

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home department (Archæology), dated Simla, 6th June 1885, Nos. 2-87-103.

Read—

Home department resolution, Nos. 649-650, dated the 2nd February 1871.
Circular letter to Local Governments and Administrations, Nos. 910-919, dated the 15th February 1871.

Home department resolution, Nos. 3-168-183, dated the 26th November 1883.

Home department resolution, Nos. 1-24-36, dated the 29th February 1884.

Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 48, dated the 17th February 1885.

Telegram from the Secretary of State, dated the 30th March 1885.

Resolution—

OBSERVATIONS.—An account of the establishment of the Archæological Survey department under the superintendence of Major-General Cunningham, R.E., C.S.I., C.I.E., will be found in Home department resolution of the 2nd February 1871 read in the preamble. In accordance with the instructions contained in that resolution, General Cunningham has, year by year, submitted reports showing the nature and amount of the work done, the general result of which may be said to be that the greater part of Northern India has now been explored either by the Director-General or by his assistants. In spite, however, of this exploration, it cannot be doubted that many ancient monuments still remain to be surveyed or to be discovered, and also many inscriptions to be deciphered. As General Cunningham has expressed his intention of shortly resigning his appointment, it has become necessary to consider the plan which should in future be adopted for the purpose of securing—

- (1) the further survey and conservation of the ancient monuments of India ;
and
- (2) the acquisition and translation of ancient inscriptions.

2. The work of conservation of ancient monuments was entrusted for a period of three years to a separate officer, Major H. H. Cole, whose appointment lapsed in November 1883 ; and Home department resolution of the 26th November 1883 described the general plan of future operations recommended for adoption by Local Governments. After full consideration and consultation with General Cunningham, the Government of India has now come to the conclusion that it would be expedient to amalgamate in some measure the work of the conservation of monuments with that of the Archæological Survey, experience having shown that work of the former description can best be directed by experienced archæologists. The Governor-General in Council has accordingly decided that for the future the two departments of exploration and conservation shall be consolidated to the extent and in the manner explained in the following paragraphs.

3. On the retirement of General Cunningham, the appointment of Director-General of Archaeological Survey will lapse; and the whole of India (exclusive of the Madras and Bombay presidencies, where present arrangements under Doctor Burgess will remain unaltered) will be divided into charges of comparatively limited extent, which can easily be undertaken by small independent survey parties. The apportionment which commends itself to the Government of India as most suitable is the following:—

- (1) The Punjab with Sind and Rajputana;
- (2) The North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Central India Agency, and the Central Provinces; and
- (3) Bengal with Assam and Chutia Nagpur.

The practical result of adopting these divisions will be to concentrate the operations of each party within a clearly demarcated district, and to avoid the difficulties which have been found to arise from the operations in different parts of the same province having been entrusted to separate management. Experience may, however, show that for dynastic or other scientific purposes a survey party should occasionally be allowed to go beyond the limits assigned to it, and the limits now laid down are in no way intended to interfere with such an arrangement, if this should be considered necessary by higher authority. In the above apportionment the territories of His Highness the Nizam and the Hyderabad Assigned districts have not been provided for. This portion of the country is well known to Dr. Burgess, and arrangements may probably be hereafter made that the Bombay party shall, after completing the work in that presidency, move into Hyderabad.

4. With regard to the agency to be employed, it has been decided that the work in each of the three divisions indicated shall be entrusted to a surveyor with a suitable establishment, Dr. Burgess, the Archaeological Surveyor of Southern and Western India, being constituted the head of the entire Survey department, but continuing, as at present, to carry on also the detailed work in the Madras and Bombay presidencies. The duties of the surveyors will be, not only to conduct the work of survey, but also to advise as to the various monuments or buildings of antiquity or interest which require to be preserved or restored, the necessary repairs being carried out by the Public Works department of the several Local Governments and Administrations, under the general supervision of the Archaeological Surveyors. The primary responsibility for conservation will remain, as at present, with the Local Governments and Administrations in their Public Works departments. The surveyors will be on the footing of professional advisers to the Local Governments, with the right of initiating suggestions and calling attention to requirements. The strictly archaeological portion of their work should be kept entirely separate from that relating to conservation, and schemes for the preservation or restoration of monuments, &c., should be submitted by them direct to the Local Government concerned, to be carried out by the Public Works department from such money as the Local Government can make available for the purpose, supplemented by any grant-in-aid which the Government of India may be in a position to contribute.

5. The surveyors will, as already indicated, be placed in direct communication with the Local Governments and Residents or Political Agents concerned, but their annual reports should be submitted to the Government of India through Dr. Burgess, after having been seen and reviewed by the Local Governments. Each surveyor will also be required to prepare in communication with Dr. Burgess, and to submit for the approval of the Government of India through the Local Government concerned, before the commencement of each field season, a programme of the operations which he proposes to undertake, and at the end of each season, as soon after the close of the financial year as possible, an annual report of the work done by his party. In the yearly reports a table should be added showing the schemes recommended to local authorities for the repairs or restoration of monuments, &c., and the grants, if any, made from Provincial and Imperial revenues to carry them out. The Local Government, in forwarding the report, will see that this information is complete. Each report should contain an appendix showing in the *vernacular characters*—in Devana-

gari for Hindu names, and in Persian for Muhammadan names—the *correct native spelling* of all names, whether of places, or of persons, tribes, &c., mentioned in the report. In the reports themselves no diacritical marks or accents should be used, except the authorized á for long a. All arguments and speculation based on the spelling of names and similar considerations as to the identity of persons, places, tribes, &c., should be avoided. The reports should be restricted as much as possible to a clear and accurate account of facts and discoveries.

6. The work of preparing and editing the texts and translations of ancient inscriptions will continue, as at present, to be performed by Mr. Fleet, Epigraphist to the Government of India, and the surveyors should not attempt to translate any inscriptions which they may find, but should deal with them in accordance with the instructions laid down in Home department resolution, dated the 29th February 1884, so far as those instructions are applicable. They should, however, keep registers in the form appended to this resolution of all inscriptions, whether on stone or copper, discovered by them, filling in columns 8 and 9 so far only as they find themselves able to do so with a fair amount of certainty. Information in this form should be sent to the Epigraphist to the Government of India as soon as a new inscription is found, and a tabular statement in the same form showing district by district all the inscriptions which may be discovered during each season's work should also be given as an appendix to the annual reports. In this statement should be included all inscriptions, as they happen to be met with, which are already mentioned in the existing reports of the Archaeological Survey of India; and the surveyors should make it a special point in the course of their work to discover all such inscriptions and to enter them in the list, with full particulars as to the locality where they may be found. These particulars should be entered in the last column of the statement and should include the name of the division, district, and sub-division in which the village entered in column 1 is situated, and, if the inscription is on stone, a description, sufficient for purposes of identification, of the temple or other building or place, and of the position in such temple or place, where the inscription was found, or, if it is on copper, particulars as to the names, &c., of the persons in whose possession the copper-plates are.

7. The Governor-General in Council has been pleased to fix the strength of each survey party on the following scale:—

- One surveyor on Rs. 600—25—700 a-month.
- One assistant surveyor on Rs. 300—25—400 a-month.
- One draftsman on Rs. 180—10—220 a-month.
- One writer on Rs. 50 a-month.

Each party will also have an allowance of Rs. 920 a-year for contingencies, and Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances.

8. The above arrangements, which have received the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, are sanctioned for a period of five years, on the expiry of which they will be subject to reconsideration. They will come into operation from the 1st October next, from which date the resignation of General Cunningham will take effect and by which time it is hoped that the services of suitable officers to fill the appointments of surveyors and assistant surveyors for the several divisions will have been secured.

9. The Governor-General in Council desires, in conclusion, to express his hope that Local Governments and others concerned will give their hearty co-operation for the furtherance of the objects set forth in this resolution.

(1) Incl 5990
Govt. of (1885) Madras.

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JUNE.

Archæology.

Recording resolution of the Government of India fixing the strength of each survey party required for the Archæological Survey of India.

No 1618 Way 13th July/85

Recorded

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8.7.85

10-7-85