

B. No 304 B of 4 July 87

Comd. to the
Supy Engr, & aride,
in contr. of
S.O. No: 3349. W.
dated 18th Dec '86.

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Govt. of (1887) Madras.
PUBLIC.

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Issued

Recd. 2.2.87

Encl.

G.O., 25th January 1887, No. 118.

B. No 304 B of 4-2-87

JANUARY.

Archæology.

Recording, with remarks, letters from the
Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India,
and the Collector of Chingleput respecting the
prehistoric graves recently discovered at Pallá-
varam.

2 Copies to only
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From J. BURGESS, Esq., LL.D., C.I.E., Director-General, Archæological Survey of India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 1st January 1887, No. 2.

On Thursday last, in company with the Collector of Chingleput and Mr. Thorowgood, I visited the prehistoric graves and stone circles at Pallavaram. I then learnt for the first time that Mr. Thorowgood had reported on these remains as early as August last, and I have the honor to request the favor of a perusal of all the correspondence relating to the subject.

2. The Collector, Mr. Johnson, has forbidden any quarrying on the hill where the best specimens of the stone circles are still left; and if the uncovered graves near the quarries could be protected from cattle or other molestation until the rains are well over, Mr. Rea might attempt the removal of one or two of the most perfect to the Government Museum.

From E. C. JOHNSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Saidápet, 5th January 1887, No. 3.

With reference to the instructions contained in G.O., No. 2532, Public, dated 6th December 1886, I have the honor to report that I have visited the site of the archæological curiosities therein referred to in company with Dr. Burgess, and have made arrangements for their preservation.

2. The pottery coffins first found (as related in Mr. Rea's letter, embodied in G.O., No. 2102, Public, dated 7th October 1886), were situated below the Tirusulam western hill, where quarrying for the harbour works is in full swing, and where it would be inadvisable to interfere with it; nor is it necessary to do so, as the coffins are not by any means confined to this locality; portions of similar ones being exposed in the course of every water channel crossing the plain to the south of the eastern Tirusulam hill over an area of a square mile. None of these have as yet been excavated; Dr. Burgess and Mr. Rea being of opinion that the only chance of getting any out intact is to attempt the operation in the very dryest weather. Steps have been taken to prevent this area being disturbed by any, except the officers of the Archæological Department.

3. The whole of the eastern hill at Tirusulam, nearly half a mile in length, has been at one time covered with sepulchral boulder circles, each of which probably had a cairn or dolmen in the centre. Except in three cases the central stones have disappeared, and in many cases the outer ring of boulders has also been damaged, sometimes by quarrying, as often by diluviation. As there is no present necessity for quarrying on this hill, there being ample material elsewhere in the neighbourhood, I have, after consulting with Mr. Thorowgood, the Superintendent of the Harbour Works, forbidden quarrying on and at the foot of this hill altogether. This order will cause no inconvenience at present, nor probably for a good many years to come; should it, in future, be found that the hill or any part of it is required for quarrying purposes, it will then be necessary for the Archæological Department to say definitely how much of it should be permanently reserved.

ORDER—dated 25th January 1887, No. 118, Public.

Recorded.

2. The Government await the report of the visit promised by Dr. Thurston and Surgeon-General Bidie to these graves.

3. The undermentioned documents will be forwarded to the Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India for perusal and return :—

Demi-official from Mr. F. N. Thorowgood, dated 2nd August 1886.

Do. from Surgeon-General Bidie „ 4th „ „

Do. from Mr. F. N. Thorowgood „ 7th „ „

Letter from Dr. Thurston, Superintendent, Government Central Museum, dated 22nd December 1886.

4. Some photographs and plans submitted by Mr. Thorowgood, and which were sent to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, will be forwarded to Dr. Burgess when returned by that officer.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Chingleput.

„ the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India, with papers.

„ A. Rea, Esq.

„ Surgeon-General G. Bidie, C.I.E.

„ E. Thurston, Esq., Superintendent, Government Central Museum.

Copy to the Public Works Department.

F. N. Thorowgood, Esq.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Govt. of (1887) Madras.

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