

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

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} 1908.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 763, 13th November 1908.

Text-books.

Requesting the Director of Public Instruction to give effect to the orders contained in G.O. No. 697, Educational, dated 7th October 1908, directing the removal from the list of approved — for use in schools of certain Hindustani books to which exception was taken by the All-India Muhammadan Educational Conference, Aligarh.

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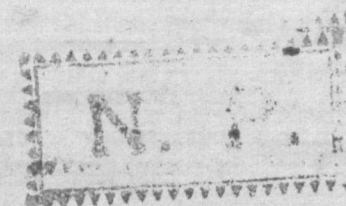
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

I

G.O., Nos. 697, 698, Educational, dated 7th October 1908.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Director of Public Instruction to remove from the approved text-books for use in schools the Hindustani books to which exception has been taken by the "All India Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental Educational Conference" held at Aligarh and addressing the Honorary Joint Secretary of the Conference.

II

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. BOURNE, D.Sc., F.R.S., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—the 23rd October 1908.

No.—Ref. on Cur. No. 7567 of 1907.

In continuation of my letter, Ref. on Cur. No. 7567 of 1907, dated 27th August 1907, and with reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 697, dated 7th October 1908, I have the honour to submit, herewith, the proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Studies in Arabic, etc., held on the 9th September 1908 regarding the question of the introduction of a better class of text-books in colleges and to request orders as to whether, in face of the remarks expressed therein, action on paragraph 1 of the Government Order quoted above may be deferred pending final orders on the whole question.

I have been informed that the Syndicate of the University has adopted the report referred to above.

ENCLOSURES.

Proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Studies in Arabic, etc., held on 9th September 1908.

Read letter from the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S., C.I.E., dated 9th May 1908, forwarding certain complaints from Aligarh about Urdu books.

The Board having carefully examined the charges made, passed the following resolutions:—

(1) All the books used by the University are named in the annual calendars, a perusal of a few of the recent issues of which, it is believed, will show that the severe condemnation of the University text-books is not justified by the facts of the case.

(2) As regards the books named in the appendix, only two, composed of extracts from standard Urdu authors, are to be found in the calendars; but, as more modern prose is now required, these two books will soon go out of it; some of the others are not now in use in schools and no one is compelled to use any of the rest. Other books are also in use and the books of the Punjab series or of any other series may be used, if they are put on the approved list in the usual way, as it is the rule here to allow a certain amount of liberty to managers of schools in their choice of books.

(3) The Board will always be glad to receive information of new books suitable for the Matriculation, the Intermediate and the B.A. (Pass and Honour Courses) examinations of the Madras University.

(4) The Board strongly recommends the appointment of a Professor of Arabic.

The Board in the form of a memorandum gives further details regarding the matters dealt with in Resolutions (1) and (2).

EDW. SELL,
Chairman.

Memorandum.

The charge which the Board has to meet is that "the present Urdu text-books of the Madras University hopelessly defeat the chief objects of education, i.e., they can neither teach modern Urdu, nor can they train the mind nor improve the character of students." It is also suggested that the works of Hali should be used.

The names of the text-books of the Madras University will be found in the annual calendars. It seems quite evident to the Board that its critics have not even looked at these calendars for the following reasons:—

(1) If they had done so, they would have seen that Hali's works are constantly prescribed and, therefore, they need not have called attention to this author. One of his books is the text-book for the B.A. examination this year and another for the examination in 1909. Thus, the Board is doing what it is suggested it ought to do, which is clear evidence that the calendars have not been looked at, though the books in it are severely condemned.

(2) If they had done so, it is inconceivable that the works of Maulavi Nazir Ahmad, of Hali, of Muhammad Hasan Ahmad and of Nawab Muhsinu'l-Mulk, all modern authors of high repute, whose works are constantly prescribed in our calendars, could be condemned in the strong terms which are used.

Such careless criticism seems to the Board to deprive of any real value all the rest of the criticisms made. The Board entirely disagrees with the condemnation of the authors just named. The Board also observes that for many years past it has had the aid and advice of one of the ablest scholars in India, Nawab Imadu'l-Mulk Syed Husain Bilgrami, a member of the Board. Not a single book used by the University for a long time has been prescribed without his entire approval and very frequently books were put in the list on his suggestion. The Board, therefore, is quite unable to accept the judgment passed on its work as a fair and reasonable one. The most charitable view it can take of it is that the Madras University calendars were not read before it was made. This disposes of the matter as far as the University is concerned.

2. As other matters are dealt with the Board will, however, make some remarks on them—

(a) The publication of a text-book each year for the Matriculation. There is no objection to this, but the candidates are few. Hitherto, they have been less than a hundred and under the new regulations it is improbable that even that number will be maintained.

(b) Certain books are named in paragraph 2 of Mr. Kabiru'r-Rahman Khan's letter. The Jami'u'l-Ash'ar is not used in colleges nor, the Board believes, as a class book in schools. It is simply a collection of poetry from standard Urdu authors from which a schoolmaster may, if he so pleases, select a passage for recitation. No one is compelled to use it. The four books known as Mukhtar Ash'ar belong to the Madras School Book and Literature Society. The difficulty of getting expurgated editions of the older poets is so great that this Society requested Nawab Imadu'l-Mulk Syed Husain Bilgrami, C.I.E., to compile and edit these volumes. This he did and since then the books have appeared on the University list. In the opinion of the Board the editor's high reputation as a scholar, and as the Director of Public Instruction in Hyderabad, is a sufficient guarantee of the character of the books. No complaint has ever been made against them by the head of a college or school.

(c) As regards the books named in the appendix, with the exception of one or two of the Muntakhabat-i-Urdu series, none of the others ever appear in the calendar. The one or two which have been used for the Matriculation examination contain nothing but extracts from standard Urdu books, such as Tahzibu'l-Akhlaq, Rusum-i-Hind, Araish-i-Mahfil, Gulistan and poetry by Atish, Ghalib, Sauda, Mumin and other Urdu authors, so the statements as to the errors are not correct. The Board does not consider the writings of such authors unsuitable. Their use was also approved of by Imadu'l-Mulk Syed Husain Bilgrami, C.I.E., and by Muhammad Azizu'd-din Husain Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur, two gentlemen, who know well what is suitable for Matriculation candidates in South India and by Mr. Prendergast, one of the best European Oriental scholars in India, in the languages with which the Board is concerned, and who, being connected with the Oriental Department in His Highness the Nizam's College, understands what books are suitable. The other members of the Board have also had long experience of our local conditions and have approved of them. No complaint has ever been made about them. Under the new regulations (174) of the University for the Matriculation examination, it is stated that "the text prescribed shall be mainly in modern prose," so that the two books of selections in this series will be now less used in the Matriculation examination. This, therefore, meets the objection raised against the use of these older standard Urdu authors. None of the other books named in the appendix ever appear in the University calendars.

Nos. 2 and 3 are well-known grammars which have won a good reputation. Mr. Ali Hyder, the Professor of Urdu in the Nizam's College, Hyderabad, who comes from North India, says of these books that "the grammars are useful and helpful and are not inferior to those published in the Punjab and Northern India"; but, as the Board never prescribes any particular grammar, the University has nothing to do with them. Their use is quite optional in schools and colleges and should be left so.

Nos. 6 and 7 are elementary books and, it is believed, are not now in use.

Nos. 1, 4 and 5 are elementary school books for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd standards, approved by the Text-book Committee, and which the Board also considers to be suited for their purpose.

(d) It seems to the Board that Mr. Kabirur Rahman Khan labours under the mistake that the use of the books in the appendix is compulsory. It is not so, other books are also in use: probably even the Punjab books are to be found. If the proprietors of the Punjab books wish to sell them in South India they have only to send them to the Text-book Committee, get them on the approved list, make it easy to obtain them locally, and then, if masters like, they can use them. If the books are so superior they will soon banish all rivals from the field. Apparently, it is desired that the use of other books should be prohibited in their favour. The Board is of opinion that the present freedom which masters and managers, at least, in aided schools, possess of having a choice of books from those named in the "approved list" should not be taken away in the interests of Punjab publishers, and that it would be a grave error to compel masters and managers of primary schools to use the Punjab books and no other.

Order—No. 763, Educational, dated 13th November 1908.

The Government see no reason to defer the removal from the approved list of text-books of the Hindustani books to which exception was taken by the All-India Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental Educational Conference, Aligarh. The Director of Public Instruction will therefore be requested to give effect to the orders contained in paragraph 1 of G.O., No. 697, Educational, dated 7th October 1908.

(True Extract.)

H. D. TAYLOR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, Honorary Joint Secretary, All-India Muhammadan
Anglo-Oriental Educational Conference,
Aligarh (copy of order only).

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 763, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
13TH NOVEMBER 1908.

[SUBJECT.—Removal of certain Hindustani books from the list of text-books for use
in schools.]

Previous paper.

G.O., No. 697, Educational, dated 7th October 1908.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 23rd October 1908, No. 7567.

Please see G.O., No. 697, Educational, dated 7th October 1908, and the notes connected with it. In that order the Government directed the removal from the list of approved text-books for use in schools, of certain Hindustani books to which exception had been taken by the All-India Muhammadan Educational Conference, Aligarh. As regards the question of introducing a better class of Hindustani text-books in colleges which was raised by Paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 697, dated 7th October 1908, the abovenamed Conference, the Government said that the report of the University Board of Studies, to whom the question had been referred, would be awaited.

2. The Director of Public Instruction now forwards a copy of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Studies in Arabic, etc., held on 9th September 1908. The following are the resolutions passed by the Board on the subject:—

"(1) All the books used by the University are named in the annual calendars, "a perusal of a few of the recent issues of which, it is believed, will show that the "severe condemnation of the University text-books is not justified by the facts of "the case.

"(2) As regards the books named in the appendix only two, composed of "extracts from standard Urdu authors, are to be found in the calendars; but, as "more modern prose is now required, these two books will soon go out of it; some "of the others are not now in use in schools and no one is compelled to use any of "the rest. Other books are also in use and the books of the Punjab series or of any "other series may be used, if they are put on the approved list in the usual way, as "it is the rule here to allow a certain amount of liberty to managers of schools in "their choice of books.

"(3) The Board will always be glad to receive information of new books "suitable for the Matriculation, the Intermediate and the B.A. (Pass and Honour "Courses) examinations of the Madras University.

"(4) The Board strongly recommends the appointment of a Professor of "Arabic."

Further details on the subject are given in a memorandum which is appended to the Proceedings.

3. The Director of Public Instruction requests orders as to whether in the face of the above remarks of the University Board of Studies the removal, from the

list of approved text-books, of the Hindustani books to which objection was taken by the All-India Muhammadan Educational Conference, Aligarh, which was ordered in paragraph 1 of G.O., No. 697, dated 7th October 1908, may be deferred pending final orders on the whole question.

No need : send a copy of the Government Order removing the text-books.

G. S. F[ORBES].

a copy of the first three resolutions of the University Board of Studies may, it is submitted, be sent to the Conference.

5. With regard to the question raised by the Director of Public Instruction, whether he may defer removing from the list of approved text-books the Hindustani books objected to by the All-India Muhammadan Educational Conference, it is submitted that there appears to be no necessity to postpone further action in this matter.

Vide the resolution of the Conference on page 1 of G.O., No. 697, dated 7th October 1908.

The books which it has been decided to remove from the approved list have been condemned by the All-India Muhammad that they were also condemned by the

Vide Dr. Bourne's letter on page 3 of G.O.,
No. 697, dated 7th October 1908.

three Urdu Scholars who were specially consulted by the Director of Public Instruction of the Punjab, at the instance an Educational Conference has also been

of Dr. Bourne. The All-India Muhammadan Educational Conference has also been informed that the Government have ordered the removal of these books from

informed that the Government have ordered the removal of these books from the approved list. In these circumstances

it is for consideration whether the Director of Public Instruction may be asked to carry out the orders in G.O., No. 697, Educational, dated 7th October 1908.

P.R.—5-11-08.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—5-11-08.

There seems no need to defer G.O., No. 697. If the books are unsuitable, the sooner they go, the better.

C. A. SOUTER—6-11-08.

H. D. TAYLOR-7-11-08.

Yes.

G. S. F[ORBES]—7-11-08.

Draft please.

H. D. TAYLOR—9-11-08.

The draft order placed below is submitted for approval.

P.R.—11-11-08.

K. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR—12-11-08.

Issue.

C. A. SOUTER—12-11-08.

[G.O., No. 763, Educational, dated 13th November 1908.]

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 69750; dated 7. 1908

” ” ” ” ” ” 190

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 2306, From the S. P. 9., No. 7567, dated 23 - 10 - 1908

[illegible]

” ” ” 190

ORDER.

No. 763, dated 13 - 11 - 1908

P. S.

The Government see no reason to defer the removal from the approved list of best books, of the Hindustani books to which exception was taken by the All-India ^{Muhammadan} Anglo-Oriental Educational Conference, Aligarh. The Director of Public Instruction will therefore be requested to give effect to the orders contained in para. 1 of G.O. No. 697 Est. dated 27th October 1908.

20. The D. O. is
forwarded
Copy to the Honry Joint Secretary
All India. Muhammadan
Anglo. Oriental Soc. Conference
Aligarh

A

Please send proof in triplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.

B

Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated.

C

As the matter is clear manuscript and has been carefully edited, (b) proof need not be sent. Please print and supply number of copies as indicated.

Type may be released after usual interval at once,

Type may be released after usual interval.

Clerk.

Clerk.

Clerk.

Supdt.

Supdt.

Supdt.

(b) Three copies of proof of all notes should be sent for approval, except when instructions are given to the contrary.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PRESS.

Diary.	Initials of Press official.
Received in Press on.....	16/11/08
First proof furnished on.....	19/11/08
Call for revised proof received on.....	23-1-08
Revised proof furnished on.....	
Corrected proof received for striking on.....	
Final copies supplied on.....	26/11/08

Account of copies.	Complete copies.	Notes.	Issue copies.
Supplied to Secretariat for Record.....	34	15-	
" " " Issue.....	10	-	
For Volumes.....	16		
For E. T.....			
Total ...	60	15-	