

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1911.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 449, 8th July 1911.

Conference of persons interested in museums.

Informing the Government of India that the Madras Government propose to depute
Mr. J. R. Henderson to the — at Simla.

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Informing the Government of India that the Madras Government propose to depute
Mr. J. R. Henderson to the — at Simla.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. H. SHARP, M.A., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (General).
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.
Dated—Simla, the 16th June 1911.
No.—111.

I am directed to say that the Government of India propose to summon a conference of oriental scholars at Simla in July next. It has been thought that this offers a very suitable opportunity for holding a conference of persons interested in museums. This would suitably follow immediately after the oriental conference.

2. The points which would probably fall under discussion will be largely suggested by the course of the discussion at the conference of orientalists. But it is thought that the staffing and organization of individual museums, the carrying on of research work at museums, the scope of local museums, the co-ordination of these institutions and the exchange or distribution of duplicate exhibits, etc., are likely to prove useful subjects. I am, however, to ask whether there are any special matters which His Excellency in Council would desire to be brought before this conference, should it assemble.

3. I am further to ask whether His Excellency in Council desires to nominate one or more representatives at the conference. The Government of India will be glad to receive any such recommendation; but it is at present uncertain whether they will be able to invite more than one of the nominees suggested.

II

Memorandum No. 1474-1, Educational, dated 29th June 1911.

The Government propose to depute Mr. Henderson to represent this Presidency at a conference of persons interested in museums which, it is understood, is likely to be summoned by the Government of India in July at Simla immediately after the conference of oriental scholars. Among the subjects which will probably come under discussion may be mentioned the staffing and organization of individual museums, the scope of local museums, the co-ordination of these institutions and the exchange or distribution of duplicate exhibits. The Government desire to know whether, in the opinion of the Superintendent, Government Museum, there are any and if so what other special subjects which should be brought before this conference, should it assemble.

2. It is requested that this reference may be treated as very urgent.

L. DAVIDSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Government Museum.

III

Letter—from J. R. HENDERSON, Esq., M.B.C.M., F.R.S., Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—the 30th June 1911.
No.—467.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of memorandum No. 1474-1, dated 29th June 1911, stating that the Government propose to depute me to represent this Presidency at a conference of persons interested in museums, which is likely to be summoned by the Government of India in July at Simla.

In addition to the subjects mentioned as likely to come under discussion, I am of opinion that the following might also engage the attention of the conference :—

- (1) The disposal of duplicate coins.
- (2) The opening and closing hours of museums.

IV

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. H. SHARP, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (General).
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.
Dated—Simla, the 29th June 1911.
No.—823.

In continuation of my letter No. 111, dated the 16th June 1911, I am directed to suggest that Mr. J. R. Henderson, Curator of the Madras Museum, would be a helpful member at the forthcoming conference at Simla, and to ask whether His Excellency in Council is disposed to permit him to attend it. It is expected that the conference will last from the 17th to the 20th of July. A telegraphic reply will be convenient.

Should His Excellency in Council consent to Mr. Henderson's attendance, a list of the agenda will be sent direct to that officer.

Order—No. 449, Educational, dated 8th July 1911.

The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India.

[Here enter Letter No. 450, Educational, dated 8th July 1911.]

(True Extract.)

L. DAVIDSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Government Museum.
,, Accountant-General.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 450.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. L. DAVIDSON, I.C.S.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Educational Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Dated Ootacamund, the 8th July 1911.

SIR,

I am directed to reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Sharp's letter No. 111, dated 16th June 1911, on the subject of holding a conference of persons interested in museums at Simla.

2. The Government of India enquire whether there are any special matters which the Government of Madras would desire to be brought up before the conference and also whether they wish to nominate one or more representatives at the conference.

3. I am to state that the Governor in Council proposes to depute only Mr. J. R. Henderson, Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, to the conference and considers that, in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 2 of the letter under reference, the following subjects might engage the attention of the conference :—

- (1) The disposal of duplicate coins and
- (2) the opening and closing hours of museums.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L. DAVIDSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., Nos. 449, 450, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 8TH JULY 1911.

[SUBJECT.—Conference of persons interested in museums.]

Previous paper :

G.O., No. 731, Educational, dated 10th December 1910.

From the Government of India, dated 16th June 1911, No. 111.

The Superintendent, Government Museum, may be asked u.o. whether there are any special matters which he would desire to be brought before the conference which the Government of India is going to hold and also to suggest the names of any persons who might be deputed to the conference.

P.R.—21-6-11.

The proposed conference, which is said to be a conference of persons interested in museums, is apparently different from the conference of Curators of Museums which in G.O., No. 731, Educational, dated 10th December 1910. was postponed to the cold weather of 1911-12 with reference to the letter from the Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 8516-36, dated 28th November 1910. The Superintendent, Government Museum, may be consulted u.o. as to subjects and representatives.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—22-6-11.

Would Honourable Member wish any person other than Dr. Henderson to be consulted?

L. DAVIDSON—23-6-11.

I don't think we need consult anybody else. It is a curious move this and we must be on the look out or India will be resuscitating the idea of centralising museum management and removing some coveted exhibits from here. We may, I think, depend upon Henderson to oppose any notion of the sort.

M. H[AMMICK]—24-6-11.

The draft letter is submitted for approval.

On the advance copy of India's letter the Hon'ble Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar noted—

"I would like to see the suggestions we make."

P.R.—26-6-11.

It is not clear whether it is the Hon'ble Sir M. Hammick's intention that Mr. Henderson should be consulted u.o. before a reply is sent to India. If this is his intention, then the file may be sent u.o. to the Superintendent, Government Museum, for acceptance of or remarks on the draft reply.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—26-6-11.

This is what he means, but the reference should not be u.o. but formal. Say Government propose to depute Mr. Henderson and desire to know whether in his opinion any, and if so, what special subjects should be brought up.

L. DAVIDSON—27-6-11.

A draft reference is for approval.

L. DAVIDSON—28-6-11.

[Memorandum No. 1474-1, Educational, dated 29th June 1911.]

From the Government of India, dated 30th June 1911, No. 826.

From the Superintendent, Government Museum, dated 30th June 1911, No. 467.

Mr. Henderson says that the only additional subjects which might engage the attention of the conference are—

- (1) The disposal of duplicate coins; and
- (2) the opening and closing hours of museums.

2. The Government of India request in their telegram that Mr. Henderson may be instructed to attend the conference which is to be held on the 17th July and the following days.

3. A draft order and a draft letter to India are submitted for approval.

4. On the advance copy of the letter circulated to him, the Hon'ble Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar has remarked as follows:—

“I would like to see the suggestions we make.”

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—1-7-11.

L. DAVIDSON—1-7-11.

We can, I think, depend on Mr. Henderson to give sensible directions on any point that may come up.

M. H[AMMICK]—3-7-11.

I would suggest the consideration of the desirability of founding district museums of agricultural and industrial products and appliances on a modest scale. They should be under the control of the Superintendent of Industrial Education. They have a great educational value. The new industrial schools will find them of great use. Educational exhibitions have been held occasionally. The class of exhibits therein collected may suitably be housed in these district museums. I would recommend Mr. Tressler or Mr. Chatterton or Mr. Yates being deputed in addition to Mr. Henderson. Mr. Henderson has rarely been out of Madras and knows very little of the Presidency, I therefore suggest one of the other three in the order given.

There may be financial difficulties, but India may be left to consider them.

V. K[RISHNASWAMI AIYAR]—4-7-11.

In any case Mr. Henderson must go. He represents our museum and is the person most wanted. He has, I think, travelled in the Presidency much more than my Honourable colleague thinks.

I don't think Mr. Chatterton should go. He is not likely to help us in this matter. I don't imagine that district museums will be discussed. Our experience of them has not been very encouraging. We used to have a few. I remember one very dusty collection at Bezwada.

I don't think we are at all likely to benefit by permanent district museums anywhere. Loan collections is another matter. They might do good.

In any case I do not think district museums is a matter we should press at this meeting at Simla. We want to consider that question ourselves before any scheme could be formulated. All the money we can find now can be well spent on the Central Madras Museum. I am not in favour of pressing the point of district museums at this conference. We have no definite policy.

This conference is to deal with the staffing and organization of the Presidency museums and their relations to each other and their relation to the Imperial Museum. The extension of district museums is certainly not a point on which I would instruct our representative to take any definite line. I have not thought of the matter sufficiently. I think it quite possible, and I think Mr. Thurston used to think so too, that we might send out objects for exhibition to up-country stations temporarily, but that is another matter.

Industrial and educational and agricultural museums,—I do not think we are ready for up-country and unless they were in charge of very competent persons they would be useless.

I don't know Mr. Chatterton's or Mr. Tressler's views on this subject, but I don't think either of them are likely to be very useful at this conference of museum Superintendents and I certainly am not prepared to tell them to speak for us on any definite line. I think they are likely to do us no good.

If we want to start district museums, we should consider the matter ourselves carefully first and see what exactly we want. I am not in favour of throwing out any suggestion of the kind at this conference.

Mr. Henderson will no doubt derive great advantage from attending and meeting the other heads of museums. He is a competent museum expert and knows what he is talking about.

I am of opinion that it is quite sufficient that he should go and I am not in favour of sending up any other representative. We do not want suggestions made at this conference which we have not first carefully thought over.

M. H[AMMICK]—4-7-11.

Will the Secretary please tell Mr. Henderson to go and give him instructions and then circulate this note again to my Honourable Colleague.

M. H[AMMICK]—4-7-11.

Issue the draft *at once* and then circulate.

L. DAVIDSON—5-7-11.

[G.O., No. 439, Educational, dated 5th July 1911.]

The Government Order has issued. The file may now be circulated to the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar.

S K.—5-7-11.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—5-7-11.

M. S. MASCARENHAS—5-7-11.

I suggested one of the other three in addition to Mr. Henderson. India selected Mr. Henderson (*vide* their telegram). They asked us to nominate one or more representatives evidently in addition to Mr. Henderson. I thought one of the men named by me might do. It is desirable that Madras should not be under-represented. I have no objection to the selection of any one my Honourable colleague may think fit.

In the last sentence of paragraph 2 of their letter India asked us if we had any subjects to suggest *for consideration*. I certainly was not prepared to *instruct* Mr. Henderson to press any view. I suggested a subject to India in answer to their letter. It is for the conference to decide whether anything should be done in the matter.

My Honourable colleague may dispose of the file as he thinks best. I am not keen. Please recirculate.

V. K[RISHNASWAMI AIYAR]—5-7-11.

L. DAVIDSON—6-7-11.

I am not in favour of making any suggestion to India as to opening district museums. I don't think we should make any such far-reaching suggestion of this kind unless we have some definite policy to propose. At present we have no money to spare for the purpose and no staff to look after such museums. They will become dusty useless collections and do little good.

Issue the letter and Government Order and show to the Hon'ble Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar.

[G.O., Nos. 449, 450, Educational, dated 8th July 1911.]

The letter to the Government of India has issued. The file may now be submitted to the Hon'ble Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar.

S.K.—8-7-11.

K. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR-8-7-11.

M. S. MASCARENHAS—8-7-11.

Seen.

V. K[RISHNASWAMI AIYAR]—10-7-11.

From the Government of India, No. 823, dated 29th June 1911.

The file relating to the deputation of Mr. Henderson to attend the conference of persons interested in museums has been circulated to the Honourable Member. A draft order informing the Government of India of the fact of his deputation and also replying to that Government's letter No. 111, dated 16th June, is in that file. The following telegram may issue to the Government of India:—

"Number 29. Your letters 111 and 823, dated 16th and 29th June. Madras Government have deputed Henderson to attend conference. Letter follows."

K.R.—6-7-11.

L. DAVIDSON—6-7-11.

[G.O., Nos. 449-450, Educational, dated 5th July 1911.]

READ AGAIN G.O., No., dated 19.....

” ” ” ” , ” 19

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1557, From the Govt of I., No. 826, dated 30-6-1911

77 77 474 77 77 e u 77 111 77 16-6- 1911

1558, 54 m. 467 30-6-1911

ORDER

No. 439, dated 5. 7. 1911

The Supdt., Govt. Museum,
will be requested to attend the
conference of persons interested in
museums, which will be held in
Simla on the 17th instant and
the following days.

[2. The following letter will be despatched
to the Govt of I.]

Letter to N^o 4 50 78. 7. 11
The Secy - to the Govt of S.
Dept of Education

Su

I am directed to reply to the

To The S. G. M. ✓ Sept 11
-- A. G. ✓ 5.7.

2
2
16 91
Honble Mr. Sharp's letter no. 111 dated
16th June 1911 on the subject of
holding a Conference of persons
interested in museums at Simla.

2. The Govt of India enquire
whether there are any special matters
which the Govt of Madras would
desire to be brought up before
the conference and also whether they
wish to nominate one or more
representatives at the conference.

3. I am to state that the
Govt. in Council proposes to depute
only Mr. J. R. Henderson, Suptd.,
Govt. Museum, Madras to the conference
and considers that in addition
to those ~~subjects~~ mentioned in para.
2 of the letter under reference, the
following ^{subjects} might engage the attention
of the conference -

- (1) the disposal of duplicate coins &
- (2) the opening & closing hours of
museums.

TH
1-7-11

RD
1-7-11

8
1-7-11

Current No., dated 19
G.O., No. 449-450, dated 88-7-19/1

Number of MS. pages sent { Correspondence including order or orders
(61)
Notes.....

Docket: Conference of Muscogee people
interested in Muscogee. p. 100

the port of India. That the ^{major}
first propose to depute Mr G R
Henderson to the ——— at Sind.

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