[B.]

500—19-1-06.

Educational (1907) Department.

1

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 361
362

DATED 11-6-07

⑱

[Despatch Abstract.]

Experimental Conference of Curators of Museums – Informing the Govt. of India that this Government propose to depute Mr. Edgar Thurston, Superintendent Government Museum, Madras to the ——— to be held in Calcutta.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd. } 1907. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 361, 11th June 1907.

Experimental Conference of Curators of Museums.

Informing the Government of India that this Government propose to depute Mr. Edgar Thurston, Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, to the — to be held in Calcutta.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from B. Robertson, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Officiating 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—Simla, the 27th April 1907.
No.—3651—3657-15.

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 24, dated the 17th January 1906, in which you convey the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council on the suggestions made in Mr. Harvey's letter No. 6879—6885-15-3, dated the 27th November 1905, regarding the appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums in India. The Government of India have given their careful consideration to the replies received to this letter and have, in view of the objections put forward by the majority of the local Governments consulted, decided not to proceed further with the proposal.

2. As an alternative to the appointment of an Inspector-General the Governments of Madras and Bombay submitted suggestions for co-operation among Provincial Museums through the medium of periodical Conferences of Curators, and I am now to enclose copies of their letters * on the subject. The Government of India agree that useful results may be expected from any system which will bring the Provincial Museums into closer touch with each other and with the Indian Museum. Under existing circumstances, however, they question whether it would be practicable to organize a formal annual Conference such as is suggested in the enclosure to the letter from the Bombay Government. They consider that, for the present, a preferable course would be to invite local Governments and Native States interested in the development of Provincial Museums to send representatives, who need not necessarily be Curators of Museums, to an experimental Conference to be held in Calcutta during the cold weather of 1907–1908. If the suggestion meets with general approval, a programme of the subjects to be discussed will be prepared in advance and these will be submitted for the consideration of the Conference. The resolutions and proceedings of the Conference would then be circulated to local Governments for opinion, and after consideration of their replies it will be possible to judge how far an annual or formal organization is practicable.

* From the Government of Madras, No. 24, dated 17th January 1906.
From the Government of Bombay, No. 5021-A., dated 24th August 1906, and enclosure.

I am now to suggest that, with the permission of His Excellency, the Government of India may be informed of the number and the names of the delegates, if any, whom the Government of Madras propose to depute to this Conference, and to invite attention to the fact that the representatives of the local Governments need not necessarily be Curators. I am also to enclose a preliminary programme of subjects which has been suggested for discussion. The Government of India will be glad if any additional subjects could be suggested by the Government of Madras.

3. On receipt of the replies from all local Governments and States who may desire to send delegates, the Trustees of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, or a small local Committee, will be placed in direct communication with the nominated delegates in order to settle the date and any other necessary details for the Conference.

Enclosures.

Preliminary programme of subjects to be discussed at the Conference of Curators of Provincial Museums to be held at Calcutta in the cold weather of 1907–1908.

(1) Systematic exchange of duplicate, and casts of unique specimens.
(2) Provincial organization of collecting in the field.
(3) Disposal of "type" specimens, their registration in catalogues distributed for the information of workers. The registration of new specimens.
(4) Recognized special functions of particular Provincial museums.
(5) Classification of public exhibits and reference collections.
(6) Methods for the preservation of specimens and labels specially suitable to the climate.
(7) The publication of results.
(8) The preparation of guides for the public.

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—the 17th January 1906.
No.—24.

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.

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 heads, 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.

Letter—from R. E. Enthoven, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department.
To—the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.
Dated—Bombay Castle, the 24th August 1906.
No.—5021-A.

I am directed to communicate the views of this Government regarding the proposal contained in letter No. 6879—6885-15-3, dated the 27th November 1905, for the appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums in India.

2. The Government of India have invited the attention of this Government to the want of scientific co-ordination in Indian Museums, the absence of organized arrangements for exchange, the requirements of the Local Governments in connection with expert advice, not locally available, and the faulty distribution of local exhibits. I am to suggest, for the consideration of that Government, that these defects could be efficiently remedied by a system of annual conferences of Curators of Government Museums at different centres in successive years. It seems probable that the Curators, as the working heads of the museums, would be in closer touch with the work than the proposed Inspector-General. Any desirable improvements that would be ventilated at such a conference would doubtless be accepted by the weight of an important majority, whereas proposals aiming merely at the introduction of uniformity in minor matters would meet with little support.

3. In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, such a meeting of Curators would be of no little benefit to these officers inasmuch as it would afford them the opportunity of inspecting the contents of other museums. In this connection I am to invite attention to the Report[*] of the Director-General of Archæology on this subject, and to remark that the presence, at such meetings of Curators, of local officers interested in Archæology, Geology, Natural History, etc., has, in the opinion of this Government, much to commend it. As an instance of the special value that attaches to similar meetings, I am to remark that recent gathering of the Principals of the Schools of Art at Calcutta led to the opening of negotiations for restoring to the Punjab certain much needed fragments of Græco-Bactrian sculpture, now in the Victoria and Albet Museum, Bombay.

[*] No. 687, dated the 9th August 1906, copy enclosed.

4. The scheme briefly outlined in this communication is in the opinion of this Government, preferable to the creation of the appointment suggested; and His Excellency the Governor in Council would be glad if means could be found to give it an adequate trial before proceeding to appoint a central officer charged with the inspection of all Indian Government Museums.

Letter—from H. Cousens, Esq., Officiating Director-General of Archæology in India.
To—the Secretary to Government of Bombay, General Department.
Dated—Simla, the 9th August 1906.
No.—687.

In reply to your letter No. 4398 of the 25th July, which was forwarded to me to Simla, I have the honour to reply as follows.

2. In connection with the proposal to appoint an Inspector-General of Museums for India, I consider that the alternative proposal that there should be an annual meeting of the Curators of Government Museums at a different centre each year, more workable and more likely to make for efficiency than the original proposal.

3. The Curators, after all, will always be the working heads of museums, and will be in closer touch with museum work than an Inspector-General could ever hope to be. But I think that, in order that the work be carried out intelligently and thoroughly, the status of Curator in most museums requires to be considerably raised, so that only good practical men may be entertained—men who would be likely to take an intelligent interest in the work over and above that of it being a mere means of livelihood—such men should be recruited from the best museums at home. The smaller museums, that cannot afford this, might be put in charge of good men selected from the staff of the larger museums in India.

4. The annual meeting of Curators would be of the greatest possible benefit, both to themselves and their museums, as their ideas would not only be enlarged by the discussions that would take place at the meetings, but would be considerably widened by their inspection of the contents of other museums and the study of their methods. To these meetings Curators of non-Government Museums might also be invited who would join in the discussions but who would not have any vote.

5. At the first meeting a President and Secretary might be elected by the Curators of Government Museums present, from among themselves, who would continue to hold these honorary posts for the year or until all proceedings have been passed on to Government and fresh office-bearers are appointed at the following meeting.

6. The local Superintendent of Archæology of the Province in which the meeting takes place, should be an ex-officio member of the Committee for the time being, and should have a vote on all matters pertaining to antiquities. Similarly, other local officers might be appointed to the Committee, for the time being, in connection with other branches such as Geology, Natural History, etc., each to have a vote upon matters appertaining to those branches. Amongst other matters that would come up for discussion would be the general administration of museums, and suggestions for improvements, the best apparatus for storing and exhibiting exhibits; the fixing upon uniform methods of treatment of exhibits, such as classifying, labelling, cataloguing, etc., and the best ways of making museums more popular, and making them useful as educational institutions, especially with regard to local arts and industries.

7. All proceedings, proposals, and recommendations of the Committee would be forwarded through the Local Government to the Government of India for final orders, and the Local Government would, for the time being, settle all such points as the place of the meeting, and the period for which the meeting should sit, sanctioning any extension of the latter if requisite.

8. Curators of Government Museums should send in to the Secretary at least three months before the time of the meeting, a list of all matters and proposals that they may wish to bring before the Committee, so that that officer may be able to have them printed and circulated among the Curators. This will enable the Curators to have definite ideas of what is likely to come before the meeting and to be prepared for it. The Curators of non-Government Museums might also be invited to do the same.

9. The proceedings should be printed, with the Government of India orders thereon, for distribution among museums, and for sale.

10. For current expenses connected with these meetings a small annual grant will be needed, all travelling expenses being met by the Local Governments according to Civil Service Regulations, who may send Curators to the meetings.

11. The management of museums might be left in the hands of the Local Governments, subject only to such modifications that the Government of India might suggest from time to time after considering the proposals sent in after each annual meeting.

12. Perhaps, in addition to the work at the meetings, Curators, when assembled, might visit the local workshops and schools of art, where arts and industries, represented in the various museums are being practised with a view to exchanging ideas and suggesting improvements.

No. 3658—3659-15.

A copy, with a copy of the letters from the Governments of Madras and Bombay, is forwarded to the Foreign Department with the request that this department may be favoured with the information called for in paragraph 2 in the case of any Native States who may be willing to send delegates to the proposed Conference.

A copy, with a copy of the letters from the Governments of Madras and Bombay, is forwarded to the Secretary to the Trustees of the Indian Museum in continuation of letter No. 10242-12, dated the 28th December 1906.

Order—No. 361, Educational, dated 11th June 1907.

The Government of India will be addressed.

[Here enter letter No. 362, Educational, dated 11th June 1907.]

(True Extract.)

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 362.

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 Ootacamund, the 11th June 1907.

SIR,

I am directed to reply to your letter No. 3651—3657-15, dated the 27th April 1907, on the subject of holding in Calcutta during the cold weather of 1907-1908 an experimental Conference of Curators or other representatives of Provincial Museums.

2. The Government of India desire to be informed of the number and names of the delegates whom the Government of Madras would propose to depute to the proposed Conference and enquire whether this Government could suggest any additions to the preliminary programme of subjects to be discussed at the Conference.

3. I am to state that the Governor in Council proposes to depute Mr. Edgar Thurston, Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, to the Conference, and to say that it is hoped that it may be possible to hold the Conference either in December 1907 or subsequent to the 10th of January 1908 as the time would be most convenient for Mr. Thurston's leaving his duties here. The Local Government have no additional subjects to suggest for inclusion in the programme.

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

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

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., Nos. 361, 362, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 11TH JUNE 1907.

[SUBJECT.—*Proposed conference of Curators of Museums in India.*]

Previous paper.
G.Os., Nos. 23, 24, *Educational, dated* 17*th January* 1906.

From the Government of India, dated 6*th May* 1907, *No.* 3651—3657-15.

Advance copies of the letter have been circulated.

2. The letter from the Government of India may, it is submitted, be referred u.o. to the Superintendent, Government Museum, for remarks with reference to paragraph 2 thereof.

T.K.—9-5-07.

C. A. SOUTER—10-5-07.

Yes.

H. D. TAYLOR—11-5-07.

Superintendent, Government Museum.

I do not think it necessary that the Madras Museum should be represented at the proposed experimental conference in Calcutta. The resolutions thereof, so far as they affect this museum, could be criticised when they are circulated to the Madras Government.

I was for nearly two years in executive charge of a large section of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and am familiar with the working of that institution. Moreover, I am still in touch with various officers thereof by correspondence. I have also visited many of the provincial museums (Jeypore, Lucknow, Bombay, etc.), and have nothing to learn from their representatives. The policy of the Madras Museum was shaped by me, in consultation with Sir M. E. Grant Duff, in 1885, and has been adhered to on the whole with success, and, in the eve of my service, I am not likely to change it as the result of attending conferences.

E. THURSTON—15-5-07.

We may perhaps inform the Government of India, as suggested by Mr. Thurston that this Government do not propose to depute any one to attend the conference. It is not necessary that the representatives should be curators. Mr. Thurston does not suggest any additional subject for discussion.

H. D. TAYLOR—18-5-07.

It is not quite the point what good Mr. Thurston would receive from the conference; but what advantage other curators, etc., would derive from his great experience.

Please return file u.o. to him and ask him if he has any strong objection to attending.

G. S. F[ORBES]—21-5-07.
H. D. TAYLOR—22-5-07.

The file will be forwarded u.o. to Mr. Thurston with the request that he will state whether he has any strong objection to attending the conference under reference.

K. Rangaswami Aiyangar—22-5-07.

C. A. Souter—22-5-07.

Superintendent, Government Museum.

I must confess that I am not much in sympathy with the proposed conferences. The Honourable Member has, however, put the case in a way which, for obvious reasons, I was unable to do; and, if Government wishes, I will gladly attend the conference to be held during the next cold weather. I am however, specially anxious to be in Madras from January 5th to 7th, 1908.

E. Thurston—25-5-07.

Mr. Thurston may be asked to attend the conference and India may be asked to arrange that it may be held either in December 1907 or subsequent to January 10th, 1908.

H. D. Taylor—27-5-07.

That sometime about then would be the most convenient for us.

G. S. F[orbes].

Yes.

G. S. F[orbes]—28-5-07.

Draft please.

H. D. Taylor—29-5-07.

A draft is placed below for approval.

T.K.—30-5-07.

K. Rangaswami Aiyangar—1-6-07.

C. A. Souter—3-6-07.
H. D. Taylor—4-6-07.
G. S. F[orbes]—6-6-07.
A. L[awley]—8-6-07.

Issue.

H. D. Taylor—10-6-07.

[G.O., Nos. 361, 362, Educational, dated 11th June 1907.]

[E.]
1,000—6-9-06.

Educational Department.

CURRENT FILE.

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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, etc., 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.

Curator

Cov'd 8/5/07 – spare copies were available only to-day.

1

Ed C No. 1058
8

Regd 9-5-07

No. 3651—3657-15.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

PRACTICAL ARTS AND MUSEUMS.

1P

FROM

B. ROBERTSON, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL
4 -MAY 1907
SECRETARIAT

Dated Simla, the 27th April 1907

SIR,

D.

I AM directed to refer to your letter No. 24 dated the 17th January 1906, in which you convey the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, on the suggestions made in Mr. Harvey's letter No. $\frac{6879-6985}{15-3}$, dated the 27th November 1905, regarding the appointment of an Inspector-General of Museums in India. The Government of India have given their careful consideration to the replies received to this letter and have, in view of the objections put forward by the majority of the Local Governments consulted, decided not to proceed further with the proposal.

2. As an alternative to the appointment of an Inspector-General the Governments of Madras and Bombay submitted suggestions for co-operation among Provincial Museums through the medium of periodical Conferences of Curators, and I am now to enclose copies of their letters* on the subject. The Government of India agree that useful results may be expected from any system which will bring the Provincial Museums into closer touch with each other and with the Indian Museum. Under existing circumstances, however, they question whether it would be practicable to organise a formal annual Conference such as is suggested in the enclosure to the letter from the Bombay Government. They consider that, for the present, a preferable course would be to invite Local Governments and Native States interested in the developmentof provincial Museums, to send representatives, who need not necessarily be Curators of Museums, to an experimental Conference to be held in Calcutta during the cold weather of 1907-08. If the suggestion meets with general approval, a programme of the subjects to be discussed will be prepared in advance and these will be submitted for the consideration of the Conference. The resolutions and proceedings of the Conference would then be circulated to Local Governments for opinion, and after consideration of their replies, it will be possible to judge how far an annual or fomal orrganisation is practicable.

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3. On receipt of the replies from all Local Governments and States who may desire to send delegates, the Trustees of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, or a small local Committee, will be placed in direct communication with the nominated delegates in order to settle the date and any other necessary details for the Conference.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H Robertson

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

DS

No. 3658-3659—15.

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(7) The publication of results.

(8) The preparation of guides for the public.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

PRACTICAL ARTS AND MUSEUMS.

FROM

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

To

The Secretary to the
Government of Madras,
Educational Department.

No. 3651-3657—15 OF 1907.

Dated Simla, the 27th April 1907.

Received

Proposed Conference of Curators of Museums in India.

G. C. Press, Simla—No. 46 C. & I. D.—27-4 07.-463—J.N.G

No. 24, dated Fort St. George, 17th January 1906.

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To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.

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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.

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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 submittel 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.

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To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.

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4. The scheme briefly outlined in this communication is in the opinion of this Government, preferable to the creation of the appointment suggested; and His Excellency the Governor in Council would be glad if means could be found to give it an adequate trial before proceeding to appoint a central officer charged with the inspection of all Indian Government Museums.

No. 687, dated Simla, the 9th August 1906.

From—H. Cousens, Esq., Offg. Director-General of Archæology in India,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General Department.

In reply to your letter No. 4398 of the 25th July, which was forwarded to me to Simla, I have the honour to reply as follows.

2. In connection with the proposal to appoint an Inspector-General of Museums for India, I consider that the alternative proposal that there should be an annual meeting of the Curators of Government Museums at a different centre each year, more workable and more likely to make for efficiency than the original proposal.

3. The Curators, after all, will always be the working heads of museums, and will be in closer touch with museum work than an Inspector-General could ever hope to be. But I think that, in order that the work be carried out intelligently and thoroughly, the status of Curator in most museums requires to be considerably raised, so that only good practical men may be entertained—men who would be likely to take an intelligent interest in the work over and above that of it being a mere means of livelihood—such men should be recruited from the best museums at home. The smaller museums, that cannot afford this, might be put in charge of good men selected from the staff of the larger museums in India.

4. The annual meeting of Curators would be of the greatest possible benefit, both to themselves and their museums, as their ideas would not only be enlarged by the discussions that would take place at the meetings, but would be considerably widened by their inspection of the contents of other museums and the study of their methods. To these meetings Curators of non-Government Museums might also be invited who would join in the discussions but who would not have any vote.

5. At the first meeting a President and Secretary might be elected by the Curators of Government Museums present, from among themselves, who would continue to hold these honorary posts for the year or until all proceedings have been passed on to Government and fresh office-bearers are appointed at the following meeting.

6. The local Superintendent of Archæology of the Province in which the meeting takes place, should be an ex-officio member of the Committee for the time being, and should have a vote on all matters pertaining to antiquities. Similarly, other local officers might be appointed to the Committee, for the time being, in connection with other branches such as Geology, Natural History, etc., each to have a vote upon matters appertaining to those branches. Amongst other matters that would come up for discussion would be the general administration of museums, and suggestions for improvements, the best apparatus for storing and exhibiting exhibits; the fixing upon uniform methods of treatment of exhibits, such as classifying, labelling, cataloguing, etc., and the best ways of making museums more popular, and making them useful as educational institutions, especially with regard to local arts and industries.

7. All proceedings, proposals, and recommendations of the Committee would be forwarded through the Local Government to the Government of India for final orders, and the Local Government would, for the time being, settle all such points as the place of the meeting, and the period for which the meeting should sit, sanctioning any extension of the latter if requisite.

8. Curators of Government Museums should send in to the Secretary at least three months before the time of the meeting, a list of all matters and proposals that they may wish to bring before the Committee, so that that officer may be able to have them printed and circulated among the Curators. This will enable the Curators to have definite ideas of what is likely to come before the meeting and to be prepared for it. The Curators of non-Government Museums might also be invited to do the same.

9. The proceedings should be printed, with the Government of India orders thereon, for distribution among museums, and for sale.

10. For current expenses connected with these meetings a small annual grant will be needed, all travelling expenses being met by the Local Governments according to Civil Service Regulations, who may send Curators to the meetings.

11. The management of museums might be left in the hands of the Local Governments, subject only to such modifications that the Government of India might suggest from time to time after considering the proposals sent in after each annual meeting.

12. Perhaps, in addition to the work at the meetings, Curators, when assembled, might visit the local workshops and schools of art, where arts and industries, represented in the various museums, are being practised with a view to exchanging ideas and suggesting improvements.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 46 C. & I. D.—27-4-07.—463—J. P. C.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL
2 7 MAY 1907
SECRETARIAT.

Previous papers

7

G.O. 23-24
17-1-06.

Educational Department. 12

G.O. Nos 361, 362
Edn 11-6-07

C.No.1058 From the Govt. of India, No.3651-3657-15, d/ 6th May 1907.

VP

Subject.

Proposed conference of Curators of Museums in India.

A

Advance copies of the letter have been circulated.

2. The letter from the Government of India may, it is submitted, be referred u.o. to the Superintendent, Government Museum, for remarks with reference to para.2 thereof.

T.K.
9-5-07.

Lee
Cas
10.5.7

Yes
H.D.
11-5-07

Ed No. 1058-1
11-5-07

Desp 11/5

S.G.M. u.o.

I ~~do not think~~

I do not think it necessary that the Madras Museum should be represented at the proposed Experimental Conference in Calcutta. The resolutions thereof, so far as they affect this Museum, could be criticised when they are circulated to the Madras Govt.

I was for nearly two years in executive charge of a large section of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, and am familiar with the working of that Institution. Moreover, I am still in touch with various officers thereof by correspondence. I have also visited many of the provincial museums (Jeypore, Lucknow, Bombay, etc), and have nothing to learn from their representatives. The policy of the Madras Museum was started by me, in consultation with Sir M. E. Grant Duff, in 1885, and has been adhered to on the whole with success. And, in the eve of my service, I am not likely to change it as the result of attending Conferences.

15.5.07.

No 321
Despd 17/5/07

we may perhaps inform the Govt. of India, as suggested by Mr Thurston that this Govt. do not propose to depute any one to attend the conference. It is not necessary that the representatives should be Curators. Mr Thurston does not suggest any additional subjects for discussion

18.5.07

AM.

It is not quite the point what good Mr Thurston wd. receive from the conference; but what advantage other Curators &c wd. derive from his great experience.
Please return file u.o. to him & ask him if he has any strong objection to attending

21/5

22.5.07

The file will be forwarded u.o. to Mr. Thurston with the request that he will state whether he has any strong objection to attending the Conference under reference.

22.5.07

22.5.7.

D.P.
22/5/07

Ed. u.o. no. 1058–2
22.5.07.

S.G. M. u.o.

10 4

15 4P

I must confess that I am not much in sympathy with the proposed Conferences. The Hon: Member has, however, put the case in a way which, for obvious reasons, I was unable to do; and, if Government wishes, I will gladly attend the Conference to be held during the next cold weather. I am, however, specially anxious to be in Madras from January 5th to 7th, 1908.

25. 5. 07.

No 337

Mr Thurston may be asked to attend ~~the~~ conference and Govt may be asked to arrange that it may be held either in December 07 or subsequent to January 10th 1908

that some time about then Wd. be the most convenient for us

HOS
27.5.07

HM.

Yes
28/5

Draft please
28.5.07

T.K.
Please draft
29-5-07

A draft is placed below for approval.

TH.
30.5.07

HD
1.6.07

Sec
Col
8.6.7.

I HM

II H.E. the Governor

HD
4.6.07

6/6

8.6.07

Issue
10.6.07

361-362-Edl

12 Educational Department. 17

C. No.1058, from the Government of India, No.3651--3657-15, d/27-4-07.

48

O R D E R:-- 361 d/ 11-6.07.
P.S.

The Government of India will be addressed.

Dp 10/6/07

RDD 1.6.07

CBS 3.6.7

HRD 6.6.07

L E T T E R:-- 362. d/ 11-6.07

despatched 11/6/07

To

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

Sir,

I am directed to reply to your letter No.3651--3657-15, dated the 27th April 1907, on the subject of holding in Calcutta during the cold weather of 1907-08 an experimental conference of curators or other representatives of Provincial Museums.

2. The Government of India desire to be informed of the number and names of the delegates whom the Government of Madras would propose to depute to the proposed conference

conference and enquire whether this Government could suggest any additions to the preliminary programme of subjects to be discussed at the conference.

3. I am to state that the Governor in Council proposes to depute Mr. Edgar Thurston, Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, to the conference and to say that it is wished that ~~request that the Government of India~~ it may be possible ~~will arrange~~ to hold the Conference either in December 1907 or subsequent to the 10th of January 1908 as the time date ~~some time~~ that time ~~about they would~~ be most convenient for ~~this Government.~~ ~~I am to add that~~ The Local Government have no additional subjects to suggest for inclusion in the programme.

Mr Thurston's leaving his duties here

I have etc.

T.M.
1-6-07

1.6.07

Cld
3.6.7.

Copy to Mr. E. Thurston. S.G.M.

Despatched
11/6/07

rst copy sent to Press.

eturned for signature.

Despatched in print.

Number of copies required.
- Order complete. —40
- Letter only. —— 50
- Order complete with Letter.

Read again G.O., No. , dated 190

1-6P

Mt 15

Current No. 1058-A

Enclosures to C. No.

Order of Government. A

Notes A

Letter to Government.

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original.

Press

Please show proof

CS

13.6.07

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.