

8570
Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 2942 W

DATED 16th October 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Estimates for Local Fund Works. Pro: L. H. L. Dept.
requesting the Accountant General to make the necessary
adjustments in the accounts in communication with
the Examiner with regard to the amounts of -
being by the P. W. D. during the quarter ending 31st
March 1896, Comd to officers concerned with same.

T. C. 24/10
16/10.

Local Fund works —
forwarding with periodical
statement showing the
amounts of estimates
for — scrutinized by
the P.W.D. during the
quarter ending 31-3-96

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 20 SES II, IV, V & VI Cables
 Fast II IV V and VI
 Re Ex 2 P.W. arch
 The 1st for P.W. Arch

Forwarding to the Accountant-General, with remarks, statement showing the amounts of estimates for — scrutinized by the Public Works Department during the quarter ending 31st March 1896, and requesting him to make the necessary adjustments in the accounts in communication with the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

No. 1575 L., 2ND SEPTEMBER 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 954 L., dated 23rd May 1896. *not count.*

ABSTRACT.—Referring to certain Presidents of District Boards statement showing the amounts of estimates for local fund works scrutinized by the Public Works Department during the quarter ending 31st March 1896.

READ—also the following papers:—

From the President, District Board, Tanjore, dated Vallam, 4th June 1896,
Dis. No. 418-D.B.

From the President, District Board, North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 8th June 1896,
Dis. No. 558.

From the President, District Board, Kistna, dated Masulipatam, 26th June 1896,
Dis. No. 987-D.B.

From the President, District Board, Trichinopoly, dated 3rd August 1896,
Dis. No. 599.

ENCLOSURE.

From J. ANDREW, Esq., President, District Board, Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 12th June 1896, Dis. No. 453-D.B.

Adverting to G.O., Mis. No. 954 L., dated 23rd May 1896 I have the honour to report that

Constructing a girder bridge of two spans, each 30 feet,
across a kattuvary in the 16th mile of road No. 11, Tri-
chinopoly-Karur.

there is no information in this office regarding
the revision of the estimate for the marginally-
noted work, but that the facts mentioned in
the column for remarks of the statement

therewith forwarded are borne out by the records of this office.
2. Road No. 1 in column 4 of the statement in question is apparently a clerical error for
road No. 11.

ORDER—No. 1575 L., dated 2nd September 1896.

The statement will be forwarded to the Accountant-General with the request that
he will make the necessary adjustments in the accounts, in communication with the
Examiner of Public Works Accounts, subject to the following remark.

2. With reference to the scrutiny charge on Rs. 1,160 claimed in connection
with the estimate for constructing a girder bridge of two spans of 30 feet each, across a
kattuvary in the 16th mile of road No. 11 (not 1 as shown in the statement, from
Trichinopoly to Karur in the Trichinopoly district, it is observed that in the statement
for the quarter ending 30th September 1894 a sum of Rs. 9,100, being the cost of
the original estimate for the work, was included, and the scrutiny charge on this
amount was ordered to be adjusted in G.O., No. 151 L., dated 23rd January 1895.

No. 1575 L., 2ND SEPTEMBER 1896.

In the supplemental statement for the quarter ending 30th June 1895, a sum of Rs. 200 was entered as the difference between the original estimate and the revised estimate of Rs. 9,300 for the same work, and of this sum, the claim on Rs. 100 was ordered to be adjusted in G.O., No. 2255 L., dated 22nd November 1895—*vide* also G.O., No. 319 W., dated 27th January 1896. In the present statement a sum of Rs. 1,160 is entered as the difference between the revised estimate of Rs. 9,300 and the further revised estimate, which is stated to be made up of—

Iron work (not chargeable)

Masonry work and fitting charges (chargeable)	Rs.
.. ..	6,140
.. ..	5,360

Contribution is stated to have been levied on Rs. 4,200 of the latter amount, leaving Rs. 1,160 on which it is still to be levied. From the information available these figures are not intelligible and the Public Works Department will be requested to explain them.

(True Extract.)

H. Wilson
Under Secy., P.W.D.,
for Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General.

„ President, District Board, North Arcot.
„ „ „ Kistna.
„ „ „ Tanjore.
„ „ „ Trichinopoly.
„ Public Works Department.

Public Works Department
Government { 1896 } of Madras.
PUBLIC.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1896.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 901, 22nd August 1896.

AUGUST.

Treasure Trove Act.

Issuing revised rules for regulating proceedings under the — and directing their publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—G.O., No. 142, Revenue, dated 24th March 1896.

ORDER—No. 901, Public, dated 22nd August 1896.

In supersession of all rules made heretofore under section 19 of the Treasure Trove Act, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the rules printed in the appendix to this order shall, in future, regulate proceedings under that Act. They will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

2. The "Chief Controlling Revenue Authority," referred to in section 9 of Act VI of 1878, will be the Board of Revenue.

3. Collectors of districts will observe that they should in future fix the time and place and details of sales under section 12 (b) of the Act without reference to Government. Attention will be invited to Rule III (6) under which all officers should report to the Collector the discovery of any valuable copper plate, inscription, coin, &c., that may come under their notice.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

No. 2943 WD 16th October 1896

Communicated to officers of
the PWD for information

(Signed) D. McVe

W

To the Revenue Department.
" the Board of Revenue.
" all Collectors.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Marine Department.
" the Educational Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Ecclesiastical Department.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Government Epigraphist.
" the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.
Gazette.

To
The Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Superintending Engineer
" Consulty: Architects & L. Port.
" Examiner P.W. accounts,

[Appendix.]

APPENDIX.

NOTIFICATION.

Under section 19 of "The Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878," His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to make the following rules to regulate proceedings under the said Act, in supersession of all previous notifications on the subject:—

I. Section 4.—(1) When the finder of any treasure has deposited it in the nearest Government Treasury, the Collector may remove it to any other Government Treasury.

(2) When the finder of any treasure has not deposited it in any Government Treasury, or refuses or neglects to give the security required, the Collector may take possession of such treasure and remove it to the nearest, or any, Government Treasury.

II. Section 5.—The Collector's notification requiring claimants to appear shall be published by him in the English language in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The notification shall be forwarded direct to the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, for publication, and copy of the notification so published shall be inserted by the Collector in four consecutive issues of the "District Gazette" in English and the vernacular of the district.

Copies of the original notification shall also be forthwith forwarded by him to—

- (1) The Publisher of the *Gazette of India*, for publication in that Gazette.
- (2) The Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, for publication in the *Calcutta Gazette*.
- (3) The Superintendent, Government Central Press, Bombay, for publication in the *Bombay Gazette*.

The date * on which the notification is first published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* shall be taken to be the date of publication for the purposes of section 5 (a).

III. Section 16.—(1) The Collector shall, whenever he has made a declaration under section 9 that any treasure is ownerless, and before delivering or dividing the treasure as provided by sections 10–15 of the Act, consult the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, as to whether he shall declare his intention to acquire such treasure, or any portion thereof, on behalf of the Government, and shall be guided by his advice.

(2) The Superintendent, Government Central Museum, shall, when necessary, consult the Government Epigraphist, Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, and other responsible officers of Government interested in the conservation of objects of historical and archaeological interest.

(3) The Collector shall, as a general rule, acquire under section 16 of the Act the whole of any coins found, whether gold, silver or copper, that appear to be old and not of British mintage.† If, however, exceptional cases should arise in which it is considered unnecessary for any sufficient reasons, such as the largeness of the

quantity found or the coins being known to be of merely metal value, to acquire the whole of the coins found, the Superintendent shall address the Government, which will pass such orders as may be deemed suitable. The coins so acquired shall be sent to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, who will report to Government the number and nature of the coins and their probable numismatic value, and submit a distribution list presenting the following institutions with one specimen of each coin which may be deemed to be deserving of preservation, viz. —

The Government Central Museum, Madras.

The Asiatic Societies of the other presidencies in the following order:—

- (i) Calcutta.
- (ii) Bombay.

The Indian Museum.
The British Museum.
The Lahore Museum.
The Nagpur Museum.
Any other local museum.

* Under section 5 (a) of Act VI of 1878, the date to be fixed by the Collector's notification shall be not earlier than four months or later than six months after the date of the publication (in the *Fort St. George Gazette*) of the notification.

Public Works Department
Government (1896) of Madras.
PUBLIC.

(4) When only one specimen is found, it shall be sent to the Indian Museum. If more than one specimen, but not sufficient for all the institutions named, are found, they shall be distributed, as far as they will go, in the order laid down in the preceding paragraph. If a sufficient number of coins is found to leave a surplus after distribution to all the institutions named, such surplus shall be offered for sale to collectors of coins at their numismatic value for one year—notice of the fact being published in the journals of the Asiatic Societies *gratis*, as a return for obtaining their specimens free of cost. These sales shall be conducted by the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, who will, from time to time, advertize coins in the Government Gazette, Part II, and keep a register of numismatists who wish to have the opportunity of purchasing coins. Any coins not sold, and any coins worth sending, shall be forwarded to Government for transmission to the India Office for public sale.

(5) Collectors may purchase any coins of the age and description stated above, when they are less than Rs. 10 in value, from finders, on the terms laid down in section 16 of the Act. These coins should be also treated in the manner above described.

(6) The Collector shall put forward the claims of Government under the Act to all valuable * copper-plates, inscriptions,† &c., in cases to which that Act applies,‡ and officers in all departments shall report § to the Collector any discoveries which may come under their notice.

* The Treasure Trove Act permits the Government to claim the possession of treasure of which, as laid down in section 4 of the Act, the amount or value is over 10 rupees. Such "value" is not, as in section 16, the price which the mere materials of the articles found would fetch, but the market value or the price which the discovered object might, if offered for sale, reasonably be presumed to realise. The conditions under which the finder of treasure is to be compensated in cases where the claim of Government is asserted are described in section 16 of the Act. The value at which the treasure is to be assessed is there defined as the value of the materials only *plus* one-fifth of such value. The extra price which the discovered article might realise in virtue of its value as an object of archaeological interest need not enter into account.

† A material portion of discovered antiquities will be ascertained on enquiry to have been found in circumstances which would bring them under the provisions of Act VI of 1878. Such will be the case in respect to all ownerless antiquities of any value "hidden in the soil, or in anything affixed thereto." Statuary and remains of buildings, as well as coins, would, if buried underground, usually satisfy the required conditions and could be classed as treasure under the definition of the Act, which was intended to apply to objects of antiquarian interest discovered below the surface of the soil.

‡ The rules apply to the preservation *in situ* of objects of archaeological interest which may be claimed and purchased under the Treasure Trove Act.

§ It is the duty of all servants of the State to protect national interests so far as to ascertain the particulars of any discovery which may be brought to their notice and to report the circumstances to the heads of their departments for communication to the Collector and the Superintendent, Central Museum.

Recd.

Enclosures

1896.

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 901, 22nd August 1896.

AUGUST.

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(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

No. 2943 W & 16th October 1896

Communicated to officers
of the P W D for information

(Signed) J. Mc V.

To the Revenue Department.
" the Board of Revenue.
" all Collectors.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Public Works Department.
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" the Educational Department.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Ecclesiastical Department.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Government Epigraphist.
" the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.
Gazette.

To the Chief Engineer for Engr.
" Consulty: Engr. for Railways
" Superintending Engineer
" Consulty: Architect to Govt.
" Examine P W accounts

[Appendix.

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Public Works Department

Public Works Department

Government { 1896 } of Madras.
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Chief Secretary.

No. 2943 WD 16th Oct 1896

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of the PWD for information
(Signed) J. F. Price

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" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Ecclesiastical Department.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Government Epigraphist.
" the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey.
Gazette.

To
The Chief Engr: for Design:
" Consulty: Engr: for Railways:
" Superintending Engrs:
" Consulty: Architect to Govt:
" Examiners of Accounts

[Appendix.]

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Public Works Department

Government (1896) of Madras.

JUDICIAL.

4

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Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1896.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1469, 11th September 1896.

SEPTEMBER.

No. 2944 W 8 16 'Oct 96.
Communicated
to officers of the P.W.
Dept for information

1 Sept 1896

Cd for J.
Cd for Reg.
J. Es.
Cd for G.O.
Cd for P.W.D.
Cd for Reg. and.

Anthropometric System.

Communicating to the Hon'ble the Judges of the High Court, &c., endorsement of the Government of India forwarding copies of papers regarding the progress made during 1895 in Bengal in working the — for the identification of old offenders.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From C. W. BOLTON, Esq., C.S., Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial Department (Police Branch), to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Muzaffarpur, the 13th July 1896, No. 4-J.T.

In continuation of the letter from this office, No. 3989-J., dated the 24th July 1895, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the enclosed copy of a report * from the Inspector-General of Police, regarding the progress made during 1895 in Bengal in working the anthropometric system for the identification of old offenders, together with a copy of the circular addressed to all District Superintendents of Police, containing instructions for classifying and deciphering finger-impressions and for describing them.

ENCLOSURE.

From E. R. HENRY, Esq., I.C.S., Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated Darjeeling, the 24th June 1896, No. 10500-T.

In continuation of the previous reports specified in the margin of this letter, I submit information regarding the progress made during 1895 in this province in working the anthropometric system for the identification of old offenders.

Letter, No. 25229 of 22nd December 1891, from Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces, to Chief Secretary, Government of Bengal.

Letter, No. 1732 of 25th February 1893, from Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces, to Chief Secretary, Government of Bengal.

Letter, No. 6353 of 1st May 1894, from Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces, to Chief Secretary, Government of Bengal.

Letter, No. 10552-A of 26th June 1895, from Inspector-General of Police, Lower Provinces, to Chief Secretary, Government of Bengal.

equation of measurers; (5) the arrangements made in all districts for the early registration of unidentified suspects; (6) the means placed at the disposal of the local police for verifying antecedents without reference to the Central office; and lastly, figures of the criminal record up to the end of 1894, and of the cases worked out through anthropometry. In this report, therefore, it is only necessary for me to bring the statistical information up to date, and to offer some remarks on the practicability of gradually substituting for anthropometry a system based upon classified finger-prints not supplemented by measurements.

3. A register is kept at each sub-division (the unit in this province of police administration) of persons not identified at the time of their arrest. During 1895, 1,761 persons were registered as unidentified. Of these, the district police subsequently, by inquiry and by referring to their indexes, succeeded in recognizing 1,120 and ascertaining their antecedents; the number remaining unidentified being 641. These figures exclude statistics for the area under the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, which will be separately referred to. Of the 641 persons whom the local police failed to recognize, the Central office succeeded in identifying 162, equivalent to 25.7 per cent.; the figures for the preceding year being 536 unidentified, 112 recognized by Central office, equivalent to a percentage of 21.

2. Full details have already been given regarding (1) the persons selected for measurement; (2) the particular measurements adopted; (3) improvements in the measuring instruments; (4) the system of search, including the margin allowed for error due to the personal

The figures for 1895 include 10 females and 31 juveniles who, under our rules, are not liable to measurement, and 90 non-British subjects belonging to Native States where anthropometry has not yet been introduced, and who, consequently, cannot have been registered on anthropometric data. If these 131 persons are excluded from the total of unidentified as representing cases not recognizable by anthropometry, the figure of success rises to 31.6 against 27 in the preceding year.

In addition to the 162 cases from Bengal districts, 44 persons were traced for the Calcutta Police and 1 for Assam, bringing the total of successful cases up to 207, against 143 in the preceding year.

4. In 54 of these, the name and residence given by the suspect proved to be correct. But as criminals, in order to defeat inquiries, sometimes give the correct name and address of persons other than themselves, this information, until verified, was of no value. Unless witnesses had been called, it would not, without the assistance of anthropometry, have been possible to ascertain whether the name given was the real name of the suspect or of some other person. This information might, of course, have been verified by calling witnesses, but this would have entailed delay, and the courts are averse to granting remands unless there are grounds for believing that the police have a good clue. In all cases, unidentified suspects give names and residences which three times out of four prove to be wrong, and much labour, expense and delay is avoided by calling in the aid of anthropometry, and up to the present time, it has in no instance caused the wrong person to be identified. The Central office is in a position to state with absolute certainty that the measurements and thumb-impressions sent for examination belong to a person who, under the name they specify, was convicted in a certain place on a certain date. All, then, that is necessary is to get this information verified to the satisfaction of the courts in the manner prescribed by law, viz., by obtaining an extract from the records of the court where the conviction was had, or by producing a certificate from the officer in charge of the jail where the punishment was inflicted, together with evidence as to the identity of the accused with the person so convicted.

5. A specially interesting instance of the effectiveness of the system occurred during the year. Two cases of professional robbery by poisoning were reported within a couple of days of each other in the Darbhanga district. The detective entrusted with the inquiry had no difficulty in ascertaining that the culprit was one Runjit Dusadh alias Kokil Dusadh, registered poisoner and ex-convict, a resident of the adjoining district Muzaffarpur. He was not to be found, having absconded, and there was in consequence no further clue. Weeks afterwards, some travellers were taken out of the train at Dacca, apparently so helplessly drunk that it was deemed necessary to send them to the hospital. There the drunkenness was ascertained to be *dhatura* poisoning. The district police, who took up the inquiry, could get little assistance from the victims, who continued for some time in a condition of incoherency; but, on chance, they arrested a stranger to the place, who had been seen in company with the drugged men. He stoutly protested his innocence, and disclaimed any acquaintance with them, giving his name as Ram Saran Singh, and an address up country. Being at fault, the local police measured him and took his thumb-impression, which they forwarded to the Central office, where he was at once recognized as the missing Runjit alias Kokil Dusadh wanted in the Darbhanga cases—a man who, under various aliases, had been convicted in several districts, having passed 12½ years in jail. Upon being confronted with accurate details of his past life, he admitted his identity and his guilt in the Dacca cases, and was sentenced at the sessions there to eight years' imprisonment, and has now been forwarded for trial in the Darbhanga cases. Had it not been for the clue given by anthropometry, this dangerous criminal might have escaped, for without his admission of guilt he might not have been convicted, owing to the difficulty of proving the administration of the poison. Dacca is some five hundred miles or more from Muzaffarpur, and the identity of Ram Saran Singh with the missing Runjit alias Kokil Dusadh, would not even have been suspected.

6. Considering the comparatively short time the system has been working in Bengal, the results obtained must be considered satisfactory, as about 1 in 3 of possible cases are being recognized, while it is not improbable that amongst those remaining unidentified, are persons not previously convicted, and whose measurements consequently could not have been taken for record.

7. But although the success achieved is as great as could have been expected, experience has brought into relief some inherent defects of the system which detract from its value. Notwithstanding the improvements effected in the instruments, both of which are automatic in their working, one being self-registering, the error due to the "personal equation" of measurers cannot be eliminated or even reduced to a negligible quantity. The measurer may take incorrect measurements through inattention to rules; or, having obtained accurate results, may read them incorrectly; or having read them correctly, they may be incorrectly transcribed; or the measurements of A may be transcribed as B's measurements. Every check that experience can dictate has been adopted, and that these checks are fairly effective our results demonstrate. Still, the margin for error is considerable, and if the sustained attention now given to this subject be relaxed at any time, results will certainly fall off.

5. It has been claimed for the anthropometric system that the probability of all six measurements of any two persons coinciding is so small that a fraction with a denominator of five figures is required to represent it arithmetically. The assertion would be correct if no allowance had to be made for the "personal equation" error. But, in practice, such allowance, and a considerable allowance, has to be made, the result being that coincidences in measurements are not unfrequent. In the Central office no positive deduction as to identity from measurements is considered safe or is made, reliance being placed exclusively in determining identity, upon similarity in the innumerable details which make up the pattern of the thumb-impression.

9. A system of identification by means of finger-impressions would have the following amongst other advantages over anthropometry. The assessories, a piece of tin and some printers' ink, are inexpensive and procurable everywhere; the impressions are self-signatures, free from possible errors of observation and transcription; any person of ordinary intelligence can learn to take them with a little practice after a few minutes' instruction; no objection can be raised on the score of religion or caste, or rank in society or even sex; their characteristics being persistent throughout life, the finger-impressions of a child could be used to identify the same person when he had reached middle or old age; the patterns which appear on these impressions are easily recognizable and are susceptible of such succinct and exact definition (under the system explained in the Police circular, copies of which accompany this report), that the most complicated pattern can be described in four or five words with sufficient completeness for purposes of comparison; and lastly, the evidential value of identity obtainable from the scrutiny of the prints of two or three fingers is so great that no person capable of weighing it, would deem it necessary to seek for confirmation elsewhere.

10. The problem which remains to be solved is whether it is possible to devise a system of classification based solely upon finger-impressions, which will give sufficient power of differentiation to enable duplicates to be unerringly traced in a collection of the finger-impressions, say, of 20,000 persons. This problem is now being worked at, and so far, results are not unpromising, serious difficulty being experienced in respect of only two combinations. With extended experience, these difficulties may be overcome; but as, up to the present, the impressions of only about 5,000 persons have been classified, it would be premature to express an opinion as to whether a solution is probable.

11. Being impressed with the advantages which a system of identification by finger-impressions would possess over anthropometry, I have endeavoured to popularise amongst police officers a knowledge of the subject by issuing a circular which explains by means of diagrams, the details of patterns, their classification, and the points to be kept in view when attempting to decipher them. I forward some copies of this circular for the information of Government, as it may prove of use in the registration and other departments. A number of police officers have acquired a good working knowledge of the details of finger-print decipherment, and their number is being added to, as it is one of the subjects of the training school curriculum.

No. 3-Police—447.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from this department, No. 584, dated 15th August 1895.

(By order.)

HOME DEPARTMENT (POLICE),
Simla, 20th July 1896.

(Signed) L. M. THORNTON,
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—No. 1469, Judicial, dated 11th September 1896.

Communicated to the Hon'ble the Judges of the High Court, all departments of the Secretariat, and the Inspectors-General of Police, Prisons, and Registration.

(True Extract.)

To the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, with C.L.
" all Departments of the Secretariat.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" the " of Prisons.
" the " of Registration.

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

No. 2944 W.D. 1896
Communicated to officers of
the P.W.D. for information
(Signed) J. McKe.
W

To
The Chief Engineer for Irrigation:
" Consulting Engineer for Railways:
" Superintending Engineer to
" Consulting Architect to Govt.
" Examiner of W & Accounts
" Examiner, Railway accounts