

Home (1918) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1242

DATED 14-10-1918

[Despatch Abstract.]

CONFERENCE.

Passing orders on the letter from the Secretary to the
first All India Libraries Conference requesting Government's
patronage to the-----.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1919.

Seott. II-92-14,308-19-1-17

House (Mr.) DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper-- *The Hindu*
2. Published at-- *Madras*
3. Dated-- *20.9.19.*

ALL-INDIA LIBRARIES CONFERENCE.

The conference will be held in the Gokhale Hall on the 24th October and the following days under the presidency of Mr. Janardas S. Kudalkar, M.A. LL.B., of Baroda. On the gallery of the Hall will be arranged a magnificent collection of Library materials together with an unprecedented collection of journals from the whole world. A large contingent of American journals has already arrived. The exhibition will be the first of its kind in India. Several gentlemen have been requested to read papers on important subjects and so far there has been response from Mr. A. Narayana Rao who will read a paper on the American Library Movement, Mr. C. Nagappa on the movement in Mysore and Mr. S. V. Narasimha Sashtry on the Government in the Andhra Desa. Intimation has already been received that delegates will attend the conference from Baroda, Mysore, Delhi, Calcutta, Poona, Pudukotta, Bombay, Patna, Kasiganj, and Andhra Desa. More places are to follow. The Government of Mysore have kindly deputed two of their best men to attend the conference. The Reception Committee is about fifty strong and is making the necessary arrangements. H. J. Willingdon has been invited and is to attend and address the delegates. Information can be had by applying to the Secretary at 17, Narayana Mudali Street, Georgetown.

BR
20.9.19



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ootacamund,

22nd September 1919.

My dear Davidson,

I enclose ~~herewith the~~ correspondence about the proposed First All India Libraries Conference. You will see that they ask His Excellency to visit and address the Conference and Littlehailes rather approves. If His Excellency agrees he will not however be prepared to "outline a policy" but will merely welcome the members or the delegates and wish them success. I am to ask whether you think it would be a good thing for His Excellency to do so.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon'ble Mr. L. Davidson, C.S.I.,

Woodside, Ootacamund.

U 1/2
'Woodside',

Ootacamund.

23rd September 1919.

My dear Duff,

In returning the correspondence enclosed with your ~~letter~~ D.O. of the 22nd inst. I write to say that I see no ~~objection~~ *Wm* objection to His Excellency's visiting and addressing the first All-India Libraries Conference. I fully agree that it would be better not to attempt to outline any policy. We had a general reference on the subject recently from the Government of India to which a reply was sent on lines recommended by Littlehales, but I do not think that it can be said that anything in the nature of a definite policy exists. I would suggest that you obtain that file from the Secretariat for reference.

Yours sincerely,

A.C. Duff Esq., I.C.S.,

Private Secretary, to H.E. the Governor,

Government House, Ootacamund.

The First All India Libraries' Conference

Chairman, Reception Committee:

S. KASURIRANGA IYENGAR, B.A., B.L.

Secretaries:

C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIAR, B.A., B.L.

N. S. RAYAN, B.A.

5 C NO 1600 B/18.82
17, Narayana Mudali Street,

Madras, 15th August 1919.



To
The Hon. Member in charge of Education to the Government of Madras,
Chelacamund.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the above conference is being organised to hold its sessions in Madras this year. The objects of the conference will be found in the accompanying circular letter issued sometime ago to the libraries and library organisations in the various parts of India. The dates of the conference have been definitely fixed for the 24th, 25th and 26th of October, and it will be presided over by Mr. J.S. Kudalkar, M.A., L.L.B., Curator of State Libraries, Baroda. I have the honour to request you on behalf of the Reception Committee to render all the necessary help to make the conference and the movement it represents the success that they deserve. An exhibition of Library materials and foreign journals and periodicals will be arranged along with the conference and for all this the Reception Committee will have to incur a large expenditure which at a moderate estimate will exceed Rs. 1000. I have therefore to request you to grant to the conference at least half of that amount from the Educational estimates for the current year so that along with the other half of the amount which may be collected from the public by the Reception Committee the conference may be held with the dignity that it deserves. The conference hopes to establish a permanent non-official agency representative of the whole of India and Native States, of course, with help, guidance and cooperation of the Government to spread the library movement throughout the length and breadth of our country for which the organisation when it is formed hopes to apply to the Government for a recurring grant. But for the purposes of the first conference which Madras is proud of organising, the Reception Committee requests you to make a reasonable grant to set the movement on foot. I may also request you to depute some gentlemen who are connected with big Public Libraries in Madras such as Mr. J.R. Henderson of the Connemara Public Library to attend the conference and help the delegates with their experiences of Library work.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I have the honour to remain

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

N. S. Rayan

ALL-INDIA PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONFERENCE.

PROPOSED SESSION AT MADRAS.

Organisation of public libraries as a movement distinct by itself has been engaging public attention all the world over for some time. Attempts in this direction are being made in several parts of India, few and far between though they be. His Highness the Gaekwad of Baroda is the pioneer of the Modern Library Movement in India. There the movement has been developed in all its branches on the most up-to-date methods. The Durbar of Mysore is trying to come out next best. In Pudukkottah, purely through non-official agency, attempts are being made to establish public libraries in the State. The librarians of that state have already met twice in annual session; they have so far succeeded in securing the sympathy of the state to their work and pecuniary help. In Andhradesa the movement has been at work for the last one decade and more and under the fostering care of the Andhradesa Libraries Association it is of late assuming the form of an organised movement. Besides these there are several individual Associations working in different parts of India in their respective places.

The Government of India in their Education Department convened a conference under the name of the "All India Libraries conference." Apart from the recognition of certain widely accepted principles, the proceedings of the above conference have no interest to the public in general. The all important question of the organisation of rural, district and central libraries was never considered by them even though requested to do so. From the whole tenour of its proceedings, it appeared that the conference was designed more to find means for facilitating the work of scholars and those engaged in research in special branches of knowledge than to better the lot of the public in general.

The subject of the library movement is not a provincial question. The whole of British India and Native States will have to work at it and find out practical methods of spreading the movement throughout the whole of India.

ORGANISERS.

RAO BAHDUR C. CANNAN CHETTY.

HON. MR. B. N. SARMA.

MR. S. GURUSWAMY CHETTY, B.A. B.L.

MR. K. NAGESWARA RAO.

MRS. S. VENKATACHALAM CHETTY.

The Andhradesa Libraries conference which was holding its sessions in different parts of the Andhra country for the last five years has been invited to Madras this year. It is settled that this conference is to meet in the 3rd week of July. Side by side with this conference it has been proposed to hold an All-India Libraries conference. The chief subjects of this conference will be to popularise the public Library movement and devise practical methods of spreading it throughout the whole country. In order to do this, information is to be first obtained from different sources bearing on the present state of the movement in various parts of India. This can only be done with the co-operation of those working in this line throughout the country. Hence it is requested that those who are connected with the public libraries will kindly furnish us information regarding their particular institution. The accompanying paper gives some general heads under which information may be furnished. When this information has been procured, it will give a workable basis for us to proceed.

Further, the public library movement can be studied under various heads. It has both a technical side and popular side. Those who are interested in the movement or are actually connected with it are requested to benefit the conference by supplying it with their valuable experiences. This can be done by signifying their consent to send papers to be read at the conference or to read them themselves or to consent to speak at the conference on some branch or other of the movement. Any gentleman complying with the above requests may kindly communicate the same to the undersigned.

Besides, all those interested in the movement are requested to make any suggestions that they may have to make regarding the work of the conference so that the conference may benefit by them thus ensuring the success of the conference.

G. VENKATA SUBRAMANYAM.

P. C. RAMA RAO,

Provisional Secretaries.

Ham

3
7

b. 1600 B

Just No. 1600/B-1
4-9-4

Referred to the Principal Librarian, Kannemara Public Library for remarks.

25-8-19
Lk
27-8-19

1-9-4
W 3/5/4

2 drafts

File to go w/ to D.P.S.
after issue

Ran 2499
S. 2499

To The Principal Librarian,
Kannemara Public Library

2499

Noted w.c.B.

copy
to be
with
reply

4/8

6-1600 B

Letter - To 1600/B-2
15.8.19

M. R. R. N. S. Rayan A. V.
B. A.

Secretary, All-India

Libraries' Conference

17, Narayana Mudaliar
Madras

78-
698

Sir,

I am directed to ack-
nowledge the receipt of your
letter of 15.8.19 regarding
the proposed session at Madras
of the All-India Libraries'
Conference.

15.8.19

I have etc

17.8.19

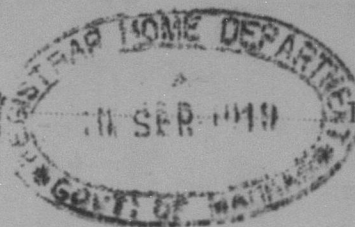
17.8.19

3/9/19

Rev. K. J. N.
17.8.19

Home (Education) DEPARTMENT.

Received



191

Registered

19-9-1919

Subject.

Submitting certain remarks regarding the official attendance at the First All India Public Libraries Conference, Madras.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

No. 555

Spare copies

Station Madras, Dated the 17th September 1919.

From (Name) H. Dedwell, Esq., M.A.,
(Designation) Ag. Principal Librarian, Connemara Public Library, & Ag. Superintendent,
Government Museum, Madras.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Home (Education) Department.

Sir,

With reference to your Endorsement No. 1600/B-1 dated the 4th September 1919, I have the honour to state that as far as I can ascertain the individuals concerned in organising the projected Conference have no connection with libraries. In view of the fact that the Government of India has instituted a Conference of Librarians which meets periodically, I submit that the necessity of official attendance at this new Conference is not apparent. I conceive the underlying purpose to be mainly political; and suppose that any recommendations they may have to make should be referred to the Official Conference of Librarians for discussion. I do not therefore see what useful purpose

(W)

26.6.18

erved by my attending the present Conference. More-
attendance would probably be represented as giving Or-
sanction to the resolutions of the Conference.

However such unofficial discussions may serve to
gest beneficial changes in the organisation and future de-
velopment of libraries and I see no objection to a grant
being made.

I think the Conference may also be informed that
I shall be happy to afford them any information I can.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. Dodwell
19. 9. 19.

Ag. Principal Librarian.

C.No.1600 B From the Secy. All India Libr
Conference dated 15-8-19.

Secretary's remarks on the above.

After issue of drafts, refer file to D.P.I.
for an expression of opinion on this particular
movement and on the remarks put forward.

R.R.R.
3-9-19.

Despatch as Encl: No. 1600/B-1, dt/ 4-9. 19

Letter No. 1600/B-2, dt/ 4-9. 19

D.P.I. U.O.

No. camp N: 392/9917 9

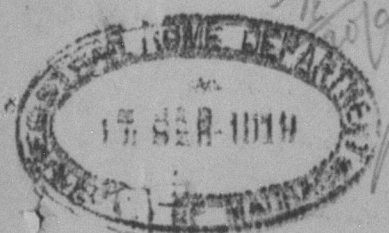
The Secy. to the Govt. All India Libr

Conference makes three requests:
(a) that Govt. "render all the necessary help to make
the Conference and the movement it represents the
success that they desire." A general request of
this nature might well be granted without
conceding anything or committing Govt. in
any way.

(b) that Govt. grant to the conference at least
half of the expenditure (£1000 is the
minimum estimate) expected to be incurred.
I cannot recommend this for reasons but I
think that Mr. Dodwell, the Ag. Principal Librarian,
should state that Govt. grant this
request.

(c) that Govt. appoint some gentlemen who
are connected with big public libraries in India
to attend the conference and help the delegates
with their experience of library work. I
think that Mr. Dodwell, the Ag. Principal Librarian,
should state that Govt. grant this
request.

Ed. No. 1600/B-3
4-9-19



from the educational
estimate of the
current year,

Wp2-4rnpa

p. 1 of

Principal Librarian of the Commercial Library might be requested to attend the Conference with his advice, if he is in Manila during its session.

As to the general question of the institution of public libraries in India, I have already advised that such libraries might well be started in municipalities and be controlled by local bodies, just as they are in many other parts of the world. The first sound step in a public library movement is the institution of municipal libraries. After they are firmly established we can consider extending them to non-municipal areas but there is no valid reason why municipal libraries should not be used by residents of the District in which a municipality is situated.

3 The establishment and maintenance of libraries for the use of the general public is a large matter and is, in my opinion, essentially a concern the responsibility for which the public at large with statutory representatives should assume. No private organizations can be expected to provide either sufficient funds or the official and trained management which a large number of libraries established throughout the country would

Under suitable rules and arrangements

require.

It has been suggested that district school libraries should be formed in this tier for the use of the public. Such a movement, which preceded the public library movement in the United States of America, was a comparative failure on account of defects in legislation and administration the details of which I need not enter into here, and I am not inclined to recommend to Govt. the institution of a movement in India which proved far from successful in America.

p 1 of The conference hopes - I quote from the letter of its Secretary - "to establish a permanent non-official agency representative of the whole of India and Native States." If Govt. is going to aid this conference by giving monetary grant we require some guarantee that the objects of the conference and the methods that are to be proposed for obtaining these objects will be such as will conform, to a greater or less degree, to the general policy which Govt. is prepared to adopt in dealing with the question of the establishment of public libraries. We have to ensure that an agency can be obtained which is representative of the whole of India and ^{the} Native States, and furthermore that the object in view is one which can best be

carried out by such an agency. I cannot
accuse to either of these postulates. However
Mr. Special opinion do not possess a reputation of
acting according to the considered views of
Govt. I do not know whether Govt. have
any considered and established policy. The
matter of public libraries, we certainly have
no guarantee that this conference will
conform to Govt's policy, whether it may be.
I suggest therefore that information should
first be obtained as to the resolutions which
it is proposed to move at the conference,
together with such further details of the
methods that are proposed for attaining
the popularisation of a public library
movement as are available. Meanwhile
I should welcome a pronouncement from
the Govt. as to what its declared policy is.
be.

10.9.19

Submitted that the reply from
the Librarian, Bannemara Public Library
may be awaited. He may be reminded
on 1.10.19 if no reply is received
in the meanwhile

With reference to 'A' above, a
draft memorandum to the Secretary
to the Conference is subd. for approval.

20.9.19
20.9.19

This point will be noted
on after receipt of the
reply from the Principal
Librarian.

Til

This has been
since read & passed
on to M/o. 21/9.

14 5

I do not think the memo need come.
 Incorporate Mr. Dodwell's report
 along with the contents of the above
 note of the DTG & draft a reply

W 26/5/4

~~pp 5-6, c. 4~~ pp 5-6, c. 4
 No. 1831 B, from the Principal Librarian
 Commonwealth Public Library

No. 555 dt 17-9-4

From the newspaper cutting at P it is observed
 that H. S. had been invited to attend the conference
 2 Mr. Dodwell forwards

p. 5, c. 4

that the object of the movement is
 largely political and is not in favour
 of his being asked to ^{attend} ~~assist~~ the
 conference. If this is accepted, the net
 result is that ^(practically) none of the requests of
 the Secy. to the conference is to
 be complied with. A draft order
 is subd.: If appd., it may be circu-
 lated to H. M. whose orders may also
 be taken on the question of policy
 refd.: to in the last sentence of
 the Director's note (p. 4 ante)

W 27-9-4

we may probably stop
 with ~~the~~ declining to
 make a grant and not
 state anything about our reporting
 an officer to attend the conference.
 we may watch the progress of

15
work connected with the conference
a little while before deciding whether
we should send any body to attend
its sessions. Even if we eventually
don't send any, it may not be desirable
to specifically say so in the order.
Such a state is sure to irritate.

Q
27.9.05

I do not consider that Mr. Dodwell is
right in supposing that the object
of this movement is political. I rather
take it that the organisers want
a nonofficial impetus to be given to
the library movement. If this movement
stood by itself, we may cooperate.
But we have an all India movement
and India has issued instructions
on the subject. So our cooperation
with this movement is uncalled for.

2. I am now in favour of the Registrar's
suggestion to exercise the part about
deputation. The draft as corrected
by me is for orders

at the same time may the
Public officer be asked to intimate

NOTES.

Page 7

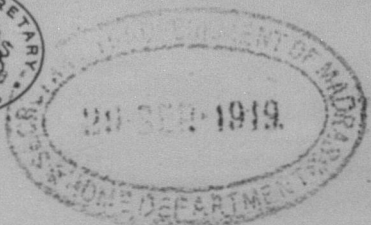
to the Press action already taken by Govt? The P.O. at the present moment has another file under consideration how to circulate books to correct misleading books? The D.P.L's request will be examined when dealing with these pending files.

Draft for news.

29/9/19

Am

I had just noted the above when I got your letter affixed below. The file has not yet been seen by Mr. Davidson
P.S.G



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Ootacamund

27th September 1919.

My dear Ramachandra Rao,

Would you kindly send, for His Excellency's reference, the file regarding the All India Libraries Conference to be held in Madras next month?

Yours sincerely,

Am

M.R.Ry Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Ayl.,
Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Dept.,
Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund.

Box 35
1.10.4.

8

17

His Excellency has consented to visit and
address the conference on Friday the 24th October.
I am to ask that this file may be sent to me on the
15th October.

No.

Oldry.

804-4

Wm

Submitted

17/10/4

Hue

From what I have seen in the Press regarding
this movement, from the names of the
persons associated with it in this Province
& for the fact that they have no special
~~special~~ connection with a knowledge of
library work, I think there may be political
ideas underlying it. But that is no
reason for holding aloof at the initial
stage before any political character is de-
clared. His Excellency's presence may indeed
exercise a steady & guiding influence.
And while cooperation cannot at this
stage be commanded, advice may be
helpful. I would therefore alter the Draft
order as follows:—

H. & S. should see.

9

"The Govt. report that they are unable to assist the Conference with any pecuniary grant but the Principle Librarian of the Congressional Public Library, will be requested, so far as his other duties permit, to attend the sessions of the ^{Conference} for the purpose of ~~watching their deliberations~~ to the execution of the Conference are already aware, that the Govt. has consented to deliver an address."

A Mr. Dowdell shall place his practical experience at the disposal of the Conference & give advice on technical points.

2.10.19



To be circulated after Oct. 5
as per orders

Submitted
27/10/19
Jaguar
10.6.10.19



Remitted 16 Oct 1919
14.10.19

The draft order as altered by H. M. has been typed and is subd. ^{below} ~~below~~
A draft DO to Mr Dowdell with reference to H.M.'s remarks at A is also subd.
After ~~the~~ issue, the file may be sent to P.S.G. u.o. with reference to his note on p. 8 ante.
14.10.19 14.10.19 14.10.19

NOTES.

Page 60

19

As the date of the proposed conference has been postponed to some time in the middle of Nov. J.E. will not be able to preside.

Rev.

17. May.



by 10/10

Hand (Edm) Dec

le. 1600 B }
le. 1831 B }

DO. 1831 B-1 A 14.10.19

Dear Sir,

Formal

orders are under issue requesting
you, so far as your other duties
permit, to attend the ensuing
sessions of ^{first} the India
Libraries' conference to be
held at Madras on the
24th, 25th and 26th inst.
I am to inform you that the
Govt consider that you
should place your practi-
cal experience at the disposal
of the conference and give advice
on technical points.

Yours truly

Respectfully
14.10.19

To H. Dodwell Esq. MA
Principal Librarian,
Kannemara Public
Library

14.10.19

14.10.19

14.10.19

14.10.19

14.10.19

Conference.—

Passing orders on the letter from the Secretary to the 1
All India Libraries' Conference requesting Government patronage to th

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191 .

191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1600 B, From the Secretary, All India Libraries Conference, No., dated 15th August 1919

" " 1831 B Principal Librarian, 555 17th September 1919.
" " Connemara Public Library "

" " " " Connemara Public Library

ORDER.
Mis

No. 1242 dated 14-10-1919

The Government regret that they are unable to assist the Conference with any pecuniary grant but the Principal Librarian of the Connemara Public Library will be requested, so far as his other duties permit, to attend the sessions of the Conference. As the Executive of the Conference are already aware, H.E. the Governor has consented to deliver an address.

To
The Secretary,
All-India Libraries Conference
The D.P.I.
The Principal Librarian,
Connemara Public Library.

nce
Jq
U & O
Jq
O

NOTES.

Page
Hemel (don) Sept 27

Extracts from the notes in the file relating to Grant patronage to the first all-India library conference.

His Excellency has consented ^{to} the visit and address the Conference on Friday the 24th October. I am to ask that this file may be sent to me on the 15th - October.

A.C.Duff
30-9-19

Submitted

R.R.R.
1-x-19

X

X

X

Mr. Dodwell should place his practical experience at the disposal of the Conference and give advice on technical points.

L.D.
2-x-19

Submitted

R.R.R.
2-x-19

H.E.

I agree

W.
6-x-19

The draft order as altered by H.M. has been typed and is submitted below. A draft D.O to Mr. Dodwell with reference to H.M's remarks at A is also submitted. After issue, the file may be sent to P.S. u.o. with reference to his note on p.8 ante.

C.R.
14-10-19

Issue and then

R.R.R.
14-10-19

As the date of the proposed conference has been postponed to sometime in the middle of November, H.E. will not be able to preside.

A.C.D
17-x-19

Considered as G.O. No 1242 (don)
14.10.19
and D.O. No 1831 B-1
14.10.19

With reference to P.S.G.'s note extracted on p. 1 ante, it is submitted that the Secretary to the Conference may be informed that H.E. the Governor will not be able to preside at the Conference. A draft order is subd. for approval

20.10.19

20.10.19

21.10.19

(The P.S.G. would have committed to the Secy to the Conference ahead of the point H.E.'s decision. But with ref. to the last sentence of p. no 1242 of 14.10.19, it may be desirable to make the modification start to the Secy).

Has P.S.G. already committed to the Conference Secretary?
Yes, this draft need not issue

23/10/19

P.S.G. / 10/19

Yes I have written to the Secretary
Sd.
24.10.19



con no 1600B-5
23.10.19

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes on the left page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. Some words like "copy" and "original" are visible.]

When given _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____, DATED _____
191 _____

CURRENT No. _____

REF TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
F = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.