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No 1952 of 12 July/83

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Despatches to be
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G.O., 23rd June 1883, No. 1245.

No 1952 of 12-7-83

JUNE.

Official Publications for the
India Office.

Communicating to the Department of the
Secretariat, &c., despatch from the Secretary of
State relative to the proposed establishment of a
system of free interchange of official documents
between the Imperial and Indian Governments.

Written by
Sd/- in Manuscript Regr.

23RD JUNE 1883, No. 1245, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Despatch from the Right Honorable the EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 24th May 1883, No. 10 (Statistics and Commerce).

I forward, herewith, a copy of a letter from the Treasury, with its enclosures, and of the reply thereto, relative to the proposed establishment of a system of free interchange of official documents between the Imperial and Indian Governments.

2. With reference to the 3rd paragraph of Sir L. Mallet's letter to the Treasury, dated 24th May, I request that such measures may be taken by your Government as shall ensure the regular transmission in future of a sufficient number of copies of all official publications to enable me to forward one to the British Museum. Under the orders contained in Lord Salisbury's Despatch of 28th February 1878, No. 39, the number transmitted should be at least ten, but these orders are at present in many instances not carried out.

3. I enclose a copy of a note by the Librarian of this Office, relative to the number of books published in India, but not registered under Act XXV of 1867, of which copies do not reach this office at all. It will be necessary to provide in future for the regular supply of two copies of all works of this class; and any past publications of special interest or utility might also be transmitted. To some officer this duty should be specially assigned, and he should be held answerable for its being fulfilled.

ENCLOSURES.

From L. COURTNEY, Esq., to Sir LOUIS MALLET, C.B., India Office, dated Treasury Chambers, 18th April 1883, No. 7004.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, a printed copy of a report of a Committee on the exchange of official publications, together with a printed copy of a circular despatch which has been addressed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's representatives abroad, relative to the interchange of official documents with foreign nations.

I am to request that my Lords may be informed whether the Indian Government desires to establish a "complete" exchange of its public documents with this country on the conditions described in the circular in question.

Circular.

You were informed by my Circular Despatch of the 31st December 1880, that a Committee had been appointed by the Treasury to inquire into, and report upon, the question of the interchange of Parliamentary papers and other official documents with foreign States.

The object had in view in the appointment of that Committee was to devise some uniform and general plan upon which applications of this nature should in future be dealt with; and the Committee having now made its report, the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury have been pleased to lay down the following rules upon the subject.

Whenever any application is made by the Government of an independent State for a "complete" exchange of its public documents with this country, the Lords of the Treasury will be prepared to entertain such a proposal on the following understanding:—

1. That a "complete" set of the English official publications to be exchanged would be understood to consist of the following documents:—

- (a.) Papers of all kinds printed or presented to either House of Parliament;
- (b.) Historical, Scientific, or Antiquarian works published by the Government, such as the record publications;—with liberty, however, of reserving very costly works, of which only a small number of copies may be printed as subjects of separate negotiation;
- (c.) Maps or Charts published by Government; and
- (d.) Departmental publications which are placed on sale, but not to include works published by Booksellers with the aid of grants or subscriptions from Government.

2. That the Government making the application would, in return, undertake to send a "complete" set of its own publications for the Library of the British Museum; the "completeness" being, of course, left to the good faith of that Government.

But besides this general, or what may be termed a national, exchange, the Lords of the Treasury will be prepared to entertain, within reasonable limits, applications which may be made to it, through this office, for gifts of special classes of British official publications, such as Military, Parliamentary, and Statistical works for the use of National or Parliamentary Libraries, or of State-supported institutions, or of other Libraries of Historic interest, provided the Government making the application be ready to give its own works of the same class; but such applications will, as heretofore, be considered on their own merits.

Applications for the presentation of official publications to Libraries of Municipal authorities, or voluntary Associations of individuals, such as Scientific Societies, or others unconnected with the State, cannot be entertained.

I have now to request that you will take an opportunity of making this decision on the part of Her Majesty's Government known to the Government to which you are accredited, and that in doing so you will inform it that in all cases in which an exchange may be agreed upon, and in which presentations may be made, the books and papers will be packed at the Stationery Office, and forwarded to such address as may be given by the Foreign Minister in London of the Government making the application, the cost of transmission in each case being defrayed by the Government to whom the books are presented.

From the Under Secretary of State for India, to the Secretary to the Treasury, dated India Office, S.W., 24th May 1883, No. 910.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, enclosing the report of a Committee appointed to enquire into the question of the interchange of official documents with Foreign States and enquiring whether the Government of India desires to establish a complete interchange of its public documents with this country.

2. I am directed to inform you, in reply, that it appears to Lord Kimberley impossible to make a practical distinction in this matter between the India Office and the three Governments in India, and to treat the latter as Foreign Governments.

3. And in the opinion of His Lordship the object apparently aimed at by the Committee is adequately attained under existing arrangements. Copies of all books published by the Secretary of State for India, and of all official documents published by the different Governments in India, so far as copies are available out of the number sent from India to this office are regularly furnished to the British Museum. It is true that as stated at the bottom of p. 23 of Appendix C of the Report of the Committee, official publications are occasionally issued in India, copies of which are not sent home, or are not sent in numbers sufficient to admit of the transmission of a copy to the Museum. The Governments of India, of Madras, and of Bombay will now be requested invariably to forward to this office a sufficient number of copies of all their official publications to ensure a regular and complete supply to the British Museum of all those which that institution is prepared to receive.

4. And as regards the last paragraph but two of the Foreign Office Circular of April 12th, I am to inform you that applications for all departments of Her Majesty's Government for copies of publications, which may be specially desired are, whenever possible, at once complied with gratuitously by this office; and also that, so far as is practicable, Indian official publications of interest are freely supplied on application to public libraries and similar institutions both in the United Kingdom and in Foreign countries.

5. On the other hand, this office has hitherto received a sufficient number of Parliamentary papers and Blue Books to admit of a regular and complete supply of these publications to the

different Indian Governments. Certain other official publications, such as Foreign Office papers relating to Foreign countries, consular reports, publications of the Board of Trade relating to commerce and shipping and the like, are received by this office from the departments of Her Majesty's Government which publish them, and when desirable are transmitted to the Governments in India.

6. And copies of any other official publications, maps, &c., which may for any reason be required, have until lately been courteously supplied gratuitously on application by the departments which issue them.

7. The system above described appears to the Earl of Kimberley to meet all requirements, as far as the different departments of Her Majesty's Government, the India Office, and the Governments in India are concerned, and His Lordship is of opinion that it should be maintained.

8. In connection with this subject, however, I am directed to solicit your attention to the question which formed the subject of the letter from the Treasury to the War Office, dated 13th September 1880. This question is still unsettled, owing to the failure of the War Office to send any reply to the letters from this office marginally noted, all requesting the favor of an answer to a former letter, dated 17th March 1881, a copy of which is appended.

23rd June 1881.
21st Feb. 1882.
30th June "
10th July "
15th Nov. "

9. The question thus awaiting settlement is that of the free interchange of maps and other official publications in accordance with the practice hitherto existing between this office and other departments of Her Majesty's Government.

Copy Note by the Librarian, India Office, dated 23rd April 1883.

As a rule books published by, or under the patronage of, Government are not registered under the Act XXV of 1867, though occasionally books subverted by Government, and other Semi-official publications, occur in the quarterly lists.

2. It is much to be regretted that there is no machinery for bringing to the notice of the Secretary of State all such official or other publications as do not come within that Act; their number and importance is far greater than is generally supposed. Besides the publications mentioned in Mr. Princep's lists, there appear in India many books of which neither copy nor record is sent home, and of the existence of which we remain either in entire ignorance or owe our information only to mere chance. N. Elias' Sketch of the History of the Shans (Calcutta, 1876), a series of Law Books in Pali and Burmese, published under the superintendence of Colonel Horace Browne since 1878, and Mr. Jardine's notes on Buddhist Law, belong to this category so far as British Burmah is concerned; while not one of the four numbers of the Journal of the Madras Literary Society published within the last four years has been sent to the India Office.* The lists of such stray publications might, I have no doubt, considerably be swelled from other parts of India. It would be a real boon to all who have to work upon the

*To my application, addressed to the Foreign Department, Calcutta, early in March, for a copy of D. Wright's "Sketch of the portion of the country of Nepal open to Europeans" (Calc., 1872) a book unknown in this office, no answer has as yet been received.

raw material in science and literature supplied from India if care were taken on the part of the various local Governments to place within our reach copies of all publications outside the Act of 1867, in addition to the official publications which are regularly supplied to the Record Department.

ORDER—dated 23rd June 1883, No. 1245, Public.

Ordered that the foregoing despatch, and its enclosures, be communicated to the several Departments of the Secretariat, the Director of Public Instruction, and the Superintendent, Government Central Museum.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the despatch, it is observed that in the Resolution of the Government of India (paragraph 8), recorded in G.O., 21st September 1878, No. 1430, Local Governments were requested to transmit ten copies in all of all official publications addressed to the Secretary, Statistics and Commerce Department (Record Branch), India Office. The Secretary of State now remarks that the number sent "should be at least ten," and His Excellency the Governor in Council accordingly resolves to direct that, as a general rule, fifteen copies of all such publications shall in future be transmitted.

3. The Director of Public Instruction will consider and report what are the best arrangements that can be made in order to comply with the directions conveyed in the last paragraph of the despatch.

(True Extract.)

Quater

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Military Department.
" Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Librarian, Chief Secretariat.