Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd. } 1909. *Enclosures*

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(9)

G.O., No. 318, 26th May 1909.

Kumbakonam College.

Recording report on the working of the — during the year 1908.

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd. } 1909. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 318, 26th May 1909.

Kumbakonam College.

Recording report on the working of the — during the year 1908.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

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 11th May 1909.
No.—Cur. 3335.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a copy of my Proceedings, Dis. No. 2922, dated 6th instant, reviewing the report on the working of the Kumbakónam College during 1908.

Enclosure.

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Dis. No. 2922, *dated 6th May* 1909.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from T. O. Hodges, Esq., Principal, Kumbakónam College.
To—the Director of Public Instruction.
Dated—the 25th March 1909.
No.—R.C. 71.

I have the honour to submit my report on the working of Kumbakónam College for the calendar year 1908.

2. *Staff.*—M.R.Ry. T. Sankara Rao, Lecturer in Mathematics, who was transferred to this college from Rajahmundry College, took over charge on the afternoon of January 22nd. M.R.Ry. K. R. Duraiswami Aiyar, Acting Lecturer in History, took over charge on the forenoon of January 23rd, M.R.Ry. K. Rangachari, who was on other duty, being the permanent incumbent.

M.R.Ry. T. V. Sivakumara Sastri, Assistant Lecturer, acted as Lecturer until January 22nd, when he reverted to his permanent appointment.

M.R.Ry. P. V. Seshu Aiyar, Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics, was transferred to the Presidency College and handed over charge on the afternoon of January 23rd, and M.R.Ry. K. Natesa Aiyar of the Presidency College assumed charge here on the forenoon of the 27th.

M.R.Ry. S. E. Ranganathan, Acting Assistant Lecturer in English, reverted to his permanent appointment at the Presidency College on the afternoon of January 17th.

M.R.Ry. S. Balakrishna Aiyar continued as temporary Assistant Lecturer until the close of the year.

M.R.Ry. K. Natesa Aiyar was obliged, owing to ill-health, to take leave on medical certificate twice during the year—once for ten days from March 31st to April 9th and again for four months from July 6th in continuation of the college vacation. During the latter period, M.R.Ry. D. Subrahmanya Sarma, Temporary Assistant, Training College, Rajahmundry, was appointed to act as Assistant Lecturer; he held this appointment from August 4th until November 5th.

3. *Strength and attendance.*—The strength of the college at the opening of the year was 237, the numbers for the respective classes being post-graduate class 2, fourth-year class 26, third-year class 36, second-year 97, and first-year 76. At the close of the year, the numbers were 27, 28, 72 and 73. In the second-year class 52 students were sent up by the college for the First Examination in Arts. Of the remaining 20 students, about 12 attended the classes in an irregular way, and the remainder, who had not the necessary certificate, absented themselves altogether.

The number of students in the several science divisions of the two B.A. classes taken together was 27 in mathematics, 17 in history, and 8 in philosophy as against 25, 24 and 8 in the previous year. I can only repeat my regret that so few students take philosophy as a subject.

4. *Classification of students.*—As is usual in this college, the vast majority of the students were Tanjore Brahmans. Of the 200 students on the college rolls at the end of the year, 194 came from Tanjore, two came from South Arcot and one each from Madura, Malabar, Salem and Trichinopoly. According to caste, 192 were Brahmans, and 8 non-Brahmans. Divided according to wealth, 135 students belonged to the middle class, being almost exclusively the sons of small landholders; 35 were of the poor and 30 of the richer classes. As regards the occupation of their parents, 145 were the sons of landholders, 46 of officials or petty officials, and 6 of merchants.

5. *Accommodation and equipment.*—In the review of last year's report it was remarked that Government had sanctioned the urgent preparation of plans and estimates for the construction of additional class rooms and for the other works required. Since that time, however, nothing has been done. The question of additional space for playing fields still remains unsettled. Plans were sent of the house proposed to be built for the Principal near the college, but the matter appears to have stopped at that.

Two large almirahs for keeping maps, and a cabinet for a Library catalogue on the file system were obtained; and a comprehensive set of historical maps and charts were purchased.

6. *Library.*—The number of books issued from the library during the year, exclusive of books issued for class use and books issued temporarily from the consulting library, was 5,361 which is exactly the same number as was issued in 1907. The total number of volumes was about 5,500, some 250 new volumes having been added during the year. The annual allotment for this purpose was enhanced and the additional sum was spent upon scientific works and historical books.

As sanctioned in Proceedings, Dis. No. 2220 of 20th March 1908, a large number of old books and periodicals, Indian Law Reports and other unfit or undesirable lumber were sold by public auction. The proceeds of the sale (Rs. 520–7–0) were remitted into the Treasury.

The experiment of keeping books of reference, text books and the like in open almirahs was continued during the year. The innovation was, to some extent, successful. Students of the junior classes, however, were inclined to abuse this privilege, and books were torn or lost; it was moreover difficult, in the rooms where the library was kept, for the Librarian and Attender to maintain an adequate supervision over the books or the students. At the end of the year the books were removed to what was formerly the examination hall, and the exercising of control and supervision has since been found a simpler matter. It should be said that the students of the senior classes have made good use of the library in the hours allotted for library work, and they have also been of service to the Librari an; so that it is possible that all students may ultimately learn their responsibilities and obligations in this matter.

The appointment of a Library Attender in July saved the Librarian much responsibility and trouble.

7. *The Tutorial system and discipline.*—The system of tutorial reports continued to work excellently. Members of the staff were able and ready to give me copious information about the students under their charge; and I was able to form a fairly accurate judgment as to the work and behaviour of each individual student. I noticed a considerable improvement in the manners of the students, although much room for improvement still remains. The ill manners arise more from ignorance than from malice *prepense*, and a word in season from a tutor or guardian can do immense good. Public spirit was at a low ebb, except in the matter of games; pride in the college does not seem to exist beyond mere verbal professions. Perhaps more is hardly to be expected when students, on failing in an examination, or at the thought of possible failure, turn their eyes to a more "auspicious" centre of learning.

8. *Scheme of work and course of studies.*—The results of the University examinations seem to indicate a steadily continued progress in the efficiency of the teaching. Work in the library was encouraged and the number of formal lectures was lessened. Students, however, particularly in the junior classes, still showed an inability or disinclination to think for themselves and to do any independent work.

The division of the F.A. classes for Mathematics and Physiology was continued: the employment of an additional hand for this work was of very great value.

At the beginning of the year the senior F.A. Class, or the second year University class, consisted of 97 students; of these, 75 had been promoted from the junior class. At the end of the year there were 72. At the beginning of 1907, this class (which was then the first year University class) had numbered no less than 120; of these, 48 were ultimately selected to appear for the First examination in Arts. The students for this year were admittedly above the average, the class containing five boys who had matriculated in the first class, and yet only about 40 per cent. of them were found fit to appear for the University examination.

In the first year University class there were at the beginning of the year 76 students; some of these had been detained during the previous year, but the majority had recently matriculated. Examinations were held during the year; and, as a result, not more than 37 were promoted to the senior class; and I am in doubts as to whether this number was not considerably in excess of the number that should have been promoted. I did not examine the students myself, although I watched their progress very carefully; but I was informed by the lecturer and assistant lecturer in English that 75 per cent. of the class had not the slightest knowledge of English as a written language; and the lack of knowledge shown in one of the English Prose papers (a simple paper on one of Jane Austen's novels) was positively deplorable, many of the students being unable to write two consecutive words of English without making some gross blunder. It is rather striking that there should be so many incapable persons in a year when the Matriculation examination was popularly supposed to have been a stiff one. It is a consolation that many of the students, who had been detained in the previous year, did well and showed great improvement.

For the B.A. Classes the number of lectures was considerably diminished, the number of library hours was greatly increased, and the time allotted for English composition was doubled. The results were, to one who had the opportunity of watching the students at each stage of the course, gratifying; and, although the results in the University examinations fell below expectations, I am convinced that an increase in the proficiency of the class as a means of communication in writing and speaking, and a diminution of the tendency to write at random without thinking, was effected. In the junior class, the third year University class, the number of students studying in English was 33, in Mathematics 16, in History 9, in Philosophy 4, in Tamil or Sanskrit 28; the numbers of students promoted were in English 30, in Mathematics 13, in History 9, in Philosophy 4, in Sanskrit or Tamil 27.

9. *University examinations.*—The results of the University examinations are appended (*vide* appendix A). For the First examination in Arts 52 candidates were sent up by the College and 38 passed, 6 being placed in the first class. The percentage of passes was almost exactly the same as that of last year; but it is gratifying to observe that the 1st, 4th and 7th places in the Presidency were taken by students of this College. It is also worthy of remark that a comparatively large number of students (as far as can be ascertained 6 out of 10) who were reading in this College but who appeared as private candidates, passed the examination. For the B.A. examination, the all-round improvement noticed last year was maintained. The percentage in English (50 per cent.) was the same as last year, but the number of second classes was smaller. This result is most disappointing, although the percentage is more or less double that of the Presidency. Particular care was taken in this subject and a strong attempt was made to help students to think for themselves and to guide them in the choice of books bearing on the subjects in which they were to be examined. I am inclined to think that the students hardly did justice to themselves in the examination. Moreover, the teaching in English suffered from M.R.Ry

K. Natesa Aiyar, who was in charge of the English Language, having to take sick leave. The present B.A. classes are larger and it is hoped that the results will be better. In history, seven students were sent up and six passed, four being placed in the second class. I took a personal interest in the teaching of History and from my observations I can say that the teaching was excellent and that the results, though good, hardly do sufficient credit to the lecturers. In Mathematics, ten students were sent up; of these, only eight were actually examined and of these six passed, three being placed in the second class Of these, one student appeared for some of the papers but was unable to take all the papers owing to illness. In Philosophy, three students out of four passed. The results in the second language were, as usual, excellent and in Sanskrit one of the two first classes in the Presidency was obtained by a student of this College.

10. *College examinations.*—The policy, adopted last year, of increasing the number of periodical examinations and of making them as little formal as possible, was continued. In making promotions from junior to senior classes, I attempted to rely much more upon impressions than upon the actual marks; and I tried to dispense, as far as possible, with the usual formal examinations. This appears to have come as a surprise to certain persons in whose eyes a student has an *á priori* right to promotion if he can obtain a certain bare minimum in a few papers for which he has crammed himself with second-hand knowledge and other peoples' opinions.

11. *Scholarships and prizes.*—The Sri Goday Vari Sanskrit prize and the Prince of Wales medal were awarded by the University to N. Hari Rau of this College who passed his B.A. examination in the first class in Sanskrit.

The Edward Bird scholarship continued to be held by T. K. Narasinga Rau.

Subrahmanyan scholarships were held by—

R. Balasubramanyan	Senior B. A. Class.
N. Paramasivan	Junior B.A. Class.
N. Govindarajan	Senior F.A. Class.
R. Swaminathan	Junior F.A. Class.

R. Sivaraman of the junior F.A. class was a Government scholarship holder.

As recommended in this office letter C. No. 73, dated 20th March 1909, the Morris medal and the Beauchamp and Muppanar's prizes will be awarded to the following students :—

Morris medal	C. V. Rajogopalan.
Beauchamp and Muppanar's prizes in—	
English	S. Ramachandran.
History	T. Ananta Subrahmanyan.
Mathematics	G. R. Krishnaswami.
Philosophy	R. Venkataraman.

12. *Athletics and sports.*—Tennis, fives, and badminton continued to be popular, and were played with keenness; football was less popular than heretofore. The athletic sports held in September aroused considerable enthusiasm in the College and outside it; great keenness was shown, and some very promising "times" were done. A very large crowd was present on the occasion. A team of athletes was sent to Tanjore for the District sports, and did well.

The receipts of the Athletic Committee amount to about Rs. 600, the opening balance being Rs. 79-3-8. The closing balance was Rs. 57-3-10. Over Rs. 300 were spent on the sports at Kumbakónam and Tanjore. The success of the College sports and the keenness shown in games were largely due to M.R.Ry. T. V. Sivakumara Sastriar, the Secretary to the Athletic Committee, whose efforts were ungrudging, and whose popularity was undoubted.

13. *Finance.*—The receipts, consisting of fees, fines and miscellaneous proceeds, dropped from Rs. 19,069-14-2 to Rs. 16,222-14-6. This was due to the reduction of the strength of the College from 255 to 213. The expenditure rose to Rs. 36,002-6-6 ; the total net cost of the College being, therefore, Rs. 19,779-8-0, and the net cost per student, Rs. 92.

14. *Hostel.*—The system of a fixed charge both for room-rent and feeding, which was started, experimentally, in the beginning of 1907, was continued during the first term of 1908. It had been calculated that, if the number of boarders rose sufficiently, the amount realized by room-rent would more than cover the deficit under the heading of board. Owing to the comparatively small number of members, this hope was not realised, and at the end of the first term there was a deficit of nearly Rs. 500. This amount is exclusive of rent for rooms, and was also swelled by money spent upon structural alterations and repairs. In the second term, therefore, the system was changed. The room-rent remained as before, but the charges were divided among the members, except that Rs. 45 out of a total of Rs. 102 of establishment charges were met from the amount collected as rent for rooms. This change meant that unless there were less than 30 members in the hostel, there would be a clear profit. Actually, a profit of Rs. 110 was made during the second term. Later in the year, it was decided to meet Rs. 57 per mensem out of the room-rent. It may be mentioned that this change has been entirely successful The strength during the first term was 39 ; during the second 45. The popularity of the hostel is undoubtedly increasing ; members of the general public are beginning to realize its numerous advantages ; and even persons who are themselves resident in Kumbakónam are beginning to send their boys to the hostel.

The discipline and tone of the students, who were resident in the hostel, was excellent ; this result is very largely due to the efforts of M.R.Ry. T. K. Venkatarama Aiyar, who was Superintendent during the year, and who worked with great diligence and care, not only managing the somewhat awkward hostel accounts very efficiently, but impressing his personality upon the students. Given men of this stamp to manage them, there can be little doubt that hostels and hostel life will in time effect a revolution in secondary education in this country, and bring about a true collegiate education.

The hostel reading room and badminton court proved very popular institutions, and were largely used.

As regards funds, the amount in Government securities with the Accountant-General at the end of the year was Rs. 7,200 ; the balance in the local Sub-Treasury was Rs. 735-6-7. A sum of Rs. 500 was spent during the year in improvements to buildings and so forth ; and an additional sum of Rs. 500 was sanctioned for improvement to the students' rooms. The matter is at present with the authorities of the Public Works Department. The question of the constitution of the hostel was discussed during the year, and a proposal to abolish what was known as the Executive Committee was approved by Government. What the constitution is to be ultimately has not at present been decided. During the year, however, the actual management was practically handed over to myself and the Superintendent, and, as far as can be ascertained, the result has been satisfactory. It was recognized that, since all the members of the hostel are also members of the college, the Principal of the college must ultimately have the last word in all questions affecting the hostel, particularly as regards management and discipline. The accounts have been simplified and any friction which might possibly exist between the Principal and the different members of the Committee has been reduced to a minimum.

15. *Literary and other societies.*—The College Literary Society showed increased activity. Subscriptions were collected regularly and the affairs of the society were put on a business footing. An attempt was made through the society to induce students to read books other than mere text-books ; this attempt appears to have been successful. The College Tamil and Sanskrit Literary societies held meetings and did work of a sort during the year.

Appendices.

A.—Results of F.A. and B.A. Examinations, 1908.

—	Number sent up.	Number passed. First class.	Second class.	Third class.	Total.	Percentage for 1906.	Percentage for 1907.	Percentage for 1908.
First examination in Arts—								
Tamil	20	1	13	..	14	46	73	73
Sanskrit	32	5	19	..	24			
B.A Degree examination—								
I English Language Division.								
II Second Language Division	15	..	1	6	7	46	50	50
Tamil	10	..	8	1	9	71	100	90
Sanskrit	11	1	2	5	9	75	91	90
III Science division—								
Mathematics	10	..	3	3	6	58	80	75
History	7	..	4	2	6	83	66	85
Philosophy	4	..	1	2	3	..	66	75

B.—Statement of failures in the F.A. Examination.

—	Number failed. 1907.	Number failed. 1908.	Percentage. 1907.	Percentage. 1908.
English	8	7	61	50
Tamil	1	1	7	7
Sanskrit	1	4	7	28
Mathematics	2	4	15	28
Physiology	8	5	61	35
History	1	2	7	14

	1908.
Number failed in one subject only	5
Do. in two subjects	6
Do. in three subjects	2
Do. on account of deficiency in total marks	1
	14

Proceedings, Dis. No. 2922 of 1909.

Recorded.

2. There was a slight fall in the strength of the College, the number on the rolls on the 31st December last being 200 against 220 on the corresponding date in the previous year. This was probably due to the strictness in promotions that now obtains. There is, however, evidence in the report that many of the students who joined were ill-prepared for collegiate education and also that many of those who were thus early checked benefited thereby.

3. The tutorial system worked satisfactorily and there are signs that this system and the fact that the hostel is practically the residential part of the College are doing something towards the foundation of true collegiate life.

4. It is to be regretted that no progress has been made in regard to the extensions. The science class rooms and laboratories are most urgently required.

5. There is evidence of progress and efficiency and it is clear that the Principal and staff have the welfare of the College at heart.

A. G. Bourne,
Director of Public Instruction.

To the Principal, Kumbakónam College, with spare copies.
,, Principals of other Government Colleges.
,, Inspector of School, Sixth Circle.
,, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Tanjore District.
Copy to the Collector of Tanjore for information.
,, Government, with C.L.

Order—No. 318, Educational, dated 26th May 1909.

Recorded.

2. The remarks of the Director of Public Instruction in paragraphs 3 and 5 of his review of the working of the Kumbakónam College are noted with satisfaction.

3. The acquisition of a piece of ground for an additional play-ground ordered in G.O., No. 165, Educational, dated 18th March 1909, should be expedited.

4. Orders will issue in the Public Works Department in regard to the early construction of the additions to and extensions of the college buildings and on the question of providing quarters for the Principal near the college.

(True Extract.)

L. M. Wynch,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, Collector of Tanjore.
,, Public Works Department.
Editors' Table.

Educational Department.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 318, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 26th MAY 1909.

[Subject.—*Report on the working of the Kumbakónam College for the year* 1908.]

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 11*th May* 1909, *No.* 3335.

There was a slight fall in the strength of the College from 220 on the 31st December 1907 to 200 on the 31st December 1908, which the Director of Public Instruction considers was probably due to the strictness in promotions which now obtains in the College. The results of the University Examinations were as good as those in 1907 and considerably better than those in 1906—*vide* appendix A of the report. The report on the whole appears to be satisfactory.

Paragraph 2 of the Director of Public Instruction's Proceedings.

2. In paragraph 5 of the report, the Principal notes—

(1) that nothing has been done towards the construction of additional class rooms and other works required for the College;

(2) that the question of providing an additional play-ground still remains unsettled; and

(3) that no orders have been passed on the plans submitted for the construction of quarters for the Principal.

3. As regards the provision of additional play-ground, orders have issued in G.O., No. 165, Educational, dated 18th March 1909, for the acquisition of a piece of ground to the east of the College, the site originally selected for the purpose being reserved for the construction of quarters for the Principal. With regard to the additional class rooms and other improvements to the College, the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, was ordered in G.O., No. 362 W., dated 16th March 1908, to prepare and submit plans and estimates at an early date. The Public Works Department may be asked to state when these plans and estimates will be ready and what orders have been passed on the plans submitted for the construction of quarters for the Principal.

4. The draft placed below is for approval.

5. The report is usually placed on Editors' Table.

T.K.—19-5-09.

K. Rangaswami Aiyangar--22-5-09.

There were some confidential papers which are probably in Secretary's safe regarding the strength of the College.

C. A. Souter—22-5-09.

Not entirely.

C. A. Souter.

The papers referred to are with me and are put up. They however relate to the fall in attendance in 1909.

K. Rangaswami Aiyangar—24-5-09.

Please see Dr. Bourne's u.o. note on page 4 of the notes put up. Apparently paragraph 2 of his remarks on the report are with reference to that note. It is perhaps not necessary to say anything in the Government Order.

C. A. Souter—24-5-09.

The draft Government Order is submitted for approval.

In view of the attacks made on Mr. Hodges in the "*Hindu*"—*vide* file of notes put up—I have added a paragraph noting with satisfaction the remarks of the Director of Public Instruction as regards the Principal's efforts to promote "collegiate education" rather than "cram".

L. M. Wynch—25-5-09.

I agree.

G. S. F[orbes]—25-5-09.

Issue.

L. M. Wynch—26-5-09.

[G.O., No. 318, Educational, dated 26th May 1909.]

[E. & L. 76. 2,500—25-2-08.]

Educational DEPARTMENT.

7

Read again G.O., No. ....., dated ..... 190 .

" " " " ....., " ..... 190 .

Read also:—

C. No. 990, From the D. P. I., No. 3335, dated 11-5- 190 9.

" " ....., " " ....., " ..... 190 .

" " ....., " " ....., " ..... 190 .

" " ....., " " ....., " ..... 190 .

ORDER. No. 318, dated 26-5- 1909.

P.S.

2/ The remarks of the Director of Public Instruction in paras. 3 and 5 of his remarks B of the working of the Kumbakonam College are noted with satisfaction.

To the D.P.I.
" Collr. of Tanjore.
" P.W.D.
E.T.

Recorded.

3/ The acquisition of a piece of ground for an additional play ground ordered in G.O.No.165, Edl., dated 18th March 1909, should be expedited.

3. Orders will issue in the P.W.D. in regard to the early construction of the additions to and extensions of the college buildings and on the question of providing quarters for the Principal near the College.

7.A. 19.5.09

Cbt 22.5.09.

25/5/09

[E. & L. 42.]

1,500—1[illegible]-08.

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Supplied to Secretariat for Record.....	34	19	
„ „ „ Issue.....	18	1	
For Volumes.....	16		
For E. T.....			
Total ..	68	19	