church and a piece on the south side of the lake near the Willow Bund. Promissory Notes bearing 6 per cent. interest were given to the sellers in the former case for Rupees 750, in latter for Rupees 1,250. The former has been paid off with interest, and one year's interest on the latter and an instalment of Rupees 600 have been paid. The balance is due in the current year.

(5). *Purchase of Materials, Rupees* 553-3-7.—Of this Rupees 546-4-7 is the price of Terra-cotta goods imported from England for ornamentation. There was no allotment.

(6). *Avenues.*—Rupees 97-13-9 was spent in maintenance of trees already planted, Rs. 388 [illegible] been spent the year before. The Commissioners restricting themselves to maintenance [illegible]ved the [illegible]ce of the allotment Rupees 490.

(7). *Repayment of Bank Loans.*—This item consists of Rupees 4,500 for repayment of capital, and Rupees 54-11-0 the interest on the Rupees 1,500 borrowed this year.

(8). *Water Course.*—Rupees 807-12-0, against an estimate of Rupees 900 and preceding actuals Rupees 790. It is the cost of watching and regulating the water channels. It ought to be included in Grant I, under the proper minor heads.

(9). Work done for private persons cost Rupees 655-4-6 in completion of work undertaken in 1875-76.

(10). The manufacture of poudrette cost Rupees 63, against an estimate of Rupees 450 and preceding actuals Rupees 598; the latter sum consisted chiefly of commission on sales paid to the Nuisance Inspector. His salary was consolidated and thus no charge appears on this account. The manufacture ceased for several months for want of a shed.

(11). Manufacture of Measures Rupees 103-8-0, against an estimate of Rupees 80 and previous actuals Rupees 61. A stock of large measures was made up, but no demand appeared for ther[illegible]

[illegible]). *Police Guards, Rupees* 162.—A demand for payment of guards for gangs of convicts was made [illegible]der G.Os., 25th August, No. 1865, and 14th September, No. 2004 of 1875, the Government being [illegible]er the impression that certain convicts were supplied to the Municipality, whereas they [illegible]e in fact employed on the Reclamation work undertaken by the Government. The Commissioners hope for a refund of this sum. A further sum of Rupees 1,481-9-4 is claimed.

33. The expenditure under this grant thus stands at Rupees 10,069-15-10, against an estimate of Rupees 6,310 and preceding actuals Rupees 6,525. If the repayment of the Bank loan be deducted, the actual expenditure is found to be only Rupees 5,500.

34. GRANT V—*Offices and Management.*—The expenditure was Rupees 2,698-4-8, against an estimate of Rupees 2,400 and preceding actuals Rupees 2,616. It includes the Auditor's fee Rupees 150 and the cost of collecting the revenues. The increase is partly due to the entertainment of a Manager on higher pay.

35. Refunds, Rupees 631-4-6, are the sums paid to house-owners as remissions on account of houses vacant in the preceding year. The item has not appeared in previous accounts as it had been the practice to deduct from current rates any remission that might be due for the preceding year and only credit the balance, advances recoverable Rupees 250. The greater part of this will not be recovered as it was an advance to a Nuisance Inspector who has since died, to enable him to buy a pony.

36. The closing balance was Rupees 649-8-6¼.

37. In explanation of the note to Statement II, new form, it has to be stated that the outstanding liabilities, amounting to Rupees 4,630, consist of Rupees 1,500, due to the Public Works Department for new works, and Rupees 2,400 due to the same department for repairs of roads; Rupees 650 the balance of a Promissory note for purchase of land, and Rupees 80 the grants to the Breeks' School and Church Mission School for February, which were not drawn in March. The Commissioners understand this note not to refer to Public Works Loans or to current charges paid in each month on account of the preceding month, but only to debts which ought to have been but have not been discharged. If the Government insist on payment of the Police has sent in bills for guards where the convicts were not employed on the Reclamation work, so the demand will have to be revised in any case. Police guards the liabilities will be increased by about Rupees 1,200. The Superintendent of

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Surgeon-Major H. ADAM, Medical Officer, South District, Ootacamund, to the Secretary, Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, dated 20th January 1877, No. 5.

I have the honor to submit my report upon the health of Ootacamund during the past Calendar year 1876, so far as it comes under my observation in the South District under my charge. It can be designated as only fairly good, for at various times during the year there occurred an unusual amount of sickness, which if not due to local causes, appeared to be influenced by a specific agency.

2. Chest complaints, which in former years have usually been so greatly in excess, have during the past annual period been comparatively few in number, but bowel affections have shown in large proportion among natives in the town, as well as among native prisoners in the District Jail. Out of an average daily strength of 128 native prisoners there presented the high number of thirty cases of diarrhœa and five of dysentery, two deaths resulting from each of these diseases. There occurred also in March last three cases of choleraic diarrhœa among prisoners, besides in a warder who was similarly affected. These all recovered from the immediate choleraic symptoms which presented, but one died nine days after having been first taken ill from liver affection, a natural sequel of the disease. Previous to the appearance of these cases in the jail, there arriv[illegible] at the Post Office of the station, (and died there) a Postmaster, in the collapse stage of [illegible] cholera, from which he had suffered all the way while travelling up the ghaut [illegible]retapolliem, where he was said to have buried a child who died there from the disease, and where he himself may have contracted it. No similar cases appeared among inhabitants of the station, European or Native.

3. Again, there occurred in the beginning of October last some cases of cholera at the half-way house between this and Coonoor, and naturally these caused for a time considerable anxiety. It appears that a dhoby from Ootacamund went to visit some relations residing in a village near Coimbatore, where, I believe, cholera at the time presented, and returning with the disease upon him, he rested for a time in a house near the half-way chuttrum. There, a few days subsequently, five cases in all of cholera appeared, and of these four were fatal; the dhoby was brought on by his friends to their house at Kandal where he died shortly after arrival, but knowledge of his death was not had until a week after it occurred. No case resulted from this one of the dhoby, either in Kandal or Ootacamund. Sanitary measures had been fully carried out at Kandal under direction of the Commissioner, and an Hospital Assistant posted at the half-way house did all that was necessary there.

4. There had appeared during some months of the year and especially preceding and during the beginning of the south-west monsoon rains, cases of intermittent fever among the coolies working upon estates in the district, which Surgeon-Major Cleveland was sent to inspect and report upon. These seemed much to have been influenced by the unseasonable state of the south-west monsoon, as well as scarcity of rainfall and destitution; the want of the ordinary necessaries of life may have increased the liability of disease of those exposed to climatic influences. Here in Ootacamund there has not shown the same amount of illness, but it cannot be concealed that the scarcity and high price of grain supplies may tend to the prevalence of sickness among the poorer classes of the community.

5. It requires to be noted that, in a sanitary point of view, Ootacamund is not now in that perfect state of cleanliness which will continue as heretofore almost to resist the establishment in our midst of severe epidemic disease. As shown above, the appearance of two cases of cholera at two different seasons of the year, failed to be followed by others of a like contagious or at least dangerous character, but occasionally in different parts of the town there do show cases of a suspiciously low type of remittent fever, which it is to be feared may have been mainly influenced by the objectionable state of the drains and latrines throughout the station. All through the town the same fault is to be found, and the imperative necessity exists for immediately carrying

out more thorough sanitary measures; the toties and scavengers require to be more kept up to their work than they are; more carts, in my opinion, are necessary for the more thorough removal to a distance of all the ordure of the town; the numerous privies in almost every compound of the station should either be every few days emptied, or their being kept in a satisfactory state of cleanliness looked to, and it is much to be wished that means were at the disposal of the Municipality for the provision of a better system of drainage. The provision of a better water-supply is necessary, the scarcity during the past few months has been much felt every where and the fear of continued drought cannot but cause anxiety; but it is to be hoped that soon a supply will be led into the station from the adjacent reservoirs and slopes of the hills around, which will remove the necessity of many obtaining what they require from the lake. Much could be written upon the now objectionable state of this sheet of water into which unfortunately as yet all the filth and impurities of the town are washed, and it is much to be desired that the drainage could be laid so as completely to carry away all contamination from what besides being ornamental might also be useful and sanitary; and while remarking upon the lake, I would only add in conclusion, that though, strange to say, escape of water from the lake for the purpose of carrying out the full scheme of reclamation proposed has not in former years perceptibly affected the health of inhabitants in the lower town, future exposure of the bed of the lake is most likely to lead to some outbreak of disease among those living in the immediate vicinity of the lake.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

REPORT on the Sanitary condition of Ootacamund for the Year 1876.

1. *General Observations.*—The general health of the population of Ootacamund has been during the past year fairly good. Whooping-cough, which was so prevalent during the first-half of the previous year, was neither so fatal or severe. The mortality registered during the year within Municipal limits amounted to 363. The mortality from the principal classes of diseases being as follows:—Fevers 131, diarrhœa 43, and bronchitis 19. From small-pox there were 12 deaths, and 8 from dysentery.

The rain-fall for the year has been only 25·16 inches, that of the year 1875 being 42·35 inches, 1874 being 49·45 inches.

2. [illegible]—There has been no epidemics during the year. Several cases of small-pox have occurred in the bazaar during the latter months of the year, 12 of which have proved fatal.

3. *Vaccination.*—The same agency is at work this as during the former year; 704 cases have been vaccinated by the Municipal Vaccinator, of which 663 proved successful, and the Medical Subordinates vaccinated 44 cases, of which all were successful.

4. *Sanitation.*—In reporting on the sanitary condition of Ootacamund during the past year, I am sorry to be obliged to bring some of the defects referred to in last Annual Report again prominently to notice, but before doing so it might appear ungracious if I did not, in the first place, allude to the generally efficient working of the Municipality.

The bazaars and public thoroughfares have been kept clean. The numerous latrines were kept in good working order. The lighting and repair of the public roads is well attended to, and a new system has been introduced of removing all night-soil from the latrines to a distance outside the Municipal limits, thus doing away with the poudrette depôt in the heart of the town.

During the year the Reclamation scheme, which had for its object the removal of the swampy grounds lying above the upper lake, a work which has involved the lowering of the lake for several successive years past, has at length sufficiently advanced to admit of its completion without again having recourse to drawing off the waters of the lake.

I observe also that lately an effort has been made to augment the water-supply, and with this object in view the Municipal Commissioners have resolved to raise a loan of Rupees 20,000 for the purpose of extending the reservoir system for the storage of water intended for distribution by the several public water channels.

I would now remark on such defects as admit of a remedy, but which, although brought to notice in my last Annual Report, have not as yet had such attention paid to them as their importance seems to demand. I refer to the insanitary condition of the Native town owing to imperfect drainage, to the ultimate disposal of its sewage, and to the insanitary condition of most of the compounds attached to the residences of Europeans.

Owing to the deficient rain-fall experienced during the two monsoons, the supply of water for the town has been so reduced that the concentrated town sewage has for the most part percolated into the soil, the rest simply flowing to the lower part of the town, where it has remained in a stagnant condition, hardly any of it, in the present dry season, making its exit in the lake. Did a suitable drainage system exist, this source of unhealthiness about the native dwellings would be removed, at any rate, to some little distance when its danger might be diminished.

In my last Annual Report I strongly advocated the adoption of a thorough system of drainage for the Native town, and the disposal of the town sewage in some other way than (as is usually the case) by allowing it to flow into the lake.

As to the sanitary condition of most of the compounds attached to European residences, there is nothing to add to what is already recorded in my last Annual Report, and the same conditions may now be found which were then so strongly animadverted upon.

I would beg to draw attention to the increasing and populous portion of Ootacamund called Mettoocherry. This village is situated on the eastern slope of the hill on which the Cathedral stands. The huts here erected are mostly detached and placed irregularly on the side of the hill. As this village is increasing in size rapidly, sooner or later the Commissioners will have to adopt some system of drainage. I would therefore recommend that, in all future applications for permission to erect huts, &c., in this part of the town, the suitability of the site, with reference to an eventual system of drainage, which might at once be planned, should be taken into consideration before the required permission be granted.

In my last Annual Report I advocated the systematic piping of all open water channels intended for the conveyance and distribution of water from the reservoirs. The cost of a work of such magnitude would of course be very great, but for the present it would suffice were only such portions of the channel protected as are most liable to pollution, say, from above the cemetery in the north channel, and from Elk Hill Cottage on the south channel.

I would also beg to point out the rapid development of a thick undergrowth in several places within the Municipal limits, notably on the northern slope of the hill on which the Jail stands. A personal inspection of this place has revealed a most undesirable state of affairs, and I would invite the attention of the Commissioners to its insanitary state.

In consequence of the failure of both monsoons during the past year, the quantity of water stored in the reservoirs is so small, as to be wholly inadequate for the wants of the station during the approaching dry season, and it is probable that the whole will be expended long before the rainy season of June next; added to this many of the springs on the western side of Ootacamund have, even at this early period, already ceased to flow. This state of affairs is altogether exceptional, and it is probable that before long many other springs will also dry up.

In view of an extreme scarcity of water which will doubtless shortly be experienced, I lately addressed the Commissioners on the subject, and pointed out the importance of constructing public wells in suitable places, the most desirable amongst which appeared to be the low ground between Charing Cross and the Willow Bund to the north of the stream and upper lake. Should this suggestion be adopted, the village of Kandal might be added to the list of places where wells might with advantage be constructed.

OOTACAMUND, *1st January* 1877.

(Signed) G. E. WHITTON, M. D., Surgeon-Major, *Medical Officer, North District, Nilgiris.*

No. 81. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1877, No. 2482.

The transactions of the Ootacamund Municipality during 1876-77 are compared in the annexed abstract with the estimates for that year and with the actuals of 1875-76:—

RECEIPTS.

	Actuals, 1875-76.	Estimates, 1876-77.	Actuals, 1876-77.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Rates on Houses and Lands	10,852	12,000	14,156
Taxes on Vehicles and Animals	2,485	2,600	3,236
Registration of Carts	294	200	470
Licenses	1,682	1,600	1,835
Assignments by Government	..	100	14
Fines and Fees	176	100	9
Miscellaneous	11,195	9,170	9,49
Loans	15,420	..	*1,500
Advances Recoverable	630	130	60
Balance brought forward	130	100	5,499
Total	42,864	26,000	36,491

* Bank loan.

	Actuals, 1875-76.	Estimates, 1876-77.	Actuals, 1876-77.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT I. CHARGES.			
New Works—			
Communications	8,146	500	15
Buildings	750	750	1,540
Sanitary and Miscellaneous ..	3,313	1,000	4,613
Repairs—			
Communications	3,399	4,000	2,413
Buildings	..	..	482
Sanitary and Miscellaneous ..	1,340	810	374
Establishment	847	1,200	142
Tools and Plant	1,355	500	567
GRANT II.			
Salary Grants	1,160	960	882
Results Grants	..	190	200
Inspection (Contribution)	50	50	50
GRANT III.			
Hospitals and Dispensaries	..	500	1,000
Vaccination	204	220	206
Registration of Births and Deaths ..	138	150	152
Conservancy	6,712	6,360	9,230
GRANT IV.			
Lighting	2,096	1,300	1,569
Markets	..	60	..
Choultries	40	..	44
Avenues and Watering Roads. . ..	389	490	98
Miscellaneous	3,910	4,460	2,997
GRANT V.			
Supervision and Management ..	2,617	2,400	2,698
Repayment of Debt	..	..	†5,121
Interest on Debt	90	..	‡566
Advances Recoverable	808	50	250
Refunds	1	..	632
Balances	5,499	50	650
Total ..	42,864	26,000	36,491

2. Exclusive of balances and receipts from loans, the income of the Municipality amounted to Rupees 29,492, or Rupees 3,592 in excess of the estimates, and Rupees 2,178 in excess of the actuals of the preceding year, an increase being observable in almost every item of revenue. Under House-tax, the current collections exceeded the estimate by Rupees 776, and Rupees 366 remained to be collected at the close of the year. The arrear demand was reduced from Rupees 2,469 to Rupees 50, but this was effected, in part, by writing off as irrecoverable long outstanding sums aggregating Rupees 1,039. The only marked decrease was in the receipts from the sale of poudrette which is accounted for by the planters having been deterred from purchasing by the badness of the season.

3. The charges under all heads amounted to Rupees 35,841 against an allotment of Rupees 25,950. By deducting the expenditure on the water-supply channel, the repayment of money borrowed within the year, and a sum of Rupees 4,700 paid in adjustment of liabilities incurred during the preceding year, the Vice-President estimates the ordinary expenditure of the year 1876-77 at Rupees 25,500. The payment of Rupees 4,700 on account of charges incurred during 1875-76 is said by the Vice-President, in paragraph 2 of his report, to have swallowed up all the increase in the receipts, and to have imposed upon the Commissioners the necessity of exercising a rigid parsimony in all branches of expenditure. The Government observe, however, that the sum of Rupees 4,700 alluded to is almost counterbalanced by

† Includes Bank loan of Rs. 4,500. ‡ Includes interest on Bank loan of Rs. 55.

undischarged liabilities aggregating Rupees 4,630 at the close of the year under re to meet which there was a balance in hand of Rupees 679 only.

4. The most important item of Public Works expenditure, was an ou Rupees 4,140 on the Water-Supply Project. A sum of Rupees 540 was spe poudrette shed which is looked upon as a reproductive work. Including Rupees 2,400 still due to the Public Works Department, Rupees 4,813 were on the repair and maintenance of roads. From Statement II-A, it appears cost of Public Works Supervision has been calculated at 15 per cent. instead per cent., as directed in G.O., dated 5th April 1876, No. 898, Public Works ment, communicated with G.O., Financial Department, dated 28th April 1876, Explanation should be submitted. The ordinary Conservancy Establishment was tained during the year, but the cost is reported to have been materially increase the famine prices of grain. The Government note that the Medical Officer of the So District was of opinion that the toties and scavengers required to be better kept up their work. The progress made in Vaccination was satisfactory, the number of opera tions having risen from 601 to 946 without any increase in the cost.

5. The other items of expenditure call for no remark in detail. The object of the note to Statement II has been rightly understood by the Commissioners. The charges in connection with the establishment employed in regulating the distribution of water should be debited to Conservancy, and not to Public Works.

6. Separate orders will be passed on the subject referred to in paragraph 10 of the President's letter.

(True Extract.)

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund.
" Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Board of Revenue.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Accountant-General.
" President of the Local Fund Board, Nilgiris.

Exd. J. Wright.

Revenue Depart

No 4512

Govt. of [1877] Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Ootacamund

&c., &c.,

Dated October, 11th.

Issued — 24

Recd. 24—do Instr.

G.O., 11th October 1877, No. 2482.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 80-81.

...l—Reports.—Annual Report of t...
...nality for 1876-77, reviewed.

No 6194

Lodged

Mr. B.