

Public (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1052

DATED 23-9-96

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

According to protem papers relative to the
list required by the Secy of State.

Public Dept

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

G. 1888, 2773, 2580, 2946, 1918,
2146, ⁴⁹⁵450 193 ¹⁹⁶

Order 1052. 9 23 1896
Mis

Recorded. proceedings

S.B.
for C.I.
33/9/6

Ans.
22.9.96

Madras Office

Note
To be shown to the C.A.
on return to Madras.

[G. 9 4]
4,000-1 1/2

DEPARTMENT.

From

A. J. Bringle Esq.
balanta

No.

Dated 16

Received 21

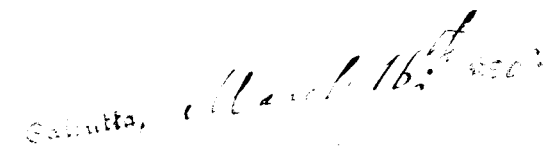
Registered 23

Enclosures 1 1/2 S.C. of Bul (1)

SUBJECT.

Re: - h.a.o. 1250 lists.

S. G. H.
- 2nd up 1/2
- 3. 13
3-6



CHIEF SECRETARY
21 MAR 1896

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures are visible across the page.]

mark, & the search table is
larger than it ought to have
been. I am very sorry
that I am doing which is a great burden
with my pen (had I more hands)
to make the case easier to
read. It had ^{had} it printed in
the same adopted h. for
notes of same length.
the characters. I wrote
with the two sets of tables,
occupy the first 12th page
you will see.

There are three blanks (left
purpose by) in signature.

perhaps you will have with
the second left. to supply
before I deal with the
case. I believe information
should of course be collected.
your friend
J. P.

J. P. 13 (head not say that
then "communication" before
31 Dec 810. I cannot refer to
ideas. Then I prefer to
of the great 3. I don't think the
Madagascar. about it. I think
after the

NOTES REGARDING MADRAS PRESS LISTS.

The following is a brief *résumé* of the correspondence relative to the Press List required by the Secretary of State, in which connection a few points are submitted for orders in view to obviate mistakes in the future.

2. With his Despatch dated 31st December 1890, No. 21, the Secretary of State forwarded a "Press List" of certain old

G. O. 4th April 1891, No. 262.

records in the India Office and remarked that the records in the possession of this Government should be arranged and recorded in the manner shown in that list. His Lordship further added that it would be convenient if the Press Lists of the most ancient records of the Government could be submitted at an early date for inclusion in the Lists prepared at the India Office.

3. In reply to that Despatch this Government stated that the Despatch dated 17th April 1891, No. 9, in subject was one which had also engaged the attention of the G. O. dated 4th April 1891, No. 262. Local Government, and that *indexes* covering the periods 1792 to 1838 and 1698 to 1707 had been prepared. The Secretary of State was moreover informed that in the case of the earliest records, here, the Government had ordered the preparation of the *Press Lists* in lieu of the *indexes* agreeably to His Lordship's wish. The Secretary of State was at the same time requested to specify the period intended to be signified by the expression "most ancient records" used in his Despatch.

4. The Secretary of State in the marginally noted Despatch approved of the orders issued in regard to the discontinuance of the indexing system in the case of the earlier records, and asked for a supply of 20 copies of each of the *Indexes* already prepared. His Lordship however did not expressly define the expression "most ancient records" but requested that, in conformity with the procedure decided upon in the case of the India Office records, the *Press Lists* of the Madras records of the 18th Century might be at once taken in hand, and copies ranging over periods of five years might be sent "home" from time to time. In a further Despatch, dated 10th September 1891, G. O. 20th October 1891, No. 888. No. 15, paragraph 2, this Government was called upon to proceed also with the *Press Lists* of the 17th Century *pari passu* with those of the 18th Century.

Dated 4th June 1891, No. 12, in G. O. dated 17th July 1891, No. 592.
The intention as expressed in paragraph 2 of G. O. No. 262, dated 4th April 1891, was to discontinue the indexes for the years prior to 1770.
C. SCHMIDT.

5. Most of the indexes pertaining to the Public Records of the period 1797 to 1838 are now in print and the Secretary of State will shortly have been supplied with copies of all of them. As regards the Public records of the earlier years, the Press List Establishment, together with the Record Office Indexers, have finished *Press Lists* from 1670 *i.e.*, from the date of the earliest record down to the year 1758. Of these lists only those for 25 years have now gone through the Press.

6. In these circumstances I submit the following questions for favor of explicit orders.

- (1) The Secretary of State having asked for the *Press Lists* for the earliest record down to the end of the 18th Century and the Government having accordingly resolved to furnish them, is it necessary—

Vide G. O. dated 4th April 1891, No. 262, paragraph 2. (a) to prepare concurrently an Index from

1770 as was originally intended ;

- (b) to put in print the *Indexes* of 1698 to 1715 which had been prepared before the *Press List* work was undertaken.

As regards (a) I can see no reason to modify the original intention of Government, notwithstanding the extra expenditure involved. The Press Lists are but Tables of contents and are even less useful for the purposes of reference than the present manuscript volume Indexes, and the records of the latter part of the 18th Century require now and then to be looked up.

As they have been prepared, I think they should be printed, but I should not burden Press with the work now. There are apparently 61 years of Press Lists ready for printing. These should be got rid of first, I think.

C. SCHMIDT.
F. D. BIRD.
J. F. PRICE.

4th April 1894.

I don't see the use of printing the indexes for only 17 years. The Press Lists will serve our purpose well enough up to the end of the 18th Century. Let the indexes at any rate stand over.

Perhaps it will be as well to let the two special indexers work at the Press Lists for another six months. At the end of that period the Superintendent, General Records, might report how much work on the Press Lists remains to be done, in view to ascertaining whether one or both of them might not resume indexing.

Let the men stay on at the Press Lists until finished. When they are done with, there will still be plenty more to do, as we shall then have to see to printing old records.

is made to the Secretary of State, as the Press will not keep pace with the work turned out by the establishment. Their services may be dispensed with as soon as they finish their work, with the exception of two men who for some time longer must be employed in passing out proofs and otherwise attending to the printing work.

C. H. H. D.

Mr. Coombes.—Have you anything to add to Mr. Doutré's note? The temporary hands must not be kept on longer than necessary, and it devolves on you to see to this. Cannot the Press be induced to work quicker? I should prefer all the printing to be done at the Government Press.

4th April 1894.

I cannot trouble Chief Secretary with this now. There is Legislative Council on Monday, Executive Council on Tuesday and Chief Secretary leaves on Wednesday. Let the special indexers go on with Press Lists as they are more urgently required, and let me have a report of the exact state of affairs on the first July next. The temporary men must not be kept longer than is absolutely necessary.

7th April 1894.

With reference to your remarks on Mr. Doutré's note regarding the Press List Establishment I submit the following report:—

Printed indexes of the Public Department only, 1743 to 1838
And Press Lists 1870 to 1884 and 1700 to 1709
have been sent to the Secretary of State 1885 to 1899 and 1710 to 1719;
Press Lists now in the Press are from 1720 to 1760.
Press Lists in manuscript

2. The statement attached is an abstract of the records of the 17th and 18th Centuries of which the Secretary of State has called for press lists and of the work which still remains to be done. There are upwards of 1,400 volumes which have yet to be worked at by the Press List establishment.

They are made up as follows:—

In the Public Department	268
" Military "	533
" Revenue "	143
" Commercial "	16
" Secret "	16
" Political "	11
" Judicial "	3
" Miscellaneous Volumes	433

3. In addition to the volumes above referred to the establishment will have to work at the bundles of records specified below which are not contained in volumes.—

Political despatches from the Court of Directors	1790 to 1794
Miscellaneous Proceedings from	1795 to 1800
Secret Department	1787 to 1795
Military Miscellaneous	1763 to 1777

4. It will be seen from the statement referred to in paragraph 2 that the establishment has up to date finished 468 volumes, giving a rate of about nine volumes a month—which appears to be a fair outturn of work considering that all the hands were not wholly engaged on the work, and that there was difficulty on account of the bad state of the older volumes. Presuming, however, that the two record indexers and the four Press List Establishment hands will be wholly employed on the work, and seeing that the volumes and records of late years are less difficult to decipher, it is considered that the establishment will be able to turn out about twelve volumes a month, and at this rate it will take about ten years to complete the Press List work. In these circumstances it is submitted that no special action need be taken at present, but that the establishment should be kept up to the full amount of work.

5. Mr. Hill has promised to do what he can to expedite the printing of the Press Lists.

J. T. C.—5th July 1894.

I confess I have perused this note with some surprise. I had an idea that the whole of the work for the Secretary of State would be completed by the end of the year, and now I find that there is enough to keep the establishment occupied for another ten years. It is evident that the information previously afforded me referred to the old records of the Public Department only, but there are those of the other departments to be dealt with. I now want to know whether the material already sent to the Secretary of State relates to the Public Department only, or whether the Press Lists of old records in other departments have also gone forward. I notice the Secretary of State asks for lists of ancient records, and this would include all departments. Apparently, therefore, the lists for all departments for the periods of five years should be completed and forwarded together. If work has been confined to the Public Department, it should be stated by whose orders this was done. It is possible that the lists sent to him were complete in been misled into thinking that the lists sent to him were complete in all departments for the periods to which they relate. The point should be looked into at once. Please report to me on it. As there is still so much to do, we cannot afford to lend our two permanent indexers any longer. They will now resume their legitimate duties, and the Press List work be carried on by the special establishment alone.

10th July 1894.

F. D. BIRD.

Nature of Records.	Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.	Number of Volumes to be done.
Madras Mint	12	...	12
Masulipatam Consultations	46	1	45
Ganjam ditto	30	...	30
Vizagapatam ditto	13	...	13
Balambanjan	7	...	7
Manila	10	...	10
Cuddalore Consultations	14	...	14
Malabar Factories and Commissions	274	...	274
Fort St. David Consultations	23	23	...
Letters to Fort St. David	5	5	...
Letters from Fort St. David	6	6	...
Letters to Fort St. George	54	40	14
Letters from Fort St. George	49	35	14
TOTAL	543	110	433

Statement brought up to 1st September 1895.

Statement brought up to 1st September 1800.																								
DEPARTMENTS.																								
NATURE OF RECORDS.	PUBLIC.			MILITARY.			REVENUE.			COMMERCIAL.			SECRET.			POLITICAL.			JUDICIAL.			TOTAL.		
	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.		Number of Volumes up to 1800.
	Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.		Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.		Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.		Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.		Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.		Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.		Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.		Number of Volumes to be done.	Number of Volumes to be done.	
Proceedings or Consultations	248	100	148	282	27	254	106	...	106	...	...	...	11	...	11	...	...	...	2	...	...	651	127	523
Despatches from England	105	72	33	27	6	22	2	...	2	13	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	151	77	74
Despatches to England	85	24	11	30	4	26	7	...	7	8	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	83	28	55
Sundry Books	...	15	52	114	15	79	25	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208	51	157
Country Correspondence	4	4	...	61	...	86	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	19	37
Miscellaneous Proceedings	4	...	4	68	...	68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	...	75
TOTAL	463	215	248	572	86	485	143	1	142	16	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	3	1,224	921

	Number of Volumes up to 1800.	Number of Volumes done.	Number of Volumes to be done.
Madras Mint	12	...	12
Masulipatam Consultations	46	4	42
Ganjam ditto	30	...	30
Vizagapatam ditto	13	...	13
Balambanjan	6	...	6
Manila	11	...	11
Cuddalore Consultations	13	...	13
Malabar Factories and Com- missions.	292	28	264
Fort St. David Consultations	23	23	...
Letters to Fort St. David	5	5	...
Letters from Fort St. David	6	6	...
Letters to Fort St. George	54	47	7
Letters from Fort St. George	49	41	8
TOTAL	560	154	406

The information required by the Chief Secretary has been obtained and is submitted.

2. *A. Current Indexes*, i.e., the indexes of General orders passed in each year. These are prepared for each half-year. The arrears in the Chief Secretariat indexes were, it is submitted, not due to the Government Press, but to the fact that it was impossible for one indexer to keep the work current. On the much needed increase of establishment being carried out at the end of 1890, it was found possible to put 2 men on to the work. The Chief Secretariat indexes are at present current, i.e., all have been printed to the 31st December 1893. The index for the half-year ending 30th June 1894, which could not possibly go to press before the middle of July, is now with the Press. The following statement shows the arrears since January 1893.

Arrears.

In January 1893—Indexes for the 2nd-half of 1891, the 1st-half of 1892, and the 2nd-half of 1892.

In January 1894—Indexes for the 2nd-half of 1892, the 1st-half of 1893 and the 2nd-half of 1893.

In July 1894—Indexes, current.

3. *B. Old Record Indexes*.—The papers of 56 years have been indexed and of these, 45 years have been printed. None are with the Press at present. There are 521 years' indexes yet to be put into manuscript, and it is estimated that the present establishment of two indexers will take about 30 years to complete these indexes at the rate of about 500 printed pages *per annum*. To keep work current, the Superintendent, Government Press, states that he would require an additional establishment consisting of two compositors, one proof reader and one reading boy, the total annual cost of the work at the Press being Rs. 756. If the rate of work were doubled, i.e., four indexers put on the work and double the number of pages *per annum* turned out by the Press, the number of compositors would have to be doubled, and the cost would be Rs. 1,515 *per annum*. The work would then be completed in 15 years. The total cost of printing the 521 years' indexes would be Rs. 34,107 at the Government Press and Rs. 50,042 at the Lawrence Asylum Press. Adding to this the pay of the two indexers (they are now included in the permanent establishment but were originally entertained on Rs. 70 each) these figures would be increased by Rs. 50,400 ($70 \times 2 \times 12 \times 30$) and would stand at Rs. 84,507 and Rs. 1,00,442 respectively. If the rate of work were doubled this cost would be spread over fifteen instead of thirty years.

5. *C. Press Lists for the Secretary of State*.—Lists for 99 years have been finished in manuscript, of which those for seventy years have been printed and those for fourteen years are in the Press. There are fifteen years' lists yet to be put into print and it is estimated that the present Press List Establishment (costing Rs. 130 *per mensem*) would require about fifteen years to complete the work, furnishing the Press with matter for from 2,500 to 3,000 printed pages *per annum*.

To keep this work current the Superintendent states that he would require an additional establishment consisting of seven compositors, one proof reader and one reading boy, the total annual cost at the press being Rs. 4,594. To turn out twice as many pages an establishment consisting of fifteen compositors, two proof readers and two reading boys, and a total annual expenditure of Rs. 9,190 would be necessary. The total cost of printing the remaining eighty years lists would be Rs. 12,300 at the Government Press and Rs. 16,600 at the Lawrence Asylum Press. Adding to this the cost of the Press List establishment ($130 \times 12 \times 15 = 23,400$) the figures would be 36,700 and 40,000 respectively. If the rate of work were doubled this cost would be spread over $7\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 15 years.

5. *D. Old record indexes of the Board of Revenue.*—There will be about 116 years of the old indexes of the Board of Revenue to be printed, and copy for 21 years' indexes can be sent to the Press each year. These indexes will make about 18,700 pages to be printed at the rate of 3,400 pages per annum. The total cost of printing them would be R44,440-10-0 at the Government Press and R55,688-12-0 at the Lawrence Asylum Press. The Press establishment occupied in producing the work would be—

Compositors (piece work)	
Proof Reader on R30	12
Reading Boy on R9	1
at an annual cost for establishment of R3,348.	1

6. The cost of additional establishment required in the Press to keep work current, if the old Record Indexes of the Secretariat, the old Record Indexes of the Board of Revenue, and the Press Lists were worked together, would be—

(a) for the larger number of pages, R9,132-0-0 per annum.	
(b) for smaller number of pages, R6,504-0-0 per annum.	
For the annual current indexes the following temporary Press establishment would be required, in addition, for five months every year—	
Compositors	
Proof Readers, on R 30	32
Ditto, " 25	1
Ditto, " 20	1
Reading Boys, " 9	1
Ditto, " 8	2
at an annual cost of R3,705.	1

7. If a partial cessation of work were allowed during the months of January, February, March, April and May, when the annual indexes are in progress, the smaller number of pages of both lists could be produced annually without additional establishment, by increasing the out-turn during the 2nd-half of the year—if arrangements could be made for the return of the proofs within two or three days of receipt, to ensure a regular turn over of type and to keep the men fully employed. Under similar circumstances the additional Press establishment required for the larger number of pages annually would be eight compositors and one Proof reader on R30 and one reading boy on R9, at a cost of R2,388 per annum.

8. The Superintendent points out that if the temporary establishment mentioned in paragraph 6 *supra* is employed, part of the material will be idle for about seven months every year, and it will be difficult to obtain competent men for such a short time as their services are dispensed with as soon as they have become familiar with the work. This was a cause of delay in the production of the annual indexes in previous years.

9. If the additional plant and the purchase of material mentioned above are sanctioned, the Superintendent solicits that a supplemental grant may be provided for the remaining portion of the current official year and for 1895-96.

10. From the annual reports of the Press it appears that there has been a steady increase in the printing work of the Government Press since 1891-92:—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.				
Total number of pages printed.	190,772	206,552	212,781	Dif. bet. 2 & 3.	Dif. bet. 3 & 4.	Dif. bet. 2 & 4.	
Marginal lines.	76,692	80,277	82,627	+15,780	+6,229	-22,000	
Number of impressions.	43,285,042	45,074,802	45,233,468	+8,585	+2,850	-5,985	
				+1,789,760	+158,666	-1,948,426	

16th October 1894.

O. SCHMIDT.

I have been going into the question of the preparation of Press Lists for the Secretary of State and completing the indexes of the General Records.

I submit for Honourable Member's perusal notes flagged A and B [pages 1 and 9 *supra*].

These give an account of the work done, that to be done, and information as to the increase in establishments which will be required if things are to be completed in reasonable time.

The second note deals with the question of the cost of printing Press Lists and Indexes through the Lawrence Asylum Press if the establishment in the Record Department is increased and the outturn of work doubled. It will be seen that this will be considerably more expensive than if the job is done by the Government Press. I further object to it as the work of the Lawrence Asylum Press is not nearly so good as that of the Government Press, and the proofs sent by it are much more troublesome to correct than those of the Government Press.

At the time that the second was written, there was the following work to be done—

1. Press Lists for 40 years.
2. Indexes for 521 years, this figure being calculated by taking every department and adding together the number of years in each which have to be indexed.

The present establishments for this work (independently of that attending to current indexes, which have been kept up to date) are—

For Press Lists, four men and an attender.
For old Indexes, two indexers.

The cost of the former is R130 *per mensem* and of the latter R140. Some little time after we had begun the Press Lists, we found that progress was not so rapid as had been anticipated, so the two indexers were put on to the work, thus making six men employed on the job; and the old indexes were left to stand over for a while. We had no idea then that the Press Lists would take up the time that they have.

I have satisfied myself by frequent inspections that the Press List establishment turns out its tale of bricks, and I have received from Professor Forrest both verbal and written acknowledgments of the very excellent character of the work, which the Director of Records states to be the best produced by any Government.

But at the present rate of progress, which is I consider as great as can reasonably be expected—as the establishment has not only to compile the lists, but also examine the proofs, upon which great care and considerable time has to be bestowed—the work cannot be completed under 15 years—calculating on an establishment of four hands, as the indexers must be sent back to their legitimate duties.

With two indexers at work it will take 30 years to get out the indexes for the 521 years that remain to be done.

The Secretary of State has up to now taken no exception to the progress made with the Press Lists, but he may at any time do so, as he asked that they might be submitted "at an early date."

I think that something should be done to turn out this work faster than it has been.

The Press has been unable to keep pace with the clerical establishment employed to prepare the lists, and the Superintendent estimates that to keep things up to date an extra Press establishment, costing R4,594 per annum, will be requisite.

If the outturn is to be doubled and the clerical establishment increased, the annual cost will be $(130 \times 12 + 2 \times (4,594 \times 2)) = 12,308$, or if the two senior men, who have now become experts and do very good work, have an increase of R5 per mensem given to them, R12,428 *per annum*. With this the work could be completed in $7\frac{1}{2}$ years in lieu of 15.

As for the old index work, the two indexers will be sent back to it and when the Press Lists are printed the temporary establishment, which will thus be thrown out and which will be thoroughly convergent with the style of work to be done, could be put on to the indexing, and there would be an efficient and far cheaper establishment than work—which I do not think so necessary as the Press Lists. It is essential to print these soon as the Secretary of State wishes this Government to print some of the older records and to get out selections from them. Mr. Pringle has taken up the matter of selections, but the preparation of the Press Lists will facilitate and expedite this work and ensure that nothing is overlooked.

If Honourable Member does not see his way to allowing the Press Lists establishment to be doubled, perhaps he will at any rate permit the increase in the Press establishment in view to keeping the work now turned out current. This would cost only R4,594 per annum.

The second note deals also with the question of printing old indexes of the Board of Revenue, but with this I have no concern.

J. FREDERICK PRICE.

The following points are raised in the notes on which Chief Secretary has asked for my opinion:—

- (a) Should the staff engaged in making these lists be strengthened?
- (b) How far is the work to be carried?
- (c) Are the press lists and the indexes to overlap one another?
- (d) Should certain indexes, which were put aside in order that efforts might be concentrated on the lists, be again taken up?

(a) *Addition to staff.* The answer to this depends on two considerations: the wishes of the Secretary of State, and the policy of spending more money on what is, in the main, an historical object.

The press lists so called were begun after the receipt of a despatch from Lord Cross, dated the last day of 1890. In this the early preparation of lists of the "most ancient" records of Fort St. George was desired; and in the office notes there is a suggestion that the Secretary of State should be asked to say what was meant by the words "most ancient." A similar question was put to him in April 1891, in Madras despatch dated the 17th of that month, No. 9, but the answer was not precise. At the present moment there are press lists in print covering the period from 1670 to 1744, and press lists in manuscript from the latter year to 1769. If the existing rate of progress is kept up, it may be conjectured that lists extending to the end of last century will not be completed and in print until about 1908, and as this is rather in the far distance, the doubling of the outturns, by strengthening the staff in both the Secretariat office and the Press, has been discussed in the notes and in conversation.

Perhaps it may be well to say that there has been some misapprehension in regard to these press lists, and that more has been done by the Madras Government in one way and possibly less in

18
another way than was originally contemplated in England. If I remember rightly there was no communication on the subject before the despatch of the 31st December 1890. With that Lord Cross sent out as a sample a press list of the documents in existence at the India Office between 1699 and 1630. The Madras Government adopted the form of this, but it was decided that in place of the very short abstract, rarely extending to three lines in a small column and only in a few instances alluding to the subject, a summary of the leading points in each document should be given in the lists to be prepared at Fort St. George. This change was on the face of it an improvement, and exception to it was not taken by the India Office. But it was not intended at home that there should be any such summary. In 1887 a committee, consisting of Mr. Godley, Sir Henry Yule, and General Strachey, was appointed by the Secretary of State to consider how the State papers in the India Office could best be made available for the purposes of historical research. As the members of the committee were in some doubt, they consulted the authorities at the Public Record Office, and Mr. Lyte, the Deputy Keeper, told them that the experience of his office had led them to adopt invariably the following method of dealing with the records. They first published what they called a press list, giving a complete list of documents with some indication of their dates and contents. The next step was to publish a calendar. This was a much more bulky and elaborate work, giving a précis of nearly every document of importance, or a reference to some document in which it might be found. When the documents had been calendared, the Record Office considered that their mission was fulfilled and that any further historical work founded upon the records should be undertaken by students of history, and not by the Government.

Mr. Lyte strongly advised that the Secretary of State should adopt this method of dealing with the records in the India Office; and the committee, concurring in his views, recommended the preparation of press lists. It was ultimately decided that the calendaring should be done in England, but that stage will not, it is probable, be reached for years to come. In the meantime press lists have been in preparation at the India Office, but to what periods they relate I cannot say with any certainty, as the correspondence here seems to be incomplete. One "Press list of India Office records from the earliest date to 1630, including also notices of all documents extant in India for the same period", is on my table, and another "of India Office records, 1700—1750." But the latter is in a different form, and possibly there may not be an intermediate list. To give an idea of the character of this list, I may mention that two-and-a-half small octavo pages describe the Madras public diary and consultations books from 1702 to 1751 inclusive; the Madras Mayors' Courts' Proceedings from August 1727 to November 1745 (with a break of two years); and the Fort St. George general journal of accounts A and ledger B from July 1702 to 30th April 1750; while the despatches to Madras and eleven other presidencies and settlements from January 1702 to April 1753 are comprised in the space of less than a quarter of a page.

It is obvious that if the Madras press lists had been drawn up in this method, they would long ago have been completed up to, say, the beginning of this century, and the India Office might have collated them with their press lists, in print and in manuscript, and discovered where it was necessary to obtain copies from Fort St. George to complete their own collection. The adoption of what is intermediate between a press list, in the sense in which the authorities in the Public Records Office employ the term, and a calendar, has prevented that possibility; but as the records at home and in Bombay cover a period of seventy odd years before the date of the earliest document at the Fort St. George, and as the so-called press lists of the Madras Government in print alone extend to 1744, and are just as good for purposes

of collation, it is evident that there is no fear whatever of complaint from the Secretary of State. Whether calendaring is in active progress at home or not, those persons who may be engaged in it must deal with the material by slow degrees; it will be long before they touch any records connected with Fort St. George; when they do take up such records, it will be after collation of the press lists prepared at Madras and in London, and the progress of such collation will be marked by applications to Madras for copies of documents found, on comparison of the lists, to be wanting at the India Office. I know for a fact that many documents of the seventeenth century are still not to be had there, and if their Record Department had been at work, trying to supply the gaps in and about 1680-1700, for instance, I should certainly have heard of it when at home in 1894-95.

The conclusion, then, in regard to the wishes of the Secretary of State would be that neither His Lordship nor his advisers can very well have any desire to insist on a faster rate of progress than the Madras Government themselves consider necessary.

As to the policy of increasing the present rate, there are of course arguments in favour of it, and from an historical point of view, any steps which might be taken to expedite the publication of short summaries of the administration of the South of India would be welcomed by those interested in such matters. But I cannot, much as I personally would like to see the completion of these abstracts to the year 1801 within the present century, go so far as to recommend such a step as doubling the present staff. Even if that were done, it is doubtful whether the next five years would see the end of the work.

(b) *Limit of the work.*—In conversation with the Chief Secretary last November, the historical fitness of making the last year of the eighteenth century the last of the years for which press lists should be prepared was suggested by him. It may be remembered in this connection that the end of last century and the beginning of this were coincident with the political extinction of the Carnatic and Mysore Musulman dynasties, and also with important changes in Mysore administration. I venture to agree with the Honorable Mr. Bird that 1800 should be the limit, and that some future Government in the twentieth century, may be left to decide how to make the records of 1801 and subsequent years most easily accessible to students.

(c) *Overlapping of press lists and indexes.*—This point will be settled if the year 1800 is accepted as the limit. There will be both press lists and indexes for nine years, but that cannot be helped.

(d) *Renewal of indexing.*—This is a point on which Mr. Bird's opinion must carry more weight than that of any one else. He will be able to judge whether progress on the press lists will be seriously delayed if the indexers do not give their undivided attention to them.

[I must end this note by apologising for the inordinate delay in placing it before Chief Secretary.

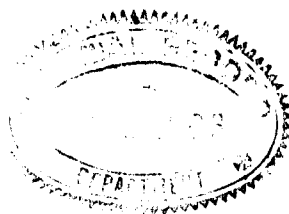
But until January I had not a complete set of papers relating to the question of calendaring, and since then have found it most difficult to spare time for dealing with the case which is, I understand, not particularly urgent.]

27th February 1896.

Chief Secretary, Madras.

A. T. PRINGLE.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1514 H. D.—13-3-96.—12—R. N. B.



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