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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev

DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

18th February 1879, No. 300.

Municipal—Budgets.

Read the following paper:—

No. 159. *From F. E. GIBSON, Esq., Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Tuticorin, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 13th January 1879, No. 16.*

I have the honor to submit the Budget of this Municipality for next year, 1879-80.

2. I regret that it is slightly later than ought to be though earlier by a few days than last year's; but we knew not, and still know not with certainty or exactitude, the demand for at least two items of expenditure more or less beyond our own immediate control or knowledge, viz., Drainage, which depends at present primarily on the view that may be taken by Government when the matter comes before them of the share that may fairly be charged to the Municipality and the South Indian Railway Company, in concert with which Company we hope to make a commencement by running some of the surface storm-waters of the northern part of the town roads into the big drain through the premises of the Company which now obstruct overflow.

3. Another item unhappily still not ascertained, and with difficulty ascertainable, is the charges by Government for supply of water from Korampallam Tank to our reservoir at Melur, which I understand is to be charged by measurement from 1st October last.

4. It would take a long, a very long letter to explain all I should wish to have cleared up and settled in these matters; but I will now only remark, first, as to the drainage, that I have personally very carefully considered Mr. Grant's elaborate estimates and they have been twice laid before a general meeting; and although you are aware that in this town it is well nigh impossible to get any real attention to supervision or any sustained interest in the uninteresting but important details which require attention of the individual Commissioners rather than powers of debating in meetings, still the Commissioners as a body are very anxious to see a beginning made in the direction indicated, and are even willing to submit more or less cheerfully to increased taxation if absolutely required, and therefore I am constrained to lay on at least 2,000 of the lowest estimate of 3,000 for the Drainage Scheme being provided by the sale of lands and the balance only I can undertake to pay out of the house tax enhanced to double rates, but owing to previous absurd overvaluation of the most productive property the European screws, &c., not expected to produce more than half as much again as at present, i.e., net proceeds.

5. I am quite aware that I may seem to be inconsistent with myself in former letters, but that I can explain partly and partly attribute to the extreme difficulty of getting information, but I claim for myself earnest endeavors to be informed and shall be delighted to answer any number of questions or to be in any other way supervised; but without repeating the tedious but true cry as to the high rates of taxation on this very poor town, I may state briefly that we rely on the generous consideration of the Government allowing us to alienate on proper condition as to raising and improvements drainage and ventilation, some valuable pieces of land, some already made over, and some to be applied for as this year we have sold almost none.

6. As to the water-supply, the Commissioners earnestly hope and trust that the charge will not exceed Rupees 150 per month (formerly fixed at Rupees 140), and in reliance upon that hope they have allotted 1,500 for ten months' payment within the year allowing for failure for, say, May, June, or 15th April to 15th June.

7. We have only very recently been informed of the charge for Police, but have provided fully for our quarter.

8. The other items of expenditure remain about the same or are smaller, but it appearing to me for plentiful reasons that the pay of the Head Clerk is absurdly low for the position and responsibilities, and considering low collection charges, I urged increase, and at a full meeting an increase of 10 rupees has been voted by a majority of six to two, of which majority four were both non-officials and also natives, men of business of the town all, and the minority consists of Mr. D. O'Leary, the Apothecary, who, whatever his other merits, is scarcely acquainted with official life and difficulties of the executive, and Mr. Simpson, the Inspector of Police, who would have voted half or five for the present. I therefore trust that for my sake, to enable me to encourage the hard-worked subordinates who injure other prospects elsewhere, no further demur may be raised to *this item*.

9. For similar reasons we give the Second Clerk, who has passed the Higher Translation Test and is a good business-man, Rupees 25 instead of Rupees 20, Mr. D. O'Leary dissenting as he thinks we can get the work done cheaper, but has no great sympathy with the real difficulties of the financial administration, all of which can hardly be fully explained in meeting but are none the less real.

10. We dispense with a professional Overseer for reasons which I will give if asked, and assign 10 rupees to Mr. Raikes* under that head for supervising roads

only under the present closer system of check and measurement recently happily introduced, for the working out of which I am much indebted to Mr. Skrine, of Darley, Butler and Co., and his Assistant, Mr. John Craw; but of this more in separate communication.

11. The other slight changes as reduction of diet charges and addition of ward servant at the hospital seem scarcely to call for much comment or elucidation; but in hopes of saving references I here mention that it being found I may say absolutely necessary to improve the lighting of the streets the first Budget meeting unanimously voted an increase of one-third under that head, but I am not at present prepared to explain how it is to be utilized or even whether on contract or own management.

12. There will be found a tiny item of extra Clerk on Rupees 15 and a peon on Rupees 6 for three months for the troublesome work of revision of valuation of 3000 houses *so called*, which I trust may be admitted provisionally, and in conclusion hope I may find credit when I say all the items have been considered and adjusted by myself.

13. As a whole and in detail also the Budget has the approval of the Commissioners, and it is the wish of the Native Commissioners that as they understand the result-grants examinations are to be stricter and grants less this year any small savings under that head should be allotted to extension of the conduit *hereafter*, say after July, rather than to new school grants, as the various rival Missions here are active and wealthy and well supported by voluntary subscriptions, so that we hope at least not to be compelled to allot this year more than 1,000 to education, so that we may have, say, 500 to help us a hundred yards with water for the north town, where it is much required for drinking and washing.

14. On reviewing the whole I find I have omitted to explain as to tolls under Receipts that notwithstanding the liberal reduction conceded by the Local Fund Board we dare not anticipate large net proceeds, as in my opinion and that of those best informed I think the contractor could scarcely have profited by his contract this year as he has punctually handed over each month to us the sum of Rupees 508-5-4, which is the toll on no less 4064 carts a month or 135 per diem as an average for the whole year.

15. With these explanations I hope you will agree that on the whole we are getting in reality more economical than before.

16. As to the supervision and collection charges, you will observe that even by the enhanced salaries and provision for special work these charges will not exceed 5½ per cent. on the gross income, which I consider a fair proportion. It includes the

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commission at 2½ per cent. on receipts to bill collector, which system we find to work very well and practically to be as safe as any arrangement we can make.

17. As to charges for Medical Staff, you will observe sundry charges which must be fully explained in a separate communication, but you will note that they involve on the whole increased charge on the Municipality, which can be met out of reduction on diet expenditure by lowered prices and absence of famine patients.

No. 87.

Submitted for the sanction of Government.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
President.

TINNEVELLY,
20th January 1879.

No. 160.

ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1879, No. 300.

The receipts and expenditure of the Tuticorin Municipality in the year 1879-80 are contrasted in the following abstract with the sanctioned and regular estimates of the current year:—

RECEIPTS.

	Estimate, 1878-79.	Regular Estimate.	Estimate, 1879-80.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward	160	480	1,968
Rates on Houses and Lands	5,700	4,429	6,000
Taxes on Arts	3,300	4,003	4,000
Taxes on Vehicles and Animals	550	520	500
Registration of Carts	160	159	160
Tolls	3,000	3,558	3,000
Licenses	200	249	240
License Tax	...	4,440	4,440
Assignments by Government	100	963	330
Contribution from Local Funds	1,800	2,478	2,300
Fines and Fees	300	600	400
Endowments	650	1,301	875
Miscellaneous	1,770	996	2,310
Total	17,690	24,176	26,523

CHARGES.

	Estimate, 1878-79.	Regular Estimate.	Estimate, 1879-80.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT I.			
New Works—			
Buildings	...	51	...
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	3,000	1,219	3,500
Repairs—			
Communications	2,052	1,485	1,500
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	...	91	150
Establishment	240	649	672
Tools and Plant	...	15	...
GRANT II.			
Results Grants	1,100	1,168	1,000
GRANT III.			
Hospitals and Dispensaries	3,737	4,617	4,509
Vaccination	220	257	250
Registration of Births and Deaths	240	240	240
Conservancy	3,220	2,823	2,828

CHARGES—continued.

	Estimate, 1878-79.	Regular Estimate.	Estimate, 1879-80.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
GRANT IV.			
Lighting	800	764	1,000
Choultries	50	114	122
Travellers' Bungalow	120	214	364
Contribution to Police	...	...	1,390
Avenues and Watering Roads	100	80	109
License Tax	...	4,000	4,000
Miscellaneous	1,420	1,224	1,520
GRANT V.			
Supervision and Management	1,188	2,059	2,216
Refunds	...	1,135	...
Balances	203	1,968	1,162
Total ...	17,690	24,176	26,523

After excluding the contribution from Provincial Funds for the Medical Staff, which should also be omitted on the Expenditure side of the accounts, and including the License Tax receipts, the income of the year 1879-80 is estimated at Rupees 26,523 against a regular estimate for the current year of Rupees 24,176. The heads under which material increase is expected are the House Tax and Miscellaneous, the latter being due to an estimated receipt of Rupees 2,000 from sales of lands. As the whole of the latter sum is to be expended on permanent drainage works, the Government will not object to the alienation of portion of the lands remaining, which were granted to the Commissioners. The Government, however, await a full report upon the Drainage Scheme now under the consideration of the Commissioners. It is of the first importance to settle definitely what is to be done, and the agency to be employed in carrying out the work, and the period over which the operations should extend. The Government trust that the result of Mr. Gibson's strenuous efforts to improve this rising town may be seen by the perfecting and carrying out of a complete system of drainage and water-supply.

2. The allotments for works are generally approved, also that for Education. The Government do not fully understand Mr. Gibson's remarks on the subject in paragraph 13, but they would observe that the educational necessities of the people are second only to those connected with health; in fact, any policy which does not contemplate educational energy as a necessary adjunct to progress in sanitation and other matters connected with the general well-being of the people is incomplete.

3. The several increases under Establishment are approved.

4. Subject to these remarks the Budget is passed.

(True Extract.)

A. H. J. J.
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Tinnevely.

- " 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, Tinnevely.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

