

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

MADRAS MUNICIPALITY

FOR

THE LAST THREE QUARTERS OF

1878.

MADRAS:

PRINTED AT THE LAWRENCE ASYLUM PRESS, MOUNT ROAD,
BY W. H. MOORE.

1879.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Election Rules.—Preparatory to the introduction of the new Municipal Act the Commissioners framed election rules which subsequently received the sanction of Government. They are annexed to this Report.

Public Parks.—The People's Park was maintained in good order. The Zoological collection received a valuable addition, viz., 2 tigresses, 2 samburs, 1 wolf, 1 fox, 1 lemur, 1 entullus, 4 crocodiles, and 1 ostrich purchased with the special sanction of the Commissioners from Mr. Abraham of Bellary for Rs. 2,000, and 2 dingoes, and 2 kangaroos, the gift of the Municipality of Ballarat. Besides the above, the following animals were also presented :—

1 tiger presented by the Rajah of Wallur.
1 jungle cat „ Dr. Bidie.
1 common tree cat „ Dr. Bidie.
1 monkey „ W. P. Shaw, Esq.
1 striped hyæna „ E. J. Kitts, Esq.
1 mottled owl „ Comarasawmy Moodelly.

One cheetah cub was born 9th June 1878, and 2 spotted deer on 21st May and 14th June respectively.

A start was made by the Gymnasium Committee to form a gymnasium in the Park near the Vepery gate, the selected site having been enclosed with a wall and railing. The swimming bath continued in use throughout the 9 months, but was comparatively little used, the sum realized being only Rs. 139-1-0 which is insufficient to reimburse the Municipality for the cost of establishment and maintenance.

Boats and canoes maintained by a contractor in the large lake near the wild animal's enclosure afforded amusement to a large number of visitors.

A band played as usual twice a week at the band stand, the attendance on Saturdays being invariably numerous. The year is remarkable in the annals of the Park as being that in which the first Madras Fair was held. The fair was managed by a Committee of Municipal Commissioners and others and commenced on the 30th of December. The Park was decorated with flags, and arches ornamented with transparencies were erected at the entrances. Several booths were erected for shows and performances of various kinds and for the sale of refreshments and fancy articles. The regiments stationed in the Presidency lent their bands which contributed greatly to the enjoyment of pleasure-seekers. On the evening of the 1st of January a very fine display of fire-works was given by M. R. Ry. Cunniah Chetty Garu, to witness which it is calculated that not less than 20,000 persons visited the Park. The expenses which amounted to Rs. 2,650-15-10 were met by subscriptions and the sale of carriage tickets at the entrance gates.

The expenditure on the Park was slightly in excess of the Budget grant, being Rs. 11,456-14-7 against a grant of Rs. 11,158-0-0. On the other hand the estimated receipts were Rs. 2,316 as against Rs. 1,890, actual showing a loss of over Rs. 400. The net cost of the Park to the Municipal Fund was therefore Rs. 9,566. In this, however, is included Rs. 2,152 the cost of animals purchased from Mr. Abraham at Bellary including their carriage to Madras, and a new Howdah for the elephant, Rs. 104. These exceptional charges being deducted the net cost for the nine months is reduced to Rs. 7,310.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

In former years the net cost has been as follows:—

1875-76	Rs. 8,757
1876-77	„ 9,223
1877-78	„ 7,757

Total 25,737

Average ... 8,579

Do. for 9 months 6,434

The increased cost of the Park is due in the main to the loss of Rs. 400 in the receipts for hay and grass and Zoological collections and to the fact that a sum of Rs. 472 was spent in digging and laying out new grass beds. The complete failure of the north-east monsoon accounts for the falling off in the grass receipts: of the Zoological collections an instalment of Rs. 200 was paid by the contractor in March, and taken into last year's accounts. It is hoped that the grass beds which have been laid out will in future years considerably reduce the cost of this Park by increasing the income derivable therefrom. The following extract from the report of the Superintendent regarding a case of theft of grass deserves to be recorded:—

“In connection with this subject, I beg to state that having reason to believe that grass was being stolen, I concerted measures for apprehending the thieves, and succeeded on the night of the 22nd August in capturing some women in the act of cutting grass under the direction of Syed Hussain the elephant-keeper. This man was convicted of abetting theft but the Magistrate only inflicted a fine of Rupees 10 which, considering that the man was a Municipal servant employed in the Park and having as such great facilities for carrying on thefts of this kind, seemed a very inadequate punishment and scarcely sufficient for deterring other servants from following his example.”

The following is a list of the Zoological collection in the Park on the 1st of January 1879.

No.	English Names.	Scientific Names.
2	Lions	} <i>Felis Leo</i>
1	Lioness	
3	Tigers	
2	Tigresses	} <i>Felis Tigris</i>
1	Leopard or Cheetah, male	
1	do do female	
1	do do cub	} <i>Felis pardus.</i>
1	Black Panther	
1	Spotted do	
3	Striped Hyenas	<i>Hyæna striata.</i>
2	Common Porcupines	<i>Hystria leucura.</i>
2	Bears (Juggler)	<i>Ursus labiatus.</i>
1	Malay Bear	<i>Ursus Malayanus</i>
1	Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros indicus.</i>
1	Elephant (Asiatic)	<i>Elephas indicus.</i>
24	Rabbits	<i>Lepus cuniculus.</i>
34	Common Cavy or Guinea Pigs	<i>Cavia Cobaya.</i>
2	Jungle Cats	<i>Felis chaus.</i>

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

No.	English Names.	Scientific Names.
6	Common tree Cats	<i>Paradoxurus musanga.</i>
2	Civet Cats	<i>Viverra Malaccensis.</i>
1	Opossum	<i>Didelphis. Sp?</i>
13	White Rats	<i>Mus decumanus (Var albus.)</i>
14	Axis or Spotted Deer	<i>Axis maculatus.</i>
1	Rangoon Deer	<i>Rucervus Duvaucelli.</i>
3	Samburs	<i>Busa Aristotelis.</i>
1	Jackal	<i>Canis aureus.</i>
1	Ratel	<i>Mellivora Indica.</i>
1	Wild Boar	<i>Sus Indicus.</i>
1	Sacred Abyssinian Baboon	<i>Cynocephalus Hamadryas.</i>
3	Lion-like Monkey or Wanderoo... ..	<i>Inuus silenus.</i>
1	Indian Antelope	<i>Antelope beoartica.</i>
3	Pig-tailed Monkeys	<i>Macacus nemestrinus.</i>
1	Ceylon Bonnet Monkey	<i>Macacus pileatus.</i>
16	Common Monkeys	<i>Macacus radiatus.</i>
1	Antelope	<i>Antelope. Sp?</i>
1	Starred Tortoise	<i>Testudo elegans.</i>
1	Fox	<i>Vulpes Bengulensis.</i>
1	Wolf	<i>Canis lupus.</i>
4	Crocodiles	<i>Orocodilus palustris.</i>
1	Entellus or Madras Langur	<i>Presbytis priamus.</i>
1	Lemur	<i>Loris gracilis.</i>
2	Storks	<i>Mycteria Australis.</i>
1	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus.</i>
2	Eagles	<i>Aquila. Sp?</i>
1	Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos argala.</i>
2	Pelicans	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus.</i>
3	Pea-Cocks	} <i>Pavo cristatus.</i>
6	„ Hens	
4	Jungle Fowls	<i>Gallus Sonneratii.</i>
5	Black Swans	<i>Oygnus atratus.</i>
1	Guinea Fowl	<i>Numidia neloagrie.</i>
1	White-breasted Water Fowl	<i>Gallinula Phoenicera.</i>
12	Malta Pigeons	<i>Columba. Sp?</i>
35	Common Pigeons	<i>Columba intermedia.</i>
8	White-headed Pigeons	<i>Columba. Sp?</i>
1	Concal	<i>Centropus rufipennis.</i>
2	Emu	<i>Dromains Nova Hollandæ.</i>
2	Greater Sulphur-crested Cockatoos	<i>Cacatua Galerita</i>
1	Pacific Gull	<i>Larus. Sp?</i>
5	Brown-headed Gulls	<i>Xema brunnicapala.</i>
1	Heron Common	<i>Ardea cinerea.</i>
4	Koels	<i>Eudynamys orientalis.</i>
3	Partridges	<i>Ortygonis Ponticerianus.</i>
5	Doves	<i>Turtur. Sp?</i>
1	Sarus	<i>Grus antigone.</i>
2	Mottled Wood Owls... ..	<i>Syrnium ocellatum.</i>
1	Rose-headed Parakeets	<i>Palæornis rosa.</i>
2	Rose Hill do	<i>Platycoereus cyminus.</i>
2	Little Lorrikeets	<i>Trichoglossus pusillus.</i>
1	Bald-headed Vulture	<i>Ologypus calvus.</i>
7	Vackas or Night-herons	<i>Nycticorax griseus.</i>
1	Black Parrot	<i>Psittacius. Sp?</i>
2	Kangaroos	<i>Macropus. Sp?</i>
2	Wild Dogs	<i>Canis dingo</i>

APPENDIX II.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements on account of the People's Park from 1st April to 31st December 1878.

Receipts.	Amount.			Disbursements.	Amount.		
	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Proceeds of sale of hay and grass ..	995	7	11	Establishment	8,106	7	11
Tiger collections Rs. 900				Feeding bullocks of the Park	86	12	5
Deduct amount paid in advance				Carts, candles, &c., for the Band Stand on Band days	64	12	0
in March 1878 200	700	0	0	Cutting and weeding	619	2	9
Swimming bath	189	1	0	Maintenance of Zoological Collection and Establish- ment	8,178	0	4
Miscellaneous	65	0	0	Swimming bath Establishment	18	8	0
	1,890	8	11	DISBURSEMENTS.			
Met from the Municipal Funds	9,565	5	8	Repairing Wild animals' cages	344	4	8
				" Masonry walls of railings round the Park	475	14	6
				" Monkey boxes, deer's and wild bear's pens, crocodile cistern, &c.	17	6	0
				" Pigeon's, cockatoo's, parakeet's cages, aviary, and rabbit shed	98	13	5
				" Sergeant's Quarters	264	4	4
				" Wooden rails round the Park	8	8	0
				" Park Cart	42	6	5
				Making cots for the wild animals	85	6	9
				" Howdah for the Elephant	108	10	8
				" Road-watering Cart	62	3	1
				Kerosine Oil	100	12	0
				Clothing to Constables and Peons	66	12	0
				Animals and Birds purchased	2,000	0	0
				Railway Fare for do.	114	12	0
				Railway Fare for the Superintendent and Keeper for bringing the animals, &c., from Bellary	37	2	0
				Ploughing and manuring	472	1	7
				Sundries	88	6	2
Total Rupees..	11,456	14	7	Total Rupees..	11,456	14	7

The Napier Park report is satisfactory. The formation of a new garden was commenced near the north gate of the Park, but not completed. Notwithstanding the unfavourable character of the season, the Park yielded a clear profit. From last year's report it appears that there were in stock at the end of the previous year about 22 tons 3 cwts. weight of hay: 41½ tons of hay and 92½ tons of grass were sold during the nine months, and 25½ tons of hay remained in stock.

The cash receipts were Rs. 2,641, and the total disbursements Rs. 1,473 as follow:—

Establishment	Rs. 579	0	9
Working Picottahs, weedings, &c.	587	10	4
Rewards for pounding cattle trespassing in the Park	48	6	0
Manuring	114	13	6
Raising bunds and fixing drain tiles	44	15	0
" sill of double picottah	38	0	3
Sundries	59	10	8
	<u>Total Rupees</u>	<u>1,472</u>	<u>8 6</u>

There were 1,900 young trees in the nursery at the close of the year. The cattle found trespassing in the Park and impounded were as follow:—

- 10 Horses.
- 68 Cows and Bullocks.
- 63 Buffaloes
- 26 Asses.
- 58 Goats.