

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Racine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2763.	Press Mis
<u>127-128</u>		
Dated	9 th October 1869.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2763 W

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th October 1869.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 127. Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department, (Public), under date Simla, 10th September 1869, No. 4,138 :—

Read again the papers regarding the proposed reform of Weights and Measures of India published in the Extra Supplement to the *Gazette of India*, dated 18th February 1869.

Read also the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, (Public,) to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 10th June 1869, No. 51.

THE despatch of your Excellency's predecessor in Council, dated the 6th of November, No. 163 of 1868, relative to the introduction in India of the Metric System in connection with Weights, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I forward herewith copy of a letter, dated 27th March 1869, from the Board of Trade, to which department a reference was made upon the subject, and also copy of a memorandum by the Warden of the Standards, with six copies of each of the printed papers noted on the margin*, issued by the Standards Commission.†

* Nos. 6 (with Postscript), 7, and 15 of 1867, and No. 16 of 1869.
† The second report of the Standards Commission, with numerous Appendices, will shortly be presented to Parliament. Copies of it will be forwarded to the Government of India.

3. I consider that your Lordship's predecessor in Council acted with due judgment in limiting the reform for the present to Weights, and I approve of the adoption of the Kilogramme as the new unit of weight in preference to the English Pound.

4. The propositions submitted in the 11th paragraph of the despatch under reply have my approval, and I accord my assent to them.

5. I desire to be furnished with a report on the operation of the new system, after a fair period has been allowed for the experiment.

From THOMAS GRAY, Esq., to the Under-Secretary of State for India, dated London, 27th March 1869, No. C. 217.

I AM directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th ultimo, transmitting, by direction of the Duke of Argyll, for the opinion of this Board copy of a despatch from the Government of India with the correspondence which has passed respecting the proposed revision of the Weights in use in India.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to his Grace that my Lords have consulted the Warden of the Standards on the subject, and I am to transmit herewith a copy of his reply (and enclosures) which contains the views of the Royal Standards Commission in the matter, and to state that my Lords entertain a favourable opinion of the course proposed by the Indian Government.

(From the Warden of the Standards, no date given.)

My views upon the general question of the introduction of the Metric System of Weights and Measures into the United Kingdom are fully set forth in the accompanying paper No. XVI., laid

)

9th Oct/69

11. To the Do. of Geo. Wash^g

۲۲

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

INDEX

五、

22

[illegible]

1990

2000

[illegible]

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th October 1869.*

by me before the Standards Commission, and particularly in the Resolutions suggested at pages 42 and 43, which have since been unanimously agreed to by the Commission, and will form the basis of their second report.

As to the question of the introduction of the Metric System into India, whether of Weights only or of Measures also, I can say little more than is stated at page 14. Many of the arguments and facts which are applicable to the introduction of the Metric System into the United Kingdom apply with equal strength to India, and should therefore be as conclusive in favour of the Metric System. Indeed, the necessity for the change in the existing system is far greater in India, in regard to the extensive diversity of the fundamental units, as compared with their actual uniformity in the United Kingdom.

It must, however, remain for the Indian authorities, with their special knowledge of the feelings, habits, and customs of the Natives, to decide how far it may be expedient or even practicable to introduce the Metric System throughout India. My own view is that if practicable, the whole *Metric System* should be introduced at once.

My paper XVI. as well as paper VI. and VII. on the length of the metre in relation to the Imperial yard, etc., and the more detailed paper XV., on the Metric System as established in France, will be appended to the second report of the Commission now being prepared.

In the meantime any reasonable number of copies of these papers that the Indian Department may require can be at once furnished to them.

ORDERED that a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch, together with copy of the letter from the Board of Trade, and of the Memorandum by the Warden of the Standards therein enclosed, as also copy of the Resolution, dated the 25th ultimo, be forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George for information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department, (Public,) under date Simla, 25th August 1869, No. 3,926.

Read again the following papers regarding the proposed introduction into India of the Metric System in connection with Weights.

Public Despatch from the Government of India, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 163, dated 6th November 1868, and its enclosures.

Read the Secretary of State's reply—

Public Despatch, No. 51, dated 10th June 1869, and its enclosures.

ORDERED that a copy of the papers abovementioned be forwarded to the Legislative Department, with a request that legislation may be proceeded with in the manner proposed in the despatch of the Government of India, No. 163, dated 6th November 1868, and now sanctioned by the Secretary of State in his despatch of 10th June 1869, No. 51.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GEOGHEGAN,
Under-Secretary to the Govt. of India.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th October 1869.*

No. 128.

ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1869, No. 2,763.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of
Revenue for their information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

528.29
28.469