GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Archæology), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 13th October 1886, No. 9—269.

With reference to paragraph 4 of Home Department Resolution, No. 5—95-113, dated the 15th March last, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter * from the Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India on the subject of the systematic compilation of lists of ancient inscriptions with the object of selections being made therefrom for translation. I am to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the necessary instructions may be issued to district officers to afford every assistance to the Surveyors of the Archæological Department in procuring information for the purpose of compiling lists of inscriptions found in their respective districts. As it is desirable to collect information on a uniform plan, it would be convenient if the district officers concerned were directed to collate it in the tabular form attached to Dr. Burgess' letter.

* No. 406, 12th Aug. 1886, and enclosures.

ENCLOSURES.

From Dr. J. BURGESS, C.I.E., Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated 22, Seton Place, Edinburgh, 12th August 1886, No. 406.

I have the honor to submit herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to the different provincial Archæological Surveyors on the subject of the collection of impressions of inscriptions and forming district catalogues of them.

2. The total number of inscriptions all over India is so large, and the importance of securing the best possible copies of those of historical interest is so great, that it seems very desirable some systematic effort should at once be made to give practical effect to the resolutions of Government, * and to secure as exhaustive lists of them as possible. Until such lists are compiled, there must necessarily be a certain amount of haphazard and imperfection in the selection and arrangement of those submitted for translation.

* No. 1—24-36 of 29th February 1884; No. 2—87-103 of 6th June 1885; and No. 5—95-113 of 15th March 1886, paragraph 4—cited in letter to Surveyors.

3. The lists ought to contain *all* the inscriptions published or unpublished in each district, and, for convenience, these should be arranged under the following provinces :—

(1) (*a*) Bengal Circle including (*b*) Assam, (*c*) South-Western Frontier districts, and (*d*) Orissa.
(2) (*a*) North-Western Provinces and Oudh Circle with (*b*) Central India Agency and (*c*) Central Provinces.
(3) (*a*) Punjab Circle with (*b*) Rajputana and (*c*) Kashmir.
(4) (*a*) Bombay Presidency with (*b*) Sind.
(5) Haidarabad Territory.
(6) Mysore and Coorg.
(7) Madras Presidency.

4. In the "Lists of Remains in Bombay Presidency, Sind, and Berar," completed by me early last season, are included mention of all the inscriptions in the districts that I heard of during the preparation of the work, and translations of a considerable number collected by the survey in Gujrat are added in an appendix.

5. For Madras the survey is also in possession of similar information in the "Lists" for that presidency, the whole numbering about 3,000 inscriptions on stone and copper; and at the same time with the Bombay lists I completed a volume of about 230 pages of copies and translations of Tamil and Sanskrit inscriptions. Dr. Hultzsch has now been appointed Epigraphical Assistant to the Archæological Survey of Southern India, and on his taking charge he may be expected to expedite the formation of complete lists for the Madras Presidency.

6. It is not to be supposed, however, that the materials for either the Bombay or Madras Presidency include all, or nearly all, the existing inscriptions, and of many of those enumerated the details are but meagre. But probably the simplest way of dealing with these presidencies would be to prepare lists for each district from the materials in hand, and circulate them in rough proof to the district officers with a request to fill up details, and add all the additional information they can obtain, furnishing them also with forms to be filled up respecting any inscriptions that might be heard of after these proofs had been returned.

7. For Mysore and Haidarabad the survey is in possession of but little information of the kind required. For Haidarabad what exists is very fragmentary, and returns would have to be obtained for any complete list. And as there are no satisfactory lists of antiquarian remains, temples, tombs, old forts, &c., these latter might be collected at the same time.

8. For Mysore returns were made several years ago to Mr. L. Rice, reporting 3,722 inscriptions. Beyond indicating the villages where inscriptions are to be found, these returns were apparently very imperfect; but they might be made the basis of a more exhaustive and detailed list for the Mysore territory. The Mysore Government published in 1879 translations by Mr. Rice of the 150 stone and copper-plate inscriptions photographed by Major H. Dixon in 1865, together with 25 others, but without either the original texts or facsimiles, by which to estimate the value of the translations. Major Dixon's photographs were also printed and described by Mr. Fleet in 1878 in the volume of "Pali, Sanskrit, and Old Canarese Inscriptions," containing 286 facsimiles; and in the introduction to the volume I summarised the work done by Government and private individuals in Western and Southern India.

9. For Upper India I am not aware of any very extensive materials for such lists. Indeed in this respect it is much behind Madras and Bombay. The inscriptions in the Museums of Calcutta, Behar, Lucknow, Lahore, &c., might readily be described and catalogued, and those that have been published or referred to in the Journals of the Asiatic Societies, the Indian Antiquary, and in General Cunningham's reports might be indexed. These materials are important, and ought to be prepared with all other published information available. But for all the districts included in the three survey circles of Upper India a thorough and systematic series of returns are necessary, and should be arranged through the local surveys. Each has a clerk who, under proper instruction, could attend to most of the details.

10. The tabular form accompanying Government Resolution, Home Dept. (Archæology), No. 2—87-103, of 6th June 1885, modified as in that attached to this letter, would be most suitable for returns from district officers;* and ruled books of 8, 16, 24, or more pages to suit individual requirements, with the desiderata clearly enumerated in order on the first page, might be very useful for the purpose.

* If a few copies were printed and distributed to each of the five surveys (with any Resolution Government may pass on this proposal) they would be useful.

11. If applied to by the surveyors in terms of the resolution of 29th February 1884, the revenue and other district officers will doubtless be ready to give the same assistance as they have done in Madras and Bombay, and would obtain the most intelligent local assistance in filling up the returns for their districts. Some may even be able to supply important details respecting inscriptions in other districts than those in which they may now be located, or furnish references to published ones, and such contributions would be heartily welcomed.

12. To excerpt the information respecting inscriptions already published in the Journals of the Asiatic Societies, General Cunningham's reports, &c., will be a work of considerable labor, and should be pushed forward, so that inquiries might be made and answered respecting any for which the information was defective. Many of the transcripts and translations made in earlier times or by indifferent scholars are not trustworthy, and it is most desirable all should be included in one list with references, so that accurate impressions may be secured whenever opportunity occurs. It would be of great service if each surveyor would take up one of the more important journals or the survey volumes, arrange the index slip from them according to the survey circles to which each belonged, and interchange with the other surveyors. Possibly some help in this part of the work might also be obtained from individuals interested in such matters outside the survey; and as the volumes to be examined are numerous, such aid would be most welcome. I append a list of the principal works to be examined.

13. If this work could be satisfactorily completed, the gain to research would be great. Epigraphic texts contain the scattered facts—portions of historic truth to be found nowhere else—for the construction of ancient Indian history; and the collection of these texts on some *systematic* plan has been only too long delayed.

Trusting this proposal will receive the approbation and encouragement of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council.

(*Form for Inscription return.*)

Government or Administration.	District or Province.	Taluka or Pargana.
1. VILLAGE: distance and direction from head-quarters station.		
2. Position of inscription in the village, in or near what building, and where. For copper-plates: owner and place of residence.	1	2
3. (*a*) Shape of stone, slab, pillar, &c.; (*b*) material; (*c*) its height, breadth and thickness; (*d*) whether removed from elsewhere, isolated or built in.		
4. (*a*) Height and width of inscription; (*b*) number of lines; and (*c*) average number of syllables in a line.		
5. Alphabet and language.		
6. Sculpture or mouldings above or round; cracks, abrasions, condition, &c. For copper-plates: description of seal.		
7. King and dynasty if mentioned.		
8. Details of date (if given) in words or figures.		
9. Remarks: safety of stone, &c. If published, where and by whom.		
10. Serial number of impression.		

Rough List of Books in which Inscriptions are to be found.

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3. Do. Bharhut Stûpa, 1 do.
4. Archæological Survey of Western India Reports, 6 vols., 4to.
5. Do. do. of Miscellaneous publications, 11 vols.
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8. Indian Antiquary, 15 vols., 4to.
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10. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 54 vols., 8vo.
11. Proceedings of do. do. 19 vols.
12. Journal of Bombay Br. Asiatic Society, 17 vols., 8vo.
13. Do. of Madras Literary Society, 23 do.
14. Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society, 3 vols., 4to.
15. Journal do. do. 37 vols., 8vo.
16. Burnell's South Indian Palæography.
17. Sir W. Elliot's MS. Collection of Canarese Inscripts.
18. Tod's Travels in Western India.
19. Do. in Rajasthan.
20. Zeitschrift der Deutchen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft (chiefly the later vols.).
21. Lassen's Indische Alterthumskunde, 4 vols., thick 8vo.
22. Prinsep's Essays, by E. Thomas, 2 vols., 8vo.
23. The Gazetteers and District Manuals of the different Presidencies, &c.
24. Rice's Mysore Inscriptions (last 25 only).
25. The Mackenzie MSS. at Madras, with Dr. Oppert's Index.

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Copy of letter addressed by Dr. J. BURGESS, to the Surveyors of the Archæological Department, dated Edinburgh, 12th August 1886.

The cataloguing and collecting facsimiles of inscriptions is an essential part of the duties of the Archæological Surveyors and their Assistants requiring their immediate attention, and it may be as well to call your notice to the following.

2. In the Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department (Archæology), No. 1—24-36, dated 29th February 1884, paragraphs 2 and 3, it is laid down that in order to the successful carrying out of the epigraphical work of the Archæological Survey it is necessary the officer intrusted with it "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.

"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 the 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."

3. Again, in Resolution No. 2—87-103, dated 6th June 1885, paragraph 6, it is ordered that "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 Archæological 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."

4. And Resolution No. 5—95-113, dated 15th March 1886, paragraph 4, further states that: "It has now been decided to bring the period of Mr. Fleet's special employment to an early termination, and to arrange through Dr. Burgess for the deciphering and translation of inscriptions by experts in Europe and elsewhere. All communications regarding inscriptions will therefore in future be addressed to Dr. Burgess and not to Mr. Fleet. Notwithstanding this change of system, the Government of India trusts that local Governments and Administrations will extend to Dr. Burgess the co-operation hitherto given to Mr. Fleet, and will continue to be guided by the instructions contained in Home Department Resolution, No. 1—24-36, dated 29th February 1884, so far as these are applicable."

5. From these Government resolutions it will be observed that it is made the duty of the surveyors to supply me with tabulated returns of all inscriptions as soon as met with; to include in the annual reports a complete tabular statement of the inscriptions met with, including all such as are already mentioned in the existing reports of the survey; special attention is to be given to discover all inscriptions in the districts under survey; and the surveyors can address either directly, or through the local Governments and Administrations, all district officers for information respecting them.

6. The object being to obtain as complete district lists of inscriptions as possible, it must depend for its realization to a large extent on the surveyors and assistants. A thorough and systematic series of district returns are required in the first place; and as each survey has a clerk, he might with proper direction attend to most of the details.

7. A form of return was issued with Government Resolution of 6th June 1885, and the full particulars to be noted are:—

(1) (*a*) The correct name of the village; (*b*) the district and taluka or pargana in which it is; and (*c*) its distance and direction from the head-quarters station of the taluka or other large and well-known town.
(2) The position of the inscription (if a copper-plate, the owner and place of deposit), whereabouts, in or on which side of the village, near what temple or other building, &c., giving details that would enable a stranger to find the spot.
(3) (*a*) Shape of the stone, slab, pillar, stele image, &c.; (*b*) its material—limestone, marble, sandstone, granite; (*c*) its height, breadth and thickness; (*d*) whether *in situ* or apparently removed from elsewhere; (*e*) isolated or built into a structure, &c.; if copper-plates, the number, size, and approximate thickness, with description of ring and seal, if any.
(4) (*a*) Height and width of the inscribed part; (*b*) number of lines; (*c*) average number of syllables or aksharas in a line.
(5) Characteristic details, such as bas-reliefs at the top, mouldings round, fractures and cracks, abrasions and portions peeled off, how far legible, &c.
(6) Character or alphabet and language—Pali, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Gurmukhi, Bengali, Uriya, Telugu, Tamil, Grantham, Vattellutu, &c.
(7) King and dynasty if mentioned, or any information regarding the contents and age.
(8) Details of date if given; the words or figures used for the date and era in full.
(9) Remarks: information as to safety and protection, probable age if undated, whether published and where, &c.
(10) When an impression has been taken for the survey, the serial number of it should be entered in the return by the surveyor for reference.

Even where the last four above particulars cannot be filled in with a fair amount of certainty, the return will still be valuable if only the earlier ones are carefully entered.

8. On receiving back the returns, the surveyors should arrange them and add any information they might personally possess respecting any of the inscriptions, with references in cases where they had been published, and submit to me the lists from each district, thus far completed, to recommend such as deserved to be printed.

9. Every effort, however, should be made to secure good ink impressions or estampages of all inscriptions. The process is so simple that a peon may be readily taught to make very good ones, and might be sent all round the villages within reach of the surveyor's camp, making facsimiles of all the inscriptions to be found in them. Photographs of inscriptions are also most important. Generally they can best be done by washing the stone with a thin solution of whiting or lime, and, when just sufficiently dry, rubbing it over with a firmly rolled damp cloth or a brush to remove the white coating from the surface, only leaving the sunk letters white for the photograph. But photographs will not always supply the place of impressions, and where there is only an alternative, the ink impression is to be preferred to the photograph, though a photograph, being smaller, is an excellent supplementary copy. Impressions can also frequently be better copied by

photography than the original inscriptions. Two impressions should always be taken, and two prints of all photographs should be sent to me, and each should have the same serial number upon it as the return containing the particulars required under paragraph 7 above.

10. If the scheme is heartily worked in this way, we may hope in the course of a year or so to have a collection of information which when indexed would be invaluable as a basis for the future systematic pursuit of Indian epigraphy. I shall be glad to receive all impressions, photographs, and information you can at once supply addressed to me at Poona not later than 1st November; and I hope that during the ensuing season this department of the work will receive systematic attention, and that you will kindly endeavour to collect materials for a general list of the inscriptions in the different districts of your circle.

ORDER—dated 5th November 1886, No. 2332, Public.

Communicated to all Collectors of districts for information and guidance. Attention is drawn to paragraph 6 of Dr. Burgess' letter to the Government of India and to the tabular form attached in which information should be collated.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ Dr. J. Burgess, C.I.E.
„ Dr. G. Oppert.
„ R. Sewell, Esq.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Govt. of {1886} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 5th November 1886, No. 2332.

NOVEMBER.

Archæology.

Communicating to all Collectors of districts, for information and guidance, papers from the Government of India regarding the systematic compilation of lists of ancient inscriptions.

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2. In the Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department (Archæology), No. 1—24-36, dated 29th February 1884, paragraphs 2 and 3, it is laid down that in order to the successful carrying out of the epigraphical work of the Archæological Survey it is necessary the officer intrusted with it "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.

"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 the 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."

3. Again, in Resolution No. 2—87-103, dated 6th June 1885, paragraph 6, it is ordered that "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 Archæological 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."

4. And Resolution No. 5—95-113, dated 15th March 1886, paragraph 4, further states that: "It has now been decided to bring the period of Mr. Fleet's special employment to an early termination, and to arrange through Dr. Burgess for the deciphering and translation of inscriptions by experts in Europe and elsewhere. All communications regarding inscriptions will therefore in future be addressed to Dr. Burgess and not to Mr. Fleet. Notwithstanding this change of system, the Government of India trusts that local Governments and Administrations will extend to Dr. Burgess the co-operation hitherto given to Mr. Fleet, and will continue to be guided by the instructions contained in Home Department Resolution, No. 1—24-36, dated 29th February 1884, so far as these are applicable."

5. From these Government resolutions it will be observed that it is made the duty of the surveyors to supply me with tabulated returns of all inscriptions as soon as met with; to include in the annual reports a complete tabular statement of the inscriptions met with, including all such as are already mentioned in the existing reports of the survey; special attention is to be given to discover all inscriptions in the districts under survey; and the surveyors can address either directly, or through the local Governments and Administrations, all district officers for information respecting them.

6. The object being to obtain as complete district lists of inscriptions as possible, it must depend for its realization to a large extent on the surveyors and assistants. A thorough and systematic series of district returns are required in the first place; and as each survey has a clerk, he might with proper direction attend to most of the details.

7. A form of return was issued with Government Resolution of 6th June 1885, and the full particulars to be noted are:—

(1) (*a*) The correct name of the village; (*b*) the district and taluka or pargana in which it is; and (*c*) its distance and direction from the head-quarters station of the taluka or other large and well-known town.
(2) The position of the inscription (if a copper-plate, the owner and place of deposit), whereabouts, in or on which side of the village, near what temple or other building, &c., giving details that would enable a stranger to find the spot.
(3) (*a*) Shape of the stone, slab, pillar, stele image, &c.; (*b*) its material—limestone, marble, sandstone, granite; (*c*) its height, breadth and thickness; (*d*) whether *in situ* or apparently removed from elsewhere; (*e*) isolated or built into a structure, &c.; if copper-plates, the number, size, and approximate thickness, with description of ring and seal, if any.
(4) (*a*) Height and width of the inscribed part; (*b*) number of lines; (*c*) average number of syllables or aksharas in a line.
(5) Characteristic details, such as bas-reliefs at the top, mouldings round, fractures and cracks, abrasions and portions peeled off, how far legible, &c.
(6) Character or alphabet and language—Pali, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Gurmukhi, Bengali, Uriya, Telugu, Tamil, Grantham, Vattellutu, &c.
(7) King and dynasty if mentioned, or any information regarding the contents and age.
(8) Details of date if given; the words or figures used for the date and era in full.
(9) Remarks: information as to safety and protection, probable age if undated, whether published and where, &c.
(10) When an impression has been taken for the survey, the serial number of it should be entered in the return by the surveyor for reference.

Even where the last four above particulars cannot be filled in with a fair amount of certainty, the return will still be valuable if only the earlier ones are carefully entered.

8. On receiving back the returns, the surveyors should arrange them and add any information they might personally possess respecting any of the inscriptions, with references in cases where they had been published, and submit to me the lists from each district, thus far completed, to recommend such as deserved to be printed.

9. Every effort, however, should be made to secure good ink impressions or estampages of all inscriptions. The process is so simple that a peon may be readily taught to make very good ones, and might be sent all round the villages within reach of the surveyor's camp, making facsimiles of all the inscriptions to be found in them. Photographs of inscriptions are also most important. Generally they can best be done by washing the stone with a thin solution of whiting or lime, and, when just sufficiently dry, rubbing it over with a firmly rolled damp cloth or a brush to remove the white coating from the surface, only leaving the sunk letters white for the photograph. But photographs will not always supply the place of impressions, and where there is only an alternative, the ink impression is to be preferred to the photograph, though a photograph, being smaller, is an excellent supplementary copy. Impressions can also frequently be better copied by

photography than the original inscriptions. Two impressions should always be taken, and two prints of all photographs should be sent to me, and each should have the same serial number upon it as the return containing the particulars required under paragraph 7 above.

10. If the scheme is heartily worked in this way, we may hope in the course of a year or so to have a collection of information which when indexed would be invaluable as a basis for the future systematic pursuit of Indian epigraphy. I shall be glad to receive all impressions, photographs, and information you can at once supply addressed to me at Poona not later than 1st November; and I hope that during the ensuing season this department of the work will receive systematic attention, and that you will kindly endeavour to collect materials for a general list of the inscriptions in the different districts of your circle.

ORDER—dated 5th November 1886, No. 2332, Public.

Communicated to all Collectors of districts for information and guidance. Attention is drawn to paragraph 6 of Dr. Burgess' letter to the Government of India and to the tabular form attached in which information should be collated.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ Dr. J. Burgess, C.I.E.
„ Dr. G. Oppert.
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Exd. T. O'Connor.

Communicated
to Supdg. Engrs in
Continuation of G.O.
No. 1427 W. dy 4th June
1886.

(Sd) J. O. H.

W

Govt. of {1886} Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 5th November 1886, No. 2332.

NOVEMBER.

Archæology.

Communicating to all Collectors of districts, for information and guidance, papers from the Government of India regarding the systematic compilation of lists of ancient inscriptions.

Supdg. Engrs.

C. A. to Govt

Exr. P.W. Accts.

With order

P.W. Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Read the following:—

5TH NOVEMBER 1886, No. 2332, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Archæology), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 13th October 1886, No. 9—269.

With reference to paragraph 4 of Home Department Resolution, No. 5—95-113, dated the 15th March last, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter * from the Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India on the subject of the systematic compilation of lists of ancient inscriptions with the object of selections being made therefrom for translation. I am to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the necessary instructions may be issued to district officers to afford every assistance to the Surveyors of the Archæological Department in procuring information for the purpose of compiling lists of inscriptions found in their respective districts. As it is desirable to collect information on a uniform plan, it would be convenient if the district officers concerned were directed to collate it in the tabular form attached to Dr. Burgess' letter.

* No. 406, 12th Aug. 1886, and enclosures.

ENCLOSURES.

From Dr. J. BURGESS, C.I.E., Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated 22, Seton Place, Edinburgh, 12th August 1886, No. 406.

I have the honor to submit herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to the different provincial Archæological Surveyors on the subject of the collection of impressions of inscriptions and forming district catalogues of them.

2. The total number of inscriptions all over India is so large, and the importance of securing the best possible copies of those of historical interest is so great, that it seems very desirable some systematic effort should at once be made to give practical effect to the resolutions of Government, * and to secure as exhaustive lists of them as possible. Until such lists are compiled, there must necessarily be a certain amount of haphazard and imperfection in the selection and arrangement of those submitted for translation.

* No. 1—24-36 of 29th February 1884; No. 2—87-103 of 6th June 1885; and No. 5—95-113 of 15th March 1886, paragraph 4—cited in letter to Surveyors.

3. The lists ought to contain *all* the inscriptions published or unpublished in each district, and, for convenience, these should be arranged under the following provinces :—

(1) (*a*) Bengal Circle including (*b*) Assam, (*c*) South-Western Frontier districts, and (*d*) Orissa.
(2) (*a*) North-Western Provinces and Oudh Circle with (*b*) Central India Agency and (*c*) Central Provinces.
(3) (*a*) Punjab Circle with (*b*) Rajputana and (*c*) Kashmir.
(4) (*a*) Bombay Presidency with (*b*) Sind.
(5) Haidarabad Territory.
(6) Mysore and Coorg.
(7) Madras Presidency.

4. In the "Lists of Remains in Bombay Presidency, Sind, and Berar," completed by me early last season, are included mention of all the inscriptions in the districts that I heard of during the preparation of the work, and translations of a considerable number collected by the survey in Gujrat are added in an appendix.

5. For Madras the survey is also in possession of similar information in the "Lists" for that presidency, the whole numbering about 3,000 inscriptions on stone and copper; and at the same time with the Bombay lists I completed a volume of about 230 pages of copies and translations of Tamil and Sanskrit inscriptions. Dr. Hultzsch has now been appointed Epigraphical Assistant to the Archæological Survey of Southern India, and on his taking charge he may be expected to expedite the formation of complete lists for the Madras Presidency.

6. It is not to be supposed, however, that the materials for either the Bombay or Madras Presidency include all, or nearly all, the existing inscriptions, and of many of those enumerated the details are but meagre. But probably the simplest way of dealing with these presidencies would be to prepare lists for each district from the materials in hand, and circulate them in rough proof to the district officers with a request to fill up details, and add all the additional information they can obtain, furnishing them also with forms to be filled up respecting any inscriptions that might be heard of after these proofs had been returned.

7. For Mysore and Haidarabad the survey is in possession of but little information of the kind required. For Haidarabad what exists is very fragmentary, and returns would have to be obtained for any complete list. And as there are no satisfactory lists of antiquarian remains, temples, tombs, old forts, &c., these latter might be collected at the same time.

8. For Mysore returns were made several years ago to Mr. L. Rice, reporting 3,722 inscriptions. Beyond indicating the villages where inscriptions are to be found, these returns were apparently very imperfect; but they might be made the basis of a more exhaustive and detailed list for the Mysore territory. The Mysore Government published in 1879 translations by Mr. Rice of the 150 stone and copper-plate inscriptions photographed by Major H. Dixon in 1865, together with 25 others, but without either the original texts or facsimiles, by which to estimate the value of the translations. Major Dixon's photographs were also printed and described by Mr. Fleet in 1878 in the volume of "Pali, Sanskrit, and Old Canarese Inscriptions," containing 286 facsimiles; and in the introduction to the volume I summarised the work done by Government and private individuals in Western and Southern India.

9. For Upper India I am not aware of any very extensive materials for such lists. Indeed in this respect it is much behind Madras and Bombay. The inscriptions in the Museums of Calcutta, Behar, Lucknow, Lahore, &c., might readily be described and catalogued, and those that have been published or referred to in the Journals of the Asiatic Societies, the Indian Antiquary, and in General Cunningham's reports might be indexed. These materials are important, and ought to be prepared with all other published information available. But for all the districts included in the three survey circles of Upper India a thorough and systematic series of returns are necessary, and should be arranged through the local surveys. Each has a clerk who, under proper instruction, could attend to most of the details.

10. The tabular form accompanying Government Resolution, Home Dept. (Archæology), No. 2—87-103, of 6th June 1885, modified as in that attached to this letter, would be most suitable for returns from district officers;* and ruled books of 8, 16, 24, or more pages to suit individual requirements, with the desiderata clearly enumerated in order on the first page, might be very useful for the purpose.

* If a few copies were printed and distributed to each of the five surveys (with any Resolution Government may pass on this proposal) they would be useful.

11. If applied to by the surveyors in terms of the resolution of 29th February 1884, the revenue and other district officers will doubtless be ready to give the same assistance as they have done in Madras and Bombay, and would obtain the most intelligent local assistance in filling up the returns for their districts. Some may even be able to supply important details respecting inscriptions in other districts than those in which they may now be located, or furnish references to published ones, and such contributions would be heartily welcomed.

12. To excerpt the information respecting inscriptions already published in the Journals of the Asiatic Societies, General Cunningham's reports, &c., will be a work of considerable labor, and should be pushed forward, so that inquiries might be made and answered respecting any for which the information was defective. Many of the transcripts and translations made in earlier times or by indifferent scholars are not trustworthy, and it is most desirable all should be included in one list with references, so that accurate impressions may be secured whenever opportunity occurs. It would be of great service if each surveyor would take up one of the more important journals or the survey volumes, arrange the index slip from them according to the survey circles to which each belonged, and interchange with the other surveyors. Possibly some help in this part of the work might also be obtained from individuals interested in such matters outside the survey; and as the volumes to be examined are numerous, such aid would be most welcome. I append a list of the principal works to be examined.

13. If this work could be satisfactorily completed, the gain to research would be great. Epigraphic texts contain the scattered facts—portions of historic truth to be found nowhere else—for the construction of ancient Indian history; and the collection of these texts on some *systematic* plan has been only too long delayed.

Trusting this proposal will receive the approbation and encouragement of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council.

(*Form for Inscription return.*)

Government or Administration.	District or Province.	Taluka or Pargana.
1. VILLAGE: distance and direction from head-quarters station.		
2. Position of inscription in the village, in or near what building, and where. For copper-plates: owner and place of residence.	1	2
3. (*a*) Shape of stone, slab, pillar, &c.; (*b*) material; (*c*) its height, breadth and thickness; (*d*) whether removed from elsewhere, isolated or built in.		
4. (*a*) Height and width of inscription; (*b*) number of lines; and (*c*) average number of syllables in a line.		
5. Alphabet and language.		
6. Sculpture or mouldings above or round; cracks, abrasions, condition, &c. For copper-plates: description of seal.		
7. King and dynasty if mentioned.		
8. Details of date (if given) in words or figures.		
9. Remarks: safety of stone, &c. If published, where and by whom.		
10. Serial number of impression.		

Rough List of Books in which Inscriptions are to be found.

1. Cunningham's Archæological Reports, 23 vols., 8vo.
2. Do. Corpus Inscriptionum, 1 vol., 4to.
3. Do. Bharhut Stûpa, 1 do.
4. Archæological Survey of Western India Reports, 6 vols., 4to.
5. Do. do. of Miscellaneous publications, 11 vols.
6. Do. do. of Pali, Sanskrit, and Old Canarese Inscriptions (286 facsimiles).
7. Do. do. of Southern India, 5 vols., 4to.

8. Indian Antiquary, 15 vols., 4to.
9. Asiatic Researches, 20 vols., 4to.
10. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 54 vols., 8vo.
11. Proceedings of do. do. 19 vols.
12. Journal of Bombay Br. Asiatic Society, 17 vols., 8vo.
13. Do. of Madras Literary Society, 23 do.
14. Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society, 3 vols., 4to.
15. Journal do. do. 37 vols., 8vo.
16. Burnell's South Indian Palæography.
17. Sir W. Elliot's MS. Collection of Canarese Inscripts.
18. Tod's Travels in Western India.
19. Do. in Rajasthan.
20. Zeitschrift der Deutchen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft (chiefly the later vols.).
21. Lassen's Indische Alterthumskunde, 4 vols., thick 8vo.
22. Prinsep's Essays, by E. Thomas, 2 vols., 8vo.
23. The Gazetteers and District Manuals of the different Presidencies, &c.
24. Rice's Mysore Inscriptions (last 25 only).
25. The Mackenzie MSS. at Madras, with Dr. Oppert's Index.

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No 3074 W 1/19 2 Nov 86

Communicated to Supdg. Engrs in Continuation of G.O. No. 1427 W. dated 4th June 1886.

(Sd) J.O.H.

W.

Govt. of {1886} Madras.

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READ—the following paper :—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.S., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Archæology), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 13th October 1886, No. 9—269.

With reference to paragraph 4 of Home Department Resolution, No. 5—95-113, dated the 15th March last, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter * from the Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India on the subject of the systematic compilation of lists of ancient inscriptions with the object of selections being made therefrom for translation. I am to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the necessary instructions may be issued to district officers to afford every assistance to the Surveyors of the Archæological Department in procuring information for the purpose of compiling lists of inscriptions found in their respective districts. As it is desirable to collect information on a uniform plan, it would be convenient if the district officers concerned were directed to collate it in the tabular form attached to Dr. Burgess' letter.

* No. 406, 12th Aug. 1886, and enclosures.

ENCLOSURES.

From Dr. J. BURGESS, C.I.E., Director-General of the Archæological Survey of India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated 22, Seton Place, Edinburgh, 12th August 1886, No. 406.

I have the honor to submit herewith copy of a letter which I have addressed to the different provincial Archæological Surveyors on the subject of the collection of impressions of inscriptions and forming district catalogues of them.

2. The total number of inscriptions all over India is so large, and the importance of securing the best possible copies of those of historical interest is so great, that it seems very desirable some systematic effort should at once be made to give practical effect to the resolutions of Government, * and to secure as exhaustive lists of them as possible. Until such lists are compiled, there must necessarily be a certain amount of haphazard and imperfection in the selection and arrangement of those submitted for translation.

* No. 1—24-36 of 29th February 1884; No. 2—87-103 of 6th June 1885; and No. 5—95-113 of 15th March 1886, paragraph 4—cited in letter to Surveyors.

3. The lists ought to contain *all* the inscriptions published or unpublished in each district, and, for convenience, these should be arranged under the following provinces :—

(1) (*a*) Bengal Circle including (*b*) Assam, (*c*) South-Western Frontier districts, and (*d*) Orissa.
(2) (*a*) North-Western Provinces and Oudh Circle with (*b*) Central India Agency and (*c*) Central Provinces.
(3) (*a*) Punjab Circle with (*b*) Rajputana and (*c*) Kashmir.
(4) (*a*) Bombay Presidency with (*b*) Sind.
(5) Haidarabad Territory.
(6) Mysore and Coorg.
(7) Madras Presidency.

4. In the "Lists of Remains in Bombay Presidency, Sind, and Berar," completed by me early last season, are included mention of all the inscriptions in the districts that I heard of during the preparation of the work, and translations of a considerable number collected by the survey in Gujrat are added in an appendix.

5. For Madras the survey is also in possession of similar information in the "Lists" for that presidency, the whole numbering about 3,000 inscriptions on stone and copper; and at the same time with the Bombay lists I completed a volume of about 230 pages of copies and translations of Tamil and Sanskrit inscriptions. Dr. Hultzsch has now been appointed Epigraphical Assistant to the Archæological Survey of Southern India, and on his taking charge he may be expected to expedite the formation of complete lists for the Madras Presidency.

6. It is not to be supposed, however, that the materials for either the Bombay or Madras Presidency include all, or nearly all, the existing inscriptions, and of many of those enumerated the details are but meagre. But probably the simplest way of dealing with these presidencies would be to prepare lists for each district from the materials in hand, and circulate them in rough proof to the district officers with a request to fill up details, and add all the additional information they can obtain, furnishing them also with forms to be filled up respecting any inscriptions that might be heard of after these proofs had been returned.

7. For Mysore and Haidarabad the survey is in possession of but little information of the kind required. For Haidarabad what exists is very fragmentary, and returns would have to be obtained for any complete list. And as there are no satisfactory lists of antiquarian remains, temples, tombs, old forts, &c., these latter might be collected at the same time.

8. For Mysore returns were made several years ago to Mr. L. Rice, reporting 3,722 inscriptions. Beyond indicating the villages where inscriptions are to be found, these returns were apparently very imperfect; but they might be made the basis of a more exhaustive and detailed list for the Mysore territory. The Mysore Government published in 1879 translations by Mr. Rice of the 150 stone and copper-plate inscriptions photographed by Major H. Dixon in 1865, together with 25 others, but without either the original texts or facsimiles, by which to estimate the value of the translations. Major Dixon's photographs were also printed and described by Mr. Fleet in 1878 in the volume of "Pali, Sanskrit, and Old Canarese Inscriptions," containing 286 facsimiles; and in the introduction to the volume I summarised the work done by Government and private individuals in Western and Southern India.

9. For Upper India I am not aware of any very extensive materials for such lists. Indeed in this respect it is much behind Madras and Bombay. The inscriptions in the Museums of Calcutta, Behar, Lucknow, Lahore, &c., might readily be described and catalogued, and those that have been published or referred to in the Journals of the Asiatic Societies, the Indian Antiquary, and in General Cunningham's reports might be indexed. These materials are important, and ought to be prepared with all other published information available. But for all the districts included in the three survey circles of Upper India a thorough and systematic series of returns are necessary, and should be arranged through the local surveys. Each has a clerk who, under proper instruction, could attend to most of the details.

10. The tabular form accompanying Government Resolution, Home Dept. (Archæology), No. 2—87-103, of 6th June 1885, modified as in that attached to this letter, would be most suitable for returns from district officers;* and ruled books of 8, 16, 24, or more pages to suit individual requirements, with the desiderata clearly enumerated in order on the first page, might be very useful for the purpose.

* If a few copies were printed and distributed to each of the five surveys (with any Resolution Government may pass on this proposal) they would be useful.

11. If applied to by the surveyors in terms of the resolution of 29th February 1884, the revenue and other district officers will doubtless be ready to give the same assistance as they have done in Madras and Bombay, and would obtain the most intelligent local assistance in filling up the returns for their districts. Some may even be able to supply important details respecting inscriptions in other districts than those in which they may now be located, or furnish references to published ones, and such contributions would be heartily welcomed.

12. To excerpt the information respecting inscriptions already published in the Journals of the Asiatic Societies, General Cunningham's reports, &c., will be a work of considerable labor, and should be pushed forward, so that inquiries might be made and answered respecting any for which the information was defective. Many of the transcripts and translations made in earlier times or by indifferent scholars are not trustworthy, and it is most desirable all should be included in one list with references, so that accurate impressions may be secured whenever opportunity occurs. It would be of great service if each surveyor would take up one of the more important journals or the survey volumes, arrange the index slip from them according to the survey circles to which each belonged, and interchange with the other surveyors. Possibly some help in this part of the work might also be obtained from individuals interested in such matters outside the survey; and as the volumes to be examined are numerous, such aid would be most welcome. I append a list of the principal works to be examined.

13. If this work could be satisfactorily completed, the gain to research would be great. Epigraphic texts contain the scattered facts—portions of historic truth to be found nowhere else—for the construction of ancient Indian history; and the collection of these texts on some *systematic* plan has been only too long delayed.

Trusting this proposal will receive the approbation and encouragement of His Excellency the Viceroy in Council.

(*Form for Inscription return.*)

Government or Administration.	District or Province.	Taluka or Pargana.
1. VILLAGE: distance and direction from head-quarters station.		
2. Position of inscription in the village, in or near what building, and where. For copper-plates: owner and place of residence.	1	2
3. (*a*) Shape of stone, slab, pillar, &c.; (*b*) material; (*c*) its height, breadth and thickness; (*d*) whether removed from elsewhere, isolated or built in.		
4. (*a*) Height and width of inscription; (*b*) number of lines; and (*c*) average number of syllables in a line.		
5. Alphabet and language.		
6. Sculpture or mouldings above or round; cracks, abrasions, condition, &c. For copper-plates: description of seal.		
7. King and dynasty if mentioned.		
8. Details of date (if given) in words or figures.		
9. Remarks: safety of stone, &c. If published, where and by whom.		
10. Serial number of impression.		

Rough List of Books in which Inscriptions are to be found.

1. Cunningham's Archæological Reports, 23 vols., 8vo.
2. Do. Corpus Inscriptionum, 1 vol., 4to.
3. Do. Bharhut Stûpa, 1 do.
4. Archæological Survey of Western India Reports, 6 vols., 4to.
5. Do. do. of Miscellaneous publications, 11 vols.
6. Do. do. of Pali, Sanskrit, and Old Canarese Inscriptions (286 facsimiles).
7. Do. do. of Southern India, 5 vols., 4to.

8. Indian Antiquary, 15 vols., 4to.
9. Asiatic Researches, 20 vols., 4to.
10. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 54 vols., 8vo.
11. Proceedings of do. do. 19 vols.
12. Journal of Bombay Br. Asiatic Society, 17 vols., 8vo.
13. Do. of Madras Literary Society, 23 do.
14. Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society, 3 vols., 4to.
15. Journal do. do. 37 vols., 8vo.
16. Burnell's South Indian Palæography.
17. Sir W. Elliot's MS. Collection of Canarese Inscripts.
18. Tod's Travels in Western India.
19. Do. in Rajasthan.
20. Zeitschrift der Deutchen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft (chiefly the later vols.).
21. Lassen's Indische Alterthumskunde, 4 vols., thick 8vo.
22. Prinsep's Essays, by E. Thomas, 2 vols., 8vo.
23. The Gazetteers and District Manuals of the different Presidencies, &c.
24. Rice's Mysore Inscriptions (last 25 only).
25. The Mackenzie MSS. at Madras, with Dr. Oppert's Index.

Copy of letter addressed by Dr. J. BURGESS, to the Surveyors of the Archæological Department, dated Edinburgh, 12th August 1886.

The cataloguing and collecting facsimiles of inscriptions is an essential part of the duties of the Archæological Surveyors and their Assistants requiring their immediate attention, and it may be as well to call your notice to the following.

2. In the Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department (Archæology), No. 1—24-36, dated 29th February 1884, paragraphs 2 and 3, it is laid down that in order to the successful carrying out of the epigraphical work of the Archæological Survey it is necessary the officer intrusted with it "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.

"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 the 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."

3. Again, in Resolution No. 2—87-103, dated 6th June 1885, paragraph 6, it is ordered that "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 Archæological 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."

4. And Resolution No. 5—95-113, dated 15th March 1886, paragraph 4, further states that: "It has now been decided to bring the period of Mr. Fleet's special employment to an early termination, and to arrange through Dr. Burgess for the deciphering and translation of inscriptions by experts in Europe and elsewhere. All communications regarding inscriptions will therefore in future be addressed to Dr. Burgess and not to Mr. Fleet. Notwithstanding this change of system, the Government of India trusts that local Governments and Administrations will extend to Dr. Burgess the co-operation hitherto given to Mr. Fleet, and will continue to be guided by the instructions contained in Home Department Resolution, No. 1—24-36, dated 29th February 1884, so far as these are applicable."

5. From these Government resolutions it will be observed that it is made the duty of the surveyors to supply me with tabulated returns of all inscriptions as soon as met with; to include in the annual reports a complete tabular statement of the inscriptions met with, including all such as are already mentioned in the existing reports of the survey; special attention is to be given to discover all inscriptions in the districts under survey; and the surveyors can address either directly, or through the local Governments and Administrations, all district officers for information respecting them.

6. The object being to obtain as complete district lists of inscriptions as possible, it must depend for its realization to a large extent on the surveyors and assistants. A thorough and systematic series of district returns are required in the first place; and as each survey has a clerk, he might with proper direction attend to most of the details.

7. A form of return was issued with Government Resolution of 6th June 1885, and the full particulars to be noted are:—

(1) (*a*) The correct name of the village; (*b*) the district and taluka or pargana in which it is; and (*c*) its distance and direction from the head-quarters station of the taluka or other large and well-known town.
(2) The position of the inscription (if a copper-plate, the owner and place of deposit), whereabouts, in or on which side of the village, near what temple or other building, &c., giving details that would enable a stranger to find the spot.
(3) (*a*) Shape of the stone, slab, pillar, stele image, &c.; (*b*) its material—limestone, marble, sandstone, granite; (*c*) its height, breadth and thickness; (*d*) whether *in situ* or apparently removed from elsewhere; (*e*) isolated or built into a structure, &c.; if copper-plates, the number, size, and approximate thickness, with description of ring and seal, if any.
(4) (*a*) Height and width of the inscribed part; (*b*) number of lines; (*c*) average number of syllables or aksharas in a line.
(5) Characteristic details, such as bas-reliefs at the top, mouldings round, fractures and cracks, abrasions and portions peeled off, how far legible, &c.
(6) Character or alphabet and language—Pali, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Gurmukhi, Bengali, Uriya, Telugu, Tamil, Grantham, Vattellutu, &c.
(7) King and dynasty if mentioned, or any information regarding the contents and age.
(8) Details of date if given; the words or figures used for the date and era in full.
(9) Remarks: information as to safety and protection, probable age if undated, whether published and where, &c.
(10) When an impression has been taken for the survey, the serial number of it should be entered in the return by the surveyor for reference.

Even where the last four above particulars cannot be filled in with a fair amount of certainty, the return will still be valuable if only the earlier ones are carefully entered.

8. On receiving back the returns, the surveyors should arrange them and add any information they might personally possess respecting any of the inscriptions, with references in cases where they had been published, and submit to me the lists from each district, thus far completed, to recommend such as deserved to be printed.

9. Every effort, however, should be made to secure good ink impressions or estampages of all inscriptions. The process is so simple that a peon may be readily taught to make very good ones, and might be sent all round the villages within reach of the surveyor's camp, making facsimiles of all the inscriptions to be found in them. Photographs of inscriptions are also most important. Generally they can best be done by washing the stone with a thin solution of whiting or lime, and, when just sufficiently dry, rubbing it over with a firmly rolled damp cloth or a brush to remove the white coating from the surface, only leaving the sunk letters white for the photograph. But photographs will not always supply the place of impressions, and where there is only an alternative, the ink impression is to be preferred to the photograph, though a photograph, being smaller, is an excellent supplementary copy. Impressions can also frequently be better copied by

photography than the original inscriptions. Two impressions should always be taken, and two prints of all photographs should be sent to me, and each should have the same serial number upon it as the return containing the particulars required under paragraph 7 above.

10. If the scheme is heartily worked in this way, we may hope in the course of a year or so to have a collection of information which when indexed would be invaluable as a basis for the future systematic pursuit of Indian epigraphy. I shall be glad to receive all impressions, photographs, and information you can at once supply addressed to me at Poona not later than 1st November; and I hope that during the ensuing season this department of the work will receive systematic attention, and that you will kindly endeavour to collect materials for a general list of the inscriptions in the different districts of your circle.

ORDER—dated 5th November 1886, No. 2332, Public.

Communicated to all Collectors of districts for information and guidance. Attention is drawn to paragraph 6 of Dr. Burgess' letter to the Government of India and to the tabular form attached in which information should be collated.

(True Extract.)

W. Nicholas

Ag. Chief Secretary.

To all Collectors.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ Dr. J. Burgess, C.I.E.
„ Dr. G. Oppert.
„ R. Sewell, Esq.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

P.W.C. No. 8980

No. 3074 W of 19

B

Communicated to Supdg. Engrs in Continuation of G.O. No. 1427 W. dated 4th June 1886.

Supdg. Engrs in Continuation of G.O. No: 1427 W. dated 4th June 1886.

18.11.86

18/11/86.

1427 W 4.6.86.
1074 W 29.4.86.
930 W 5.4.86.
3071 W 19.12.85.
2163 W 16.9.85.
1618 W 13.7.85.
927 W 4.4.84.

Supdg. Engrs ✓
C.A. to Govt ✓
Exr. P.W. Accts ✓

Recd 19-11-86.

23/11

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Recd. 17.11.86 *Encl.*

G.O., 5th November 1886, No. 2332.

No. 3074 W of 19

NOVEMBER.

Archæology.

Communicating to all Collectors of districts, for information and guidance, papers from the Government of India regarding the systematic compilation of lists of ancient inscriptions.

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