

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Recd.

Regd.

} 1912.

Enclosure

Se are copies

G.O. No. 844, 30th November 1911.

Reports.

Submitting to the Government of India the remarks of this Government in connection with the proposals for providing periodical — to parents and guardians regarding the progress of pupils in schools and colleges.

2
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. H. SHARP, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (Education).

To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.

Dated—Simla, the 31st May 1911.

No.—735.

I am directed to ask that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be informed whether any periodical reports are made by educational authorities to the parents or guardians of students or pupils under their charge. On the information before them the Government of India are disposed to think that parents and guardians have hitherto been somewhat ignored in our educational system; and that there has been too much of dealing directly with pupils in the matter of admission fees, transfer, progress, and residential arrangements.

2. The Government of India would be glad to receive the opinion of His Excellency in Council regarding the introduction or development of such a system of reports. The system might, in the first instance, perhaps be limited to Government High Schools and Colleges, whose example—if the experiment were a success—would probably be followed by aided and even unaided schools. But the Government of India await the opinions of Local Governments after they have elicited competent opinion on the subject.

II

Memorandum No. 1311-1, Educational, dated 16th June 1911.

The letter from the Government of India will be referred for favour of remarks to the Director of Public Instruction, who is requested also to obtain the opinions of the Syndicate of the Madras University, the Missionary Council on Aided Education, the Council of Native Education and the Teachers' Guild, Madras, on the subject.

(By Order.)

M. S. MASCARENHAS,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

III

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

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—the 29th September 1911.

No.—Ref. on Cur. 4051.

In returning herewith the letter of the Government of India received with your Memorandum No. 1311-1, dated 16th June 1911, on the question of sending periodical reports to parents or guardians of pupils by the educational authorities, I

have the honour to point out that the idea that the parents and guardians have been in any degree ignored does not hold good so far as this Presidency is concerned. The department has done all it could to ensure that admissions and transfers in schools should be in the parents' control. Rules 43 and 45 of the Madras Educational Rules (fifth edition) lay down that admissions and transfers in schools should be made only with the consent of the parents and guardians. No doubt parental control in these matters is often deplorably weak, and the real decision rests with the children. I think that, with the increase in the proportion of literate parents, the rules as to parental sanction of admissions and transfers are becoming increasingly effective.

2. It is hardly possible to apply the same rules to colleges, since most of the students are legally of age. Admissions to hostels are, however, made on the application of parents or guardians. Of course, the fact that an applicant for admission to a college or hostel is able to produce the fee is some guarantee of parental sanction.

3. Periodical reports now issue from the Teachers' College and I will take steps to have the system extended to the other Government High Schools for boys. Such reports are by no means uncommon in non-Government schools, but I would not at present advocate overdoing more than encourage them. Such schools are often very large and not sufficiently staffed to carry on even the ordinary school work altogether satisfactorily, so that an attempt to make the issue of reports compulsory would be pretty sure to fail. It is also to be remarked that the secondary school leaving certificate scheme allows parents to call for their sons' certificates so that no parent need be in ignorance of his son's progress in the high school forms.

4. As regards residential arrangements, the University does insist on college students living with parents or guardians or in hostels or in approved lodgings. Similar provision is very desirable for schools and the department might make schools take, as a condition of recognition, the same kind of action as colleges are now expected to take. The only objection to adding rules to the madras educational rules about this is the difficulty of getting them enforced. Most managers would be very loath to refuse admission to a fee-paying pupil, because his lodging place was undesirable. On the whole, I think, however, that the department should have such rules, since without them it is pretty certain that no improvement is to be expected, and the tendency for the concentration of high school boys in large schools in crowded localities is certainly on the increase. It might perhaps be possible to go further and to institute a system of licensing lodging houses by the Inspectors on the recommendations of the school authorities. The feasibility of this scheme will be examined and, if it appears practicable, rules submitted for the consideration of Government.

5. As required in the Government Memorandum under reference, the Syndicate of the Madras University, the Missionary Council on Aided Education, the Council of Native Education and the Teachers' Guild were consulted on the matter and their replies are herewith submitted.

ENCLOSURES.

(i)

Letter—from FRANCIS DEWSBURY, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Registrar, University of Madras.

To—the Acting Director of Public Instruction.

Dated—Senate House, the 8th August 1911.

No.—2260.

With reference to your letter No. 4051/11, dated 5th July 1911, forwarding copy of a letter No. 735, dated 31st May 1911, from the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, I have the honour to inform you that the Syndicate referred the question of periodical reports to the parents of students in schools and colleges to a committee for consideration. A copy of the report of the committee which was adopted by the Syndicate is appended hereto.

"(1) As far as we are aware it is not the practice in colleges to send periodical reports of the progress of students to parents or guardians.

"(2) With regard to the introduction of a system of such reports, we are of opinion that however advisable they may be in the case of schools, they are not suited to the circumstances of colleges. In the first place they seem to be unnecessary, as most of the students are of legal age, and in the second place they are hardly feasible, as the conditions of study in colleges, where the lecture system prevails and where the classes are comparatively large, are such as that it is not possible to gauge the progress of students during the term in a satisfactory manner."

(ii)

Letter—from the Secretaries, the Madras Teachers' Guild.
To—the Director of Public Instruction.
Dated—Madras, the 23rd August 1911.

I have the honour to forward herewith the opinion of the council of the Guild with reference to R.C. No. 4051/11 and the matter adverted to in it:—

"Resolved that the following opinion of the council formulated at its meeting on the 28th of July 1911, regarding the matter referred to in R.C. No. 4051/11, from the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone, M.A., F.R.S., Acting Director of Public Instruction, Madras:—

"(1) In many secondary schools in this Presidency, the practice has been to send periodical reports of the progress of pupils at school, in most cases monthly, and in a few cases at the end of every school term. In the matter of admissions, or transfer of pupils from one school to another, the Madras Educational Rules make it obligatory on parents to sign the application and withdrawal forms.

"(2) In colleges, however, there is not such a practice obtaining at present for the obvious reason that college students are generally more advanced in age and better able to take care of their own interests. About the residential system it has to be observed that in some colleges the wishes of parents are consulted before the students are admitted into hostels.

"(3) The Guild is of opinion that there is no need to have more stringent rules than the rules already obtaining in this Presidency."

(iii)

From—the Honorary Secretary, Missionary Council on Aided Education.
To—the Director of Public Instruction.
Dated—Madras, the 25th August 1911.

With reference to your letter No. 4051, dated 5th July 1911, enclosing a communication from the Government of India regarding the submission of periodical reports to parents or guardians of students or pupils, I have the honour to send the following resolution of the Missionary Council on Aided Education passed at a meeting held on 19th August:—

"Resolved to inform the Director of Public Instruction (1) that there are many Mission secondary schools in which such progress reports are sent either systematically to all parents, or to such as express a desire for them; (2) that in the opinion of the council it is undesirable to require a universal system of such reports because of (a) the illiteracy of many of the parents, and (b) the fact that in the Madras system of education such a report is already provided for in the secondary school-leaving certificates of pupils in forms IV, V and VI."

(iv)

Letter—from Mr. S. RAJAGOPALA CHARI, B.A., Joint Secretary to the Council of Native Education.
To—the Director of Public Instruction.
Dated—Madras, the 28th August 1911.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter R.C. No. 4051, dated 5th July 1911, giving enclosure to letter No. 735, dated 31st July 1911, from the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, I am directed by the Council of Native Education to state that they quite agree in the opinion formed by the Government of India on the information before them that the parents and guardians have been somewhat ignored in our educational system.

2. The Government high schools and colleges in this Presidency are few in number and hence the experiment instead of being confined to Government schools should also be extended to selected private aided schools.

Order—No. 844, Educational, dated 30th November 1911.

The Government agree with the Director of Public Instruction as to the expedience of providing for the submission to parents and guardians of periodical reports regarding the progress of pupils studying in high schools and they approve his suggestion that the procedure now obtaining in the Teachers' College should be extended to Government high schools for boys and commended to the heads of private institutions of the same grade. Colleges come under a different category as the students have in many cases attained their majority and, for that reason, the same methods cannot be prescribed. But it is none the less desirable that, wherever possible, the principals of colleges should keep in touch with the parents of students under their care.

2. The Government await a further communication from the Director in regard to the feasibility of licensing lodging houses to which reference is made in paragraph 4 of his letter.

3. The following letter will be addressed to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

L. DAVIDSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 845.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. L. DAVIDSON, I.C.S.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (EDUCATION),

Dated Fort St. George, the 30th November 1911.

SIR,

I am directed to submit the following reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Sharp's letter, No. 735, dated 31st May 1911.

2. While in agreement with the Government of India as to the expedience of furnishing parents and guardians with periodical reports on the progress made by students and pupils in educational institutions, His Excellency the Governor in Council desires to observe that, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, parents and guardians have in no way been ignored by the Department of Public Instruction. Particular care has been taken to ensure that admissions to schools and transfers from one school to another shall be under their control. The consent of the parent or guardian is definitely prescribed in rules 43 and 45 of the Educational Rules, and though in such matters the control exercised is often deplorably weak and the real decision is left in the hands of the pupils themselves, it may be hoped that, with the gradual growth in the proportion of literate parents, the rules on the subject will become increasingly effective.

It is hardly possible to enforce the same procedure in the case of colleges where the students are for the most part legally of age, but admissions to hostels are made on the application of the parent or guardian and the mere fact that an applicant for admission to a college is able to produce the requisite fees furnishes some guarantee of parental sanction.

3. The only Government institution in which periodical progress reports are at present made to parents or guardians is the Teachers' College at Saidapet, but this procedure is stated to be by no means uncommon in private high schools. Arrangements will now be made to extend it to Government high schools for boys and to encourage the managers of private institutions to adopt the same system. In the latter

case, any attempt at compulsion would be inexpedient owing to deficiencies of staff which render it necessary to proceed cautiously in prescribing additional clerical work. It should not be forgotten in this connection that, under the scheme for the grant of secondary school leaving certificates, parents have the option of calling for these certificates and thus need not be left in ignorance of their sons' progress in the high school forms.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L. DAVIDSON,

Ag. Secretary to Government.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 844-45, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 30TH NOVEMBER 1911.

[SUBJECT.—Periodical reports by educational authorities to parents or guardians of students under their charge.]

Previous papers:

G.O. No. 841, Educational, dated 27th Dec. 1906.
" " 510 " " 9th July 1908.
" " 427 " " 21st " 1909.
" " 501 " " 25th Aug. 1910.

From the Government of India, dated 31st May 1911, No. 735.

Please ask also the Teachers' Guild, the Council of Aided Education, the Council of Native Education, as well as the Senate.

V. K[RISHNASWAMI AIYAR]—7-6-11.

Take Honourable Member's orders as to the reference.

L. DAVIDSON—8-6-11.

It is for consideration whether the letter from the Government of India may be referred to the Madras Teachers' Guild and the other bodies suggested by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar. If it may be so referred, the draft submitted may issue.

T.K.—12-6-11.

Please see paragraph 2 of India's letter, from which it will be observed that the proposal for immediate consideration is the introduction of the system of reports in Government High Schools and Colleges. There appears, however, to be no objection to eliciting the opinions of the bodies mentioned by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—12 6-11.

M. S. MASCARENHAS—12-6-11.

For orders as to the authorities to be consulted. The memorandum should, I think, be made complete in itself if communicated to other persons than the Director of Public Instruction, also it seems better to ask the Director of Public Instruction to ascertain the views of the councils and Guild mentioned rather than to deal directly with them. Is it again the Senate or the Syndicate which should be consulted?

L. DAVIDSON—12-6-11.

Yes. The Director of Public Instruction had better get their opinions and I think the Syndicate will be better than the Senate. It will take much longer to get the opinion of the Senate. What we really want to know are the facts—as to the propriety of the course suggested by India, I should think there could be but one opinion. The more the parents are taken into confidence by the masters of the schools the better.

M. H[AMMICK]—15-6-11.

Issue.

M. S. MASCARENHAS—12-6-11.

[Memorandum No. 1311-1, dated 16th June 1911.]

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 29th September 1911,
No. 4051-1.

The Government of India enquire whether any periodical reports are made by educational authorities in this Presidency to parents or guardians of students or pupils under their charge. They are disposed to think that parents and guardians of pupils have been somewhat ignored in the Indian Educational system and that there has been too much of dealing directly with pupils in the matter of admission fees, transfer, progress and residential arrangements and they desire to be furnished with the opinion of this Government regarding the introduction or development of a system of reports, which they consider might, in the first instance, be limited to Government high schools and colleges, whose example, if the experiment were a success, would probably be followed by aided and even unaided schools.

2. As directed in Memorandum No. 1311-1, dated 16th June 1911, the Director of Public Instruction has consulted the Syndicate of the Madras University, the Missionary Council on Aided Education, the Council of Native Education and the Teachers' Guild and he submits their opinions on the questions raised by the Government of India. A summary of the views expressed by these bodies and by the Director of Public Instruction is given below :—

Progress reports in secondary schools.—In many secondary schools the practice in this presidency is to send periodical reports of the progress of pupils to parents or guardians either monthly or at the end of each term and in the case of admissions or transfers of pupils from one school to another, the Madras Educational rules make it obligatory on parents to sign the application and withdrawal forms. It is however undesirable to require a universal system of such reports because—

- (1) of the illiteracy of many of the parents,
- (2) the secondary school leaving certificate scheme allows parents to call for their sons' certificates so that they may be informed of their sons' progress in the high school forms; and
- (3) most schools are not provided with sufficient staff to undertake this additional work.

Progress reports in colleges.—In colleges, it is not the practice at present to send periodical reports of the progress of students to parents or guardians, and however advisable these reports may be in the case of schools they are not suited to the circumstances of colleges. In the first place, they are unnecessary as most of the students are of legal age. Secondly, they are not feasible, as the conditions of study in colleges, where the classes are comparatively large and where the lecture system prevails, are such that it is not possible to gauge the progress of students during the term in a satisfactory manner. The wishes of parents are consulted before the students are admitted into hostels.

The general sense of those consulted is that there is no need to have more stringent rules on the subject than those already in force.

3. The Director of Public Instruction, while agreeing generally in the above view, points out that in this presidency parents and guardians of pupils have not been ignored, especially as rules 43 and 45 of the Educational rules require that admissions and transfers in schools should be made only with the consent of the parents and guardians. He states that periodical reports now issue from the Teachers' college and that he will take steps to have the system extended to other Government high schools for boys.

4. As regards residential arrangements for students, the Director states that the University insists on college students living with relatives or guardians or in hostels or in approved lodgings (Regulation 385 on page 241 of Vol. I of the University Calendar) and that a similar provision in the case of schools is very desirable. He considers that schools should be required as a condition of recognition to take the same kind of action as colleges are now expected to take, that is, to make provision for the residence, in the schools or in approved lodgings, of students not residing with their parents or guardians and for the supervision and physical welfare of such students—*cf.* Regulation 376 (c) on pages 237 and 238 of the University Calendar, Vol. I. He is of opinion that it might be possible to institute a system of licensing lodging

houses by the Inspectors on the recommendations of school authorities and proposes to examine the feasibility of the scheme, and if it appears practicable, to submit rules for the consideration of Government.

5. The proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to extend the system of periodical reports to all Government high schools for boys may, it is submitted, be approved. The Government of India attach great importance to the hostel or residential system in connection with high schools (*vide* paragraph 5 of Home department letter No. 597, dated 8th June 1910, on page 3 of G.O. No. 501, Educational, dated 25th August 1910) and in paragraph 9 of letter No. 502, Educational, dated 25th August 1910, this Government have undertaken to provide hostels for students in connection with the proposed model high schools. If any real benefit is to be derived by the introduction of the residential system in secondary schools, non-Government schools should be required and enabled to provide hostels for students and the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to make the provision of residence for pupils in secondary schools a condition of recognition has much to recommend it. He may also be told to examine the feasibility of a system of licensing lodging houses.

6. As to the reply to be sent to the Government of India, it is for consideration whether that Government may be informed of the practice obtaining in this presidency as regards periodical reports and of the further action which it is proposed to take in the matter, pointing out at the same time the undesirability of taking more stringent measures.

T.K.—23-10-11.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—25-10-11.

Please print currents and note.

L. DAVIDSON—26-10-11.

Papers have been printed and are submitted.

T.K.—8-11-11.

R. SUNDARAM AIYAR—8-11-11.

India may be answered on the lines of paragraphs 1-3 of the Director of Public Instruction's letter. Paragraph 4 raises a new issue unconnected with the relations between parents and schoolmasters. This may be separately examined.

L. DAVIDSON—9-11-11.

I agree.

M. H[AMMICK]—11-11-11.

Without making reports to parents or guardians absolutely *stringent* we may agree that they are desirable. Heads of institutions should as far as possible communicate to the guardians periodically the progress of boys. This used to be done by Mr. E. Thompson who was the most popular Principal of the Presidency College for many years, even in the case of the college students. Principals are now in less touch with the boys and are therefore unable to report. I think a revival of Mr. Thompson's practice is most beneficial. The Rev. Dr. Miller used to write letters to the parents. The opinions of the Syndicate Committee and of the Missionary Council and the Teachers' Guild merely reflect the present lack of sympathetic interest in the boys of principals of colleges. I am inclined to express agreement with the principle indicated by the Government of India.

V. K[RISHNASWAMI AIYAR]—16-11-11.

Two drafts are placed for approval.

R. SUNDARAM AIYAR—24-11-11.

Revised.

The drafts are for approval.

L. DAVIDSON—27-11-11.

Approved.

M. H[AMMICK]—29-11-11.

Read

Letter from the Govt. of India, No. 735, dated 31-5-11.

,, from the D.P.I., No. 4051, dated 29-9-1911.

ORDER:- No 844 830. 11. 11.
P.S.

The Government agree with the Director of Public Instruction as to the expedience of providing for the submission to parents and guardians of periodical reports regarding the progress of pupils studying in high schools and they approve his suggestion that the procedure now obtaining in the Teachers College should be extended to Government high schools for boys and commended to the heads of private institutions of the same grade. Colleges come under a different category as the students have in many cases attained their majority and, for that reason, the same methods cannot be prescribed. But it is none the less desirable that, wherever possible, the principals of colleges should keep in touch with the parents of students under their care.

2. The Government await a further communication from the Director in regard to the feasibility of licensing lodging houses to which reference is made in paragraph 4 of his letter.

3. The following letter will be addressed to the Government of India.

To
The D.P.I.
S. G. P. S. 11/1/12
1-12-11

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30/11

Letter. 12845-830. 11. 11.

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Department of Education,
(Education).

Sir,

I am directed to submit the following
reply to the Hon'ble Mr. Sharp's letter
No. 735 dated 31st May 1911.

2. While in agreement with the Govern-
ment of India as to the expedience of furnish-
ing parents and guardians with periodical
reports on the progress made by students and
pupils in educational institutions, His --
Excellency the Governor in Council desires
to observe that, so far ~~on~~ as the
Madras Presidency is concerned, parents and
guardians have in no way been ignored by the
Depart^{ment} of Public Instruction. Particular
care has been taken to ensure that admissions
to schools and transfers from one school to
another shall be under their control. The
consent of the parent or guardian is definite-
ly prescribed in rules 43 and 45 of the
Educational Rules, and, though in such matters
the control exercised is often deplorably
weak and the real decision is left in the
hands of the pupils themselves, it may be
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proportion of literate parents the rules on
the subject will become increasingly effect-
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the students are for the most part legally
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3. The only Government institution in which periodical progress reports are at present made to parents or guardians is the Teachers' College at Saidapet, but this procedure is stated to be by no means uncommon in private high schools. Arrangements will now be made to extend it to Government high schools for boys and to encourage the managers of private institutions to adopt the same ^{system} ~~system~~. In the latter case, any attempt at compulsion would be inexpedient owing to deficiencies of staff which render it necessary to proceed cautiously in prescribing additional clerical work. It should not be forgotten in this connection that, under the scheme for the grant of secondary school leaving certificates, parents have the option of calling for these certificates ^{thus} and ~~these~~ need not be left in ignorance of their sons' progress in the high school forms.

I have etc.

60.
27-11-44

ORDINARY.

PRESS SLIP.

PREFERENCE.

URGENT (a).

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Current No., dated 190 ..

G.O., No. *8445*, dated *30-11-1911*.

Number of MS. pages sent { Correspondence including order or orders
(b)
(b)
Notes.....

Docket. *Reports*

Under the remarks of this P.O. No. 8445, dated 30-11-1911, for widening periodical reports, I have drawn up a report of the progress of the work of the school for the year 1910-11.

Number (c) of copies required when struck off (not including copies for volumes and editors' table which are retained in the Press).

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(b) For rules regarding printing of notes, see the rules in G.O. No. 1220, Public, dated 30th November 1900.

(c) The number of copies and the details of distribution should be filled in by the Superintendent or Referencee concerned.

(d) In the absence of special instructions to the Press to keep matter standing for a specified period, ordinary papers of 8 pages and under will be kept standing for one week, and larger papers for two weeks only. The type of notes and of all confidential papers is distributed immediately after striking.

(e) This slip, properly and completely filled in, should accompany every paper sent to Press; it will be returned by the Press when proofs are furnished; it should be sent to the Press when a call is made for revised proofs or when a corrected proof is sent for striking. When finally returned by Press it should be filed with the original order or letter.

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(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, but only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

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* To be initialed and dated.

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.....Clerk.

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