

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 7067

DATED 9-1-96

[Despatch Abstract.]

P. W. Secretariat Library: The catalogue
of the — forwarded to the Financial
Dept. in duplicate for transmission to
the Consul General for Belgium at
Bombay.

[illegible]

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

2411

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From L. M. THORNTON, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Books), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, the 15th November 1895, No. 13 Books—879.

In forwarding, for the information of the Government of Madras, the accompanying translation of a letter from the Consul-General for Belgium at Bombay, dated the 1st ultimo, I am directed to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, arrangements may be made for supplying that officer as early as possible with duplicate copies of the catalogues of any large official libraries that there may be in the Presidency. I am to ask also that if it is feasible to cause the catalogues of any large non-official libraries to be sent in duplicate to the Belgian Consulate-General, this also may be done.

ENCLOSURE.

[Translation.]

SIR,

BOMBAY,
1st October 1895.

I have the honour to inform you that an office named the International Office of Bibliography has existed for some years at Brussels. This institution was started by private agency under the patronage of the Royal Government and has set itself to ascertain experimentally the simplest and most logical method of cataloguing all scientific, literary and artistic works. The object is to have a complete index going back to the most remote period and kept up regularly with the names of new publications as they make their appearance. This office, which has classified 400,000 bibliographical works, has adopted the system termed "decimal classification"—a system which has received the unanimous approbation of the International Conference which has just assembled at Brussels. The Royal Government, taking a lively interest in the work and having regard to the wish expressed by the above-mentioned Conference, has decided to take the International Office of Bibliography at Brussels under its protection. In adopting this course the object of the Royal Government is to continue officially the experiment set on foot by the above-named office. Such an undertaking is apparently calculated to attract the attention of all foreign countries and the Royal Government takes the liberty to appeal to their kind assistance to render this experiment more complete and conclusive.

I am therefore instructed, Sir, to ask you to kindly forward, in duplicate, printed catalogues of the various large libraries of your country. As the object in view is to collect exact information regarding the largest possible number of works published, the Royal Government would thankfully receive, in addition to the catalogues of official libraries, the catalogues of other important libraries which foreign Governments would be so good as to place at its disposal. The Royal Government would also be pleased to receive the documents in question without delay if possible. I shall not fail to inform you of the results of the experiment undertaken by my Government in the circumstances I have above mentioned. My Government further intends, if necessary, to record in a report, which will be sent to foreign Governments, the conclusions of the official enquiry. The Governments interested in the matter will then be able, if need be, to examine together the steps that it may be necessary to take to secure the existence of the institution permanently and to imprint on it a stamp really international which would contribute materially to its success.

I take this opportunity, Sir, to repeat the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) LEON DOSOGNE,
Consul-General for Belgium.

To the Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department, Simla.

ORDER—No. 999, Financial, dated 12th December 1895.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat, the Hon'ble the Judges of the High Court, the Director of Public Instruction, and the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, with the request that copies of such catalogues as are available may be forwarded at an early date to the Financial Department for transmission.

2. The undermentioned Societies and Institutions will also be requested to be so good as to forward to the Chief Secretariat two copies of the catalogues of their respective libraries:—

- The Madras Literary Society.
- „ Trustees of the Theosophical Society's Library, Adyar.
- „ Nilgiri Library Committee.
- „ Oriental and Mixed Library of the Srinivasan Mandiram, Bangalore City.

(True Extract.)

W. H. Thelley
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.

- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Public Department.
- „ Educational Department.
- „ Hon'ble the Chief Justice, with C.L.
- „ Director of Public Instruction.
- „ Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
- „ Honorary Secretary, Madras Literary Society.
- „ Trustees, Adyar Library (Theosophical Society).
- „ Honorary Secretary, Nilgiri Library.
- „ Secretary, Oriental and Mixed Library, Srinivasan Mandiram, Bangalore City.
- „ Librarian.