

# ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

# MADRAS MUNICIPALITY

FOR

THE FIFTEEN MONTHS

FROM

JANUARY 1st 1884 TO MARCH 31st 1885.

—•••••—  
**Madras:**

PRINTED AT THE SCOTTISH PRESS, BY GRAVES, COOKSON AND CO.,  
POPHAM'S BROADWAY.

—  
1885.

insufficient lighting. On January 1st 1885 a new contract commenced under which the rate per lamp, for the 98 hours between full moons during which the lamps are lit, was lowered from annas 14 pice 6 to annas 10 pice 5.

#### **Electric Light.**

69. The Vice-President, Mr. Jones, published his report upon the various systems of electric lighting in use in England. The Commissioners submitted to Government a scheme for lighting Government House, the Banqueting Hall and the Marina, but, at a later meeting, when it was proposed to substitute a scheme for lighting the Mount Road, they resolved to defer the matter until the Budget for 1885-86 came under discussion. In passing the Budget the expenditure on electric lighting was transferred as a charge against Parks.

#### **PUBLIC PARKS.**

##### **People's Park.**

70. The receipts were Rs. 8,468-9-2 and the expenditure Rs. 12,680-15-8 leaving a balance of Rs. 4,212-6-6 which was met from the Municipal Fund. The receipts are less and the expenditure is more in proportion than the receipts and expenditure for the twelve months of 1883, Rs. 7,729-7-3 and Rs. 9,229-7-8. The decrease is chiefly in the payments for entrance to the Zoological collection and the increase is chiefly in the cost of repairing cages. A plot of 57 grounds at the south end of the Park has been made over to the Town Hall Committee and the foundations of the building have been completed. This Park is not kept up in a style that does credit to the City of Madras. One cause of its untidy appearance is the annual damage done by the Fair. Another cause is the constant damage done by the deer, and this has increased since the new road along the canal bank disturbed their usual haunt. A third and the principal cause is the idea that the receipts ought almost, if not altogether, to cover the expenditure, in other words, that the Municipality ought to spend little or nothing on this Park. Because of this idea the expenditure has been rigidly kept down for years past until the Park, with its broken railings and its ruinous aviaries and bridges, has the appearance of a property in charge of a Court's Receiver.

##### **Napier Park.**

71. The receipts and expenditure during the fifteen months were Rs. 2,879-10-2 and Rs. 2,538-12-10, leaving a balance in favour of the Park of Rs. 340-13-4. The receipts and expenditure for 1883, if the disturbing items of the purchase and sale of Laybourn's Bakery be omitted, were Rs. 2,744-11-10 and Rs. 2,381-9-10 leaving a balance for that year of Rs. 363-2-0. In March 1884 the two engines at the Pumping Station in this Park were used to raise sewage from the drains that formerly flowed into the Cooum. It now irrigates the grass in the Park.

##### **Robinson Park.**

72. This Park continues under the energetic management of Surgeon Major D. R. Thompson, C. I. E., whose public-spirited labour has transformed an unsightly swamp in one of the worst localities of Madras into a well planted Park with a Botanical Garden, Fountain, Bandstand, and Ornamental water enclosing an island on which a beautiful Fernery has been erected. This has been accomplished solely

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

**SUMMARY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ON THE PARKS.****People's Park.**

1. The following contracts were let for 1884:

|  |     |     |         |     |   |             |
|--|-----|-----|---------|-----|---|-------------|
| Menagerie collections.   | ... | ... | Ra. 226 | 1   | 0 | per mensem. |
| Swimming bath.   | ... | ... | "       | 19  | 8 | "           |
| Lease of productive trees.                                     | ... | ... | "       | 37  | 8 | 0           |
| Coarse grass, from 1st October 1884 to<br>30th September 1885. | ... | ... | "       | 655 | 0 | 0           |

2. The contractor for collection of fees for entering the swimming bath having failed to pay his instalments, the President cancelled his contract on 7th April 1884 and it was again put up to auction on 1st June 1884, the highest bid being Rupees 11 per mensem which was accepted, the contract being until March 31st 1885.

3. The following contract was let for fifteen months from January 1st 1885 to 31st March 1886.

|                        |     |     |         |   |   |             |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---|---|-------------|
| Menagerie collections. | ... | ... | Ra. 211 | 1 | 0 | per mensem. |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---|---|-------------|

4. The following trees were planted but many of them suffered in the cyclone of November 21st 1884 and the heavy rains of December.

|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 17 | Divi Divi.               |
| 20 | Pongaima Glabra.         |
| 24 | Redwood.                 |
| 15 | Poniciansa.              |
| 10 | Cathartocarpus Roxburghi |
| 14 | Acacia.                  |
| 15 | Trincomalai.             |
| 40 | Cerbera Odallam.         |

5. The Volunteer Band played on 47 Wednesdays and the Band of the 22nd Madras Infantry on 36 Saturdays. The Electric Light was used on Saturdays and Rs. 79-1-6 were collected for entrance to the Band-stand enclosure.

6. The Annual Fair was held in the Park from December 29th 1884 to January 3rd 1885.

7. The following additions were made to the Zoological and other collections:

|                  |     |   |
|------------------|-----|---|
|                  |     | <i>Presented.</i>                             |
| Two Hyænas ...   | ... | Mr. P. Kotasami Tevan.                        |
| One Armadillo... | ... | Mr. G. H. Smith.                              |
| One Gibbon ...   | ... | Chief Officer B. I. S. N. Co. S. S. Himalaya. |
|                  |     | <i>Born in the Park.</i>                      |
| One Sambur ...   | ... | Born 10th July 1884.                          |
|                  |     | <i>Purchased.</i>                             |
|                  |     | One spotted Cheetah.                          |

8. The following animals died,

|                     |
|---------------------|
| One Cheetah.        |
| One Sambur (blind.) |
| One Armadillo.      |
| One Deer:           |

9. 14 spotted deer, 5 antelope, and 3 sambur were sold to the Hon. Mr. Trotter of the Mauritius for Rupees 161-0-0.

10. The sinking of an Artesian well was commenced in the Park. It has since proved unsuccessful.

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

11. The receipts and disbursements of the Park during the fifteen months were as follows :

| Receipts.  | Amount. |    |    | Disbursements.                              | Amount. |    |    |
|--|---------|----|----|---|---------|----|----|
|  | Rs.     | A. | P. |   | Rs.     | A. | P. |
| Proceeds of Sale of Hay and Grass ...                                    | 2,683   | 5  | 2  | Establishment ... ..                        | 2,410   | 8  | 1  |
| Menagerie Collections ... ..   | 3,104   | 16 | 0  | General ... ..                              | 2,552   | 12 | 7  |
| Swimming Bath do. ... ..   | 155     | 2  | 3  | Zoological Establishment ... ..             | 605     | 13 | 1  |
| Miscellaneous do. ... ..   | 575     | 3  | 9  | Cost of food for Animals ... ..             | 4,257   | 5  | 1  |
|  |         |    |    | Oil for Lighting ... ..                     | 2       | 3  | 0  |
|  | 6,468   | 9  | 2  | Carts and Candles for Band ... ..           | 51      | 14 | 0  |
| Government grant for the up-keep of<br>the Zoological Collections ... .. | 2,000   | 0  | 0  | Clothing to Sergeants and Peons... ..       | 70      | 6  | 0  |
|  |         |    |    | Repairing Gates and Railings ... ..         | 405     | 8  | 4  |
|  |         |    |    | Enlarging and Repairing Cages... ..         | 1,967   | 11 | 8  |
|  |         |    |    | Weeding and cutting hay ... ..              | 215     | 13 | 0  |
|  | 8,468   | 9  | 2  | Manuring and Ploughing... ..                | 51      | 13 | 6  |
| Met from the Municipal Fund... ..  | 4,312   | 6  | 6  | Sundries, including hire of Bullocks ... .. | 579     | 3  | 4  |
|  |         |    |    |   |         |    |    |
| Total Rs...  | 12,680  | 15 | 8  | Total Rs...                                 | 12,680  | 15 | 8  |

**Napier Park.**

The productive trees in the Park were let out on contract during 1884 for Rupees 31. 325 trees were removed from the nursery for the roadside avenues and 38 trees were sold.

2. 54 trusses of first class hay and 52 trusses of second class hay were pressed in the Boomer Press for sale. The press was also used in pressing hay from the various farms.

3. In March 1884 the two new engines were used in pumping the sewage from the large well recently constructed at the south-west corner of this Park. This sewage irrigates the grass lands in the Park.

4. The receipts and disbursements during the fifteen months were as follows :

| Receipts.  | Amount. |    |    | Disbursements.                       | Amount. |    |    |
|--|---------|----|----|--------------------------------------|---------|----|----|
|  | Rs.     | A. | P. |                                      | Rs.     | A. | P. |
| Proceeds of Sale of Hay and Grass and<br>also Miscellaneous. | 2,879   | 10 | 2  | Establishment ... ..                 | 808     | 15 | 11 |
|  |         |    |    | Labor ... ..                         | 530     | 0  | 0  |
|  |         |    |    | Quit-Rent ... ..                     | 400     | 0  | 0  |
|  |         |    |    | Clothing to Peons .. ..              | 15      | 10 | 0  |
|  |         |    |    | Weeding and Contingencies ... ..     | 785     | 2  | 5  |
|  |         |    |    |                                      |         |    |    |
|  |         |    |    |                                      | 2,538   | 12 | 10 |
|  |         |    |    | Balance in favour of the Park ... .. | 340     | 13 | 4  |
| Total Rs. ...  | 2,879   | 10 | 2  | Total Rs...                          | 2,879   | 10 | 2  |

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,  
MADRAS, 21st September, 1885. }

G. T. MACKENZIE,  
President, M. C.