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| Public              | DEPARTMENT |
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Despatch Abstract.

Ethnographical researches

Communicating to certain officers & non-official gentlemen for any remarks they have to offer, papers connected with Mr. H. H. Ridley's scheme for the continuation of — in the Lower Provinces & for their extension to other parts of India —

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED  
18, No.

BACK PAPER, No. 20 220-2 of 15  
1-492  
50 536  
1892

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DIFF.

ORDER, &c., OF GOVERNMENT-A.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

PAPERS KEPT OUT OF FILE FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL  
(not paged).

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Order complete with Letter or Endorsement.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.  
B = Not to be printed.  
P = Print abstract only.  
Q = Print heading only.  
R = Print, but not for monthly volume.

24TH NOVEMBER 1891, Nos. 989, 990, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 20th October 1891, No. 27—1686, Public.

I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter\* from the Government of Bengal, enclosing a communication from Mr. H. H. Risley in which he gives the outlines of a scheme for the continuation of ethnographical researches in the Lower Provinces and for their extension to other parts of India.

\* No. 1041, dated the 27th August 1891, together with a copy of Bengal Government's Resolution of the 9th July 1891.

2. The subject of Mr. Risley's inquiries has attracted much attention among savants and learned societies in Europe; and the Government of India would be glad to be favoured with an expression of the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council on the desirability of extending them to other provinces. Materials procured at the census regarding caste, race, tribe, &c., would form a basis for an investigation of this kind. In addition to the general tables of castes, &c., the Census Commissioner for India has decided to print a list in which the name of every cast and sub-division of caste returned in the schedules will be registered, and the population of all important castes or sub-divisions of castes will be entered. This list will be provincial in its arrangement, and separate extracts can thus be made available locally for such further investigation as may be considered necessary. It is believed that the schedules themselves can be used in connection with the record of the names of males and females in each caste, and of the surnames or tribal designations which are given in some parts of the country; and, in view of the possibility of utilizing them in this manner, I am to request that the instructions given in Home Department Circular, No. 3—91-144, dated the 15th May last, that they should be torn up and sold as waste paper on the completion of the Provincial Census Report, may not be acted on for the present. Any further tabulation from these schedules will, of course, form no part of the regular census work, and should be entrusted only to responsible officers.

3. In the event of his Excellency in Council agreeing to give a trial to the scheme, the Government of India would be glad to know whether any non-official or other qualified agency, such as societies formed for scientific inquiries of this kind, exists in the Madras Presidency which would undertake the collation of information sent to it, and whether the Governor in Council would wish the work to be started under the supervision of Mr. Risley.

4. The Government of Bengal has been requested to furnish the Government of Madras direct with five copies of the Ethnographic Glossary in its present provisional form and with two copies of the Anthropometric Data.

ENCLOSURES.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Calcutta, 27th August 1891, No. 1041.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1305, dated 18th August 1891, containing a request that the Home Department of the Government of India may be supplied with 10 copies of Mr. H. H. Risley's Ethnographic Glossary, in two volumes, which has been

reviewed by the Lieutenant-Governor in a Resolution, dated 9th July 1891, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of 15th July. These instructions will be duly complied with as soon as the copies are printed off.

2. I am at the same time to state, for the information of the Government of India, that, in accordance with the views expressed in the Resolution of the 9th July, His Honour has decided to print only a limited number of copies for circulation to certain official and non-official gentlemen with a view to eliciting their criticism, so that the deficiencies incidental to such an under-taking may be supplemented by this means. On receipt of sufficient corrections and fresh materials, it is intended to publish a revised edition of the Glossary. Having regard to the above mentioned of the Glossary will be required by the Government of India and for the Secretary of State for India. A request for two copies of this work has been separately received from the Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India.

3. Intimately connected with the question of the number of copies required of the Ethnographic Glossary is another subject which I am now to submit for the consideration of the Government of India, as developed in the accompanying letter, dated the 12th December 1890, researches in the Lower Provinces, and for their extension to other parts of India. Its main features or the appointment of an unpaid Director of Ethnographical Inquiries in each of the larger provinces, the circulation of ethnographic questions, and selection of subjects for inquiry, and folklore, and their distribution to learned societies in Europe. With regard to Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor is prepared to accept Mr. Risley's proposals and to place the work in his hands. The accompanying copy of a letter addressed to this Government by Professor Virchow, President of the Society for Anthropology, Ethnology and Prehistoric Researches of Berlin, bears testimony to the interest likely to be taken in the continuation of the work by learned Societies in Europe.

4. It will be for the Government of India to decide whether they are willing to commend Mr. Risley's scheme to the other Local Governments. He has since intimated to the Lieutenant-Governor that if the Government of India are willing to entrust him with the general direction of the scheme for the whole of India, he will be glad to undertake it, whatever appointment he may be holding at the time. He would, if this suggestion is approved, ask to have the services of a clerk placed at his disposal. Sir Charles Elliott has no objection to Mr. Risley's undertaking this work in its commencement, but he cannot bind himself to allow Mr. Risley to continue it, should it prove to be too absorbing and to interfere inconveniently with that gentleman's official duties.

5. If Mr. Risley's scheme commends itself to the Government of India, it may be necessary to strike off a certain number of copies of the Ethnographic Glossary in its present provisional form as a first edition for circulation to other Local Governments. I am to request that His Honour may be informed how many copies will be required for this purpose.

6. The 150 copies of Mr. Risley's Anthropometric Data required for the Secretary of State by His Lordship's despatch No. 43, of which a copy was received with your office endorsement No. 1041, dated 12th June 1891, will now be supplied direct to the India Office, as desired in the latter portion of your letter now under acknowledgment.

From H. H. RISLEY, Esq., Bengal Civil Service, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, dated Calcutta, 12th December 1890.

With reference to the Resolution of the Government of Bengal, dated the 30th April 1885, sanctioning certain arrangements for the prosecution of ethnographic researches in the territories subject to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the outlines of a scheme for continuing similar researches in the Lower Provinces, and for extending them to other parts of India.

2. It will be remembered that in 1885 and the two following years a series of questions, based for the most part upon the heads of inquiry drawn up in 1874 by a Committee of the conditions the methods of research sanctioned by European men of science, were circulated with the authority of the Government, and that answers were collected by a voluntary agency working under my supervision in every district of Bengal. Of the data procured by this method of inquiry portions have been published in the *Contemporary* and the *Asiatic Quarterly Reviews*, the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, and the *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, and in the form of Papers read before the British Association, the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, and Anthropological Society of Berlin. A proof copy of two out of the four volumes in

which the results have been compiled for the Government of Bengal has also been laid before the Board of Biology and the Board of Oriental Studies in the University of Cambridge, both of which bodies take considerable interest in the study of Indian ethnography.

3. Although the inquiry extended only to the Lower Provinces of Bengal, and the record of the results, however complete for ordinary administrative purposes, must be regarded as incomplete from the scientific point of view, still enough has been done to demonstrate the remarkable facilities which India offers for collecting ethnographic data on a large scale, and, what is even more important, for testing these data by repetition and comparison. The reason for this is clear. In India a highly organised administrative body of the most modern type carries on the work of Government in constant and close contact with people whose beliefs and observances present examples of all stages and varieties of primitive culture, and who, nevertheless, show no signs either of dying out themselves or of parting with their most characteristic usages and superstitions. This state of things offers peculiarly favorable opportunities for the information of a trustworthy record of primitive custom and tradition.

4. It is unnecessary for me to lay stress upon the high value which the customary law, the social observances, the folklore and traditions, the superstitions, ritual, and religion of the people of India possess for all students of the early history of institutions. The field is comparatively untried, but the results obtained in Bengal seems to show that it is one of remarkable richness and variety. The data already collected, imperfect as they are, throw considerable light upon the early history of marriage and the family, the various forms of the custom of exogamy, the comparative prevalence and distribution of male and female kinship, the phenomena of totemism, and the development of different stages of religious belief. It is believed that they will also tend to facilitate and cheapen the operations of the Indian census and to enhance its accuracy, that they embody valuable information concerning infant marriage and the prohibition of widow marriage, and that by extending our knowledge of the customs and habits of the people they will indirectly raise the general standard of administration in India.

5. This being so, it seems to me desirable to continue in Bengal and to initiate in other provinces of the Indian Empire the methods of investigation which have yielded such valuable results. I believe that this may be done without incurring large expenditure, and without putting an undue strain on the regular administrative staff.

6. The Bengal inquiries have shown that in all grades of the administration, officers, both European and Native, are to be found who take a genuine interest in the investigation of social phenomena, and who would be prepared to assist actively in collecting ethnographic data in addition to their regular official duties. All that is needed is that the work should be set on foot under the general countenance and authority of the Government, that it should be organized on a regular system, that the current expenses of postage and stationery should be met, that some clerical assistance should be given, and that the results should be published from time to time in a form somewhat resembling that already adopted in Bengal.

7. The following are the main features of the scheme which seem to me best calculated to carry out the objects in view :—

(a) That unpaid Provincial Directors of Ethnographic Inquiries should be appointed by the Government in each of the large provinces of India. It is believed that several of the higher officials will be ready to undertake this work in addition to their ordinary duties.

(b) That each Provincial Director should be provided by the Government with a clerk to carry on correspondence, and should be given an allowance for postage, stationery, &c.

(c) That a series of ethnographic questions should be drawn up, printed and circulated by the authority of Government. I think it probable that the set of questions framed by Mr. J. G. Frazer of Trinity College, Cambridge, would answer this purpose if modified to suit Indian conditions, and amplified with reference to the questions used in Bengal. Mr. Frazer has been good enough to offer to assist in carrying out the necessary alterations.

(d) That the Provincial Directors, working through the District officers and the heads of departments, and in such other ways as they may find suitable, should enlist a number of correspondents in each province, should supply them with copies of the questions and such further instructions as may be necessary, and should arrange with them the subjects to be taken up for inquiry, much in the same way as was done in Bengal.

(e) That the Provincial Director, or correspondents selected by him, should from time to time draw up monographs on the ethnography of different castes, tribes, or social groups, or on different branches of custom and folklore.

(f) That these monographs should be printed by the Government in such form as may be found convenient, and distributed to learned societies in Europe and elsewhere in the same manner as the publications of the United States Bureau of Ethnology are now circulated.

8. I submit that this plan offers a reasonable prospect of collecting at comparatively small cost a mass of information of great scientific value which would at the same time be of use to the Government of India in dealing with the large class of administrative and legislative questions which directly or indirectly affect the social and religious life of the people. I would ask, with

reference to the resolution already cited, and connected correspondence, that the Lieutenant-Governor may be moved to take the subject into consideration, and to submit this letter with a favorable recommendation to the Government of India.

From RUDOLF VIRCHOW, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., President of the Anthropological Society, Berlin, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, dated Berlin, S. W., 30th June 1891.

The President and Council of the "Anthropological Society of Berlin" having read Mr. H. H. Risley's (Bengal Civil Service) letter, dated 12th December 1890, have the honour of expressing, in the name of the said society, their wish for the Government of Bengal's being pleased to resume their inquiries into the anthropology and ethnology of India, so important for the whole of the scientific world, to as great an extent as possible. The superior organization of the East Indian service giving ample security for this difficult task being performed in a truly scientific spirit, might thereby furnish other civilized nations with a model or type to act upon.

2. The suggestions made by Mr. Risley with respect to the manner of conducting such researches appear to us, so far as we may judge of the matter, to be quite to the purpose and well considered. There is one point, however, to be noted on our part, we beg to lay a particular stress upon. It is of fundamental importance for the study of the development of the human race to settle the physical qualities of the different tribes. We thus think it a matter of greatest consequence for establishing a steady support for local inquiries to draw up a standard form for taking measurements of the human body, corresponding to the present state of anthropology, but restricted to a certain minimum of demands to be met by the inquiries. Should our assistance be desired for such a purpose, we shall be happy to offer any suggestions in that direction, based on the experiences made by ourselves.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, General Department, dated Calcutta, the 9th July 1891.

Read again—

The resolution in the Financial Department, dated 30th April 1885, on the subject of the appointment of Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., to conduct an inquiry into the castes and occupations of the people of Bengal.

Read—

Letter, dated 12th December 1890, from Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., submitting the outlines of a scheme for the continuation of ethnographic researches in Bengal, and for their extension to other parts of India.

Letter, dated 28th February 1891, from Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., intimating the approaching completion of the printing of his work.

Endorsement, No. 441, dated 12th June 1891, from the Home Department of the Government of India, forwarding copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the distribution of two volumes of Mr. Risley's books.

#### RESOLUTION.

In the Resolution of the 30th April 1885, cited in the preamble, it was stated (1) that the Government of India, at the instance of the Census Commissioner in 1882, had suggested that steps should be taken towards the collection of more precise information regarding the castes and occupations of the people of India; (2) that Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., had been selected, to be deputed for two years, to prosecute the ethnographic researches contemplated; (3) that the Lieutenant-Governor, apart from the scientific results, anticipated substantial administrative benefits from these inquiries; (4) that a series of questions would be published and circulated; and (5) that every district officer would be requested to nominate one or more of his subordinates, who might be qualified and willing to assist, in addition to their ordinary work, in collecting information for their respective districts or sub-divisions. Subsequently his deputation on special duty was extended to the 31st March 1888, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India.

2. The two volumes now under review contain the Ethnographic Glossary of all the castes, tribes, sub-castes and sections of which a substantial number of representatives is found in Bengal, with an introductory essay on Caste in relation to Marriage. To assist Mr. Risley in carrying out this work, there was already a considerable literature available in the shape of old reports, journals and transactions of learned societies; in addition to this, the unpublished notes

of the late Dr. James Wise on the tribes, castes, and occupations of Eastern Bengal, covering some 400 pages of print, with a quantity of manuscript material, were placed at Mr. Risley's disposal; he had also the new information specially collected from the 188 correspondents named in Appendix IV to Volume II of the Glossary.

3. The Ethnographic Glossary is a mine of valuable information; but it is no detractor to the industry or the ability of its compiler to say that a complete knowledge of the caste system of India will not be obtained from its study alone. The greatest and purest castes of India, the Brahmins and Rajputs, are (with the one exception of the Maithila Brahmins of Behar) exotics in Bengal, and it is only in Upper India, the country of their origin, that a full understanding of their main permanent sub-divisions, and of the mutual relations of those sub-divisions, can be obtained; nevertheless much learned information is here contained respecting those clans or individuals of those castes who have emigrated into Bengal, and whose descendants have established local sub-castes with local customs of their own. But it is with regard to the numerous lower castes which have sprung up in Bengal, and to the representatives of the aboriginal races who have more or less come under Hinduising influences, that the information in these volumes is fullest and most abundant. Regarding such tribes and castes it certainly contains the most complete account that has hitherto been put on official record.

4. Of the value of the Ethnographic Glossary (as a dictionary of the castes and their occupations) to the Administration there can be no doubt. The more Government officers know about the religious and social customs of the people of their districts, the better able they will be to deal with either the possible social problems of the future, or with the practical questions arising in their ordinary work, such as the relations of different castes to the land, their privileges in respect of rent, their relations to trade, their status in civil society, their internal organisation, their rules as to marriage and divorce, and as to the giving and receiving of famine relief. Much influence for good over the people can be obtained by both executive and judicial officers by acquiring, and having a reputation for possessing, an intimate knowledge of the circumstances and surroundings of their actual life. It has long been the policy of Government to recognise that the acquisition of such knowledge is to be commended and encouraged, and His Honour trusts that the settlement operations in progress will conduce in a similar way to the enlargement of our acquaintance with the economic conditions of the people and the facts of rural life. All administrative and executive officers should make constant reference to this portion of Mr. Risley's work for their own immediate advantage, and with a view to its correction, where necessary, and amplification.

5. In his introductory essay to the Ethnographic Glossary, Mr. Risley has touched on a number of questions of the highest interest in connection with the castes and customs of the people, and on all that he has touched he has thrown the light of his literary skill, his scholarship, wide reading and Indian experience. The subject which has principally attracted his attention is the origin of the rules of exogamy, which he attributes to a sort of natural selection, that is, to the discovery that close interbreeding leads to physical weakness. In this conclusion he will find few to disagree with him; but he is perhaps inclined to think of the introduction of these rules as a matter of too remote antiquity: at any rate the rule of endogamy preceded that of exogamy. It was first the custom of the tribe or caste to marry wholly within its own limits; then, finding the results disastrous, each tribe sub-divided itself into sections which were not allowed to intermarry, and in course of time these sub-divisions became more and more intricate. Thus the Brahmins divided themselves into their ten great classes—the five Northern (Gaur) and the five Southern (Dravér), while the Rajputs split up into the "36 Royal Races." These again divided themselves into "Gotras" or sects named after a rishi or a muni, who was supposed to be the spiritual father of the ancestor of the Gotra, and within these sects intermarriage was prohibited. The lower castes, actuated by the passion for ceremonial purity (a solvent principle which explains many of the difficulties with which Mr. Risley deals), sub-divided themselves similarly into Gotras, which they named sometimes after localities (commonly called Gaon-Gotras) sometimes after ancestral nick-names and after the names of animals, which also Mr. Risley conceives to have been not totems in the strict sense, but nick-names of the ancestors or eponyms of the Gotras. These and other questions on which Mr. Risley has offered valuable observations, such as the origin of totemism, the effect of marriage customs on female infanticide, widow and infant marriage, the law and influence of hypergamy, find an appropriate place in this essay. His treatment of these subjects will doubtless attract the attention they deserve, but it would be out of place for Government to enter into any criticism of them.

6. It was at one time intended that the volumes of castes and occupations should be circulated to District officers in connection with the operations of the census of February 1891, with a view to diminishing the number of "unknown" entries which appeared in the caste tables of 1881. It has, however, been decided to let the people speak for themselves, and that confusion and complications will best be avoided by not furnishing the Ethnographic Glossary to the officers at present engaged in the compilation of the census statistics before the abstraction and tabulation of the figures are completed in district offices. It will, however, be used in the final compilation to be made by the Superintendent of Census Operations at Calcutta, and the latter's

classification will be returned for criticism to the District officers. The eventual result will, it is hoped, show a marked improvement over any previous enumeration and sub-division of the castes in Bengal.

7 The Lieutenant-Governor believes that Bengal is the only province in which any sustained attempt has been made to carry out the wishes of the Government of India with respect to the investigation of castes and occupations originating from the census of 1881. This work will, at any rate, help to meet the charge sometimes made that little or nothing is done to encourage and foster scientific inquiry in the Lower Provinces. Though His Honour cannot venture to hope that anything like the final word has yet been said on the numerous and important lines opened out for discussion in Mr. Risley's volumes, hails with sincere satisfaction their publication after six years' preparation as constituting a most valuable contribution to the stock of knowledge, and as affording a substantial frame-work on which further inquiries can be instituted and their results incorporated. He believes firmly in the value of ventilating such questions, and in the accumulation and arrangement of information. The two volumes of the Ethnographic Glossary will now be circulated to all Commissioners, District and Sub-divisional officers, and other persons interested, and their criticism will be invited with a view to supplement the deficiencies incidental to such an undertaking. On receipt of such sufficient corrections and fresh materials, a revised edition of the Glossary will be published. It is Sir Charles Elliott's wish that all officers will communicate freely with Mr. Risley, in accordance with the invitation conveyed in the preface of the work under consideration.

8. Soon after the commencement of his investigations, Mr. Risley proposed to supplement his inquiries into the tribes and castes of Bengal by an examination, on the methods approved by European anthropologists, of the physical characteristics of certain selected castes and tribes. As all castes are endogamous, *i.e.*, intermarry only within their own limits, they preserve the purity of their blood in a degree which cannot exist in other nations where cross-marriages are common. If, therefore, there is truth in the theory that certain physical characteristics and proportions are persistent and hereditary, and differ in different races, Indian castes offer a field for testing this theory which cannot be equalled elsewhere. Accordingly he set himself to prepare statistics of the weight and height, the facial angle, and the specific dimensions of the head, nose, cheekbones, orbits, forehead and zygomatic arches of a hundred individuals in each of eighty-seven castes. Fifteen of these castes belong to Bengal, five to the Chittagong hills, eight to the Darjeeling hills, seventeen to Chota Nagpur, ten to Behar, twenty-three to the North-Western Provinces, and nine to the Punjab. The figures comprising these tests (ten in number) for each of the 8,700 persons measured, occupied two volumes of "Anthropometric Data" and are prefaced by tables showing the average figure for each of the 87 castes under each of the ten tests. Mr. Risley has not as yet indicated what conclusions, can, in his opinion, be deduced from this laborious compilation, and it would be premature for the Government to express any opinion on the subject. The Lieutenant-Governor fully appreciates the fact that India offers a splendid field for the prosecution of ethnological researches, and that Bengal, with its enormous area and vast population, affords opportunities for investigation of special importance. He will, therefore, always gladly welcome and do all in his power, consistently with economy, to encourage anthropometric inquiries. With these few remarks he will leave this portion of Mr. Risley's work to the criticism of the learned societies and anthropologists to whom, in compliance with the list received from the Secretary of State for India, it will now be distributed.

9. The scheme which Mr. Risley has submitted in outline for the continuation of ethnographical researches in the Lower Provinces, and for their extension to other parts of India, will now be laid before the Government of India. Its main features are—the appointment of an unpaid Director of Ethnological Inquiries in each of the larger provinces, the circulation of ethnographic questions, the selection of subjects for inquiry, the preparation of monographs on castes, tribes, social groups, and different branches of custom and folklore, and their distribution to learned societies in Europe. It may be admitted that systematic working in the direction indicated could not fail to elicit a considerable amount of valuable information, and the scheme is happily founded on an economical basis. But for its full and successful development, it would require more specialists than are likely to be found in India, and there is the ever-present objection to adding more work to the duties of District officers already overtaxed. At the same time there would be much advantage in placing such work in the hands of one officer—of Mr. Risley himself, for instance, in Bengal—with whom voluntary contributors on the subjects indicated could freely communicate with the assurance that their views and information would receive adequate recognition.

10. It remains only for the Lieutenant-Governor to acknowledge the excellent results of Mr. Risley's labours during a period of years, on deputation, on leave, and concurrently with his ordinary duties. These volumes bear testimony to his ability, literary power, and industry, as well as to his rarer gift of philosophical and historical insight. His work in the field of anthropology has already established his reputation with University authorities in England and learned societies in Europe, and has gained for him the signal distinction of Honorary Member of the French Academy. In congratulating Mr. Risley on his achievements, now to be published, His Honour desires to express the hope that he will be able to find time, in the intervals of the duties

of his office, to prosecute further the researches which he has done so much to advance. Sir Charles Elliott will also take this opportunity of thanking the European scholars and men of science who have helped Mr. Risley with advice and criticism,—more particularly Professor Flower, C.B., F.R.S., Director of the Natural History Branch of the British Museum; Professor Paul Topinard, of the School of Anthropology, and Secretary of the Anthropological Society of Paris, to whom the volumes of Anthropometric Data are dedicated: Professor Max Müller; Dr. Tiele of Leyden; Dr. Friedrich Müller of Vienna; Herr Kart Panka of Vienna; Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P.; Mr. Andrew Lang; Mr. J. F. K. Hewitt (late of the Bengal Civil Service); and Professor Kollmann. The Lieutenant-Governor's acknowledgments are also due to Mr. Risley's fellow-workers in India, viz., Dr. D. D. Cunningham, F.R.S., Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.S., Mr. D. Ibbetson, C.S., Mr. J. C. Nesfield, Mr. A. H. Giles, the Rev. L. Skreksrud, the Rev. D. Campbell, Mr. W. H. P. Driver, Baboo Protap Chandra Ghosha, Baboo Sarat Chandra Das, C.I.E., Mr. James Taylor, Lala Sheo Nandan Lal Roy, Baboo Bepin Behari Mookerjee, Baboo Harish Chandra Rai, Baboo Adya Nath Banerjee, Baboo Tara Pada Mookerjee, Baboo Kumud Behari Samanta, Chandi Singh, and Ala-ud-din.

*Order.*—Ordered that copies of Mr. Risley's Ethnographical Glossary (two volumes) be circulated to all Commissioners, Judges, District and Sub-divisional officers, to the Director of Public Instruction and to the Superintendent of Census Operations, for information and guidance, with reference to the above resolution.

Ordered also that a copy of the above resolution be communicated to Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S.

Ordered also that a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to each of the gentlemen mentioned in paragraph 10.

Ordered also that a copy of the above resolution be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.)

C. E. BUCKLAND,  
*Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.*

ORDER—dated 24th November 1891, No. 989, Public.

The foregoing papers will be communicated to the undermentioned officers and non-official gentlemen for favour of any remarks that they may have to offer, and for information whether they know of any persons who are qualified and would be willing to assist in carrying out the scheme:—

The Resident in Travancore and Cochin.

" Surgeon-General.

" Director of Public Instruction.

" Collector of Malabar.

Mr. R. Sewell, C.S.

Dr G. Oppert, Ph D.

The heads of the following Missionary Societies:—

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

" Church Missionary Society.

" London Mission Society.

" Wesleyan do.

" Baptist do.

2. These Proceedings will be communicated to the Revenue Department for compliance with the request conveyed in paragraph 2 of the letter from the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,  
*Chief Secretary.*

Addresses as above.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 24th November 1891, No. 990, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. T. Peters.

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.  
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., &c, 24th November 1891,  
Nos. 989, 990.

NOVEMBER.

**Ethnographical Researches.**

Communicating to certain officers and non-official gentlemen, for any remarks they have to offer, papers connected with Mr. H. H. Risley's scheme for the continuation of — in the Lower Provinces and for their extension to other parts of India.

The London Miss. Society 3  
" Wesleyan — do — 3  
" Baptist — do — 3

1. api  
27/19-1291.

2. These Pros. will be  
com<sup>d</sup> to the Revenue  
Dept. for compliance with  
the request conveyed in  
para: 2 of the letter from  
the Govt. of India.

Revenue  
Dept.  
27/19-1291.

70B  
17/11

18/11  
19/11

The addresses as above  
with copies of the same.

27/11

Encl: N<sup>o</sup> 990

Copy to the Govt. of India,  
Home Dept.

RECEIVED

1 DEC 31

IN H.S.

27/19-1291.

1/11

Copy to the Govt. of India,  
Home Dept.

27/11

Public Dept.

Current No. 3205

Order. 24 Nov 91. No 989

The foregoing papers  
will be communicated  
to the <sup>undesignated</sup> officers and non-  
officials <sup>gentlemen</sup> ~~in the~~ <sup>for</sup> favor of remarks and  
for information whether  
they know of any <sup>other</sup> ~~persons~~ who would be  
willing to assist in carry-  
ing out the scheme, ~~which~~  
~~if possible can be found~~  
~~with sufficient enthusiasm~~  
and knowledge is, in the  
opinion of Govt. likely to  
yield highly valuable  
results.

The Resident in T. & C.  
" Surgeon General S.  
" Director of Pub. Instr.  
" Collector of Malabar  
Mr. R. Sewell C.S.  
Dr. G. Oppert Ph.D.  
The Heads of the following  
Missionary Societies,  
The Society for the Propaga-  
tion of the Gospel,  
Church Miss. Society,  
The

their distribution to learned Societies in Europe. It may be admitted that systematic working in the direction indicated could not fail to elicit a considerable amount of valuable information, and the scheme is happily founded on an economical basis. But for its full and successful development, it would require more specialists than are likely to be found in India, and there is the ever-present objection to adding more work to the duties of District Officers already overtaxed. At the same time there would be much advantage in placing such work in the hands of one officer—of Mr. Risley himself, for instance, in Bengal—with whom voluntary contributors on the subjects indicated could freely communicate with the assurance that their views and information would receive adequate recognition.

10. It remains only for the Lieutenant-Governor to acknowledge the excellent results of Mr. Risley's labours during a period of years, on deputation, on leave, and concurrently with his ordinary duties. These volumes bear testimony to his ability, literary power, and industry, as well as to his rarer gift of philosophical and historical insight. His work in the field of anthropology has already established his reputation with University authorities in England and learned Societies in Europe, and has gained for him the signal distinction of Honorary Member of the French Academy. In congratulating Mr. Risley on his achievements, now to be published, His Honour desires to express the hope that he will be able to find time, in the intervals of the duties of his office, to prosecute further the researches which he has done so much to advance. Sir Charles Elliott will also take this opportunity of thanking the European scholars and men of science who have helped Mr. Risley with advice and criticism,—more particularly Professor Flower, C.B., F.R.S., Director of the Natural History Branch of the British Museum; Professor Paul Topinard, of the School of Anthropology, and Secretary of the Anthropological Society of Paris, to whom the volumes of Anthropometric data are dedicated: Professor Max Müller; Dr. Tiele of Leyden; Dr. Friedrich Müller of Vienna; Herr Kart Panka of Vienna; Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P.; Mr. Andrew Lang; Mr. J. F. K. Hewitt (late of the Bengal Civil Service); and Professor Kollmann. The Lieutenant-Governor's acknowledgments are also due to Mr. Risley's fellow-workers in India, namely, Dr. D. D. Cunningham, F.R.S., Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.S., Mr. D. Ibbetson, C.S., Mr. J. C. Nesfield; Mr. A. H. Giles, the Revd. L. Skrefsrud, the Revd. D. Campbell, Mr. W. H. P. Driver, Baboo Protap Chandra Ghosha, Baboo Sarat Chandra Das, C.I.E., Mr. James Taylor, Lala Sheo Nandan Lal Roy, Baboo Bepin Behari Mookerjee, Baboo Harish Chandra Rai, Baboo Adya Nath Banerjee, Baboo Tara Pada Mookerjee, Baboo Kumud Behari Samanta, Chandi Singh, and Alauddin.

ORDER.—Ordered that copies of Mr. Risley's Ethnographical Glossary (two volumes) be circulated to all Commissioners, Judges, District and Sub-divisional Officers, to the Director of Public Instruction and to the Superintendent of Census Operations, for information and guidance, with reference to the above Resolution.

Ordered also that a copy of the above Resolution be communicated to Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S.

Ordered also that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to each of the gentlemen mentioned in paragraph 10.

Ordered also that a copy of the above Resolution be published in the Calcutta Gazette.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

C. E. BUCKLAND,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

before the abstraction and tabulation of the figures are completed in district offices. It will, however, be used in the final compilation to be made by the Superintendent of Census Operations at Calcutta, and the latter's classification will be returned for criticism to the District Officers. The eventual result will, it is hoped, show a marked improvement over any previous enumeration and subdivision of the castes in Bengal.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that Bengal is the only province in which any sustained attempt has been made to carry out the wishes of the Government of India with respect to the investigation of castes and occupations originating from the Census of 1881. This work will, at any rate, help to meet the charge sometimes made that little or nothing is done to encourage and foster scientific enquiry in the Lower Provinces. Though His Honour cannot venture to hope that anything like the final word has yet been said on the numerous and important lines opened out for discussion in Mr. Risley's volumes, he hails with sincere satisfaction their publication after six years' preparation as constituting a most valuable contribution to the stock of knowledge, and as affording a substantial frame-work on which further enquiries can be instituted and their results incorporated. He believes firmly in the value of ventilating such questions, and in the accumulation and arrangement of information. The two volumes of the Ethnographic Glossary will now be circulated to all Commissioners, District and Sub-divisional Officers, and other persons interested, and their criticism will be invited with a view to supplement the deficiencies incidental to such an undertaking. On receipt of sufficient corrections and fresh materials, a revised edition of the Glossary will be published. It is Sir Charles Elliott's wish that all officers will communicate freely with Mr. Risley, in accordance with the invitation conveyed in the Preface of the work under consideration.

8. Soon after the commencement of his investigations, Mr. Risley proposed to supplement his enquiries into the tribes and castes of Bengal by an examination, on the methods approved by European anthropologists, of the physical characteristics of certain selected castes and tribes. As all castes are endogamous, *i. e.*, intermarry only within their own limits, they preserve the purity of their blood in a degree which cannot exist in other nations where cross-marriages are common. If, therefore, there is truth in the theory that certain physical characteristics and proportions are persistent and hereditary, and differ in different races, Indian castes offer a field for testing this theory which cannot be equalled elsewhere. Accordingly he set himself to prepare statistics of the weight and height, the facial angle, and the specific dimensions of the head, nose, cheekbones, orbits, forehead and zygomatic arches of a hundred individuals in each of 87 castes. Fifteen of these castes belong to Bengal, five to the Chittagong Hills, eight to the Darjeeling Hills, seventeen to Chota Nagpur, ten to Behar, twenty-three to the North-Western Provinces, and nine to the Punjab. The figures comprising these tests (ten in number) for each of the 8,700 persons measured, occupied two volumes of "Anthropometric data" and are prefaced by tables showing the average figure for each of the 87 castes under each of the ten tests. Mr. Risley has not as yet indicated what conclusions, can, in his opinion, be deduced from this laborious compilation, and it would be premature for the Government to express any opinion on the subject. The Lieutenant-Governor fully appreciates the fact that India offers a splendid field for the prosecution of ethnological researches, and that Bengal, with its enormous area and vast population, affords opportunities for investigation of special importance. He will therefore always gladly welcome and do all in his power, consistently with economy, to encourage anthropometric enquiries. With these few remarks he will leave this portion of Mr. Risley's work to the criticism of the learned Societies and Anthropologists to whom, in compliance with the list received from the Secretary of State for India, it will now be distributed.

9. The scheme which Mr. Risley has submitted in outline for the continuation of ethnographical researches in the Lower Provinces, and for their extension to other parts of India, will now be laid before the Government of India. Its main features are—the appointment of an unpaid Director of Ethnological enquiries in each of the larger provinces, the circulation of ethnographic questions, the selection of subjects for enquiry, the preparation of monographs on castes, tribes, social groups, and different branches of custom and folklore, and

have sprung up in Bengal, and to the representatives of the aboriginal races who have more or less come under Hinduising influences, that the information in these volumes is fullest and most abundant. Regarding such tribes and castes it certainly contains the most complete account that has hitherto been put on official record.

4. Of the value of the Ethnographic Glossary (as a dictionary of the castes and their occupations) to the Administration there can be no doubt. The more Government officers know about the religious and social customs of the people of their districts, the better able they will be to deal with either the possible social problems of the future, or with the practical questions arising in their ordinary work, such as the relations of different castes to the land, their privileges in respect of rent, their relations to trade, their status in civil society, their internal organisation, their rules as to marriage and divorce, and as to the giving and receiving of famine-relief. Much influence for good over the people can be obtained by both Executive and Judicial officers by acquiring, and having a reputation for possessing, an intimate knowledge of the circumstances and surroundings of their actual life. It has long been the policy of Government to recognise that the acquisition of such knowledge is to be commended and encouraged, and His Honour trusts that the settlement operations in progress will conduce in a similar way to the enlargement of our acquaintance with the economic conditions of the people and the facts of rural life. All administrative and executive officers should make constant reference to this portion of Mr. Risley's work for their own immediate advantage, and with a view to its correction, where necessary, and amplification.

5. In his introductory essay to the Ethnographic Glossary, Mr. Risley has touched on a number of questions of the highest interest in connection with the castes and customs of the people, and on all that he has touched he has thrown the light of his literary skill, his scholarship, wide reading and Indian experience. The subject which has principally attracted his attention is the origin of the rules of exogamy, which he attributes to a sort of natural selection, that is, to the discovery that close interbreeding leads to physical weakness. In this conclusion he will find few to disagree with him; but he is perhaps inclined to think of the introduction of these rules as a matter of too remote antiquity: at any rate the rule of endogamy preceded that of exogamy. It was first the custom of the tribe or caste to marry wholly within its own limits; then, finding the results disastrous, each tribe sub-divided itself into sections which were not allowed to intermarry, and in course of time these subdivisions became more and more intricate. Thus the Brahmins divided themselves into their ten great classes—the five Northern (Gaur) and the five Southern (Dravér), while the Rajputs split up into the "36 Royal Races." These again divided themselves into "Gotras" or sects named after a Rishi or a Muni, who was supposed to be the spiritual father of the ancestor of the Gotra, and within these sects intermarriage was prohibited. The lower castes, actuated by the passion for ceremonial purity (a solvent principle which explains many of the difficulties with which Mr. Risley deals), sub-divided themselves similarly into Gotras, which they named sometimes after localities (commonly called Gaon-Gotras) sometimes after ancestral nick-names and after the names of animals, which also Mr. Risley conceives to have been not totems in the strict sense, but nick-names of the ancestors or eponyms of the Gotras. These and other questions on which Mr. Risley has offered valuable observations, such as the origin of totemism, the effect of marriage customs on female infanticide, widow and infant marriage, the law and influence of hypergamy, find an appropriate place in this essay. His treatment of these subjects will doubtless attract the attention they deserve, but it would be out of place for Government to enter into any criticism of them.

6. It was at one time intended that the volumes of castes and occupations should be circulated to District Officers in connection with the operations of the Census of February 1891, with a view to diminishing the number of "unknown" entries which appeared in the caste tables of 1881. It has, however, been decided to let the people speak for themselves, and that confusion and complications will best be avoided by not furnishing the Ethnographic Glossary to the officers at present engaged in the compilation of the Census statistics.

1

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bengal, General Department, dated Calcutta, the 9th July 1891.*

READ again—

The Resolution in the Financial Department, dated 30th April 1885, on the subject of the appointment of Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., to conduct an enquiry into the Castes and Occupations of the people of Bengal.

READ—

Letter dated 12th December 1890, from Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., submitting the outlines of a scheme for the continuation of Ethnographic researches in Bengal, and for their extension to other parts of India.

Letter dated 28th February 1891, from Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., intimating the approaching completion of the printing of his work.

Endorsement No. 441, dated 12th June 1891, from the Home Department of the Government of India, forwarding copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the distribution of two volumes of Mr. Risley's books.

## RESOLUTION.

IN the Resolution of the 30th April 1885, cited in the preamble, it was stated (1) that the Government of India, at the instance of the Census Commissioner in 1882, had suggested that steps should be taken towards the collection of more precise information regarding the Castes and Occupations of the people of India; (2) that Mr. H. H. Risley, C.S., had been selected, to be deputed for two years, to prosecute the Ethnographic researches contemplated; (3) that the Lieutenant-Governor, apart from the scientific results, anticipated substantial administrative benefits from these enquiries; (4) that a series of questions would be published and circulated; and (5) that every District Officer would be requested to nominate one or more of his subordinates, who might be qualified and willing to assist, in addition to their ordinary work, in collecting information for their respective districts or sub-divisions. Subsequently his deputation on special duty was extended to the 31st March 1888, with the approval of the Secretary of State of India.

2. The two volumes now under review contain the Ethnographic Glossary of all the castes, tribes, sub-castes and sections of which a substantial number of representatives is found in Bengal, with an introductory essay on Caste in relation to Marriage. To assist Mr. Risley in carrying out this work, there was already a considerable literature available in the shape of old reports, journals and transactions of learned societies; in addition to this, the unpublished notes of the late Dr. James Wise on the tribes, castes, and occupations of Eastern Bengal, covering some 400 pages of print, with a quantity of manuscript material, were placed at Mr. Risley's disposal; he had also the new information specially collected from the 188 correspondents named in Appendix IV to Volume II of the Glossary.

3. The Ethnographic Glossary is a mine of valuable information; but it is no detractor to the industry or the ability of its compiler to say that a complete knowledge of the caste system of India will not be obtained from its study alone. The greatest and purest castes of India, the Brahmins and Rajputs, are (with the one exception of the Maithila Brahmins of Behar) exotics in Bengal, and it is only in Upper India, the country of their origin, that a full understanding of their main permanent sub-divisions, and of the mutual relations of those sub-divisions, can be obtained; nevertheless much learned information is here contained respecting those clans or individuals of those castes who have emigrated into Bengal, and whose descendants have established local sub-castes with local customs of their own. But it is with regard to the numerous lower castes which

Dated Berlin, S. W., the 30th June 1891.

From—RUDOLF VIRCHOW, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., President of the Anthropological Society, Berlin,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

THE President and Council of the "Anthropological Society of Berlin" having read Mr. H. H. Risley's (Bengal Civil Service) letter, dated 12th December 1890, have the honour of expressing, in the name of the said Society, their wish for the Government of Bengal's being pleased to resume their inquiries into the anthropology and ethnology of India, so important for the whole of the scientific world, to as great an extent as possible. The superior organization of the East Indian service giving ample security for this difficult task being performed in a truly scientific spirit, might thereby furnish other civilized nations with a model or type to act upon.

The suggestions made by Mr. Risley with respect to the manner of conducting such researches appear to us, so far as we may judge of the matter, to be quite to the purpose and well considered. There is one point, however, to be noted on our part, we beg to lay a particular stress upon. It is of fundamental importance for the study of the development of the human race to settle the physical qualities of the different tribes. We thus think it a matter of greatest consequence for establishing a steady support for local inquiries to draw up a standard form for taking measurements of the human body, corresponding to the present state of anthropology, but restricted to a certain minimum of demands to be met by the enquirers. Should our assistance be desired for such a purpose, we shall be happy to offer any suggestions in that direction, based on the experiences made by ourselves.

5. This being so, it seems to me desirable to continue in Bengal and to initiate in other Provinces of the Indian Empire the methods of investigation which have yielded such valuable results. I believe that this may be done without incurring large expenditure, and without putting an undue strain on the regular administrative staff.

6. The Bengal enquiries have shown that in all grades of the administration, officers, both European and Native, are to be found who take a genuine interest in the investigation of social phenomena, and who would be prepared to assist actively in collecting ethnographic data in addition to their regular official duties. All that is needed is that the work should be set on foot under the general countenance and authority of the Government, that it should be organized on a regular system, that the current expenses of postage and stationery should be met, that some clerical assistance should be given, and that the results should be published from time to time in a form somewhat resembling that already adopted in Bengal.

7. The following are the main features of the scheme which seem to me best calculated to carry out the objects in view :—

- (a) That unpaid Provincial Directors of Ethnographic Inquiries should be appointed by the Government in each of the large provinces of India. It is believed that several of the higher officials will be ready to undertake this work in addition to their ordinary duties.
- (b) That each Provincial Director should be provided by the Government with a clerk to carry on correspondence, and should be given an allowance for postage, stationery, &c.
- (c) That a series of Ethnographic questions should be drawn up, printed and circulated by the authority of Government. I think it probable that the set of questions framed by Mr. J. G. Frazer of Trinity College, Cambridge, would answer this purpose if modified to suit Indian conditions, and amplified with reference to the questions used in Bengal. Mr. Frazer has been good enough to offer to assist in carrying out the necessary alterations.
- (d) That the Provincial Directors, working through the District Officers and the Heads of Departments, and in such other ways as they may find suitable, should enlist a number of correspondents in each Province, should supply them with copies of the questions and such further instructions as may be necessary, and should arrange with them the subjects to be taken up for enquiry, much in the same way as was done in Bengal.
- (e) That the Provincial Director, or correspondents selected by him, should from time to time draw up monographs on the Ethnography of different castes, tribes, or social groups, or on different branches of custom and folklore.
- (f) That these monographs should be printed by the Government in such form as may be found convenient, and distributed to learned Societies in Europe and elsewhere in the same manner as the publications of the United States Bureau of Ethnology are now circulated.

8. I submit that this plan offers a reasonable prospect of collecting at comparatively small cost a mass of information of great scientific value which would at the same time be of use to the Government of India in dealing with the large class of administrative and legislative questions which directly or indirectly affect the social and religious life of the people. I would ask, with reference to the Resolution already cited, and connected correspondence, that the Lieutenant-Governor may be moved to take the subject into consideration, and to submit this letter with a favourable recommendation to the Government of India.

received with your office endorsement No. 1041, dated 12th June 1891, will now be supplied direct to the India Office, as desired in the latter portion of your letter now under acknowledgment.

Dated Calcutta, the 12th December 1890.

From—H. H. RISLEY, Esq., Bengal Civil Service,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

WITH reference to the Resolution of the Government of Bengal, dated the 30th April 1885, sanctioning certain arrangements for the prosecution of ethnographic researches in the territories subject to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the outlines of a scheme for continuing similar researches in the Lower Provinces, and for extending them to other parts of India.

2. It will be remembered that in 1885 and the two following years a series of questions, based for the most part upon the heads of inquiry drawn up in 1874 by a Committee of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, and framed so as to adapt to Indian conditions the methods of research sanctioned by European men of science, were circulated with the authority of the Government, and that answers were collected by a voluntary agency working under my supervision in every district of Bengal. Of the data procured by this method of enquiry portions have been published in the *Contemporary* and the *Asiatic Quarterly Reviews*, the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, and the *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, and in the form of Papers read before the British Association, the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Anthropological Society of Berlin. A proof copy of two out of the four volumes in which the results have been compiled for the Government of Bengal has also been laid before the Board of Biology and the Board of Oriental Studies in the University of Cambridge, both of which bodies take considerable interest in the study of Indian ethnography.

3. Although the inquiry extended only to the Lower Provinces of Bengal, and the record of the results, however complete for ordinary administrative purposes, must be regarded as incomplete from the scientific point of view, still enough has been done to demonstrate the remarkable facilities which India offers for collecting ethnographic data on a large scale, and, what is even more important, for testing these data by repetition and comparison. The reason for this is clear. In India a highly organised administrative body of the most modern type carries on the work of government in constant and close contact with people whose beliefs and observances present examples of all stages and varieties of primitive culture, and who, nevertheless, show no signs either of dying out themselves or of parting with their most characteristic usages and superstitions. This state of things offers peculiarly favourable opportunities for the formation of a trustworthy record of primitive custom and tradition.

4. It is unnecessary for me to lay stress upon the high value which the customary law, the social observances, the folk-lore and traditions, the superstitions, ritual, and religion of the people of India possess for all students of the early history of institutions. The field is comparatively untried, but the results obtained in Bengal seem to show that it is one of remarkable richness and variety. The data already collected, imperfect as they are, throw considerable light upon the early history of marriage and the family, the various forms of the custom of exogamy, the comparative prevalence and distribution of male and female kinship, the phenomena of totemism, and the development of different stages of religious belief. It is believed that they will also tend to facilitate and cheapen the operations of the Indian census and to enhance its accuracy, that they embody valuable information concerning infant marriage and the prohibition of widow marriage, and that by extending our knowledge of the customs and habits of the people they will indirectly raise the general standard of administration in India.

Public Dept.

3205

From

The Govt. of India,  
Home Dept

No. 1041, dated Calcutta, the 27th August 1891.

From—C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1305, dated 18th August 1891, containing a request that the Home Department of the Government of India may be supplied with 10 copies of Mr. H. H. Risley's Ethnographic Glossary, in two volumes, which has been reviewed by the Lieutenant-Governor in a Resolution, dated 9th July 1891, published in the Calcutta Gazette of 15th July. These instructions will be duly complied with as soon as the copies are printed off.

2. I am at the same time to state, for the information of the Government of India, that, in accordance with the views expressed in the Resolution of the 9th July, His Honour has decided to print only a limited number of copies for circulation to certain official and non-official gentlemen with a view to eliciting their criticism, so that the deficiencies incidental to such an undertaking may be supplemented by this means. On receipt of sufficient corrections and fresh materials, it is intended to publish a revised edition of the Glossary. Having regard to the temporary field this publication is to occupy, I am to enquire whether more than the 10 copies above mentioned of the Glossary will be required by the Government of India and for the Secretary of State for India. A request for two copies of this work has been separately received from the Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India.

3. Intimately connected with the question of the number of copies required of the Ethnographic Glossary is another subject which I am now to submit for the consideration of the Government of India, as developed in the accompanying letter, dated the 12th December 1890, from Mr. Risley. In this he has submitted a scheme for the continuation of ethnographical researches in the Lower Provinces, and for their extension to other parts of India. Its main features are the appointment of an unpaid Director of Ethnographical Enquiries in each of the larger provinces, the circulation of ethnographic questions, and selection of subjects for enquiry, the preparation of monographs of castes, tribes, social groups and different branches of customs and folklore, and their distribution to learned Societies in Europe. With regard to Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor is prepared to accept Mr. Risley's proposals and to place the work in his hands. The accompanying copy of a letter addressed to this Government by Professor Virchow, President of the Society for Anthropology, Ethnology, and Prehistoric Researches of Berlin, bears testimony to the interest likely to be taken in the continuation of the work by learned Societies in Europe.

4. It will be for the Government of India to decide whether they are willing to commend Mr. Risley's scheme to the other Local Governments. He has since intimated to the Lieutenant-Governor that if the Government of India are willing to entrust him with the general direction of the scheme for the whole of India, he will be glad to undertake it, whatever appointment he may be holding at the time. He would, if this suggestion is approved, ask to have the services of a clerk placed at his disposal. Sir Charles Elliott has no objection to Mr. Risley's undertaking this work in its commencement, but he cannot bind himself to allow Mr. Risley to continue it, should it prove to be too absorbing and to interfere inconveniently with that gentleman's official duties.

5. If Mr. Risley's scheme commends itself to the Government of India, it may be necessary to strike off a certain number of copies of the Ethnographic Glossary in its present provisional form as a first edition for circulation to other Local Governments. I am to request that His Honour may be informed how many copies will be required for this purpose.

6. The 150 copies of Mr. Risley's Anthropometric Data required for the Secretary of State by His Lordship's Despatch No. 43, of which a copy was

No. 27 Pub.  
1686

4.20-10 }  
2.2-11 } 91

Transmitting paper connected with  
Re: Mr. Risley's scheme for the  
continuation of ethnographical re-  
searches in the Lower Provinces &  
for their extension to other parts of  
India.

He.

For order as to whether this should  
be referred to R.D. The matter  
is apparently one which if anything  
is done will have to do with  
the Home Dept. &

Thos.

I think the matter belongs to R.D. but  
by which scientific researches  
controlled & scientific matters  
with.

I am disposed to favour the scheme  
which if men can be found with suffi-  
cient enthusiasm & knowledge is  
likely to yield highly valuable results.  
The difficulty is to find a person  
to fill the place of Provincial Director  
& organize the enquiries. I don't know  
any one who has given evidence of  
interest in these matters except Mr.  
Fawcett of the Police who is now in  
England. I think copies of the papers  
might be sent for remarks to Mr. R.D.  
or Offg. Secy. Gen. Cdr. of  
Madras, & the heads of some of the Chief  
offices in India, & Res. of Travancore. They  
might be of some use in this field.

12  
5  
enquiries of this kind, exists in the Madras Presidency  
which would undertake the collation of information sent to it, and whether  
the Governor in Council would wish the work to be started  
under the supervision of Mr. Risley.

4. The Government of Bengal has been requested to furnish the Govt.  
of Madras  
direct with five copies of the Ethnographic Glossary in its present provisional  
form and with two copies of the Anthropometric data.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. P. Hewitt

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

3205  
18

No. <sup>27 Pub</sup>  
1686

FROM

J. P. HEWETT, ESQ., C.I.E.,  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Home Department.  
Public.

Simla, the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1891.

UNDER SECRETARY  
22 NOV 91  
PUBLIC & DEPT.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter\* from the

Government of Bengal, enclosing a com-

\* No. 1041, dated the 27th August 1891, together with a copy of Bengal Government's Resolution of the 9th July 1891.

munication from Mr. H. H. Risley in which

he gives the outlines of a scheme for the

continuation of ethnographical researches in the Lower Provinces and for their extension to other parts of India.

2. The subject of Mr. Risley's inquiries has attracted much attention among savants and learned societies in Europe; and the Government of India would be glad to be favoured with an expression of the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council on the desirability of extending them to other Provinces. Materials procured at the Census regarding caste, race, tribe, &c., would form a basis for an investigation of this kind. In addition to the general tables of castes, &c., the Census Commissioner for India has decided to print a list in which the name of every caste and sub-division of caste returned in the schedules will be registered, and the population of all important castes or sub-divisions of castes will be entered. This list will be provincial in its arrangement, and separate extracts can thus be made available locally for such further investigation as may be considered necessary. It is believed that the schedules themselves can be used in connection with the record of the names of males and females in each caste, and of the surnames or tribal designations which are given in some parts of the country; and, in view of the possibility of utilizing them in this manner, I am to request that the instructions given in Home Department Circular No. <sup>3</sup><sub>91-144</sub>, dated the 15th May last, that they should be torn up and sold as waste paper on the completion of the Provincial Census Report, may not be acted on for the present. Any further tabulation from these schedules will, of course, form no part of the regular census work, and should be entrusted only to responsible officers.

3. In the event of His Excellency in Council agreeing to give a trial to the scheme, the Government of India would be glad to know whether any non-official or other qualified agency, such as societies formed for scientific

Paper taken out of the Records from the charge of the Referencer.

Press \_\_\_\_\_  
Miscellaneous No. \_\_\_\_\_, dated \_\_\_\_\_ 190 \_\_\_\_\_.  
Routine \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]