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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated <u>22-8</u>	<u>1878</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
31st August 1873.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 33. Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Public), dated Fort William, 15th January 1873, No. 134.

RESOLUTION.—The great importance to the administration of a knowledge on the part of public officers of the languages spoken by the people with whom they have to deal has lately been prominently brought to the notice of the Government of India.

2. There is reason to fear that, especially in the wilder districts peopled by aboriginal tribes, sufficient attention has not been paid to the subject, although it is admitted that constant and easy intercourse between Government officials and the people is essentially necessary to the good government of half-civilized races. An instance has been brought to the notice of the Government of India in which, out of a body of fourteen officers employed in the administration of an outlying district, one only was acquainted with the vernacular, although some of the officers had been employed in the district for considerable periods ranging as high as sixteen years, while the character of the district and the condition of the aboriginal tribes inhabiting it were so peculiar as to demand that it should be exempted from the judicial procedure in force elsewhere and subjected to special regulations. From another province a representation has been received, which shows that difficulty is experienced in providing for the administration of hill tracts by officers acquainted with the language of the aborigines.

3. The Government of India now desires that the attention of the Local Governments and Administrations may be directed to this important subject, and that each Government will report how the case stands in the territories under its administration, and by what measures it would propose to further the desired object.

4. The local languages for the acquisition of which inducements have been held out by the Government are—

I.—Languages spoken locally within British Territory ;

II.—Languages of bordering frontier tribes.

The rewards which have at different times been sanctioned for proficiency in such languages are as follow :—

In the Lower Provinces of Bengal,

To any officer passing in Sonthali, Rupees 1,000.

To any officer in the Assam Commission for passing an examination in Cassyah, Mikar, Naga, Garo, Abor, Booteah, Kamptee Mishmee, Munipooree, Kookee, Cachari, or Mugh, Rupees 500.

In the Madras Presidency, to Covenanted Officers serving in the Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts for passing in Ooriya, Rupees 1,000.

These rewards have, however, failed in inducing any considerable number of officers to study the languages.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
8th August 1873.*

5. With regard to each local language which is spoken in British Territory over so limited an area that it has not been brought within the scheme of compulsory examinations, the Government of India desires to have before it reports from all the Local Governments embodying the following particulars:—

- I.—The approximate area over which each language is spoken, and the approximate number of the population of whom it is the vernacular;
- II.—By what officers, and in what language, the local administration is carried on in the tract in which the language prevails;
- III.—Whether it can be said generally that, in addition to their own vernacular, the people in question also use and are familiar with any other language, especially that in which the administration is carried on, and with which the Government officers with whom they are brought in contact are conversant;
- IV.—Whether any difficulty has been experienced in the administration in consequence of a paucity of officers who know the language of the people, and, if so, in what districts;
- V.—The measures which the Government would propose to adopt;
- VI.—As the proficiency of the officers must necessarily be tested by examinations, an opinion should be expressed as to the degree and nature of qualification to be required, and of the examinations by which they should be tested.

6. In addition to the offer of money-rewards in one payment, suggestions have at different times been made that, as an inducement to officers to qualify for service in the tracts in which special languages are spoken (which are often, from their circumstances, unpopular), a local allowance should be given, in addition to the ordinary pay of his grade, to an officer who has passed the requisite examinations in the language, for a certain number of years or during the time which he may serve in such a tract. Suggestions have also been made that some of the languages now referred to might be brought into the scheme of compulsory departmental examinations by including them among the languages in which an officer may elect to pass. It has also been suggested that the object might be attained by absolutely debarring an officer whose services are required in one of these special tracts from ordinary promotion until he shall have qualified in the special language.

7. It will be understood that the Government of India does not wish, by the proposed measures, to foster and encourage mere provincial dialectic variations of recognised languages spoken by people who belong to one race. The object is only to recognise and encourage officers to give their attention to languages of which the individuality is distinct, and which are peculiar to particular races and tribes.

8. In addition to the above information and opinions as to languages spoken by races in British Territory, the Government of India wishes that the Local Governments and Administrations will similarly consider and make recommendations with regard to those languages which it is desirable that officers employed on the frontier should acquire for the purpose of communicating with the tribes with whom they are brought in contact.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
8th August 1873.*

No. 134-A.

Government of Madras.

„ Bombay.

„ Bengal.

„ North-Western Provinces.

„ Punjab.

Chief Commissioner of Oudh.

„ Central Provinces.

„ British Burmah.

„ Coorg.

Resident at Hyderabad.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations marginally noted for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. L. DAMPIER,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Ordered to be referred to the Government Agents in Ganjam and Vizagapatam for their remarks.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

22nd March 1873.

No. 34. From C. G. MASTER, Esq., Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Ganjam, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Chettpore, 15th July 1873, No. 1561.

With reference to your footnote, dated 22nd March 1873, to Extract, Proceedings, Government of India, Home Department, dated 15th January last, No. 124-A, I have the honour to offer the following remarks on the particulars noted in paragraph 5 of the Resolution.

1. The approximate area over which each language is spoken, and the approximate number of the population of whom it is the vernacular.
2. The local languages not brought within the scheme of compulsory examination in this district are—

Languages.	Approximate area in square miles.	Approximate population.
(a) Ooriya	4,500	761,553
(b) Khond	2,550	82,812
(c) Sowrah	650	38,713

3. There is no taluq in this district where Ooriya is not spoken, excepting the Government Taluq of Chicacole and the small proprietary estates in the Sub-division, but on the other hand there are large Telugu Colonies in the Ooriya portion of the district. Until the Census Returns have been tabulated the exact number of the population speaking each of these two languages cannot be stated. The total population of the district is as follows:—

Population residing in the southern portion of the district lying to the south of the Itchapur River, which has always been supposed to be the boundary of the Telugu country	628,561
Population residing in the northern portion of the district or Ooriya country	735,745
Population residing in the Khond portion of the Hill Tracts called Khond Malahs	102,994
Population residing in the Sowrah portion of the Hill Tracts called Sowrah Malahs	47,319
Total	1,514,619

But to the figure of 735,745 against the Ooriya country, the Ooriya population of 28,788 residing in the Khond and Sowrah Maliahs will have to be added, thus raising the Ooriya population to 764,533.

From the figure of 102,994 shown against the Khond country 21,775 should be deducted being Ooriyas residing in the Khond country, and 1593 added being Panos and Khonds residing in the Sowrah Maliahs, thus reducing the Khond population to 82,812.

This figure does not, however, include the bastard race of Khonds residing in the low country and in isolated hills, and who are acquainted with Ooriya.

From the Sowrah population of 47,319 should be deducted 8606, being the number of Khonds, Panos, and Ooriyas residing in the Sowrah Maliahs, thus reducing the Sowrah population to 38,713.

The area assigned to the Ooriyas includes all the low country in which Ooriyas reside, though mixed with the Telugus. Six hundred square miles may be assumed to be the area which Telugus alone inhabit.

4. Khond is the language of the Khonds of the Goomsoor, Chinna Kimed, Surada, Katengia, and Bodagada Maliahs. The Khonds are not the only inhabitants of these territories. The Panos and Ooriyas use the Ooriya tongue though the former also are acquainted with and

use Khond. There are also Khonds not included in the above estimate who dwell here and there in the low country or in isolated hills. They know Ooriya as a rule, and are looked on as a bastard kind of Khond. The bulk of the population of the Parla Kimed and Pedda Kimed Maliahs are Sowrahs. Here, however, Panos and Ooriyas are to be found.*

Maliahs.	Panos.	Ooriyas.
* Parla Kimed	1,227	1,498
Pedda „	„	6,096
Total	1,227	7,594

The territories to the west of our western frontier, e.g., Kalahandi of the Central Provinces and Gunipuram of Jeypore, contain Khonds and Sowrahs. The Boad Maliahs on the Bengal Frontier, north of Goomsoor, are also inhabited by Khonds.

Neither the Khond nor Sowrah languages have any written character. The Ooriya alphabet has been employed in the compilation of some elementary books in Khond by the late Captain Frye.

II. By what officers and in what language the local administration is carried on in the tract in which the language prevails. 5. I presume the officers referred to in the inquiry are the European Officers of the district. They are thirteen in number. On the Judicial side there is the District and Session Judge. On the Executive the (1) Collector, (2) Principal Assistant, (3) Senior Assistant, (4) Special Assistant, and (5) Assistant Collectors. In the Police Department (1) the Superintendent, (2) Maliah Assistant Superintendent, (3) Sub-Division Assistant Superintendent. In the Public Works Department the District Engineer and two Executive Engineers. One of the Maliah Sub-Magistrates is a European. Telugu is the official language of the district, but Ooriya is recognised as a language in ordinary use for the purposes of Section 337, Criminal Code of Procedure; and in all criminal cases depositions taken from Ooriyas are recorded in the Ooriya language, but

mostly in the Telugu character. Communications from Tahsildars, &c., to Ooriya village officers are written in Ooriya. Police charge sheets are written in Ooriya if the Station Officer is only conversant with that language. The majority of the employes in the district are Telugus. In the Police Department, however, many Ooriyas are employed as Constables.

6. The Khond-speaking population are under the charge of the Special Assistant Agent. The Sowrahs reside within the limits of the Principal and Senior Assistants. The language of record is the language of the officer, whoever he may be, who is immediately dealing with them, i.e., a European Officer would record his proceedings in English, a Telugu in Telugu, and so on.

III. Whether it can be said generally that, in addition to their own vernacular, the people in question also use and are familiar with any other language, especially that in which the administration is carried on, and with which the Government officers with whom they are brought in contact are conversant. 7. It cannot be said generally that, in addition to their own vernacular, the people, whether Ooriyas, Khonds, or Sowrahs, use any other language, especially that in which the administration is carried on, and with which the Government officers with whom they are brought

in contact are conversant. As a rule, Khonds know nothing besides Khond, and and Sowrahs nothing besides Sowrah. Some among the Ooriyas have a knowledge of Telugu. To a certain extent the administration is carried on in Ooriya, but not at all in Khond or Sowrah.

8. Of the European District Officers, five have a good knowledge of Ooriya, viz., (1) District Judge, (2) Special Assistant Agent, (3) Assistant Collector, (4) Superintendent of Police, (5) Maliah Sub-Magistrate. None know anything, to speak, of Khond or Sowrah.

IV. Whether any difficulty has been experienced in the administration in consequence of a paucity of officers who know the language of the people. 9. I cannot say that any great difficulty has been experienced in the administration of the Ganjam District in consequence of the paucity of officers who

know the language of the people, because there are interpreters generally at hand in Ooriya. In Khond and Sowrah, however, men qualified to interpret are few, especially as in Khond there are several dialects so different that the Khonds of one locality cannot understand those of another. It is not difficult to imagine how much better the administration would have been had the officers of the district generally known the languages.

VI. The degree and nature of qualification to be required, and of the examinations by which they should be tested. 10. The recognised tests in Ooriya for Civilians are known as the "High Proficiency" and the "Colloquial"

Tests. The former has been in force some ten years, but I never heard of anyone ever having passed it. The latter was sanctioned by the Government of India quite recently* to encourage the study of the language. It is that referred to in paragraph 4 of the Resolution now under consideration. Mr. Maltby, Assistant Collector, has recently passed by this standard.

* Page 461 of the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 5th March 1872.

The two tests are as follow:—

High Proficiency.

(1.) Construing with readiness and accuracy from the under-mentioned books:—

- (a.) Hitopodeca.
- (b.) Batrish Simhasana.
- (c.) Ramayana Balakanda.

(2.) Translating into English with accuracy a passage in narrative style and taken from the test-books.

(3.) Translating with accuracy of idiom and neatness of expression into Oriya an English paper in narrative style.

(4.) Translating in like manner a paper of English sentences.

(5.) Conversing in Oriya with accuracy and fluency.

(6.) A considerable knowledge of Grammar.

Colloquial Test.

(1.) "Nitikotha" as test-book.

(2.) Written translation into English.

(3.) " " into Oriya.

(4.) " " of sentences and answering questions on construction, &c.

(5.) *Viva voce* translation of an Oriya paper.

(6.) Conversation.

(7.) Pronunciation.

(8.) Handwriting.

The reward for passing either is the same, viz., Rupees 1,000, but it is confined to Covenanted Civilians.

11. The Government of India remark, in paragraph 4 of their Resolution, that the offer of this latter reward among others has failed in inducing any considerable number of officers to study the language.

It is to be remembered, however, that the number of officers whom it can possibly affect is very small, and that it is of recent operation.

12. I have long thought that it is a mistake to prescribe test-books, or to require a candidate to show a considerable or, indeed, any knowledge of Grammar. There may be proficiency in both without the least facility in talking or in understanding a native speaking, and I regard it as mere waste of time to compel a man to read and to be prepared to pass in hundreds of pages of fables and poetry which never can be of any real use. This objection applies more strongly where officers already fully engaged in other work are called upon to study a new language.

I do not decry the use of fables, &c., as means to an end, but I would leave the officer to take any line he chose provided he passed the prescribed test. He would in the same way pick up a sufficient knowledge of construction for actual use, though he might not be able to show an extensive acquaintance with Grammar.

13. I would, therefore, propose two tests for candidates desirous of qualifying in the Oriya language. The examination should be open to European officers in all Departments.

First Standard.

(1.) Reading and translating an ordinary native letter of moderate difficulty (correctly and without great difficulty).

(2.) Dictating an order (with some fluency. The result must be intelligible and substantially correct).

(3.) Rendering a report read out (in writing and correctly).

(4.) Conversing with natives with such a degree of fluency as to show ability to transact ordinary business. (The candidate must show that he understands and can make himself understood.)

N.B.—This is the Police Test as given at page 225 of the Asylum Press Almanac for 1873, with a few additions (shown in brackets). It corresponds with the second language test in the Assistant's Second Standard Examination (page 213, Asylum Almanac for 1873), i.e., "ability to write the language will not be required, but only a fair colloquial acquaintance with it on the part of the examinee and power to translate correctly an official paper read to him, to dictate orders in the language, and read ordinary arzees." I have purposely omitted any writing test, because Oriya characters are particularly crabbed.

Second Standard.

(1.) Reading aloud and translating into English *viva voce*, with ease, at least three papers written in ordinary running hand by different persons.

(2.) Dictating off-hand, fluently, correctly, and intelligibly, the translation into the vernacular of an official paper, deposition, or report of some difficulty, whereof the translation will be written down exactly as dictated.

(3.) Translating in writing into the vernacular, without assistance, a similar judgment or other paper. The translation must be substantially correct in meaning, intelligible to a native, and free from gross errors in idiom.

(4.) Conversing with natives of different classes, so as to show a good power of understanding them, and of explaining himself clearly and with sufficient propriety in the vernacular in an argument of some difficulty, such as may occur in official business.

If a man passed by this standard, he ought to be able to do the work which an intelligent native clerk has to perform in the conduct of every-day business, e.g., take down a deposition, translate it *viva voce* into English, read it over to the deponent, understand all deponent says, converse freely, and prepare orders in the vernacular from English memoranda.

N.B.—It is a question whether the *Roman* character might not with advantage be substituted for the Oriya in Clause 3 of this test.

14. I am inclined to think that the standards which I have suggested are more practical than the existing Colloquial and High Proficiency Tests. There is nothing novel in what I have put forward in these standards. They are merely modifications of existing tests.

15. The above remarks refer to Oriya alone. The Khond and Sowrah languages, as already remarked, have no written character.

16. The late Captain Frye composed, however, the marginally-noted works

1. Primer Progressive Reading Lessons in Khond.
2. Primer Progressive Reading Lessons in Khond with Ooriya translation.
3. Primer Progressive Reading Lessons in Khond with English translation.
4. Dialogues and Sentences in Khond.
5. Do. do. with Ooriya translation.
6. Dialogues and Sentences in Khond with English translation.
7. Fables, Khond.
8. Do. and Ooriya.
9. Do. and English.
10. History of Joseph, Khond.

relative to the Khond language using the Ooriya character. There can be no question about the desirableness of the officers in the Maliah Tracts being able to understand the Khonds and speak to them. At present this faculty is possessed by only one, I think, of the Maliah Magistrates, a Mahomedan. It would not be necessary to prescribe any further test than that of speaking and understanding. The chief difficulty would be how to conduct the examination.

17. The Sowrahs are few in number, and no facilities exist in the way of books relating to their language. I do not think it necessary to offer any inducement for the study of this language.

18. I am not prepared to recommend that passing in Ooriya or Khond should be made compulsory on officers employed in this district. Such a course would tend to make service in what is an unhealthy division unpopular. Moreover men do not come here, as a rule, in their youth and rise in the district, but are posted at any period of their service, and so late sometimes in life as to render the acquisition of a new language no easy matter. They may be here a short time and then leave. I would rather trust to the offer of rewards to induce them to qualify.

19. In regard to Khond, I would make the reward applicable to the Sub-Magistrates and Police Inspectors as well as to the Special Assistant Agent, Maliah Assistant Superintendent of Police, and other European officers whose duties may call them into the Hill Tracts, for Khond is a foreign language to Natives as well as Europeans. I would, however, propose a different scale of rewards for the two classes, and (1) because money has, so to speak, one value to a European and another to a Native of the country; (2) because a Native can learn Khond with greater facility than a European. I think that a European who passes a colloquial examination in Khond should receive Rupees 500, and a Native Rupees 250.

20. In regard to Ooriya, I only contemplate rewards for European officers in the Judicial, Civil, Police, Medical, and Public Works Departments. Passing the first standard might carry with it a reward of Rupees 500, passing the second Rupees 1,000. I would abolish existing tests.

No. 26. From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vizagapatam, 1st April 1873, No. 118.

I have the honour to reply to extract of Proceedings, Government of India, Home Department (Public), dated January 15th, 1873.

2. In paragraph 4 it is remarked, referring to the Rupees 1,000 granted to officers in Ganjam and Vizagapatam passing in Ooriya, that these "rewards have failed in inducing any considerable number of officers to study the language." As this remark does the officers of this district but scant justice, I would point out that the Order sanctioning the reward referred to bears date the 3rd December last; that the Order fixing the nature of the examination is dated 19th February 1873, No. 152; it is, therefore, somewhat premature to assume that the reward has failed to induce officers to study. As a matter of fact the study of Ooriya has not been neglected in this district even at the time when no inducement was offered to encourage the study of that language. Mr. Turner has long possessed a competent knowledge of Ooriya. I myself have mastered sufficient of the language to enable me to follow a witness when giving his evidence. Mr. Willock is now preparing to pass the prescribed examination. It will thus be seen that the remark is inapplicable to this district.

3. In this district there are two languages which answer to the description given in paragraph 5—

Sowrah, which is spoken in a range of hills forming the south-east corner of the Gunupur Taluq by about 3000 people inhabiting a tract of hill and jungle of some 400 square miles.

Khond, which is spoken by the Kotiya or Hill Khonds in number about 10,000 throughout some 700 square miles of territory.

Neither of these tribes can be said to be familiar with any other language but their own, though in many Khond villages there are one or two of the inhabitants who are acquainted with Ooriya. This is less the case among the Sowrahs.

Both languages are unwritten and without a literature. An attempt has been made to express the Khond language by means of the Ooriya character.

Ooriya is the language into which Khond or Sowrah is translated when evidence in either dialect is given in the Courts of this district.

It would no doubt be of great advantage if Sowrah and Khond were known to those of the officials of this district whose duties bring them into contact with these tribes; but the acquisition of these languages is beset with difficulties, and, as far as I am aware, Sowrah has never, and Khond but very seldom, been acquired by a European. The Native officials are equally ignorant of them. The only possible way in which either language could be acquired would be to live in constant intercourse with these tribes; and, as the country they inhabit is by no means healthy, and is only visited at intervals by Government officials, there are no means of doing this.

4. Throughout Jeypore proper many dialects are spoken, as for instance Gadaba, Halaba, and Koi, but Ooriya is understood by all in the more northern, and Telugu in the southern parts of the Zemindary. In order to ensure proficiency in the former language on the part of the officer whose head quarters are Koraput, I would recommend that Ooriya be declared the official language of his office instead of, as at present, Telugu. Ooriya is spoken throughout the whole of Jeypore except Malkanghiry, and Ooriya-speaking officials are obtainable in any number from Ganjam, whereas there is always a difficulty in inducing Telugus to serve in Jeypore.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
8th August 1873.*

5. I feel at a loss to make any proposal as to the acquisition of Sowrah and Khond. Should it ever be found possible for Government officials to become proficient in these dialects, the examination should be confined entirely to testing the candidate's colloquial knowledge. At present a knowledge of Ooriya would be found of great use in intercourse with either tribe, as it is no doubt the second language of those among them who possess one, and, I believe, the knowledge of Ooriya is becoming more common every day.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 8th August 1873, No. 824.

Ordered that these papers be forwarded for submission to the Government of India, with reference to the Resolution in the Home Department dated 15th January 1873, No. 134.

2. As recommended by the Government Agent in Vizagapatam, the Governor in Council declares Ooriya to be the official language of the office of Special Assistant in charge of Jeypore Maliahs. Mr. Master's proposals for modifying the tests will be referred for the opinion of Colonel Macdonald.

(True Extract.)

J. Munro
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Ganjam.
" " " " " in Vizagapatam.
To Colonel R. M. Macdonald.
To the Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department. ✓

Edw. J. Wright.

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PUBLIC.

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THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR
OF PORT ST. GEORGE IN
CALIFORNIA

At
St.
Geo.

Date August 23

Serial 102254

of 11873, 11874, 11875, 11876

AUGUST.
NOV 22-97

Under language. The reports from the C
agents Agents in Virginia and Florida
the names of the language in use in those
languages are not included in the annual
compiling annually included lists forwarded
to the Department of Health and the Office
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agents of Special Agents in charge of the
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Serial 102254

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