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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	6429	Press.
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

15th November 1877, No. 2701.

Municipal—Report.

Read the following papers:—

No. 83. From A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting President of the Coonoor Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 25th September 1877, No. 83.

I have the honor to forward the annual report on the working of the Coonoor Municipality for the official year ending 31st March 1877, together with the usual statements.

2. The receipts including balance amounted to Rupees 21,308 against a budget estimate of Rupees 22,846. The deficiency is principally to be attributed to the estimated balance at the commencement of the year being in excess of the actuals. There has been an increase under most items of receipts. The Commissioners have abandoned the hope that the state of their finances would allow them to improve the drainage and water-supply out of current income, but they are about to take up the question and to carry out the necessary improvements by loan funds.

3. The expenditure amounted to Rupees 20,721 against an estimate of Rupees 19,770; of this sum Rupees 3,826, or about 17½ per cent. of the expenditure, was devoted to sanitation. A balance of Rupees 637 was carried to credit of the current year's accounts.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. A. ANDREWS, Esq., Vice-President of the Coonoor Municipal Commission, to A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting President of the Coonoor Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, dated Coonoor, 31st August 1877, No. 302.

I have the honor to enclose statements of receipts and expenditure for the official year 1876-77 and returns made out in the form prescribed lately by Government.

Copies are being sent to the District Gazette for publication, and an extract of the educational portion is sent to the Director of Public Instruction.

Explanations of variations being given in the comparative statements, it only remains to offer the following

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Financial.—The financial condition of the Municipality is so far satisfactory that a balance to credit of Rupees 637 has been carried forward to the next year. This, however, falls so very far short of the estimated balance, viz., Rupees 3,076, that I feel a brief explanation of the causes of the difference between the estimate and the actuals is rendered necessary.

The balance estimated to be taken forward from 1875-76 was Rupees 2,734, the actual Rupees 1,623; this reduction was owing to the large expenditure on conservancy, repairs of roads, &c., which do not appear to have been contemplated when the budget was prepared, but which the state of the town rendered absolutely necessary. The receipts for 1876-77, excluding balance, were over-estimated by Rupees 377, the falling off being due to receipts under

"Licenses" and "Surplus Pound Fund" and the item of "Advances recovered," and the expenditure was under-estimated by Rupees 951, the increase being caused by a special grant to the Civil Dispensary for famine patients, the cost of *manufacturing measures*, the increased cost of *lighting*, interest on market loan which was short-estimated, and increase in *advances*, but chiefly by urgently-required expenditure under *Conservancy*, *Establishment*, and *Sanitary Services*. The decrease of sundry items under estimate was met by a corresponding decrease in the balance brought forward from the previous year, which was reduced by a sum of .. Rs. 1,111

Add receipts for 1876-77 over-estimated by	Rs. 1,111
" expenditure for 1876-77 under-estimated by	377
	951
	2,439

Estimated Balance 1876-77	Rs. 3,076
Deduct	2,439
Balance on 31st March 1877	637

In the report for last year I expressed a hope that the favorable state of our balances would enable us before long to deal with the much-needed drainage and water-supply; that hope I no longer entertain. There are so many small works and requirements necessary for the health and comfort of the inhabitants and for the improvement of the place that there is sufficient employment for the whole of the current receipts which I consider rightly expended for the benefit of those who contribute them, and that permanent expensive works, which will benefit those who come after, should be met by a loan, so that the burden may not fall entirely upon the present residents.

Roads.—The principal works undertaken during the year have been, reducing the gradients, straightening and widening the roads from the Church to Fern Hill bridge and from the Library to Hannyngton's Tope. The expenditure on these roads has been Rupees 2,435, part of which will come into the next year's account.

Besides these, repairs to several bridle-paths have been made, the wall, 907 feet long on the principal bridle-path, leading from the Coonoor Bridge to the Church, was rebuilt and pointed with chunam, a turf bank erected on the lower side of Hunter's Road, a stone-wall erected on a dangerous part of Tiger Hill Road, the gradients and turns of the figure-of-8 road, and the road from Coonoor to "Woodhouselee" (nearly three miles in length) were improved.

Conservancy.—Two new latrines have been erected—one near Glenview Hotel, the other at the slaughter-house, the construction of No. 1 latrine has been improved, and a corrugated iron shed in the bandy-stand has been converted into a latrine for the convenience of Europeans visiting the market. The conservancy of most of the private latrines has been undertaken, an increase of the establishment having been made for this purpose, which is repaid by the fees received. An additional night-soil cart for one bullock to clean the small latrines and another rubbish cart were purchased and have been in work for some months.

Market.—Six tiled sheds for dealers, one for beef butchers, and one for cooking have been added to the market. The estimated cost of these was Rupees 7,248, but the Commissioners, finding Rupees 5,248 sufficient, refunded, with the sanction of Government, Rupees 2,000 of the loan contracted.

Bungalow.—The travellers' bungalow, which was useless and falling into ruins, has been much improved and made habitable for poor Europeans and East Indians, by whom it is much used.

Water-supply and Drainage.—In consequence of the long-continued drought the water-supply has been very deficient and the necessity for carrying the water in pipes not only for the purpose of preserving it from pollution, but also to prevent loss by soakage and evaporation, becomes every day more obvious, especially as the town is increasing and the demand consequently becoming greater. The drainage is almost entirely natural; what made drains there are built in a rough primitive style, not suitable for the purpose for which they are employed.

These two subjects, which are the most important which the Commissioners have to deal with, are considered under one head, as their reconstruction should go hand in hand. The past sickly season has demonstrated the necessity for pure water and good drainage, without which the health of the inhabitants must always suffer, but the expenditure required is far beyond what the Municipality are ever likely to be able to afford out of their income, and the Commissioners trust that Government will assist them with a loan on favorable terms.

This station has peculiar claims to such assistance, being one of the principal sanatoria to which Europeans from all parts of India, and especially officers of Government with their families, resort for the purpose of recruiting their health.

Extension of the Town.—The town is rapidly extending, and the number of houses in the European quarter is gradually increasing. During the year 4 European and 31 Native houses were erected. This, as mentioned before, creates an increased demand for water which it is difficult to supply. There are no tanks or wells, and the river-water is unfit for use, but there is every facility for bringing pure spring water to the door of every house, and I trust the means may be found for carrying out an object so necessary and desirable.

Health and Sanitation.—The public health has been exceedingly bad. Cholera, small-pox, measles, chicken-pox, dysentery, and malarious fever have been prevalent, while the condition of the working classes has so deteriorated from insufficient food that the mortality has been great. It is hardly necessary to say that this unhealthiness is due to general and not local causes. The town has been kept scrupulously clean, all undergrowth constantly removed, nuisances prevented, and every attention paid to sanitation in all its branches. The number of successful cases of vaccination were increased by 200. The registration return (see table) shows a slight decrease in births and a large increase in deaths; the latter is due in a great measure to the number of travellers and villagers who come into the town in search of employment or for food or treatment.

Education.—In reviewing the budget of this Municipality for 1876-77, Government expressed an opinion that the grant for education was inadequate. The Commissioners have in consequence raised the grant in their budget for 1877-78 from Rupees 250 to Rupees 800, but the position with respect to education remains the same.

The Inspector of Schools, who has lately been appointed a member of the Commission, was requested to afford his advice as to how the larger grant may be made available in extending the educational operations in the year 1877-78, and any action that may be taken on his recommendation will come into the annual report for the current year.

A copy of Mr. Garthwaite's reply is, however, appended hereto. The Commissioners will take into immediate consideration the suggestions therein contained.

Dispensary.—Remarks upon this institution have hitherto been included in the report under the erroneous impression that it was a Municipal Establishment; but, as the institution is entirely controlled by Government and reports are sent in to the Head of the Medical Department (the Municipality simply contributing the annual donation of Rupees 400 for contingencies) they will be discontinued in this report.

Establishment, which consisted of a Manager, an Inspector, a Bill Collector, a Conservancy peon, two Lamplighters, a Water-peon, four Cart-drivers, a Grass-cutter, and 19 Sweepers, has been increased by one extra Water-peon (temporary) and 8 Sweepers owing to the greater necessity for thorough conservancy and sanitation.

Mr. Wallace remains Manager and continues to give satisfaction. His pay has been increased, as proposed, to Rs. 85 with free quarters.

Inspector McCarthy, who has obtained a post in the Ootacamund Municipality, was succeeded by Serjeant Faux, who is an intelligent, hard-working man, and has performed his duties in a very satisfactory manner during the short time he has been employed.

The rest of the establishment perform their duties with diligence and regularity.

Auditor's Report.—The accounts during the year have been frequently scrutinized by the Commissioners and are now kept in a systematic manner, which renders the audit less difficult, and the chance of any misappropriation less. The enclosed report, it is hoped, will be considered satisfactory.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From L. GARTHWAITE, Esq., Inspector of Schools, Sixth Division, to the Vice-President of the Coonoor Municipal Commission, dated Coimbatore, 17th August 1877, No. 992.

With reference to your letter, No. 292, dated 11th August 1877, I have the honor to advise that advertisement be made in the Nilgiri and Coimbatore District Gazettes for Vernacular Schoolmasters, capable of teaching arithmetic and Tamil reading and writing, to be in charge of private pial schools on the results system. The stipends to be from Rupees 5 to Rupees 10 at the rate of Rupees 1-4-0 for every five scholars in regular attendance, with also an annual result grant at the Government rates. No stipend should be given in a school where there are less than twenty scholars.

It should be at the discretion of the Commissioners whether they will provide buildings, but no building will be required beyond sheds of an inexpensive character. No furniture will be required beyond a blackboard.

No. 84. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1877, No. 2701.

The receipts and expenditure of the Coonoor Municipality for 1876-77 are compared in the annexed abstracts with the estimates for the same year and the actuals of the preceding year:—

RECEIPTS.			
	Actuals, 1876-77.	Estimates, 1876-77.	Actuals, 1876-77.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Opening Balance brought forward	1,450	2,734	1,693
Rates on Houses and Lands	2,946	3,000	3,133
Taxes on Vehicles and Animals	971	800	1,015
Registration of Carts	52	60	84
Licenses	76	170	47
Assignments by Government	..	60	20
Contribution from Local Funds	1,815	1,500	..
Fines and Fees	396	300	602
Miscellaneous	7,006	6,374	7,395
Loan	..	7,248	7,248
Advances Recoverable	152	600	191
Total ..	14,864	22,846	21,358
CHARGES.			
	Actuals, 1876-77.	Estimates, 1876-77.	Actuals, 1876-77.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT I.			
New Works—			
Communications	78	500	..
Buildings	..	7,248	4,966
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	..	500	..
Repairs—			
Communications	2,400	2,500	2,386
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	295	600	890
Establishment	102	..	..
Tools and Plant	183	160	46
GRANT II.			
Results Grants	..	..	..
Inspection (Contribution)	164	200	104
GRANT III.			
Hospitals and Dispensaries	400	400	450
Vaccination	195	180	189
Registration of Births and Deaths	65	60	62
Conservancy	4,900	3,186	5,430
GRANT IV.			
Lighting	619	666	769
Markets	289	290	56
Choultries	81	..	..
Avenues and Watering Roads	21	100	43
Miscellaneous	610	886	113
GRANT V.			
Supervision and Management	1,710	1,844	1,997
Repayment of Debt	..	..	2,620
Advances Recoverable	805	100	264
Refunds	274	300	286
Balances	1,623	3,076	637
Total ..	14,864	22,846	21,358

2. Excluding the opening balances the receipts for the year fell short of the estimates by Rupees 377, but the estimates included a contribution of Rupees 1,500 from Local Funds, which was subsequently disallowed in consideration of Government

undertaking the upkeep of the through lines of road. Under almost every other head of revenue there was an increase, and Statement IV shows that the dues were realized with commendable punctuality.

3. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rupees 29,721 against an estimate of Rupees 19,770. Of this amount Rupees 8,288, or 38.8 per cent. of the available income, were spent on Public Works. Six tiled sheds were added to the market, and Rupees 2,386 were laid out in improving the roads within the town. As in previous years little was done by the Commissioners for the extension of education, but the Government learn with pleasure that the Inspector of Schools has been consulted on the subject since the close of the year, and it is proposed to take immediate action on his suggestions.

4. The usual notice of the working of the Dispensary has been discontinued in the present report on the ground that the institution is under Government control, the Municipality simply contributing an annual donation. In consideration of this annual donation, however, the Commissioners are entitled to be kept informed of the progress of the institution, and a short notice of the year's operations finds a fitting place in the Municipal Report.

5. The public health during the year was exceedingly bad, but as Rupees 5,430 were spent on conservancy, and the Vice-President is able to report that the town was kept scrupulously clean and every attention paid to sanitation in all its branches, he is no doubt correct in his opinion that the prevalence of disease was due to general and not local causes. The death-rate was swelled by the unusual influx of immigrant paupers.

6. The Auditor's report shows a very great improvement in the municipal accounts, and the returns submitted to Government are generally correct, the only apparent discrepancy being that the lighting establishment is shown in Statement II as costing Rupees 234, while Rupees 216 are shown in Statement II-A.

(True Extract.)

J. H. H. H.
Under Secy. to Govt.

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

Exd. J. W. Fischer and A. F. Goodall.

