

No. 2422

7520
Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Communicated to
the officers of the S. to Dept.
for information and
guidance.

Ct.
21-3-84

W.
21-3-84

Issued

Recd. 20/3/84

Encl.

G.O., &c., 13th March 1884,
Nos. 520, 521.

MARCH.

Archæology.

Communicating, with instructions, resolution of
Government of India regarding the appointment
of Mr. J. F. Fleet, of the Bombay Civil Service, as
Epigraphist to that Government.

1 copy sent to only

with order.

C. & for J. ✓
C. & for Rys. ✓
Es. in. Ct. State Rys. ✓
Supt. Engrs. ✓
Ct. to J. ✓
Genl Supt. R. & S. ✓
Supt. in H. W. ✓
En. S. & A. ✓
En. R. & A. ✓

5/4

270
5/4

Major R. G.
Executive Engineer Madras Civil.

Order—

Ordered that a copy of this resolution, with copy of the despatch from the Secretary of State read above, be forwarded to all * Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance.

* Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.
Punjab.

Central Provinces.
British Burma.
Assam.
Coorg.
Hyderabad.

Ordered, also, that a copy be forwarded to the Foreign department for the issue to the heads of Political Administrations of any further orders which may

be deemed necessary in that department for the furtherance of the object in view ; and that a copy be forwarded to the Revenue and Agricultural department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACKENZIE,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Chief Secretary to Government.

ENCLOSURE.

Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India office, London, 21st September 1882, No. 146 (Statistics and Commerce).

I have considered in Council your Excellency's letter, dated the 9th of June, No. 157, on the subject of the establishment of an epigraphical survey of India, and of the appointment of Mr. J. F. Fleet, of the Bombay Civil Service, as Epigraphist.

2. In July 1881, the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey proposed that active steps should be taken for the systematic arrangement and translation of the ancient inscriptions which have been collected in various parts of India, and recommended the employment of Mr. Fleet, of the Bombay Civil Service, in the publication of the texts and translations. On being called on by your Government to state the probable duration of such a special appointment, he estimated it at about ten years.

3. Mr. Fleet, on being asked by the Government of Bombay if he would accept the employment, and, if so, on what terms, expressed a hope that he would not be placed in a worse position than if he remained in the ordinary line of service, and that he might, therefore, receive pay and travelling allowance according to his rank therein.

4. Your Excellency is willing to supply Mr. Fleet's place by a suitable officer, and recommends that he be granted a salary of Rs. 1,200 a-month on commencing his new work, together with a travelling allowance of Rs. 10 a-day when it becomes necessary for him to visit any inscriptions on the spot, and that his pay be regulated in future according to the scale in the ordinary line of the service as he becomes eligible for promotion.

5. In forwarding with my despatch, No. 224 (Statistics and Commerce), of 29th December last, a letter from the President of the International Congress of Orientalists held at Berlin last year, proposing such an undertaking as is now in question, I expressly recognised that the promotion of inquiry into the sources of history, which in India largely consist of the contents of ancient inscriptions, formed at least a secondary duty of an enlightened Government, especially in a country where individuals with the means, leisure, qualifications, and tests for such investigations were rare. But my recognition of this was accompanied by a caution as to the necessity of judging the proposal transmitted to you deliberately, and on a review of the whole of the expenditure that is being incurred in connection with Indian archaeology.

6. In your letter under reply no reference is made to the latter part of the question, nor, indeed, is any estimate given of the cost of the proposal submitted by your Excellency's Government. But, judging from the rate of pay now drawn by officers in the Bombay Civil Service, it would appear quite possible that Mr. Fleet might draw as salary during the next ten years not less than Rs. 2,36,000, which sum, therefore, would represent the cost of editing the inscriptions under the proposal now made, besides the charge for travelling allowance, establishment, contingencies, printing, and publication.

7. Apart, however, from these calculations, and even if they should be judged somewhat in excess of the probable truth, I cannot think that we should be justified in setting apart a member of the Civil Service to be devoted to work of this kind on a large salary for so long a period ; nor indeed do I think that, in view to the desired object itself, the result of general experience is favorable to such a measure.

8. But it seems to be generally acknowledged that Mr. Fleet's qualifications for the work are of an altogether exceptional character, and that competent judges anticipate great results from

his employment on it, whilst the tone of his own letter of 2nd December 1881, included among the correspondence which you transmit, intimates that his own expectations had been of no unreasonable kind.

9. I am willing, therefore, to sanction his employment on a fixed salary, and for a short term of years. The salary I would fix at Rs. 1,400 * a-month, with the travelling allowance proposed by you, and the term of his employment at three years, and no more.

N.B.—As far as can be learned, Mr. Fleet now draws Rs. 1,200 pay, with a permanent travelling allowance of Rs. 200, and Rs. 25 tentage.

10. But it is to be understood that this employment is subject to the condition that the Government of Bombay can arrange to spare him, and also that, after he shall have been so employed for one year, I shall expect to receive an early report of the results of his work for that year.

11. To make the most of Mr. Fleet's service during the sanctioned period, it will be well that he should be authorized to employ native scholars under his supervision, within some defined moderate limit of expense, to assist in the preparation of his materials.

12. It has indeed struck me that a work of this nature is precisely one on which it would be most desirable to turn native scholarship to account more prominently ; and that among the many native students who receive instruction of a high class in our various educational institutions, we might fairly look for some qualified to take an important part in such tasks. It may be that there are none available at present who are qualified to carry out such an undertaking independently. But I should be glad if one of the results of Mr. Fleet's employment during the next three years should be the training of two or three native scholars in such habits of accuracy and critical judgment as should fit them hereafter for taking a prominent place in the prosecution of historical research.

ORDER—dated 13th March 1884, No. 520, Public.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, to the Archaeological Surveyor, Southern and Western India, and to the departments of the Secretariat.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires all district officers to give their cordial co-operation and assistance to Mr. Fleet by forwarding to him such original copper-plates as may be available, by procuring for him where feasible the loan of similar plates in the possession of private persons, and by giving him such information as he may require relating to the inscriptions existing in their districts. They will also endeavour to carry out the instructions contained in paragraph 3 of the observations prefixed to the Proceedings read above, and will see that the Treasure Trove Act is worked whenever such a course may forward the ends of the epigraphical survey.

3. A copy of these Proceedings, with a copy of Mr. Sewell's "List of Antiquities," will be forwarded to Mr. Fleet for information.

(True Extract.)

John Lubbock

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Archaeological Surveyor, Southern and Western India.
„ the departments of the Secretariat. *MD*
„ J. F. Fleet, Esq., with books.
„ Dr. Bidie, Superintendent, Central Museum.
„ R. Sewell, Esq.
„ heads of departments.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 13th March 1884, No. 521, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Home department.

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.

13TH MARCH 1884, Nos. 520, 521, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home department (Archæology), dated Calcutta, 29th February 1884, No. 1—24-36.

RESOLUTION.

Read—the following papers on the subject of the appointment of Mr. J. F. Fleet, of the Bombay Civil Service, as Epigraphist to the Government of India:—

Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 146, dated 21st September 1882.
Home department notification, No. 25, dated 13th February 1883.

Observations—

In the despatch read above, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India sanctioned the establishment of an epigraphical survey of India, and the appointment for a period of three years of Mr. J. F. Fleet, of the Bombay Civil Service, to be Epigraphist to the Government of India. Mr. Fleet's duties, of which he assumed charge on the 17th January 1883, consist in the preparation and editing, with historical comments and indexes, of texts and translations of all ancient inscriptions discovered either on copper-plate grants or on stone.

2. In order to the successful carrying out of the work entrusted to Mr. Fleet, it is necessary that he should have the hearty co-operation of Local Governments and Administrations. The Governor-General in Council is confident that this co-operation, which is now invited, will be readily given, and accordingly desires that all Local Governments and Administrations will render Mr. Fleet every assistance that lies in their power, by forwarding to that officer (for inspection and return) original copper-plates that may be in their own records, or in local museums, when this can be done without risk of damage or loss; by procuring for him, when possible, the temporary loan of similar plates in the possession of private individuals; and by directing district officers to furnish him with any information which he may require relating to inscriptions which may exist in their districts.

3. To further aid the work, it seems necessary to take such precautions as may be possible to prevent the passing out of the country, by sale or otherwise, of inscribed plates or stones without the knowledge of the Epigraphist. His Excellency in Council would be glad if Local Governments and Administrations would issue the necessary instructions to secure this object, so that the Epigraphist may have an opportunity of informing himself of the contents of all ancient inscriptions which may be anywhere discovered, of taking copies of them, and of judging whether the originals are of sufficient interest and value to justify their purchase for the Government Museums in this country. District officers should be directed to put forward the claims of Government under Act VI of 1878 (the Treasure Trove Act) in cases to which that Act applies; and officers in all departments be requested to report to the district officer any discoveries which may come under their notice.

P. H. D.
Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC.

13th 1884
P. H. D. 13th 1884
Communicated to the
officers of the P. H. Dept.
for information & guidance

(Signed) J. F. Fleet

Issued

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Encl.

G.O., &c., 13th March 1884,
Nos. 520, 521.

13th 1884
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C. E. for J.
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Is - in Ch. State Rys.
Supt. Engrs.
Ch. to Govt.
Genl. Supt. P. H. S.
Supt. M. A. W.
Encl. P. H. A.
Encl. Rys. A.

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„ the departments of the Secretariat.
„ J. F. Fleet, Esq., with books.
„ Dr. Bidie, Superintendent, Central Museum.
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Govt. of (1884) Madras.

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13/3/84 *14/3/84* *15/3/84*
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