

Home (191 9.) Department.

(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1379

DATED 7—x—13

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reading Rooms and Libraries.

Recording papers relating to the suggestion of the Government of India on the establishment of-----in towns and villages.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

To Ed
(This was addressed to
me & name)
all
10-8

Government of India

Home Department

From,

H. D. Craik Esquire I.C.S.,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

A circular ink stamp from the U.S. Department of the Interior. The outer ring contains the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR" at the top and "SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT" at the bottom. In the center, the date "19-AUG-1943" is stamped. There are handwritten marks "7c" and "The" near the top and right edges of the stamp, respectively.

The Chief Secretary to the Government
of Madras.

Simla, the 11th August 1919

Sir,

I am directed to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in / ^{Council} ~~the~~ an extract from the report of a secret agent dated the 15th July 1919 regarding the establishment of reading rooms and libraries in towns and villages. The local Government will doubtless give this suggestion such consideration as is possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

18. AUG. 1919
SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF MADRAS
HOME DEPARTMENT

H. J. Crank

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

A circular library stamp from the University of Michigan Library. The text "UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY" is curved along the top inner edge, and "ANN ARBOR, MICH." is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "1949" is stamped.

RECEIVED
12 FEB 1971
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18 AUG 1919
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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GOVT. OF INDIA

Extract from a report by a Secret Agent dated the
15th July 1919 (Regr: No. 4096)

X X X X X

There is another matter to which also I should like
to call attention. It is the establishment of reading rooms
and libraries in towns and villages where useful, loyal and
instructive literature could be made available for perusal by
the people. There are at present two kinds of reading rooms
and libraries in the country; viz. those maintained by District
and Municipal Boards or by Government in connection with
Schools and Colleges and those provided by political organiza-
tions with the object of helping their special propaganda.
The latter do much mischief and require to be brought under
effective and stringent control, whilst the former stand in
need of improvement and strengthening. May constitute a
valuable means of furthering loyal and patriotic propaganda
and such can be done to enhance their usefulness.

X X X X X

Home (Mis) Dept.

Reading Rooms and Libraries

[No 5540] From the Govt of India, Home Dept.
No 108 of 11th Aug 1919

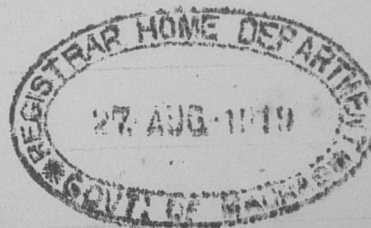
MS.

The suggestion of the Govt of India as regards the establishment of reading rooms and libraries in towns and villages may in the first instance be remitted to Mr. Gwynn no. for remarks.

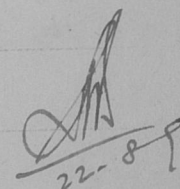
SPP
21.8.19

P.O. no. for favour of
Remarks as to whether
the former class of
library could be utilised in
connection with the R.D.'s activities.
With the latter class
or the measure it calls for we
have nothing to do.

Home (Mis) no. 5540-1
22.8.19



P.O. no.


22.8.19

V.S.



We have made the invited the secretaries of all libraries to become honorary correspondents of the Board and will send our literature to all who accept.

We might also I think offer advice to libraries as to the new literature which it would be worth their while to buy. I mean to put this suggestion before the Board. We could also advise libraries about the started on the books to get

We might do something to stimulate the foundation of new libraries by circulating ~~the~~ catalogue of suggested books & periodicals which we suggest as suitable for a municipal library ~~note~~ noting the price of each. I mean to put this & points before the P Board. I don't at present see how to go beyond this

Yours
26.8.19

Ms. -

Home (Mis) Dept.

No ^{further} action appears necessary. These papers may be

Recorded.

What about school libraries. See India in 197-18 top of p 127

SM
28.8.19
Le
28.8.19.

19.9

I think that for the purpose in view we shall have to go further,
 2. We shall have to supply books at our cost which we consider would be useful in this connection. Some books may be ~~put~~ outright to some of the libraries. Some may be lent for definite periods, & then again circulated to the libraries

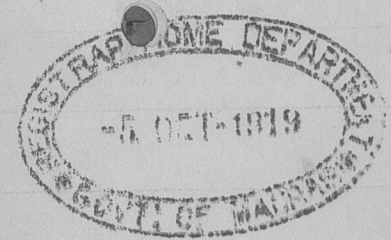
3. As we want as many public men to read the books as possible, is it advisable to introduce this procedure to the second class of libraries also?

4. Then there is another question. How to provide access - especially in the case of the 1st class of libraries - to non members? Can any suggestion be held out to the Secretaries that the books lent by us are meant for a wider circle of readers? How to define? Or can we make a condition that some one connected with the library shall be bound to give a public reading of our books at least once a week?

The Pub Off will consider further report

P.O. W.D.

W.D.
3/9/19



Home (M) 1105540-2
 3.9.19

Note for the members of the Board.

I circulated a suggestion from the Secretariat that the Publicity Board should assist local libraries. Since then, I have had further suggestions from the Secretariat that we should do more than what was suggested in my note. One Member of the Board has also suggested to me that we should consider the question of circulating boxes of books to the different individuals or libraries who are prepared to subscribe the fees. This plan has of course been used in other countries. It seems a good idea. The question is how we can make it practicable and induce the local libraries to make use of it. A list of local libraries is attached. As you know, we propose to establish a Publicity Bureau Library in Madras. We might perhaps circulate catalogues of this library to local libraries and permit them to call for any book they wish which is contained in our catalogue to be retained for a period of say three months. This would involve buying duplicate copies of a good many books. It would also involve something in postage. So, we should have to charge a fee if the plan is to be self-supporting. Alternatively, we might ourselves select say a dozen books to be sent to a library to be retained for three months. At the end of the three months, we might arrange to send those dozen books to another library and substitute another dozen in its place. Here again, the expenditure would be considerable and the libraries would have to pay a substantial fee. I am not sure how many libraries would agree to do this for books of our selection. I should be glad of suggestions. You have no doubt heard of the Book train which the

5
Bolshevists sent touring round Russia.

J.T.Gwynn,
7-9-1919.

I doubt very much whether we can do anything really useful in the way of helping up country libraries. It seems to me that the most we could think of doing would be to let them have a catalogue of the books in our library. We might perhaps lend occasionally as an exceptional measure, but the books in greatest demand would most likely be those which were most in request here. Our library it seems to me must be a consulting library and not a lending library.

E.Monteith Macphail,
9-9-1919.

I do not think that the Board could afford to maintain a circulating Library. If a list of publications likely to interest the public be periodically published that would meet the needs of the reading public. Intending purchasers could apply to the Board for publications not available in the market and the Board could supply such.

M.D.Devadoss,
10-9-19.

Too much at present.

T.Rangachari,
10-9-19.

Baroda?
The Board's system might give some useful hints. I suggest Mr.Gwynn procure the book published the other day describing its operation.

R.W.Brock.
10-9-1919.

P77

6
Extract from the Minutes of the meeting of the Publicity Board held at the Chief Secretariat on 13th September 1919.

x

x

x

(13) To consider suggestions regarding the help to be given by the Publicity Board to local libraries (Note in circulation).

The question cannot be usefully considered till the Publicity Board has set up a library of its own.

x

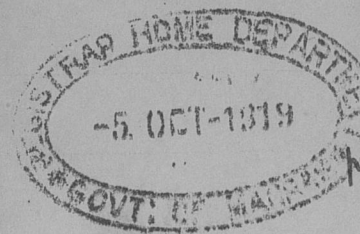
x

x

P.T.D.

R.G.C. No 192

Publicity Bureau,
New Bank of Madras Buildings,
Mount Road, Madras,
4th October 1919.



p3 ante Secretary's note dated 3-9-1919.

p4 ante I attach my note to the Board on the subject and
copy of the minutes made by 4 members of the Board.

The subject was then discussed at a meeting of

p6 ante the Board and the attached resolution was passed.

I shall try to get hold of the book about Baroda

p5 ante referred to in Mr. Brock's minutes.

signature

US.

Subd these notes may
now be

No. 1379 Home (US) of 7 Oct 1919.

Recorded.

SMP
6.10.19

Le
6.10.19

signature
7/10

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 191 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

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