

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

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} 1910.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 652, 15th November 1910.

N. P.

Indian Students in England.

Communicating to the Madras Students' Advisory Committee extract from the Report of the Committee on distressed Colonial and Indian subjects which have reference to —, with the request that the Committee will give it wide publicity.

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

2

Recd.

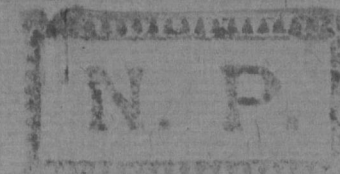
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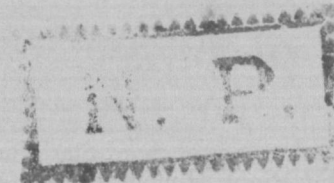
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from H. G. STOKES, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Education).
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.
Dated—Simla, the 21st October 1910.
No.—1070.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of the despatches noted on the margin regarding the Report of the Committee on distressed Colonial and Indian subjects, together with extract paragraphs 79-85 and 111 (iii) (f) and (g) of the report, which have special reference to the case of distressed Indian students.

2. I am to invite special attention to paragraphs 2-3 of the Government of India's despatch No. 31, dated the 20th October, and to request that the orders therein contained may, with the permission of the Governor in Council, be given effect to.

ENCLOSURES.

(1)

Despatch—from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
To—His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council.
Dated—India Office, London, the 29th July 1910.
No.—89, Public.

In my despatch No. 47, Revenue, dated 15th July 1910, I addressed you with regard to Destitute Indians in the United Kingdom. such of the recommendations of the Colonial Office Committee on distressed Colonial and Indian subjects as had reference to Indian seamen.

2. I request also that your Excellency's Government will take into consideration the paragraphs of the Committee's report dealing with the treatment of other classes of natives of India, especially students, who may become destitute in this country.

3. Your Excellency will observe that the Committee do not urge any departure from the general principle enunciated in the House of Commons in 1887 by the then Under Secretary of State for India "that the relief of destitute Indians in England would not be a proper application of the revenues of India."

4. The report of the Committee contains, however, various suggestions for preventing the occurrence of cases of destitution among Indians in this country, and for more systematic assistance in such cases, by means of enquiries into the family circumstances of applicants for relief.

5. I shall be glad to receive the observations of your Excellency's Government on the questions raised in the paragraphs of the Committee's report referred to in this despatch.

6. I enclose for Your Excellency's information a copy of the Committee's Report and the Minutes of Evidence, together with a copy of the *précis* of cases of distress which was communicated to the Committee. This *précis* which was compiled for departmental use only, has not been published and should be treated as confidential.

(2)

Despatch—from the Government of India, Home Department (Education).
To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
Dated—Simla, the 20th October 1910.
No.—31.

We have the honour to refer to your Public Despatch No. 89, dated the 29th July 1910, and to communicate the following observations upon the recommendations made in paragraphs 79-85 and 111 (iii) (f) and (g) of the Report of the Committee on distressed Colonial and Indian subjects, which have special reference to Indian students. The recommendations in question are—

(1) that one of the societies interested in Indian students in the United Kingdom should take up the investigation and relief of cases of distress amongst them as a special branch of its work, and that the India Office should signify its willingness to make special inquiry into such cases (paragraph 111 (iii) (f) of the report);

(2) that the Advisory Committees attached to Indian Universities should endeavour to spread as widely as possible a knowledge of the difficulties which Indian students often experience in the United Kingdom (paragraph 111 (iii) (g) of the report).

2. We cordially approve of both these recommendations. As regards the first, we recommend that the Advisory Committee, convened in London under the chairmanship of Lord Amphill, which is intended to stand, as far as possible, *in loco parentis* to Indian students in the United Kingdom, whose parents are unable to supervise their education, should undertake, as a special department of its work, the duties of investigating cases of alleged distress among such students, and of creating a fund for the purpose of affording temporary relief to those whose cases may prove to be genuine, and who may be in urgent need of assistance. We also venture to support the suggestion made in paragraph 83 of the Committee's report, *viz.*, that communications from the India Office to the Government of India and *vice versa* relating to cases of students in indigent circumstances should be made by cable. In order to ensure that such cases shall be dealt with in this country with due promptitude we propose to communicate with local Governments and Administrations invariably by telegram, and to issue instructions to the latter that all the subsequent correspondence on the subject between the local Government or Administration concerned and the Magistrate of the district in which the student's parents or guardians happen to be living, should, if necessary, also be conducted by telegram, and that finally the local Government should, if necessary, telegraph its reply to the Government of India. We trust that this procedure will obviate any undue delay in the disposal of such cases.

3. With reference to the second recommendation mentioned in paragraph 1 of this despatch we consider that the local provincial committees, one of whose functions is to furnish information and advice to students who contemplate going to England, would be in the best position to issue the warning suggested. We are accordingly asking local Governments and Administrations to invite the attention of these committees (which are erroneously alluded to by the Committee as "University Committees") to paragraphs 79-85 and 111 (iii) (f) and (g) of the report under consideration or to such portions of those paragraphs as they may consider it advisable to communicate, and to suggest to the committees in question that they should endeavour to give as wide publicity as possible, among those interested, to the difficulties into which Indian students are apt to fall if they are not provided with sufficient funds, and should also do what they can to diffuse a correct idea of the conditions under which Indian students live in England. In order that the provincial committees may be kept duly informed of cases of the nature indicated, we are requesting local Governments to furnish them, from time to time, with information relating to actual instances as these occur, it being made clear to the committees that this is done with the object only of supplying them with concrete examples by which to enforce their advice, and that they are not expected to deal with the particular cases thus brought to their notice.

Extract paragraphs 79 to 85 of the report of the Committee on Distressed Colonial and Indian Subjects.

STUDENTS FROM INDIA.

79. The Indian students in the United Kingdom constitute a problem of considerable importance, which we believe will increase in magnitude and complexity and it therefore seems desirable to examine it in some detail. Of the young Indians who come every year to this country, the great majority have acquired some measure of education before their arrival, and the object of their visit is to complete their studies. The greater number come to qualify themselves for a call to the Bar; we understand that a call to the English bar enables them to get admittance to the legal profession in India upon easier terms than they could in their own country. Others are attracted by the facilities for higher education which are offered by the Universities of Great Britain, and a small but increasing number come to study the industries and technical processes of manufacture of Western Europe. In the student class are a few whom

one witness described to us, in no disparaging sense, as adventurers.* They are young men who come with no very clearly defined aim, in the hope that amid the riches and manifold activities of Europe they may somehow or other find means to support themselves here, and they calculate, perhaps rightly, that familiarity with Europe will enable them to find something to do in India upon their return. We desire to add that we do not believe that the prospect of material advantage is the sole attraction which draws Indian students to this country; there are moral and intellectual factors in the problem which we do not overlook. Most of these young men have in India studied English history and English literature, and many of them have thereby imbibed a reverence for the civilisation and political institutions of this country; we have nothing but sympathy for the feeling which impels them to come to learn at first hand the lessons which they think that England can teach them.

80. We understand that the most trustworthy estimates put the number of young Indians in this country at 1,000 or 1,200. As far as we can judge, this number will tend rather to increase than to decrease. Caste restraints upon foreign travel are losing their stringency, and the day may not be far distant when even orthodox Hindus will cease to feel a prejudice against a sea journey; in that case a visit to Europe may easily become as recognised a part of the complete education of an Indian as the grand tour through Europe was to our own ancestors. We are satisfied that there are now material advantages to be gained from visiting Europe which must tend to bring Indians to this country in increasing numbers.

81. In addition to the stimulus which these advantages will give to individuals, we have learnt that an organisation has recently been established in India with the object of facilitating visits to England. Mr. Chowdry informed us that a society called the Calcutta Scientific Industrial Association † provides Indian students with passages to this country, but it does not appear that the association undertakes responsibility for their maintenance here; in certain cases that were cited to us passages appear to have been found for students who had no definite means of support assured to them from any source ‡. We view with some concern the activity of an organisation which is likely to render more acute the problem which we have been appointed to consider. It is not necessary for us to explain that there is practically no chance of these young men being able to provide for themselves by their own exertions. Some of them have been driven to pitiable straits in their efforts to make a living; one of them, an educated man, an undergraduate, acted as a showman to a tea company and stood in front of the doors as an advertisement. Mr. Chowdry, who has had considerable experience in attempting to help this class, informed us that out of thirteen or fourteen cases he had only known three who "succeeded in getting employment or some sort of income in England."§

82. The "adventurers," as Mr. Chowdry calls them, probably represent only a small fraction of the Indian student population in the United Kingdom; the majority are supported by regular remittances from their parents or guardians, but even among them cases of destitution occasionally arise; the death or sickness of the bread winner, an unexpected law suit, or the failure of the monsoon, whereby tenants are unable to pay their usual rents—any one of these mishaps may prevent the family from forwarding the monthly or quarterly remittance, and when this disaster occurs the Indian student with few acquaintances in this country and slender credit is brought to the verge of destitution. Such cases are sufficiently frequent to justify us in recommending remedial measures.

83. We do not think it advisable that the India Office should materially depart from the policy laid down in 1887 by Sir John Gorst, when, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, he said "that the relief of destitute Indians in England would not be a proper application of the revenues of India," but we do recommend that the India Office should signify its willingness to assist in making inquiries regarding the family of any Indian found destitute in this country. When the case of a destitute Indian in this country has been taken up by the guardians of a union, a charitable society, or a branch of the charity organisation society, an application should be sent to the India Office on the form proposed later on (see paragraph 97) for information regarding the family of the person in distress. We suggest that in cases of urgency the India Office might materially assist the relieving authority or society by making inquiries by telegram. We understand that a telegram from the India Office to the Government of India would be transmitted through the local Government to the Magistrate of the district in which the students' parents or guardian were alleged to live; the Magistrate would be in a position to make inquiries and transmit an authoritative answer which would reach England in a comparatively short time from the despatch of the first message. As speedy and trustworthy information as to the wishes and circumstances of the family is of the first importance in dealing with cases of destitution in distant countries, the employment of the official telegram would be of very material assistance.

84. There are, we understand, several societies, having their head-quarters in London, which exist for the purpose of rendering assistance or giving information to Indian students. We suggest that one of these should undertake as a special department of its work the investigation of cases of distress among students, and should create a fund from which temporary relief could be given in cases of urgent and genuine distress. If such a society were actually discharging these functions, it would be to it that students in financial difficulties would apply in the first

instance, and if it were found that private charity among the persons connected with India was not equal to meeting all cases of genuine distress, then we think that there would be ground for asking the Government of India to bear a certain proportion of the cost of repatriation, it being understood that the contribution from Indian revenues would not exceed the contributions received from private charity.

85. It will be clear from what we have already said that a certain number of Indians come to this country under a mistaken impression that they will be able to support themselves here by their own exertions; we think that efforts should be made to correct this misapprehension. It has been suggested to us that the Government should publish in the Provincial Gazettes the impossibility of obtaining employment in England and the danger which Indian students run of getting stranded in this country if they come without sufficient funds; and that local newspapers might be expected to reproduce this warning. We are not prepared to deny that this might have a salutary effect for a time; but neither the Gazettes nor the local newspapers could be expected to go on reproducing this warning, and therefore we think the benefit of adopting this suggestion would be transitory. We understand that Advisory Committees attached to the Indian Universities have recently been created, and we recommend that these Advisory Committees should receive detailed accounts of the destitution into which Indian students occasionally fall and that the Committees should be asked to make this information as widely known as possible. As these Committees deal only with a limited class, and as this class is well educated, there ought not to be great difficulty in diffusing through it a correct idea of the conditions under which Indian students live in this country.

Summary of Recommendations.

111. We may divide our recommendations into four classes, and summarise thus the main conclusions at which we have arrived:

(iii) Non-seamen (particular classes).

(f) That one of the societies interested in Indian students in the United Kingdom should take up the investigation and relief of cases of distress amongst them as a special branch of its work, and that the India Office should signify its willingness to make special inquiry into such cases (paragraphs 83 and 84).

(g) That the Advisory Committees attached to Indian Universities should endeavour to spread as widely as possible a knowledge of the difficulties which Indian students often experience in this country (paragraph 85).

Order—No. 652, Educational, dated 15th November 1910.

Extract of paragraphs 79 to 85 and 111 (f) and (g) of the Report of the Committee on distressed Colonial and Indian subjects, which have special reference to Indian students in England, will be communicated to the Madras Students' Advisory Committee, with the request that the Committee will endeavour to give as wide publicity as possible, among those interested, to the difficulties into which Indian students in England are likely to fall if they are not provided with sufficient funds and will also do what it can to diffuse a correct idea of the conditions under which Indian students live in England. The Committee will be furnished from time to time with information relating to actual instances of the nature indicated above, as they occur, the object being not that it should deal with the particular cases thus brought to notice but to supply it with concrete examples by which to enforce its advice.

(True Extract.)

A. BUTTERWORTH,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary to the Madras Students' Advisory Committee.
,, Director of Public Instruction.

* Mr. Chowdry, 621—8.

† Mr. Chowdry, 626.

‡ Mr. Chowdry, 627.

§ Id., 630.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 652, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
15TH NOVEMBER 1910.

[SUBJECT.--*Indian students in England.*]

From the Government of India, dated 21st October 1910, No. 1070.

The orders contained in paragraph 2 of the Government of India's despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 31, dated 20th October 1910, will be noted for future guidance.

2. As regards paragraph 3 of the above despatch, a draft order is submitted for approval.

C.S.—9-11-10.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—9-11-10.

Honourable Member should see the correspondence on this subject between the Government of India and Secretary of State.

C. A. INNES—12-11-10.

Thanks. I heard of a case quite recently.

M. H[AMMICK]—14-11-10.

Issue.

C. A. INNES—15-11-10.

[G.O., No. 652, Educational, dated 15th November 1910.]

G.O. No. 2125, from the Government of India, No. 1070, dated 21st October 1910

64 X

ORDER:- No 652 of 15. 11. 10.
P. S.

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Not for ET.Dr
15/11

To
The The Secretary to the Madras
Students Advisory Committee.
" D.P.I.

12. 11. 10.

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