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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>ASD</i>	Press.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

28th April 1880, No. 480.*

No. 251. READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER :—

From Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 1st March 1880, No. 52.

In acknowledging G.O., No. 223, of 20th February 1880, I have the honor to request that the following explanations may be submitted to His Grace the Governor in Council with reference to the remarks of Major Clementi, who has assumed charge of the Madras exhibits at the Sydney Exhibition.

2. In paragraph 6 Major Clementi observes that the show-cases forwarded from Madras were not suitable for the protection or advantageous display of the articles, and that they were sent glazed. For the sake of lightness and economy the cases were made of deal-wood varnished, and as to the pattern it was simply a modification of that used here and in every museum which I have visited in Europe for the exhibition of agricultural and other raw products. The statement that the cases "were sent glazed" is a mistake, as the glass was sent separately packed to be put in on the cases being placed in position, and the framework was grooved in a way that allowed of the glass being slipped in and secured without putty. It will be observed that in paragraph 6 of his letter Major Clementi advocates the use of cases and suggests their being sent from India, while in paragraph 10 he recommends the use of bottles for holding exhibits.

3. In paragraph 8 it is said that the indigo came through the wrappers and discolored some of the grains. I regret this much as every care was taken in packing, but the cases containing the articles were accidentally detained for a whole month at Galle, * * * and this may account for this accident. Some of the coffee bags are said to have burst. They were made of strong bazaar cotton cloth and the packages must have been subjected to very rough usage to cause such a result.

4. In paragraph 13 objection is taken to the Madras catalogue. In preparing the collection and the catalogue my chief aim was to attract the attention of mercantile men in Australia to the articles sent, and the catalogue was purposely arranged so as to form a convenient hand-book for their use, and special instructions were sent to the Agents in Sydney to distribute the catalogue amongst the mercantile class. It was never intended to supersede the official catalogue. One striking feature in the catalogue prepared by Major Clementi is, that the whole of the prefatory remarks from "Tea" on page 7 to "Jute" on page 11, containing an account, with statistics of the chief Indian products is copied *verbatim* from the Madras catalogue without a single word of acknowledgement in the catalogue. * *

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N^o 52)

Government Central Museum
Madras 1st March 1880

From,

Surgeon Major G. Bidie M.B.
Superintendent Government Central Museum

To
The Secy to Government
Revenue Department

Sir,

In acknowledging Government
Order N^o 223 of 20th February 1880, I
have the honour to request, that
the following explanations may
be submitted to His Grace the
Governor in Council with reference
to the remarks of Major Clementi,
who has assumed charge of the
Madras Exhibits at the Sydney
Exhibition.

2 In para 6 Major Clementi
observed

Receipt for the
approval of the
Under Secretary

Obdt. of (1880) M.B.

REVENUE.

To

SURGEON-MAJOR G. BIDIE, M.B.

Ac, Ec, Sc.

Dated April 23rd.

Printed May 23rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 23rd April 1880, No. 480.

APRIL

Nos. 251-252.

Madras Articles sent to the Sydney Exhibition.
— Directing that extracts from Surgeon-Major
Bidie's letter submitting explanation regarding
Major Clementi's remarks on the — be forwarded
to the Government of India.

observes that the Show-cases forwarded from Madras were not suitable for the protection or advantageous display of the articles, and that they were sent glazed. For the sake of lightness and economy the Cases were made of deal-wood varnished, and as to the pattern it was simply a modification of that used here and in every Museum which I have visited in Europe for the Exhibition of agricultural and other raw-products. The statement that the Cases "were sent glazed" is a mistake, as the glass was sent separately packed to be put in on the Cases being placed in position, and the frame work was grooved in a way that allowed of the glass being slipped in and secured without putty.

putty. It will be observed ^{that} in para 6 of his letter Major Clements advocates the use of Cases and suggests their being sent from India, while in para 10 he recommends the use of bottles for holding exhibits. 3. In para 8 it is said that the indigo came through the wrappers and discoloured some of the grains. I regret this much as every care was taken in packing, but the Cases containing the ^{all the} articles were detained for a whole month at Galle, ^{owing to the} ~~Condemned~~ of the P & O Coy & this may account for this accident. Some of the Coffee bags are said to have burst. They were made of strong bazaar Cotton Cloth and the

the packages must have been subjected to very rough usage to cause such a result.

4. In para 13 objection is taken to the Madras Catalogue.

In preparing the Collection and the Catalogue my chief aim was to attract the attention of mercantile men in Australia to the articles sent, and the Catalogue was purposely arranged as to form a convenient hand-book for their use, & special instructions were sent to the agents in Sydney to distribute the Catalogue amongst the mercantile class. It was never intended to supersede the official Catalogue. One striking feature in the Catalogue prepared by Major Clements is, that the whole of the prefatory remarks, from "Tea", on page 1, to "Jute", on page 11, containing an account with statistics of the Chief

Chief Indian products is ¹⁸⁸⁰ copied ~~verbatim~~ from the Madras Catalogue without a single word of acknowledgment in the Catalogue. This I might have regarded as a ~~convenient~~ ^{convenient} for the fact, that in a ~~depriv.~~ ^{depriv.} official letter from him to my address he informs me, that his Catalogue "is not as to the introductory matter, so good or so complete as could be wished!" The Australian papers have from time to time informed us that Major Clements has not been on good terms with the Exhibitors, Commissioners, and that in consequence the Indian Exhibitors have been relegated to a site in the building most unfavourable for their advantageous exhibition. At neither of these events am I

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I am surprised considering the want
of tact & Courtesy which this officer
has evinced in his dealings with
me in my official Capacity.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant,

Leicester M. J. Surgeon Major

Supltt Govt Central Museum

