

Govt. of (1886) Madras.
PUBLIC.

22-9-85
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No 1359 W of 31 May/86
Recorded in
Continuation of G.O. No
597 W of 6 March/86.
597 W of 6 March/86.

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Encl.

G.O., &c., 13th May 1886,
Nos. 979, 980.

13-82/1359 W of 31 May/86

MAY.

Epigraphy.

Sanctioning certain proposals of the Syndicate
of the Madras University for encouraging the
study of —.

1/6/86

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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.

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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.

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.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Archaeological Surveyor, Southern and Western India.
„ the departments of the Secretariat.
„ 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.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home department (Archæological), dated Simla, 11th August 1885, No. 4-153-66.

Read—the following papers :—

Home department (Archæological) Proceedings, November 1882, Nos. 5-6.
1884, Nos. 10-16.

Letter from "Mr. J. F. Fleet," No. 7, dated 7th March 1884.

Home department circular to Local Governments and Administrations, No. 5-188-197,
dated 30th October 1884.

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 967, dated 20th April 1885.

" " of Bombay, No. 2182, dated 11th June 1885.

" " of Bengal, No. 1001-95 (F.), dated 30th March 1885.

" " of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 967—III
220-14, dated 24th December 1884.

" " of the Punjab, No. 14 S., dated 17th June 1885.

Letter from the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 5648-265, dated 3rd December
1884.

Letter from the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, No. 267-5S.A., dated 14th May
1885.

Letter from the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 26, dated 5th January 1885.

" " of Coorg, No. 56, dated 17th November 1884.

" " of Coorg, No. 1204-166, dated 12th December 1884.

" Resident at Hyderabad, No. 106 G., dated 24th March 1885.

Resolution—

In 1882, Her Majesty's Secretary of State, when sanctioning the appointment of Mr. Fleet as Epigraphist to the Government of India, suggested the desirability of training native scholars in such a way as to fit them hereafter for taking a prominent place in the prosecution of historical research. Mr. Fleet, whose opinion was obtained on this suggestion, advised that Professors of Sanskrit in Government Colleges should form classes of selected students for special training in epigraphical and historical researches. He observed that, with such a preliminary training, a few students would be secured who would be fitted to commence under him the more rigid study of critically examining new inscriptions, of translating and editing them, and of disposing of their contents in a scholar-like manner.

2. The views of Local Governments and Administrations were invited on the suggestions made by Mr. Fleet, and are contained in the letters read in the preamble. From these letters it appears that the adoption of Mr. Fleet's suggestion regarding the formation of paleographic classes under Sanskrit Professors in Government Colleges is not practicable. The time of the Professors is already fully occupied with their ordinary duties, while it is doubtful whether, if such classes were formed, students would, under present circumstances, be forthcoming to attend them. There is a general agreement, however, that the Universities might with advantage be moved to make Indian paleography an optional subject for the higher degrees; and the

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.

With Obedy

Cond to the Officers
of the PWD for infor
mation and guidance

By J. S. S.

Chief Engr for Engr
Engr for Engr
Engr in Chief S. B.
Sup Engr
C. A. to Engr
Gen Engr P. W. S.
Sup Engr M. A.
Engr P. W. S.
Engr P. W. S.

Governor-General in Council would be glad if the Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal would move the Universities of their respective provinces to consider what steps should be taken for attaining this object. It is observed that the Government of Madras has already consulted the Syndicate of the Madras University, and that the Government of Bengal proposed to address the Senate of the Calcutta University on the subject. The question whether similar action might not usefully be taken in regard to the Punjab University will doubtless be considered by the Local Government.

3. In order further to encourage the education and training of Natives of India in epigraphy, the Governor-General in Council would suggest that a special prize of Rs. 500 should be offered by the Local Government annually at each University to the student who does best in this subject if he is recommended for it by the examiners. This prize would probably be supplemented by the liberality of private gentlemen interested in the ancient history of their country, if their attention were invited to the subject. His Excellency in Council is also pleased to direct that an annual prize of Rs. 500 be offered for the best collection of inscriptions with a critical essay on them by *bonâ fide* graduates of the Universities under 30 years of age. The essays should be sent to the Epigraphist to the Government of India on or before the 1st April of each year, and the amount of the prize will be charged in the contingent bill of the Epigraphist. The selected essay will be printed at the expense of Government. Lastly, in order to encourage the study of epigraphy among the Surveyors and Assistant Surveyors employed in the Archaeological Survey department, the Governor-General in Council sanctions the grant of a reward of Rs. 500 to any *employé* of that department who qualifies in epigraphy within two years from the date of his appointment to the department.

4. As regards British Burma, the circumstances of which province are peculiar and which does not fall under the scope of the above orders, it will be left to the Chief Commissioner to take such steps as he may deem necessary for encouraging the study of epigraphical research among native students and others.

Order—

Ordered that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations and to the Epigraphist to the Government of India for information and guidance, and that a copy be forwarded to the Department of Finance and Commerce and the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India for information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. C. DAUKES,
for Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Government of Madras.

ORDER—dated 2nd September 1885, No. 2053, Public.

Communicated to the Director of Public Instruction who will consider and report at an early date what steps should be taken to give effect to the wishes of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
„ the Revenue department.
„ the Public Works department.
„ J. Burgess, Esq., LL.D., C.I.E.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Order Number No 222/11
d/ 22nd Sep. 1885

Recorded with reference
to G.O. No 927 of 4th
April 1884.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd September 1885, No. 2053.

(Copied)

B. No 222/11 d/ 22-9-85

SEPTEMBER.

Epigraphy.

Communicating to the Director of Public Instruction for report a resolution of the Government of India as to the means to be adopted for encouraging the study of — among Natives of India.

Withdrew

22ND FEBRUARY 1886, No. 400, 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, 18th January 1886, No. 1—17-33.

Read—

Home Department Resolution, No. 4—153-166, dated the 11th August 1885, on the subject of encouraging the study of epigraphy in India.

Read also—

A letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 4612, dated 3rd December 1885, enclosing a communication from the Archæological Surveyor of Western and Southern India, in which he offers certain remarks and suggestions in connection with the orders contained in the resolution.

Resolution—

In paragraph 3 of the resolution read in the preamble it was decided—

- (1) that a special prize of Rs. 500 should be offered by the Local Government annually at each University to the student who does best in epigraphy, if he is recommended for it by the examiners ;
- (2) that an annual prize of Rs. 500 be offered for the best collection of inscriptions with a critical essay on them by *bonâ fide* graduates of the Universities under 30 years of age, the essay to be sent by the 1st April of each year to the Epigraphist to the Government of India ; and
- (3) that a reward of Rs. 500 should be given to any Surveyor or Assistant Surveyor in the Archæological Survey department who qualifies in epigraphy within two years from the date of his appointment to the department.

The Governor-General in Council sees no ground for modifying or expanding the first two of these proposals ; but as regards the third point, His Excellency in Council is willing to grant a reward of Rs. 500 to any employé of the Archæological Survey who qualifies in epigraphy at any period of his service in the department. The reward will be given for a competent knowledge in any one or more of the ancient languages of India, but cannot be earned more than once during service.

Order—

Ordered, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations and to the Epigraphist to the Government of India, for information and guidance ; also that a copy be forwarded to the Archæological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, and to the Archæological Surveyors of the Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Punjab circles, for information ; and that a copy be forwarded to the Department of Finance for information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. C. DAUKES,
for Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Government of Madras.

ORDER—dated 22nd February 1886, No. 400, Public.

Ordered to be communicated to the Madras University in continuation of the resolution forwarded with letter, No. 2597, dated 6th November 1885.

(True Extract.)

W. H. L. M.
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Revenue department.
" Public Works department.

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Govt. of (1886) Madras.

PUBLIC.



Issued

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G.O., 22nd February 1886, No. 400.

FEBRUARY.

Epigraphy.

Communicating to the Madras University a further resolution of the Government of India regarding the offer of prizes for the study of — by natives of India, and inquiring what action has been taken in the matter.

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13TH MAY 1886, Nos. 979, 980, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers :—

G.O., dated 6th November 1885, Mis. No. 2596, Public.

Read—the following letter from H. B. GRIGG, Esq., M.A., Director of Public Instruction, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 16th October 1885, No. B.B.-870 :—

With reference to G.O., dated 2nd September 1885, No. 2053, Public, I would suggest that the letter of the Government of India be communicated to the Madras University and that the Senate be invited to consider whether Indian Palæography may be introduced as a distinct subject for the M.A. degree examination and also whether it may not be given an optional subordinate position in History Branch of the B.A. degree examination.

2. I would further suggest that the University be invited to consider how effect can be given to the second proposal in regard to the establishment of a special Government prize for Palæography, should the Government decide to offer a prize of Rs. 500 as proposed by the Government of India to the University.

Order—dated 6th November 1885, Mis. No. 2596, Public.

Ordered accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Letter—to the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, dated 6th November 1885, Mis. No. 2597, Public.

I am directed to forward, for the consideration of the Senate, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Director of Public Instruction, together with copy of the Proceedings of Government, dated 2nd September 1885, No. 2053, containing the resolution of the Government of India on the subject of encouraging the study of Epigraphy among the Natives of India.

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

READ—also the following paper :—

From W. H. WILSON, Esq., PH.D., Registrar of the University of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 22nd April 1886, No. 45.

With reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 546, Public, dated 3rd March 1885, and your letter, Mis. No. 2597, dated the 6th November 1885 (with enclosures),

on the subject of encouragement of the study of Epigraphy by Indian students, I am directed by the Syndicate to communicate, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the following resolution adopted by them :—

“ The subject of Epigraphy has already been prescribed as a part of the History Branch for the M.A. degree examination of 1888, and the Syndicate would give effect to the wishes of the Government of India by continuing to prescribe the subject for a series of years as the “ Science Auxiliary to History ” laid down in the M.A. course. The dissertation which has to be sent in with the application for admission to the M.A. degree examination in the History Branch would afford the best opportunity for candidates dealing with the science of Epigraphy ; and as the offer of a substantial reward would be likely to induce the candidates to select it as the subject for the dissertation, the Syndicate recommend that the prize of Rs. 500 proposed by Government be offered through the University for a dissertation of decided merit on the subject of Palaeography, a condition being that it shall contain evidence of a real study of inscriptions. And as another step towards promoting the object in view, the Syndicate would adopt Mr. Fleet’s “ Dynasties of the Canarese districts of the Bombay Presidency ” as the “ selected period or subject in History ” for the M.A. examination of 1889, and would also occasionally prescribe the same book in subsequent years.”

2. As regards the B.A. degree examination, the Syndicate consider that the only action that could be taken would be to draw the attention of students to *Indian Palaeography* as a likely subject for the essay they are required to write, and Government might offer a reward of perhaps Rs. 50 for some years for the best essay on the subject.

ORDER—dated 13th May 1886, No. 979, Public.

The proposals of the Syndicate are approved. His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the offer of the prizes recommended.

(True Extract.)



Chief Secretary.

To the Registrar, Madras University.
 „ the Director of Public Instruction.
 „ the Educational Department.
 „ the Revenue „
 „ the Public Works „
 „ Dr. J. Burgess, LL.D., C.I.E.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 13th May 1886, No. 980, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

E. F. WEBSTER,
 Chief Secretary.

Govt. of (1886) Madras.
PUBLIC.

1359 W of 31 May/86.
Recorded in
Continuation of G.O. No.
597 W of 6 March/86.

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27/5/86

Encl.

G.O., &c., 13th May 1886,
Nos. 979, 980.

B. P. 1359 W of 31 May/86

MAY.

Epigraphy.

Sanctioning certain proposals of the Syndicate
of the Madras University for encouraging the
study of —.

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