M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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9394

Dated 12—10— 1858

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No. 93. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department dated 12th September 1859, No. 1404.

Laying down rules for writing oriental words in roman characters. } (Vide Public Proceedings from 10th to 16th September 1859, Nos. 26 @ 32.)

No. 94. ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1859, No. 2121.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for circulation in the Department of Public Works.

2. The Government attach much importance to the strict observance of the instructions now conveyed.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Madras Literary Society; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 26th August 1859.

I am desired by the Committee of the Literary Society to submit to Government the enclosed report of a Sub-Committee appointed by them to investigate the best mode of writing Oriental words in Roman characters.

The Literary Society have long felt the necessity of adopting some recognized system of writing such words and proper names as are of constant occurrence in public documents, in Maps, and generally in all Literary productions.

The plan now prepared under the Society's directions is recommended by its great simplicity and facility of application. It may be open to exception in some of its details, but in the opinion of the Society, it provides sufficiently for all the objects in view. At all events, it affords a sound basis for establishing a general scheme.

The Society feel assured that the adoption of a general scheme of this description can only be obtained by means of authority, and they desire therefore to recommend that the use of this, or of such plan as may be approved, should be introduced under some such regulations as the following:—

I.—That the scheme be adopted by authority in all public documents, and that all public Officers be instructed to conform to its provisions, whenever it is found absolutely necessary to introduce names or terms not strictly English, into their Official correspondence.

II.—That no letters be introduced into any word which do not exist in the original, and that those which do exist be expressed strictly according to the scheme.

III.—That a table of Vernacular words be prepared containing those alone admissible in Official correspondence.

IV.—That lists of names of places and proper names which have been stereotyped in an exceptionable form by long usage, and which it is too late now to change, should also be prepared, and that in writing all others, the approved scheme be rigidly adhered to.

V.—That for this purpose Schedules of Villages and proper names be prepared for every District by Collectors, to be revised by the Translators to Government.

It is understood that lists of names of Villages written in the Oriental characters of the languages of the Districts, and also in Roman characters, have been recently supplied through the Board of Revenue to the Department of Public Works. If this be so, the lists might at once

be made over to the Translators to Government, with a request that they would transliterate the names correctly according to the scheme, and copies of the corrected lists might be sent to the several Districts for future guidance. If printed in the Oriental character and in the Roman in parallel columns, the lists would serve many useful purposes of guidance in further transliteration.

VI.—That copies be furnished to the Revenue, and Judicial Departments, and Department of Public Works for their information and guidance.

VII.—That the Sudder Udaulut and Board of Revenue be requested to prepare a Schedule of technical terms which, in their opinion, should be allowed to appear in their respective proceedings.

VIII.—That in all cases not provided for, technical or peculiar terms be represented as nearly as possible by an English equivalent, or paraphrase if no single word is available; the word itself being added in brackets, written according to the scheme.

ORDER THEREON, 12th September 1839, No. 1404.

Resolved, that copies of the above letter and of the report which accompanied it be furnished to all Public Offices at Madras, and in the Provinces.

2. The Government is much indebted to the Madras Literary Society for this communication, which will lay a foundation for supplying a great public desideratum.

3. Owing to the great number of languages in concurrent use in the Madras Presidency (English, Hindustání, Tamil, Telugu, Malayálam, Canarese, Maráthí, besides the deep traces which have been left by Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit), the official phraseology is so redundant and confused, as to be a positive obstruction to public business, and to cause, in the aggregate, an enormous waste of invaluable time.

4. In order to provide a remedy for this great evil, the following rules, which are substantially the same as those recommended by the Literary Society, will be followed by all Government Officers:—

1st.—When Native terms can be suitably represented in official correspondence by an English equivalent, the English word should be used.

2nd.—When Native terms are introduced into official correspondence, they should be expressed in English letters, according to the system originally recommended by Sir William Jones, and since adopted, with partial variations, by the Asiatic Society, the Madras Literary Society, and by Professor Wilson in his Glossary of Indian official terms.

3rd.—No letters should be introduced into any Native word which do not exist in the original, and those which do exist should be expressed strictly in accordance with the scheme; and,

4th.—The only exception from this rule should be in the case of the names of particular *places* which have become stereotyped by long usage in a conventional form, such as Negapatam, Masulipatam, Vizagapatam, &c.

5. Lists shewing the correct spelling of words in ordinary official use will hereafter be published; but in the meantime substantial progress will be made towards a uniform system of

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orthography, by attention to the following vowel scale, about which there is no difference of opinion.

Nágarí.	Persian.	Tamil.	Telugu.	Roman.	
अ	ا	அ	అ	a	As the *a* in "about" and "delta."
आ	آ	ஆ	ఆ	á	As the *long a* in "father."
इ	ـِ	இ	ఇ	i	As the *i* in "pin" or the *y* in "truly."
ई	ي	ஈ—ீ	ఈ	í	As the *long i* is in "pique."
उ	و	உ	ఉ	u	As the *oo* in "good."
ऊ	ـُو	ஊ	ఊ	ú	As the *long oo* in "moon."
ए		எ	ఎ	e	As the *e* in "mendicant" (nearly the french é.)
	ي	ஏ	ఏ	é	As the *ey* in "grey" (nearly the french ê.)
ऐ	اَي	ஐ	ఐ	ai	As the *ai* in "aisle" or *ei* in "height."
		ஒ	ఒ	o	As *o* in "police."
ओ	و	ஓ	ఓ	ó	As the *long o* in "story" or "prose."
औ	اَو	ஔ	ఔ	au	As the *ow* in "foul" or *ou* in "down."

(True Extract.)

T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

To

The Public Works Department
for record and for communication
to the proper officers.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Public Works 1859 Sept.
Pro: of Govt: 21st October.

No 2653-

Proceedings of the Madras Govt in the Public Dept

Dated 12 September 1859
Rec'd 10 October 1859

No 7171- 17 Oct

Pro Do in the Sub Dept
24 Feby/60 Cs No 545 in Pro:

Laying down rules for writing Oriental words in Roman Characters-

No 93894-

No 2421.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for circulation in the Department of Public Works.

2. The Government attach much importance to the strict observance of the instructions now conveyed.

Fort St George
12 Oct 1859

61 Copies
To the Chief Engr

Dispr No 13

William order