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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

10th February 1877, No. 509.

Municipal—Report.

Read the following paper:—

No. 201. *From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., President of the Municipal Commissions, South Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cuddalore, 20th October* 1876, *No.* 120.

I have the honor to submit the annual report on the working of the Chedambram Municipality for 1875-76, with the accompanying statements submitted by the Vice-President. These papers reached me on the 4th instant, and I have been waiting for the statements called for in G.Os. of the 28th August, No. 1537 and 25th ultimo, No. 1720, for this Municipailty for that year, in order to forward them along with the report. They have not, however, yet reached me, and as I have received two reminders calling for the report I send it on without further delay. The above statements will follow on receipt.

2. No Auditor's report has been sent up with the annual one, and the cause of this is probably owing to the fact of the accounts of the Municipality having been thoroughly audited in November last in connexion with the defalcations which formed the most noticeable feature in the history of the Municipality during the year under report. These defalcations were reported on by me in my letter to Government of the 6th December 1875, No. 84, but the matter seems to have been overlooked in the Government Office, for no orders have yet been received in the matter. Out of the sum which was shown to have been misappropriated, viz., Rupees 1,341, all has been recovered except the amount embezzled by the ex-Manager, Mahomed Ghouse, amounting to Rupees 601. Both he and the other ex-Manager ran away to avoid the warrants issued for their apprehension. The relatives of the latter have paid up what was embezzled by him, but the other man's relatives have not done so. He is said to have gone to Burmah, and, though a warrant was sent there for his arrest, no tidings of his capture have reached me. The Tahsildar of the taluq, who was Vice-President, has been since transferred to another taluq in consequence of the necessity for moving the Tahsildar of the other one, and the present Tahsildar is not a Municipal Commissioner.

3. There was considerable improvement effected in the town during the year under report. Twenty excellent iron lamp-posts were fixed in position; the town streets were kept fairly clean of rubbish; 156 dust-bins were erected; and a commencement was made in the draining of some of the streets. There is, however, still very much more to be done. The streets and roads require metalling everywhere; eight or ten latrines are wanted and many more lamps, besides a good deal in the way of drainage and water-supply. To effect all this will, of course, be a work of time and will cost a good deal of money, but when it is done, Chedambram should be one of the cleanest and neatest towns in the

Presidency. It is compact in form, the fall for drainage is generally good, and when the Railway is open to it road material will become procurable, and the town roads and streets will be easily metalled. The habits of some of the inhabitants are, however, very filthy. I saw there what I never saw before during all my residence in India, viz., the pyal of a decent-sized house used as a latrine by several of the persons (possibly children) of the family residing in it. If it had been tenanted by monkeys it could not have been worse. Not far off too was a side drain dug in the earth by the side of the street and full of ordure. The residents had thus shown their appreciation of the Commissioners' first effort at side drainage. Now that a Town Police has been sanctioned for Chedambram it is to be hoped that habits of this sort will be checked.

4. A good deal has been written about the water-supply of Chedambram, but I must say I think it is as good as, or better than, that of many other towns. There are four wells of excellent drinking water in the large pagoda besides several tanks of good water which are reserved for drinking purposes, and, though the water of the Shivagunga tank in the pagoda has been condemned by the Acting Chemical Examiner as unfit for drinking, I do not think that makes matters worse, because, so far as I could learn, it is not used for drinking or cooking, but only for bathing purposes.

5. According to the figures in the Vice-President's report the year closed with the large balance of Rupees 5,195 in hand, the receipts during its currency being Rupees 15,007, besides an opening balance of Rupees 975, while the expenditure amounted to Rupees 10,787, of which no less a sum than 2,292 Rupees was expended on Supervision and Management. The sum entered under that head, in the abstract given in paragraph 4 of the report, appears to include Rupees 104 debitable to "Advances Recoverable."

6. The following items of receipts as compared with the Budget Estimate call for notice :—

	Budget Estimates.	Actuals.
	RS.	RS.
Rates and Taxes	8,000	4,267
Tolls	3,000	7,883
Contributions from Local Funds for Public Works ...	10,000	Nil.

No house-rate collections appear to have been got in during the year. The reason given is that no bills were issued, and the causes that led to this state of affairs are variously given in paragraph 6 of the Vice-President's report. Of arrears of land and house rates of the previous two years, Rupees 1,607 of house-rates, and Rupees 948 of land-rates, were collected. The collection of these arrears appears to be attended with difficulty. It is, however, satisfactory to observe that the house-rates, for the year under report, have been "almost collected" since its close. Tolls were expected to realize only Rupees 3,000, but actually realized Rupees 7,883. The Virdachellam Local Fund Board allotted Rs. 10,000 two years ago for building a Dispensary at Chedambram, but on the project being condemned by Dr. King the allotment was cancelled. Subsequently however, on further representations being made, the Local Fund Board promised to take the matter into their favorable reconsideration, and, at their meeting on the 31st May last, they passed a resolution allotting Rupees 10,000 towards the construction of the dispensary, but appear to have forgotten to include it in the supplemental

budget which was under consideration at the time when the resolution was passed. As it is not included in that budget, and as the recent reductions of their assets by the withdrawal of the Provincial grant has placed it beyond their power to allot the money now, I doubt if it will ever be allotted unless Provincial grants are restored as heretofore.

7. The following items of expenditure as compared with the Budget allotments require remark :—

	Budget Estimate.	Actuals.
	RS.	RS.
GRANT I.		
New Works	4,000	1,386
Repairs	2,000	598
GRANT II.		
Education...	260	351
GRANT III.		
Sanitation	5,336	5,083
GRANT IV.		
Miscellaneous	1,250	864

It can only be assumed, with respect to the short expenditure under Grant I, that not as much work was done as was intended when the Budget was drawn up ; but the Vice-President's report does not contain a detailed statement of the reasons for the falling off.

Under Education the expenditure though not large was nearly 50 per cent. in excess of the Budget Estimate. This is satisfactory. That municipal expenditure on education should be always small in Chedambram is the natural consequence of the existence of several schools supported from other sources. The percentage of boys of a school-going age in the town under tuition during the year was as high as sixty-three, and yet the municipal expenditure on education was only about Rupees 350.

Under Conservancy the difference between the actual and estimated expenditure is trifling, but it is noticeable that, whereas Rupees 720 were budgeted for establishments, and Rupees 2,652 for conservancy carts, the expenditure on the latter item was only Rupees 1,462, while on the former it was Rupees 1,711. The reason was probably that the prevalence of cholera necessitated an increase in the number of the conservancy *employés* which in turn necessitated a reduction in the number of carts.

The falling off in the expenditure under Grant IV seems to have been owing to the non-expenditure of any money on avenues and markets.

8. The Vice-President in his remarks on education seems to advocate the opening of an Elementary Municipal School, by which I gather he means one on the salary-grant system in place of giving results grants to independent school-masters. I take a totally different view of the question, and I have reason to think that Mr. Fowler, the Inspector of the Division, agrees with me.

9. He also regrets the absence of the European members from the Municipal meetings, alleging that not one of the European members, except the Rev. Mr. Wolff, ever attended a meeting—a statement a little modified by the subsequent admission that I was at one meeting. The Vice-President is hardly just to Mr. G. D. Irvine, who, though unable to prolong his stay at Chedambram till a meeting took place, showed a much greater interest in municipal matters than some of his predecessors,

and wrote a vigorous minute drawing the Commissioners' attention to the neglected state of the conservancy of the town with good effect, and he forgets that, except myself and the Sub-Collector, the Rev. Mr. Wolff is the only other European Municipal Commissioner, while it is out of the question that either the Sub-Collector or I can often go to Chedambram to attend municipal meetings. However, the Vice-President's complaint only strengthens me in the view I expressed in my report on the defalcations, that the Municipality requires a resident European official to preside over it. I may mention incidentally in connexion with this that the Rev. Mr. Wolff has declined to be reappointed a Commissioner, and that his tenure of office will expire in a few days.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. AROONACHELLIAR, Vice-President of the Municipal Commission, Chedambram, to the President of the Municipal Commissions, South Arcot, dated 20th September 1876, No. 182.

I have the honor to submit my annual report on the working of this Municipality during the official year 1875-76.

2. The year began with an opening balance of Rupees 975-6-3½, and the actual receipts during its currency amounted to Rupees 15,007-5-10. The total expenditure amounted to Rupees 10,787-0-1, leaving a closing balance of Rupees 5,195-12-½, which, added to the amount of Surplus Pound Fund collections and Magisterial fines of the year, Rupees 128-10-2, intimation whereof was received only in the current year, corresponds exactly with the treasury balance.

3. The following is an abstract of the receipts :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Surplus Pound Fund	51	10	9
Fishery Rents	49	15	0
Rates on Houses and Lands	4,267	7	4
Tax on Carriages and Animals	478	9	10
Registration of Carts	329	6	0
Tolls	7,883	13	10
Fees	254	0	0
Magisterial Fines	71	0	0
Interest from Funded Capital of the Dispensary	440	0	0
Proceeds from sale of Medicines, &c.	14	8	4
Contribution from Local Funds...	1,000	0	0
Miscellaneous	166	14	9
Total ...	15,007	5	10
Add Cash balance on the 1st April 1875...	975	6	3½
Total ...	15,982	12	1½

4. The following is an abstract of the disbursements :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
For New Works and Repairs—Grant I	2,091	0	0
,, Education—Grant II	351	8	0
,, Sanitation and Medical Services—Grant III	5,083	12	4
,, Miscellaneous—Grant IV	864	11	11
,, Supervision and Management—Grant V	2,395	15	10
Total ...	10,787	0	1

5. *Assignments and Allotments by Government.*—Of Surplus Pound Funds there was an actual collection of Rupees 69-0-11, of which credit was taken in the year's accounts for Rupees

51-10-9 only. Intimation of credit having been received of the remainder only during the current year, it has accordingly been since credited.

Four of the largest tanks in the town having been reserved for drinking purposes solely the fisheries thereof were not rented out. Hence the deficit in the actuals.

6. Owing to a variety of causes such as the assessment taking up too much time, the office records and establishment remaining most of them with the Auditor till very near the close of the year, no house-rate bills were issued for the year under review during its currency. They have since been issued and almost collected. Of outstanding balances of the demand of previous years Rupees 1,607-6-8½ were collected.

7. The net demand of land-rates for the year amounted to Rupees 1,820-2-2. Of these, Rupees 1,711-10-3 were collected during the year, and of old arrears Rupees 948-6-4½. By far the largest portion of the remainder has been collected during the current year.

8. It may not be out of place here to notice the extreme difficulty experienced by bill collectors in finding out the landholders by whom the bills are payable. Changes in the occupancy of lands are not very generally registered in the Municipal Office, and it hence becomes hard to know the present occupants in the absence of such registration. Steps have been taken to revise the Land-Rate Register by entering in it the names of those present occupants, and difficulties of the nature already referred to will, it is hoped, not prove the cause of future complaint.

There is also another detracting circumstance, and that is the indefiniteness of the municipal limits. No survey has been made of this Municipality, and the Revenue Survey can hardly be of aid where parts of villages have to make up this Municipality. There are eleven villages specified in the notification making Chedambram a town under Act III of 1871. The lands within the limits of these villages do not wholly lie within the limits of the Municipality. It was, therefore, resolved, at a meeting of the Commissioners held on the 26th February last, that a survey be made of this town. Steps are being taken to have this survey made early enough for enabling correct bills being issued at least for 1877-78.

With regard to the arrears of house-rates, it has to be said that the majority of the defaultors are either poor and unable to pay the taxes, or are absent from the place, thus rendering all attempts at recovery fruitless. It is proposed to appoint a Sub-Committee to go into the question of these arrears, and report on their recoverability.

9. The receipts under "Taxes on Carriages, Horses, &c." call for no remarks.

10. There is a decrease in the receipts from the "Registration of Carts" consequent upon the overrated entry in the Budget Estimate.

11. Under Tolls there is an increase over the Budget Estimate. Being the first year of the levy of tolls, the Commissioners had not the wherewith to estimate the receipts under this head even approximately. The total includes the sum of Rupees 1,775-13-4 deposited by the Tolls Contractor of the current year. The tolls of the last four months of the year under report were farmed out for Rupees 2,725.

12. The amount of Magisterial fines actually collected and credited to the Municipal Fund in the Treasury Officer's books of the year is Rupees 182-4-0. But intimation having been received only of Rupees 71, this amount alone is entered in the statement. Credit for the remainder has been taken in the current year's cash-book.

13. The interest on the funded capital of the Dispensary for the year 1874-75 not having been received during its currency it was added to that for the year under report, thus doubling the entry in the Budget.

Medicines are not sold to any considerable extent in the Dispensary here. People standing in need of them, whether rich or poor, almost invariably resort to the hospital. Hence the falling off from the Budget Estimate. In the actual receipt, Rupees 14-8-4, is included the sum of Rupees 9-13-4, the proceeds of the sale of certain unserviceable articles belonging to the dispensary.

14. The contribution from the Local Funds was entered in the Budget as Rupees 11,000, being composed of Rupees 10,000 for the erection of a hospital in this locality, and Rupees 1,000

for the upkeep of the dispensary. The Local Fund Board, Virdachellam Circle, had, in consequence of certain remarks made by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras in his "Inspection Notes of the Chedambram Municipality," postponed their promised contribution *sine die*.

15. The Miscellaneous receipts were as follow :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Rents of Municipal Markets...	40	0	0
Sale of sweepings	27	3	0
Do. of avenue clippings	37	1	9
Do. of toll tickets	61	8	9
Excess collections, fines, &c.	1	1	3
Total ...	166	14	9

16. One hundred and fifty-six dust-bins were constructed during the year, but some of them were paid for only in the current year. The expenditure on this item in 1875-76 amounted to Rupees 728-5-1. Rupees 657-15-9 were expended on the collection of materials for the erection of tunnels at the ends of the car streets around the temple. One of these was almost finished when the year closed, and the others have since been completed.

All the main streets of the town were repaired during the year, and side drains were cut in many places to facilitate drainage.

In expenditure under Grant I are also included the Rupees 20 paid as horse allowance to the Sanitary Inspector for supervising road repairs, and the salaries of the Road Superintendent and Road Pygust, who were during the year temporarily employed to carry out certain works departmentally.

17. The expenditure on Education amounted to Rupees 351-8-0, or Rupees 91-8-0 over the Budget Estimate, the excess being met from the Sanitary and Miscellaneous allotment, as per Resolution, No. 1, dated 29th January 1876. The following schools on the results system were aided from Municipal funds during the year :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Lal Khan Street, Anglo-Vernacular School	44	0	0
Poodoopet Street, Vernacular School	50	0	0
Velul Kutty Pillyar Kovil Street, Vernacular School...	65	0	0
South Vania Street, Vernacular School	15	8	0
Koothadoom Pillyar Kovil Street, Vernacular School	30	0	0
Chinna Kaziar Street, Vernacular School	38	8	0
Perumal Street, Vernacular School	14	0	0
Washerman Street, Vernacular School	29	8	0
Total ...	286	8	0

18. GRANT III.—The expenditure on hospitals during the year amounted to Rs. 1,297-8-5 against Rupees 1,102 of the Budget. The increase is owing to the employment of a more highly paid medical officer—an Assistant Surgeon—to the charge of the dispensary, and the rising contingent charges consequent upon the popularity which this most beneficial institution has acquired.

A Municipal Vaccinator on Rupees 7 a-month is employed to operate within the municipal limits.

The cost of conservancy amounted to Rupees 3,560-9-0 against Rupees 3,884 of the Budget. There were thirteen carts and twenty-six scavengers employed during the year. The supervision establishment was clipped to some extent about the end of the first half-year.

The total expenditure on Grant III amounted to Rupees 5,083-12-4.

19. "Lighting" was first introduced into this Municipality this year, and twenty cast iron lamp-posts were put up. The whole expenditure on lamps amounted to Rupees 864-11-11, as detailed below :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Cost of lamp-posts	685	0	0
Cost of kerosene oil	100	0	0
Do. of constructions for fixing the posts	60	0	0
Do. of establishment	19	11	11
Total ...	864	11	11

The entry in the Budget Estimate under this item is Rupees 700, and the Commissioners to meet the excess expenditure resolved, at a meeting held on the 12th November last, that the allotment for "Planting avenues and watering streets" be availed of for "Lighting."

20. The cost of "Supervision and Management" amounted to Rupees 2,291-13-11, as detailed below :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Office Establishment	1,070	9	6
Pay and Commission to Bill Collectors	512	4	1
Assessors' pay	138	14	7
Pound Establishment	5	6	0
Contingencies	486	11	9
Rent of Office building...	78	0	0
Total ...	2,291	13	11

In the office establishment also there was some retrenchment. Bill collectors were for some time paid by a percentage of 6 on their collections, and subsequently at Rupees 7 a-month. But by far the largest portion of the expenditure on "Collection of taxes and cesses" consisted of the payments made to bill collectors for arrears of commission due to them for their collections in the previous year. Hence the excess over the estimate. The pay of the Assessor was met from the allotment of Rupees 200 for the construction of latrines in the Budget for 1874-75, as per Proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 15th November 1874.

The large increase in the contingent expenditure is consequent upon the investment that had to be made on buying toll tickets which cost Rupees 295-9-0. This heading also includes the charges of printing certain forms required for the office such as licenses, cheques, bills, charge sheets, &c.

21. The following refunds were made during the year :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Transferred to the Imperial Funds on account of Surplus Pound Fund Collections	94	1	11
Refunded to Appavoo Nadar...	10	0	0
Total ...	104	1	11

In 1874-75 the whole of Pound Fund collections were credited to the Municipal Funds. A moiety of these having been directed to be transferred to the Magistracy (*vide* your letter, No. 83, dated 6th December 1875) Rupees 94-1-11 have accordingly been made over.

The other refund mentioned in the estimate was of a current tax made in accordance with the fifth resolution of the Commissioners, dated 26th February last.

22. *General Observations.*—The year under review is the third of this Municipality's existence, but may be set down as really the first of its operation. The Towns Improvement Act was introduced here only in October 1873, so that municipal operations were yet in their infancy

when the year closed. It was occupied mostly in organizing the establishment and preparing assessment registers. In 1874-75 nothing noteworthy was done. The greater part of the expenditure was in remunerating the Conservancy, General Management, Hospital, Registration of Births and Deaths, and Bill Collectors' Establishments. The only outlay on Public Works was Rs. 1,227-14-0 for repairing the municipal roads and streets; also Rupees 534-11-9 for the repair of certain tanks and wells and sundry minor works. In 1875-76 "Lighting" was first begun; education was looked to though not to any considerable extent; increased provision was made for the requirements of the public health by employing an Assistant Surgeon; and the drainage of the town bettered by the construction of four large tunnels. The apparent paucity in carrying out these works in former years was mainly owing to the want of adequate funds being available.

23. The roads and streets in the town were all in good order, and the water-supply except at the close of the year ample and good. About December last a little scarcity of water was felt, and, notwithstanding that attempts were made to fetch water from the Coleroon by diverting it into the Khan Saib Vaikal, the project proved a failure. The wells of the temple answered the wants of the town admirably well, and the rains happily set in before complaints could have been made on the score of the want of drinking water.

The public health was pretty good throughout the year with the exception of June, July, and August, when there was an outbreak of cholera which carried away many lives. The Commissioners spared no efforts to quench the raging spirit of the epidemic, and sanitary arrangements were carefully attended to. There was a want of rain which no effort of theirs could remedy.

The general conservancy of the town was good. Through the want of metalled roads the streets could not be swept as clean as could be wished. Nevertheless so far as was practicable this was done.

24. Another drawback has also to be mentioned. Having been all along accustomed to a primitive mode of life, people of these parts do not like that certain of their nasty habits should be prohibited. For instance, the reservation of tanks for drinking purposes solely is largely objected to. They urge that they had been, from time immemorial, used to wash their bodies and clothes in the very tanks they drank of, and yet they never had any diseases resulting from the practice. No amount of assurance would answer their objections, and the trying to put them down by a strong hand is felt a considerable hardship; and thus the Municipality misses their co-operation, an essential element in the well-being of every public institution. The newly sanctioned Police will, it is hoped, scare them out of much of their useless prejudices.

25. I must also express my regret that, save the Rev. Mr. A. F. Wolff, not one of the European members on board ever attended at a meeting. The President himself was but once here. I should believe that, were there a larger attendance of such members, increased benefits would accrue to the public, as also greater regard for the concern.

26. The working of the Dispensary throughout the year was satisfactory. The attendance in the out-patients rose to a daily average of fifty-four. The want of accommodation for in-patients is much felt, and many attending the Dispensary need to be treated as in-patients but are sent away in consequence of the absence of accommodation. It is much regretted that the Municipal funds, under existing circumstances, cannot allow of any large outlay being made on the erection of a hospital in this locality. As they are, they are hardly enough to answer the still more urgent demands of the public weal. The Local Fund Board of the Virdachellam Circle made provision for a contribution of Rupees 10,000 for this work in their Budget for 1875-76, but, owing to a variety of causes, the contribution has not yet been made over. The daily increasing want of provision for in-patients, frequently reported on by the Assistant Surgeon, renders the construction of a hospital a matter of no small importance. At one of their late meetings the Local Fund Board had resolved to make the contribution, and it is hoped that if the transfer of the amount be effected within the year such measures as may remedy the evil above referred to may be taken at once. There was formerly only an Hospital Assistant in charge of our Dispensary, but now an Assistant Surgeon has been transferred to it, and the institution is, I am happy to add, daily rising in its popularity. The scruples that many had to availing themselves of European medicines

are being day after day set aside, and natives of all classes, castes, creeds and condition exchange the mercurial treatment of their Hakeems for the surer one of Mr. Parasurama Naicker.

27. The latrine accommodation is yet but poor here. Six leaf latrines were in existence during the year, and dry-earth system of conservancy was enforced. Temporary latrines were also erected during the festival occasions. On the whole, however, the latrines are not much relished. The Commissioners trust to the endeavours of the Police for the removal of this dislike.

28. It must be said that this town is sadly wanting in its drainage. Built round a large temple which once had side ditches, the streets immediately around it are on a much higher level than the rest of the town. Thus the rain water of these streets has been from long running through the others and making large gaps in their midst and silting up any drains that may have been cut in their sides. The tunnels newly built have, in some measure, remedied the drawback, and early steps will be taken to provide for the erection of more; and as much as practicable will be done to facilitate the passage of water. In the whole town there is not a single masonry drain, and the house drains of many houses have little or no fall. Further the sewage of most houses is made to flow into their garden compounds. Thus a general scheme of drainage involves a deal of expense which the limited funds at their disposal can hardly enable the Municipality to undertake for at least some years to come.

29. The subject of a scheme of water-supply has not yet drawn the attentive consideration of the Commissioners, probably because they are not in possession of funds ample enough to meet any investments on it. The nearest point whence water can be got is the Coleroon, but it is yet to be learnt if the levels will admit of a project of water-supply from it. The Veeranum tank it dry almost as many months in the year as the tanks of the town are, and it would hence avail little to propose any supply from it. However, scarcity of drinking water is but occasionally felt here, and so the subject will receive consideration when finances permit.

30. I cannot speak in flattering terms of the steps taken by the Municipality on behalf of education. There are here, just now, one large middle-class school under the auspices of the Trustees of Patchayappa Mudaliar's Charities—a school that turns out half-a-dozen matriculates every year; Siva Prakasa Institution started by a learned gentleman of Jaffna, Armooga Navalur by name; and Meer Saib's Mahomedan School, besides many schools on the results system. The first two are aided from the Provincial Funds. The third is aided from the Municipal Funds with a salary grant of half the pay of its only master. All the results schools within the municipal limits were aided. A list of those aided in the year under review has already appeared in this report—*vide* paragraph 17.

I am not confident, however, that all that has been done is enough to meet the educational wants of this Municipality. I should feel glad to see a Municipal School started even though it impart nothing higher than mere elementary education. The expenditure that would be incurred on it would be little more than the outlay needed to be made on results payments, while, being under more direct supervision, it would, not improbably, prove more beneficial to public interest and promote education. I am glad, however, that the Commissioners are mindful of the subject, and I trust I will soon see a Municipal School organized.

31. The registration of births and deaths was pretty carefully attended to, and the vital statistics appear fairly trustworthy.

32. There is a sad absence of metalled roads in this Municipality. But it has to be borne in mind that gravel has to be brought from a good long distance, and its cost therefore is proportionately large. The Board have therefore thought to suspend all outlay on this item till the opening of the railway line, which it is hoped will be by next year at the latest. The unexpended portion of the allotment for "Communications" is kept in reserve for the work.

33. I much regret the absence of the late Vice-President, Mr. Venugapal Naidu Garu, in whose administration the year under review was spent. He would have been able to give a more detailed report.

34. The statements which should accompany the annual report are herewith submitted, as also the Medical Officer's report on the working of the Dispensary.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ANNUAL REPORT of the CIVIL DISPENSARY, CHEDAMBRAM, for the Year 1875-76.

	European and East Indian.		Natives.		Total of both In and Out Patients.
	In-patients.	Out-patients.	In-patients.	Out-patients.	
Remained on the 31st March 1875.	...	...	...	40	40
Admitted in 1875-76	...	5	...	5,707	5,712
Discharged in ,, ...	...	3	...	5,578	5,581
Died in ,, ...	...	2	...	66	68
Remaining on the 31st March 1876	...	...	...	103	103
Average number of sick daily ...	...	...	...	54·07	54·07

General Observations.—Having assumed medical charge of the Civil Dispensary at Chedambram only for a month during the year to which the report refers, and having had very little experience and personal knowledge of the town, I am sorry to state that I am not in a position to furnish a detailed account of the working of the institution. But, however, from the facts gathered both from local authorities and monthly returns, I understand that the year was an unfortunate one, as cholera of an epidemic nature prevailed during the months of June, July, and August, both in the town and in the surrounding villages, which proved fatal in many cases. It took a sporadic form in different parts of the town from September to March, and did not produce such fatal effects. Small-pox of the confluent variety prevailed during the months of January and February, causing some loss among those who were not protected by vaccination. Ophthalmia was very prevalent from the month of August to September, and during these months no less than 1,500 cases were treated at the dispensary. The only months that were free from any epidemic were April and May. The number of out-patients that were treated at the dispensary exceeds that of the preceding year by 1,935. This increase is partly attributable to marked unhealthiness of the town, and partly to a greater appreciation of the European mode of treatment. The dispensary continues to confer its benefits on all classes and creeds of people of the town and its surrounding villages. A large number of respectable classes of natives living in the distant parts of the taluq take up their residence here for the purpose of obtaining medical and surgical treatment in preference to that of Native Vydians.

The dispensary is located in a rented building situated in the most thickly-populated part of the town, surrounded by petty bazaars, is very ill-ventilated, and was condemned by the Deputy Surgeon-General on his late tour of inspection, on sanitary grounds. I have suggested to the Municipal Commissioners that a new building is very much needed to accommodate pauper patients and persons brought by the Police. They intend erecting an hospital immediately after the transfer of the allotted sum of Rupees 10,000 from the Virdachellum Local Fund Board to this Municipality.

Temperature of the Climate.—The weather throughout the year was very trying and oppressive, except during September to December when the mornings were cool and pleasant. The winter season began in September and continued, rather irregularly, till December. Owing to the scanty rainfall, the intensity of the weather, and the prevalence of harsh dry and high winds, the public health suffered to a great extent. In consequence of the unseasonable and insufficient rainfall there has been a partial failure in both wet and dry crops; and consequently the prices of provisions have risen considerably as compared with those of the preceding year.

Public Health.—The state of public health during the year under report was very unsatisfactory owing to the prevalence of cholera, small-pox, and ophthalmia. The diseases which were most prevalent during the year were fevers, syphilis, rheumatism, disease of the nervous respiratory, digestive and urinary organs, and affections of the bowels and skin.

Sanitary Condition of the Town.—The Municipal Commissioners have been doing some good to the people in the way of sanitary improvements. Twenty iron street lamp-posts have been fixed in different parts of the town and lighted with kerosene oil during dark nights. One hundred and fifty-six dust-bins are being erected in several streets of the town for the purpose of depositing house sweepings, some tunnels are under construction, in the angles of the four big streets, to carry off the rain water, side channels have been dug in all the streets and lanes to facilitate the drainage of the town. The streets and lanes not being gravelled are uneven and irregular with ruts here and there covered with loose dust of earth, which prevents people from walking along in the sun. No permanent latrines have been built here, but only temporary leaf ones erected during the half-yearly festivals for the use of the pilgrims resorting to the place on these occasions. The people of the town use the neighbouring paddy-fields and the backyards of their houses for easing themselves. All the streets and lanes are kept clean and regularly swept every morning by twenty-six sweepers, and the sweepings and rubbish are removed by thirteen conservancy carts to several places outside of the town where they are ultimately sold as manure. There are two overseers employed to supervise the sanitation of the town and to prevent the commission of nuisances.

A small market was built some time ago, where butchers and fishermen carry on their trade, and the vegetable market is held in a leaf shed in one of the big streets.

The Water.—The water of the wells in the town is brackish, except the well water of the temple and that of the four reserved tanks situated in the four ends of the town which are used only for drinking purposes; the people being strictly prohibited from washing in them their bodies or clothes. Fifteen tanks are devoted to the purposes last mentioned and for cattle to drink. All the tanks are fed by the Coleroon during the rainy season, but they become dry in summer when people more or less resort to the wells in the temple. It will be a great boon if good drinking water from the Coleroon is brought by means of pipes to supply the people of this town, the want in this respect being at present much felt.

The four Hindu burning and burial grounds are situated outside of the municipal limits, but three Mussulmen burial grounds are in the heart of the town which are certainly objectionable on sanitary grounds.

The Working of the Institution.—The number of patients treated during the year under review was as follows:—

In-patients		5
Out-patients...	Europeans	5,707
	Natives	
	Total ...	5,712

exhibiting an increase of 1,935 over that of the preceding year. This increase is attributable to the late epidemic, the increasing appreciation of European treatment, and the popularity of the institution.

Vaccination.—A vaccinator is attached to the Dispensary, and he operates not only in the hospital, but also in the town and its suburbs. He is paid a salary of Rupees 7 per mensem by the Municipality. The total number of cases vaccinated during the year amounted to 313; of these 295 proved successful. Many object to vaccination on religious grounds, and so long as the prejudice continues, small-pox cannot fail to produce fatal effects.

The Dispensary is supported by Municipal and Local Funds and by the interest derived from a funded capital of Rupees 4,000. The Medical officer's salary, European medicines, Hospital establishment, and other contingencies are all met from the above resources.

CHEDAMBRAM,
20th July 1876.

(Signed) N. PARASURAMA NAIKER,
Assistant Surgeon.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

INCIDENCE of the various RATES and TAXES in the Municipality of Chedambram for 1875-76.

District or Place in which levied.	Population of Place.	Description and Object of Tax.	Classes from and Property upon which levied.	Number of Tax-payers.	Amount of Tax.	Incidence of Tax.		Act or Order under which and Date from which levied.
						Per Head of Population.	Per Head of Taxpayers.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chedambram Municipality, South Arcot District.	15,519.	1. Rates on Houses and Buildings, at 5 per cent.	Householder	1,441	RS. A. P. 1,607 6 8	RS. A. P. 0 1 8	RS. A. P. 1 1 10	G.O., No. 1057, F. D., 24th July 1873, from 1st Oct. 1873.
		2. Rates on Lands, at 5 per cent ...	Landholder	995	2,660 0 0	0 2 9	2 10 9	
		3. Tax on Arts, Professions, &c. ...	Nil	...	... ...	... ...	... ...	Act III of 1871, from 1st Oct. 1873.
		4. Tax on Carriages, Horses, &c. ...	Townsmen owning them	214	478 9 10	0 0 6	2 3 8	
		5. Fees on the Registration of Carts.	Do. ...	181	329 6 0	0 0 4	1 13 1	
		6. Tolls at half rates	Outside traffic	...	6,108 0 0	0 6 0	... ...	G.O., No. 723, F. D., 3rd April 1875.
		7. License Fees	Petitioners	...	230 0 0	0 0 3	... ...	Act III of 1871, from 1st Oct. 1873.

CHEDAMBRAM,
24th September 1876.

(Signed) C. AROONACHELLIAR,
Vice-President.

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 10th February 1877, No. 509.

The annexed abstract shows the receipts and expenditure of the Chedambram Municipality for 1875-76 compared with the estimates for the year:—

	Estimates, 1875-76.	Actuals, 1875-76.
RECEIPTS.		
	RS.	RS.
Balance brought forward	1,000	975
Assignments by Government	250	102
Rates on Houses	8,000	4,267
Taxes on Vehicles	500	479
Registration of Carts	500	329
Tolls	250	6,108
Fees	270	455
Fines	1,000	254
Endowments, &c.	11,000	71
Contribution from Local Funds ...	200	167
Miscellaneous	25,070	14,207
Total ...		
CHARGES.		
	Estimates, 1875-76.	Actuals, 1875-76
	RS.	RS.
GRANT I.		
New Works—		
Communications	4,000	658
Sanitary and Miscellaneous	10,000	728
Repairs—		
Communications	2,000	499
Sanitary and Miscellaneous		100
Establishment		98
Tools and Plant	60	65
GRANT II.		
Salary Grants	200	286
Results Grants		
GRANT III.	1,102	1,298
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	200	91
Vaccination	150	135
Registration of Births and Deaths	3,884	3,543
Conservancy	700	865
GRANT IV.	50	...
Lighting	500	17
Markets		
Avenues, &c.		2,292
Miscellaneous	2,044	104
GRANT V.		
Supervision and Management	140	3,420
Refunds		
Balances	25,070	14,207
Total ...		

2. The Toll Contractor for the current year made a deposit of Rupees 1,776, which has been wrongly mixed up with Statements I and II, instead of being confined to Statement III, which is specially provided for the purpose. This has been eliminated in the abstract given above.

3. The Local Board of the Virdachellam Circle having postponed the payment of their promised contribution of Rupees 10,000 for the Hospital building, the actual receipts including the opening balance fell short of the allotment by Rupees 10,863. The Tolls estimated to produce Rupees 3,000 yielded Rupees 6,108, and constituted about 50 per cent. of the current revenue. Against this increase must be set off the decrease under House-tax from which only 28 per cent. of the current demand was got in from causes stated in paragraph 6 of the Vice-President's report. It is satisfactory, however, to learn that almost all the arrears have been collected in the current year. The variations under the other heads of revenue are small and unimportant. The balance of the Endowment Fund in Statement I-A should have been struck without reference to the amount of funded capital, and the incidence of House-tax should have been calculated on the collections within the year, and not on the amount collected afterwards which will affect the Incidence Statement for the current year.

4. The following figures show the outlay under each Grant :—

	Rs.	Per centage.
Public Works	2,091	= 14·8
Education	351	= 2·4
Sanitation	5,067	= 35·7
Miscellaneous	882	= 6·2
Establishment	2,292	= 16·1
Refunds	104	= ·8
Balance	3,420	= 24

5. Out of a grant of Rupees 6,000 for Communications, only Rupees 1,157 were turned to account, as it was decided to suspend outlay under this head until the Railway had been opened when gravel would be obtainable at a much cheaper rate. In consequence of this and of the withdrawal of the provision of Rupees 10,000 for the Dispensary building, the total net outlay on Public Works fell short of the allotment by Rupees 13,949.

6. The Government are glad to find that a larger sum than was anticipated was paid as Salary and Results Grants. Eight schools were brought under inspection. The number of boys presented for examination has not been stated, but it is observed that the President reports that 63 per cent. of the boys of school-going age are under instruction in different schools in the town.

7. The report on the working of the Dispensary is satisfactory, and shows that 5,712 cases were treated against 3,777 in the preceding year. Though due attention was paid to the conservancy and sanitation of the town, cholera broke out and increased the mortality. The number of cases registered from this cause has not been stated.

8. A beginning was made during the year towards the lighting of the town by fixing twenty iron lamp-posts in position. The cost of killing stray dogs being an item of Miscellaneous Municipal expenditure, it should have been shown under Grant IV, instead of under Grant III, Conservancy. The necessary correction has been made in the abstract given above.

9. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Vice-President's letter, and the entry of Rupees 5-6-0 under Grant V, Statement II, the President will report the circumstances under which the Pound was transferred to the Municipality, and how far the present arrangements are in accordance with the provisions of the Cattle Trespass Act I of 1871.

10. It is observed that the annual accounts were not audited as they were thoroughly sifted as recently as November 1875 in connection with the defalcations on which orders were passed in G.O., dated 27th October 1876, No. 1897.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Chedambram.

" Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Board of Revenue.
" Accountant-General.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" President of the Local Fund Boards, South Arcot District.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

54C

Rev: Dept

Govt. of 1877 Madras

pkt 1486

FINANCIAL.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Chittoor.

Sir,

Dated February, 10th

Issued ——— 27

Rcd. ——— 28

C.O. 10th February 1877. No. 609

FEBRUARY
Nos. 201-202.

Rs 1120-

Lodged
per Merchy