

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 1226

DATED 15. 9. 97.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Records.

Recording letter from the G of I.
forwarding copy of correspondence
with the Secy: of State on the
subject of the preparation of
Press lists in India of the records
of the G of I., Madras and
Bombay.

1
20/9/97.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government (1897) of Madras. PUBLIC.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1226, 15th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Records.

Recording letter from the Government of India forwarding copy of correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject of the preparation of Press Lists in India of the — of the Governments of India, Madras and Bombay.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers :—

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

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on Despatch from the Secretary of State requesting to be supplied with "Press Lists" of the most ancient records now in possession of the Madras Government.

G.O., No. 592, Public, dated 17th July 1891.

ABSTRACT.—Directing that the Secretary of State be further addressed relative to the Press Lists of ancient records now in possession of this Government.

G.O., No. 888, Public, dated 20th October 1891.

ABSTRACT.—Directing that the instructions of the Secretary of State be followed regarding the preparation of Indexes and Press Lists of the records of the Madras Government.

G.O., No. 1052, Public, dated 23rd September 1896.

ABSTRACT.—Recording certain papers regarding the Press Lists for the Secretary of State.

READ—also the following paper :—

From L. M. THORNTON, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 6th August 1897, No. 1647.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, a copy of correspondence with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India on the subject of the preparation of Press Lists in India of the records of the Governments of India, Madras and Bombay.

Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 21, dated the 21st April 1897.

Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 13, dated the 3rd June 1897.

ENCLOSURES.

Despatch from the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, dated Simla, the 21st April 1897, No. 21.

We have the honour to invite a reference to the correspondence marginally noted,

in which, with reference to the employment of Mr. G. W. Forrest on works connected with the career of Lord Clive and with the Indian Mutiny, Your Lordship invited our attention to the desirability of laying down rules similar to those adopted by the India Office for regulating the issue of historical publications based upon Government records. The rules referred to by Your Lordship, which are modelled upon those adopted by the Public Record Office in England, are described in the

Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 41, Public (Records), dated the 18th July 1896, paragraph 2.

Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 72, Public, dated the 21st October 1896, paragraph 4.

Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 37, Public (Records), dated the 3rd December 1896, paragraph 3.

report of the Departmental Committee of 1888. An extract from this report was forwarded with your Despatch No. 37, Public (Records), dated 3rd December 1896, in which you suggested that it would probably be convenient if the form of Press List employed by the Madras Government were adopted for the Imperial Record Office. The extract from the report describes the nature of the Press List (viz., "a complete list of documents with some indication of their dates and contents") and the Calendar ("a much more bulky and elaborate work, giving a précis of nearly every document of importance, or a reference to some publication in which it may be found"). Both the Press Lists and the Calendar are prepared by clerks without extra remuneration. No further work is undertaken by the English Record Office, which leaves the compilation of histories to non-official students. It seems from the correspondence to which we have adverted to be Your Lordship's opinion that the place of works such as those compiled by Mr. Forrest should be taken by Calendars founded on Press Lists, both of which should be prepared in this country. We desire, however, before acting on this assumption to invite a reference to the correspondence mentioned below which has previously taken place on this subject.

2. Viscount Cross in 1888, in enclosing the report of the Departmental Committee, observed that the Press Lists if prepared both in England and India would probably enumerate many duplicate documents, and suggested that it should be considered whether the calendaring should not be done entirely in England. Lord Dufferin's Government (Despatch No. 43, dated 4th August 1888) replied giving their opinion that the India Office should complete its Press Lists for a particular period, that the Press Lists should then be examined in India and copies of any documents not shown in them be sent home, and that the calendaring should be done in England from the completed Press Lists. In December 1890, Lord Cross Despatch No. 98, Public (Records), dated the 31st December 1890, sent to us a copy of the India Office Press List prepared up to 1630 (in which a few early documents existing at Bombay had been included), and asked that he might be supplied at an early date with similar Press Lists of the most ancient records in our possession, in order that the records missing in England might be included in future Press Lists of the India Office. The same request was addressed to the Governments of Madras and Bombay. Lord Lansdowne's Government in their Despatch requesting sanction to the permanent retention of Mr. Forrest as Officer in charge of the records of the Government of India at Calcutta, Despatch No. 39, dated the 11th February 1891, paragraph 4, noticed the increase of work to be done in India which was involved by Lord Cross' request that separate Press Lists should be prepared here for inclusion with the lists compiled at the India Office before they are printed.

3. A Press List of India Office Records from 1700 to 1750 was transmitted to us with Sir Henry Fowler's Despatch No. 18, dated 22nd March 1894, but no Press Lists for the intermediate years between 1630 and 1700 have reached us. This is probably in consequence of the decision mentioned in Lord Cross' Despatch No. 12, Public (Records), dated 4th June 1891, to the Government of Madras, that, while the compilation of Press Lists relating to the seventeenth century should not be discontinued, the preparation of the lists for the early years of the eighteenth century, which are of greater interest to the student of Indian History, should be at once commenced. Lord Cross added that it was his intention that, as soon as a certain amount of progress should have been made with the eighteenth century records, they should be calendared, and he requested the Madras Government to expedite the preparation of its Press Lists for the eighteenth century, so that they should be available for the calendaring. We observe that the India Office Press List from the earliest date to the year 1630, in its final form as sent to us with Lord Cross' Despatch No. 32, Public (Records), dated 16th April 1891, included also "notices of all documents extant in India for the same period."

4. Thus, while Your Lordship's most recent directions seem to imply that Calendars as well as Press Lists should be prepared in this country, the arrangement as previously communicated to us was that Press Lists only should be prepared here,

and that they should be sent for incorporation with the Press Lists prepared at the India Office, where the calendaring would be carried out. We would now ask for definite instructions as to the plan which is contemplated, and we would observe with reference to paragraph 2 of your Despatch of 18th July 1895 that if, according to the original intention, Press Lists only are prepared in India, these would not be compilations of the same nature as those which Mr. Forrest has prepared.

5. Adverting to the suggestion in Your Lordship's Despatch of 3rd December that the form of Press List employed by the Madras Government should be adopted by us, we would observe that a comparison of the Madras list with the India Office Press List (1700—1750) received with Sir Henry Fowler's Despatch of 22nd March 1894 shows that the former is a far more full and elaborate record than the latter. If the Indian lists are meant for incorporation with the India Office lists, it seems doubtful how far the more detailed form is suitable for the purpose. We shall, however, direct that the Madras form be adopted for the Press Lists of the Calcutta records if Your Lordship considers this course advisable.

6. In conclusion we would observe that we understand that the order of documents in the Calendar as well as in the Press List is intended to be chronological, and it appears to us therefore that these publications could not supply the place of a connected work (such as those of Mr. Forrest) on a particular subject. As a rule, no doubt, the preparation of such works may be left to the industry of private students, but this cannot, at present at all events, be relied on in this country to the same degree as in England. It was explained in our Despatch No. 72, dated 21st October 1896, that Mr. Forrest's compilation of papers relating to the military operations for the suppression of the mutiny was undertaken at the instance of the late Sir George Chesney when he was Military Member of the Governor General's Council and that the work is of great military and historical value. It seems to us that we should reserve the power to initiate for sufficient reason the undertaking of such compilations, and that this subject should be regarded as one apart from that of the preparation of official Press Lists and Calendars.

Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 3rd June 1897, No. 13, Public (Records).

In your letter in the Home Department, No. 21 (Public), of the 21st April last, you ask for definite instructions as to the plan which is contemplated for dealing with the Government records in India and England. It is proposed to proceed as follows.

2. Press Lists should be prepared in India of the documents at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, and should be sent Home from time to time with the view of being incorporated with the lists of records at this office. As to the form which these lists should take, I adhere to the suggestion contained in my Despatch of the 3rd December 1896, that they should follow the example of those already prepared in Madras.

3. The Calendars will be undertaken in England, leaving only the Press Lists to be made in India.

4. It is not, however, intended to preclude your Government from sanctioning occasionally official publications based on the records when that course appears desirable upon public grounds.

ORDER—No. 1226, Public, dated 15th September 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Chief Secretary.

Pub.
29.
2,000—5-3-97.

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

Papers incomplete - Put up
in order in 1896 or 1897
Account of the war { *had again* *Co. No 262. Pub. 4/4/97*
W. P. R. C. C. { *592 - 779*
 { *888 - 2019*
 { *1052 - 2399*

Ref. recd. 27.8.97

CS. P. M. 27.8.97

Order W. 1226/15

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From

The Govt. of India
Home Dep. Public

No. 1647

Recorded

CS. P. M. 27.8.97

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Dated 6. Aug. 97

Received 13. " "

Registered 13. " "

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SUBJECT.

Note for Ca
Suggested that the Order be
printed - copies would be useful
for reference.
No action has to be taken
on the current - the papers
are sent for the information
of the Govt.

Forwarding a copy of
correspondence with the Secy
of State for India on the subject
of the preparation of Press lists in
India of the records of the Govt.
of India, Madras & Bombay.

CS. P. M. 27.8.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
80	87	Pub	13-2-97
89	1052	"	23-1-96
	4 file	"	20-10-97
	888	"	21-7-97
	592	"	21-7-97
	468	"	21-7-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DUTY.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP. BRING WANT FOR DESPATCH
ORIGINAL.

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- B = Not to be printed.
- P = Print abstract only.
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