

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT PROCEEDINGS,

October 2, 1869.

PUBLIC.

Arrangements made for taking casts of Sanchi Tope Gateway.

Index
No.

Nos.
1 & 2.

No. 1.

From R. SIMSON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, to E. C. BAYLEY, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, Simla,—No. 1450A, dated Nynee Tal, the 4th September 1869.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter dated 20th July last, received from the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, reporting the arrangements which he has made for taking casts of the great Sanchi Tope Gateway.

Progs. No.
and date.

Oct. 2.
Nos.
13 & 14.

No. 13.

From Lieutenant H. H. COLE, R. E., Archæological Survey, to R. SIMSON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces,—Dated London, the 20th July 1869.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, that I have been engaged since my arrival in London in organizing the means for taking casts of the Great Sanchi Tope Gateway.

2. I have obtained the services of one corporal and two sappers of the Royal Engineers. They are learning how to take casts by means of gelatine moulds, piece moulds and clay squeezes, and have been set to cast some pieces of Jain sculptures, which embody all the usual difficulties to be met with in Indian carvings.

3. I have in this way been able to test the relative merits of the various processes as applied to Indian sculptures, which are more elaborate and more under-cut than those of any other nation.

4. I am satisfied beyond a doubt that the method of moulding with gelatine is the only one which will produce the most satisfactory results, and, as the process is a quick one compared with others, it is all the more suited for my approaching work at Sanchi.

5. Basing my calculations on known data, I find that the three men of the Royal Engineers, aided by four Native modellers, will be wholly engaged during next cold season in obtaining *one cast only* of the Sanchi Gateway.

6. As regards the question of re-production, it will be better to send the one cast so obtained to England, and to re-produce the required number of copies in London. Unless this were done, the copies for India, France, Prussia, London, Dublin and Edinburgh would have to be delayed until the cold season of 1870, as moulding with gelatine could not be continued in hot weather. It would be even cheaper to produce the copies for India in England, where contracts for re-production can be made, and where all necessary material is at hand.

7. In making casts of smaller Indian sculptures, which are of lesser interest and importance, moulds might be made with paper, which, being unaffected by heat, could be cast from, in India, at any time.

8. I shall make it my business, too, to ascertain what materials can be procured in India for casting. Gypsum exists plentifully in several places, but for casting it has to be specially prepared and refined, so that, until more experience is gained, all materials (with the exception of paper and clay for moulds) will have to be imported from England.

HOME DEPT. PROCEEDINGS OCT. 2, 1869.

No. 1. 9. I am also engaged in preparing for the publication of my Kashmere and Muttra photographs and drawings, and this question will form the subject of a future and separate report. Oct. 2. No. 13.

10. The Secretary of State in Council for India has sanctioned my incurring expenses amounting to about £353 on account of the estimate submitted by me to the Government of the North-Western Provinces for the year 1869-70. I have to request that I may be informed whether the estimate referred to has been sanctioned, or whether any provision has been made in this year's Budget to cover the expenses of my party whilst engaged in training to take casts, and whilst at Sanchi.

No. 2. From J. GEOGHEGAN, Esquire, Under Secretary to the Government of India, to R. SIMSON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces,—No. 4359, dated Simla, the 27th September 1869. No. 14.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1450A, dated the 4th instant, relative to the arrangements made by the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, for taking casts of the great Sanchi Tope Gateway, and in reply to enquire whether any Budget provision has been made to meet the outlay which the undertaking will involve.