

must be remembered that there are many items of indirect expenditure not included in the charges. The average annual excess of income over expenditure during the past five years was nearly Rs. 17,800.

CHAPTER XVII.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

General.

*Pages 210 to 222.—Substitute :—*Outside the limits of the municipalities of Mangalore and Udipi local affairs are managed by the district board and 150 panchayat boards. The district board has jurisdiction over the entire revenue district of South Kanara with the exception of the two townships mentioned above. Under the Madras Local Boards Act as revised by Act I of 1920 and prior to its last amendment in 1934 (that is until 1st April 1934), there were also six taluk boards one in each of the revenue taluks, besides 96 panchayat boards, the functions of each class of boards being different and limited to work in the areas specially allotted for them. The district board consisted of 44 members all elected and the taluk boards had each from 16 to 24 members all of whom were elected, special provision being made in regard to the election of members to them from Europeans, Muhammadans, Indian Christians and the depressed classes and from women. The total strength of the boards was 164 members. Forty seats had been specially reserved for the classes referred to above. The presidents and vice-presidents of all the boards were elected non-officials. Forty years earlier in 1893 there were besides the district board only five taluk boards with a total strength of 24 members in the district board and 60 members in the taluk boards at the rate of twelve for each, and there were no unions in the district, as the rural population which was mainly agricultural resided in their own holdings and it was not possible to form unions in the so-called revenue villages of this district.

Panchayat boards were constituted under the Local Boards Act of 1920 as amended by the Madras Act XI of 1930. There were in 1933-34, ninety-six such boards out of a total of 802 villages in this district and two district panchayat officers had been appointed with a view to organize panchayat boards in as many suitable villages as possible. There were, in 1934-35, 140 panchayat boards, a substantial increase, in view of the general apathy of the villagers to submit themselves to be taxed to however small an extent, for any common purpose. The district board had to take over from 1st April 1934 all the functions of the taluk boards which were abolished from that

date, and as these taluk boards had been financially weak, the district board was obliged to undertake a great financial responsibility by the absorption of the taluk boards into it.

VOL. II.
CHAP. XVII.

The strength of the district board was 44 members all of whom were elected. There were eleven seats reserved for the special classes and interests already mentioned and the president and the vice-president were elected by the members from among themselves. Elections for most of the seats in the district board were hotly contested in the year 1935-36. The largest number of panchayats were in the Puttúr taluk due chiefly to the exertions of a previous local taluk board president Mr. Shiva Rao; and their activities were confined to the running of elementary schools, improvement of village communications, rural water supply and the opening of rural libraries; and some panchayats in the Puttúr taluk also opened new roads with the aid of Government grants. The district panchayat officers with the help of Mr. Shiva Rao started about 50 boards in taluks other than Puttúr in the last two years.

Constitution.

The important item of receipts continues to be the land-cess which is levied throughout the district at the rate of one anna six pies in the rupee of assessment. The whole cess goes now to the district board except in regard to areas where there are panchayat boards to whom one-third of the cess levied in the area under them is transferred for expenditure on local needs. Tolls had formed the next largest item under receipts, but their abolition by the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act of 1931 and the substitution of a contribution by Government to the district board from the tax on motor vehicles has in a way crippled the resources of the board from which it has not yet recovered. Licence fees from motor vehicles, lease of markets and ferries and the sale of avenue products yield, however, a fair income. An important source of revenue for the panchayat boards is (besides the land-cess) profession-tax and licence fees and their chief functions are the lighting of roads and streets within their limits, sanitation, conservancy, water-supply and drainage and to some extent, education.

Receipts.

The district board is responsible for the construction and maintenance of all important roads within the district, the bridges, culverts, road dams and causeways across them, of all travellers' bungalows and rest-houses; and on these and on elementary and secondary education, public health and sanitation, the district board expends the bulk of its receipts. Taking the year 1934-35 for which figures are available there were under the board 656 elementary schools (91 of which were for girls) with a total strength of 44,458 of whom 6,269 were girls) and eight secondary schools with 1,766 pupils. The total expenditure on both classes of schools was Rs. 5.77 lakhs

Expenditure.

of which Rs. 3.29 lakhs came from Government grants for elementary and Rs. 13,180 for secondary education and the rest mainly from the general revenues of the board and school fees. On roads, bridges, ferries and buildings the board had to spend Rs. 3 lakhs for which the Government contributed about 50 per cent. The total length of all classes of roads was 1,481 (35 miles of which are under panchayats), but the expenditure on them was heavy owing to the large number of motor cars, buses and lorries using them, especially during the non-rainy months of the year. Besides maintaining four hospitals and eight regular and fourteen allopathic rural dispensaries, the board has had seven ayurvedic dispensaries in which patients are treated with indigenous remedies. Midwives are attached to the board medical institutions and they attended to 3,648 labour cases among the people. Nearly three lakhs of patients were treated at these board dispensaries. On the side of preventive medicine, the District Health Officer is assisted by eight health inspectors and they have been responsible for vaccination and for conducting a health propaganda by celebrating health weeks and baby shows and delivering lectures on health subjects. They also make sanitary arrangements and provide protected water-supply in local fairs and festivals under the supervision of the District Health Officer.

Mangalore was constituted a municipality in 1866 under the old Town Improvements Act of 1865 and included in it Mogár, Kasba Bazaar, Attávar, Kadri, Kodlalbail, Jeppu and Bólár. The members were all nominated at first. The strength in 1893 was 20 members of whom only 15 were elected and of the total strength 8 were officials. The total income was then Rs. 39,217 and the expenditure Rs. 47,005, but the difference did not exceed the opening balance. At present the town covers a greater area (5.23 square miles), its greatest length being $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north to south and the width 3 miles. Its strength under the Act of 1920 was 28 members of whom seven were nominated and its present strength is 32 members of whom all are elected, six of the seats being reserved for ladies, Muslims, depressed classes and Indian Christians. The chairman and vice-chairman are elected by the members and a Commissioner has been appointed to assist the council in its administration of the municipality. The elections are often contested and disclose a healthy rivalry for civic work among the rate-payers. The income of the municipality had increased to Rs. 2,11,067 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,57,868.

From its inception the municipality has been spending large sums of money on the improvement of the roads and lanes, on public health and sanitation and on providing for the education of its children. Elementary education has been made

free but not compulsory. The Wenlock Hospital was originally under the municipality and Government has taken it over; the council, however, runs municipal Unani and Ayurvedic dispensaries and has been organizing health and baby weeks and holding exhibitions for propaganda purposes. Its income consists of taxes on houses, vehicles, animals and carts and on professions, fees from markets and slaughter houses, school fees, ground rents and Government grants for education and medical relief. Its expenditure is mainly on road construction and repairs, lighting, schools, hospitals and dispensaries and conservancy. The total expenditure on communications in 1934-35 was Rs. 60,911 and receipts from licence fees on vehicles Rs. 27,428. The town's main roads are now lit by electricity by the Mangalore Electric Supply Company. Twelve elementary schools for boys and nine for girls are run by the council.

The city is a great industrial centre and has numerous factories for curing coffee and cashewnuts and for making tiles. "It enables the coffee of Mysore and Coorg to reach Persia and Europe and the cashewnuts of Mozambique to reach the hotels of New York, while the clay of its fields helps to roof houses in lone corners of Kenya and Tanganiyaka."* The town boasts of no Town Hall. Attempts are being made to construct one from several public funds available with the Collector and from private subscription. Enteric fever is said to be endemic in the town and to claim a heavy toll. A protected water-supply is lacking but necessary surveys have been undertaken though no satisfactory scheme has yet been evolved. The allied problem of drainage is also unsolved. A preliminary survey has, however, been made and the council proposes to launch on a net-work of cemented drains to carry sullage water from all parts of the town and dispose of it in as safe a manner as possible. Tuberculosis is another disease whose incidence in the city in parts where the roads are not metalled or tarred is very great. The council proposes to cement-concrete some of these main roads to the total length of about 10 miles.

Udipi, one of the chief pilgrim centres of the district, was made a municipality from November 1935. Soon after the abolition of taluk boards, the civic administration of the town came under the district board. On the recommendation of the Collector, proposals were afoot for organizing the town into a municipality and a preliminary notification was published by Government calling for objections. There was strong opposition from the public of Udipi against the proposal. The

Udipi
municipality.

* Taken from the Municipality's address to His Excellency the Governor of Madras.