M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 12

(2) Date of repair 26 Feb 1937

(3) Initials of the Reference CP

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1251 Press Mis. 101-102

Dated 9-6- 1875.

617

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Public Libraries.

No. 101. Read the following letter from Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 25th May 1875, No. 291:—

I have the honor to submit, for the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that it might be suggested to the Municipal and Local Fund Boards to lay the foundation of a Public Library at such of the towns as might seem to them desirable.

2. During the inquiries which my pursuits have rendered necessary, the absence from localities of books of reference has been a source of regret, and recently this has been very apparent to me. When, in 1850, I undertook to form the Government Central Museum, I planned, too, as part of it, the formation of a Public Library for Madras, and it is pleasant to see the number* of books which, up to this time, have been gathered into it, though no great effort was ever made in that direction. And it would be the same with the Libraries of the Municipalities and Local Fund Boards; they would grow, with but little effort; and before three or four years passed by they would be large enough to be of value to their respective communities. I have found that except in the case of books, the purchase of which for some educational or professional object is compulsory, the prices ordinarily charged for books of a kind that ought to be read and examined by the people of the South of India are above their means, but what an individual could not afford would be no burthen to the Public Library of the Municipal or Local Fund Board town.

* "6,996 Volumes and 73,069 Patent Office volumes and papers at this date."

3. I am aware that the people are longing for books, and am satisfied that all that is needed is for Government to make the suggestion to Municipalities and Local Fund Boards for the nuclei of Public Libraries to be at once formed all over the country.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1875, No. 1251.

The Governor in Council is not satisfied that the time has arrived for establishing Public Libraries in the Provinces, where education is still in a very backward state.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Financial Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter from the Surgeon General, Indian Medl Dept. dy 25th May 75. No. 291.

Order thereon. Ordered. 9 June 1875. No. 1251.

The Governor in Council is not satisfied that the time has arrived for establishing Public Libraries in the Provinces, or where education is still in a very backward state.

Alr

To

The Surgeon General. 6
Indian Medl Dept.

Dispd 21/6

[30 Lts

Govt. of Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated June, 9th.

Issued

Rect.

G.O., 9th June 1875, No. 1251.

JUNE.
Nos. 101-102.

Public Libraries.—The Surgeon-General I
Medical Department, informed, with refer
his suggestion, that Government are not sa
that the time has arrived for establishing P
Libraries in the Provinces.

Public Libraries

4

No. 291

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL, I. M. D.,
Fort Saint George, 25 May 1875.

From

SURGEON-GENERAL EDWARD BALFOUR,
Surgeon-General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government.
Financial Department
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that it might be suggested to the Municipal and Local Fund Boards, the foundation of a Public Library at such of the towns as might seem to them desirable.

2. During the inquiries which my pursuits have rendered necessary, the absence from localities of books of reference has been a source of regret and recently this has been very apparent to me. When, in 1850, I undertook to form the Government Central Museum, I planned, too, as part of it, the formation of a public Library for Madras, and it is pleasant to see the number* of books which, up to this time, have been gathered into it though no great effort was ever made in that direction. And it would be the same with the Libraries of the Municipalities and Local Fund Boards; they would grow, with but little effort, and before three or four years passed by, they would be large enough to be of value to their respective communities. I have found that except in the case of books the purchase of which for some educational or professional object, is compulsory, the prices ordinarily charged for books

* "6,990 Volumes and "73,067 Patent Office "Volumes & papers "at this date."

Financial Department.

1875.

From

Surgeon-General E. BALFOUR,
Surgeon-General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To

The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Financial Depte
Fort St. George

Dated 25 May

Despatched

Received 29 — — No. 1257

No. 291

Subject.

Suggesting that Govt. ask the Municipal & Local Fund Boards to lay the foundation of a Public Library at such towns as might seem to them desirable.

With a view to the Board's Proceedings of this day's date.

Communicated to the Municipal & Local Fund Boards.

101.

Have not seen any list of towns. Municipalities to be asked to say which towns they desire libraries in.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
EDWARD BALFOUR
Surgeon-General
& Sanitary Commissioner
with the Govt. of Madras.

of a kind that ought to be read, and examined by the people of the town of India are above their means, but what an individual could not afford, would be no burden to the Public Library of the Municipal or Local Fund Board town.

3 Am aware that the people are hoping for loans, and am satisfied that all that is needed, is for Government to make the suggestion to Municipalities and Local Fund Boards, for the needful Public Libraries to be established per the country.

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

Finl.

G.O. 9th June, 1875, No. 1251.

Nos. 101-102-

Public Libraries. The Surgeon Genl., Judl., Inel., Dept., informed, with reference to his suggestion, that Govt. are not satisfied that the time has arrived for establishing Public Libraries in the Provinces.