Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.
Regd. } 1906.

Enclosures
Spare copies

28

G.O., &c., Nos. 23, 24, 17th January 1906.

Orgl.

Inspector-General of Museums in India.

Submitting to the Government of India the views of the Madras Government on the proposal to appoint an —.

7C 1058/07

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.	1906.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., &c., Nos. 23, 24, 17th January 1906.

Inspector-General of Museums in India.

Submitting to the Government of India the views of the Madras Government on the proposal to appoint an —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from W. L. Harvey, Esq., c.i.e., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry (Practical Arts and Museums).
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.
Dated—Calcutta, the 27th November 1905.
Nos.—6879—6885—15—3.

In connection with certain proposals which are now under consideration for the reorganisation of the Indian Museum, a suggestion has been made that an Inspector-General of Museums in India should be appointed, who would not only be the administrative head of the Indian Museum, but also the responsible adviser of the Government of India and of the Local Governments, in respect of all questions connected with the organisation and management of museums. It is proposed that the pay of this appointment should be Rs. 1,500—2,000 a month, without exchange compensation allowance.

2. The Government of India are impressed with the view that the value of the collections in the majority of the Provincial museums is seriously impaired owing to the want of scientific co-ordination, and to the absence of organised arrangements under which exchanges beneficial to the various museums can be effected. Complaints have frequently been received of the inability of Local Governments to obtain the advice necessary to enable them to improve their collections. These are in many cases arranged on entirely different principles, and represent a confusion both of contents and ideas which, if the means were forthcoming, should be capable of easy correction. Objects are collected or shown in one Provincial museum which have a much greater claim to be exhibited in another. The distribution of objects has in many cases been haphazard and unscientific; and in some cases the museum, which ought to be an object of credit to the Local Government and of advantage as well as interest to the community, fails altogether to attain these ends. The Government of India are of opinion that these defects are largely due to the absence of expert advice and of friendly inter-communication and co-operation. They think that a great deal could be done towards bringing the Provincial museums into closer touch both with the Imperial Museum and with each other; and that the appointment of an Inspector-General would not only prove of great assistance to the Local Governments in developing the local museums, and in increasing their value and usefulness, but would also enable their operations to be expanded and co-ordinated in such a manner as to exercise a beneficial influence on general and technical education, on the promotion of commercial enterprise, and on the encouragement of scientific research. Local effort has done much in this direction in Europe; and it is considered that, if local resources were assisted in their development in India, in the manner proposed, results comparable with those obtained in Europe might be secured here also.

3. The Government of India have carefully considered whether the desired improvements might be effected by the efforts of the departments concerned, but inasmuch as the system of departmental management has failed, in the past, to secure the desired results, it would be unduly sanguine to expect that a system which has been unsuccessful during recent years should suddenly become successful now.

4. Great care will, of course, be required in the selection of an officer as Inspector-General, possessing sufficient breadth of view and administrative experience to render it unlikely that he will seek to foster any special branch of museum work at the expense of others. It appears to the Government of India that he should be chosen with special regard to his administrative experience and to artistic and economic knowledge in general. He would be required to visit all Provincial museums at least once in each year; he would advise the local authorities as to the exhibition and arrangement of their collections; he would organise a system for the exchange of exhibits between the various Provincial museums and between these museums and the Imperial Museum; and he would, as far as possible, co-ordinate the work of museums throughout the country. If an experienced and tactful officer be obtained, and if full administrative control be exercised over his work by the Local and Imperial Governments in combination, it is thought that nothing but good will result from his appointment, and that a definite and most desirable impetus will be communicated to the sadly-neglected work of museum organisation in India.

5. I am to express a hope that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be able to approve this proposal, and to request that in that case the Government of India may be favoured with his views as to the manner in which the services of such an officer could be turned to the best advantage, and as to the amount of control which he should be authorised to exercise.

Order—No. 23, Educational, dated 17th January 1906.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

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

Letter—from H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.
To—the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.
Dated—17th January 1906.
No.—24, Educational.

I am directed to reply to the letter of the Commerce and Industry Department Nos. 6879—6885—15—3, dated 27th November 1905, regarding a suggestion that an Inspector-General of Museums in India should be appointed.

2. The Government of India observe that the value of the collections in the majority of the Provincial museums is impaired by a want of scientific co-ordination, that the distribution of objects has in many cases been haphazard and unscientific, that local Administrations are unable in many cases to obtain proper advice, that in some cases the museum, which ought to be an object of credit to Local Governments and of advantage as well as of interest to the community, fails altogether to obtain those ends, that objects shown in certain Provincial museums would more suitably find a place in other Provincial museums, and that these defects are largely due to the absence of expert advice and friendly co-operation.

It would appear that, in the opinion of the Government of India, the majority of Provincial museums are somewhat neglected; that the collections, even where they contain objects of value, are somewhat ill-arranged and represent "a confusion both of contents and ideas"; that most of the Superintendents of Provincial Museums are men with no exceptional qualifications for their position, whose advice can scarcely be considered "expert" advice; that there exists no practice of friendly inter-communication and friendly co-operation between Superintendents of Provincial Museums and local Administrations; and that it would be unduly sanguine to expect any improvement unless a special department of Museum administration is created and placed under an officer responsible to the Government of India.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council is in doubt whether the Government of India intend their remarks to apply to the Madras Museum. The Governor in Council can safely affirm that none of the apprehensions which the Government of India entertain regarding the management, the scientific arrangement, or the utility of museums generally in India are applicable to this institution. It has been for years under the superintendence of a highly-trained experienced scientific expert who has made it in every respect a model of what a properly-arranged museum should be. Its popularity is proved by the great numbers that visit it every day.

4. On the general question of the appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums for all India, the Governor in Council is strongly of opinion that the appointment of such an officer would not on the whole serve any useful purpose. He might very likely be inferior in experience and knowledge to the local Superintendents. He would be wanting in any sympathetic understanding of local needs, and his intervention would be the cause of much friction and misunderstanding. At the same time the Governor in Council fully recognizes that good would result from some system by which Provincial Superintendents should be enabled to establish between themselves friendly inter-communication of views and friendly co-operation and arrange for the exchange of exhibits. This could be readily secured by the institution of meetings of Superintendents at regular intervals, by requiring Superintendents to visit one another's museums, and to make themselves acquainted with their contents, and by requiring reports to be drawn up by each Superintendent regarding present and future exchanges of exhibits, these reports to be submitted to the respective Local Governments or Administrations which would, on considering the reports, communicate with other Provincial Governments or Administrations, or delegate authority to the Superintendents to make the exchanges.

5. In the opinion of this Government some such system is all that is needed at any rate so far as the Madras Museum is concerned.

Exd. W. D'Moss.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., Nos. 23, 24, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 17th JANUARY 1906.

[Subject.—*The appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums in India.*]

From the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Nos. 6879—6885—15—3, dated 27th November 1905.

Advance copy submitted to His Excellency the Governor.
Advance copy submitted to the Hon'ble Mr. G. Stokes, c.s.i.
Advance copy submitted to the Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Forbes, c.s.i.

H. D. Taylor—7-12-05.

This means robbing the local museums to furnish out the Imperial Museum, I fear?

G. S. F[orbes]—8-12-05.

Here again we have centralisation and an endeavour to exploit local museums for the benefit of India. I would have none of this man. If museum-keepers visit each other's museums, all the co-ordination required will be secured. If this man had existed a short while ago, everything in the Madras Museum would have been transferred to the Victoria building in Calcutta.

G. S[tokes]—8-12-05.

Seen.

A[mpthill]—9-12-05.

The Government of India propose the appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums in India who would not only be the administrative head of the Indian Museum but also the responsible adviser of the Government of India and of the Local Governments in respect of all questions connected with the organisation and management of museums. The pay proposed is Rs. 1,500—2,000 without exchange compensation allowance.

In case His Excellency the Governor in Council is able to approve this proposal, the Government of India request that they may be favoured with his views as to the manner in which the services of such an officer could be turned to the best advantage and as to the amount of control which he should be authorized to exercise.

2. Orders are requested. The file may perhaps, in the first instance, go to Mr. Thurston u.o. for remarks.

[Papers about the Director-General of Education and the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India will be added to the file on its return from Mr. Thurston if it is decided to send it to him.]

P. T. Tharyan—8-12-05.

A. Galletti—9-12-05.

Await the return from circulation of the copies circulated to His Excellency and Honourable Member.

H. D. Taylor—10-12-05.

The advance copies circulated to His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Members have returned. The remarks of the Honourable Members have been separately typed and prefixed to these notes.

2. The orders on the subject of direct correspondence between the Director of Public Instruction and the Director-General of Education (No. 412, Educational, dated 6th July 1904) and between the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, and the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India (No. 1275 L., dated 3rd October 1904) have now been put up. Also the further demi-official correspondence with India regarding direct correspondence between the Director of Public Instruction and the Director-General of Education. The reply of the Government of India agreeing to the proposal in our demi-official No. 140, dated 10th August 1905, appears to be with the Secretary.

P. T. Tharyan—12-12-05.

A. Galletti—13-12-05.

It seems unnecessary to refer this to Mr. Thurston if the Government are unable to accept the proposal in principle. Will Under Secretary please put up a preliminary draft on the lines indicated in Honourable Member's and Hon'ble Mr. Stokes' note stating that the proposal is not acceptable to this Government?

H. D. Taylor—14-12-05.

Rough draft submitted.

A. Galletti—14-12-05.

Lord Curzon said more than once that Provincial Museums would not be robbed for the benefit of the Victoria Memorial Hall. Look up the newspapers about the time the Queen died.

A. Galletti—15-12-05.

Please see extracts from Lord Curzon's speech on 26th February 1901—pages 15 and 17 of the pamphlet put up.

P. T. Tharyan—15-12-05.

A. Galletti—15-12-05.

Lord Curzon said many things.

G. S[tokes]—15-12-05.

Have we any information as to how many museums there are in India?

H. D. Taylor—16-12-05.

There are Government museums now at Calcutta, Karachi, Lucknow, Lahore, Bombay, Nagpur and Rangoon. There are also museums at Jaipur, Trivandrum and Bangalore, the first two of which belong to Native States. It is not known whether the Bangalore Museum belongs to the British or Mysore Government. There may be other smaller museums, but there is no precise information on the subject except that there are two at Muttra and Faizabad.

P. T. Tharyan—18-12-05.

C. A. Souter—19-12-05.

The draft is submitted for approval.

H. D. Taylor—20-12-05.

Return after Christmas please.

G. S. F[orbes]—22-12-05.

Resubmitted.

H. D. Taylor—8-1-06.

I have recast the draft.

G. S. F[orbes]—8-1-06.

I accept the draft as revised by Hon'ble Mr. Forbes.

G. S[tokes]—8-1-06.

Please type fair for circulation to His Excellency.

H. D. Taylor—9-1-06.

A typed copy is submitted.

P. T. Tharyan—9-1-06.

His Excellency the Governor.

H. D. Taylor—9-1-06.

I thought that I had snuffed out this monstruosly unnecessary proposal when I was acting as Viceroy, but apparently the Calcutta Museum authorities (for they are the originators of the idea) came up again as soon as Lord Curzon returned.

Draft approved.

A[mpthill]—11-1-06.

Issue.

H. D. Taylor—12-1-06.

[G.O., Nos. 23, 24, Educational, dated 17th January 1906.]

[E.]
7,500—12-12.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

6

CURRENT FILE.

CONTENTS.

From	Number.	Date.	Pages.
[2107] The Govt. of India Deptt of Com & Indy.	6879- 6885- -15-3	27-11-05	1—4

[P. T. O. FOR PUT UP PAPERS.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No.________

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, &c., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Despatcher to note the return of the papers to the departments concerned.

Recd } 6-12-05

Ed/ CURRENT Y

2107.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL SECRETARIAT. 6 - DEC 1905

3P

UNDER SECRETARY 2 DEC 05 PUBLIC ETC DEPT

CURRENT No. 3412 PUBLIC

Nos. 6879—6885—15—3.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Practical Arts and Museums.

FROM

W. L. HARVEY, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

Calcutta, the 27th November 1905.

SIR,

IN connection with certain proposals which are now under consideration for the reorganisation of the Indian Museum, a suggestion has been made that an Inspector General of Museums in India should be appointed, who would not only be the administrative head of the Indian Museum, but also the responsible adviser of the Government of India, and of the Local Governments, in respect of all questions connected with the organisation and management of museums. It is proposed that the pay of this appointment should be ₹1,500—2,000 a month, without exchange compensation allowance.

2. The Government of India are impressed with the view that the value of the collections in the majority of the Provincial museums is seriously impaired owing to the want of scientific co-ordination, and to the absence of organised arrangements under which exchanges beneficial to the various museums can be effected. Complaints have frequently been received of the inability of Local Governments to obtain the advice necessary to enable them to improve their collections. These are in many cases arranged on entirely different principles, and represent a confusion both of contents and ideas which, if the means were forthcoming, should be capable of easy correction. Objects are collected or shown in one Provincial museum which have a much greater claim to be exhibited in another. The distribution of objects has in many cases been haphazard and unscientific; and in some cases the museum which ought to be an object of credit to the Local Government and of advantage as well as interest to the community fails altogether to attain these ends. The Government of India are of opinion that these defects are largely due to the absence of expert advice and of friendly inter-communication and co-operation. They think that a great deal could be done towards bringing the Provincial museums into closer touch both with the Imperial Museum and with each other; and that the appointment of an Inspector General would not only prove of great assistance to the Local Governments in developing the local museums, and in increasing their value and usefulness, but would also enable their operations to be expanded and co-ordinated in such a manner as to exercise a beneficial influence on general and technical education, on the

Registered 2/12/05

promotion of commercial enterprise, and on the encouragement of scientific research. Local effort has done much in this direction in Europe; and it is considered that, if local resources were assisted in their development in India, in the manner proposed, results comparable with those obtained in Europe might be secured here also.

3. The Government of India have carefully considered whether the desired improvements might be effected by the efforts of the Departments concerned, but inasmuch as the system of departmental management has failed, in the past, to secure the desired results, it would be unduly sanguine to expect that a system which has been unsuccessful during recent years should suddenly become successful now.

4. Great care will of course be required in the selection of an officer as Inspector General, possessing sufficient breadth of view and administrative experience to render it unlikely that he will seek to foster any special branch of museum work at the expense of others. It appears to the Government of India that he should be chosen with special regard to his administrative experience and to artistic and economic knowledge in general. He would be required to visit all Provincial museums at least once in each year; he would advise the local authorities as to the exhibition and arrangement of their collections; he would organise a system for the exchange of exhibits between the various Provincial museums, and between these museums and the Imperial Museum; and he would as far as possible co-ordinate the work of museums throughout the country. If an experienced and tactful officer be obtained, and if full administrative control be exercised over his work by the Local and Imperial Governments in combination, it is thought that nothing but good will result from his appointment, and that a definite and most desirable impetus will be communicated to the sadly neglected work of museum organisation in India.

5. I am to express a hope that His Ex. the Govr. in C may be able to approve this proposal, and to request that in that case the Government of India may be favoured with his views as to the manner in which the services of such an officer could be turned to the best advantage, and as to the amount of control which he should be authorised to exercise.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. L. Harvey

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

With 7 S.C.

3/

4

8

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Dept. of Commerce and Industry.

Practical Arts and Museums.

To

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

Nos. 6879—6885—15—3.

Dated Calcutta, the 27th November 1905.

Proposed appointment of an Inspector General of Museums in India.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1968 C. & I.—27-11-1905.—420.—B. N. D.

Educational Department.

Notes connected with G.O. Nos. ~~Ed~~ Edn of January 1906

C.No.2107 From the Government of India, Commerce & Industry, No.6879-6885-15-3 dated 27th November 1905.

Subject:

The appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums in India.

Advance copy submitted to His Excellency the Governor.

Advance copy submitted to the Hon'ble Mr. G.Stokes, C.S.I.

Advance copy submitted to the Hon'ble Mr. G.S.Forbes, C.S.I.

H.D.Taylor 7-12-05

This means robbing the local Museums to furnish out the Imperial Museum, I fear ?

G.S.F[orbes]
8-12-05.

Here again we have centralisation and an endeavour to exploit local museums for the benefit of India. I would have none of this man. If museum keepers visit each other's museums all the coordination required will be secured. If this man had existed a short while ago everything in the Madras Museum would have been transferred to the Victoria building in Calcutta.

G.S[tokes]
8-12-05.

(Seen)

A[mpthill]
9-12-05.

2

13

3P

[E. / 2.]
1,500—3-12-04

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 2107 From the Govt. of India. Com. ~~Hind~~ Deptt No. 6879-, dated 27-11-1905.
6885-15-3.

SUBJECT.

re: the appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums in India.

The Govt. of India propose the appointment of an Inspector General of Museums in India who would not only be the administrative head of the Indian Museum but also the responsible adviser of the Govt. of India and of the Local Govts in respect of all questions connected with the organization and management of museums. The pay proposed is Rs 1500-2000 without Exchange compensation allowance.

In case H.E. the Governor in Council is able to approve this proposal, the Govt. of India request that they may be favored with his views as to the manner in which the services of such an officer could be turned to the best advantage and as to the amount of control which he should be authorized to exercise

2. Orders are requested. The file may perhaps in the first instance go to Mr. Thurston C.O. for remarks.

P. S. Narayan
8/12/05

[Papers about the Director General of Education & the Sanitary Commr. with the Govt. of India will be added to the file on its return from Mr. Thurston if it is decided to send it to him.]

Galletti
9.12.05

Secretary

Await the return from circulation of the copies circulated to H.E. and H.M.

H.D. Taylor
10/12/05

The Advance copies circulated to His Excellency the Governor & the Hon'ble members have returned. The remarks of the Hon'ble members have been separately typed & prefixed to these notes.

2. The orders on the subject of direct correspondence between the D.P.I. & the Director General of Education
Ⓩ (~~G.O.~~ No 412 Edl dt 6th July 1904) and between the Sanitary Commr. Madras, and the Sanitary Commr. with the
Ⓚ Govt. of India (No 1275 L dt 3rd October 1904) have now been put up. Also the further D.O. correspondence ~~at~~ with India regarding direct correspondence between
Ⓣ the D.P.I. & the Director General of Education. The reply of the
Ⓣ Govt. of India agreeing to the proposal in our D.O. No 140 dt
? 10th August 1905 appears to be with the Secretary.

P.J. Thairyan
12/12/5

A.G. Galletti
13.12.5

Secretary.

It seems unnecessary to refer this to Mr Thurston. If the Govt. are unable to accept the proposal in principle. Will U.S. please put up a preliminary draft on the lines indicated in Hon Members and Hon Mr Stokes note stating that the proposal is not acceptable to this Govt.

Lord Curzon said many things.

[Stokes]
~~Secretary~~

H. Taylor
14. 12. 05.

Rough draft submitted
A.G. 14.12.5

Office:
Lord Curzon said more than once that provincial museums wd not be robbed for the benefit of the Victoria Memorial Hall. Look up the newspapers about the time the Queen died.
A.G. Galletti

Secretary.

Please see extracts from Lord Curzon's Speech on 26th February 1901 - pages 15 & 17 of the pamphlet put up.
P.J. Thairyan
15/12/5

A.G. Galletti
15.12

Have we any information as to how many museums there are in India?

H. Taylor
16.12.05

A

Telephonic message from the Deputy Registrar, Ed. Deptt. to the Personal assistant, Government Museum dated 16th December 1905.

Please let me know if you have any information as to how many museums there are in India.

MESSAGE. B

B 6P.

190 .

Minutes.

To

Deputy Registrar Edn
The ~~/~~ Edn & Leg Dept.

telephonic Message of 16/12/05

Calcutta

Museum

Museum, Lahore

& Albert Museum, Bombay

, Jaipur ~~Dary~~ Trivandrum

galore.

TELEPHONIC MESSAGE.

78 / 14

Date, 5 190 .

Hours Minutes.

From	To
The Supdt. Govt. Museum	Secy The Edn & Legis Deptt

The reply re: museums given a little while ago is withdrawn.

Revised reply.

The only museums which I know of are the Indian Museum, Calcutta, Lahore, Lucknow, Jeypore, Trevandrum, Bangalore, Karachee, Prince of Wales' late foundation stone of a museum at Bombay. And I believe a museum has recently been started at Rangoon. Muttra and Fyzabad have quite small museums and there may be other small local museums which I do not know.

18/12

The original reply from Personal ~~Assistant~~ to the Ed. Sec. is in the file now ~~the file again with the~~ O.S. This may be put up with it.

PH 29/10/15

TELEPHONIC MESSAGE.

D.

Date, 19/12 190 .

Hours Minutes.

From The Supdt, Govt. Museum

To The Educational & Legislative Deptt.

With reference to my telephonic message of yesterday re: the Museum, please add, Nagpore to my list of museums.

H
19/12

16 [H.I. Telephonic messages A, B, C, D in order one below the other – copies attached]

Telephone message at Flag B.

There are Govt. museums now at Calcutta, Karachi, Lucknow, Lahore, Bombay, Nagpur & Rangoon. There are also museums at Jaipur, Trivandrum & Bangalore the first two of which belong to native states. It is not known whether the Bangalore museum belongs to the British or Mysore Govt. There may be other smaller museums but there is no precise information on the subject except that there are two at Muttra & Fyzabad.

B. Prasad
18/12/5

Sec.

Crouter
19/12/05

9P

For approval

H.M. – Cnc

H. D. Taylor
20.12.05

Return after Xmas please

S.F. [Forbes] 22/12

Let me have after H.M. in charge

[Tolson]
27/12/05

This should go back to the H.M. apparently before coming to H.E.

29.12.05

H.M. seen

29.12.05

On 2nd Day

Office will explain separately.

7.1.06

This sent to me

4/1/06

I Hon. Mr Forbes CSI. and CIE

II ~~Hon Mr Fisher~~ CSI

III H.E. the Governor.

2.1.06.

I have recast the draft below

G [Stokes]
8/1/

I accept the draft as revised by Hon. Mr. Forbes.

[Stokes]
8/1/06.

Please type fair for circulation to His Excellency.

H. D. Taylor
8-1-06.

A typed copy is submitted.

Bharyan
9/1/06

His Excellency the Governor

H. D. Taylor
9.1.06.

I thought that I had snuffed out this monstrously unnecessary proposal when I was acting as Viceroy but apparently the Calcutta Museum authorities (for they are the originators of the idea) came up again as soon as Lord Curzon returned.
Draft approved.

[Ampthill]

11-1-06

Issue
H. D. Taylor
12-1.06

[8o Nos. Ext dt January 1906].

Please type fair copy for [illegible] of His Excellency

the letter of the

A typed copy is submitted.

His Excellency the Governor.

9-12-05

2.

I think that [illegible] suggested [illegible]
the [illegible] museum [illegible]
[illegible] appointed [illegible]
the Calcutta Museum [illegible]
[illegible]

Educational Department.

18

C. No. 2107, from the Govt. of India, Nos.6879--6885-15-3, d/27-11-1905.

LETTER:--

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Department of Commerce & Industry,

Sir,

I am directed to reply to the letter of the Commerce and Industry Department, ~~Letter~~ No~~s~~.6879--6885-15-3 dated 27th November 1905, regarding a suggestion that an Inspector-General of Museums in India should be appointed.

2. The Government of India observe that the value of the collections in the majority of the Provincial Museums is impaired by a want of scientific co-ordination, that the distribution of objects has in many cases been haphazard and unscientific, that local administrations are unable in many cases to obtain proper advice, that in some cases the Museum which ought to be an object of credit to local Governments and of advantage as well as of interest to the community fails altogether to obtain those ends, that objects shown in certain Provincial Museums would more suitably find a place in other Provincial Museums

19

Museums, and that these defects are largely due to the absence of expert advice and friendly co-operation.

It would appear that, in the opinion of the Government of India, the majority of Provincial Museums are somewhat neglected, that the collections, even where they contain objects of value, are somewhat ill-arranged and represent "a confusion both of contents and ideas", that most of the Superintendents of Provincial Museums are men with no exceptional qualifications for their position, whose advice can scarcely be considered "expert" advice, that there exists no practice of friendly inter-communication and friendly co-operation between Superintendents of Provincial Museums and local administrations and that it would be unduly sanguine to expect any improvement unless a special department of Museum administration is created and placed under an officer responsible to the Government of India.

3. ~~I am directed to say that~~ His Excellency the Governor in Council is in ~~some~~ doubt whether the remarks ~~of the Government of India on the majority of Provincial Museums~~ to apply equally to the Madras Museum. ~~The Madras Museum, though no doubt it does [illegible] very valuable collection [illegible] is not, the Government of Madras hope, entirely discreditable to the Superintendent and to the Administration; they have spent considerable sums on it and only quite lately spent~~

the Govt. of India ~~have any~~ intend ~~specific reason for considering that~~

The G. in C. can safely affirm that none of the ~~animadversions~~ apprehensions which ~~the~~ ~~contained~~ G. of I. entertain regarding the management, the ~~scientific arrangement or the~~ utility of museums generally in India are applicable to this institution. It has had for years

V

G.O. No 535 Edl dt 31-8-04. S.

under the superintendence of a highly trained ~~&~~ experienced scientific expert who has made it in every respect a model of what a properly arranged Museum should be. Its popularity is proved by the great nos. that visit it every day.

4. On the general question of the appt. of an Inspr. Gen. for ~~[illegible]~~ India of Museums, the Govt. is strongly of opinion that the appt of such an officer wd. not on the whole serve any useful purpose. He might very likely be inferior in experience & knowledge to the local Supts. He wd. be wanting in any sympathetic understanding of local needs: & his intervention wd. be the cause of much friction & misunderstanding. At the same time the Govt. fully recognizes that good wd result from some system by which provl. Supts. shd be enabled to ~~meet~~ establish

Rs.30,000 from Provincial revenues in order to secure for it a unique collection of South India prehistoric implements and vessels; they have confidence in their Superintendent, believe him to be well-qualified for his post as well as diligent in the performance of his duties and are accustomed to turn to him confidently for advice.

4. No doubt the strictures of the Govt. of India ~~do~~ are not intended to apply in full measure to Madras, and it is not anticipated by the Government of India that an Inspector-General of Museums would find much to correct in the manner of exhibiting and arranging the Madras collections or would be able to offer advice much more valuable than the advice already at the disposal of the Madras Government. It is not for them to suggest measures for the improvement, in regard to these matters, of other Provincial Museums; but, ~~speaking for themselves~~, the Madras Government do not consider that the creation of a new appointment of Inspector General of Museums would serve any useful end.

5. There remains the question of the best manner of organizing a system of exchange of exhibits between the various Provincial Museums and between those Museums and the Imperial Museum. I am directed to say that, in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, the creation for this purpose of a special office is unnecessary. His Excellency in Council

between themselves friendly
intercommunicn of views & friendly
cooperation
~~exchange views~~ & arrange
for the exchange of exhibits

~~considers that the friendly inter-communication and friendly co-operation necessary, the absence of which is lamented by the Government of India,~~ This could be readily secured ~~better and more easily~~ by the institution of meetings of ~~Provincial~~ Superintendents at regular intervals, by requiring ~~Provincial~~ Superintendents to visit one another's Museums and to make themselves ~~thoroughly~~ acquainted with their contents, and by requiring reports to be drawn up by each ~~Provincial~~ Superintendent regarding present and future exchanges of exhibits, these reports to be submitted to the respective local Governments or administrations, which would, on considering ~~and digesting~~ the reports, communicate with other Provincial Govts or administrations, or delegate authority to the Supdts to make the exchanges. [It would possibly be advisable that a commission should be formed of all the advisers of Provincial Governments together with such other experts as the Government of India might appoint to visit the various Museums and report to the Government of India on the exchange of exhibits now shown in the various collections and on the general lines on which Provincial Superintendent should in future collect exhibits for one another; and any proposals regarding immediate exchanges that might be approved by the Government of India, after consulting local administrations, could then be carried out at once, while it would be open to the Government of India to formulate a general policy in regard to future exchanges for the guidance of local Governments. But] in the

Note.

This passage is submitted in case Government think an alternative proposal should be made. It is, perhaps, however, hardly the business of this Government to make alternative proposals; but only to give their views on the proposal in regard to which they are asked for their fiews.

A.G.
We may omit
H.S.

5 In the opinion of this Govt. some such system is all that is needed, at any rate so far as the Madras Museum is concerned.

G.T. 8/1
H 8/1/06

opinion of His Excellency in Council, it is unnecessary to appoint an officer permanently to arrange for exchanges, and it is considered that if such an officer is appointed, the local Government should have the power of vetoing the removal from their collections of any particular object. His Excellency in Council also considers that all correspondence, whether official or demi-official, between that officer and the local Superintendent, except on matters relating to statistics and reports of facts and the operation of departmental rules and orders, should be conducted through the local Government on the analogy of the rules laid down for the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India and the Director General of Education.

I would consider
creation of the
that the appointment
is unnecessary and
that it might result
in harm rather than
good being done.

G.O. No 1275 L dd 3-10-04. K
" " 412 Edl dd 6-7-04. Z

6. I am directed to add that unless a man of rare and uncommon tact and breadth of view could be found for the appointment His Excellency in Council fears that an ~~the [illegible]~~ Inspector-General of all Museums in India, with headquarters at Calcutta and Simla, might not have a proper understanding of local needs or regard for local views, might occasionally be disposed to over-ride ~~the result of the appointment might be neglect of local needs and disregard of local views, the over-riding of~~ the local expert in matters in which local knowledge is the best guide, and ~~the~~ to fetter~~ing of~~ the discretion of the local ~~officer~~ Museum Supdt, who should in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, if he is a man of any distinction, be given as free a hand as possible both in acquiring exhibits and in arranging them and should not be placed in a position in which it would be possible for a superior officer with somewhat different

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views and tastes to over-rule him; and, in fine, His Excellency in Council is not in favour of any such appointment as that suggested being made and considers that the creation of the appointment is unnecessary and that it might result in harm rather than good being done.

A.G.
14-12-05.

Educational Department.

D

C.No.2107 from the Govt. of India Nos.6879-6885 -15-3 d/ 27-11-05.

dispatched 18/1/6

5P

order no 23 Edl d/ 17th January 1906
P.S.

The Govt. of India will be addressed.

Letter no 24 Edl d/ 17th January 1906.

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India
Department of Commerce & Industry.

Sir,

I am directed to reply to the letter of the Commerce and Industry Department No.6879-6885-15-3 dated 27th November 1905 regarding a suggestion that an Inspector General of Museums in India should be appointed.

1P

2. The Govt. of India observe that the value of the collections in the majority of the Provincial Museums is impaired by a want of scientific coordination, that the distribution of objects has in many cases been haphazard and unscientific, that local administrations are unable in many cases to obtain proper advice, that in some cases the Museum which ought to be an object of credit to local Governments and of advantage as well as of interest to the community fails altogether to obtain those ends, that objects shown in certain Provincial Museums would more suitably find a place in other Provincial Museums, and that these

defects

defects are largely due to the absence of expert advice and friendly co-operation.

It would appear that, in the opinion of the Govt. of India, the majority of Provincial Museums are somewhat neglected, that the collections, even where they contain objects of value, are some what ill-arranged and represent "a confusion both of contents and ideas", that most of the Superintendents of Provincial Museums are men with no exceptional qualifications for their position, whose advice can scarcely be considered "expert" advice, that there exists no practice of friendly inter-communication and friendly co-operation between Superintendents of Provincial Museums and local administrations and that it would be unduly sanguine to expect any improvement unless a special department of Museum administration is created and placed under an officer responsible to the Govt. of India.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council is in doubt whether the Govt. of India intendtheir remarks to apply to the Madras Museum. The Governor in Council can safely affirm that none of the apprehensions which the Govt. of India entertain regarding the management, the scientific arrangement or the utility of Museums generally in India are applicable to this institution. It has been ~~had~~ for years under the Superintendence of

of a highly trained, experienced scientific expert who has made it in every respect a model of what a properly arranged Museum should be. Its popularity is proved by the great nunbers that visit it every day.

4. On the general question of the appointment of an Inspector General of Museums for all India the Governor in Council is strongly of opinion that the appointment of such an officer would not on the whole serve any useful purpose. He might very likely be inferior in experience and knowledge to the local Superintendents. He would be wanting in any sympathetic understanding of local needs; and his intervention would be the cause of much friction and misunderstanding. At the same time the Governor in Council fully recognizes that good would result from some system by which provincial Superintendents should be enabled to establish between themselves friendly intercommunication of views and friendly co-operation and arrange for the exchange of exhibits. This could be readily secured by the institution of meetings of Superintendents at regular intervals, by requiring Superintendents to visit one another's Museums and to make themselves acquainted with their contents, and by requiring reports to be drawn up by each Superintendent regarding present and future exchanges of

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of exhibits, these reports to be submitted to the respective local Governments or Administrations which would, on considering the reports, communicate with other Provincial Governments or Administrations, or delegate authority to the Superintendents to make the exchanges.

5. In the opinion of this Government some such system is all that is needed at any rate so far as the Madras Museum is concerned.

9-1-06

G.S.F.
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G.S.
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