

6TH DECEMBER 1886, No. 2532, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Dr. J. BURGESS, C.I.E., Director-General, Archæological Survey of India,
to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 22nd November 1886,
No. 551.

With reference to Mr. Rea's report, and G.O., dated 7th October 1886, No. 2102,
I have the honor to remark that I have this day visited Pallavaram, for the purpose
of inspecting the primitive graves and grave circles; and regret to have to call the
attention of Government to the following:—

2. As pointed out by Mr. Rea in his communication, dated 7th September 1886,
the heavy rains naturally swelled the earth, and in all the graves I have seen, the
earthenware coffins are now burst and broken. Cattle stepping over them have also
contributed to the general destruction. The stone circles also, with one or two excep-
tions of minor importance, have been, in whole or part, dug up, and the stones broken
and removed. It is much to be deplored that full two months have elapsed since the
attention of Government was called to these very ancient and interesting remains; and
no action has yet been put in force by Government for their protection; and that,
notwithstanding the recent orders of the Government of India for the protection of
such remains from the vandalism, or worse, of contractors, these have been to such a
large extent destroyed.

3. If they could now be promptly protected from every further interference, it
may be possible that, notwithstanding the very large number of graves wantonly
exposed, there may still be some that have not been interfered with, and, if protected
till after the rains, it might be possible, under special skilled supervision, to exhume
and remove one or more of these remarkable coffins, entire, to the Museum. Mr. Rea,
I think, could do this. Regretting that so little attention is paid to antiquarian objects
of such peculiar interest,—I have, &c.,

ORDER—dated 6th December 1886, No. 2532, Public.

Communicated to the Collector of Chingleput, for report and action with reference
to paragraph 3 of Dr. Burgess' letter.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Chingleput.
„ the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India.
„ A. Rea, Esq.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

3349 N of 18. 12. 86.
Communicated to the
Supt Engineer & Circle
1st of Jan
W

Gobt. of (1886) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 6th December 1886, No. 2532.

B. N. 3349 N of 18. 12. 86.
DECEMBER.

Archæology.

Communicating to the Collector of Chingleput, for report and action, letter from the Director-General, Archæological Survey, regarding the injury done to the primitive graves recently discovered near Pallavaram, and their future preservation.

E. V. Circle

With order

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„ the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India.
„ A. Rea, Esq.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

H. P. Stokes
Ag. Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. Raitt.

1322

Govt. of {1886} Madras

PUBLIC.

No 3349 of 18-12-86

Communicated to
the Supg. Engrs. &
the Dy. Engrs. &
Circ.

[Signature]
16.12.86.

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17/12/86.

Issued

Recd. 15.12.86

Encl.

G.O., 6th December 1886, No. 2532.

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S.E. & Circ. ✓ See
18/12

see
19/12 20/12

2 copies to Dy. Engrs.
to be sent to the
Collector of Chingleput