

From South India

City Administration

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT of the Corporation of Madras for 1948-49 is not a record of substantial results achieved nor even of a determined effort on the part of the Corporation to fulfil the expectations of the rate-payers. No doubt, the Corporation has been working against heavy odds, expansion of the City and its graying population impinging on inadequate funds, continuing scarcity and high cost of materials, but that is no reason why the record of achievement for the year should be so singularly unimpressive or that the City population should be starved of some of the most essential civic amenities

The schemes undertaken in the course of the year included measures attempting to cope with epidemics, to augment the water supply, to extend facilities for recreation, as well as the construction of new roads, public conveniences and middle class houses and reclamation of low lying lands for civic purposes. To be more precise, 516 miles of superior surface roads were constructed; a new plant was erected at the Pallavaram quarry; new sewers were laid; 140 mercury discharge lamps were introduced; 6 new schools were started in the slum areas, and 5 reading rooms, 3 allopathic dispensaries, a Health and Recreation Centre, and 2 Child Welfare Centres were opened. In addition, 24 tenements were constructed, the construction of a second conduit was completed and 17.67 miles of sewers were laid. This gives an overall picture of the programme carried out during the year.

The Corporation could have given a better account of itself had it concentrated on activities obviously indicated by the growing congestion in the City. A population of five lakhs was allowed to swell to 16 lakhs, without previous insistence upon all those concomitant amenities without which such an increase in population should not have been tolerated. No Government should have allowed such over-crowding without making such provision, the first charge upon their energy and finances. Since such provisions were not made at all, the evils attendant on over-crowding are rampant today, creating an insoluble problem both for the authorities and for the citizens.

Nor has the extension of the City limits proceeded on healthy lines. Suburban areas like Saidapet, Sembium, Aminjikaria and 14 other villages were brought within the City limits, and the area of the City increased consequently from 29 to 50 square miles. This necessitated an increase in the number of territorial divisions from 40 to 50, leading to results which are far satisfactory. New industrial units have been crowded together, instead of being dispersed in the interests of public health and aesthetic appeal, in the new areas recently taken over. The incorporation of new areas has in effect only added to the congestion of the City and prevented the formation of satellite townships which every town-planner desires.

There has been a striking increase in the percentage of school-going children from 37.6 in 1926 to 85.5 in 1948-49, thanks to the

introduction of compulsory education. But school buildings are not up to standard. Many of them are dilapidated, and must be pulled down and built anew, as soon as possible, if the younger generation is to grow in a proper environment and develop a healthy outlook.

There is an appalling lack of civic sense which is evident from the manner in which the streets and public places are made dirty, even by educated persons. Little is being done to awaken the civic conscience of the people. Even the Marina, the proudest possession of the City is not safe from this kind of pollution. The Public Health Act is not strictly enforced, and I shall not be surprised if the health of the City deteriorates further in the immediate future, and epidemics take a heavy toll.

Above all, the City's "water supply leaves everything to be desired. The Poondi reservoir cannot be depended upon if the monsoon fails in two successive years. This has been proved time and again. Nevertheless, the investigation of alternative sources of water supply is not being expedited. Only a few months back, Madrasedes were treated to a scanty supply at regulated hours of a kind of malodorous viscous fluid which was passed off as drinking water, and if a safe and unfailing source of water supply is a *sine-qua-non* of a civilised City, the City Council does not deserve any credit at all on this account.

The Commissioner's Report mentions lack of finance as the reason for the inadequate discharge of his obligations. But it has also been mentioned in the Report that the year was a bright one from the point of view of collections, and that there was an appreciable rise both in the de-

mand and collection of taxes under all heads. I wonder whether even if additional sources of revenue were made available to the Corporation the progress in the provision of civic amenities would be substantial. The total receipts under Revenue Account during the year amounted to Rs. 176 lakhs against Rs. 156 lakhs in the previous year; the total expenditure was Rs. 182.45 lakhs, against Rs. 160.84 lakhs, but without "visible progress in any direction.

The Town Planning Depart-

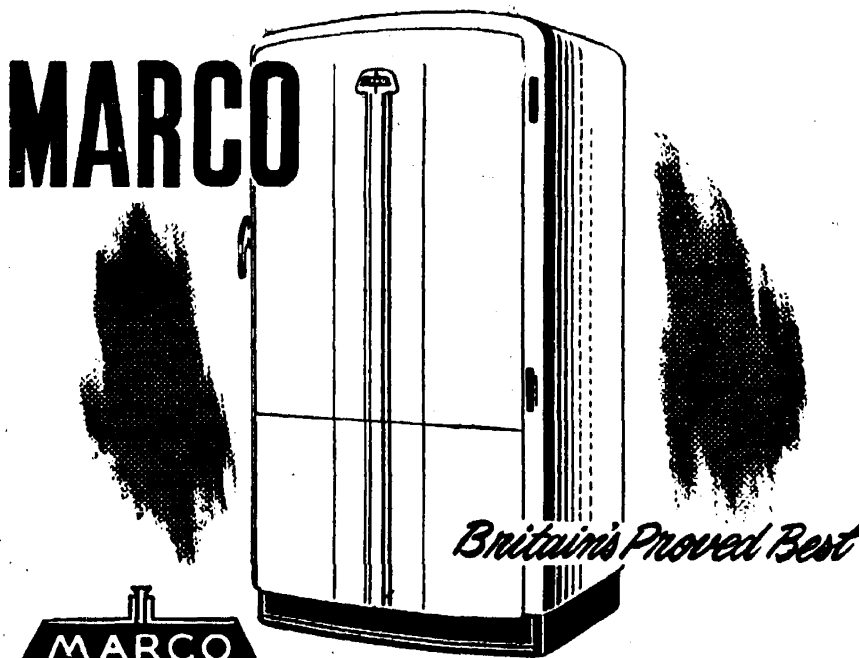
ment is now busy at work on a Master Plan for the City "in which industry, banks, shops, schools, and the suburbs can fit together tidily, and which will try to prevent the misuse of land and ugly forms of development and bring congenial conditions 'both at home and at work to everyone." The details of this Master Plan have not been given out in the Report. Let us wait and see if this Master plan will work a miracle and bring relief to the much harassed civilian.

FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN THE CENTRAL SET UP

(Continued from page 8)

covers essential goods; no State can impose a sales tax on goods declared by Parliament to be essential for the life of the community unless the President's assent has been obtained.

As a result C.P. will, lose about Rs. 1 crore annually-Bihar a little more than Rs. 2 crores and every other province also will be deprived of a sizeable revenue mainly due to the operation of the two latter restrictions. A serious limitation of this Article is that while it protected the interests of the Central Government and also of the States, it did not protect the interests of the consumer. While in some provinces the tax was levied only when the goods were passed on to the consumer, in others it was levied at all stages. There was also no limit to the rate of levy.



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Head Office Bombay &
48 Branches

Authorised Capital	Rs. 1,00,00,000
Subscribed & Paid-up	Rs. 50,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs. 16,00,000
Deposits 30-6-49	Rs. 6,72,00,000
Working Funds	Rs. 8,00,00,000
No. of Accounts	66,693

Denabank will shortly open branches at Jamnagar & Malegaon.

DIVALI TO DIVALI

1948

ITEM	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
I. CURRENCY AND					
(In Lakhs of Rupees)			(In Lakhs of Rupees)		
Reserve Bank of India:					
Total notes issued (A)	1,281.51	1,252.88	1,239.57	1,240.45	1,225.18
Gold Coin and Bullion (B)	42.72	42.72	42.72	42.72	42.21
Foreign Securities (C)	1,080.80	796.64	796.64	796.64	786.24
Ruse Coin	43.84	45.21	45.89	46.77	46.59
Ruse Securities	114.15	368.31	354.31	354.31	350.14
(B) + (C) as % of (A)	87.67	67.00	67.71	67.67	67.62
Deposits:					
Central Government	216.12	234.16	229.69	241.82	228.61
Other Governments	16.68	16.87	19.82	17.81	12.28
Banks	112.52	95.50	93.93	66.54	85.43
Others	48.90	59.67	68.07	65.95	55.86
Total	394.22	408.21	401.50	392.13	382.17
Balances held Abroad (f)	312.02	306.12	303.39	292.22	276.38
Scheduled Banks:					
Demand Liabilities	695.45	693.61	687.97	670.94	674.28
Time Liabilities	314.81	312.69	305.05	298.48	297.51
Total Liabilities (A)	1,010.26	1,006.30	993.02	969.42	971.78
Cash (B)	38.55	37.49	37.95	34.79	38.17
Balances with the Reserve Bank (C)	111.71	92.86	93.02	65.64	84.51
(B) + (C) as % of (A)	14.87	12.95	13.19	10.36	12.62
Advances (D)	406.34	394.36	389.59	404.63	399.48
Bills discounted (E)	15.54	14.69	13.27	14.21	16.56
(D) + (E) as % of (A)	41.76	40.65	40.57	43.20	42.81
Cheque Clearances	5,78.53	5,02.75	5,62.42	5,09.23	5,19.66

(f) Includes cash and short term securities.

II. INDEX OF

(Average of Weeks)

Government Securities	114.7	114.9	115.1	115.1	114.8
Industrial Securities:					
Fixed Yield	159.2	157.3	157.1	157.6	157.1
Variable Yield	164.9	167.3	163.0	162.6	158.1

III. INDEX OF

AVERAGE OF WEEKS, BASE:

Food Articles	390.7	397.7	396.6	393.1	394.1
Industrial Raw Materials	449.9	438.1	435.1	435.7	440.3
Semi-Manufactured Articles	338.2	330.7	340.2	340.4	341.0
Manufactured Articles	370.1	353.8	348.0	347.6	345.8
Miscellaneous	537.3	532.6	531.1	547.8	548.0
General Index	389.6	382.9	382.3	381.7	382.3

IV. WORKING CLASS COST

(Monthly Averages)

Bombay†	312	321	323	315	317
Madras††	314	315	311	310	311
Kampur	516	534	558	547	534
Delhi*	140	140	135	136	136
Nagpur**	385	380	383	386	387
Calcutta	356	363	360	358	351

1948

V. BULLION PRICES.

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Gold (per tola)						
Highest	115 5 0	121 0 0	120 0 4	116 0 0	114 1 0	114 5 0
Lowest	110 3 0	111 14 0	112 4 0	113 3 0	112 5 0	112 0 0
Average*	113 7 3	114 10 1	115 0 7	114 10 0	113 2 4	113 0 1
Silver (per 100 tolas)						
Highest	178 0 0	177 15 0	179 6 0	180 0 0	178 8 0	180 14 0
Lowest	167 0 0	174 4 0	168 6 0	172 13 0	174 3 0	174 8 0
Average*	174 2 10	176 4 1	174 6 2	176 4 0	146 6 0	178 5 5

* Average of closing quotations for working days.

† Year-ending June 1934 = 100.

†† Year-ending June 1936 = 100.

* 1944 = 100.

** Does not include house-rent.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(In Lakhs of Rupees)

1949

Dec. January February March April May June July August September

BANKING (LAST FRIDAY FIGURES)

1,198.74	1,193.95	1,186.62	1,191.11	1,201.44	1,211.13	1,196.27	1,143.64	1,120.73
41.35	40.55	40.02	40.02	40.02	40.02	40.02	40.02	40.02
768.86	752.51	741.62	741.62	720.34	710.34	695.34	635.34	610.34
45.28	44.12	42.53	42.02	47.35	47.04	47.18	49.56	51.60
343.25	356.77	362.45	367.45	393.72	413.72	413.72	418.72	418.77
67.59	66.42	65.87	65.62	63.29	61.96	61.47	59.05	58.03
214.49	215.95	206.04	183.93	163.02	148.37	125.20	128.64	109.18
15.57	11.88	13.01	24.56	21.90	21.14	18.27	13.57	21.72
66.95	62.57	56.09	55.04	54.70	65.70	72.67	86.27	93.79
64.78	61.08	69.53	68.75	68.22	60.21	59.46	58.97	62.60
361.78	351.49	344.66	332.29	307.84	295.42	275.61	287.45	287.29
256.38	235.76	224.56	202.52	180.76	155.38	132.76	159.77	169.11
666.24	644.94	641.94	630.58	620.46	594.13	593.87	595.60	600.40
296.91	293.14	289.13	285.27	286.82	281.81	281.24	271.05	270.51
963.15	938.08	931.07	915.86	907.28	875.95	875.11	866.65	870.91
40.04	35.42	36.31	35.26	35.37	35.66	37.06	34.20	32.88
67.28	61.72	55.22	54.47	53.40	64.69	70.47	84.28	89.49
11.14	10.35	9.83	9.80	11.46	11.46	12.29	13.67	14.05
422.71	442.84	460.04	478.41	490.56	468.06	444.84	415.65	400.45
19.37	17.85	17.38	18.05	17.82	16.48	15.32	14.09	14.70
45.90	49.11	51.28	54.21	56.03	55.32	52.58	49.59	47.67
5,97.75	5,91.83	5,00.24	6,36.43	5,48.79	5,29.62	4,94.37	4,66.11	—

SECURITY PRICES (COMBINED INDEX)

(Base 1927-28 = 100)

114.8	114.7	114.7	114.3	113.9	114.1	114.2	114.0	113.9
155.9	153.7	150.7	159.7	148.3	145.6	141.6	134.0	132.4
157.9	156.7	153.3	152.0	145.8	141.2	135.5	131.1	138.1

WHOLESALE PRICES

YEAR ENDED AUGUST 1939 = 100

397.5	385.3	383.8	376.5	373.8	377.0	381.6	395.9	410.6	403.1
457.7	456.6	457.3	452.8	452.8	463.8	460.5	449.4	460.5	468.4
328.3	324.8	322.1	322.4	325.2	324.5	326.1	326.7	330.8	334.8
347.3	339.2	330.1	329.4	347.0	347.1	349.2	344.7	348.7	351.4
536.7	530.2	524.3	515.2	528.5	526.1	502.3	535.1	541.6	547.1
383.6	376.1	372.0	370.2	376.1	377.1	378.4	380.6	389.0	389.7

OF LIVING INDEX

(Base August 1939 = 100)

326	316	307	311	305	306	300	302	306
322	324	324	326	320	320	322	320	320
508	506	515	479	468	482	483	486	488
130	128	127	127	128	128	131	134	134
387	380	374	374	380	377	379	378	—
344	333	323	332	343	343	352	354	—

BOMBAY SPOT

1949

January	February	March	April	May	June
119 4 0	119 2 0	118 1 0	115 9 0	119 6 0	119 10 0
112 12 0	117 0 0	103 0 0	108 8 0	114 4 0	114 13 0
114 14 9	117 12 8	112 5 8	112 3 7	117 0 8	117 7 9
188 4 0	190 8 0	190 0 0	184 0 0	187 4 0	192 12 0
178 8 0	186 6 0	175 8 0	172 13 0	178 14 0	178 9 0
182 2 0	187 12 5	185 0 7	178 9 5	183 10 9	186 10 3