

Educational (1912). Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 260

DATED 20. 3. 12

[Despatch Abstract.]

School gardens & Open air school,
Recording papers relating to
a communication received from
Miss H. L. Forbes, Bombay, on
the subject of—

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[1. L.]
1.

1,000-17-11-11.

DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT FILE.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number	Date.	Original (=O.) or spare copy (=S.C.)	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of clerk with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S.C.).	Initials with date of (1) clerk of the Chief Secretariat department acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to departments outside the Chief Secretariat.

Est.



University Settlement.

Procter Road.

Girgaum. Bombay.

11th. Feb. 1912.

Miss M. L. Forbes respectfully begs to submit the
enclosed suggestions, sent by her in an article to the Pioneer
recently, to the Government of Madras for their consideration.

M. L. Forbes

7/12

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Proctor Road.

Bombay. Girgaum.

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M. I. Forbes

of physical
industry

SCHOOL GARDENS AND OPEN AIR SCHOOLS.

While more weighty matters are agitating the minds of the educational world in India, the school garden has become a very important factor for promoting development in the life of the schools of the West. The school garden is not unknown in our country, but we have very feebly grasped its intention, and there has been no great effort to establish its up-keep as part of the school system for all round development. That it has this value is evident from the importance attached to it in the schools of Canada, the United States, and Europe. In Philadelphia alone about 40,000 children are being trained in elementary agriculture by means of the little school gardens and there are 35,000 home gardens kept up by the day scholars and the interest and supervision of the teachers. Italy to-day refuses to accept a building for a school unless it has enough room for school gardens as well as school sports; and France and Germany and Belgium have thousands of these pleasant and useful aids to education. Sweden took up the idea as far back as '69 with wonderful results.

Owing to many causes not necessary to go into here, it is not easy to make innovations in any direction in India, even in schools. They are generally treated with suspicion and dislike, but the school garden system under right management should not be difficult to introduce and make popular in our

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Anglo-Indian schools and indeed in all others. Gardening is a universal delight, and nowhere more so than in India, and an annual horticultural show in the school grounds to which the parents and friends would be invited to inspect the produce and see prizes awarded to the best exhibits (both flowers and vegetables) would not fail to become a popular event in the school, and awaken real enthusiasm for this useful and delightful work.

Writing of out of door matters brings to mind another of the long strides towards ideal education for the young that Germany is making through her open air schools. The open air school is not an expensive one, a mere roof to keep off sun and rain, but that is all it needs. We have not even in England attempted to adopt this simple plan, but I hope the time is not distant when we shall realize its advantages. What a treat for the children such schools would be in India, and what a change from the colourless white-washed room that furnishes no ideas, soothes no tired nerves, and from which the eye shrinks with pain when the walls reflect the glare without. With what satisfaction would the little ones settle down to work surrounded by the happier influences of nature, the song of birds, the scent of the pines, and the alluring chir of insect life in the grass. The open air school would have to be in the hills of course. These were the surroundings dreamed of by Froebel for his Kindergarten, where the child nature expanding like a flower would grow like other forms in nature into a full and perfect understanding of the whole of the beautiful mysteries.

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to reforms

India has, unfortunately many drawbacks, and opposes too many prejudices, for an innovation of this kind to be introduced right away, but could not the Government try the experiment with some one school- the Kindergarten part of it, that is Our hill stations afford every advantage for testing such an enterprise, in the dry season before and after the rains. The benefit to the children would be enormous.

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Educational Dept
(no 497)

Encl. No 497 - 1 of 19.2.12

Referred to the D.P.D.

for remarks in continuation of

linked file K.

memo. no 350-1 of 14.2.12.

16.2.12 Re 17.2.12

Wom 17/2/12

16.2.12 7A

To

The D.P.D.

20/2/12

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Received 191 Registered 4 3 1912



Subject.

Returning with remarks Government endorsement No. 497-1., dated 19th February 1912, regarding certain suggestions made by Miss M.L. Forbes on the subject of school gardens and open air schools.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

Ref on Cur No. 1308 / 12.

Spare copies

Station, Madras, Dated the 2nd March 1912.

From (Name) The Hon'ble Mr. A.G. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S., C.I.E.,

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department,

Sir,

In returning herewith the enclosure received with your endorsement No. 497-1, dated 19th February 1912, regarding certain suggestions made by Miss M.L. Forbes on the subject of school gardens and open air schools, I have the honour to state that the department is already doing what it can to contend with dearth of water, superabundance of goats and cattle, apathy on the part of teachers and pupils, and to establish school gardens. Miss Forbes, a copy of whose letter to me is enclosed, appears to be somewhat of a visionary in search of employment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R. A. Arivu

for Director of Public Instruction.

M. S. S.

✓ 6
Missionary Settlement,
Girgaum, B o m b a y,
15th February 1912.

Sir,

I have been advised to write to your office with regard to the enclosed suggestion "School gardens and open air schools," written by me for the "Pioneer." I have had some experience of home gardening in the North of India, and I would undertake such instruction very willingly if the department was desirous of making the experiment. I have been training in the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission training school for Kindergarten teachers in this city, for six months, but the training is not very thorough - this I trust you will treat confidentially, the school is too poorly staffed to train properly - and Malaria is too prevalent in this particular suburb of Bombay, and I have been obliged to give up the experiment.

Should you desire references you might write to my brother-in-law Mr. J.C. Smith, I.C.S., Collector, Azamgarh, U.P., or to Canon Oldham, Allahabad, U.P., or to Captain or Mrs. Fitzroy Clark, 20th Deccan Horse, Bangalore, or to Colonel A. Lindesay, 24th Punjabees, Saugor, C.P. These are all personal friends of my family, and they will be delighted to answer any questions you may wish to ask.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd) (Miss) M.L. Forbes.

(True Copy)

R.A. Arise.
for Director of Public Instruction.

M. S. S.

NOTE FILE.

C.No.497, From Miss.M.L.Forbes, No--., dated 11th February 1912.

Subject.

School gardens and open air schools.

Miss Forbes's communication may be referred to the D.P.I. for remarks.

2. The question of opening school gardens is now under the consideration of Govt. The D.P.I. has been requested to report the approximate cost of a set of gardening tools required for a school containing about 75 boys and the amount which could profitably be expended on encouraging the formation of school gardens during 1912-13. Vide memo No.2626-1, dated 20th November 1911. Nothing appears to be done in this Presidency as regards open-air schools and the Director may have some useful remarks to offer on Miss. Forbes's suggestion in this matter.

3. The draft below is for approval.

78/
16.2.12 *Re*
17.2.12.

[Memo. no. 497-1 & 19-2-12]

From the D.P.I. Memo-1308- & 2-3-12

The D.P.I. does not recommend that any action be taken in the matter - The papers may be recorded. The draft below is for approval.

Box No 44
14-3-1912

78/
13.3.12 *Re*
13.3.12 *20.3.12*

LT.
14.3.12

In the linked file E
separately submitted
for orders.
2. Govt. 845.45A & 20.9.12



READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191

191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 497, From the Miss M. L. Franks, No. _____, dated 11-2-1912

77 77 681 , 77 299 , 77 1308 , 77 2-3- 1912

" " ; " " ; " " , " " 191

ORDER.

No. 200, dated 20-3-1912

Miss

Recorded.

5
14.3.1

$$\frac{74}{13.012} \text{ Re}$$

Best $\frac{1}{2}$
 $\frac{20}{2}$

To The D.P.O. *[Signature]*
2/3/12

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____, DATED
 191

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
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