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Educational (1905) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

Care

G.O., No. 772

DATED 24-11-05

(11)

Urgent

ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Tamil Lexicon

Stating that the [abstract] which Sir Frederick Nicholson has written to Govt. should issue as a University publication and that Government will be prepared to assist the University in the matter to the extent of Rs 10,500.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

1905.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

From

The Government of Fort St. George.

Recd. } *1905.* *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

ORIGINAL

Letter No. 772, Educational, 24th November 1905.

Tamil Lexicon.

Stating that the — about which Sir Frederick Nicholson has written to Government should issue as a University publication, and that Government will be prepared to assist the University in the matter to the extent of Rs. 10,500.

No. 772.

From

H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., I.C.S.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Educational Department,

To

THE REGISTRAR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS.

Dated Fort St. George, 24th November 1905.

SIR,

With reference to your letter to the Director of Public Instruction No. 2478, of the 9th October 1905, I am directed to state that in the opinion of the Governor in Council the proposed Tamil Lexicon should issue as a University publication and be compiled by a small committee appointed by the Syndicate and approved by Government. I am directed to request, therefore, that the Syndicate will be so good as to state how it proposes to constitute this committee and what other arrangements it proposes to make for carrying out the work. It should be clearly understood that the Editor-in-Chief should be a philologist of repute. A copy of Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter to His Excellency the Governor on the subject as well as of its enclosure is furnished to the Syndicate.

2. The Government will be prepared to assist the University in the matter to the extent of Rs. 10,500 as estimated in Dr. Sell's memorandum, the amount being payable in three equal annual instalments.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. D. TAYLOR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

No. 773.

COPY forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction, the Accountant-General, and the Financial Department for information.

H. D. TAYLOR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

[Annexure.

Exd. V. A. Rajavelu.

ANNEXURE.

From Sir Frederick Nicholson, to His Excellency the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, dated Kodaikánal, 29th June 1905.

I beg to enclose an extract from a letter just received from Dr. G. U. Pope, the great Tamil scholar, who now occupies the Tamil chair at Oxford. His name is almost proverbial in this Presidency for scholarship and erudition; his handbook has been the guide of many generations of students, while his editions and translations of the Tamil classics are renowned for learning and excellence. I believe that he is now in the 85th year of a life largely devoted to Tamil, so that his stores of erudition are immense. His letter explains his desire for the preparation of a dictionary worthy of the language of nearly 20 millions of people (including Ceylon, Travancore and emigrants) and of its unique classics—a work for which he has accumulated stores of material probably unequalled in quantity and method; it will be observed that amongst this material are complete concordances to the classic works most esteemed by the Tamulians.

2. His long-cherished idea was to compile a completely new, full and up-to-date dictionary, illustrating, according to modern practice, each word or word-meaning by appropriate quotations, for which the concordances would supply the necessary references. His age, however, compels him to abandon the idea of personally compiling such a dictionary, and he therefore offers to place the whole of his accumulated material, freely and without recompense, at the disposal of persons competent to carry out such work; he disclaims all personal ambition and desires solely the good of the language and of those to whom such dictionary would be useful. For this purpose he suggests that some competent person shall be sent to Oxford by the proprietors of Winslow's Dictionary, to receive and go through the material in collaboration with him or under his guidance.

3. There are no really first-class dictionaries of Tamil; Winslow's is good as far as it goes and is generally accepted as accurate, but it is not up to date, requires many additions, and does not give quotations or references; hence, as a dictionary of the language and literature, it is defective. It was prepared many years ago under the auspices of the American-Ceylon Mission working in Jaffna (Ceylon), and I believe that that body are the proprietors of the work; Indian scholarship proper has produced no worthy dictionary (the Pondicherry Dictionary is a small one) and it is remarkable that it should have been left to Ceylon to lead in the matter of the chief South Indian language. I may add that I believe that Winslow is out of print and both very dear and difficult to get.

4. I think your Excellency will agree that there should be for so ancient and important a language, with a classical literature of so unique a character, a dictionary worthy of its subject, and it is certain that the material gathered by Dr. Pope for such a dictionary is of the highest value, and certainly unique as an organized store of learning and scholarship. Unless this store is now utilized, much of Dr. Pope's labour and learning will be wholly lost, and the object of this letter is to suggest its utilization in the way that Dr. Pope originally hoped and, if possible, during his lifetime and therefore with his personal help. I believe that there is a concensus among scholars that a new first-class dictionary is now needed, and I am informed that there are projects by various bodies which, however, for want of means or of initiative, or of some special stimulus or driving power, are unlikely to come to fruition.

5. Moreover, to my own mind, one of the greatest needs in the country is that of a modern, high-class, vernacular literature; we have our colleges and high schools, and we are now seeing proposals for a new departure in rural schools, but there is as yet almost nothing for past pupils to read in their vernacular after leaving school, nothing in the way of interesting, informing, educating literature for their further development or even for keeping up their little knowledge; many years ago I pointed out officially that young men in the villages, so far from improving their knowledge, had largely lost the little they had gained at school, and even the power of reading and writing, solely because they had no vernacular literary pabulum. If we are to develop a good, modern, Tamil literature by properly-equipped scholars, one essential—there are several others of course—is a first-class dictionary which will be at the same time a dictionary of words and a dictionary of quotations and references.

6. I have discussed the matter here with Missionaries, to whom Dr. Pope's offer has been made, and who are not only themselves scholars but are ready to develope his idea, and it had been suggested that, in accordance with the generally-felt desire for a new dictionary, a committee should be formed to accept Dr. Pope's generous offer, to take charge of the material, and to compile such a work as he originally intended. It is, however, felt by none more strongly than by the Missionaries that such a work should be on what I may call a national basis; the proposal has been made to Missionaries by Dr. Pope, because he was himself a Missionary, because there is a large body of scholarship among Missionaries, and because it is Missionaries who have hitherto done much for the language both in the making of dictionaries and grammars, in their editions and translations of Tamil classics, and in other ways. But in the preparation of

a great Tamil lexicon, Tamil scholars in general should join, and it is agreed that any committee should be representative of the whole body of Tamil learning and of Tamil literary interests in Southern India.

7. Moreover there seems to be objections to handing the work over to a private body such as the proprietors of Winslow's Dictionary. The mission in Jaffna, while embodying a great deal of scholarship, is not only not representative of South India and South Indian learning, but is a small and local body, not too well off, and could not undertake a great work without large help; if help is to be given it had better be given to a representative body. Secondly, I believe that it would cramp the new dictionary to attempt to base it on Winslow; revisions of Johnson or Webster are not satisfactory, and the new English dictionaries have thrown them aside; it is more difficult to adapt an old than to construct a new edifice; hence I see reasons against rather than for the suggestion to adapt Winslow, and it is to be noted that though Dr. Pope makes the suggestion, it is rather as a *pis aller* failing the execution of the larger design which was his original hope.

8. For the preparation, then, of a first-class modern lexicon, we have, in the matter of scholarship, (1) the several missionary organizations comprising (*a*) the scholars of the several missions including Jaffna, (*b*) the Christian Literature Society, (*c*) the united missionary organization called the Tamil Literature Committee; (2) the pundits of the University, (3) those of the Government department of education, (4) those of the Madura Tamil Sangam, (5) individual Tamil scholars throughout the country. From these bodies or persons could be formed a working committee of scholars, but for general purposes, such as the taking over, as trustees, of Dr. Pope's material, for the collection, expenditure and accounting for subscriptions, and for other business arrangements, there should be a representative general committee of persons interested in the work. I think from the above it is obvious that the work should be done in this Presidency and not in Jaffna or Oxford, though the personal acquirements and advice of Dr. Pope would of course be availed of by correspondence to the greatest possible extent.

9. As regards funds, such a dictionary will cost a large sum of money in payment of a competent editor, remuneration to scholars, salaries to clerical staff, travelling allowances and batta to committee members, correspondence, cost of printing, etc. All those interested, whether by reason of position, birth and race, patriotism, or science, in the progress and better use of Tamil, would be invited to subscribe, but I deem that the Government of the Tamil country should, as representing the State, have the honour of being the first and most liberal supporter of a national dictionary. The Government of Madras subscribed their name for 100 copies of "Winslow," but the present is a larger matter, and since it will not be undertaken by a private missionary body from its own funds but by a non-corporate committee, that method is unsuitable; sufficient funds *in hand* or on early promise are necessary both to begin and carry the work to completion. Moreover a substantial pecuniary subscription by Government will give the enterprise the necessary initiative, the imprimatur of State approval, and the character of a national work; I am therefore anxious that Government should promise substantial help spread over a term of years, say, £1,000 (Rs. 15,000), spread over five years from 1906–07; payment to begin on the formation of a responsible and approved general committee and the formulation of a scheme of work. Such an appropriation of funds would, I am sure, be as popular as it would be useful. If Government will guarantee this, the affair will march at once.

10. If, as I believe, the money needed up to the completion of such a dictionary would under Government auspices, be fully subscribed in advance, there would arise the question (1) of the proprietorship of the dictionary, (2) of the disposal of the funds obtained by its sale. For instance, suppose 2,000 copies were struck off at Rs. 30 per copy, there would be cash assets, actual or potential, of Rs. 60,000, as well as the valuable asset of the ownership of the copyright. During the preparation of the work all property in the dictionary might be vested in trustees who shall be members of the general committee under covenant, on the completion of the work, to hand over the proprietary right, cash and other assets, etc., to some public body, such as the University of Madras, to be used by such body solely for the promotion of vernacular literature whether by scholarships to past students, grants-in-aid of literary work, purchase of or subscription to meritorious works, premia or prizes to works of specified character, and so forth. I mention this both because the property in such a dictionary would be valuable, and to make clear that the Government and other subscriptions will really amount to a small permanent endowment of literature, in addition to the permanent endowment afforded by a first-class dictionary of words and references.

11. The Rev. J. S. Chandler of Madura, who has specially taken the question up, hopes to be visiting Oxford next May (when I also expect to be there) and would be glad to arrange details with Dr. Pope and to assure him that his life's desire will certainly be fulfilled. But before this we wish to assure ourselves as well as Dr. Pope of that Government support which, of itself, will place the matter at once on a business footing, and will infallibly lead to the successful completion of a noble work.

12. I address myself to your Excellency in person knowing how deeply you have at heart all work which has the revival and development of the Presidency as its object, and I feel confident that you place the study and development of the language and consequently of vernacular literature very high amongst such work.

Extract from letter of Dr. G. U. Pope, Oxford, dated 28th May 1905.

The dictionary I am publishing is intended merely for students of my handbook, of which the seventh edition has just been issued.

I have accumulated great stores of material for an exhaustive lexicon of the Tamil language. In this I have authorities and references for most words of importance, and I have added very many words. It has always been my ambition to publish an entirely new dictionary. For this purpose I have compiled concordances to (1) the Nanuul, (2) the Kurral, (3) the Naladiyar, (4) the Tiru-váçagam, (5) the Paramari, (6) the Nanuru, and I have notes upon most other Tamil classics. This being the case, I really think it would be worth while for the proprietors of Winslow's Dictionary to send a competent editor to Oxford for a short time. I cannot hope, and shall not attempt to finish my own book, but I would put all my materials into the hands of a suitable person and would give him as much help as my advanced years will allow me. I think in this way a really useful re-issue of Dr. Winslow's book (which of course is built upon many previous works) might be published. I need hardly say that the Pondicherry Dictionary may be much more used in its latest form.

I am anxious to republish both the Kurral and Tiru-váçagam, upon which I have spent an infinity of trouble for some years past. These books are open to any one who is competent to publish them. My sole idea is to do my utmost for the Tamil language, to which I have given my life. I have no ulterior views or ambitions. Use me or my works wherever you can.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., Nos. 771, 772, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 24TH NOVEMBER 1905.

[SUBJECT—*Regarding compilation of the new Lexicon of the Tamil language by Dr. G. U. Pope.*]

Herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from Sir Frederick Nicholson and which explains itself.

2. I have replied that I am personally in the fullest sympathy with his proposal, but that before I can give him a definite answer I must consult the departments concerned and my colleagues. The proposal seems to me to offer a golden opportunity to the reconstituted University of undertaking or fostering the higher work for which it is destined, and I should like to see the University co-operating in the business. I fully agree with Sir Frederick Nicholson that the compilation of the lexicon should be "national", *i.e.*, that it should be undertaken in the Madras Presidency and under the auspices and liberal patronage of the Madras Government. I understand that if we promise a liberal financial support, the proposed general committee will be found by private initiative and that they will place themselves under the protection and guidance of this Government.

3. Please submit these papers to the Hon'ble Sir James Thomson with the suggestion that they should be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks and discussed in Financial.

A[MPTHILL]—8-7-05.

ENCLOSURES.

From Sir Frederick Nicholson, to His Excellency the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, dated Kodaikánal, 29th June 1905.

I beg to enclose an extract from a letter just received from Dr. G. U. Pope, the great Tamil scholar, who now occupies the Tamil chair at Oxford. His name is almost proverbial in this Presidency for scholarship and erudition; his handbook has been the guide of many generations of students, while his editions and translations of the Tamil classics are renowned for learning and excellence. I believe that he is now in the 85th year of a life largely devoted to Tamil, so that his stores of erudition are immense. His letter explains his desire for the preparation of a dictionary worthy of the language of nearly 20 millions of people (including Ceylon, Travancore and emigrants) and of its unique classics—a work for which he has accumulated stores of material probably unequalled in quantity and method; it will be observed that amongst this material are complete concordances to the classic works most esteemed by the Tamulians.

2. His long-cherished idea was to compile a completely new, full and up-to-date dictionary, illustrating, according to modern practice, each word or word-meaning by appropriate quotations, for which the concordances would supply the necessary references. His age, however, compels him to abandon the idea of personally compiling such a dictionary, and he therefore offers to place the whole of his accumulated material, freely and without recompense, at the disposal of persons competent to carry out such work; he disclaims all personal ambition and desires solely the good of the language and of those to whom such dictionary would be useful. For this purpose he suggests that some competent person shall be sent to Oxford by the proprietors of Winslow's Dictionary, to receive and go through the material in collaboration with him or under his guidance.

3. There are no really first-class dictionaries of Tamil; Winslow's is good as far as it goes and is generally accepted as accurate, but it is not up to date, requires many additions, and does not give quotations or references; hence, as a dictionary of the language and literature, it is defective. It was prepared many years ago under the auspices of the American-Ceylon Mission working in Jaffna (Ceylon), and I believe that that body are the proprietors of the work; Indian

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"Winslow," but the present is a larger matter, and since it will not be undertaken by a private missionary body from its own funds but by a non-corporate committee, that method is unsuitable; sufficient funds *in hand* or on early promise are necessary both to begin and carry the work to completion. Moreover a substantial pecuniary subscription by Government will give the enterprise the necessary initiative, the imprimatur of State approval, and the character of a national work; I am therefore anxious that Government should promise substantial help spread over a term of years, say, £1,000 (Rs. 15,000), spread over five years from 1906-07; payment to begin on the formation of a responsible and approved general committee and the formulation of a scheme of work. Such an appropriation of funds would, I am sure, be as popular as it would be useful. If Government will guarantee this, the affair will march at once.

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11. The Rev. J. S. Chandler of Madura, who has specially taken the question up, hopes to be visiting Oxford next May (when I also expect to be there) and would be glad to arrange details with Dr. Pope and to assure him that his life's desire will certainly be fulfilled. But before this we wish to assure ourselves as well as Dr. Pope of that Government support which, of itself, will place the matter at once on a business footing, and will infallibly lead to the successful completion of a noble work.

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Extract from letter of Dr. G. U. Pope, Oxford, dated 28th May 1905.

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I am anxious to republish both the Kurral and Tiru-váçagam, upon which I have spent an infinity of trouble for some years past. These books are open to any one who is competent to publish them. My sole idea is to do my utmost for the Tamil language, to which I have given my life I have no ulterior views or ambitions. Use me or my works wherever you can.

Submitted.

H. D. Taylor—9-7-05.

There need not be any difficulty in this Government guaranteeing the suggested sum of Rs. 15,000 spread over a certain term of years. The University also ought to help. Unfortunately—as seems to me—Dr. Pope is in England, and

I have never heard of any successor of him in this country. Indeed I very much doubt whether there is *now* abroad in this country any such enthusiasm for the cultivation or exposition of the Tamil tongue as is likely to produce the sort of dictionary that Sir Frederick Nicholson has in his mind. Pundits there are whom, no doubt, Dr. Pope in person could co-ordinate.

2 However, refer to Dr. Bourne and ask him demi-officially to consult the Syndicate. Sir Subramanya Aiyar will certainly support any such proposal as this.

J. T[HOMSON]—10-7-05.

A draft demi-official is submitted for approval.

I presume that what is required of the Syndicate is—

(*a*) Advice as to the lines on which the work should proceed.
(*b*) A scheme for periodical check of the work as it proceeds.
(*c*) Aid in selecting members of the proposed committee.
(*d*) Financial assistance.

I understand that the next meeting of the Syndicate is not to be held till August. Meanwhile Dr. Bourne will be able to consult those members of the Syndicate who are with him on the University Committee of Inspection.

2. I would note that one of Dr. Pope's sons—Mr. J. Van Someren Pope—is at present Director of Public Instruction in Burma, and that he retires at the end of the current year. Though probably no Tamil scholar, he might be willing to co-operate with the committee in the matter of advice as to the lines on which the lexicon should be drawn up. Burma is nearer Madras than England, and he has probably discussed the subject in detail with Dr. Pope.

H. D. TAYLOR—10-7-05.

Draft initialled.

J. T[HOMSON]—11-7-05

Now please type sharp the draft demi-official as revised by Honourable Member together with the enclosures to the note. After issue the file will go to Financial for remarks.

H. D. TAYLOR—11-7-05.

Demi-official from H. D. Taylor, Esq., I.C.S., *to the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Bourne*, D.Sc., F.R.S., *dated Ootacamund*, 11*th July* 1905, *No.* 142.

I am directed to forward, for your perusal, copy of a letter, dated 29th June 1905, from Sir Frederick Nicholson to His Excellency the Governor, together with an extract from a letter dated 28th May 1905 of Dr. G. U. Pope, on the subject of the preparation of a new lexicon of the Tamil language.

2. The Government consider that the compilation of the proposed lexicon under such assistance as Dr. Pope may be able to render is a matter much to be desired; but while willing to give the proposal every possible support and desirous that the compilation should take place in the Madras Presidency and under their patronage, they consider that it is a subject which should in particular appeal to, and obtain the cordial co-operation of, the Madras University.

3. I am accordingly to request that you will consult the Syndicate in this matter and obtain an expression of its views and of the extent to which and lines on which it would propose to co-operate both financially and otherwise with the Government and Dr. Pope or his representatives in bringing the proposed work to a successful conclusion.

4. It is desirable that whatever is settled to be done should be put in hand without delay so that as much help and direction as is possible may be obtained in correspondence with Dr. Pope.

The demi-official has issued; the file may now go to Financial.

T. KANAKASUNDARAM PILLAI—12-7-05.

A. GALLETTI—13-7-05.

To the Financial Department.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

The amount (Rs. 15,000 *) to be sanctioned as a subsidy towards the expense of bringing out a new lexicon of the Tamil language is debitable to the head 22-I. EDUCATION—MISCELLANEOUS—*Miscellaneous* and can be met from the grant under 22. EDUCATION. The first grant of Rs. 3,000 is to be made in 1906-07. The Director should be asked to make provision on this account in the budget estimates under 22. EDUCATION for 1906-07 and future years.

* To be spread over five years from 1906-07—*vide* paragraph 9 of Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter dated 29th June 1905.

Page 141, Civil Budget Estimate.

2. In regard to the question of copyright, Sir Frederick Nicholson has suggested that "during the preparation "of the work, all property in the "dictionary might be vested in trustees "who shall be members of the general committee under covenant, on the comple- "tion of the works, to hand over the proprietary right, cash and other assets, etc., "to some public body such as the University of Madras, to be used by such "body solely for the promotion of vernacular literature."

Paragraph 10 of Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter dated 29th June 1905.

3. After the work is completed a certain number of copies should be supplied to this Government *free* and the number of copies that should thus be supplied should be fixed by the Financial Department (Books Branch).

Precedents—

G.O., No. 530, Financial, dated 1st September 1896 (paragraph 1).
G.O., No. 1229, Public, dated 31st October 1899.
G.O., No. 4, Financial (Books), dated 21st January 1904, and notes connected with it.

V.G.K.—17-7-05.

C. M. SCHMIDT—17-7-05.

To the Financial (Books) Department.

FINANCIAL (BOOKS) DEPARTMENT.

The S.P.C.K.'s new edition of Brown's Dictionary was an edition of 1,000. Government subscribed Rs. 5,000. The first moiety of the grant was paid when the S.P.C.K. reported that the dictionary was "more than half completed", whatever that may mean. Government only got six copies free, but afterwards asked for 30 copies at cost price and got them at cost price, less proportionate Government contribution on each copy (Rs. 14-8-0 less Rs. 5). Sir Frederick Nicholson contemplates an edition of 2,000 and a grant of Rs. 15,000 to be paid in five annual instalments. Submitted that this department may await the result of correspondence in Educational. The Government might make it a condition of a grant that a certain number of copies should be supplied free to them or at cost price. Collectors, Judges and Divisional officers in Tamil districts might have one each, and the Director of Public Instruction might be asked how many he would want for distribution to schools. We should also want a few copies for the Translator to Government and the Secretariat and Connemara Libraries. Drawing up the distribution list may wait till Government pass orders on the question of the amount of aid.

G.O., No. 4, Financial (Books), dated 21st January 1904.

A. GALLETTI—19-7-05.

I agree. In this matter, supposing a really scholarly dictionary was assured, I don't think Government need worry much whether we get copies free or not. I should say it would be best, if possible, to make it a *University* publication—done by a committee selected, say, by the Syndicate and Director of Public Instruction and

approved by Government—to which Government should contribute Rs. 15,000 in instalments, and as a condition ask for, say, 50 copies, at cost price. The important point is to secure a good committee. There will be no difficulty in finance. The finding Rs. 3,000 a year from Educational budget for five years should be easy enough.

M. HAMMICK—20-7-05.

To the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

The reply from the Director of Public Instruction should be awaited.

H. D. TAYLOR—20-7-05.

Demi-official from the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S., to H. D. Taylor, Esq., I.C.S., dated 17th August 1905.

In reply to your demi-official No. 142, dated 11th July, I laid the question as to the preparation of a new lexicon of the Tamil language before the Syndicate at the last meeting. Canon Sell and Sir Subramanya Aiyar were requested to consider and report upon the matter. An advance copy of their report has been sent to me, and I enclose it for your information. Please note, however, that this is not the reply of the Syndicate but a document which was to have been laid before that body at a special meeting on the 15th. I shall let you have the Syndicate's reply as soon as it reaches me: it is unlikely that it will contain more information than is to be found in this memorandum.

ENCLOSURES.

I. Memorandum by the Rev. Canon Sell, D.D.

A few years ago, Brown's Telugu-English Dictionary was revised. The Government gave Rs. 5,000 to the chief editor and the S.P.C.K. gave Rs. 2,000 to two assistant editors. The cost of revising the book was thus Rs. 7,000.

The printing and binding of 1,000 copies cost about Rs. 7,500, and so the book cost the S.P.C.K., exclusive of the Government grant, Rs. 9,500. The book sells at Rs. 20 per copy. But the sale is so slow that the annual proceeds from sales barely covers the loss of interest on capital sunk and the probability is that when all the books are sold, the interest may be recovered and that the capital will be wholly lost.

Thus, it is clear that in works of this kind there are (1) the initial cost of editing which cannot be recovered and (2) the cost of publishing which, owing to slow sales, must also result in loss.

2. As regards the Tamil Dictionary, Winslow's, which is now the standard one, was published 40 years ago. The edition was 1,000 copies and there are about 150 left in the S.P.C.K. Depository, so it has taken 40 years to sell 850 copies—about 21 copies a year.

I also find that the Christian Vernacular Society has a stock (quantity not known to me) of these dictionaries. Assuming they have 100 copies, then the books sold by the fortieth year after publication are about 750. This shows the slowness of the sale of a work of this kind.

Winslow's Dictionary contains about 1,000 pages royal 4to. To print 1,000 copies of such a book of the same size would cost with binding about Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000 approximately.

The proposed book may be longer, but probably Rs. 8,000 would give a good margin. Binding rates are now somewhat higher, as skins are getting dearer. It seems to me that Government might be asked to give—

(1) Rs. 5,000 to the chief editor.

(2) Rs. 1,000 each to as many assistant editors as may be appointed, not more than three I should think.

(3) A grant towards the publication, say one-third of the cost; or publish it at the Government Press as a Government publication: in that case the Government would bear the whole loss.

3. This lays a heavier burden upon Government than it undertook in the case of the Telugu Dictionary, in which case the whole cost of assistant editors and of publication was borne by the S.P.C.K., but it must prove a financial loss to that society. Even if Government gave one-third of the cost of publication, I do not think a private firm of publishers could afford to lock up for so many years the balance of capital still required. But I think it possible that a society like the S.P.C.K. or the Madras School Book and Literature Society, which need not seek for profit, but only a reasonable assurance against loss, might on some such term undertake the work.

4. Even if the Madras School Book and Literature Society would not publish the book on the above terms, it might make a grant of, at least, Rs. 1,000 and perhaps even more towards it. The point then is that the work can only be done—

(1) entirely by Government, including publication, or

(2) by a Government grant for the whole cost of editing and a proportion of the cost of publication. Approximately I should put the cost at—

		RS.
(*a*)	Chief reviser	5,000
(*b*)	Three assistants, Rs. 1,000 each	3,000
(*c*)	One-third of cost of publication of 1,000 copies, say	2,500
		10,500

which is Rs. 5,500 more than the Telugu Dictionary cost Government, but experience shows that no publisher could afford to do again what the S.P.C.K. has done in that case, with the certain prospect of a heavy financial loss before it.

II. Memorandum by the Hon'ble Sir S. Subramanya Aiyar, K.C.I.E.

It is scarcely necessary to say that a standard dictionary of the kind recommended is a decided want. The compilation and publication of such a work is unfortunately not within the means of private publishers. But the probable cost of such a work is as shown in Rev. Canon Sell's memorandum comparatively trifling when considered with the value of such a dictionary to the people and to the Government. At this moment, I believe, that the Madura Sangam is engaged in the publication of a Tamil dictionary which contains appropriate quotations—a special feature of the proposed dictionary. The work under publication was compiled by Mr. Kadirvelu Pillai, a well known Tamil scholar of Ceylon, and from a printed part thereof, beginning with the first letter of the Tamil alphabet, which I send herewith, it is clear that the materials collected by Mr. Kadirvelu Pillai are of high value. I think those materials should be utilized along with those of Dr. Pope, and I am sure the Madura Sangam, which is bringing out Kadirvelu Pillai's work, will gladly co-operate in the publication of such a work as that recommended by Sir Frederick Nicholson.

Reply of Syndicate awaited.

H. D. TAYLOR—20-8-05.

Demi-official from H. D. Taylor, Esq., I.C.S., to the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S., dated 29th September 1905, No. 148.

Will you kindly let me know, with reference to my demi-official No. 142 of the 11th July 1905 about the preparation of a new Lexicon of the Tamil language by Dr. G. U. Pope, whether the Syndicate of the Madras University has disposed of the matter or whether it is still pending before it and when the reply may be expected.

[To be despatched after Dr. Bourne's return to Madras.]

P. T. THARYAN—20-9-05.

Demi-official from the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S., to H. D. Taylor, Esq., I.C.S., dated 2nd October 1905.

Your demi-official No. 148, dated 29th September. I see that the question about the Pope's Tamil Lexicon comes on again for discussion at the Syndicate this evening. I will let you have the papers as soon as I get them. The Syndicate always has about three times as much to do as it

can manage in the time and as it is likely to have more work than ever in the future I fear there will always be trouble about getting things done. This is almost inseparable from the system of governing a large concern by means of a body of men whose time is otherwise fully occupied.

Demi-official from the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S., to H. D. Taylor, Esq., I.C.S., dated 4th October 1905, *No.* 52.

I enclose a letter from the Registrar of the University replying to my enquiries with regard to Mr. Pope's Tamil Lexicon.

I presume that Government would be willing to give a grant for the purposes of publication. In that case the best plan would probably be to appoint a small Committee of the Senate to take charge of the matter and make the necessary arrangements. The grant might be made to the University for this particular purpose in the same way that the Home Government make grants to the Royal Society for particular objects.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter from C. A. Paterson, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Registrar, University of Madras, to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated Senate House, 9th October 1905, *No.* 2478.

With reference to your letter, dated the 31st July last, calling for an expression of the views of the Syndicate on the subject of utilising the materials collected by the Rev. Dr. G. U. Pope for the purpose of bringing out an exhaustive Dictionary of the Tamil Language and Literature, I am directed by the Syndicate to forward to you copies of memoranda drawn up on the subject by the Rev. Canon Sell and the Hon'ble Sir S. Subrahmanya Aiyar and to state that the Syndicate endorses the views recorded therein.

Printed on pages 6 and 7 *supra*.

The enclosure to your letter is herewith returned.

Papers please early.

H. D. TAYLOR—12-10-05.

Submitted.

2. From Canon Sell's memorandum on pages 6 and 7 *supra* and the Registrar's letter to the Director of Public Instruction on this page it would seem that with a grant of Rs. 10,500 the Syndicate will undertake the publication of the Dictionary. The Government are prepared to raise the grant, if necessary, to Rs. 15,000 even—Honourable Member's note on pages 3 and 4. Orders are solicited whether the former amount may now be promised and the Senate requested to take charge of the matter and make the necessary arrangements as suggested in Dr. Bourne's demi-official on this page.

P. T. THARYAN—12-10-05.

A. GALLETTI—13-10-05.

For orders.

H. D. TAYLOR—13-10-05.

I most heartily agree in the proposals about the Tamil Dictionary. We may tell the University that Government are prepared to give assistance to the extent of Rs. 10,500 as estimated in Dr. Sell's memorandum, but that if it should become necessary an application for further help will be favourably considered. It should be clearly understood that the Editor-in-Chief must be a philologist of repute.

2. It is not likely that old Dr. Pope will be able himself to undertake the chief editorship, or if he did that he would see the work through. There are several native gentlemen who are Tamil scholars, but the sort of knowledge that is possessed by native scholars is not, as generally understood, enough. The philological and critical talent which should be secured to make the Lexicon worthy of the Government and the University will, I apprehend, be found only in Europe. If a thoroughly capable Editor-in-Chief can be appointed, he may be trusted to settle the qualifications of his assistants.

G. S. F[ORBES]—14-10-05.

I should like to have the Hon'ble Mr. Stokes' opinion before I write to Sir Frederick Nicholson so that I may be assured of the unanimous approval of Government.

A[MPTHILL]—17-10-05.

I entirely agree with the Hon'ble Mr. Forbes as to what he says in the first paragraph of his note and I also endorse what Mr. Hammick says in his note of 20th July 1905 on page 6 *supra*. I understand that the Syndicate will undertake to select the committee, &c., as suggested in Dr. Bourne's demi-official of the 4th October and to carry out the work receiving a grant from Government.

G. S[TOKES]—19-10-05.

Please draft letter to the Registrar for approval

H. D. TAYLOR—23-10-05.

A draft letter is submitted for approval. His Excellency desires to have the file back for writing to Sir Frederick Nicholson.

P. T. THARYAN—25-10-05.

A. GALLETTI—25-10-05.

For approval.

H. D. TAYLOR—25-10-05.

Draft approved.

G. S. F[ORBES]—26-10-05.

The Syndicate have already seen Sir F. Nicholson's letter to me and it is just as well to send them another copy so as to make their files complete. Draft approved.

2. I have written to Sir F. Nicholson telling him briefly what has taken place.

A[MPTHILL]—31-10-05.

Issue.

H. D. TAYLOR—1-11-05.

[G.O., Nos. 771, 772, Educational, dated 24th November 1905.]

[E. / 12]

1,000—24-9-04.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

18 9

Care

READ AGAIN G.O., No. , dated 190 .

" " " , " 190 .

READ ALSO:—

C. No. , From the , No , dated 190 .

" " , " " , " , " 190 .

" " , " " , " , " 190 .

Despatch Print Sir F Nicholson's letter & encl: as annexures. These are now in a master. After striking off their proof — off these will have to be put back. 2/11/5

~~ORDER~~ Letter
P.S.

Desp 24/11

No. ~~740~~ 772, dated 24 - 11 - 1905.

To

The Registrar of the University of Madras

Sir,

With ~~reference~~ to your letter to the Director of Public Instruction no 20.. of the 9th ~~instant~~ October 1905. I am directed to state ~~that~~ in the opinion of ~~Govt.~~ the Govt the proposed Tamil Lexicon should issue as a University publication and ~~should~~ be compiled by a small Committee appointed by the Syndicate and approved by Govt. I am directed to request therefore that the Syndicate will be so good as to ..

2P

how it proposes to constitute ~~this~~ Committee and what other arrangements it proposes to make for carrying out the work. It should be clearly understood that the Editor in Chief should be a philologist of repute. [A copy of Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter to His Excellency the Governor on the subject as well as of its enclosure is furnished to the Syndicate.]

A private letter to His Excellency. ~~We~~ cannot furnish a copy of it unless ~~H.E.~~ H.E. so desires.
Sht.

A copy may be sent & the passage scored out should stand.

We need not say this in the letter

2. The Govt. will be prepared to assist the University in the matter to the extent of Rs 10,500 as estimated in Dr. Bell's memorandum, the amount being payable in three equal annual instalments. ~~If further assistance should become necessary an application from it will be favourably considered~~.

PBJ 25/10/05 AL 25.10.05

28/10/05

No. 773 ~~771~~ d/24-11-05

Copy forwarded to the D.P.I., the A.G. & the Financial departt for information.

Desp 28/11/05

31-10-05

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

ED AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
190 .

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Sepn copy of Letter alone
to be without docket

CMS
14-11-05

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

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