

# FOREIGN DEPARTMENT NOTES.

INTERNAL—B, AUGUST 1905.

Nos. 421—422.

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY ON THE TOPE  
AT SANCHI. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR REPAIR AND PROTECTION.

FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY, NO. 452, DATED THE 26TH APRIL 1905. **Pro. No. 6**

*Submitting his note for approval.*  
*of Archaeology on the Topes at Sanchi*

Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Revenue).

His Excellency may see Director-General's note? If approved the note may be sent to Agent to the Governor-General in Central India (through Foreign Department) for transmission to the Political Agent, Bhopal, to give effect to the instructions contained therein? Foreign Department may see unofficially first.

W. A. T.,—28-4-05.

His Excellency should see first.

L. ROBERTSON,—29-4-05.

The papers themselves, which blame Mr. Cook, should not be communicated to the Darbar. The Political Agent will take the necessary steps to have the suggestion carried out.

2. His Excellency should see.

J. WILSON,—29-4-05.

A. T. A [RUNDEL],—1-5-05.

I am very much distressed at this intelligence. I visited the Tope myself in November 1899, and I have fortunately kept a copy of the instructions which I gave to Major Newmarch, then the Political Officer at Bhopal. They were as follows:—

- (1) "To collect all the loose stones now lying about in the passage between the rail and the Tope and also on the platform of the latter, as well as all the stones, carved or otherwise, lying about on the ground outside; to collect the uncarved stones in a single pile; and to arrange the sculptured or inscribed stones (many capitals of pillars, etc.) neatly all round the enclosure."
- (2) "To get the bushes cut away which were growing on the outer surface of the Tope."
- (3) "To fill in with mortar the crevices in the outer surface of the Tope, where, owing to percolation or other causes, it was either bulging out or caving in."

This was all. I never mentioned either the rail or the smaller Tope, and it is with horror that I learn that we \* have actually in my régime undertaken to repair and reconstruct an Asoka rail!

\* When I say 'we,' I of course do not mean that the Agency has been ours.

I see that Director-General of Archæology says—"The restoration has been done now, and cannot be altered." Is this really the case, for if so it is the consecration of a desecration?

Of course there ought to be a local museum or shed, but surely not a building of the monstrous type (true Public Works Department) projected by Mr. Cousens. Why have a dome at all and particularly such a dome? The building ought to be modest, shrinking, and unaggressive—not a 20th Century tope on a small scale.

I am sure that the Begum would pay for any custodian whom we proposed to send, and if Mr. Marshall thinks that a Buddhist will be best, and that a suitable one can be found, we might recommend him through the Political Officer.

C[URZON],—3-5-05.

In view of His Excellency's remarks, Director-General of Archæology may wish to make some change in his note.

J. WILSON,—4-5-05.