

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1911.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 246, 26th April 1911.

College of Engineering.

Directing that the standing orders of the — be modified so as to bring it into accordance with G.O., No. 820, Public, dated 10th September 1910.



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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

I

Letter—from M.R.Ry. M. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR AVARGAL, B.A., M.B. & C.M.,
Mylapore, Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department.
Dated—the 4th November 1910.

From a reference to the Report of the Royal Commission on Decentralization and recent resolutions and orders of Government founded thereon, I understand it to be the present policy of Government to actively promote the growth of an independent medical profession. In view thereof, I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, copies of the correspondence between the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, Madras, and myself.

2. The facts of the case are briefly as follows: On the 7th October last, V. R. Subramanian, a student of the Engineering College, felt feverish while at college and the Principal permitted him to go home. He was under my treatment for a few days afterwards and obtained from me a certificate when he was fit for work. This certificate the Principal of the Engineering College refused to recognise as contravening a standing order of the college. Neither would he return it, when asked, to the student for countersignature by a Government medical officer and the student was marked as having been absent without leave for the period.

3. It will thus be seen that the Principal by a rigid standing order obtaining in the college refuses to recognise certificates granted to its students by qualified non-Government medical men even for the purpose of countersignature by a Government medical officer and sternly declines to be drawn into a discussion.

4. It is not my purpose to discuss here the difficult position the Principal takes up or the hardships which such an unconscionable standing order would entail on the students.

5. The College of Engineering is not perhaps altogether alone in maintaining and enforcing an order which even Government offices have before this recognised the injustice of and cancelled. I only wish respectfully to invite the attention of Government to its likely effects on the growth of a profession which it is their present active policy to encourage, and to express the hope that Government may see their way to modify the existing orders on the subject so as to allow of the grant of medical certificates to students in Government colleges by qualified independent medical practitioners.

ENCLOSURES.

(1)

Letter—from M.R.Ry. M. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR AVARGAL, B.A., M.B. & C.M.,
Mylapore, Madras.

To—the Principal, College of Engineering, Madras.
Dated—the 15th October 1910.

V. R. Subramanian, student of the B.E. class to whom I gave a certificate of ill-health, informs me that my certificate has not been accepted as not being that of a Government servant and that he could not get it back either for countersignature by a Government servant. I understand that he has been marked as absent without leave for the period.

He has applied to me now for a duplicate of the certificate in order to get it countersigned. Before granting him one, I should like to know your reasons, if there be no objection, why my certificate was not accepted and what objection there was for its return to the student for countersignature.

Apart from being interested in the question on its merits, I am anxious not to be in the way of the young man's prospects in the college.

(2)

Letter—from W. H. JAMES, Esq., Principal, College of Engineering, Madras.

To—M.R.Ry. M. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR, B.A., M.B. & C.M., Mylapore, Madras.
Dated—the 19th October 1910.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 15th October 1910, but regret I do not see my way to reply to your queries.

II

Endorsement No. 2171-1, Educational, dated 15th November 1910.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

C. A. INNES,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

III

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE, M.A., F.R.H.S., Acting Director of
Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—Madras, the 28th February 1911.

No.—Ref on C. 7488 of 1910.

In returning herewith the Endorsement of Government, No. 2171-1, Educational, dated 15th November last, together with its enclosure, I have the honour to state that the Principal, College of Engineering, to whom a reference was made on the subject, reports that according to the college standing orders medical certificates for absence of students owing to illness will be accepted only from a hospital or from Government medical officers but that he nevertheless accepts in special cases certificates from other practitioners. He adds that though in the case in question he reprimanded the student for his disregard of a college order with which he was perfectly able to comply yet he finally accepted the certificate given by the private medical practitioner, viz., M.R.Ry. M. Subrahmanya Aiyar. With regard to the standing order itself, it is stated that the procedure laid down therein was found necessary some years ago by Colonel Love so as to prevent students from absenting themselves without leave and submitting on their return medical certificates from any qualified medical practitioner which the Principal had no choice but to accept. In reply to my query whether with reference to G.O., No. 820, Public, dated 10th September 1910, prescribing the minimum qualifications to be possessed by medical practitioners authorized to grant medical certificates without countersignature, he does not consider it advisable to modify the college standing order, Mr. James says that he will, in deference to the above ruling of Government, modify the standing order and accept certificates from any qualified medical practitioner, but as this must result in his losing control to some extent over the attendance of students he suggests that he might be given the power to refuse a student permission to appear for examination if he is not satisfied with his attendance. He points out that under the rules as they now stand, however irregular a student may have been in attendance, the Principal cannot prevent his appearing for examination and by chance passing although he may not have received the training necessary to enable him to carry out his duties satisfactorily when he subsequently obtains employment.

He does not think that a rule like that laid down by the University to the effect that attendance for three-fourths of the number of working days is necessary for appearance at sessional and final examinations would meet the case better, as he considers that under a rule of this kind a student might absent himself from the survey camp or during other important periods of training and demand as his right that he should be allowed to appear for examination. It is stated that a rule of this form was intentionally omitted when the college rules were revised as it was considered inadvisable that there should be the least suggestion that attendance during the whole course of training was not absolutely necessary. In these circumstances, I

approve of the Principal's suggestion and beg to recommend that rule 69 of the college rules be modified as shown below and that the revised rule be notified in the Gazette:—

"All sessional and final examinations shall be conducted by the college staff. Students whose attendance during any session is not regarded by the Principal as satisfactory will not be allowed to appear for examination. The decision of the Principal in regard to the qualifications of any student appearing for the examination shall be final. The names of all students declared by the Principal to have passed a final examination shall be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. A summary of the results of the examinations together with the observations of the Principal thereon shall be embodied in the annual report on the college submitted to the Director for transmission to Government."

2. If the change proposed meets with the approval of Government, it is my intention to ask the Principal to consider whether any other changes can be made in the standing orders with a view to indicating to students more clearly what he will expect of them in the way of attendance.

Order—No. 246, Educational, dated 26th April 1911.

The Government consider that the standing orders of the College of Engineering should be modified so as to bring them explicitly into accordance with G.O., No. 820, Public, dated 10th September 1910, which provides for the discretionary acceptance of medical certificates granted by practitioners possessing the qualifications specified in that order.

2. The Government are unable to accept in its present form the modification proposed by the Director of Public Instruction in rule 69 of the college rules. They consider that the difficulty anticipated by the Principal of the college should be met by the introduction of a rule similar to that contained in regulation 391 (1) of the University Regulations making attendance for a definite portion of the course and also at the survey camp a necessary condition of appearance at the sessional or final examinations, unless a special exemption is granted by the Principal.

3. The necessary draft alterations should be submitted for the approval of Government.

(True Extract.)

L. DAVIDSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
"M.R.Ry. M. Subrahmanya Aiyar Avargal (para. 1 only).

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 246, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
26TH APRIL 1911.

[SUBJECT.—*Non-recognition of a medical certificate granted to a student of the College of Engineering.*]

Previous papers:

G.O. No. 820, Public, dated 10th Sept. 1910.
" " 451, Educational " 8th July 1911.

From M.R.Ry. M. Subramania Aiyar, Mylapore, dated 4th November 1910.

M.R.Ry. M. Subramania Aiyar, medical practitioner, Mylapore, states—

(i) that the Principal of the College of Engineering has refused to accept a medical certificate granted by him to a student of the college who was under his treatment;

(ii) that the Principal has further refused to return the certificate to the student for countersignature by a Government medical officer; and

(iii) that he has marked the student as having been absent without leave for the period covered by the medical certificate.

He requests that, if the Principal was acting under any orders or rules of the college, they may be modified so as to allow of the grant of medical certificates to students in Government colleges by qualified independent medical practitioners.

2. Under rule 66 of the rules relating to the constitution and working of the College of Engineering, Madras, sick leave may be granted to a student of the college, "in case of severe illness certified to by a competent medical authority," and according to G.O. No. 820, Public, dated 10th September 1910, medical certificates granted to non-gazetted officers of Government may be accepted without countersignature if the person granting the certificate has passed the M.B. and C.M., or the L.M. and S. degree examination of Indian Universities and has a standing of not less than three years as a medical practitioner.

3. Mr. Subramania Aiyar took the degree of M.B. and C.M. in 1901 and has thus a standing of more than three years as a medical practitioner. In these circumstances it is not clear why the certificate granted by him was refused by the Principal of the College of Engineering.

4. The current may, it is submitted, be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks. The draft is for approval.

S.K.—11-11-10.

Please put up the standing orders of the college (*cf.* paragraph 2 of the petition) if available.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—12-11-10.

The standing order referred to is apparently rule 66 of the College of Engineering rules. There appear to be no other standing order.

S.K.—12-11-10.

The reference to the Director of Public Instruction may perhaps issue.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—12-11-10.

Issue.

C. A. INNES—14-11-10.

[Memorandum No. 2171-1, dated 15th November 1910.]

From the Director of Public Instruction, No. 7488, dated 22nd February 1911.

The Director of Public Instruction reports that under the standing orders of the College of Engineering (orders issued from time to time by the Principal of the College) medical certificates for absence of students owing to illness will be accepted only from a hospital or from Government medical officers, but that in special cases the Principal accepts certificates from other practitioners. The Director states that although in the case under reference the Principal reprimanded the student for the latter's disregard of a college order with which he (the student) was perfectly able to comply, yet he finally accepted the certificate given to the student by Mr. Subramania Aiyar. As the college order is not in accordance with the orders of Government contained in G.O. No. 820, Public, dated 10th September 1910, the Director of Public Instruction proposes to modify it so as to provide for the acceptance of certificates from any qualified medical practitioner. This proposal may, it is submitted, be approved.

2. The Principal of the College of Engineering is, however, apprehensive that the modification of the college standing order in the manner proposed by the Director of Public Instruction will result in his losing control to some extent over the attendance of students; and he accordingly suggests that he might be given the power to refuse a student permission to appear for the college examinations, if he is not satisfied with the students' attendance. He points out that under the existing rules he has no such power although the student may have been irregular in attendance and may not have received the training necessary to enable him to do his duties satisfactorily when he subsequently obtains employment. He further urges that a rule like that

* Cf. Regulation 391 (1) on pages 242 and 243 of the University calendar for 1911.

laid down by the University*, namely that attendance at three-fourths of the number of working days is necessary for appear-

ance at sessional and final examinations would not meet the case as under such a rule a student might absent himself from the survey camp or during other important periods of training and demand as of right that he should be allowed to appear for the examinations. Mr. James further observes that a rule similar to this was intentionally omitted when the college rules were last revised.

3. In the circumstances stated, the Director of Public Instruction accepts Mr. James's suggestion and recommends that rule 69 of the College of Engineering rules may be amended by inserting the following after the first sentence:—

"Students whose attendance during any session is not regarded by the Principal as satisfactory will not be allowed to appear for examination". The Director of Public Instruction states that if the Government approve of this modification he will ask the Principal to consider whether any other changes can be made in the standing order of the college in order to indicate to students more clearly what he will expect of them in the way of attendance.

4. It does not appear to be desirable to give the Principal unfettered discretion in the matter of stopping candidates from appearing for the examination. Under rules 13, 19 and 24 of the College rules which require that all the students of the college must satisfy the Principal in practical surveying (Engineer students in laboratory work also), the Principal has ample power to prevent unsatisfactory students from

passing out of the college and there is, it is submitted, little necessity to give him additional power to prevent students from appearing for the examination on the score of unsatisfactory attendance.

T.K.—1-4-11.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—3-4-11.

The action of the Principal in disregarding the orders of Government in his standing order is very unsatisfactory.

As to the proposed change in the rule, I do not think that the matter should be left entirely to the discretion of the Principal. The Director of Public Instruction may be informed that Government cannot accept the proposed change as it stands, but, it is submitted, they might be prepared to consider a modification of the university

Yes. I think this is the better course. Please tell the Director of Public Instruction accordingly. rules, which makes attendance at the survey camp or other parts of the course essential, unless the Principal gives the students exemption.

M. H[AMMICK]—8-4-11.

G. F. PADDISON—3-4-11.

Put up a draft accordingly. Nothing need be said, I think, about the conduct of the Principal as I see the Government order leaves it entirely to the discretion of officers to accept these certificates or not.

This should have been put more clearly in the notes.

G. F. PADDISON—11-4-11.

Draft submitted for approval.

T.K.—11-4-11.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—11-4-11.

M. S. MASCARENHAS—25-4-11.

Approved as amended.

L. DAVIDSON—26-4-11.

[G.O., No. 246, Educational, dated 26th April 1911.]

C.No.2171, From Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar, dated 4th November 1910. 1106

C.No. 447, From the Director of Public Instruction, No.7485, d/28-2-1911.

ORDER:- No 246 of 26-4-11
Misc.

considers that
The Government approve the propo-
sal of the Director of Public Instruc-
tion to ~~modify~~ *should be modified* the standing orders of
the College of Engineering so as to
provide for the acceptance ~~by the~~
Principal of medical certificates
~~granted by any qualified medical~~
practitioner.

Explicitly
bring them to accordance with
G.O. No. 820 Public of 10-9-10
which provides for the
discretionary acceptance of
medical certificates granted
by practitioners possessing the
qualifications specified in
that order.

2. The Government are unable to
accept in its present form the modifi-
cation proposed by the Director of
Public Instruction in Rule 69 of the
college rules. They ~~must~~ consider
that the difficulty anticipated by the
Principal of the College ~~will~~ *should* be met
by the introduction of a rule similar
to that contained in Regulation 39(1)
of the University Regulations making
attendance for a definite portion of
the course ~~or other essential parts~~
~~of it~~ and also at the survey camp
~~and~~ *and* necessary condi-
tion ~~for~~ *of* appearing ~~at~~ *and* at the sessional
or final examinations, unless specially
exempted ~~by~~ *is granted* by the Principal.

3. The necessary draft
for alterations ~~shall~~ *be*
submitted for the approval
of Govt.

To the D.P.I.
M.R.Ry., M. Subrahmanya Aiyar Avl.
(para 1 only)

*Steps
abt 4/11*

*T.B.
11-4-11*

11-4-11

11-4-11

11-4-11



Educational (191 /) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 246

DATED 26-4-1911.

Press
Please print
the G.O. & notes & return
proof *Q*
7.9.11

[Despatch Abstract.]

College of Engineering.

Directing that the
standing orders of the — be
modified so as to bring it into
accordance with G.O. 820 Pub D 10-9-1910.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.