Revenue (1897) Department.

ROUTINE SERIES.

G.O., No. 1737

DATED 17 Sept 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Letter from Mr. A. Pushpanatha Pillai, chairman of the municipal council, Salem, req: his work as chairman, Recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Lib.
Lib
7/9/97

0/18 4,000—19-7-97.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 8003

1759

Order A. no 1737 d/17 Sept 97

Recorded
17.9.97

From M. R. Ry.
A. Pushpanatha Pillai
Chairman. Munl
Council, Salem
No.

Dated 13th Septr. 1897.
Received 15.9.97
Registered
Enclosures
Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Bringing to the notice
of Govt the good work
done by him as chairma
of the Salem Municipal
Council.

HC
15/9

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date
C.R.	4895/97.		
G.O.	3266	Revenue	4-5-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C.R.	663/98		

Myladea Rukhpanoothea Pillai,

Many thanks

for your letter etc. You seem

to have done well in Salem.

I daresay, like Cologne in

the song, it used to have "70

well dressed & different stinks."

How many are there left?

Yours sincerely

Hilary J. Carbutt Esq.

18/June

D.O. Salem Municipal Office,

13 . 9 . 1897 .

13 SEP 97

My Lord Respected Sir,

I respectfully beg to forward for your Honor's kind perusal, in a separate packet, a copy of G.O. No. 1880 M. dated 19th August 1897 reviewing the Administration Report of the Salem municipal Council for 1896-97, from which it will be seen that Govt. has been pleased to pass a few good remarks regarding my administration.

Your Honor is perfectly aware that I was appointed as the paid official Chairman of this Municipality in the midst of very great opposition chiefly from the Brahmin community. Two or three months after my appointment, it so happened to my singular misfortune, that your Honor had to leave the District on promotion,

& I had the left helpless & the deserted only by Mr. Azizuddin Sahb, the Dist. officer. Even he, after the lapse of a few months, was transfered from the District. I have however discharged my duties with courage & the best of my knowledge & ability in the midst of Brahmin opposition. But, as I am a helpless christian, some persons interested or Hindus taking advantage of my helpless condition began to slander me & vilify my administration particularly at the time when the new Municipal Amendment Act came into operation, & they expected that some changes might be effected in the administration of the Municipality.

When I saw your Honor at Ooty about 2 months ago, I was told that your Honor had received information that I was confining myself to my house & never used to go out, & that Salomi in the same condition in which she was Some years ago, & that therefore my administration was not successful. When I heard these words, I was so much pained at heart to see that there were persons to make such unfounded misrepresentations, that I was unable to make any answer to such a serious charge & I quietly returned in tears & in despair.

It is impossible for me in this short letter to condemn what I have done for the Town. When I took charge of my appointment in 1895, Mr. Azizuddin Sahb told me that I should inspection work in the mornings & office work in the afternoon. I have been acting up to this instruction up to this day, doing inspection work every day from 7 A.M. to 10½ A.M. (Sundays & authorized holidays alone excepted) & office work in the afternoon.

As regards the final improvements required for the Town, the Collector in forwarding the Administration Report says: "The new Jubilee Market, the water supply & drainage, & the completion of the finish Scavenging System

are the improvements most wanted."

I have been able to make a provision of 10,000 Rs for the construction of the Jubilee Market during the current year — a matter that was pending for the past 10 years —, & the plans & estimates are awaiting the Sanction of the Sanitary Board, to whom repeated reminders are being sent. The investigations regarding the water supply have been started long ago & are being conducted by the P.W.D., about 7000 Rs having been sanctioned for the purpose & about 2000 Rs having been spent already. The drainage scheme has to follow the water supply. Much has also been done towards improving the Private Scavenging System (vide para 3 (4) of the S.O.)

For this, the College Hall has been extended at a cost of 1950 Rs, & the Salem bazaar street has been provided with a drain on a new model suggested by Dr King at a cost of Rs 1017 (vide para 4 of the S.O.) & several other important conservancy works like the construction of a new road behind the Lunatic Asylum Compound, a new cart-stand

for Salem, a causeway near Metto Street, would have been undertaken were it not for the fact that a large sum of 10,000 Rs had been provided for the Jubilee Market, it being the wish of the Collector that the new Market should be completed before any other work.

Besides, much has also been done to improve the condition of the roads of the Town (vide para 4 of the S.O.). I have not been merely able to keep the main roads of the Town in good condition by thoroughly repairing them, but I have also been able to completely Metal several minor roads that had never been gravelled before for several years: such as Devanagapuram Main Street, Agraharam Street, Cadakara Street, Kamaara Street, Mantkam Main Street, Alla Venkatachellapa Street, & Bungalow Street, as Shevapet,

& important Streets in Bonnaumaspal
leading from the Salem Oddelan Road &
& several other roads in Salem Corpn.
The number of lights & dust bins have been
considerably increased (vide paras 84 & 62
of the Report). Several new Latrines have been
built & others completely repaired & are
being very freely used by the public. The Municipal
limits have been extended so as to include
the villages of Dadukapatti & Hansiram Mills.
The Survey of this Town has been undertaken &
is progressing. The introduction of the
Hastings Conservancy System with this Town
is awaiting the Sanction of Govt. Many
other improvements too numerous to be
detailed here have been carried out.

I shall be grateful to
consider that my services have been
well rewarded, if I am adjudged by
Your Honour's kind sympathy & favour
heart, to have discharged my duties
well & efficiently.

I beg to enclose for your Honour's
kind perusal a letter from Mr. J. M.
Horsfall Esq. I.C.S. Dt. & Sessions Judge
of Bellary.

I beg to remain
Most Respected Sir
Your Honour's most obedient servant
Burkshanmukham

Government {1897} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
15 SEP 97

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 1800 M., 19th August 1897.

AUGUST.

Administration Report.

Reviewing the — of the Salem Municipal Council for 1896–97.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From M.R.Ry. A. PUSHPANATHA PILLAI Avargal, B.A., Chairman, Municipal Council, Salem, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Head-quarters Deputy Collector), dated 25th May 1897, No. 930-A.

I have the honour to report on the working of the Salem Municipality during the financial year 1896–97.

2. *Administrative Changes.*—During the year under report there were very few changes in the administration of this municipality. One of the official councillors was appointed and another was re-appointed by Government. One of the non-official councillors was appointed by Government and another was elected.

I.—CONSTITUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

3. On the 31st March 1897 the municipal council consisted of twenty members—the maximum sanctioned strength; of these, five were officials and fifteen non-officials; four Europeans and sixteen Natives (including four Muhammadans). Ten non-official councillors were elected by the rate-payers, while the rest were appointed by Government.

4. During the year under report, one contested municipal election was held on the 22nd June 1896 in the fourth ward to fill up a vacancy caused by the termination of the period of appointment of one of the elected councillors. The total number of registered voters of that ward was 775. The number of voters who actually went to the poll was 377, which gives a percentage of 48·6.

5. The total number of meetings held during the year was 24 against 31 in the previous year. The number of meetings adjourned for want of a quorum was one against two in the preceding year. The average attendance at each meeting is compared below with that of previous year:—

	1895–96.	1896–97.
Officials	2·2	3·0
Non-officials	9·8	8·5
Total ..	12·0	11·5

It is satisfactory to note that there has been a slight increase in the attendance of the officials.

II.—RECEIPTS.

A.—Receipts from Taxation.

6. *Tax on Arts, &c.*—(*a*) *Arrears.*—The total amount of arrear demand at the beginning of the year was Rs. 9–8–0, of which Rs. 5–8–0, or 55·5 against 65·0 per cent. of the previous year, was collected and Rs. 4 was written off the accounts. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was *nil.*

7. (*b*) *Current.*—The arts-tax registers were revised during the year under report partly by myself and partly by the division councillors. The current demand as originally assessed by the Chairman was Rs. 13,101; of this, Rs. 1,298 was remitted by the council on appeal. The finally-settled demand was Rs. 11,803, which shows an increase of Rs. 185–8–0, as compared with that of last year in spite of the large remissions granted by the council on appeal and the unfavourable character of the season during the year under report. The amount collected was Rs. 11,611–5–0 or 98·3 against 99·9 per cent. of the previous year; the balance left uncollected at the close of the year was only Rs. 191–11–0, of which Rs. 87–8–0 has subsequently been collected.

8. The tax on arts is levied from all classes of the schedule. The number of persons assessed under each class of the schedule, and the aggregate amount of the assessment under each class, are given in statement IX-A. Four thousand nine hundred and six persons are assessed at Rs. 11,803. The incidence per head was Rs. 2–6–5 against Rs. 2–5–4 of the previous year.

9. *Tax on Buildings*—(*a*) *Arrears.*—The arrears of tax on buildings outstanding at the commencement of the year amounted to Rs. 65–9–0; of this sum, Rs. 62–8–0 was realized. Rs. 3–1–0 was written off the accounts as irrecoverable. The balance left at the close of the year was *nil.* The percentage of collections on arrear demand was 93·9 against 87·3 of the previous year.

10. (*b*) *Current.*—The house-tax registers having been revised during the year 1894–95, those for the year under report were corrected with reference to subsequent additions, alterations and improvements. The current demand, as originally fixed by the Chairman, was Rs. 19,644–6–0; of this Rs. 1–13–0 was remitted by the council on appeal. The demand finally settled was Rs. 19,642–9–0, which shows a net increase of Rs. 167–11–0 over that of last year. The collections amounted to Rs. 19,175–4–0, the percentage being 97·6 against 99·2 of the previous year; Rs. 44–9–0 was remitted by the Chairman on account of vacant houses under section 72. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 422–12–0. Of this Rs. 237–15–0 has subsequently been realized. Nine thousand nine hundred and forty houses were assessed to the tax on buildings out of a total number, according to the census of 1891, of 12,815, the total number of houses on the municipal registers out of the number according to the census of 1891 being 11,005. The incidence per house was Rs. 1–15–7 against Rs. 1–15–4 of the previous year.

11. *Tax on Lands*—(*a*) *Arrears.*—The arrear demand at the beginning of the year was Rs. 56–15–5, the whole of which or 100·0 against 90·0 per cent. of the previous year was realized and the balance at the close of the year was *nil.*

12. (*b*) *Current.*—The land-tax registers having been thoroughly revised during the year 1895–96, those for the year under report were corrected with reference to subsequent additions and alterations, and the tax has been levied at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the annual rental value of each land. The current demand, as originally assessed by the Chairman, was Rs. 1,317–9–5, and no remission was granted by the council on appeal. The demand finally settled was Rs. 1,317–9–5, which shows a net decrease of Rs. 9–13–10 against that of last year. The collections amounted to Rs. 1,263–9–9, the percentage being 95·9 against 95·7 of the previous year. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 53–15–8; of this Rs. 2–7–10 has subsequently been realized.

13. *Tax on Vehicles with springs and Tax on Animals and Carts without springs.*—The increase as compared with the budget grant under these items was mainly due to the constant check and supervision exercised over this branch. Registers have been maintained showing the vehicles, animals, &c., chargeable.

14. *Coercive Processes.*—The number of warrants of all kinds issued during the year was 992 against 599 in 1895–96; adding to this the unexecuted warrants of 1895–96, the total was 1,014, of which 856 were executed and cancelled within the year, leaving 158 to be disposed of in the current year. The total amount covered by the warrants issued during the year was Rs. 2,457–12–11 against Rs. 1,783–1–11 in 1895–96, and the amount recovered was Rs. 2,069–6–3; property was sold in twenty-four cases against one in the previous year and Rs. 37–10–0 realized. The number of prosecutions instituted during the year was 94 against 231 in 1895–96. The duty of executing the warrants was assigned to the bill collectors themselves. There was no necessity to issue a very large number of processes owing to the strict supervision

exercised over the bill collectors, whose work was strictly reviewed. Whenever they grew lax or found difficulty in making collections, I assisted them to a considerable degree by undertaking the collections myself.

15. *Tolls.*—Tolls are levied at three-fourths of the maximum rates. There are sixteen toll-gates which were leased out to a contractor during the year under report. The collections credited to Municipal funds after deducting the local fund share due to the district board amounted to Rs. 9,320-11-0 against Rs. 8,088-7-3, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was due to the higher bids offered at the time of sale of the farms. The current gross demand under rolls (excluding the amount of interest realized) was Rs. 11,475, the whole of which was realized. The one-fifth share of tolls due and paid to the district board, Salem, after deducting the expenditure, amounted to Rs. 2,205-0-9 (excluding the amount of interest).

16. *Incidence of Taxation.*—The total income from taxation was Rs. 47,571-9-2 including, and Rs. 38,250-14-2 excluding, tolls. The average incidence per head of the population was As. 11-3 in the former and As. 9 in the latter case, against As. 11-8 and As. 9-9, respectively, in 1895-96. The incidence for the Presidency in 1895-96 was As. 14-3 and As. 10-9.

B.—Miscellaneous Receipts.

17. *Avenue Receipts.*—Under this head the amount collected was Rs. 482-6-9, against the revised estimate of Rs. 420 and Rs. 282-1-2, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was due to the higher bids offered at the time of sale of the avenue produce.

18. *Sale-proceeds of Night-soil, Street refuse, &c.*—The realizations under this head amounted to Rs. 320-10-11 against the revised estimate of Rs. 300 and Rs. 93-12-0, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was due to the fact that the several years' accumulations of all the rubbish depôts in the town, as well as the daily collection of the rubbish in all the divisions, have been sold to a contractor for three years at the rate of Rs. 295 per annum, as already reported in paragraph 19 of the last year's report.

19. *Fees from Educational Institutions.*—The receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 9,251-7-4 against the revised estimate of Rs. 8,000 and Rs. 7,970-5-10, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was chiefly due to the increase in the number of pupils in the Salem College and Salem and Shevapet town schools.

20. *Income from Markets.*—During the year under report all the markets were leased out to contractors. The current demand under this head amounted to Rs. 2,675, the whole of which was realized. There are at present five markets as in the previous year. These have been frequently used by the public and are kept clean and in good order. The Collector of Salem has been addressed to acquire the site approved for the Jubilee market and necessary provision has been made in the current year's budget for its construction, and the Sanitary Board has been requested to furnish a standard plan with a clock tower for the same. The total receipts from the five markets above referred to amounted to Rs. 2,720-8-0. Deducting expenditure on construction, repairs, maintenance and establishment and contingencies, which amounted to Rs. 970-15-7, the net income from markets was Rs. 1,749-8-5.

21. *Income from Slaughter-houses.*—The current collections under this head amounted to Rs. 1,971-14-9 against Rs. 1,697-10-6, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was due to the higher bids offered at the time of sale of these farms. There are at present five slaughter-houses, all of which were leased out.

22. *License Fees.*—The receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 1,388-8-9 against the budget grant of Rs. 1,300 and Rs. 1,472-12-3, the actuals of 1895-96. The decrease as compared with the actuals of last year was due to the fact that the actuals of 1895-96 represent not only the collections of the demand of that year, but also include large arrears of previous years realized by prosecution before the Bench of Magistrates, as already reported in paragraph 23 of the last year's report. The slight increase as compared with the budget grant was due to the strict supervision that was exercised by which many cases of omissions to take out licenses were detected in the course of the year and brought to account.

23. *Cart-stand Fees.*—The total receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 1,792-12-6 against the budget grant of Rs. 1,410 and Rs. 1,430-11-2, the actuals of last year. The increase was due to the fact that higher bids were offered at the time of sale of the municipal cart-stand.

24. *Fines under Municipal and other Acts.*—A sum of Rs. 155-4-0 was realized under this head against the budget grant of Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,649-7-5, the actuals of last year. The decrease was due to the effect given to G.O., No. 1460 M., dated 2nd September 1896.

25. *Grants and Contributions*—(*a*) *From Government*—(i) *Education Grants for Buildings.*—A sum of Rs. 341 was drawn from Provincial funds on account of the improvement of the Shevapet town school.

26. *Grants for Municipal Schools.*—The income under this head amounted to Rs. 2,662-6-2 against the budget grant of Rs. 2,860 and Rs. 2,603-3-4, the actuals of 1895-96. Some of the furniture and science apparatus and drawing materials were supplied to the Salem College towards the close of the year, and the grant promised by the Director of Public Instruction for the same will be drawn in the current financial year. This accounts for the decrease as compared with the budget grant.

27. (*c*) *Other Grants and Contributions*—(iii) *Other purposes.*—The sum of Rs. 81-7-4 shown under this head is the voluntary contribution made by the people of Manickam Pillai Street in C division on account of one-third of the cost of the site acquired by the municipality for widening the said street.

28. *Private Scavenging.*—The number of houses served by the private scavenging agency on the last day of the year was 1,109, the amount of fees collected was Rs. 842-13-0 and the charges incurred were Rs. 988-15-9 against 555, Rs. 648-8-3 and Rs. 772-10-1, respectively, in 1895-96. During the year under report, considerable improvement was effected in this branch, the number of houses served under this system having nearly doubled owing to constant personal attention paid to this matter. The current demand under this head was Rs. 864-12-9; of this Rs. 842-13-0 was collected and the balance left uncollected at the close of the year was Rs. 21-15-9. This fee is generally collected in advance, but as most of the houses were brought under this system towards the close of the year, a small arrear was left, of which Rs. 19-8-9 has however subsequently been realized.

29. *Refunds of Expenditure of previous year.*—The sum of Rs. 851 shown under this head is the amount refunded by the Collector of Salem on account of cost of acquiring certain sites for putting up zinc latrines, which have been abandoned by the municipal council.

30. *Opening Balance.*—The year opened with a credit balance of Rs. 11,658-7-11, and the current receipts amounted to Rs. 73,107-10-9 against Rs. 71,470 and Rs. 75,410, respectively, anticipated in the budget and revised estimates of the year and Rs. 73,326-1-9, the actuals of 1895-96.

III.—EXPENDITURE.

31. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 78,936-10-2 against Rs. 83,890 anticipated in the revised estimate and Rs. 74,056-8-3 incurred in 1895-96. It was distributed among the several grants as noted below:—

—	1895-96.	1896-97.	Percentage for 1896-97.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Grant 1, Public works	15,845 0 0	16,755 2 9	21·2
,, 2, Education	19,093 12 4	20,070 3 10	25·4
,, 3, Sanitation and medical services ..	24,682 11 10	27,716 7 5	35·1
,, 4, Lighting and miscellaneous municipal purposes	7,294 5 1	4,841 14 4	6·2
,, 5, Supervision	6,587 7 0	8,115 13 10	10·3
Advances and refunds, &c.	553 4 0	1,437 0 0	1·8
Total ..	74,056 8 3	78,936 10 2	100·0

The net increase, as compared with the figures of 1895-96, occurs mainly under Grants 1, 2, 3 and 5.

32. *Grant* 1, *Public Works*—(1) *New Works*—(*a*) *Communications.*—The sum of Rs. 4,420 provided in the revised estimate was not expended for the following reasons:—

(1) The subject of acquiring the site selected for the opening of a lane between the first agraharam and the Salem Bazaar street in G division, for which a sum of Rs. 2,095 was provided in the revised estimate, is still under correspondence and under the consideration of the council; and

(2) the question of constructing a causeway across the river near the Komati chattram in G division, for which Rs. 2,325 was provided in the revised estimate, is also under correspondence between the municipal council and the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, Coimbatore.

33. *Buildings.*—The charges incurred under this head amounted to Rs. 2,489-8-7 against the revised estimate of Rs. 2,780. The important work that was executed during the year under report was the extension of the Salem College hall at a cost of Rs. 1,950. The Ammapet latrine for females and a school-house for Panchama school at Kitchipalayam provided for in the revised estimate were not executed, as the former was not sanctioned by the Sanitary Board and the estimate for the latter had to be considerably modified to suit the requirements of the school. This fact chiefly accounts for the decrease as compared with the revised estimate.

34. *Drainage.*—A tiled drain was constructed in the Salem Bazaar street at a cost of Rs. 1,017-2-3 against the budget grant of Rs. 1,080. The question of providing the town of Salem with a system of drainage has been, owing to want of funds, deferred pending the settlement of the water-supply scheme as per G.O., Mis. No. 282 M., dated 24th February 1897.

35. *Water-supply.*—The charges incurred under this head amounted to Rs. 5-7-0 against the budget estimate of Rs. 1,280. No detailed bill has yet been submitted by the Executive Engineer, Salem Division, to whom Rs. 1,280 has been advanced for sinking a trial well in connection with the investigntion of the water-supply scheme for this town. In G.O., No. 501 W., dated 20th February 1897, it has been ordered by Government that the aforesaid well should be deepened by another 30 feet.

36. (2) (*c*) *Repairs*—(*a*) *Communications.*—The expenditure on the repair of the town roads was Rs. 5,930-0-5 against the budget grant of Rs. 4,000 and Rupees 4,131-11-5, the actuals of 1895-96. The percentage of expenditure on the net income from tolls was 63·9 against 51·1 in 1895-96. The general condition of the roads in the town was good.

37. (*b*) *Buildings.*—As most of the mud wall latrines, markets, cart-stand, hospital and toll-houses were repaired during the year under report, the expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 4,215-3-1, against the revised estimate of Rupees 4,370 and the budget grant of Rs. 2,320.

38. (*d*) *Water-supply*—(i) *Repairs to Works, &c.*—The parapet wall on the northern side of the Arisipalayam tank and the Kitchipalayam municipal well and some other wells in the town were repaired during the year under report. The charges under this head therefore amounted to Rs. 582-12-11 against the revised estimate of Rs. 500 and the budget grant of Rs. 300.

39. *Tools and Plant and other stores.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 92-12-9 against the budget grant of Rs. 200. During the year under report no new plant was purchased.

40. *Grant 2, Education*—(i) *Training Schools.*—During the year under report an additional stipend of Rs. 2 a month was paid to a Muhammadan teacher who is still under training in the Muhammadan Branch Training School, Triplicane. The charges under this head therefore amounted to Rs. 14-14-5 against Rs. 52-9-3, the actuals of 1895-96.

41. *Municipal Schools on Salary System*—(*a*) *Establishment.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 12,695-8-10 against the budget estimate of Rupees 12,760. During the year under report an additional teacher on a salary of Rs. 30 a

month was sanctioned in G.O., Mis. No. 1659 M., dated 25th September 1896, owing to the large increase in the number of pupils in the III form of the Salem College which has been divided into two sections from June 1896. This accounts for the increase as compared with the actuals of 1895-96, which amounted to Rupees 12,055-12-2. The number of pupils on the rolls of the Salem College on the 31st March 1897 was 328 against 274 at the close of 1895-96. The results of the public examinations are compared with that of the previous year as shown below:—

—	1895-96.		1896-97.	
	Number of pupils sent up and examined.	Number passed.	Number of pupils sent up and examined.	Number passed.
1. First-in-Arts	8	2	5	2
2. Matriculation	12	6	28	12*
3. Seventh Standard or Lower Secondary Examination	43	24	54	33

* One in the first class.

The net cost of the Salem Municipal College, as compared with 1895-96, was as follows:—

	1895-96. RS. A. P.	1896-97. RS. A. P.
Charges	10,282 5 3	11,270 5 4
Deduct Receipts—		
Provincial grants	2,549 6 1	2,621 15 2
School-fees, &c.	6,119 14 0	7,276 13 0
Total ..	8,669 4 1	9,898 12 2
Net cost ..	1,613 1 2	1,371 9 2

The council wishes to place on record the fact that the progress of the college has been good and promises to be better.

42. (*b*) *Contingencies.*—During the year under report, science apparatus, drawing materials and furniture were purchased for the use of the Municipal College, Salem, and some of the old furniture was also repaired. The charges under this head therefore amounted to Rs. 1,065-15-4, against the budget estimate of Rs. 1,080 and Rupees 728-14-6, the actuals of last year.

43. *Salary-result System Schools—Fixed Payments.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 3,144-12-11 against the budget grant of Rs. 3,310 and Rupees 3,116-13-10, the actuals of 1895-96. During the year under report, the Fort Jubilee upper primary Muhammadan school was raised to the lower secondary grade from November 1896 and an additional teacher on a salary of Rs. 6 per mensem was sanctioned for the Ponnamapett municipal school from September 1896, as per G.O., Mis. No. 210 M., dated 12th February 1897. The appointment of some of the teachers of the Fort Jubilee Muhammadan school was vacant for some months. This fact accounts chiefly for the decrease as compared with the budget grant. The Shevapet mosque street school was amalgamated with the Shevapet Muhammadan school in April 1896. There are thirteen schools on this system against fourteen in the previous year. Of these, four are purely Muhammadan schools and two are Panchama schools. The working of these schools was satisfactory.

44. *Result Grants to Salary-result System Schools.*—The outlay under this head amounted to Rs. 838-7-1 against the budget grant of Rs. 850 and Rs. 833-10-2, the actuals of 1895-96. During the year under report the result grant was distributed once for all proportionately to the earnings of all the schools put together in the case of ordinary schools, as was done in the previous year.

45. *Salary Grants.*—A sum of Rs. 444-3-3 was paid on account of salary grant for the lower secondary department of the London Mission high school, Salem, against the budget grant of Rs. 450 and Rs. 487-8-1, the actuals of last year, which included the arrears of previous months.

46. *Result Grants to Aided Schools.*—The number of schools at the commencement of the year was nineteen. Three schools were newly opened and two were closed during the year before the grant examination. The number of schools on the last day of the year was twenty. Out of the twenty-two schools which were registered for examination, twenty were examined against nineteen in the previous year.

The amount of grants paid to them was Rs. 718-10-0 against the budget grant of Rs. 750. Over-earned grants not exceeding their net cost were paid to some of the aided schools as recommended by the Director of Public Instruction, Madras. The result grants are paid to aided schools at the maximum rates.

47. (6) *Inspection—(b) Municipal Inspectors—(1) Establishment.*—During the year under report, a joint Muhammadan inspecting schoolmaster was appointed to inspect all the municipal Muhammadan schools in this town and in Tiruppattúr and Vániyambádi municipalities in addition to a supervisor on a salary of Rs. 20 per mensem already appointed to supervise the other primary schools in this town. The charges under this head amounted to Rs. 308-3-7 against Rs. 240, the actuals of 1895-96.

48. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 20,070-3-10; deducting income from Provincial grants Rs. 3,138-6-3 and school-fees Rs. 9,251-7-4, total Rupees 12,389-13-7, the net cost was Rs. 7,680-6-3. The percentage of net expenditure on education to total income from taxation and other revenue apart from taxation, except school-fees (Rs. 57,363), was 13·3 against 12·7 in 1895-96. A copy of the statements prescribed in G.O., No. 885 L., dated 15th April 1891, and received from the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore Division, is herewith submitted.

49. *Grant 3, Sanitation and Medical Services—(i) Hospitals and Dispensaries—(a) Establishment.*—The outlay under this head amounted to Rs. 2,536-14-2 against Rs. 2,305-9-5, the actuals of 1895-96. During the year under report the second-class hospital assistant attached to the branch dispensary, Ammapet, joined duty only in July 1896, and only a second-class hospital assistant was posted to the hospital, in lieu of a first-class man provided for in the budget, as no first-class hospital assistant was available. These facts chiefly account for the decrease as compared with the budget grant of Rs. 2,720.

50. (*b*) *Medicines and Supplies.*—The charges under this head amounted to Rs. 2,129-3-3 against Rs. 1,251-15-3, the actuals of 1895-96. As there was some delay during the year under report in the receipt of supply of medicines from Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., London, certain medicines had to be purchased from the Local Fund reserve stock and Savege & Co., Madras. Import duty and cost of exchange had also to be paid for the medicines supplied by the above firm; and there was a large increase in the number of out-patients. These facts chiefly account for the increase as compared with the actuals of 1895-96.

51. (*c*) *Diet of Patients and* (*d*) *Sundries and Contingencies.*—The charges under these two heads were more than the actuals of 1895-96, as the arrears due for February 1896 were paid during the year under report.

52. The total expenditure of the hospitals and dispensaries was Rs. 6,977-0-2 against the budget estimate of Rs. 7,470 and Rs. 5,491-5-11, the actuals of 1895-96. The following statement shows the number of in and out patients treated in the municipal hospital and branch dispensary at Ammapet as compared with last year:—

	1895-96.	1896-97.
In-patients	272	268
Out-patients	31,844	38,505
Total ..	32,116	38,773

The amount of sale-proceeds and composition fees of medicines under the rules framed by the municipal council and approved by Government in its Order No. 974 M., dated 27th September 1887, was Rs. 364-10-6 against Rs. 336-14-11 in 1895-96. A copy of the annual medical and sanitary report for 1896-97 of the District Medical and Sanitary officer, Salem, is herewith submitted. The suggestions therein made will

be duly carried out when sufficient funds are available. With reference to G.O., No. 1005 L., dated 6th June 1894, I have to state that the provision of Rs. 2,050 made in the current year's budget for the quarters of the hospital assistant attached to the municipal hospital, Salem, has been struck out by Government in G.O., No. 440 M., dated 8th March 1897. Medicines are supplied from the municipal hospital, Salem, free of cost to the women's and children's dispensary opened by the District Board, Salem, in the Salem fort.

53. *Midwife.*—The midwife attached to the municipal hospital, Salem, has attended 54 cases against 41 in 1895-96. She has been paid on the salary-result system.

54. *Medical Training of Women.*—As stated in the last year's report no action was taken by the municipal council towards the training of female medical practitioners during the year under report.

55. (2) *Contributions to Local Boards, &c., for* (*iii*) *District Board's Women's and Children's Dispensaries.*—A sum of Rs. 60 has been paid to the District Board, Salem, on account of house-rent of the building occupied by the women's and children's dispensary in the Salem fort, agreeably to the resolution of the municipal council, dated 23rd April 1896.

56. *Vaccination.*—The number of vaccine operations performed during the year under report is compared below with that of the previous year:—

	1895-96.			1896-97.		
	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Total.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Total.
Number of vaccinations performed by the medical subordinates	3	..	3	..	..	..
Number of vaccinations performed by the municipal vaccinators ..	2,957	5	2,963	2,953	30	2,983
Total ..	2,960	5	2,966	2,953	30	2,983

The average cost of each successful operation performed by the municipal vaccinators was As. 2-5 against As. 2-7 in 1895-96. All the operations were performed with glycerine paste which is obtained from the district board depôt opened at Salem. The number of prosecutions instituted for failure to have children vaccinated was 323 against 317 in 1895-96. A copy of the birth register is furnished to all the vaccinators in each month.

57. *Registration of Births and Deaths.*—The number of births and deaths registered during the year under report is compared below with that of the previous year:—

	Births.		Deaths.	
	Number registered.	Rate per mille.	Number registered.	Rate per mille.
1895-96	2,637	38·9	1,511	22·3
1896-97	2,706	39·9	1,913	28·5

The number of prosecutions instituted for failure to register births and deaths was two against two in 1895-96. The particulars and causes of deaths are shown below:—

	1895-96.	1896-97.
Cholera	..	379
Small-pox	1	1
Fevers	472	540
Dysentery and Diarrhœa	83	139
Injuries	..	2
Other causes	955	852
Total ..	1,511	1,913

3

58. *Conservancy, Road cleaning and Road watering*—(*a*) (*i*) *Establishment.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 11,757-11-8 against the budget grant of Rs. 11,730 and Rs. 11,631-0-7, the actuals of 1895-96. During the year under report, one of the sanitary inspectors was sent to Madras for being trained in the Medical College, and the consequent charges were incurred thereon agreeably to G.O., No. 1914 M., dated 10th December 1894. This fact chiefly accounts for the increase as compared with the budget grant. The sanitary condition of the town was on the whole satisfactory. With reference to the last paragraph of the District Medical and Sanitary officer's report, I have to state that all the three sanitary inspectors now employed in this municipality have been trained in the Medical College, Madras.

59. (*ii*) *Other Charges such as Purchase or Hire of Carts, &c.*—The outlay under this head amounted to Rs. 4,771-1-6 against the budget grant of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 4,904-14-4, the actuals of 1895-96. During the year under report 20 zinc sheet dust-bins were prepared and supplied to the several divisions of the town against 60 in the previous year, but no night-soil receptacles were purchased. These facts mainly account for the decrease as compared with the actuals of the previous year.

60. *Private Scavenging*—(*i*) *Establishment.*—The charges under this head amounted to Rs. 988-15-9 against the budget grant of Rs. 850 and Rs. 772-10-1, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was due to the very large number of houses newly brought under this system during the year under report as already explained in paragraph 28 *supra*, and to 16 additional private scavenging toties on a salary of Rs. 3 each per mensem (sanctioned in G.O., Mis. No. 600 M., dated 18th March 1897) having been in consequence entertained from November 1896.

61. *Cholera Charges.*—The amount of charges incurred under this head was Rs. 1,311-15-7 against the budget grant of Rs. 300 and Rs. 6-9-0, the actuals of 1895-96. During the year under report, the general health of the town was fairly good and free from epidemic diseases up to the early part of November 1896, when cholera broke out and finally ceased on the 15th April 1897. There were 681 attacks and 379 deaths up to 31st March 1897 against *nil* in 1895-96 and 21 further attacks and no deaths up to the 15th April 1897. The rules contained in G.O., No. 1536 M., dated 9th September 1896, were carried out with satisfactory results. The observation and preventive staff which were temporarily appointed for the purpose have been sanctioned in G.O., Mis. No. 1690 M., dated 2nd October 1896, and further sanction has been applied for in this office letter No. 621, dated 30th March 1897, through the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, for the entertainment of such additional hands as were thought necessary.

62. *Grant 4, Lighting and Miscellaneous—Municipal purposes*—(*i*) *Lighting.*—The lighting of the town was carried on departmentally during the year under report as was done in the previous year. The drain-cleaners attached to the establishment of flushing drains, &c., shown under Grant 1 were attending to this work in addition to their own, the proportionate cost of their pay being debited to both the heads as usual. The total charges amounted to Rs. 3,106-5-5 against Rs. 2,731, the actuals of 1895-96. The price of the kerosine oil has risen high, and the number of lamps has been considerably increased, and 100 large size chimneys and 100 big burners were purchased and supplied to the main roads during the year under report. These facts chiefly account for the increase as compared with the actuals of last year. The total number of new lights put up during the year under report was 34, and the total number in existence on 31st March 1897 was 698 against 665 in 1895-96. This gives an average of 87 lamps to a square mile, the area of the municipality being eight square miles.

63. *Poor-house.*—The following table shows the strength of the institution during the year as compared with 1895-96 :—

	1895-96.	1896-97.
Number of patients remaining at the beginning of the year.	5	4
Do. admitted during the year	30	22
Do. discharged do.	19	13
Do. died do.	12	4
Number remaining at the end of the year	4	9
Do. of disabled paupers fed during the year	2,401	2,292

The total cost of this institution was Rs. 498-1-1 against Rs. 519-5-0, the actuals of 1895-96.

64. *Travellers' Bungalow.*—The number of travellers who halted at the bungalow was 81 against 83 in 1895-96, and the rent realized from them amounted to Rs. 350-8-0 against Rs. 278-8-0 in 1895-96. The total charges of the bungalow, including the cost of repair of the building, &c., were Rs. 136-15-4. The net cost to the municipality was *minus* Rs. 213-8-8. With reference to G.O., No. 564 L., dated 12th March 1891, I have to report that the condition of the bungalow is good and the necessary furniture and other articles have been supplied.

65. (9) (*v*) *Other items.*—The outlay under this head amounted to Rs. 554-11-7 against the budget grant of Rs. 600 and Rs. 902-1-2, the actuals of 1895-96. During the year under report, the law charges incurred were considerably less than those of the previous year. The expenditure was therefore less than that of 1895-96. The details for the amount of outlay are noted below :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cost of gunpowder supplied, wadding expenses of the gun and gunner's pay	171	2	6
Town crier's pay	41	8	0
Law charges	80	6	0
Rent paid for the building occupied by the Literary Society ..	150	0	0
Painting and numbering tin tickets	29	14	8
Land revenue assessment paid for the municipal lands ..	81	12	5
Total ..	554	11	7

66. *Grant 5, Supervision and Management*—(*a*) *General Establishment*—(*ii*) *Inspection.*—The charges incurred under this head amounted to Rs. 3,000 against Rs. 1,716-2-0, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was due to the fact that, during the year under report, the salary of the Chairman was paid throughout the year, whereas in 1895-96 it was paid only from August 1895.

67. (*e*) *Contributions for Central Office and Audit Establishment.*—The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 550 against Rs. 425, the actuals of 1895-96. The increase was due to the instructions of Government contained in G.O., No. 2391 L., dated 17th December 1896.

68. *Advances Recoverable.*—The subjoined table gives particulars of advances made and recovered during the year :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Balance on the 31st March 1896	716	0	0
Advances made in 1896-97	1,701	3	6
Total ..	2,417	3	6
Advances recovered	319	1	6
Balance on the 31st March 1897 ..	2,098	2	0

IV.—CLOSING BALANCE, DEBTS, &C.

69. *Closing Balance.*—Deducting the total expenditure of Rs. 78,936-10-2 from the total receipts including the opening balance Rs. 84,766-2-8, the closing balance was Rs. 5,829-8-6. This amount, together with the deposit balance in cash, corresponded with the balance to the credit of the Municipal fund in the Salem Huzur treasury as noted below :—

				Rs.	A.	P.
Balance of Municipal fund as per statement II				5,829	8	6
Deposit balance in cash				4,322	5	10
				10,151	14	4
Add amount of uncashed cheques				2,563	4	3
				12,714	2	7
	Rs.	A.	P.			
Deduct collections not remitted	600	8	2			
Amount drawn from the treasury but not disbursed	85	12	6			
				686	4	8
Balance in treasury as per Treasury Deputy Collector's letter, dated 10th April 1897, No. 668-Accts.				12,027	13	11

70. *Municipal Accounts.*—During the year under report, the accounts of this municipality for the year 1895–96 were audited by W. J. F. Williamson, Esq., Assistant Accountant-General and Inspector of Local Fund Accounts, Madras. The accounts for 1896–97 have not as yet been audited.

71. *General Remarks.*—A statement showing the excess expenditure over the sanctioned allotment for the year under certain items is herewith submitted. It is requested that the excess expenditure may be admitted, as most of the expenditure had to be incurred towards the close of the year, and it was not possible to obtain sanction for the additional allotments required before the close of the year.

72. A copy of the resolution of the council passing the report is herewith submitted. With reference to G.O., No. 291 M., dated 25th February 1897, a memorandum of investments in the prescribed form is also herewith submitted.

ENCLOSURES.

CONCISE annual report on the Hospital and Dispensary in the Salem Municipality for the official year 1896–97.

1. *Public Health.*—The general health of the people was fairly good and free from epidemic diseases up to the early part of November when cholera, which was prevalent throughout the district and in the neighbouring districts, appeared in a sporadic form and gradually became epidemic, mostly affecting the western parts of the town which are nearest to the river, and was most prevalent about the middle of December and from that time subsided and had nearly ceased in the early part of February, when a fresh outbreak affecting the whole of the town resulted from a local celebration of the Mahamagam festival held at a pool on the stream at the fourth mile on the Omalúr road which was attended by about 10,000 people from the town and neighbouring villages; subsequently the disease existed in a sporadic form and finally ceased on the 15th April 1897: in all 702 cases occurred resulting in 379 deaths.

2. *Vital Statistics.*—Two thousand seven hundred and six births and 1,913 deaths were registered, the rate per mille being 59·96 and 28·54, respectively: as compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 69 births and 402 deaths, the large increase in the latter being mainly due to mortality from cholera: 1 death resulted from small-pox in June, the case being imported, 379 from cholera, 540 from fevers, 139 from bowel-complaints, 2 from injuries and 852 from all other causes.

3. *Sanitation.*—Sanitation has been fairly good; the roads and streets have been kept free from rubbish; the public latrines have been increased from 49 to 53 during the year, but they are still insufficient in number and require better management. Of the 1,195 private latrines in the town, 1,109 are now cleaned daily by municipal agency as compared with 555 in the previous year; the masonry drain on the southern side of the Salem bazaar street was reconstructed during the year; otherwise the drainage

remains in the same bad condition; the water-supply was sufficient, but as unsatisfactory as ever and much difficulty was experienced during the epidemic of cholera in keeping the people away from using the river water; 601 nuisance cases were prosecuted during the year and 564 convictions obtained, nevertheless the use of side streets and lanes and corners as latrines is very common, particularly on the outskirts of the town; the slaughter-houses were not kept in good order and it is desirable that the council in future will undertake to maintain the cleanliness of these places.

4. *Vaccination.*—One male and one female vaccinators were employed, and between them performed 2,967 primary vaccinations, of which 2,937 or 98 per cent. were successful: of these, 2,714 were under 1 year, 202 between 1 and 6 years and 21 above 6 years: of 16 re-vaccinations, all were successful: generally the results were closely similar to those of the previous year and a few re-vaccinations were done, but the work of re-protection requires more attention; glycerine vaccine prepared at the district board's vaccine depôt was used and gave satisfactory results.

5. *Hospitals and Dispensaries—(a) Nature and sufficiency of accommodation.*—No alterations were made during the year; occasionally the want of separate accommodation for Europeans and Eurasians was felt at the hospital; also more space is required for the present buildings and possible extensions or additions.

The rented building in which the Ammapet branch dispensary is located does not afford sufficient and suitable accommodation, and a new building is required for the purpose.

Public quarters for the hospital assistants have not yet been provided.

(*b*) *State of repair of buildings.*—The hospital buildings were whitewashed and repaired and are now in fairly good condition; the branch dispensary building was kept in good condition.

(*c*) *State of repair of furniture.*—The furniture was kept in good condition.

(*d*) *Inspections*—(1) *Steps taken to carry out the recommendations of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.*—The plans and estimates for a contagious diseases shed, recommended by the Surgeon-General in 1893, are still under the consideration of the Sanitary Board and the Council.

(2) *Steps taken to carry out the recommendations of other Inspecting Officers.*—Nil

(*e*) *Amount of recoveries from patients who have been able to pay for their diets and medicines.*—From in-patients, *nil.* From out-patients, Rs. 371–3–4.

(*f*) *Number of patients treated as compared with previous years.*—The attendance during the past four years at the hospital and dispensary is compared in the following statement:—

Official years.	Municipal hospital.				Municipal branch dispensary.	
	Number treated.		Average daily attendance.			
	In.	Out.	In.	Out.	Number treated.	Average daily attendance.
1893–94	55-	20,1 14	16·19	120·80	12,470	112·31
1894–95	269	20,603	13·67	123·85	14,914	114·36
1895–96	272	20,534	13·04	126·52	11,310	85·06
1896–97	268	22,271	13·30	134·60	16,234	115·55

The number of in-patients treated at the hospital was nearly the same as in the previous year, but there was a considerable increase in the number of admissions and attendance of out-patients both at the hospital and the dispensary.

(*g*) *Mortality and actual causes of it particularly with reference to septic diseases acquired in hospitals.*—Twenty-three deaths occurred in hospital from the following diseases and causes:—

Disease.	Actual cause	No.
Burns	Exhaustion	1
Albuminuria	Suicidal drowning in hospital well	1
Hemiplegia	Coma	1
Acute alcoholism	Do	1
Pneumonia	Syncope	2
Tuberculosis lung	Exhaustion	5
	Do with coma	1
Acute desquamative nephritis	Uræmia	1
Anæmia	Syncope	1
Dysentery, chronic	Exhaustion	1
Valvular disease of heart	Syncope	1
Diarrhœa	Exhaustion	2
Cholera	Do	6
	Uræmia	1
	Total	31

The large proportionate mortality to admissions was due to many of the patients being admitted in the last stage of the diseases and often in a very exhausted condition.

(*h*) *Operations and results.*—One thousand one hundred and three operations were performed without any deaths, as compared with 673 operations, with one death in the previous year.

(*i*) *Establishment, whether sufficient and efficient.*—Have been sufficient and fairly efficient.

(*j*) *Midwives' work actually done.*—Midwife Ammoyee attended 54 cases of labour as compared with 11 in the previous year; still the amount of work done is not as much as may reasonably be expected in a large town, though there are other diplomaed midwives working privately.

(*k*) *Dufferin Fund Dispensary for Caste and Gosha Women.*—The attendance at the district board's women's and children's dispensary continues to increase, the total treated being 5,111 with an average daily attendance of 32·34 as compared with 3,632 and 25·70 in the previous year.

(*l*) *General Remarks.*—During the epidemic of cholera the rules provided in G.O., No. 1536 M., dated 9th September 1896, were carried out with satisfactory results, though the efforts made to destroy and limit the contagion were to a great extent rendered futile through the apathy and want of co-operation on the part of the people and the lack of any power to insist on the segregation of those affected.

The present staff of sanitary inspectors is much in need of a better knowledge of sanitation and its requirements.

(Signed) A. N. ROGERS HARRISON, Bri.-Surgn.-Lt.-Col.,
District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

No.

Forwarded.

ATUR,
30th May 1897.

(Signed) J. D. MOORE,
Deputy Collector.

No. 2824.

Forwarded.

2. Last year was not remarkable for anything but the outbreak of cholera. This year it is hoped that the new market will be started and a definite opinion come to in regard to the water-supply. These two things and the drainage and further extension of the private scavenging system (in which great progress has been made) are the improvements most wanted. The streets have been kept in good order upon the whole, but the length of time taken in repairing the Salem Bazaar Main street was extreme.

SALEM,
1st June 1897.

(Signed) C. H. MOUNSEY,
Acting Collector.

ORDER—No. 1800 M., dated 19th August 1897.

The receipts and charges of the Salem Municipality for 1896-97 are compared below with the budget and revised estimates for the year and the actuals of 1895-96:—

	Actuals, 1895-96.	Budget estimate, 1896-97.	Revised estimate, 1896-97.	Actuals, 1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts.				
Balance brought forward	12,389	7,600	11,660	11,658
Tax on Arts	12,990	14,010	13,010	11,618
" on Buildings and Lands	22,403	20,920	20,870	20,576
" on Vehicles and Animals	2,863	2,400	2,850	2,907
" on Carts	3,162	3,000	3,200	3,150
Tolls	8,088	8,090	9,250	9,323
Realizations under Special Acts	30	100	150	125
Rent of Lands, Buildings, &c., and Sale-proceeds of Lands, &c.	695	680	1,000	1,043
Conservancy Receipts	94	300	300	321
Fees and Revenue from Educational Institutions	7,970	8,000	8,000	9,251
" from Medical Institutions	337	450	450	365
Income from Markets and Slaughter-houses	4,033	3,990	4,630	4,693
License Fees	1,473	1,300	1,300	1,389
Other Fees	1,445	1,480	1,780	1,827
Fines under Municipal and other Acts	1,649	1,500	1,300	155
Grants and Contributions from Government	3,603	3,000	4,110	3,138
" from Local Boards	1,355	1,400	1,400	1,361
" from other Bodies	..	..	100	86
Recoveries for Services to Private Individuals	646	850	850	843
Miscellaneous	11	..	860	884
Advances Recovered	477	..	..	55
Total	85,715	79,070	87,070	84,768
Charges.				
GRANT 1—				
New Works—				
Communications	49	2,100	4,420	..
Buildings	2,954	1,060	2,750	2,490
Drainage	..	1,080	1,080	1,017
Water-supply	56	1,280	1,280	5
Miscellaneous Public Improvements	..	20	..	19
Repairs—				
Communications	4,132	4,000	5,920	5,930
Buildings	2,687	2,320	4,370	4,215
Drainage	1,689	1,690	1,690	1,675
Water-supply	8,737	460	660	742
Establishment	500	570	570	569
Tools and Plant and other Stores	43	200	200	93
Total	15,845	14,780	22,970	16,755
GRANT 2—	66	..	20	15
Training Schools	12,785	13,840	13,840	13,761
Municipal Schools—	4,610	4,840	4,750	4,660
On the Salary System	488	450	450	444
" the Salary-result System	764	750	750	719
Salary Grants	264	360	360	352
Result "	117	120	120	119
Inspection				
Miscellaneous				
Total	19,094	20,360	20,270	20,070
GRANT 3—	5,491	7,470	6,800	6,977
Hospitals and Dispensaries	698	820	820	664
Contributions	478	450	450	446
Vaccination	522	500	500	506
Registration of Births and Deaths	17,494	18,180	19,050	19,133
Conservancy, Road-cleaning and Road-watering				
Total	24,683	27,420	27,620	27,716
GRANT 4—	2,731	2,930	2,880	3,106
Lighting	52	..	..	..
Markets and Slaughter-houses	519	620	520	498
Poor house	149	130	130	137
Travellers' Bungalows	3,843	1,230	1,280	1,101
Public Garden, Survey of Land, Fire and other Charges				
Total	7,294	4,910	4,810	4,848
GRANT 5—	6,587	8,320	8,220	8,116
Supervision and Management	252	..	..	1,439
Advances Recoverable	32	..	..	..
Refunds	270	..	..	..
Pensions and Gratuities	11,658	3,280	3,180	5,850
Balance				
Total	85,715	79,070	87,070	84,768

2. The municipal council held 24 meetings against 31 in 1895-96. The average attendance of the official members showed a considerable improvement, while the non-officials did not attend so regularly as in the previous year. In both cases, however, it was fair. One seat was filled by election, at which 48·6 per cent. of the registered voters attended the poll.

3. *Receipts.*—(1) The assessments under the tax on arts were revised during the year, but as the municipal council again remitted on appeal a sum of Rs. 1,292, or 9·9 per cent. of the amount originally fixed by the Chairman, the net current demand showed only a small increase of Rs. 185 over that of the previous year. The number of persons assessed to this tax fell from 1,980 to 1,906, and the average incidence continued to be low, being Rs. 2-6-6 against a general average of Rs. 4-1-0 for municipalities in 1895-96. This result, notwithstanding the remarks of Government in paragraph 3 (1) of the previous year's review, is extremely unsatisfactory and requires explanation, which should be submitted through the Collector at an early date. There was a small increase of Rs. 167 in the demand under the tax on buildings, but that under the tax on lands remained almost stationary.

(2) The collections under the principal taxes were very satisfactory.

(3) There was an increase in the receipts from tolls, avenues, sale of sweepings, school fees, market rents, slaughter-house and cart-stand fees and refund of expenditure of previous year, but a decline under fines and grants from Government.

(4) It is satisfactory to note that the number of houses served by the private scavenging agency was nearly double the number served in the previous year, but the service was still worked at a loss of Rs. 116 to the municipal council. The Government trusts that the efforts made to extend the system will be steadily continued.

4. *Expenditure.*—(1) *Public Works.*—The extension of the Salem College Hall at a cost of Rs. 1,950 and the construction of a tiled drain in the Bazaar street at a cost of Rs. 1,017 were the only new works of importance undertaken during the year. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 5,930, or 66·9 per cent. of the net municipal income from tolls. The streets of the town are stated by the Collector to have been kept generally in good order. The omission of the Revenue Divisional officer to report on the condition of the roads should not recur. The attention of the municipal council is drawn to the remarks of the Collector in paragraph 2 of his endorsement regarding the opening of the new market.

(2) *Education.*—The net expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 8,022, or 16·9 per cent. of the receipts from taxation. Of this sum, Rs. 1,811 were spent on secondary, and the remainder on primary, education. The municipal council continued to maintain a second-grade college and two primary schools on the salary system, and one secondary and twelve primary schools on the salary-result system against fourteen primary schools in 1895-96, the Fort Jubilee primary school for Muhammadans having been raised to the lower secondary grade and the Mosque school at Shevapett having been amalgamated with the Muhammadan primary school. There was an improvement in the attendance at the college, but at the other schools taken together the attendance declined. The results of the public and departmental examinations at all these institutions were good. The municipal council continued to aid one secondary school with salary grants and twenty primary schools with result grants against nineteen in 1895-96. Notwithstanding the remarks of Government in paragraph 4 (2) of the previous year's review, no information has been given regarding the working of the salary-grant school. This omission is unsatisfactory, and should not recur. The attendance at the result-grant schools improved, and they appear to have done fairly well at the grant examinations. The total number of boys under instruction in the municipal and aided schools was 2,173, or 50·2 per cent. of the male population of school going age, against 46·4 per cent. in 1895-96. From the statements submitted by the Assistant Inspector of Schools, it appears that a large number of untrained teachers was still employed in these institutions. The instructions issued on this subject at the close of clause (2) of paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 1077 M., dated 29th June 1896, should be strictly attended to.

(3) *Medical Relief.*—The number of in-patients treated in the municipal hospital remained almost stationary. The number of out-patients treated at this institution and at the Ammapett branch dispensary rose from 31,844 to 38,505. This increase has not been explained either in the Chairman's report or in that of the medical officer. The midwife attached to the municipal hospital attended 54 cases of labour, or only 13 more than in the previous year. This is an insignificant number and, as observed in paragraph 5 (*j*) of the medical report, is not as much as may reasonably be expected in a large town like Salem. It is observed that the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in his report refers to the "Dufferin Fund dispensary for caste and gosha women." It is not understood that the institution, supported by Local funds, is limited to this small class of the female population, but is open to all classes of women. If so, the title used by that officer is incorrect and misleading, and should not be used. The institution appears to be correctly referred to in the Chairman's report as the "Women and children's dispensary."

(4) *Vaccination and Vital Statistics.*—The reported number of persons vaccinated during the year was almost the same as in 1895-96 and the quality of the work turned out continued to be good. Infantile vaccination showed an improvement and was satisfactory, the number of successful operations on children under one year of age being 40 per mille of the population against 38·5 in 1895-96 and a registered birth-rate of 39·9 per mille.

There was again an increase in the number of births and deaths registered, which, owing to the prevalence of cholera in the town, was most marked in the case of deaths; but the returns cannot yet be accepted as accurate, the rates being still below the normal.

(5) *Sanitation.*—The expenditure on conservancy exceeded the budget allotment by about 5 per cent. and amounted to 26·2 per cent. of the current receipts against 23·8 in 1895-96. The Government is glad to learn from paragraph 58 of the Chairman's report and paragraph 3 of the medical officer's report that the sanitation of the town has received much attention, but there is still much to be done before all the defects noticed by the Sanitary Commissioner in his inspection notes recorded in G.O., No. 1252 M., dated 27th July 1896, have been remedied.

5. *General Remarks.*—The year closed with a balance of Rs. 5,830, or 8 per cent. of the current receipts. The excess expenditure over the sanctioned allotments, referred to in paragraph 71 of the Chairman's report, will be admitted in the year's accounts. The particulars of deaths among in-patients given in paragraph (5) (*g*) of the medical report are unnecessary and should be omitted in future.

The administration of the municipality during the year under review showed an improvement on that of the previous year in several respects and was, on the whole, efficient and creditable to the Chairman, M.R.Ry. A. Pushpanadha Pillai; but the assessment of the tax on arts and the registration of vital statistics require increased attention.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Salem.
" Collector of Salem.
" President, District Board, Salem.
" Accountant-General.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Surgeon-General.
" Sanitary Board.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Sanitary Engineer.
Editors' Table.

Encl. A. Batt.

When given for copying ——
When copied ——
When examined ——
When signed ——
} 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only