

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

LEAD—the following papers :—

From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 4th June 1887, No. 87 G.L.

With reference to G.O., No. 1353 W., dated 17th May 1887, I have the honor to say that I do not know of any buildings of such historical interest in this circle as would render them worthy of repair.

2. As regards the "Asoka tablets," which are inscriptions on natural rock, they have been so frequently reported upon by this department and the Archaeological Department that I had no idea that anything further had to be said about them and merely entered them in the return so that their position might not be lost sight of; their character is such that it does not admit of any repairs being done to them—indeed, I fancy, any attempt at meddling with them would be met with execrations by Archaeologists; they remain as they were, with of course the weathering due to the lapse of a year since last report, in which they were entered exactly as they were this year, without any exception being taken to the entry.

From J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., Superintending Engineer, II Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Bezvada, 12th August 1887, No. 174 G.L.

I have the honor, with reference to G.O., No. 1353 W., of the 17th May last, to report that all the Executive Engineers in this circle have forwarded "*Nil*" returns of architectural remains, except Mr. Vincent.

2. I know of no works of the kind unless the Kondapalli Hill Fort be considered worthy of maintaining, except the Seven Pagodas, the state of which forms the subject of Mr. Vincent's letter, which I send on in original.

3. I certainly think every care should be taken of these interesting well known works, though I doubt its being necessary to appoint a man on as high a salary as Rs. 25. Quarrying should not be allowed unreservedly. As the number of travellers and *savants* visiting India is likely to increase year by year, a bungalow at the spot is likely to be a convenience, and I see no objection to the proposed alteration of the site of the rest-house included in the Buckingham canal estimates, from Covelong to the Seven Pagodas.

4. I conclude that the Seven Pagodas and the Kondapalli Hill Fort are under the guardianship of the Collectors of Chingleput and the Kistna, respectively.

ENCLOSURE.

From C. VINCENT, Esq., Executive Engineer, Buckingham Canal Division, to the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, Bezvada, dated 10th June 1887, No. 392 C.

With reference to your endorsement No. 88 G.L., of the 3rd instant, on Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 1353 W., of May 17th, I have the honor to report that the only architectural remains situated on or near the banks of the canal are those known as the Seven Pagodas. These require maintaining in good order, and I would strongly recommend the appointment of a gumastah on Rs. 25 a-month, who should reside at Mahabalipuram, look after the remains generally, and act as "cicerone" to visitors.

2. I visited the remains recently, and one or two things struck me, to which I may briefly refer. The railings round the bas-relief, known as "Arjun's Penance," require renewal. The rock-cut cave next to this has been used as a store-shed for chunam; it requires clearing out. The temple under the rock, on which the light-house is being constructed, was being utilised as a store-shed for the heavy metal portions of the light. This cave contains the finest of the sculptures, and requires careful guardianship. Lastly, quarrying is going on to a considerable extent on the hill, and it seems to me that this should be prohibited altogether or should only be permitted under regulation.

3. There is no accommodation for visitors at Mahabalipuram, and many, who would gladly visit what is certainly one of the most interesting and remarkable places in Southern India, are deterred from doing so by this fact. It has occurred to me that the difficulty might be met by transferring to Mahabalipuram the site of the rest-house provided for Covelong in the completion estimates for the canal. This would involve no loss of convenience, so far as the canal is concerned, for a rest-house is not really required at Covelong, which is within 15 miles of Madras. This rest-house, if simply furnished, would afford to visitors all the accommodation they would require.

4. I am not aware whether the Executive Engineer, Chingleput division, has placed the Seven Pagodas in his list of architectural remains. In any case, however, it could more conveniently be dealt with by the Executive Engineer of the canal, for the locality is cut off from a good road by 4 miles of a sandy track, which in wet weather becomes, I am informed, impassable. Practically therefore the only means of approach is by the canal.

From C. J. PETERS, Esq., Superintending Engineer, III Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 10th September 1887, No. 1092.

With reference to G.O., No. 1353 W., dated 17th May 1887, I have the honor to submit a revised return of ancient architectural remains for the year ending 31st March 1887, with the required information as to the present state of the buildings duly furnished.

From Colonel H. SMALLEY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, III Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 12th October 1887, No. 1392.

With reference to the remarks against two temples and mosque at Gundikota in the return of ancient architectural remains forwarded with this office letter No. 1092, dated 10th September 1887, I have the honor to report that the temples are reported to be not worth restoring, and the mosque is reported to be in fair order and any necessary repairs easily within the means of the Mussulman inhabitants of the place.

From Colonel J. BEATTY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 2nd June 1887, No. 231 E.W.

With reference to G.O., No. 1353 W., of 17th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I have now added to my list of buildings of historical and archaeological interest the three monuments mentioned in G.O., No. 2760 W., of 20th October 1886, which will be kept in order by this department, viz:—

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| I. Tandoni obelisk, Karúr taluk. | III. General Carnac's tomb, in South |
| II. Conolly's tomb, in Malabar. | Canara. |

2. These are the only three buildings in the circle on which expenditure should be incurred to keep them in repair, and the attention of the Executive Engineers has already been directed to them.

From Colonel H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepák, 21st September 1887, No. 2561.

With reference to your memorandum, No. ^{1353 W.}₁, dated 19th September 1887, I have the honor to state that a report on architectural or historical buildings worthy

of repair was submitted in this office No. 815, dated 13th May 1887, and, upon the receipt of G.O., No. 1353 W., of 17th May 1887, a further report was sent in this office No. 1682, of 18th July 1887. There are no other buildings to report on at present.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Trichinopoly, 23rd July 1887, No. 840 T.J.

With reference to G.O., No. 1353 W., dated 17th May 1887, I have the honor to re-submit the return of ancient architectural remains for the year ended 31st March 1887, after noting in red ink the information required.

From J. W. BRASSINGTON, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepák, 20th September 1887, No. 836.

Architect Division.—Return of buildings of architectural or historical interest in charge of the Consulting Architect to Government for the year ending 31st March 1887—Nil.

ORDER—dated 12th November 1887, No. 3056 W., Public Works.

Communicated, with a copy of G.O., No. 1353 W., dated 17th May 1887, and the lists submitted by the Superintending Engineers, III and VI Circles, to the Public Department for the information of the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India.

2. The Superintending Engineer, II Circle, will be furnished with a copy of G.O.,* No. 2687 W., dated 12th October 1887, from which it will be seen that work at the Seven Pagodas is being carried out by the Executive Engineer, Chingleput division. The Superintending Engineer, V Circle, will report on the proposal to transfer the work to the Executive Engineer, Buckingham Canal division.

3. The remarks relative to restriction of quarrying operations in the vicinity of the Seven Pagodas will be considered in the Revenue Department.

4. The proposal to transfer the site of the rest-house, included in the Buckingham canal estimates, from Covelong to Mahabalipuram, will be referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for consideration.

5. The two previous letters † from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, quoted in his present letter, were forwarded to the Public Department, with this department endorsements, No. 136 D., dated 20th May, and 380 D., dated 22nd July 1887.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Public Department, with two statements and copy of
G.O., No. 1353 W., dated 17th May 1887.

To Superintending Engineers.
To the Consulting Architect to Government.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Moses.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobt. of (1887) Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 12th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 12th Nov. 1887, No. 3056 W.

NOVEMBER.

Buildings of historical or archi-
tectural interest

Orders on the returns of — for 1886-87.

12TH NOVEMBER 1887, No. 1514, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. BURGESS, Esq., LL.D., C.I.E., Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 11th October 1887, No. 580.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of G.O., No. 1182, dated 22nd August 1887, and to reply as follows :—

In other provinces the Public Works and Revenue officers call the attention of their Governments to ancient monuments requiring conservation. This leads to inquiries and estimates from the Executive Engineers, and so to the preservation of the remains, so far as the Government grants will permit. In Madras, the Public Works officers have hitherto very rarely called my attention to such matters, and I have been dependent on chance reports, and through Mr. Rea, for information as to where conservation was required.

2. If Government would be pleased to request both Public Works Engineers and Revenue officers to call attention to ancient monuments requiring repairs, and if these were sent in the first place to Mr. Rea, who would make the necessary further inquiries, and report through me to Government, much delay would be prevented, and we should know much better what funds would be necessary.

3. The Government of India has this year placed a small grant-in-aid for conservation and allied purposes at the disposal of the Madras Government. A sum of Rs. 50 per month should be allowed to Mr. Rea for petty conservation, removal of vegetation, &c., as suggested by the Government of India, and all cases requiring a larger expenditure, or which he cannot conveniently superintend, should be reported by him for attention by the Public Works Department. He may also require a sum for excavations this season during his tour in the Kistna and Godáviri districts. To prevent delay and loss of opportunity, a sum of, say, Rs. 400 or 500 might be placed at his disposal before starting, and, when he begins to spend it, he should send in an estimate, stating whether it will be sufficient, or what further sum will be required. Any sculptures or other objects of interest discovered will be at the disposal of the Government Museum in Madras.

4. If the above suggestions are attended to, the provision in the current year's budget will probably be fully utilised.

ORDER—dated 12th November 1887, No. 1514, Public.

Communicated to the Revenue and the Public Works Departments, for the issue of the necessary orders with reference to paragraphs 1 and 2.

2. Paragraph 3 will be disposed of in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

H. E. Stokes
Chief Secretary.

To the Director-General, Archæological Survey.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

Copy to A. Rea, Esq., First Assistant, Archæological Survey.

Exd. A. Raitt.

1513 W 15/6/86.
3056 W 12/11/87.
1353 W 17/5/87
1696 W 24/6/87
1853 W 11/7/87

Public 9441
Govt. of (1887) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. 21/11/87

Encl.

G.O., 12th November 1887, No. 1514.

No 3286 W of 2nd Decr 1887

NOVEMBER.

Archæological.

Communicating to the departments concerned letter from the Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, suggesting that Public Works and Revenue officers should call attention to ancient monuments in their districts requiring conservation.

No 3286 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 2nd Decr 1887

Read the following

Proceedings of Govt. Public Department H. Co. No. 1514 of 12th November 1887.

Paras 1 and 2 of Dⁿ Burgess printed with the Proceedings

previous recorded, will be communicated to Suptg. Engineers and the Consulting Architect to Govt in continuation of G.O. No. 1513 W of 15th June 1886, and G.O. No. 3056 W dated 12th November 1887.

2. A sum of Rs. 500 will be placed at the disposal of Mr. Rea from the reserve with the Govt. for the conservation of archæological works.

3. An receipt of estimate from Mr. Rea ^{showing} ~~as to~~ what sum will be required for excavation this season during his tour in the Kistna and Godavari Districts, ^{the question of} ~~orders will be issued~~ supplementing the grant now made will be considered.

To Suptg. Engrs.
The Consulting Architect to Govt
" Examiner of P. W. Works
" Public Department, with copy of G.O. No. 1513 W for info

W 29. 11. 87

W 29/11/87

3 1/2
3286 at 2nd Dec 1894

26/12
1894

S/W