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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1002	Press.
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Dated	13.3.1879	197.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

18th February 1879, No. 302.

Municipal Budgets.

Read the following papers:—

No. 163. *From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavari District, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cocanada, 21st January 1879, No. 4.*

I have the honor to forward the budget estimates for the Cocanada Municipality for the year 1879-80.

2. Of the former items of receipts the tolls form the only one in which any noticeable alteration occurs; for the present year they were sold for Rupees 10,000, but for the next year the Commissioners think they are not likely to bring in more than Rupees 7,500, of which Rupees 2,500 will have to be paid to the Local Fund Board.

3. After a long discussion the Commissioners resolved to ask Government to introduce the profession-tax; this tax they estimate will bring in about Rupees 4,000. I cannot help thinking it might bring in more, but, considering it is so like the license-tax, it is very probable that, in deciding appeals against the profession-tax, the Commissioners will have difficulty in separating the two in their minds, and may remit the tax on the ground of poverty oftener than is absolutely necessary.

4. The Police will cost nearly Rupees 6,000, and of this Rupees 3,000 is the part to be paid by the Municipality.

5. The expenditure under Education has been somewhat reduced owing chiefly to the managers of the Baptist Mission School not wishing to receive any grant as before. The other heads generally have been slightly reduced to meet requirements under Grant I. The heavy rains we have had lately have necessitated considerable repairs to the roads and buildings, which must be carried out. The extension of a new road it is also determined to go on with to relieve the bazaar and other roads of the very heavy traffic which they now have to carry.

6. One of the items under Grant I requires special notice—the construction of a clock-tower, towards which the Commissioners propose to give Rupees 1,000. The clock and the tower are expected to cost altogether Rupees 4,000; of this a committee have raised funds to the extent of Rupees 2,000, and 500 Rupees more have been promised, and I do not expect there will be any difficulty in raising the remaining Rupees 500 by private subscription.

7. This matter was discussed at great length, another proposal having been made that the Rupees 1,000 should be expended in removing a number of huts from near the town to a greater distance. On behalf of the latter proposal it was urged that these huts were a nuisance, that it was impossible to keep the space near them clean; and that Government had already sanctioned their removal; against it it was urged that the clock was of very great importance, that we should obtain it at a quarter of its actual cost, and that Rupees 1,000 were utterly insufficient to pay compensation to the people whose houses were removed. It would certainly be useless to remove some without removing all, and the necessity of removing them from this place would apply also to prevent their being built in any other place near the town, so that the amount of compensation we should have to give them must be increased to cover the hardship they would be put to in having to come so far to their daily work. The Commissioners preferred the clock-tower.

8. The Commissioners have not made any mention of the license-tax. It is expected that this will bring in Rupees 2,000, which will all be paid to Government. What Government will allow for the expenses of collection is not yet known; the Commissioners proposed five per cent.; this, whatever it may be, will have to be added to the receipts; the Commissioners have added a clerk to their establishment for this business.

No. 164. *From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 7th February 1879, No. 241.*

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that the allotment made for conservancy in the Budget Estimate for 1879-80 of the Cocanada Municipality amounts to Rupees 5,122, giving a percentage of 18.2 to income, which appears to be sufficient for the purpose. No information is given as to whether anything is to be done in the way of latrines, drainage, or water-supply. The sum set apart for each of these works should have been shown.

2. As regards vaccination the Municipality propose to employ only one first-class vaccinator on Rupees 18 per mensem and to devote Rupees 14 for contingencies. This latter is hardly sufficient if it is to include batta and cost of supervision also.

No. 165. ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1879, No. 302.

The Budget Estimates of the Cocanada Municipality for 1879-80 are compared in the annexed abstract with the sanctioned and regular estimates for the current year:—

RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate, 1878-79.	Regular Estimate.	Estimate, 1879-80.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward	735	855	9,500
Rates on Houses and Lands	9,300		4,000
Taxes on Arts			1,100
Taxes on Vehicles and Animals	1,100	21,849	625
Registration of Carts	625		5,000
Tolls	6,900		1,300
Licenses	1,300		9,000
License-tax		9,000	100
Assignments by Government	100		800
Contribution from Local Funds	800		325
Fines and Fees	210	309	3,275
Endowments	3,265	3,265	1,665
Miscellaneous	1,635	1,572	
Advances Recoverable		100	
Total	26,000	37,850	36,690

CHARGES.			
	Estimate, 1878-79.	Regular Estimate.	Estimate, 1879-80.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT I.			
New Works—			
Communications	2,000		1,000
Buildings			1,000
Repairs—			
Communications	4,000	6,321	4,000
Buildings	400		400
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	600		800
Establishment	300		100
Tools and Plant	50		60
Contributions to Local Funds		4,133	

CHARGES—continued.

	Estimate, 1878-79.	Regular Estimate.	Estimate, 1879-80.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT II.			
Salary Grants	1,260		750
Results Grants	120	1,259	50
Inspector's (Contribution)	20		20
GRANT III.			
Hospitals and Dispensaries	5,200		5,000
Vaccination	190	11,389	230
Conservancy	5,210		5,122
GRANT IV.			
Lighting	1,660		1,400
Markets	120		120
Choultries	860	3,319	120
Police			3,000
Avenues and Watering Roads	500		300
License-tax		8,550	8,550
Miscellaneous	510		555
GRANT V.			
Supervision and Management	3,000	2,779	3,238
Refunds		100	
Balances			875
Total	26,000	37,850	36,690

The regular estimate for the current year has not been properly prepared. A mere abstract embodying only the chief heads is submitted, and the balance brought forward, viz., Rupees 855, differs from the closing balance of 1877-78 which appeared in the accounts of that year, viz., Rs. 529. This should be explained. Column 6 of the regular estimate should show the figures of the sanctioned estimate for the current year, not the estimates for the next, and the Local Fund share of the tolls should not be shown in the Municipal accounts.

2. In the estimates for 1879-80 the aggregate receipts from rates and taxes excluding license-tax do not show any appreciable advance over those for the current year, notwithstanding the provision made for the collection of the trades-tax next year. This is due chiefly to the anticipated fall in the revenue from tolls, which the President has not satisfactorily explained. The levy of the trades-tax is sanctioned, and the President will be informed of the sanction by telegram. The Government presume that it is intended to levy the tax on all classes under the Act. The proceeds of the tax, Rupees 4,000, are probably underrated, seeing that the tax realized upwards of Rupees 5,000 in 1873-74 and the preceding years. The inclusion of Rupees 450 as allowance for collecting the license-tax is erroneous. The item will be struck out, and a sum of Rupees 9,000 inserted against license-tax under receipts. Under Expenditure provision to the extent of Rupees 1,000 is made for a clock-tower, for which it is reported that a committee have raised funds amounting to Rupees 2,000, and hope to realise Rupees 1,000 more. The question of devoting the sum of Rupees 1,000 to aid the committee in building the tower appears to have been fully considered by the Commissioners, and the object preferred to the alternative one of moving certain huts; the allotment will accordingly be passed, but the Government trust that eventually the Commissioners will be able to provide adequate funds for carrying out an improvement which seems necessary on sanitary grounds. The license-tax collections, after deducting 5 per cent. commission and the Police charge, which is correctly fixed at Rupees 3,000, will be entered under Grant IV. The contribution to the Medical College, Rupees 180, is not separately shown, and the pay of the extra clerk to be entertained is not stated in the President's letter. The charge is, however, passed in

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consequence of the extra taxation. Subject to the alterations above noted the budget is passed. The President will bear in mind the Sanitary Commissioner's remarks regarding the inadequate provision for vaccination, and will furnish that officer in future with extracts from the budget relating to water-supply, drainage, &c.

(True Extract.)

A. B. Figg
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

- To the President of the Municipal Commissions, Godavari District.
- „ 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 Boards, Godavari District.

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MUNICIPAL COMMISSION

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