

ADMINISTRATION
REPORT
OF THE
MADRAS MUNICIPALITY
FOR
1876-77.

MADRAS:

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—
1878.

APPENDIX IV.

PARKS AND AVENUES.

No. 1.—PEOPLE'S PARK.

Owing to the great want of rain, the Park has presented during the year a dry and parched appearance. It was not possible, on account of the drought to effect any improvement as regards planting with the exception of a few ornamental beds which have been laid out round the Band Stand.

The income derived by the sale of grass amounts to only Rs. 614-6-1, as the dry weather prevailing throughout the year checked its growth altogether.

Of the 11 tanks in the Park, 9 became perfectly dry in the course of the year. Advantage was taken of the opportunity thus afforded to employ famine relief coolies for the purpose of deepening these tanks, and 6 of them had been deepened and cleaned out before the end of the official year; the work of the other two was also in progress but was not completed.

The following buildings were repaired and painted during the year. The farm-house situated on the north of the Park and the Serjeant's quarters near the West Gate were repaired; also the large circular cage for pigeons, situated on the North-East of the Band Stand, was painted and repaired.

ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION.—The receipts under this head during the year have fallen off to a great extent. This resulted from the privilege conceded to the public of being permitted on two days in the week to visit the animals free of all charge. As a natural consequence the largest number of visitors came to the Park on both these free days.

The average attendance per day on free days was, 1,020.

Do. do. on other days 96.

At the beginning of the official year, one of the Cheetahs got out of its cage by removing one of the iron bars from the roof, and climbed up a tree close to the zinc enclosure; it was shot by Serjeant Slater of the Madras Police, who was rewarded with Rs. 100 by the Commissioners.

The following additions were made to the Zoological collections during the year:—

2 Tiger cubs	presented by the Commissioner of the Neilgherries.
2 Bears	do. Dr. J. Shortt.
2 Wolves	do. do.
1 Malayan Bear	do. Colonel Magrath.
1 Sarus Crane	do. Hon'ble J. G. Coleman.
1 Antelope	do. Rev. Dr. Strachan.
2 Spotted Deer	do. Hon'ble J. G. Coleman, J. Storrs, Esq.,
1 Rangoon do.	purchased.

PARKS AND AVENUES, NO. 1.—PEOPLE'S PARK.

2 Young Samburs presented by Colonel Cloete.	
1 Pacific Gull	purchased.
4 Brown headed Gulls	do.
4 Rose Hill Parakeets	do.
4 Little Lorikeets	do.
4 Green Parakeets	do.
2 Cheetah Cubs, born 13th October 1876,	

SWIMMING BATH.—The income derived from this source during the year was very small, as, owing to the low level of the water at the Red Hills lake, it was not possible to fill the bath frequently, and ultimately it had to be closed on the 28th January 1877 for the remaining portion of the official year.

THE BAND STAND.—From the 1st April 1876 to the close of that year, Band played at the Band Stand on 3 days in the week, viz., 10th Regiment N. I. on Wednesdays, 37th Grenadiers on Fridays and Volunteer Band on Saturdays.

During the month of April the Band of Her Majesty's 67th Regiment stationed in Fort Saint George played at the Park on Saturdays in the place of the Volunteer Band, which was prevented playing in public, owing to a reduction in its strength; and from May the Volunteer Band resumed its playing as usual; but since the departure from Madras of the 37th Grenadiers N. I., the Band of which Regiment played on Friday, there has been music only twice a week at the Park, viz., on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Five Police Constables have always been in attendance on Band evenings to preserve order amongst the visitors' carriages, on Saturday evenings the assistance of a European Police Serjeant was allowed in addition to the 5 Constables, as the unusually large number of visitors that attend the Park on Saturdays required an increased Police staff to preserve order and regularity.

C. JAMES HAY ELLIS,
Superintendent People's Park.

