

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1912.

Enclosures

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G.O. No. 375, 1st May 1912.

Oriental studies.

Communicating to the Director of Public Instruction for report letter from the Government of India on the subject of the cultivation and improvement of —.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

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

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

Dated—Simla, the 3rd April 1912.

No.—800.

I am directed to invite your attention to the Proceedings of the Conference of Orientalists held at Simla last July and to say that the Government of India attach much importance to the encouragement of the ancient learning of the country and the improvement of instruction in the classical languages of India.

2. First, as regards the cultivation and improvement of oriental studies on western lines the main proposal of the conference was the establishment of a Central Research Institute on lines somewhat similar to those of the Ecole Française d'Extreme Orient at Hanoi. The question was discussed whether research could not be carried on at the existing universities; but the opinion preponderated that it would be difficult to create the appropriate atmosphere of oriental study in our universities as at present constituted, that it was desirable to have in one institution scholars working on different branches of the kindred subjects which comprise orientalia and that for reasons of economy it was preferable to start with one institute well equipped with a first-class library. At the same time there was a general desire that the Central Institute should not be isolated, that it should receive students from all parts of India and that it should combine its activities with those of the universities of India and other seats of learning by courses of lectures, exchange of views and in other ways that may develop. The Central Research Institute should, it was thought, consist of a few first-class instructors, European and Indian, engaged in research with a few lecturers and a few students some of whom would be given fellowships pending their appointment at universities or colleges. In this way it was hoped to provide Indians highly trained in original work who would enable schools of Indian history and archæology to be founded and build up research in the universities and colleges of the different provinces. It was also hoped to attract in time *pandits* and *maulvis* of eminence to give lectures in their special subjects and so to create a flow of the highest scholarship of both the old and the new school throughout India. The Government of India have decided to recommend the establishment of such an institute at Delhi to the Secretary of State. When it has commenced work Local Governments will be addressed as to the best means of co-operation with existing institutions.

3. Secondly, there was a general consensus of opinion at the conference that it was necessary to retain separately the ancient and indigenous systems of instruction, that the world of scholarship would suffer irreparable loss if the old type of *pandit* and *maulvi* were to die out, and that what was needed to promote the indigenous systems was encouragement rather than reform. A few *pandits* and *maulvis* might, it was thought, be trained in modern ways of research but only after they had had a thorough training as *pandits* and *maulvis*. This conclusion referred mainly to the older schools of learning; for there are institutions in India which already combine the old and new methods of instruction. The Government of India are inclined to think that the opinion of the conference on this point is borne out by experience, and should His

Excellency in Council be of the same opinion, they would be glad to receive suggestions for the encouragement of the old systems of learning in the Presidency of Madras.

4. The proposals for encouragement made at the conference were—

(a) Grants to Sanskrit colleges, Madrasas, tols, pathshalas, Maktabas and other institutions to secure better salaries for teachers and to enable students by fellowships or scholarships to carry their education to the highest point possible.

(b) The appointment of specially qualified Inspectors.

(c) The provision of posts for highly trained *pandits* and *maulvis*.

(d) The grant of money rewards for original work.

It was recognised, however, that conditions varied greatly in different parts of India and in different institutions and that in certain provinces action has already been taken by the Local Government in recent years. The Government of India would be glad to assist financially, so far as funds permit, any practical schemes on these lines which may be approved by the Local Governments and themselves.

5. Thirdly, the collection and cataloguing of ancient manuscripts was strongly urged by the conference as a work of pressing necessity. Manuscripts are more and more leaving India for the libraries and museums of foreign countries and it is important to keep them in India. It is also a debt of scholarship due to the world to publish *catalogues raisonnés* of such manuscripts. To this matter also the Government of India attach much importance, and are prepared to assist Local Governments in the carrying out of definite schemes.

6. A fourth matter to which great importance was attached by the conference was the need for the revision of the University courses for arts degrees with a view to the combination of cognate subjects, such, for instance, as the study of a classical language with a study of the philosophy and history of a nation. The Government of India will be glad to have the views of the Local Government as to how far effect can be given to this recommendation.

7. I am to invite the attention of His Excellency the Governor in Council to the suggestion made by Dr. Stein in paragraph 11 of his letter, dated the 4th July 1911 (page 58 of the Report of the Proceedings of the Conference of Orientalists held at Simla, July 1911), that Indians of recognized scholarly merits, whether on traditional or modern western lines, should be nominated to consultative public bodies, University Fellowships and the like as a means of adding to the good report of ancient learning in India.

8. The improvement of the teaching of Sanskrit in schools and the encouragement of students trained in the modern and critical method possibly by means analogous to those described in paragraph 4 of this letter as applicable to *pandits* and *maulvis* will no doubt engage the attention of the Government of Madras.

9. With these observations I am to commend to His Excellency the Governor in Council the consideration of this important question as a whole. The Government of India are convinced that from the political no less than the educational point of view it is one of the most important questions in India at the present time, and as already indicated they are prepared to assist as liberally as funds may permit any practical schemes for the better cultivation of the ancient languages of India.

Order—No. 375, Educational, dated 1st May 1912.

The letter from the Government of India on the subject of the cultivation and improvement of oriental studies will be communicated to the Director of Public Instruction with the request that he will submit a report showing precisely—

- (i) what has been done in regard to the matters referred to therein;
- (ii) what further schemes he would suggest to give effect to the proposals of the Government of India; and
- (iii) what funds will be required to carry them out.

2. The report should have special reference to the following subjects:—

- (1) the encouragement of the ancient and indigenous systems of instruction in this Presidency;
- (2) the grant of money rewards for original works;
- (3) the collection and cataloguing of ancient manuscripts;
- (4) the revision of the University courses for arts degrees with a view to the combination of cognate subjects such as the study of a classical language with a study of the philosophy and history of a nation;
- (5) the improvement of the teaching of Sanskrit in schools; and
- (6) the encouragement of students trained in the modern and critical method of language study.

3. In submitting his report, the Director will be requested to give his opinion as to the steps that might be taken in this Presidency for the encouragement of the study of Arabic and Persian on similar lines and whether there is any real scope for such developments.

4. The Director of Public Instruction's attention will be drawn to paragraph 7 of the letter, and he will be requested to bear in mind the suggestion of the Government of India contained therein when making appointments to the Text-book committee and the like or recommendations for appointments as Fellows of the Madras University.

(True Extract.)

T. E. MOIR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, Financial Department.

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

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(ii) what further schemes he would suggest to give effect to the proposals of the Government of India; and

(iii) what funds will be required to carry them out.

No. 375, EDUCATIONAL, 1ST MAY 1912.

C.No.1101, from the Govt. of India, No.800, dated 3rd April 1912.

4

2. The report should have special reference to the following subjects:—

- (1) the encouragement of the ancient and indigenous systems of instruction in this Presidency;
- (2) the grant of money rewards for original works;
- (3) the collection and cataloguing of ancient manuscripts;
- (4) the revision of the University courses for arts degrees with a view to the combination of cognate subjects such as the study of a classical language with a study of the philosophy and history of a nation;
- (5) the improvement of the teaching of Sanskrit in schools; and
- (6) the encouragement of students trained in the modern and critical method of language study.

3. In submitting his report, the Director will be requested to give his opinion as to the steps that might be taken in this Presidency for the encouragement of the study of Arabic and Persian on similar lines and whether there is any real scope for such developments.

4. The Director of Public Instruction's attention will be drawn to paragraph 7 of the letter, and he will be requested to bear in mind the suggestion of the Government of India contained therein when making appointments to the Text-book committee and the like or recommendations for appointments as Fellows of the Madras University.

(True Extract.)

T. E. MOIR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Financial Department.

ORDER: No. 375 B, 1-5-12
P.S.

The letter from the Government of India on the subject of the cultivation and improvement of oriental studies will be communicated to the Director of Public Instruction with the request that he will submit a report showing precisely

(i) what has been done in regard to the matters referred to therein;

~~(ii) what yet remains to be done;~~

~~(iii) what schemes he proposes to~~

give effect to the proposals of the Government of India; and

~~(iv) what funds will be required to carry them out.~~

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(3) the collection and cataloguing of ancient manuscripts;

(4) the revision of the University courses for arts degrees with a view to the combination of cognate subjects such as the study of a

classical

not for E.T.

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6
classical language with a study of the philosophy and history of a nation;

(5) the improvement of the teaching of Sanskrit in schools; and

(6) the encouragement of students trained in the modern and critical method of language study.

3. In submitting his report, the Director will be requested to ^{give his} ~~refer to~~ ^{opinion as to the steps that ought to} ~~the question of the scope that exists~~

~~taken~~ in this Presidency for the encouragement of the study of Arabic and Persian. ^{any in special or fine chapters there is not scope for such development to.}

4. The Director of Public

Instruction's attention will be drawn to paragraph 7 of the letter and he will be requested to bear in mind the suggestion of the Government of India contained therein when making appointments to the Text-book committee and the like and when ^{or} ~~making~~ recommendations for ^{at} ~~the~~ appointments of Fellows of the University, and to give due ^{where} ~~consideration to the claims of Indians~~ of recognized scholarly merit.

T.B. CA
1-5-12 1-5-12

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To the D.P.I.

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