

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 50  
(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 10/52  
(3) ஆதாரம் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

**தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.**

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 10/52

|                        |           |         |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| அரசாணை எண்.            | 513       | அச்சகம் |
| மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். |           | பலவகை   |
| தாள் :                 | 13-6-1889 |         |

புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 10/52

capable of fully meeting all  
ordinary requirements. ~~Now~~  
Now, neither in Madras nor,  
believe, in any other town  
in India is there any real  
first class library even of this  
class, and in this respect  
India is far behind all  
other civilized countries. It  
frequently urged against  
the educated Hindu that  
has shown no aptitude for  
original work, and the same  
charge is brought, though  
in a modified degree, against  
the scientific and Educational  
officers of Government.  
One of the latter, while admitting  
the justness of the complaint,  
once suggested to me  
as one of the explanations ~~that~~  
~~the want~~ the want  
of scientific

2  
literature even in the Presi-  
dency town. The mind, he  
pointed out, is naturally cramped  
in its working when it  
has in the background the  
disheartening reflection that  
all the results of its labours  
may have already been achieved  
by and published by European  
savants, and he urged that  
his ignorance of contemporary  
thought ~~was~~ is one of the  
chief causes of Indian in-  
activity. Without going so  
far as to say that access  
to the ordinary scientific period-  
icals will at once be followed  
by a rich harvest of  
original research, it may  
nevertheless safely be <sup>asserted</sup> assumed  
that the want of contemporary  
literature must be a great

undertaking of such work,  
and that the removal of  
this serious disadvantage  
to the Indian student is a  
matter deserving of the most  
serious consideration.

But this is not the only  
purpose which will be served  
by a good Public Library. It  
is probably true  
~~among the population~~ of at  
least 90 per cent. of the educa-  
tional youth of this Presidency that  
after they leave school or  
college they ~~either~~ never open  
a book, or <sup>else</sup> confine their  
reading to the very lowest  
class of English fiction. One  
reason for this is that they  
seek. The young men are  
brought to buy good books,  
or, at least, they are  
not the cheap tales of

3

noxious novellette of the Rey-  
nolds type. The ludicrously  
distorted views of English life  
and morals which they obtain  
from these works can well be  
imagined: what is more serious  
is the ~~impairment~~ <sup>stagnation</sup> of their  
own literary taste and develop-  
ment. Now here again it must  
not be presumed that the opening  
of a good Free Library would  
at once lead to a complete  
revolution, but on the other  
hand there can be little doubt  
that the formation of such an  
institution would gradually  
encourage and develop the  
taste for reading which ~~exists~~  
<sup>exists</sup>, though it may be dormant,  
in all educated minds, and  
would also in process of time  
be much to displace the

is now fed.

If what is stated above is correct the ~~of construction~~ arrived at are that the ~~idea~~ of a Free Library would do much to assist and encourage original literary and scientific work among the ~~students~~ of Madras, and that it is ~~also~~ ~~being~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~interest~~ of the mass of the reading public a much better store of literature than, ~~due~~ ~~to~~ ~~their~~ ~~being~~ ~~to~~ ~~their~~ ~~narrow~~ ~~means~~, they now have ~~access~~ ~~to~~ ~~such~~ ~~an~~ ~~institution~~ might be established at ~~a~~ ~~small~~ ~~initial~~ ~~cost~~ and main-  
tained at an expenditure by no means large.

4

There is already in Madras one Public Library, viz that attached to the Govt. Central Museum, but its scope is limited. It contains about 13000 volumes and is particularly strong in works on zoology. Any re-  
spectably dressed person may read there but the books ~~are~~ <sup>may</sup> not be taken out. The room, however, is hot and uncom-  
fortable and as the library con-  
tains little or no light literature it is not extensively patronised.  
~~There~~ <sup>other</sup> ~~again~~ The Govt. possesses several libraries in Madras but these are not open to the public. That belonging to the Medical College <sup>consists</sup> almost, if not entirely <sup>of books</sup> of a technical nature and it could not without in-  
convenience be removed from  
" P. O. building "

in the Secretariat library there are many books which are not required for Secretariat purposes, while in the Presidency College library there is the valuable collection of Oriental MSS which are not required by the College students and take up room that can ill be spared.

But the largest and best library in Madras is that of the Madras Literary Society. It possesses upwards of 30,000 volumes, <sup>which</sup> ~~and although there~~ are for the most part works of <sup>but</sup> general literature, ~~although~~ <sup>they include</sup> ~~it also contains~~ books of reference which are not to be found on the shelves of the Museum Library. The Literary Society consists

is central, and would for it must be remembered that the city of Madras extends from Black Town to Mylapora, and the latter suburb contains a large number of educated ~~and~~ gentlemen. A special building will be necessary, but there is ample room for this in the ~~Museum~~ grounds.

~~But as to the constitution~~ of the Library. Every ~~any~~ respectable ~~person~~ should be allowed to read in its rooms, and ~~one large~~ cool and any room should be set apart for reading and ~~with~~ comfortable seats and tables. This room should also contain the current numbers of magazines and newspapers. It had

Classes - (1) Reference Books, which  
~~it~~ would not be allowed to be re-  
moved from the ~~rooms~~, (2) Stock  
Books and (3) New ~~Books~~.  
Members, i.e. those who paid  
the subscription now payable  
by Members of the Literary  
Society, would be permitted to  
take out 2 sets of New ~~Books~~  
a set of Stock Books, and it  
might be desirable to ~~allow~~  
~~provide for the first and second~~  
~~class of subscription of the~~  
~~Literary Society the same right~~  
~~to one and 2 sets of Stock~~  
~~Books which they now enjoy~~  
Lastly every person in the Municipal  
paid limits ~~with pay~~ ~~house~~ or  
other Municipal Tax - or person  
possessing such qualification, to be  
hereafter determined - would be

Museum and the books that  
could be spared from the  
Presidency College and the  
Secretariat to form a single  
Public Free Library. These  
members would pay the same  
~~subscription and for enjoying the~~  
same privileges as at present,  
but these privileges would be  
exercised over a larger number  
of books, ~~and in this way~~  
and in the ~~permanency~~ which  
would be given to their in-  
stitution they would be gainers.

If this be accepted, the next  
question to be considered is the  
location of the proposed library.  
The advantages of having it con-  
nected with the Museum are  
obvious, and by such a course  
the services of a Superintende

pay a quarterly subscription  
of Rs 10, and three classes  
of subscribers who pay Rs 5,  
Rs 3, & Rs 1 a quarter re-  
spectively. The books are  
~~divided~~ into New Books and  
Stock Books, and a Member  
is allowed to have out at  
one time 2 sets of New and  
4 sets of Stock Books. The  
Subscribers are not <sup>permitted</sup> allowed  
to take out New Books at  
all but of the Stock Books  
they are allowed 3 sets, 2 sets  
and 1 set respectively according  
to the class to which they  
~~belong~~.  
Now the ~~proposition~~ <sup>proposition</sup> which  
I have to make is that the  
Members of the Literary Society  
should be asked to consent to

7  
The qualification suggested above  
for the enjoyment of the 'free-  
dom' of the Library is probably  
not wide enough, and it might  
easily be extended. All that  
is wanted is some security  
for the ~~books~~ <sup>(in good condition)</sup>  
of books taken out, and any  
<sup>individual</sup> person who furnished such  
security and was ~~perhaps~~ <sup>any</sup>,  
introduced by a person paying  
Municipal taxes (other than toll)  
might be allowed to take  
out books.

~~Finally~~ The management  
of the Library is a ~~great~~  
matter which must be determined  
hereafter. Probably the best  
arrangement will be to  
entrust it to a small Com-  
mittee of about <sup>nine</sup> ~~seven~~ members,  
three to be elected by the

Verandah six feet deep running  
round three sides of the building  
and on the fourth side would  
be the entrance and office  
rooms. The total area of  
the ground space of the building  
would thus be 7500 square  
feet, and at the standard rate  
of Rs 2 per square foot the  
cost of its construction would  
be Rs 15000. Adding Rs 500  
for fittings contingencies ~~fittings~~  
and fittings (many of the latter ~~at~~  
ready exist) the total cost would  
be Rs 20,000.

~~It~~ It would be necessary  
to incur some expenditure on  
the purchase of <sup>such</sup> books ~~which~~  
~~the school library is~~  
as are particularly necessary  
for the library of this kind, at

may be set down for this  
purpose, ~~but it would be~~  
although a large ~~sum~~ could,  
no doubt, be expended very  
usefully.

The initial cost then would  
be ~~something~~ between Rs 30,000  
and Rs 40,000, and the Municipality and the University might  
be asked to contribute <sup>at least</sup> Rs 10,000  
of this between them. Some-  
thing also might perhaps be  
raised by public subscription.  
The Govt. would have to find  
the balance.

~~But~~ The annual cost of  
maintenance would entail very  
little extra expenditure. The  
annual expenditure of the  
Literary Society is about Rs 5,000;  
that of the Museum Library  
Rs 2500. Of the <sup>total</sup> ~~sum~~ about

publications and the rest on establishment. Very little extra ~~cost~~ establishment would be required and the total ~~cost~~ annual expenditure would probably not exceed Rs 12000. Supposing that the income derived from members and subscribers ~~is~~ named at the same figure as the present income of the Literary Society, the total extra cost ~~to the State~~ of the new library would be about Rs 4500 per annum. There is considerable uncertainty about the income from members and subscribers ~~of the Literary Society~~ of members would probably slightly decrease as the Library of the Madras Club has now

10  
to expect that the number of subscribers to a Public Library would be greater than to <sup>a Society</sup> ~~one~~ of only a semi-public character, which is not ~~so~~ <sup>very</sup> well known to the bulk of the inhabitants of Madras. This small sum of Rs 4,500 is not very much for the Govt. to pay for the great advantages which would be conferred by a Public Library. Even with the <sup>present</sup> cost of the Museum Library the total contribution of the State ~~is~~ <sup>the</sup> only about Rs 9000, and this might be raised to Rs 10000 without incurring any risk of a charge of extravagance. Then the Municipality and the University might very properly be asked to contribute

of the devotion of their respective funds to such a purpose, is permissible under the existing law.

It should in conclusion be added that the details sketch in this note are only given in order to afford facilities for a consideration of the various points which will need have to be decided, and that they are suggestions rather than carefully thought-out proposals.

H.A.S.

There is another institution which might, possibly to its own advantage, be brought into connection with it, I mean the Victoria Institute. It wants a good building & clean rooms, & there would probably be provided some space for an addition to the library buildings. The Institute's libraries are considerable for assisting a reference library & this might provide the additional side of the new library. If we could only get the women & children's hospital moved to the General Hospital building, the building near the Queen's Station could probably be fitted to suit the double purpose as a reading room & library. The Institute would be very grateful for the assistance & I don't think it would be a loss.



Hand 232 9

My dear Sir,

I return with the  
Accounts of the Hon. the Member  
by No. 532 dated 18. 2. 1901.

Yours sincerely  
R. S. Srinivasan

12 ✓

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE.**

If we could move  
 the ~~fund~~ to the  
 Hospital this scheme  
 will be advanced

Lyndonville

D. O. No.

615-  
13-

Private Secretary's

Ootacamund, 27<sup>th</sup> 1927



Dear Mr. Arundel

I return Stuart's

note on the proposed Free  
Library at Madras for record  
in your office. His Excellency  
considers the matter may lie  
over for the present.

Yours Sincerely,

C. Vincent

M. Hon. J. F. Price

Chief Secretary to Government

Circular

14

I am much obliged  
to Mr Stuart for the  
Memorandum - And  
accepts it in the  
spirit in which it  
is written -

Containing many  
excellent suggestions  
all of which will have  
to be derived considered  
if the plan is to be  
realized -

The cooperation of  
the Literary Society  
may or may not be  
obtained; but I should  
think Society should also  
be with in the least  
degree detract from  
the usefulness of the  
Literary Society, which  
will be a great loss  
to the cause of  
literature in the  
country.

16

each

\* Vide Article on Librarians in  
the Encyclopedia Britannica.

provide for several classes of sub-  
scribers, as in the following list.

thought to be in  
a triumph pose

Certain

of the

What is a perfectly  
dressed woman?

not enough  
virtues -

-19-

I don't think  
so

C.

I believe this  
library is used,  
and useful when  
it is - Good rule  
to as at present

21

*Just after*

22  
for the amount there  
is nothing to be paid  
the proposition valuing  
Excludes itself - a  
deduction of 10% for  
a life ~~insurance~~ person  
is of no use for a year  
it probably will be  
lost to the probably  
deprive the Library of the  
very character which it has  
the for. w. like it to  
proposed - 24/3/24 J.H.S.  
Very truly  
yours

the fact is much  
not necessary for them  
opposed to the  
proposed relation to  
them being a cold & airy  
room ~~with~~ comfortable  
seats & rather I gather  
that Mr. E. contemplates  
the same amount of  
freedom of entry to the  
Library as at present  
in respect of the Museum.  
I think it is so. I don't think  
any of the managers  
will have anything to say  
to it - no least their  
cooperation is secured  
by consulting the new  
Library building was  
done by with a firm  
Mr. [unclear] & Messrs.  
[unclear] is my doubtful  
whether this will be  
practicable.

The great plan to my  
mind in the scheme is  
the idea of Mr. [unclear] in  
the absolute freedom of  
entry to read & take  
books - such a freedom  
in the house would

I feel pretty sure that  
the Literary Society would  
give consent to join  
in any such scheme  
as that suggested by  
W. F. Hunt, & I don't  
think that a doubt.

President of the Technical  
Institute with the Free  
Library would be much  
interested in such a  
project. I think, the  
School of Arts is the  
best place.

If the Library is  
interested, mainly in  
order for business to  
be most important in  
the room.

NOTE FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY.

Very much to do with  
the Library. Keep on  
the same.

Think it best to  
keep the Library  
as it is. I don't  
think it is  
worth the  
trouble.

26.7.28. BN

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.  
G.O., DATED 13. June 1907  
No. 513

27/92 / RH/S1  
11/11/92

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

According to Mr. Stuart's note  
on the proposed for library  
at marnu.