

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

12th October 1881, No. 1387.

Archæology.

Read the following paper :—

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Madras Civil Service, on Special Duty, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 27th September 1881, No. 730 [Current No. 2023].

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of G.O., No. 1199, of 5th September 1881 (Public—Archæology), and beg respectfully to make the following observations.

2. As to the reproduction of the eye-copies of the inscriptions on the Amarāvati marbles excavated under Mr. Horsfall's supervision, I consider that it would be a useless expense. The copies are not worth the paper they are written on. Any one acquainted with the characters (modified Asoka) of these Amarāvati inscriptions would see this at a glance.

3. As to the schedules, too, I would not recommend that they be printed. They may be of use to guide Dr. Burgess, who will make Amarāvati his *first* care on arrival in this Presidency, but he can have the original paper in his hands. Some of the descriptions are quite useless for any purposes. For instance, "No. 16. 3 ft. dia. Is a carved one." "No. 18 is carved like No. 16." "No. 176. Is a common stones (*sic*).” The notes were evidently written hastily and were not intended for publication, and they would be of no great value to readers in England. I would, therefore, suggest that Government be pleased to direct me to hand over the original lists to Dr. Burgess on his arrival, and that the order for printing them be suspended. Should, however, Government adhere to their determination to print the lists, I will at once send them to the Superintendent of the Government Press and revise the proofs.

4. I am directed to report my opinion whether it is necessary now to take tracings or squeezes of inscriptions, for fear of further damage by weather. After careful thought I have determined not to recommend this to be done now, since I am in hopes that Dr. Burgess will be shortly visiting Amarāvati, and will do the work himself in the best manner known. What we have to fear between this and then is the effect of the north-east monsoon. Some damage of course will be done, but it is to be hoped that the effect will not be very great. The process of decomposition goes on steadily over all the surfaces of these exposed marbles, and however desirable it may have been in February 1880 to have taken squeezes of all the inscriptions, we have now to consider their condition about a month hence (by which time the orders of Government might possibly have been communicated to the Collector of the Kistna, and some one might be ready to work at the estampages), *i.e.*, at the beginning of November (say), and the period of Dr. Burgess' proposed visit, which will probably take place, if his orders are received in time, by the end of November or the beginning of December. I calculate that the rains will be over by the time the district authorities are able to commence taking the inscriptions, and I do not therefore

see such strong grounds for anticipating serious deterioration between then and the period of Dr. Burgess' arrival as would justify me in recommending Government to incur any further present expense in the matter.

5. I beg respectfully to inform Government that as the University of Edinburgh has lately conferred on Mr. Burgess the degree of LL.D., his proper title for the future will be "Dr." Burgess.

ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1881, No. 1387.

Recorded. The schedules need not be printed, but should be handed over to Dr. Burgess on arrival.

(True Extract.)

J. S. Davis
A. H. de S.
Chief Secretary.

To R. Sewell, Esq.
„ the Collector of Kistna.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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P. N. C. No 6193.
Govt. of (1881) Madras
PUBLIC.

N^o 2629 Wap/27th Oct/81

To R. SEWELL, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

Recorded

Dated October, 13th.

Issued.

Recd. 26 Oct: H Encl.

G.O., 12th October 1881, No. 1387.

OCTOBER.

N^o 2629 Wap/27th Oct/81
B.

Archæology.—Report of Mr. R. Sewell regarding
the reproduction of the eye-copies of the inscrip-
tions on the Amaravati marbles and the printing
on the schedules, recorded.

With order
in the order

Put in Receipt Regr.

Indexed 29/10