

Educational

Local & Munl. (1912) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 460

DATED

29-5-1912

(95)

Port Blair school [Despatch Abstract.]

Receiving papers relating to a letter
written by N S Rao to the Indian Patent
of the 8th May 1912 on 'school inspectors'
determining its result in relation to
~~Port Blair school~~ at Contantin.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

200-1-5-08.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Est. No. 1417
15-5-12

No 299-C
9-5-12

C.I.D.

2

Name of Publication - Indian Patriot

Date-- 8th May 1912

Page-- 3

Column-- 4

CURRENT NO.
1549
JUDICIAL

Regd 11.5.12

CHIEF SECRETARY
10-MAY-1912
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SUBJECT.

A letter written by one V.S.Rao, under the heading;-

" School Inspector's obstinacy and its result"

Submitted to the Chief Secretary for perusal.

[Signature]

Jud. Department.

us

The cutting may be transferred to the Educational Department.

For: G.O. 1549-76512
14.5.12
F.D.

us
15.5.12

us
14.5.12

School Inspector's Obstnacy and its Result.

[To the Editor of the "Indian Patriot."]

Sir,--There is a Government Training School at Coimbatore which trains teachers not only of the Elementary grade but also of the Secondary grade. Every year the authorities find it difficult to get even half a dozen teachers of the Secondary grade for admission into that school. Last year there were about 12 or 13 teachers. Coimbatore was once a very healthy and cool place, but it has now become a hot bed for the dire diseases--Cholera and plague. Every year these two diseases makes it a point to visit the town regularly and carry away a number of people old and young, women and children. This is one of the many reasons that prevent teachers from choosing to go to Coimbatore for training. They prefer Saidapet or Tanjore or any other place. But the Inspector every year, by his threats forces teachers in different schools in his circle to go to Coimbatore and Coimbatore alone and would not allow them to go to any other place. Poor teachers, What could they do! With fear they quietly yield to the Inspector's threats and join the School. And lo! What do they see there? All on a sudden the plague makes its appearance as usual and compels the citizens to leave their dear homes and reside in out of the way corners in the surrounding villages and immediately the town is evacuated and nothing is seen but grim death staring and opening its Jaws and devouring hundreds of poor people and creating terror in the minds of the few that choose to stay in the town in spite of the terrible havoc done by plague and cholera. Last year was an extraordinary year of great mortality. Many hundreds of people died in the course of a few months. Almost all the teachers who want to Coimbatore for training were people belonging to different places of the Inspector's Circle. Many of them were young and were living in hotels. When they saw that plague and Cholera were raging furiously in the whole town taking away the lives of so many men, women and children all the pupil teachers in a body applied to the Inspector most humbly praying for the removal of the school to Trichinopoly or to any other place which was free from plague and where they could, with free mind and without any anxiety and fear of plague undergo their course of training and leave the school at the end of the year. The Inspector was stern and stubborn and flatly refused to comply with their request. Then they applied to the Director and here again the unsympathetic Inspector would not forward their petition to the D. P. I. with his recommendation. Then again the poor teachers wired to the D. P. I., who made his appearance at Coimbatore and the teachers represented their grievances to him in person and requested him to have the Training School removed temporarily to some healthier place until the plague at Coimbatore subsided. The D. P. I.,

too was very unsympathetic and told the petitioners that their Inspector would do everything for them and then quietly went away. The teachers then had no other go but to have the place to their respective native villages to escape from the clutches of Plague and death. They were threatened with dismissal and loss of stipends and so on. But their life was more important and precious and they would not return. Some time passed like this and the teachers began to return to their school as plague was subsiding. Almost all returned. All on a sudden two of the returned teachers were attacked with plague one of them was married and belonged to Erode and the other was a bachelor and was living with his brother at Coimbatore itself. The married teacher was at once removed to Erode and there fell a sad victim to that dire disease, leaving behind him his poor little wife without any one to help her, and the bachelor teacher also died of plague at Coimbatore. Thus, you see that, on account of the stubbornness of the Inspector in the matter of temporarily removing the school to a better place, two poor and helpless teachers fell victims to that dreadful disease. If they had not returned to Coimbatore after their brief absence from the town or if the school had been transferred to a healthier place as requested by the teachers under training, these two precious souls, precious to their wives and parents but not so to the Inspector or Director, would not have been lost and would not have been left helpless. Now, who is responsible for the loss of their lives? Is it the Inspector or the Director? If either of them had been a little more sympathetic with the teachers, those lives would have been saved and the Inspector or the Director would have earned a better name and fame and it would have raised them very high in the estimation not only of teachers but also their parents and their

dear kith and kin. The Inspector is entirely to blame in the matter. Because he is young and inexperienced and it was he that sternly refused to comply with the humble and reasonable request of the teachers under training. It is but natural and just that the nearest and dearest hangers-on of the two poor teachers that fell a prey to plague should be given some gratuity or some allowance either by Government or by the officers who were responsible for the loss of their lives while in the act of performing public duty. Such is the sad result of appointing young and inexperienced men, just fresh from college to responsible and independent posts. The men so appointed should be experienced and sympathetic and respectful to the feelings of the people who are under their charge and care. It is earnestly hoped that the Inspector in question will hence forward be more sympathetic and generous towards his subordinates whenever any just and reasonable request is made to him.

V. S. Rao.

both
residents of
Coimbatore town
or district.
S

CONFIDENTIAL.3
Encl no 1454
18-5-12

C.I.D.

CURRENT NO.

1612

CONFIDENTIAL

Name of Publication - The Indian Patriot.

Date-- 9th May 1912

Page-- 4

Column-- 3

CHIEF SECRETARY
11 MAY 1912
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

SUBJECT.

"Training to death"

A comment on the letter written by V.S.Rao under the heading "School Inspectors obstinacy and its result"

forwarded under this office No 299/C dated 9th May 1912.

Submitted to the Chief Secretary for perusal.

W. S. Rao

uo.

This may be transferred to Eol, uo.

uo.
14-5-12

20/15-5-12

20/15-5-12

20/15-5-12

F.S.
Jua: 8.0 1612-1
17.5.12
Eol uo.
S.K.

no 300/6

10-5-12

* Sent to Eol.
uo. 14-5-12

TRAINING TO DEATH.

The attention of the Government deserves to be promptly and prominently given to the serious charge that was brought against an Inspector of Schools by a correspondent in the *Indian Patriot* of yesterday. The attention of the public, we have no doubt, has been already given to it. Some school masters, who were to undergo a course of training, were compelled to attend the Coimbatore College. They protested from the very first because Coimbatore was a plague infected place. But the Inspector of Schools was inexorable. He would have them attend the Coimbatore College, no doubt because that institution should be fed. There is no use of maintaining an institution if pupils are not forthcoming. Between loss of appointment and plague scare, the inconvenience and danger of evacuation, the poor paid school masters chose what appeared to them the lesser danger. They braved the Coimbatore climate. Plague broke out. The people ran away from the place. Our school masters ran away also. They braved official displeasure and threatened loss of stipends, which to them, meant loss of the means of livelihood. When the plague showed signs of abatement the school masters returned with the first returning citizens; and the result was that two of them were attacked with plague and died. This is the painful story told by our correspondent. Such a story, about the dumb driven cattle, as the school masters are treated, will not fail to create a deep impression in the minds of the public. Similar treatment accorded to Indian immigrants in Travancore would have evoked protests from one end of the country to the other. Is life so valueless that it can play hide and seek with death? Did the school masters request that they may be sent to Trichinopoly instead of to Coimbatore because of the prevalence of plague? Did the Inspector of Schools refuse that request, and did the Director of Public Instruction also refuse it? Did the school masters join the Coimbatore College, and did two of their number succumb to plague? These questions are answered by our correspondent; when the Government answers these questions also, the Government will be satisfied that departmental discipline has been pressed too far. Nothing would have been easier than to accede to the request of the fated school masters to go to some place other than Coimbatore. School masters are not warriors expected to face the dangers of disease. That attitude of mind could not be construed as cowardice that would succumb to the touch of self-preservation, and would instinctively fly from a plague stricken area. We have no reason to doubt the truth of the facts given by our correspondent; and we should be surprised if these facts, as they spread, are not exaggerated by credulous hearts. The lot of the Indian school master is bad, but it must be worse than has yet been thought of, if the legitimate representations of the instructors of children should be summarily disposed of, and their pleadings for very life relegated to the lumber room of Government departments.

a charge made some
many months
after the arrival

What about limitations
of stip & accommodation?
The much? school is
probably full up.

Educational Dept.

Submitted that the newspaper cuttings may be forwarded us. to the A.D. for remarks.

SK CA See
18.5.12 19.5.12

mem
20.5.12

Note the plague statistics in Coimbatore town during the period to which reference is probably made. - also in Erode town.

LD.
21.5.12

If this is true, the statement that one teacher died of plague in Erode is not a fact.
D.S.
22.5.12

In the official year 1911-12, Erode town was free from plague. In Coimbatore town plague broke out in Jan. 1911 and continued till February last.

	S.	D.
June 1911	14	5
July "	59	44
Aug. "	152	118
Sept. "	193	152
Oct. "	230	176
Nov. "	158	107
Dec. "	91	61
Jan. 1912	107	71
Feb. "	27	21

LD.
21.5.12

No definite indication is given in the articles of the time about which

X
the incidents referred to occurred. This
was given as 'last year'.

CA
22/5/12

and the newspaper comment is
deferred until May in this year.

~~There are no records to be made~~

~~There~~ If there had been any
real violence, complaint shd.
have been made to Govt at
the time. Of the two deaths one was
of a permanent resident at
Coimbatore; the other is said to
have occurred at Erode, a dete-
-ment which is belied by our
statistics.

22/5/12

Est. No. 1454-1
22-5-12

27/5/12

D.P. 1 no. for remarks.

Jour No. 23 of 12/3/27.5.12

We have sometimes transferred
a training school but always take
the advice of the District Surgeon and
the Collector. In this case (last
year) they opposed a transfer
Mr Stone and Mr Kershaw discussed
the matter at Coimbatore and
decided against any transfer - The Hindu
had requested one.

KW 26/5/12



NOTES.

Page 7

8

For orders as to whether the matter
may be dropped.

Miss No 460
29-5-12

CA
28/5/12

order ✓
Is. Recorded
2/5/12

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____ } 191

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

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C, 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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