

# Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 387, 27th March 1919

## Marine Aquarium

Directing that the control and management of the — which was hitherto exercised by the Superintendent, Government Museum, shall, with effect from the 1st April 1919, be transferred to the Director of Fisheries.

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ORIGINAL

# Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

**G.O. No. 387, 27th March 1919****Marine Aquarium**

Directing that the control and management of the — which was hitherto exercised by the Superintendent, Government Museum, shall, with effect from the 1st April 1919, be transferred to the Director of Fisheries.

READ—the following paper :—

**G.O. No. 64, Educational, dated the 6th February 1906**

**Order—No. 387, Home (Education), dated 27th March 1919.**

The Government direct that the control and management of the Marine Aquarium which was hitherto exercised by the Superintendent, Government Museum, shall, with effect from the 1st April 1919, be transferred to the Director of Fisheries.

The receipts and charges connected with the Marine Aquarium will, with effect from the accounts of 1919–20, be shewn under the minor heads 'XXI-B. Receipts from Industrial Operations' and '26-B. Development of Industries' respectively. The Director of Fisheries is requested, in consultation with the Superintendent, Government Museum, to submit to Government at an early date after the 1st April 1919 the necessary reappropriation statement for the year 1919–20 transferring the charges connected with the institution from the minor head 'Provincial Museums' to the minor head 'Development of Industries.'

2. Correspondence regarding the Aquarium will, with effect from the aforesaid date, be dealt with in the Revenue (Special) Department.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,  
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Revenue (Special) Department.  
„ all other Departments of the Secretariat.  
„ the Accountant-General (through Financial).  
„ the Superintendent, Government Museum.  
„ the Director of Fisheries, through the Revenue (Special) Department.  
Editors' Table (order only).



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NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 387, HOME (EDUCATION),  
DATED 27TH MARCH 1919

[SUBJECT.—*Transfer of the Marine Aquarium.*]

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

*Extract of demi-official from Sir Frederick Nicholson, dated 18th October 1918.*

I believe you have not yet sent in my note upon the site for the new aquarium which Government requested should be inspected and reported upon by me. If so, may I request that when you send it in, you will be good enough to raise the question of what department is to control and administer the present aquarium when Doctor Henderson retires. I understand that he intends to do so shortly.

2. As you are well aware 'Fisheries' is badly handicapped for want of any facilities to carry on experimental work upon living fishes, we have no opportunities to investigate the breeding and larval habits of marine fishes, work upon which successful progress in the future depends entirely. At present our work in certain directions is comparable to that of a builder who essays to erect a magnificent structure without troubling to put in foundations. Our eventual success will depend upon the thoroughness of our knowledge of the life histories of the food fishes of our coasts; at present we have no facilities whatever for the acquisition of this information. Until the war ends and for an indefinite period thereafter we cannot hope for the new aquarium to materialize. Pending that let us do what we can with the opportunities for investigation which already are available in the existing aquarium but which are beyond our reach till there be a change of control.

3. I request that you will be so kind as to press this view upon Government and to obtain their definite promise of a transfer upon Doctor Henderson's retirement. The acquisition would be a most valuable one for this department, I believe moreover that with the fishing facilities at our command we might even make the show part even more attractive to the general and particularly to the Indian public, than it now is.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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2. Mr. Hornell's request for the transfer of the present aquarium to the Fisheries Department when Doctor Henderson retires may, it is submitted, be referred to Home (Education). At his interview with the Secretary on 1st August 1918 this suggestion was made by Mr. Hornell and he was asked to move in the matter at about the time of Doctor Henderson's retirement. It is understood that Doctor Henderson retires in April next.

U.K.—30-10-18.

F. J. NOBES—30-10-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Attention is solicited to G.O. No. 64, Home (Education), dated 6th February 1906, sanctioning the establishment of a marine aquarium and placing it under the control of the Superintendent, Government Museum. The aquarium was taken over from the Public Works Department on the 3rd November 1908 (G.O. No. 492, Educational, dated 25th August 1909). The Superintendent, Government Museum, is the Director of the Aquarium and he is assisted by a local committee.

He is paid a local allowance of Rs. 35 per mensem for paying visits to it and supervising the work (G.O. No. 732, Educational, dated 16th October 1911). The aquarium besides being open to the public is regarded as an extension to the museum and an annexe to the Presidency College (G.O. No. 64, Educational, dated 6th February 1906). The Fisheries Department are now anxious that the control and the management of the aquarium should be transferred to them when Mr. Henderson retires. It is for orders whether the views of Mr. Henderson may be obtained u.o. on the present proposal.

A.R.—7-11-18.

S.A.—8-11-18.



I think the existing arrangement is more suitable.

C. H. BROWN—9-11-18.

I should be glad to have Mr. Henderson's views.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—11-11-18.

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, MADRAS.

I cannot see any special reason why the aquarium, which originated as an extension to the museum and has always been so regarded, should be handed over to the Fisheries Department when I retire. Mr. Hornell's arguments in favour of the transfer are (1) that the aquarium would be useful for experimental work on living fishes and for investigating their breeding and larval habits, (2) that with the facilities at the command of the Fisheries Department the aquarium might be rendered more attractive to the public. I cannot see why both these conditions could not be fulfilled without a transfer of management. The resources of the aquarium for scientific research, we agree as they are, can be placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Fisheries Department, and I need scarcely say that any assistance in rendering the place more attractive to the public will always be welcome.

As emergencies frequently arise at the aquarium it is in my opinion absolutely necessary that the Director should reside in Madras. I mention this because I understand the chief activities of the Fisheries Department are located at Tuticorin.

J. R. HENDERSON—14-11-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted.

2. Mr. Henderson is not in favour of the transfer of the Marine Aquarium to the Fisheries Department.

S.A.—17-11-18.

We may agree.

C.H.B.—18-11-18.

It is under contemplation to enhance the salary of the Superintendent, Museum. The conveyance allowance attached to the charge of the aquarium—Rs. 35—is so small that this need not enter into the question of the transfer of management.

2. I should think, so far as my personal opinion goes, that the Fisheries Department has made out a strong case for the proposal. The only argument for continuing is that the Superintendent should have his headquarters in Madras. This will not be insuperable and the Professor of Zoology in the Presidency College close by may be authorized to act in cases of emergency.

3. In addition to the arguments advanced, I should say that another important argument is that the development of the aquarium will be a legitimate expansion of the activities of the Fisheries Department, but will always be a work of accretion in the case of the Museum Superintendent.

4. To Revenue for remarks.

R.R.—19-11-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The committee appointed to report on the proposals regarding new marine aquarium considered that its association with the Fisheries Department was an obvious desirability and when the new aquarium is built, Mr. Hornell will be its Director—please see paragraph 3 of the committee's report at page 5 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, and paragraph 4 of the order at page 10 of the Government Order. Mr. Hornell will be provided with free quarters in the new aquarium—paragraph 1 (b), page 7 of G.O. No. 644, dated 11th March 1915. Home (Education) Secretary approves of the proposal to transfer the control of the present aquarium to Mr. Hornell.

Mr. Hornell has asked that, as Director of Fisheries, his headquarters should be fixed at Coonoor pending the construction of the aquarium and the only difficulty is as to who should act for Mr. Hornell in case of emergency. The Home Secretary suggests the Professor of Zoology in the Presidency College. If the Museum Superintendent is to be associated with the aquarium, he may preferably act for Mr. Hornell although the distance between the two is a possible objection, but if Mr. Hornell can suggest a suitable official in his own department, that would obviate divided responsibility and be the best solution. The case may, it is submitted, be sent u.o. to the Honorary Director of Fisheries.

U.K.—21-11-18.

Reference is solicited to Doctor Henderson's note on page 2. He is strongly in favour of retaining the present management and says that the resources of the aquarium for scientific research can be placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Fisheries Department. The fact that the Fisheries Department has no responsible officer stationed in Madras to look after the aquarium is certainly a strong argument against the transfer. Until this difficulty can be overcome, it seems better to retain the present management. The file may perhaps go to Sir Frederick Nicholson u.o. for remarks.

F. J. NOBES—21-11-18.

Mr. Sundara Raj is stationed in Madras and is frequently at headquarters, I believe. He might be a suitable officer to represent the Director. The only difficulty would occur when neither Mr. Hornell nor Mr. Sundara Raj are in Madras, should an emergency arise. Doctor Henderson says that emergencies frequently arise at the aquarium, and it would be distinctly awkward if an emergency should occur just when neither of these officers was in Madras. We could not then expect the Superintendent of the Museum to come to the rescue, if the control over the aquarium has been taken from him.

If suitable arrangement can be made for meeting emergencies, I consider that the aquarium should be handed over to the Fisheries Department when Doctor Henderson retires, but if suitable arrangements cannot be made then I am against the proposal.

M. YOUNG—22-11-18.

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

Since one main object in obtaining charge of the aquarium is to afford 'Fisheries' certain facilities for observation and research, the Zoological Assistant, Mr. Moses, M.A. (who was expressly appointed several years ago for aquarium and research work, as per recommendation of the committee in G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, and sanctioned by Government), will be transferred to the aquarium whenever it may be handed over to Fisheries. His work will require his daily attendance at the aquarium and at the Fisheries office close by; indeed he will probably work in a small room *at the aquarium*. This will provide an expert always on the spot not only for all emergencies but for the general work of the aquarium such as references by interested parties. This will not only get on the difficulty (of emergencies) alluded to in the notes, but provide extra and expert staff.

Since Mr. Hornell will be quitting Tuticorin as headquarters, Mr. Moses will necessarily quit it also, and will have Madras as his permanent headquarters.

F. A. NICHOLSON—24-11-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The case may, it is submitted, now go back to Home (Education).

U.K.—27-11-18.

F.J.N.—28-11-18.



## HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders.

A.R.—2-12-18.

S.A.—2-12-18.

Is Mr. Moses a Museum employé?

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—6-12-18.

Submitted that Mr. Moses is not a Museum employé. He is the Zoological Assistant in the Fisheries Department. He is now at Tuticorin.

A.R.—6-12-18.

S.A.—6-12-18.

Submitted that in the circumstances the aquarium may, on Mr. Henderson's retirement, be handed over to the Fisheries Department.

L.D.S.—8-12-18.

This may lie over till the question of Mr. Henderson's successor has been settled.

T. E. MOIR—15-1-19.

The file is re-submitted for orders.

2. The Government of India have recently been informed in G.O. No. 235, Home (Education), dated 21st February 1919, that it is proposed to appoint Mr. F. H. Gravely, Assistant Superintendent, Zoological Survey of India, to the post of the Superintendent, Government Museum and Principal Librarian, Connemara Public Library, on Mr. Henderson's retirement, and to give the former the benefit of the revised scale of pay, viz., Rs. 500—50—1,000 per mensem, recommended in this department letter No. 1638, Home (Education), dated 19th December 1918.

A.R.—24-2-19.

S.A.—24-2-19.

Will the aquarium question now be re-opened.

C. H. BROWN—15-2-19.

Doctor Henderson retires on the 1st of April.

For orders.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—26-2-19.

Please bring up as soon as the Government of India reply about Mr. Gravely.

P[ENTLAND]—27-2-19.

Demi-official—J. HORNEILL, Esq., Fisheries Bureau, Madras.

To—the Hon'ble Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL, C.I.E., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue (Special) Department.

Dated—Chepauk, the 23rd February 1919.

No.—31.

As I have not yet heard Government's decision regarding my suggestion that the existing small aquarium should be placed under 'Fisheries' upon Doctor Henderson's retirement, I take the liberty of referring to it again in order to emphasize the vital importance of a favourable reply for the welfare of this department.

It is, I fear, very difficult for anyone outside of this department to appreciate the urgent need that exists for the provision of adequate means for direct experiment upon fishes kept under observation in tanks such as are available in the present aquarium. I may say I am greatly disappointed at the many defects which I find in the organization and progress of the piscicultural section of our work and this is largely due to the lack of proper facilities to carry out preliminary and essential experiments upon fishes kept under observation in aquarium tanks. I find that schemes involving much capital and running expenditure have been embarked upon on hypotheses which have not been properly or sufficiently verified experimentally. The hypotheses may be correct, but the risks run are such as I personally should have been reluctant to recommend to Government. On the other hand the means to carry out such experiments were non-existent and had risks not been taken, the schemes would have had to be postponed indefinitely. To put one single phase of the situation into concrete form, I may say that we have several expensive fish cultural schemes in operation and yet in regard to several of the fishes concerned our knowledge of their life histories is so incomplete that important gaps, upon the knowledge of which success is dependent, have to be filled in by mere guesses!

I cannot lend countenance to such unsound and risky procedure, and if I am to remain in charge of the department I must ask, in its interests, that Government will be kind enough to provide me with the means to remedy the more serious deficiencies of the present situation. One of the principal of these as above stated is the lack of means to enable us to ascertain the main facts in the life-histories of important food-fishes, both marine and fresh-water, and of the animals and plants on which they feed. Comparative feeding experiments are also urgently required, for with the extension going on in the number of fish-farms where artificial feeding is necessary, this becomes a matter of primary importance. (I have found from inspection that the methods now employed are purely arbitrary and empirical; we cannot say we know as yet the best and most economical food for several of the fishes treated and I find that some species do not fatten properly in our tanks and ponds and this is proof conclusive that we have not got sufficient knowledge to make their culture a success commercially.)

We are also on the eve of what I hope may be very extensive and profitable developments in marine fish-farming and here too we have been without the means of working out absolutely necessary life-histories. Field observation cannot possibly take the place of aquarium tank experiments; the latter is essential to success.

It was with this knowledge that I have worked and agitated for the provision of a large and up-to-date Fisheries Aquarium; had the war not supervened this would be an accomplished fact by now, and our requirements would be handsomely met. But our hopes have been dashed and even now we have not even the site for the new building definitely conceded, it may be years yet before the building be ready. In these circumstances I make a most earnest appeal that

A pending the provision of the larger building, the present small one, ample for immediate requirements, be placed at our disposal.

I have to point out that the employment contemplated for it by this department is one involving the success of schemes on which Government are spending money freely; our use of the aquarium tanks will be of *material benefit to the country at large*; we require them for practical experiment in schemes which, if successful, will increase substantially the food supply of the country. Comparisons are, I know odious, but I cannot help pointing out that the value of the aquarium under the superintendence of the Museum is academic; the aquarium as it is, is of great interest to the public and has perhaps educational value upon some of the people who visit it; anyway it is a public attraction. But when that is said, practically everything has been said! In any case, my intention, if the building be transferred to 'Fisheries,' is in no way to impair its attractiveness or to restrict public access to it. Indeed I hope that *the long and practical experience of aquarium management which I had at home and which is far beyond what anyone else in India can claim*, will enable me to improve the aquarium as public 'show' in many ways. I consider that much more can be done than is, to advertise it; greater variety in the exhibits is easily possible with the resources of 'Fisheries' behind; further supervision under 'Fisheries' will be more direct, I believe, as I have more officers under me, capable of this work than has the Museum—indeed if the building be handed over to us, I intend to locate my Zoological Assistant there, so that expert supervision will be exercised *daily*. I also and the Piscicultural Assistant would frequently be there, as also will the Marine Biologist when appointed.

*The place is a necessity to Fisheries—a luxury to the museum.* If we do not get it, I shall be in a serious difficulty pending the construction of the new aquarium and I may have to submit proposals for the temporary curtailment or suspension of work in several directions. Without the facilities provided by an aquarium, a Fisheries Department is in the position of an artisan who does not possess the principal tool or instrument of his craft—he cannot turn out good work.

I would also like to point out that the proposal I make and which would add immensely to the efficiency of 'Fisheries' is one which, if sanctioned, *will cost Government nothing*. I am not asking for something expensive indeed, I believe an allowance is given to the Superintendent of the Museum on account of the supervision he exercises over the aquarium. This allowance we are prepared to do without. Government will actually save our finance if they accept my proposal, apart from these possibilities of increasing the door money by the provision of new attractions and wider advertisement which I would undertake to provide.

Were the matter not extremely serious I should not incur the danger of wearying you with this long argument.

## REVENUE (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT.

The file relating to the transfer of the existing small aquarium to the Fisheries Department after Doctor Henderson's retirement is now in Home (Education) Department. That department may be requested u.o. to state at what stage the matter now is or to return the file to this department for reference and return.

A.R.—26-2-19.

S. WADSWORTH—26-2-19.

C. J. PAUL—26-2-19.



## HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The matter was allowed to lie over pending receipt of reply from the Government of India about Mr. Gravely—vide the linked file, which may, it is submitted, be forwarded to the Revenue (Special) Department for perusal and return.

A.R.—1-3-19.

T.K.—1-3-19.

C. H. BROWN—3-3-19.

## REVENUE (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT.

Doctor Henderson, the Superintendent, Government Museum, draws a local allowance of Rs. 35 per mensem for being in charge of the present aquarium. He is to retire on the 1st April 1919 and it is proposed to appoint Doctor Gravely as his successor. The Government of India have been asked to raise the pay of the post from Rs. 500—50—800 to Rs. 500—50—1,000 per mensem and to allow Doctor Gravely the benefit of this enhancement (G.O. No. 235, Education, dated 21st February 1919). The question of transfer of the present aquarium to the Fisheries Department is lying over pending receipt of a reply from the Government of India about Mr. Gravely—vide His Excellency's order on page 4 ante.

2. Please see Mr. Hornell's demi-official on pages 4-5 ante which explains the urgent necessity for the transfer of the aquarium. He proposes to station his Zoological Assistant there for expert supervision. His proposals will result in the saving of Rs. 35 per mensem, the local allowance now allowed to Doctor Henderson. In the circumstances it is for consideration whether the Home (Education) Department may be requested to resubmit the file to His Excellency for orders.

A.S.—7-3-19.

C. J. PAUL—7-3-19.

If Doctor Gravely does not eventually come to Madras, the case for the transfer of the aquarium to the Fisheries Department will be so much the stronger. It is submitted that orders may perhaps be passed on this question on the assumption that Doctor Gravely will come in view of the facts that the appointment of one who is not a Zoologist instead of Doctor Gravely would seem to make the transfer imperative and that even granted that Doctor Gravely comes, the case for the transfer seems very strong. Mr. Hornell is very anxious for an early decision.

S. WADSWORTH—8-3-19.

In paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, the Government ordered the transfer of the control and management of the aquarium from the Educational to the Fisheries Department and appointed Mr. Hornell (ex-officer as Marine assistant, etc.). Director of the combined Marine Aquarium and Biological station. It appears from Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter Ref. No. 163, dated 31st May 1911 (paragraphs 2 and 3 et. seq.) from the committee's report dated 16th January 1912 (paragraphs 2, 3 and 4), (page 2 of G.O. No. 2336, Revenue, dated 1st August 1911) from paragraphs 2 and 4 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, and notes on pages 8 and 16 of the notes to that Government Order that it was the intention that the control and management of the present aquarium should be transferred at once to Mr. Hornell, who is described by Sir Frederick Nicholson as 'a complete expert in aquarium planning and working'. The point however was not clear and it is evident that the Government Order has been interpreted to mean only that the new aquarium which it is proposed to build should be placed under the Fisheries Department.

2. It seems to me that in the papers I have referred to as well as in these notes

I agree.

P.R.—11-3-19.

Fisheries Department. The only real objection raised is based on the allegation that the Fisheries Department has no responsible officer stationed in Madras, to look after the aquarium. This objection is, it seems to me, entirely met by Sir Frederick

a strong case is made out for the immediate transfer of the control and management of the present aquarium to the

Nicholson and Mr. Hornell on pages 4 and 6 of these notes. Even if Doctor Gravely is appointed as Superintendent of the Museum, it seems to me that there is still a very strong case for the transfer the control and management of the aquarium to the Director of Fisheries.

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL—9-3-19.

I agree with the Secretary.

P. R. [AJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR]—11-3-19.

His Excellency agrees.

T. E. MOIR—12-3-19.

Submitted the file may now be forwarded to Home (Education) Department where it is presumed the order should issue.

A.S.—13-3-19.

C. J. PAUL—13-3-19.

S. WADSWORTH—14-3-19.

## HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

A draft order sanctioning the transfer of the control and management of the marine aquarium to the Fisheries Department with effect from the 1st April 1919 is submitted for approval. It may perhaps be sent to the Financial Department for perusal before issue.

A.R.—15-3-19.

T.K.—15-3-19.

C. H. BROWN—17-3-19.

Please see A on page 5 ante. Mr. Hornell asks for the existing aquarium only till the new one is built. Are we to adopt this or part with the aquarium for good.

Secretary, Revenue Special, contemplates transfer for good.

Drafts to Revenue (Special) and Financial for acceptance

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—17-3-19.

## REVENUE (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT.

It is presumed that the transfer to the Fisheries Department is permanent—cf. also paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, when the new aquarium is built the existing one will of course be transferred to the new building. Submitted the draft may be accepted in this department and the file passed on to the Financial Department u.o.

A.S.—17-3-19.

C.J.P.—17-3-19.

S.W.—17-3-19.

## FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

It is proposed to transfer the control of the marine aquarium, Madras, from the Superintendent, Government Museum, to the Fisheries Department. The proposal results in a saving of Rs. 35 per mensem (allowance now drawn by the Superintendent, Government Museum, for charge of the aquarium). The receipt and charges are at present shown under. 'XXI—B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Department—Miscellaneous' and '26-B. Provincial Museums'. Owing to the transfer of the







transferring the charges connected with the institution from the Minor head, "Provincial Museums", to the Minor head "Development of Industries."

2. Correspondence regarding the Aquarium will, with effect from the aforesaid date, be dealt with in the Revenue (Special) Department.

A.R.  
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T.K.  
15-3-19.

R.R.R.  
17-3-19

To the Rev. (Special) Dept. (In case)

To all other Depts. of the Sect.

To the A.G. (In case)

S.G.M. (In case)

Director of Fisheries, through the Rev (Spl) Dept.

E.T. (Order only)

Records in case to Rev. Spl. (24/3/19)  
Final & S. Gm  
CR  
28-3-19

Printed L. S. Received & despatched  
V.R.R.  
16-4-19



G.O. No. 387, 27th March 1919  
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(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue (Special) Department.  
„ all other Departments of the Secretariat.  
„ the Accountant-General (through Financial).  
„ the Superintendent, Government Museum.  
„ the Director of Fisheries, through the Revenue (Special) Department.  
Editors' Table (order only).

Proof corrected and returned to the Press

CR  
4-4-19

CR  
7-4-19



NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 387, HOME (EDUCATION),  
DATED 27TH MARCH 1919.

[SUBJECT.— / — ]

Transfer of the Marine Aquarium

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Extract of demi-official from Sir Frederick Nicholson, dated 18th October 1918.

I believe you have not yet sent in my note upon the site for the new aquarium which Government requested should be inspected and reported upon by me. If so, may I request that when you send it in, you will be good enough to raise the question of what department is to control and administer the present aquarium when Doctor Henderson retires. I understand that he intends to do so shortly.

2. As you are well aware 'Fisheries' is badly handicapped for want of any facilities to carry on experimental work upon living fishes, we have no opportunities to investigate the breeding and larval habits of marine fishes, work upon which successful progress in the future depends entirely. At present our work in certain directions is comparable to that of a builder who essays to erect a magnificent structure without troubling to put in foundations. Our eventual success will depend upon the thoroughness of our knowledge of the life histories of the food fishes of our coasts; at present we have no facilities whatever for the acquisition of this information. Until the war ends and for an indefinite period thereafter we cannot hope for the new aquarium to materialize. Pending that let us do what we can with the opportunities for investigation which already are available in the existing aquarium but which are beyond our reach till there be a change of control.

3. I request that you will be so kind as to press this view upon Government and to obtain their definite promise of a transfer upon Doctor Henderson's retirement. The acquisition would be a most valuable one for this department, I believe moreover that with the fishing facilities at our command we might even make the show part even more attractive to the general and particularly to the Indian public, than it is now.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

2. Mr. Hornell's request for the transfer of the present aquarium to the Fisheries Department when Doctor Henderson retires may, it is submitted, be referred to Home (Education). At his interview with the Secretary on 1st August 1918 this suggestion was made by Mr. Hornell and he was asked to move in the matter at about the time of Doctor Henderson's retirement. It is understood that Doctor Henderson retires in April next.

U.K.—30-10-18.

F. J. NOBES—30-10-18.

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For the Press

Please state if

can  
12/4/19

J. J. [Signature]

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The Government direct that the control and management of the Marine Aquarium which was hitherto exercised by the Superintendent, Government Museum, shall, with effect from the 1st April 1919, be transferred to the Director of Fisheries. The receipts and charges connected with the Marine Aquarium will, with effect from the accounts of 1919-20, be shown under the minor heads: XXI-B, Receipts from Marine Operations, and XX-B, Development of Industries, respectively. The Director of Fisheries is requested, in consultation with the Superintendent, Government Museum, to submit to Government at an early date after the 1st April 1919 the necessary appropriation statement for the year 1919-20 transferring the charges connected with the institution from the minor head, Provincial Museums, to the minor head, Development of Industries.

3. Correspondence regarding the Aquarium will, with effect from the aforesaid date, be dealt with in the Revenue (Special) Department.

R. RAMANATHAN RAO,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue (Special) Department.  
The Revenue (Special) Department.  
The Revenue (Special) Department.  
The Revenue (Special) Department.  
The Revenue (Special) Department.

For the Press

Please state if

J. J. [Signature]



2 NOTES TO G.O. No. 387, HOME (EDUCATION), 27TH MARCH 1919

He is paid a local allowance of Rs. 35 per mensem for paying visits to it and supervising the work (G.O. No. 732, Educational, dated 16th October 1911). The aquarium besides being open to the public is regarded as an extension to the museum and an annexe to the Presidency College (G.O. No. 64, Educational, dated 6th February 1906). The Fisheries Department are now anxious that the control and the management of the aquarium should be transferred to them when Mr. Henderson retires. It is for orders whether the views of Mr. Henderson may be obtained u.o. on the present proposal.

A.R.—7-11-18.

S.A.—8-11-18.

I think the existing arrangement is more suitable.

C. H. BROWN—9-11-18.

I should be glad to have Mr. Henderson's views.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—11-11-18.

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, MADRAS.

I cannot see any special reason why the aquarium, which originated as an extension to the museum and has always been so regarded, should be handed over to the Fisheries Department when I retire. Mr. Hornell's arguments in favour of the transfer are (1) that the aquarium would be useful for experimental work on living fishes and for investigating their breeding and larval habits, (2) that with the facilities at the command of the Fisheries Department the aquarium might be rendered more attractive to the public. I cannot see why both these conditions could not be fulfilled without a transfer of management. The resources of the aquarium for scientific research, we agree as they are, can be placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Fisheries Department, and I need scarcely say that any assistance in rendering the place more attractive to the public will always be welcome.

As emergencies frequently arise at the aquarium it is in my opinion absolutely necessary that the Director should reside in Madras. I mention this because I understand the chief activities of the Fisheries Department are located at Tuticorin.

J. R. HENDERSON—14-11-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted.

2. Mr. Henderson is not in favour of the transfer of the Marine Aquarium to the Fisheries Department.

S.A.—17-11-18.

We may agree.

C.H.B.—18-11-18.

It is under contemplation to enhance the salary of the Superintendent, Museum. The conveyance allowance attached to the charge of the aquarium—Rs. 35—is so small that this need not enter into the question of the transfer of management.

2. I should think, so far as my personal opinion goes, that the Fisheries Department has made out a strong case for the proposal. The only argument for continuing is that the Superintendent should have his headquarters in Madras. This will not be insuperable and the Professor of Zoology in the Presidency College close by may be authorized to act in cases of emergency.

3. In addition to the arguments advanced, I should say that another important argument is that the development of the aquarium will be a legitimate expansion of the activities of the Fisheries Department, but will always be a work of accretion in the case of the Museum Superintendent.



4. To Revenue for remarks.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—19-11-18.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The committee appointed to report on the proposals regarding new marine aquarium considered that its association with the Fisheries Department was an obvious desirability and when the new aquarium is built, Mr. Hornell will be its Director—please see paragraph 3 of the committee's report at page 5 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, and paragraph 4 of the order at page 10 of the Government Order. Mr. Hornell will be provided with free quarters in the new aquarium—paragraph 1 (b), page 7 of G.O. No. 644, dated 11th March 1915. Home (Education) Secretary approves of the proposal to transfer the control of the present aquarium to Mr. Hornell.

Mr. Hornell has asked that, as Director of Fisheries, his headquarters should be fixed at Coonoor pending the construction of the aquarium and the only difficulty is as to who should act for Mr. Hornell in case of emergency. The Home Secretary suggests the Professor of Zoology in the Presidency College. If the Museum Superintendent is to be associated with the aquarium, he may preferably act for Mr. Hornell although the distance between the two is a possible objection, but if Mr. Hornell can suggest a suitable official in his own department, that would obviate divided responsibility and be the best solution. The case may, it is submitted, be sent u.o. to the Honorary Director of Fisheries.

U.K.—21-11-18.

Reference is solicited to Doctor Henderson's note on page 2. He is strongly in favour of retaining the present management and says that the resources of the aquarium for scientific research can be placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Fisheries Department. The fact that the Fisheries Department has no responsible officer stationed in Madras to look after the aquarium is certainly a strong argument against the transfer. Until this difficulty can be overcome, it seems better to retain the present management. The file may perhaps go to Sir Frederick Nicholson u.o. for remarks.

F. J. NOBES—21-11-18.

Mr. Sundara Raj is stationed in Madras and is frequently at headquarters, I believe. He might be a suitable officer to represent the Director. The only difficulty would occur when neither Mr. Hornell nor Mr. Sundara Raj are in Madras, should an emergency arise. Doctor Henderson says that emergencies frequently arise at the aquarium, and it would be distinctly awkward if an emergency should occur just when neither of these officers was in Madras. We could not then expect the Superintendent of the Museum to come to the rescue, if the control over the aquarium has been taken from him.

If suitable arrangement can be made for meeting emergencies, I consider that the aquarium should be handed over to the Fisheries Department when Doctor Henderson retires, but if suitable arrangements cannot be made then I am against the proposal.

M. YOUNG—22-11-18.

## FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

Since one main object in obtaining charge of the aquarium is to afford 'Fisheries' certain facilities for observation and research, the Zoological Assistant, Mr. Moses, M.A. (who was expressly appointed several years ago for aquarium and research work, as per recommendation of the committee in G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, and sanctioned by Government), will be transferred to the aquarium whenever it may be handed over to Fisheries. His work will require his daily attendance at the aquarium and at the Fisheries office close by; indeed he will probably work in a small room at the aquarium. This will provide an expert always on the spot not only for all emergencies but for the general.



4. NOTES TO G.O. No. 387, HOME (EDUCATION), 27TH MARCH 1919  
work of the aquarium such as references by interested parties. This will not only  
get on the difficulty (of emergencies) alluded to in the notes, but provide extra and  
expert staff.

Since Mr. Hornell will be quitting Tuticorin as headquarters, Mr. Moses will  
necessarily quit it also, and will have Madras as his permanent headquarters.

F. A. NICHOLSON—24-11-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The case may, it is submitted, now go back to Home (Education).  
U.K.—27-11-18.

F. J. NOBES—28-11-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders.

R/ A.P.—2-12-18.

S.A.—2-12-18.

Is Mr. Moses a Museum employé?

L. D. SWAMIKANNU—6-12-18.

Submitted that Mr. Moses is not a Museum employé. He is the Zoological  
Assistant in the Fisheries Department. He is now at Tuticorin.

R/ A.P.—6-12-18.

S.A.—6-12-18.

a/ Submitted that in the circumstances the aquarium may, on Mr. Henderson's  
retirement, be handed over to the Fisheries Department.

L.D.S.—8-12-18.

This may lie over till the question of Mr. Henderson's successor has been  
settled.

T. E. MOIR—15-1-19.

The file is re-submitted for orders.

2. The Government of India have recently been informed in G.O. No. 235,  
Home (Education), dated 21st February 1919, that it is proposed to appoint  
Mr. F. H. Gravely, Assistant Superintendent, Zoological Survey of India, to the post  
of the Superintendent, Government Museum and Principal Librarian, Connemara  
Public Library, on Mr. Henderson's retirement, and to give the former the benefit of  
the revised scale of pay, viz., Rs. 500—50—1,000 per mensem, recommended in this  
department letter No. 1638, Home (Education), dated 19th December 1918.

R/ A.P.—24-2-19.

S.A.—24-2-19.

Will the aquarium question now be re-opened.

C. H. BROWN—15-2-19.

Doctor Henderson retires on the 1st of April.

For orders.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—26-2-19.

Please bring up as soon as the Government of India reply about Mr. Gravely  
letter No. 235 Home (Education), dated 21st February 1919.

P[ENTLAND]—27-2-19.

s/ Demi-official—J. HORNELL, Esq., Fisheries Bureau, Madras.

To—the Hon'ble Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL, C.I.E., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to  
Government Revenue (Special Department).

Dated—Chepauk, the 23rd February 1919.

No.—31.

As I have not yet heard Government's decision regarding my suggestion that the existing  
small aquarium should be placed under 'Fisheries' upon Doctor Henderson's retirement, I  
take the liberty of referring to it again in order to emphasize the vital importance of a favour-  
able reply for the welfare of this department.



It is, I fear, very difficult for anyone outside of this department to appreciate the urgent need that exists for the provision of adequate means for direct experiment upon fishes kept under observation in tanks such as are available in the present aquarium. I may say I am greatly disappointed at the many defects which I find in the organization and progress of the piscicultural section of our work and this is largely due to the lack of proper facilities to carry out preliminary and essential experiments upon fishes kept under observation in aquarium tanks. I find that schemes involving much capital and running expenditure have been embarked upon an hypotheses which have not been properly or sufficiently verified experimentally. The hypotheses may be correct, but the risks run are such as I personally should have been reluctant to recommend to Government. On the other hand the means to carry out such experiments were non-existent and had risks not been taken, the schemes would have had to be postponed indefinitely. To put one single phase of the situation into concrete form, I may say that we have several expensive fish cultural schemes in operation and yet in regard to several of the fishes concerned our knowledge of their life histories is so incomplete that important gaps, upon the knowledge of which success is dependent, have to be filled in by mere guesses!

I cannot lend countenance to such unsound and risky procedure, and if I am to remain in charge of the department I must ask, in its interests, that Government will be kind enough to provide me with the means to remedy the more serious deficiencies of the present situation. One of the principal of these as above stated is the lack of means to enable us to ascertain the main facts in the life-histories of important food-fishes, both marine and fresh-water, and of the animals and plants on which they feed. Comparative feeding experiments are also urgently required, for with the extension going on in the number of fish-farms where artificial feeding is necessary, this becomes a matter of primary importance. (I have found from inspection that the methods now employed are purely arbitrary and empirical; we cannot say we know as yet the best and most economical food for several of the fishes treated and I find that some species do not fatten properly in our tanks and ponds and this is proof conclusive that we have not got sufficient knowledge to make their culture a success commercially.)

We are also on the eve of what I hope may be very extensive and profitable developments in marine fish-farming and here too we have been without the means of working out absolutely necessary life-histories. Field observation cannot possibly take the place of aquarium tank experiments; the latter is essential to success.

It was with this knowledge that I have worked and agitated for the provision of a large and up-to-date Fisheries Aquarium; had the war not supervened this would be an accomplished fact by now, and our requirements would be handsomely met. But our hopes have been dashed and even now we have not even the site for the new building definitely conceded, it may be years yet before the building be ready. In these circumstances I make a most earnest appeal that

A pending the provision of the larger building, the present small one, ample for immediate requirements, be placed at our disposal.

I have to point out that the employment contemplated for it by this department is one involving the success of schemes on which Government are spending money freely; our use of the Aquarium tanks will be of material benefit to the country at large; we require them for practical experiment in schemes which, if successful, will increase substantially the food supply of the country. Comparisons are, I know odious, but I cannot help pointing out that the value of the aquarium under the superintendence of the Museum is academic; the aquarium as it is, is of great interest to the public and has perhaps educational value upon some of the people who visit it; anyway it is a public attraction. But when that is said, practically everything has been said! In any case, my intention, if the building be transferred to 'Fisheries,' is in no way to impair its attractiveness or to restrict public access to it. Indeed I hope that the long and practical experience of aquarium management which I had at home and which is far beyond what anyone else in India can claim, will enable to improve the aquarium as public 'show' in many ways. I consider that much more can be done than is, to advertise it; greater variety in the exhibits is easily possible with the resources of 'Fisheries' behind; further supervision under 'Fisheries' will be more direct, I believe, as I have more officers under me, capable of this work than has the museum—indeed if the building be handed over to us, I intend to locate my Zoological Assistant there, so that expert supervision will be exercised daily. I also and the Piscicultural Assistant would frequently be there, as also will the Marine Biologist when appointed.

The place is a necessity to Fisheries—a luxury to the museum. If we do not get it, I shall be in a serious difficulty pending the construction of the new aquarium and I may have to submit proposals for the temporary curtailment or suspension of work in several directions. Without the facilities provided by an Aquarium, a Fisheries Department is in the position of an artisan who does not possess the principal tool or instrument of his craft—he cannot turn out good work.



NOTES TO G.O. No. 387, HOME (EDUCATION), 27TH MARCH 1919

I would also like to point out that the proposal I make and which would add immensely to the efficiency of 'Fisheries' is one which, if sanctioned, *will cost Government nothing*. I am not asking for something expensive, indeed, I believe an allowance is given to the Superintendent of the Museum on account of the supervision he exercises over the aquarium. This allowance we are prepared to do without. Government will actually save our finance if they accept my proposal, apart from these possibilities of increasing the door money by the provision of new attractions and wider advertisement which I would undertake to provide.

Were the matter not extremely serious I should not incur the danger of wearying you with this long argument.

REVENUE (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT.

The file relating to the transfer of the existing small aquarium to the Fisheries Department after Doctor Henderson's retirement is now in Home (Education) Department. That department may be requested u.o. to state at what stage the matter now is or to return the file to this department for reference and return.

A.P.—26-2-19.

S. WADSWORTH—26-2-19.

C. J. PAUL—26-2-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The matter was allowed to lie over pending receipt of reply from the Government of India about Mr. Gravely—vide the linked file, which may, it is submitted, be forwarded to the Revenue (Special) Department for perusal and return.

G.V.R.—1-3-19.

T.K.—1-3-19.

C. H. BROWN—3-3-19.

REVENUE (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT.

Doctor Henderson, the Superintendent, Government Museum, draws a local allowance of Rs. 35 per mensem for being in charge of the present Aquarium. He is to retire on the 1st April 1919 and it is proposed to appoint Doctor Gravely as his successor (G.O. No. 732, Education, dated 16th October 1911). The Government of India have been asked to raise the pay of the post from Rs. 500—50—800 to Rs. 500—50—1,000 per mensem and to allow Dr. Gravely the benefit of this enhancement (G.O. No. 235, Education, dated 21st February 1919). The question of transfer of the present aquarium to the Fisheries Department is lying over pending receipt of a reply from the Government of India about Mr. Gravely—vide His Excellency's order on page 4 ante.

2. Please see Mr. Hornell's demi-official on pages 4-6 ante which explains the urgent necessity for the transfer of the aquarium. He proposes to station his Zoological Assistant there for expert supervision. His proposals will result in the saving of Rs. 35 per mensem the local allowance now allowed to Doctor Henderson. In the circumstances it is for consideration whether the Home (Education) Department may be requested to resubmit the file to His Excellency for orders.

A.S.—7-3-19.

C.J.P.—7-3-19.

If Doctor Gravely does not eventually come to Madras, the case for the transfer of the aquarium to the Fisheries Department will be so much the stronger. It is submitted that orders may perhaps be passed on this question on the assumption that Doctor Gravely will come in view of the facts that the appointment of one who is not a zoologist instead of Doctor Gravely would seem to make the transfer imperative and that even granted that Doctor Gravely comes, the case for the transfer seems very strong. Mr. Hornell is very anxious for an early decision.

S.W.—8-3-19.



In paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, the Government ordered the transfer of the control and management of the aquarium from the Educational to the Fisheries Department and appointed Mr. Hornell (ex-officer as Marine assistant, etc.). Director of the combined Marine Aquarium and Biological station. It appears from Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter Ref. No. 163, dated 31st May 1911, (paragraphs 2 and 3 et. seq.) from the committee's report dated 16th January 1912, (paragraphs 2, 3 and 4), (page 2 of G.O. No. 4336, Revenue, dated 1st August 1911) from paragraphs 2 and 4 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1917, and notes on pages 8 and 16 of the notes to that Government Order that it was the intention that the control and management of the present aquarium should be transferred at once to Mr. Hornell, who is described by Sir Frederick Nicholson as 'a complete expert in aquarium planning and working'. The point however was not clear and it is evident that the Government Order has been interpreted to mean only that the new aquarium which it is proposed to build should be placed under the Fisheries Department.

2. It seems to me that in the papers I have referred to as well as in these notes

I agree.

P.R.—11-3-19.

a strong case is made out for the immediate transfer of the control and management of the present aquarium to the Fisheries Department. The only real objection raised is based on the allegation that the Fisheries Department has no responsible officer stationed in Madras, to look after the aquarium. This objection is, it seems to me, entirely met by Sir Frederick Nicholson and Mr. Hornell on pages 4 and 7 of these notes. Even if Doctor Gravely is appointed as Superintendent of the Museum, it seems to me that there is still a very strong case for the transfer the control and management of the aquarium to the Director of Fisheries.

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL—9-3-19.

I agree with the Secretary.

P. R. [AJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR]—11-3-19.

His Excellency agrees.

T. E. MOIR—12-3-19.

REVENUE (SPECIAL), DEPARTMENT.

Submitted the file may now be forwarded to Home (Education) Department where it is presumed the order should issue.

A.S.—13-3-19.

C. J. PAUL—13-3-19.

S. WADSWORTH—14-3-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

A draft order sanctioning the transfer of the control and management of the marine aquarium to the Fisheries Department with effect from the 1st April 1919 is submitted for approval. It may perhaps be sent to the Financial Department for perusal before issue.

A.R.—15-3-19.

T.K.—15-3-19.

Please see A on page 5 ante. Mr. Hornell asks for the existing aquarium only till the new one is built. Are we to adopt this or part with the aquarium for good.

Secretary, Revenue Special contemplates for good.

Drafts to Revenue (Special) and Financial for acceptance

C. H. BROWN—17-3-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—17-3-19.

N. R.

transfer



## REVENUE (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT.

It is presumed that the transfer to the Fisheries Department is permanent of also paragraph 4 of G.O. No. 756, Revenue, dated 13th March 1913, when the new aquarium is built the existing one will of course be transferred to the new building. Submitted the draft may be accepted in this department and the file passed on to the Financial Department u.o.

A.S.—17-3-19.

C. J. PAUL—17-3-19.

S. WADSWORTH—17-3-19.

## FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

It is proposed to transfer the control of the marine aquarium, Madras, from the Superintendent, Government Museum, to the Fisheries Department. The proposal results in a saving of Rs. 35 per mensem (allowance now drawn by the Superintendent, Government Museum, for charge of the aquarium) (G.O. No. 732, Education dated 16th October 1911). The receipt and charges are at present shown under 'XXI-B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Department—Miscellaneous' and '26-B. Provincial Museums'. Owing to the transfer of the control, they should, it is submitted, be in future shown under 'XXI B. Receipts from Industrial operations' and '26-B. Development of Industries—Fisheries'. As the alterations involve transfers from one minor head to another it is too late at present to incorporate the changes in the budget. The Director of Fisheries may be asked to submit in consultation with the Superintendent Government Museum, a reappropriation statement for transfer of funds from one minor head to another under 26-B.

2. The Home (Education) Department may be requested to add the following to the first paragraph of the draft order:—

"The receipt and charges connected with the marine aquarium will, with effect from the accounts of 1919-20, be shown under the minor heads 'XXI D B. Receipts from Industrial Operations' and '26 B. development of Industries'. The Director of Fisheries is requested, in consultation with the Superintendent, Government Museum, to submit to Government at an early date after the 1st April 1919, the necessary reappropriation statement for the year 1919-20, transferring the charges connected with the institution from the minor head 'Provincial Museums' to the minor head 'Development of Industries'.

S.V.—21-3-19.

T.A.S.—22-3-19.

J. M. HOOPER—24-3-19.

## REVENUE (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted the suggestion of the Financial Department in paragraph 2 of their note above may be accepted in this department and the file returned to Home (Education) u.o.

A.S.—25-3-19.

C. J. PAUL—25-3-19.

S. WADSWORTH—26-3-19.

## HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The draft order with the addition suggested in paragraph 2 of the Financial Department note above has been typed. For orders as to issue of the amplified draft.

G.A.—26-3-19.

T.K.—27-3-19.

May issue.

C. H. BROWN—27-3-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—27-3-19.

[G.O. No. 387, Home (Education), dated 27th March 1919.]







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