

Horne (1919) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 669

DATED 24-5-1919

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inscriptions.

Passing orders on certain matters connected with the programme of publication of texts of -----.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

C.F. 29-9,886-22-1-18.

DEPARTMENT.

Received 30 APR 1919

Registered 29 4 1919

Subject

Submitting his report on the progress of publication referred to in G.O.No. 890, Home (Education) dated the 5th July 1918.

ENCLOSURES.

No. nil

Spare copies

D. No. 230.

Station Madras. Dated the 25th April 1919.

From (Name) M.R.Ry. Rao Saheb H. Krishna Sastri Avargal B.A.

(Designation) Assistant Archaeological Superintendent

for Epigraphy, Southern Circle.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

HOME (Education) Department.

"Stone House Hill" Ootacamund.

Sir,

With reference to G.O.No. 890, Home (Education) dated 5th July 1918, prescribing a minimum of 2,000 inscriptions for publication by this office annually, I have the honour to submit that I have this day forwarded to the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, manuscript pages 1 to 2121 consisting of the texts of 1672 inscriptions of which 388 are written in Tamil, 754 in Telugu, 32 in Kanarese and 2 in Nagari while 4 of which no impressions exist in the office, have been built in by recent additions made to the temples in which these inscriptions are engraved and are altogether lost. Again.

388

754

32

2

4

1180

492

1672

2
Again 492 of the total inscriptions given above are only references to volumes where these inscriptions are published. Consequently the actual number of inscriptions now prepared for publication are only 1176. Similarly, omitting short pages of the manuscript, the total number of fully written folio-pages comes to 2,000. This has been the work of myself, the Special staff sanctioned by G.O. quoted above, and the Kanarese and Telugu assistants of the Collection Branch from the month of August 1918 to April 1919.

2. The work was accomplished under certain disadvantages which I beg to submit, ^{herewith} by way of explanation. Most of the estampages prepared by this office in the early years of its establishment were not done with that same trained skill which came to be applied to it only in later years, especially after 1891. The tint of the estampages was not perfect and the paper used for the purpose was quite of an inferior kind. Taking also into consideration ^{early} of the effect of age, most of these estampages had become altogether useless for reading the inscriptions thereon directly from them. The transcripts too made in the earlier years were not complete. Often they had not been made at all, greater attention having been, perhaps, paid in those years to the critical editing and publication of the few selected records alone. Fragments and disjointed pieces and sometimes illegible faint cuttings on stones were also copied and listed; but such were never transcribed. All these had to be completed now by visiting the places once again, recopying the inscriptions in cases where estampages were thoroughly useless and making correct transcripts of fragmentary and illegible records as far as possible, by reading the inscriptions directly from the stone on which they were cut, applying chunam or some other suitable colouring material, to the letters. It was found in the course of this laborious procedure that in a few cases, substantial recent structures had covered up parts of inscriptions which were fully open to view when they were first copied, some had been chiselled away by renovators of temples in order to make the stone appear bran-new and some had disappeared altogether. Again in some places which had been already visited, large number of inscriptions were found not to have been copied at all nor listed in the Annual Reports; these have been mostly noted

-3-
noted for the future work of the collection Branch. A few hundreds of new records, however in Draksharama in the Godavari district were then and there copied, transcribed and included in the volume on hand as subsidiary records to the main ^{numbers in the list of the Annual Reports for 1894 in order to make} as far as possible the history of that temple complete. But in spite of my best efforts to do this, there still remain at Draksharama about 50 or more inscriptions on the lowest tiers of the temple which have yet to be deciphered directly from the stone. This will be done on some future occasion.

3. In thus revising and rewriting the readings of the inscriptions from ^{the} stone, the help of intelligent assistance was always felt necessary both by me and my Special Assistant Mr. G. Venkoba Rao who had divided the whole work between ourselves. I was accordingly obliged to indent upon the services of the Telugu and Kanarese assistants of the Collection Branch for the Kanarese and Telugu work while the Special assistant was assisted by the Proof Reader or the Tamil Assistant. The fair copying of the corrected inscriptional texts for the Press was also a very difficult business. Some technical knowledge and skill is always required to fair copy an inscription legibly for the Press, to divide the words, mark off the lines and to make a true duplicate of it, repeating the misreadings of the stones without the least attempt at rectifying them. The Tamil texts were copied by the Pandit of the Publication staff; but in the matter of Telugu and Kanarese texts I was obliged for want of hands, to employ men in camp for doing this by paying them daily wages. I beg to address Government separately, for strengthening the Publication establishment with more hands in order to secure greater efficiency and to release the Collection staff altogether for doing their legitimate work.

1639 the 50
1/2 9 of notes
Dec No 890 (21)
5-7-18
4. The promise of Mr. G. Venkoba Rao, acting Assistant Archaeological Superintendent, for Epigraphy, to publish the transcribed texts of about 2,000 inscriptions as quoted in the G.O. under reference, was tried to be kept ^{up} by the utmost effort possible but the production of only 2,000 pages of manuscript has been the outcome. I have

already stated that this has been the work of 9 months from August 1918 to April 1919. It is not therefore too early to bring to the notice of Government that a different standard has to be adopted. An average Tamil inscription the length of whose lines extends from 5 feet to 50 feet at a stretch, has generally 20 to 200 lines and almost the same is the case with Telugu and Kanarese inscriptions, except perhaps in the matter of the length of the lines. I might therefore suggest that the minimum of 2,000 inscriptions fixed for publication in the G.O. might more reasonably be altered to 2,000 fully-written folio-pages of manuscript for the Press. Again the question of issuing these 2,000 pages in print has also to be taken into consideration. This is not likely to be accomplished within 3 months that yet remain for completing the year. The proofs will at the earliest be received in August 1919 and will have to be checked carefully once again with the original estampages before the texts are finally passed for printing. This must occupy me and the Special assistant not less than 6 months during which period we will have to be simultaneously preparing the manuscripts for the next volume. Thus, also it would appear quite necessary to modify, in the form suggested above, the minimum of 2000 inscriptions prescribed by the G.O.

5. The proposed method of publication as I understand from the order is that 500 copies of each inscription will be printed separately on loose sheets and that some being distributed to selected scholars for study, the rest will be deposited to meet further applications and the requirements of the department. In this connection it has to be noted that 50% of the inscriptions are either fragmentary or damaged or consist only of very few lines of writing and the stationery and printing charges incurred in printing them separately could not be fully justified. In my opinion it would be advantageous to have the epigraphical collection of the years from 1886, in regular order so far as could be got ready in one year, printed together and bound in one volume to the same size as South-Indian Inscriptions and counted also as a continuation of that series - the volume now sent to the Press being called Volume IV of South-Indian Inscriptions. The one difficulty, however, which this proposal might involve is that applications for particular inscriptions of a specified year cannot be separated and

granted easily, since the inscriptions of 5 or 6 years will be bound together in one volume. However, it may be remarked that applicants who could afford to pay for some inscriptions in which they are particularly interested, will not grudge to pay a little more for a volume which includes other interesting inscriptions as well. Besides, scholars will welcome a bound volume to which I intend adding, a dynastic and chronological table and a list of contents. An index of proper names and technical words was likewise suggested to me by some scholars. But I submit that an attempt at making a correct and complete index of an epigraphical record would mean, like its translation, a thorough study of it and would involve further delay in the publication of the volumes undertaken. Again, without English translations, the index of mere vernacular texts in Tamil, Telugu and Kanarese would not only be difficult to make but it would be of no practical value.

6. A few remarks are necessary about the texts now submitted for publication. These have been made true to the originals as far as possible. Fragmentary inscriptions and records obstructed by substantial structures have necessarily been left incomplete. Here and there are found big or small gaps due to the disfigurement of the letters on the stone or on the impression. The foot-notes generally correcting the numerous misspellings and wrong forms of the texts, have been omitted apparently for the reason that they would only delay the work and that the scholars who may make use of the volumes will not find much difficulty in rectifying them. Twenty to thirty illustrative plates will be added and Government will be separately addressed for sanctioning the required amount.

7. Finally, I request that the Government will be pleased to pass orders also as to how the estampages of the inscriptions after they have been published for the year, have to be disposed of. In the case of the volumes of South-Indian Inscriptions published so far by

Prof. Hultzsch the originals were destroyed soon after the volumes concerned had been issued.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

H. Krishna Sastri.

Asstt. Archl. Supdt. for Epigraphy.

25/4.

Home (Edn) Sept

6. 845 B - From the A.A.S. for Epigraphy
No. 230 d. 25. 4. 19

Subject — Publication of texts of
inscriptions

The minimum of 2000 inscriptions referred to in para 3 of Geo. No. 890 (Edn) d. 5. 7. 18 was based on Mr. Venkoba Rao's statement that it would be possible to publish the transcribed texts of 2000 inscriptions annually. ^(He is also the ~~publication~~ assistant in charge of the publication) The A.A.S. for Epigraphy now reports that it has been possible to transcribe only 1176 inscriptions from August 1918 to April 1919 inclusive, which cover about 2,000 fully-written folio pages of manuscript and that it will take nearly 9 months more before these manuscript copies are ready for final publication. He therefore requests that the minimum of 2000 inscriptions fixed in Geo. No. 890 (Edn) d. 5. 7. 18 may be altered to 2000 fully-written folio pages of manuscript for the Press. The actual number of inscriptions that will be published annually will therefore be 1176. In the circumstances explained in paras 2 and 3 of the

Q

para 3 of Geo. No.
890 (Edn) Q
5. 7. 18

para 1 of the
A.A.S. letter pp 1-2

para 4 ibid
pp 3-4 of

Q

para 4 ibid pp 2-3 of

pp 2-3 of

pages 2-3 of

A.A.S. letter (it is for consideration whether the minimum amount of work to be turned out by the temporary establishment sanctioned in Geo. No. 890 (2d) of 5.7.08 may be fixed as suggested by them)

(Q)

2. The A.A.S. also suggests that instead of printing 600 copies of each text of inscription, the collections of each year may be printed together, ~~and~~ bound in one volume and counted as a continuation of the "South Indian Inscriptions" series. As observed by the A.A.S., scholars who are really interested in the texts of inscriptions will not ~~grudge~~ ^{grudge} buying a volume containing many inscriptions, even though they may be in need of only one particular text. Moreover the separate printing of each text would involve unnecessary expenditure in Stationery and ~~printing~~ ^{composing}. The A.A.S. proposal to print together the collections of each year may therefore be approved.

para 5 of the letter
pp 5-6 of

para 7 of the
letter pp 5-6 of

3. There appears to be no objection to the originals of the inscriptions being destroyed after they are published, as ~~proposed to do so~~ in the case of the estampages of the South Indian Inscriptions.

For orders
J. S. 29

p. 3 of 890
577/18

1/26/89

p. 294

Mr. Vankoba Rao's original estimate did not obviously take into consideration the fact now brought to notice by the A.A.S. of the necessity for revising & rewriting the readings in several cases after personal inspection. We may ~~agree~~ accept the A.A.S. proposal of not ~~so~~ rigidly adhere to the number (2000) of inscriptions fixed. 2000 pages of fully written folios may form a decent volume. ~~Perhaps~~ It may be that all the inscriptions will not need the same amount of revising & rewriting. While we may agree to the Collections of 1176 inscriptions ^{now} ready on hand being sent to the Press at once, we need not ^{submit} altogether withdraw the original limit. We may ask the A.A.S. to report by the first week of May of each year how many inscriptions have been got ready for the Press. This may keep the publication section working hard to reach the minimum as far as possible. On receipt of the report, we may decide as to how many pages of the prepared ones should go into the vol. of the year.

We need not print each inscription separately. Each year's collection may go into one volume. The suggestion

② That each inscription should be printed separately was taken from Sir John Marshall's Do. & 31.5.18 on p. 1176 sep. notes with pp. 890. & 85.7.18. 1176 sep. publications in a year, with several of them in scraps & broken condition, may not be convenient.

As regards the destruction of stamps transcripts of which have been printed, it seems better to keep them for a few years for three years, before they are destroyed. We are not publishing translations & annotations of inscriptions as we did before; we are only publishing transcripts of them. Doubt may arise in scholars as to their correctness when dealing with them & it should be possible to refer to the stamp page to clear them. We may give reasonable time to probable scholars to govt raise such questions before committing the ms to destruction.

At
8/5/18

The AAS letter is the best justification for the task of publication. Even the work of collection seems to have been badly done.

2. I do not think it necessary to alter the estimate. But we may

in the circumstances reported accept the work turned out in the period referred to.

3. Re printing. In the interests of economy the printing may be continuous. But it will be enough to bind about 200 copies. The rest may be kept unbrown. Cannot AAS if this cannot be done.

4. Re stampages. I would keep them arranged in the order of the print for a number of years but it is not necessary to re-vent them or take any trouble or expense in maintaining them.

Wey
9/15/19

Page

A draft order, ~~with reference to para 3 of~~
~~the draft order to above draft~~
~~to the AAS for signature~~
is submitted for approval

24
12.5.19
JL
12.5.19

CA
16.5.19
HM

Wey
16/5/19

There are various criticisms which the current suggests. In the first place, apparently nothing was sent to the press until, after a period of 10 months, 2000 folio pages were sent in one lot on the 25th of April. Mr. Krishna Sastri does not expect to receive the proofs until earliest in

Change perhaps a
few draft on all
the points calling
for further info. and
with ref. to the
point above
CA
14/5

Draft Subd.

15/5/19

Para 1 of me AAS
letter p. 14
para 4 ibid
p. 3-4 of

August, and then anticipates that the revision of of proofs will take not less than six months, chiefly because each proof will have to be checked carefully once again with the original estampage. These -- methods seem defective. If the manuscript sent to the press had been carefully prepared from the -- original matter, it ought not to be necessary to compare the proofs with the original estampage, especially as most of the earlier estampages according to paragraph 2 of the current have become altogether useless for reading the inscriptions directly from them. Again, ~~there is no reason~~ and it would be much more convenient for the press, ~~to send the~~ ^{and} manuscript as prepared in batches of say 50 pages at a time, to arrange for the revision of ^{and} of the proofs immediately they are received, while the subject matter is still comparatively fresh in the minds of those who prepared and revised the manuscript sent to the press; a strike order can then be given to the press and the requisite number of copies may be struck off at once, thus setting free the type for later instalments of the manuscript. This procedure is emphatically desirable in order to expedite the printing and to avoid the expense of keeping large quantities of type locked up for long periods of time. Instructions to this effect should be issued. It is especially important that the matter sent to the press should be thoroughly scrutinised.

2. Where it is necessary to remedy defective estampages by fresh visits to the site and fresh -- to be copies of the inscriptions, this seems to me a legitimate function of the collection staff, especially as it appears that such visits lead to the discovery of new inscriptions which can be added to the general collection.

para 4 of the letter p. 4 cf

p. 2 cf

x or even smaller quantities

cf para 2 of the letter p. 2-3 cf

NOTES.

Page 13

collection.

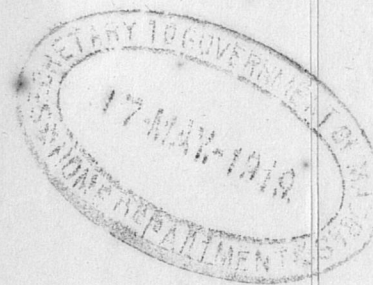
3. Owing to the varying length of inscriptions it is clearly inappropriate to fix the standard of work by the number of inscriptions printed, and I agree that the proper standard is a fixed quantity of manuscript or printed matter. What that quantity should be, there are not at present available data to judge. Mr. Krishna Sastri ought to be able to say what represents a fair day's work for the publication assistant, and if this were multiplied by 300, a rough annual standard could be arrived at. If Mr. Krishna Sastri himself sends manuscript to the press which does not pass through the hands of the publication assistant, it would be necessary to add the approximate quantity of work with which he thus deals directly. I assume that nothing goes to the press which has not been scrutinised either by Mr. Krishna Sastri himself or by the publication assistant.

4 (3) I observe from paragraph 5 of the current that Mr. Krishna Sastri apparently contemplates the addition to each volume of ^a dynastic and chronological table, a list of contents and possibly also an index of proper names and technical words. But from the concluding sentence of the paragraph he seems to think that an index will be useless unless accompanied by English translations. It must be impressed upon him that such additions must not be allowed to delay the process of printing and publication. If time permits him to attempt them, they must be separately published as supplements to the volumes of text.

5 (4) The matter which has now gone to the press should be returned in small batches at convenient intervals

intervals and revised immediately in order that it may be struck off in sections as indicated above. I should like to see the first batch in print before the strike order is given so that I may satisfy myself that it is in a form of which scholars can make use and if necessary consult Sir John Marshall. I should also like to see a sample of the proposed illustrative plates.

6 (5) Subject to the above remarks I approve the draft order.



A revised draft order is sub-

mitted for approval

34
20.5.19
JH
20.5.19

24/5/19

24/5/19

Inscriptions

Passing orders on certain matters connected with the programme of publication of texts of -----

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 890 Home (Eden), dated 5-7-1918 191 (2) ✓

" " " 1408 " 1-11-1918. 191 (4)

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 845, From the A.A.S. for Epigraphy, No. D.230, dated 25-4-1919 191

" " " " , " "

191

” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” 191

ORDER.

No. ~~6687~~, dated 24.5. 1919

Miss

The Government observe that the manuscript copies of the inscriptions collected from August 1918 to April 1919, covering 2000 folio pages were sent to the Press in one lot on the 25th April 1919 and that the A.A.S for Epigraphy expects to receive the proofs in August 1919 at the earliest and anticipates that the revision of proofs will take not less than six months, chiefly because each proof will have to be checked carefully with the original estampages. The Government consider these methods to be defective. If the manuscripts sent to the Press had been carefully prepared and thoroughly scrutinized, it ought not to be necessary to compare the proofs with the original estampages, especially

especially as most of the earlier estampages ^{are reported to be} ~~are reported to be~~ altogether useless for reading the inscriptions directly from them. The A.A.S. for Epigraphy is requested to see that the manuscript copies of inscriptions are sent to the Press in ^{some} ~~some~~ ^(pages) or even smaller quantities at a time, to arrange for the revision of the proofs immediately they are received and then to give a strike order to the Press so that the requisite number of copies may be struck off at once, setting free the type for later instalments of the manuscript. The matter which has now gone to the Press should be returned in small batches at convenient intervals and revised immediately in order that it may be struck off in sections as indicated above. The A.A.S. for Epigraphy is requested to submit for the perusal of Government the first batch in print before the strike order is given, and also samples of the illustrative plates referred to in para 6 of his letter.

2. The Government are of opinion that the duty of remedying defective estampages by fresh visits to the site and fresh copies of the inscriptions is a legitimate function of the collection staff, especially as it appears that such visits lead to the discovery of new inscriptions which can be added to the general collection.

(a)

3. With reference to his request that the orders in G.O.No.890 Home (Eden), dated 5-7-18 prescribing the minimum number of transcripts of inscriptions to be published annually at 2000 may be modified, the A.A.S. for Epigraphy is requested to report what represents a fair day's work for the publication Assistant, taking a fixed quantity of manuscript or printed matter as the standard and to state whether he himself sends to the Press manuscripts which do not pass through the hands of the Publication Assistant and if so to report the approximate quantity of work with which he thus deals directly.

4. The A.A.S.'s proposal to print together continuously in a single volume the results of each year's publication work and to number that volume in the series of the "South Indian Inscriptions" is approved. But it ought to suffice to bind up about 200 copies the remaining copies being kept unbound; and odd leaves may be sold on demand. The A.A.S. is requested to report whether this arrangement cannot conveniently be adopted.

5. It is observed that the A.A.S. contemplates the addition to each volume of a dynastic analysis and chronological table, a list of contents and possibly also an index of proper names and technical words. ~~Such additions~~ ^{do not} ~~must~~ ^{must} not delay the process of printing and publication, but must, if time permits, be separately published as supplements to the volumes of text.

6. The Government consider that the estampages of the inscriptions should, after publication, be kept together, arranged in the order in which they are printed and preserved for ten years.

To
The A.A.S. for Epigraphy
Copy to the Supdt. Govt. Press.

Remind after one month
with reference to paras
1,3,4

Noted w.c.B.
24.5.19

Box 43
10.6.19

'Woodside',
Ootacamund.

9th June 1919.

Dear Sir,

It will be no use your seeing me until I have got the file on the subject from the Secretariat for which I will send at once. After referring to it I will let you know when it will be convenient for me to see you.

Yours sincerely,

O/C.

M. N. Ry. Rao Sahab

H. Krishna Sastri Avl.,

'Belmont',

Fernhill.

Office. Please send file.

Home (Ed.?) Dept.

Mr. Krishna Sastri is apparently referring to the orders recently passed in G.O. No. 669 Ed. N. dt. 24th May 1919. That Govt. order with previous papers is Subd. below.

9.6.19

9.6.19

10/6/19

Hm

12 Nov

Fridy

13th

D.O.

Office of the A.A.S. for Epigraphy,

10
9th June 1919.

Dear Sir,

I beg to request for an interview in connection with the publication of inscriptions to which I am now engaged.

25 pages of galley proof have been received from the Press and the Government have asked me to forward the same for perusal before returning them to the Press for striking off. I beg

I beg to show these to you personally and to speak to you on other points concerning publication laws, the average turn out of work daily by me and the publication assistant, further help that is required etc.

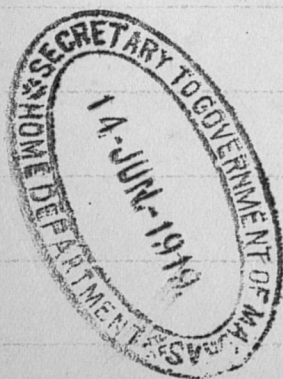
I beg to remain, Sir,
Yours Sincerely
H. Krishna Dasgupta.

Hon. L. Davidson, Esq. J.P.S.

21 18

I have seen the first 25 pages of proof
& impressed various points upon Mr.
Krishna Sastri:—

- (i) that as the Press turns out about 5 pages
of proof twice a week, the corrected proofs
shd. be returned at about the same rate,
a strike order being passed on the first
proof if the corrections are few & trivial,
— otherwise on the second proof;
- (ii) that the MSS sent to press must be
fully checked & made as nearly as possible
complete & correct before despatch — this
to save — or restrict — the multitudinous
corrections needed on the proofs shown to
me;
- (iii) that a list of abbreviations ^{and symbols} used shd. be
prefaced to the volume — with explanations;
- (iv) that he had better go personally to the Press
& see the compositors employed in order to
make certain that the MSS & corrections are
in a form which they understand & can set
up with the type available;
- (v) that the final check & comparison of the
MSS in ink shd. be made by the senior
member of the Publication staff single handed.
It is, I think, waste of time to employ a
comparative unskilled reader & likely to
lead to mistakes. The comparison is made with
a pencil transcription — corrected in ink —



22

3

Home (Ed. 3) 19

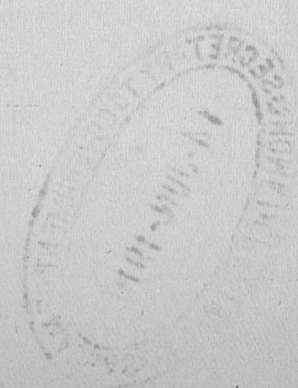
Submitted that H. M. notes

(D) may be stitched with Geo. No. 669 Ed. 2 of 24th May 1919.

16
14.6.19

16
16.6.19

17/6/19



D.O.

Office of the A.A.S. for Epigraphy.

Belmont, French India, 18th June 1919.



Dear Sir,

I beg to submit to you
kind perusal and return, three
Group-photographs of inscriptions
which will have to go into the forth-
coming volume of Inscriptional
Tents.

^{herewith forwarded}
The Photographs are not very
clear since good P.O.P or Bromide
paper could not be easily ob-
tained now in Madras. However,
before

3 14
Retn CNO. 1228 B

'Woodside',

Ootacamund.

19th June 1919.

669 (200)
24.5.19
Dear Sir,

I return the group photographs that you sent me with your letter of the 18th inst. I hope the enlargements of the photo-litho plates will be more clear. As you say, the small size photographs are distinctly deficient in that respect.

Yours sincerely,

7c
1862

M.R. Ry. Rao Sahab H. Krishna Sastri A.V.L.

'Belmont',

Pernhill, Ooty.



141-2 ante-

Repr.

Submitted that these papers may be lodged and stitched with Eco. No 669, Home (P)

(A)

24.5.19

21.6.19

16/19

W. S. 1919

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.