

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1908.

Enclosures

Spare copies

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G.O., No. 812, 12th December 1908.

Conference of Curators of Museums in India.

Recording letter from the Superintendent, Government Museum, reporting on certain proposals made by the — held in 1907 ; and informing the Government of India that this Government are in favour of holding future Conferences triennially.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

READ—the following papers:—

I

G.O., No. 736, Educational, dated 30th October 1908.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Superintendent, Government Museum, a copy of the report of the Conference of Curators of Museums in India with certain observations of the Government of India on the resolutions passed by the Conference.

II

Letter—from E. THURSTON, Esq., Superintendent, Government Museum.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—Madras, the 18th November 1908.
No.—656.

In G.O., No. 736, Educational, dated 30th October 1908, on the subject of the Museum Conference which was held in December 1907, I am asked to report whether any, and if so what, increase is considered necessary in the skilled subordinate staff of the Madras Museum.

2. In recent years, Government has appointed Mr. A. Rea of the Archæological Department and Mr. J. R. Henderson, Honorary Assistant Superintendents of the Museum, and both these gentlemen are always ready to assist me with advice concerning and additions to the Archæological and Natural History sections. I receive willing help from Mr. Venkayya of the Archæological Department and the Asiatic Society of Bengal in connection with coins which are sent to them from time to time for identification. And in the Department of Natural History the experts at the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, and the Indian Museum, Calcutta, are always willing to come to my assistance in identifying insects and other animals. Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that, though Mr. (now Sir) T. H. Holland states in the report of the Conference (page 4) that "the Madras Museum is an instance of an institution that approaches the stage requiring specialization," that stage has not yet been reached. And I should prefer that, so long as I remain in charge of the Museum, the existing conditions should remain unchanged.

3. I am of opinion that, at present, it is not necessary to send a taxidermist to the Indian Museum for training. I admit that a good taxidermist is much to be wished for, and that my Taxidermist's department is a difficulty. But, as Dr. Annandale points out in the report (page 9), "a modern taxidermist of the first class must be something of an artist, as well as having a knowledge of the anatomy and of the habits and natural attitudes of animals." Such a man could only be secured from Europe on a salary which would be out of proportion to that of the superior subordinates of the Museum establishment.

4. I am in sympathy with the holding of triennial Conferences of Museum Directors and those concerned in Museum matters. The Conference at Calcutta was useful, *inter alia*, in bringing together a number of individuals interested in Museum administration and affording an opportunity for an interchange of ideas. I am also in favour of the Standing Committee, of which I was appointed a member at the time of the Conference.

Order—No. 812, Educational, dated 12th December 1908.

Recorded.

2. The following letter will be addressed to the Government of India.

[Here enter Letter No. 813, Educational, dated 12th December 1908.]

(True Extract.)

H. D. TAYLOR,
Secretary to Government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 813

From

H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Dated Fort St. George, the 12th December 1908.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 9212—9218-9, dated the 6th October 1908, forwarding with remarks a copy of the report of the Proceedings of the Conference of Curators of Museums in India which was held in December 1907.

2. With reference to the proposals contained in Resolutions XXVIII to XXXII regarding the holding of future Conferences triennially, and the appointment of a Standing Committee for the purpose, I am directed to state that the Governor in Council is in favour of these proposals. The Conference held at Calcutta in December 1907 was useful, *inter alia*, in bringing together a number of persons interested in Museum administration and in affording an opportunity for an interchange of ideas among them and His Excellency in Council is of the opinion that those interested in Museums should be given similar opportunities of exchanging views in the future.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. D. TAYLOR,
Secretary to Government.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., Nos. 812, 813, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 12TH DECEMBER 1908.

[SUBJECT.—*Additional establishment for the Government Museum, Madras.*]

Previous papers.

G.O., No. 103,	Educational,	dated 20th February 1905.
" Nos. 23-4	" "	" 17th January 1906.
" " 361-2	" "	" 11th June 1907.
" No. 204	" "	" 18th March 1908.
" " 736	" "	" 30th October "

From the Superintendent, Government Museum, dated 18th November 1908, No. 656.

Please see G.O., No. 736, Educational, dated 30th October 1908, and the notes therewith.

2. In that order a copy of the report of the full proceedings of, and of the resolutions passed by, the Conference of Curators of Museums in India was communicated to the Superintendent of the Government Museum and he was requested to report—

(a) whether any increase was necessary in the skilled subordinate staff of the Madras Museum, as recommended in Paragraph 2 of the Government Order. Resolutions IV and VI of the Conference; and

(b) whether any one from Madras should be sent to the Indian Museum for training in taxidermy.

He was also requested to submit his remarks on the proposals contained in Resolutions * XXVIII to XXXII, for holding future Conferences triennially, and for the appointment of a Standing Committee for the purpose.

Paragraph 3 of the Government Order.

* Page 38 of the report put up.

3. *Increase in the skilled subordinate staff of the Museum.*—In reply to the enquiry whether any increase is required in the skilled subordinate staff of the Museum, Mr. Thurston expresses the opinion that none is required. He states that

G.O., No. 461-R., dated 9th October 1903.

G.O., No. 103, Educational, dated 20th February 1905.

† Late assistant to the Government Epigraphist, Southern Circle.

any skilled assistance he requires he readily gets from Messrs. A. Rea and J. R. Henderson, who have been appointed Honorary Assistant Superintendents of the Museum, and from Mr. Venkayya.† He adds that the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the experts at the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, and at the Indian Museum, Calcutta, are always willing to come to his assistance. He therefore expresses the opinion "that although Sir T. H. Holland states in the report of the Conference that—

"the Madras Museum is an instance of an institution that approaches the 'stage requiring specialization,' that stage has not yet been reached and I should prefer that, so long as I remain in charge of the Museum, the existing conditions should remain unchanged."

[G.O., Nos. 812, 813, Educational, dated 12th December 1908.]

~~containing~~

G.O. no. 736 Edl
30-10-06.

W

X 4-P

~~containing the full proceedings of the Conference of Curators of Museums in India which was held in December 1907 and of the resolutions of the said Conference.~~

2. With reference to para 2 of your letter asking for an expression of the opinion of this Government ~~on the proposals contained in Resolutions XXVIII to XXXII regarding the holding of future conferences triennially, and the appointment of a Standing Committee for the purpose, I am directed to state that the Governor in Council is in favour of holding~~ *these proposals* ~~triennial conferences of Museum Directors and of appointing a Standing Committee for the purpose. His Excellency in Council observes that~~ The Conference held at Calcutta in December 1907 was useful, *inter alia*, in bringing together a number of persons interested in Museum Administration and affording an opportunity for an interchange of ideas among them and ~~would be glad that similar opportunities are given in~~ *His Ex. C. is of the opinion that these interests in*

~~future.~~ *Museums should be given similar opportunities of exchanging views in the future.*

Ad 9.12.08

10-11-08

G. P. 20

PRESS SLIP.

ORDINARY.

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URGENT (a).

EDUCATIONAL
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Current No., dated 190 ..

G.O., No. 812-813, dated 12-12-1908

Number of MS. pages sent { Correspondence including order or orders
(b)
(b') Notes.....

Docket *Conference of Curators of Museum*

*Regarding letter from the Supdt. Govt. Museum
reporting on certain proposals made by the
Govt. of India, and asking for the Govt. of India
that the Govt. are in favour of holding future
conferences triennially*

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