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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	303	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	26.2.1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 308. Read the following letter from A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Statistics,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 26th January 1875, Nos. 6/109—120 :—

I AM directed to forward herewith copy of the two despatches marginally noted from the Duke of Argyll on the subject of a plan submitted by Dr. Forbes Watson for an industrial survey of India. Copies of the plan and of the printed papers accompanying it are also enclosed, together with a synopsis of the plan drawn up by Mr. W. S. Halsey.

No. 322 (Financial), dated 22nd August 1872.
No. 419 (Financial), „ 10th October „

2. The Governor General in Council is well aware that the execution of a vast and elaborate scheme of this nature in the manner contemplated by its designer is under present circumstances and will remain for many years to come impracticable. But His Excellency in Council is anxious that His Excellency the Governor in Council will most carefully consider the various proposals made by Dr. Watson and report fully thereupon, stating how far it would be possible in Madras with existing materials to carry into execution such of them as may be deemed most feasible. The plan is the outcome of so much thought and labor applied to it by an earnest and intelligent officer that it will, without doubt, meet with the cordial appreciation which the Secretary of State claims for it, and His Excellency in Council will be prepared to consider favorably any suggestions which His Excellency the Governor in Council may offer as a contribution towards its realization.

(Signed) C. J. LYALL,
for *Secretary to the Govt. of India.*

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Financial.
No. 322.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
22nd August 1872.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
The Governor General of India in Council.

MY LORD,—Paragraph 1. I send to your Excellency, for the consideration of your Government, a scheme drawn up by Dr. Forbes Watson (Reporter on the Products of India), for the collection, over the whole of India, of a complete system of Statistics, illustrative of the Industrial Products of the Country, and of the course of Trade, both internal and external, in those Products.

2. I do not send this scheme to your Excellency with any directions to adopt it, because, as regards some at least, of the executive means suggested for the attainment of the object in view (as, for example, those specified in paragraph 25 of the Report), they appear to me open to grave objection, and because, as regards some of the other measures contemplated, it is at least doubtful how far they will be found of a practicable character.

3. But as the value and importance of systematic knowledge on the products and trade of India have long been recognized by Her Majesty's Government and by the Government of India, and as much labor and expense has already been incurred, and is annually incurred, in the endeavour to obtain it, I send this Report as containing many interesting suggestions as to the conditions of inquiry which can alone render such statistics practically available for commercial purposes.

4. In my predecessor's despatch of the 23rd March 1867, paragraph 4, on the statistics which are required in the Provincial Administration Reports, you were enjoined to direct all local officers to use great discretion in the mode of obtaining information. This caution would be all the more required if any measures of a very novel kind were to be adopted with a view to securing the information we desire. But, if the Natives can be divested of the idea that those inquiries are always undertaken merely with a view to increased taxation, and if they can be led to take an intelligent interest in the matter, then the inquiry would have the double value of giving to the Government and to commercial men the knowledge of important facts, and, at the same time, of affording to the people the most valuable kind of education.

5. I should be glad, therefore, if your Government would give to Dr. Forbes Watson's scheme a careful consideration in the spirit I have indicated, namely that of a cordial appreciation of the ability and labor he has bestowed upon it in the zealous discharge of his official duty, and of the importance of systematising and directing to useful ends the efforts which have long been made for collecting the industrial statistics of India; but, at the same time, with full recollection of the necessity of examining with great care the executive measures, and the means which the scheme proposes, both with reference to their cost, and with reference to any political risk they may involve of raising the fears and suspicions of the people.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) ARGYLL.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Financial.
No. 419.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
10*th October* 1872.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
The Governor General of India in Council.

MY LORD,—I forward herewith a further paper of Dr. Forbes Watson, Reporter on the Products of India, on the subject of the "Practical execution of the Industrial Survey of India."

2. In considering this paper you will of course bear in mind the purport of my despatch dated the 22nd August last, No. 322, to the effect that I give no directions to adopt Dr. Forbes Watson's plans, but I wish you to consider them with a full appreciation of the object he has in view.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) ARGYLL.

No. 309. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1875, No. 303.

Miscellaneous.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue for report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February 26th.

Rec'd.

G. O., 26th February 1875, No. 303.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 308-309.

Industrial Survey of India.—Referring for report letter from the Government of India enclosing copies of despatches from Secretary of State on Dr. Forbes Watson's scheme for an —.

1 Cop. 16 pp. 8s-

No 6/109

Nos. 6/109—120.

FROM

A O. HUME, Esq., C.B.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dept. of Revenue, Agriculture, & Commerce.

Statistics.

Calcutta, the 26th January 1875.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward herewith copy of the two despatches marginally noted, from the Duke of Argyll, on the subject of a plan submitted by Dr. Forbes Watson for an industrial survey of India. Copies of the plan and of the printed papers accompanying it are also enclosed, together with a synopsis of the plan drawn up by Mr. W. S. Halsey.

No. 322 (Financial), dated 22nd August 1872.
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2. The Governor General in Council is well aware that the execution of a vast and elaborate scheme of this nature in the manner contemplated by its designer is under present circumstances and will remain for many years to come impracticable. But His Excellency in Council is anxious that H.E. the G.G. in Council will most carefully consider the various proposals made by Dr. Watson and report fully thereupon, stating how far it would be possible in Madras with existing materials to carry into execution such of them as may be deemed most feasible. The plan is the outcome of so much thought and labour applied to it by an earnest and intelligent officer that it will, without doubt, meet with the cordial appreciation which the Secretary of State claims for it, and His Excellency in Council will be prepared to consider favourably any suggestions which H. E. the Governor in Council may offer as a contribution towards its realization.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

Alex. Jas. Hume

for *Secretary to the Government of India.*

8/2

G. O. 20 August 1875 No 39 88

No 455

Revenue 1875. Depte

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

STATISTICS.

To

27

Nos. 6 / 109—120*

En 10 - Eight Secs
to the Offg Secy
returned

* Sent to Roorkee under Secy
on the 21 February 1875 -

Dated Calcutta, the 26th January 1875.

No 8: Feby: —o—

No 303

No 20 Refers to the Bd of
Rev: for report.

14 Fo (Ks) Offg Secy Offg Secy 27 Feb

17/2/75

26th February 1875

SUBJECT.

DR. FORBES WATSON'S Plan for an Industrial Survey of India.

O. S. G. P.—No. 1654, R., A., & C.—26-1-75.—100.

Offg Secy 26 Feb 75