

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Enclosures

1909

Regd.

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G.O., No. 428, 21st July 1909.

Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.

Requesting the Committee of the — to ascertain if any of the chief Mission agencies in this Presidency will take charge of F. J. Watson, an imbecile girl now in the —.

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G.O., No. 428, 21st July 1909.

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Requesting the Committee of the — to ascertain if any of the chief Mission agencies in this Presidency will take charge of F. J. Watson, an imbecile girl now in the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers :—

I

G.O., No. 268, Educational, dated 3rd May 1907.

ABSTRACT.—Considering that Florence Jane Watson, an imbecile pupil of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, should be transferred to the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, if two medical officers certify to her insanity.

II

Letter—from the Rev. W. H. G. PADFIELD, M.A., Principal and Secretary, Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum, Lovedale.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department (through the Director of Public Instruction).

Dated—the 28th June 1909.

No.—876.

With reference to G.O., No. 268, Educational, dated 3rd May 1909, I have the honour to state that neither the Civil Surgeon nor the Resident Medical Officer is prepared to certify F. J. Watson insane.

2. The Committee are of opinion that, in the face of the decision of the above medical officers, it would be useless to approach any other medical officers with a view to their signing the certificate required.

3. The Civil Surgeon is of opinion that if the girl is placed under proper treatment she may become a useful and sane member of society, whereas if placed in a Lunatic Asylum, she will probably become insane.

4. The Committee therefore trust that Government will be pleased to order her admission into a Home in India where she would be under suitable medical treatment and influences.

5. If, however, such a Home does not exist, the Committee trust that Government, in consideration of the fact that she is the daughter of a British soldier, will be pleased to grant her a free passage to England and place her in a suitable Home there.

N. Ref. on Cur. No. 4474-09, dated 10th July 1909.

Submitted to Government.

A. G. BOURNE,
Director of Public Instruction.

Order—No. 428, Educational, dated 21st July 1909.

The Government are not aware of any suitable Home or public institution in India, other than a Lunatic Asylum, in which the girl, F. J. Watson, could be placed, and there is no provision of law which would enable them to send her to a Home in England to be maintained at the charge of local rates there.

2. The Committee of the Lawrence Asylum will accordingly be requested to ascertain from the chief Mission agencies in the Presidency whether any of them will take charge of the girl.

(True Extract.)

W. FRANCIS,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, Committee of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 428, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 21st JULY 1909.

[SUBJECT.—*Removal of Florence Jane Watson, an imbecile, from the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.*]

Previous papers.

G.O., No. 3035, Judicial, dated 13th November 1886.
" " 268, Educational " 3rd May 1909.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 10th July 1909, No. 4474.

Please see G.O., No. 268, Educational, dated 3rd May 1909, and the notes therewith.

2. The Committee of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, state that neither the Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund, nor the Resident Medical Officer of the Asylum is prepared to certify F. J. Watson insane. The Committee therefore consider that in the face of the opinion of the above medical officers, it would be useless to approach any other medical officer with a view to their signing the certificate required for the admission of the girl into the Lunatic Asylum.

Section 7 of the Indian Lunatic Asylums Act, 1858—*vide* page 14 of the Lunacy Manual.

3. The Civil Surgeon is of opinion that if the girl is placed under proper treatment she may become a useful and sane member of society, whereas if placed in a Lunatic Asylum she will probably become insane.

4. The Committee therefore request that the Government will be pleased to order the girls' admission into a Home in India where she would be under suitable medical treatment and influence and if there is no such Home in India, will, in consideration of the fact that she is the daughter of a British soldier, be pleased to grant her a free passage to England and place her in a suitable Home there.

5. There appears to be no Home in India where the girl could be placed. The only other alternative courses open seem to be—

(1) to send the girl to an asylum in England under the Lunatics' Removal (India) Act, 1851, or

(2) to place her in charge of some private person in India, who will be willing, in consideration of a monthly payment, to look after the girl.

6. (1) *Sending the girl to England.*—The instructions issued by the Government of India for the guidance of Local Governments as to the circumstances which warrant their sending insane paupers to England will be found printed with G.O., No. 3035, Judicial, dated 13th November 1886. According to these instructions, "insane persons not being of European parentage should under no circumstances be sent to England and even lunatics of European parentage should be deported only in cases where their transfer is likely to promote their recovery or where there is reason to believe that they have relations in the United Kingdom who will be able and willing to bear the cost of their maintenance. Persons who, though of European parentage, have been born in India, and spent their whole lives in this country, ought not to be deported to England, unless they have an unquestionable settlement somewhere in the United Kingdom."

7. The girl in the present case does not appear to be of pure European parentage. Her father was a European (British soldier) but her mother was a Eurasian—*vide* Mr. Padfield's letter on page 4 of G.O., No. 268, Educational, dated 3rd May 1909. She appears to have been born in India and to have spent her whole life in this country and has apparently no relations in the United Kingdom. In these circumstances, it does not appear that the Government would be justified in sending her to

England—*vide* the instructions contained in the resolution of the Government of India, No. 12-553-64, Medical, dated 27th October 1886.

8. There appears to be also another difficulty in the matter of sending the girl to England. The responsibility of maintaining the lunatics in England rests on the Poor Law Guardians. All insane paupers sent from India will, on reaching the United Kingdom, be treated as ordinary paupers, and will be dealt with as such, not by the Secretary of State for India or under his orders, but by the Police and the Poor Law Authorities of the

Vide paragraph 3 of India's resolution in G.O., No. 3035, Judicial, dated 13th November 1886.

country. These authorities require to be supplied, before the patient's arrival in England, with full particulars concerning the patient's relatives so as to enable them to discover the parish to which the patient may belong. In the present case, the girl seems to have no relation in the United Kingdom and no particulars in this respect can consequently be given to the Poor Law Authorities there. It is doubtful whether in these circumstances the Poor Law Authorities will take charge of the girl on her arrival in England. If they won't, the Lawrence Asylum Committee or the Government must undertake to pay for the maintenance of the girl in England. But considering the fact that the girl is now 17 years of age and cannot remain in

the Asylum for long (girls are removed from the Asylum on their attaining the age of 18) and when once removed from the Asylum she will have no connection therewith, it does not appear that the charge of maintaining the girl in England will be a legitimate charge on the Asylum funds. And if the Asylum cannot pay for the maintenance of the girl, the Government should.

9. (2) *Placing the girl in the charge of some private person.*—It does not appear that any satisfactory arrangement can be made with any private person to look after the girl in consideration of a monthly payment. Even if it could be made, the difficulty about the payment to be made for the girl's maintenance would still remain. But the charge of her maintenance in India will be considerably cheaper than in England. It is observed that the lowest charge for a private patient at the Dartford Asylum in the City of London is £1-1s. weekly—*vide* page 309 of Whitaker's Almanack for 1909.

T.K.—14-7-09.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—14-7-09.

All the Acts mentioned in the Lunacy Manual deal with lunatics or idiots or persons of unsound mind and no doctor will apparently certify the girl to be such. It seems impossible, therefore, to get her out of India in the ordinary way. Perhaps the Military authorities might be asked whether they have ever had a similar case and if so, what action was taken.

2. As for putting the girl into some private house, it seems the business of the Principal to find a suitable house. But it is difficult to see under what rule the Government or the Asylum could pay for her keep.

C. A. SOUTER—15-7-09.

This girl is now 17 and in less than a year will have to be turned out of the Asylum under Asylum's rule 36, when, as she has neither parent nor guardian, the Committee, by the rule, will have to "take such measures as may seem best for the pupil's settlement in life." The girl has no blood relations. Eight years ago

(paragraph 3 of Mr. Mullaly's letter on page 2 of G.O., No. 62, Educational, dated 7th February 1902), she had a step-grandfather and grandmother. Both are perhaps now dead, and anyhow the former declined to have anything to do with the girl. So the Committee will have no little difficulty in regard to her "settlement in life." The Friend-in-Need won't have her and Mr. Padfield tells me he tried in vain to get any one here to take charge of her even temporarily. There is no institution, other than a Lunatic Asylum, in India which would take her in and she can't, under the rules, be sent to England.

2. I submit that either the Asylum Committee should be asked to address the heads of the various big missions to see whether they would care to try their hand on her or that further steps may be taken to try to get her certified for admission to the Madras Lunatic Asylum. Confinement there along with her brother, even for life, would be preferable to the turning adrift which will otherwise be forced upon the Committee.

Major Niblock won't certify, though his report on page 2 of G.O., No. 268, Educational, dated 3rd May 1909, practically declares the girl to be of unsound mind, and consequently the Resident Medical officer at the Asylum, who is Major Niblock's subordinate, is afraid to, though otherwise, I am told, he would certify readily enough. Major Bryson, District Medical and Sanitary officer at Coonoor, was once in charge of the Madras Asylum. May he be asked to say if he will certify? Professional etiquette may lead him to decline to differ from Major Niblock but there is a chance. Two certificates are needed, but if Major Bryson leads the way the Resident Medical officer may pluck up courage to state what he really thinks.

W. FRANCIS—16-7-09.

It is a very difficult case. But it seems clear that it is of no use thinking of sending this unfortunate girl home to England. Nor I think, should we try any further to get her put into a Lunatic Asylum. In the face of Niblock's opinion that putting the girl into an asylum will probably make her a lunatic, we cannot try to get her into one. The only thing is for the Asylum authorities to try and get a mission to take the poor girl. Perhaps some society will take charge of her. I am afraid there is nothing else to be done. Let them try.

M. H[AMMICK]—16-7-09.

Please draft.

W. FRANCIS—17-7-09.

Draft submitted for approval.

T.K.—17-7-09.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—17-7-09.

Type please.

C. A. SOUTER—19-7-09.

Typed and submitted.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—19-7-09.

C. A. SOUTER—20-7-09.

Issue.

W. FRANCIS—21-7-09.

[G.O., No. 428, Educational, dated 21st July 1909.]

Educational Department.

Read again G.O. No.268, Edl., dated 3rd May 1907.

Read also C.No.1347, from the Director of Public Instruction, No.4474, dated 10th July 1909.

ORDER:
P.S.

No. 428 dt 21-7-9

The Government agree with the Committee of the Lawrence Asylum in considering that no further endeavours should be made to put the girl F.J. Watson into a Lunatic Asylum in India as the medical opinion is that, if she were placed in such an institution, she would probably become insane. They further regret that, so far as they are aware, there is no suitable Home or other public institution in India, in which the girl could be placed, and that there is no provision of the law which

F. J. Watson

would enable them to send her to a Home in England, as she has been born and brought up in this country and has no relations in England who would be willing to bear the cost of her maintenance. The only course now open seems to be to try and find out if some philanthropic missionary body would take charge of the girl. The Committee of the Lawrence Asylum will accordingly be requested to ascertain from the various mission agencies in the Presidency whether any of them will take charge of the girl, and by placing her under suitable medical

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~~treatment and by subjecting her to~~
~~healthy influences, endeavour to make~~
~~her a useful and sane member of society.~~

Cus.

19.7.9.

Mm7

To the D.P.I. ✓

" Committee of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund. ✓

Dr. P. D.
 21-7-9

3
 Considering that Florence Jane Watson, an imbecile pupil
 of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, should be transferred to the
 Lunatic Asylum, Mysore, if two medical officers certify
 G.O.No.268, Edl., dated 3rd May 1907. *When insanity.*

C.No.1347, from the Director of Public Instruction, No.4474, d/10-7-09.

ORDER:
 P.S.

No. 428 dt 21-7-09

The Government are not aware of any suitable Home or public institution in India, other than a Lunatic Asylum, in which the girl, F.J. Watson, could be placed, and there is no provision of law which would enable them to send her to a Home in England to be maintained at the charge of local rates there.

2. The Committee of the Lawrence Asylum will accordingly be requested to ascertain from the chief mission agencies in the Presidency whether any of them will take charge of the girl.

W.F.
 21-7-09.

To the D.P.I.
 " Committee of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.

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