

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

} 1913.

Enclosures

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O. No. 949, 14th October 1913.

Manufacture of Madras handkerchiefs.

Forwarding to the Under Secretary of State for India a copy of Dr. Marsden's report on the use of inferior dyes in the manufacture of Madras handkerchiefs intended for export.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

G.O. No. 402, Educational, dated 3rd May 1913.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Tinctorial Expert to discourage the use of inferior dyes likely to injure the export demand for handkerchiefs and addressing the Under Secretary of State for India on the subject.

II

Letter—from F. MARSDEN, Esq., PH.D., M.Sc., Tinctorial Expert, Madura.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department (through the Director of Public Instruction).
Dated—the 2nd September 1913.
No.—53.

In reference to Educational Order No. 402 of May 1913, in which the Dyeing Expert is instructed to make enquiry as to where certain Madras handkerchiefs had been dyed and to take steps to discourage the use of inferior dyes, I have the honour to submit the following report.

The Madras handkerchief is a cloth woven in pieces some 8 yards long and 36 inches wide, with white and coloured yarns which give a variegated check effect. The weft is woven in the wet condition and the dyes employed upon the yarns must "bleed" a little, so that the dye is transferred at the points of intersection of the warp and weft from one thread to the other to a slight extent, and solidification and mellowing of the colour effect is thus obtained.

The manufacture is carried on in the districts north of Madras, especially at Arni and around Nellore, and in the Cuddapah district.

The article appears to be made in three grades or qualities, known as "superior," "medium" and "ordinary," the weft yarns being 32's and 40's counts and the warps of 40's to 60's. The difference between the three qualities appears to be most pronounced with respect to the dyestuffs used in dyeing the yarns; for whereas in the superior quality the colours may be classed as *good*, in the other qualities the colours do not appear to be generally satisfactory. From my enquiries I gathered that it is only with regard to these inferior qualities the complaints have arisen and although I was unable to discover exactly where the goods complained of had been manufactured I gathered that this quality was largely made in the Cuddapah district.

The largest trade appears to have been carried on in the ordinary quality, the bulk of the shipments going to the United Kingdom, and small quantities to Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and France. The value of the total exports of handkerchiefs and shawls in the piece from the Madras Presidency for the years 1908-13 is given in the review of sea-borne trade as—

	RS.
1908-09	9,81,149
1909-10	8,93,482
1910-11	10,80,895
1911-12	14,53,387
1912-13	10,80,927

I gathered from the merchants that a year or two ago there was a good increase in the demand for the ordinary quality, followed recently by a cessation of enquiry, and that at present very little business is being done in this quality at all. The demand for the better qualities has remained steady and is apparently unaffected by the complaints made with regard to "ordinary."

To inform myself with regard to the dyestuffs used upon the yarns I obtained samples of the various qualities of handkerchiefs and tested the yarns separately. I had been informed that the dyes used for good quality real Madras, should be—

red	alizarine.
blue	indigo.
yellow	turmeric.
green	turmeric and indigo.
browns, etc... .. .	combinations of these dyes with iron, sumac, etc.

With the exception of turmeric all these dyes are fast to washing, but reference to the accompanying pattern sheet will show that even these when freshly dyed, and woven wet, are not perfectly fast but "mark off" on to cotton with which they come into contact. This is seen in pattern 1 which before weaving was white yarn but has been stained in stripes by the dyes transferred from the coloured portions of the cloth (pattern 2). This is however a demand of the trade, and subsequent washing in the piece will only result in the gradual washing out of the yellow dye, which, being a "clean" colour will not spoil the general appearance of the article. The twists with white yarn in (4) show the effect of immersion in hot water, from which it will be seen that it is only the yellow dye employed for the yellow and green shades which is faulty.

The remaining patterns show clearly that for the "medium" and "ordinary" quality handkerchiefs the dyes which have been employed leave much to be desired and in fact are quite unsuited for use with materials which have to be washed. In the "medium" quality I found that indigo and alizarine dyed yarns had been used to some extent but that so-called direct or salt colours had also been employed, whilst with the "ordinary" quality, these latter dyes (and those of the very cheapest kind) had alone been used.

The cost of dyeing indigo and alizarine for blues, reds, purples, etc., is high, but if a superior quality article is to be obtained, the price must be paid. If the manufacture is left to the weaver or a contractor and the price paid does not permit of the better class dyes being used by him without suffering loss, it can only be expected that he will use cheaper colours or resort to other means to get a return commensurate with his work. Unfortunately he usually turns to the cheap powder dyes stocked in the bazaar, which are quite unsuitable for the purpose, and dyes the yarn with these, whereas did the merchant (who can buy in bulk), get the yarn dyed to suit the requirements of the various qualities of goods he ships and supply the weaver with these yarns, the cost of dyeing per lb. would be less than that at which the weaver can dye a small quantity with the low priced unsuitable colour, and he would have the guarantee that the colour would be good.

The merchants dealing regularly in the handkerchiefs are very few in number, although now and again others enter the market for small lots. The usual custom of the trade is, I understand, for the merchant to place his orders with a dubash, who may place the contract with a contractor or give orders direct to weavers. He may supply the yarn either dyed or grey (imported from Europe), or may give out grey yarn to be dyed in Washermanpet, or may leave it to the contractor or weaver to have it dyed to the shades required. When the cloths are woven they are delivered to the merchant by the same channels, but I am informed that there has been no test applied in the past to ensure that the cloths shall conform to any specification as regards fastness of colours, etc. The demand has been so good that the merchants have been only too willing to take all the cloths that could be woven, and even in cases in which it was evident to the sight that the colours were not right, the dealers have been so pressed for delivery that they have accepted the goods without demur.

This procedure has had its natural consequences, and the market to which such faulty goods were shipped has rejected them. The merchants are perfectly acquainted with the cause and do not agree with Mr. Cook that "it is due to the teaching given under the Department of Industries in Madras" encouraging the use of aniline instead of natural vegetable dyes.

If the manufacture of different qualities of handkerchiefs at different prices is demanded by the trade, the dyeing of the yarn cannot be left with safety to the weaver or the contractor, without some check being applied to ensure that the colours used will meet requirements, and as the trade is controlled by such a small number of merchants it appears to me that the best method of dealing with the question is for the merchants to have the required yarn dyed by responsible dyers with proper dyestuffs and distribute it then through their agents to the weavers and, when the finished goods are returned, applying check tests to see that the yarns correspond with those supplied.

I communicated this idea to the merchants and was informed by one that it had been tried, but it was only effective when the demand was slack; when the demand was good, the dealer or the individual weavers used the good yarn for other purposes, or sold it, and used inferior yarn in its place and if the goods were then rejected they were taken to the other dealers who willingly bought them, so that it was the merchant himself who suffered, and attempts to keep up the quality were frustrated by other firms shipping these rejected goods to Europe.

I gather that the class of article shipped to Singapore is good, for it is usual to wash it before shipment and any failure of the colours to withstand the washing is at once evident, whereas from other markets, supplied through Europe, it takes a long time for complaints to be received and the fault traced.

Such a check as washing would be quite in place with Madras handkerchiefs but it appears that what one merchant wants is something much less elaborate; he asks for some simple "spotting" test for individual colours, which will not interfere with the goods "being dealt with, examined, packed, and shipped promptly". Given a specification to which the colour should conform this would be possible, but the check would not affect the evil, if the faulty goods are still bought and shipped by other people. This is evident from the fact that such a check is already in use for red dyes and still, in one of the samples I have received, the red is of the lowest quality (as is evident from the result of the test) and in spite of this the goods, being wanted, were accepted for shipment.

If the merchants competing in these handkerchiefs were in agreement in refusing to deal with weavers or contractors who were not treating competing merchants fairly, and there were not such a ready market for "rejected" goods the safeguards I have recommended would be ample to protect the trade, but where the merchants themselves are not in agreement, and work more or less against each other, it is only to be expected that the dealers will take advantage of the fact to get as much profit for themselves as they can and will have little regard to the injury done to the reputation of the article, so long as this can still be disposed of with advantage to themselves.

I have informed the merchants who deal in Madras handkerchiefs that the matter rests entirely with them to see, by examination of the goods upon delivery, that they are of the quality contracted for, and that the qualities manufactured for export are such that no complaint ought to arise with regard to the suitability of the dye used, so that the reputation of the Madras handkerchiefs will be restored in the markets in which it has suffered.

No. 40 I., dated 6th September 1913.

Submitted to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, with reference to N. Ref. on C. No. 2505/13, dated 5th June 1913.

M. VELAYUDA ASARI,
Superintendent of Industrial Education
(in Charge).

N. Ref. on Cur. No. 7922/13, dated 16th September 1913.

Submitted to Government in continuation of this office endorsement N.R.C. No. 7922/13, dated 10th September 1913.

A. G. BOURNE,
Director of Public Instruction.

Order—No. 949, Educational, dated 14th October 1913.

The Government have read Dr. Marsden's report with interest. It shows clearly that the defective dyeing of the handkerchiefs exported to Africa was due to the increased demand for cheaper goods and not to any teaching given by the Department of Industries. The Government agree with Dr. Marsden that the maintenance of the reputation of Madras handkerchiefs and the prevention of any falling off in the export trade in them rest entirely with the merchants dealing with them.

2. A copy of Dr. Marsden's report will be forwarded to the Under Secretary of State for India in continuation of letter No. 403, Educational, dated 3rd May 1913.

(True Extract.)

W. FRANCIS,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Revenue Department.
Editors' table.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 950.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. W. FRANCIS, I.C.S.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Educational Department,

To

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,

Dated Ootacamund, the 14th October 1913.

SIR,

In continuation of the Hon'ble Mr. Davidson's letter No. 403, Educational, dated 3rd May 1913, on the subject of the defective dyeing of certain classes of Madras handkerchiefs exported to Africa, I am directed to enclose, for your information, copy of Proceedings of the Government of Madras, No. 949, Educational, dated 14th October 1913, passed on the letter from the Tinctorial Expert, reporting the steps taken by him to discourage the use of inferior dyes for handkerchiefs intended for export.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. FRANCIS,

Ag. Secretary to Government.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 949-50, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
14TH OCTOBER 1913.

[SUBJECT.— *Use of inferior dyes in the manufacture of Madras handkerchiefs.*]

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 16th September 1913, No. 7922/13.

Please see G.O. No. 402, Educational, dated 3rd May 1913. In that order, Dr. Marsden, the Tinctorial Expert, was requested to ascertain, if possible, exactly where the handkerchiefs of inferior quality exported to Africa from Madras were dyed and to do what was practicable to discourage the use of inferior dyes likely to injure the export demand. He was also requested to submit a report on the results of the steps taken by him. Dr. Marsden now submits a report on the subject.

2. Dr. Marsden has been unable to discover exactly where the handkerchiefs of inferior quality complained of were made but states that such handkerchiefs are largely made in the Cuddapah district. He states that these handkerchiefs are usually made in three qualities, known as "superior," "medium" and "ordinary" and that in the "superior" quality, the colours may be classed as good, while in the other two qualities, the colours are generally unsatisfactory and the dyes employed are quite unsuited for use with materials which have to be washed. He states that the largest trade appears to have been carried on formerly in the "ordinary" quality but that at present very little business is being done in that quality, while the demand for the better qualities has remained steady and is apparently unaffected by the complaints made with regard to the "ordinary."

3. As regards the safeguards to be adopted to prevent the use of inferior dyes, Dr. Marsden states that the dyeing of the yarn should not be left as at present to the weaver or the contractor, but that the merchants who control the trade should have the required yarn dyed by responsible dyers with proper dye stuffs and distribute it through their agents to the weavers and that, when finished goods are returned, they should be tested to see that the yarns correspond with those supplied. These safeguards would be effective, only if the merchants combined among themselves and refused to deal with weavers or contractors who were not treating competing merchants fairly and if there were not a ready market for rejected goods. But if the merchants were not in agreement and if the goods rejected by one merchant could be disposed of to another with ease, no improvement in the quality of the handkerchiefs could be expected.

4. Dr. Marsden's report clearly shows that the defective dyeing of the handkerchiefs exported to Africa was due to undue competition among merchants and to increased demand for cheap stuffs; it was not due to any teaching given under the Department of Industries. Dr. Marsden has accordingly informed the merchants concerned that the question of restoring the reputation of the Madras handkerchiefs rests entirely with themselves and that they should see by examination, that the goods delivered to them for export are of the quality contracted for and that they are such that no complaint ought to arise with regard to the suitability of the dye used.

5. The Government may agree with Dr. Marsden and his report may be printed and placed on Editors' Table. A copy of it may also be forwarded to the Under Secretary of State in continuation of letter No. 403, Educational, dated 3rd May 1913.

The drafts below are for approval.

T.K.—3-10-13.

C. RAMANUJACHARI -7-10-13.

Approved.

W. FRANCIS—10-10-13.

His Excellency the Governor—

For perusal, as it was on His Excellency's orders (last page of notes with G.O. No. 402, Educational, dated 3rd May 1913) that this enquiry was made.

W. FRANCIS—10-10-13.

Read. Thanks.

P[ENTLAND —11-10-13.

Issue.

W. FRANCIS—18-10-13.

[G.O. Nos. 949-50, Educational, dated 14th October 1913.]

G.O.No.402 Educational, dated 3rd May 1913.

C.No.2809, from the D.P.I.,

No.7922/13, dated 16th September 1913.

ORDER:- No 949 Ed dated 14.10.13
P.S.,

Read

The Government have perused Dr.

Marsden's report with interest. The

report shows clearly that the defective

dyeing of the handkerchiefs exported

to Africa was due to the increased

demand for cheaper ^{goods} articles and not

to any teaching given under the Depart-

ment of Industries. The Government

agree with Dr. Marsden that the maintenance

~~of the~~ of the reputation of the

Madras handkerchiefs and the prevention

of any falling off in ^{the} its export trade

rest entirely with the merchants deal-

ing with ^{the} such handkerchiefs.

2. A copy of Dr. Marsden's report

will be forwarded to the Under Secretary
of

2.

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12P

of State for India ~~xxx~~ in continuation

of letter No.403 Educational dated

3rd May 1913.

T.H. A
3.10.13 7.10.13

Memo

To the D.P.I. ✓
,, Revenue Department.
E.T.

Depd w/it
stamps
H.P.
T.H.

LETTER:

3.

LETTER: No. 950 *9* *130*

To

The Under Secretary of State
for India,

SIR,

In continuation of the Hon'ble
Mr. Davidson's letter No. 403, Educational,
dated 3rd May 1913 on the subject of
the defective dyeing of certain classes
of Madras handkerchiefs exported to
Africa, I am directed to enclose for
your information, copy of Proceedings
of the Government of Madras No. *949*
Educational, dated *passed on the* ~~2nd~~ letter from the
Tinctorial Expert, reporting the steps
taken by him to discourage the use of
inferior dyes for handkerchiefs in-
tended for export.

I have &c.,

7H.
3-10-13

CR
7-10-13

10-10-13

By hd in the
8/11/13.

(C)

ORDINARY.

PRESS SLIP.

PREFERENCE.

URGENT (a).

DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 2829, dated 16-9-1913.

G.O. No. 749, dated 14-10-1913.

(b)
Number of MS. pages sent { Correspondence.....
(b)
Notes.....

Brief subject... Manufacture of Madras handkerchiefs

(c) Number of copies required when struck off (not including copies for volumes and editors' table which are retained in the Press).	E. T. copies to supply requisitions for purchase by the public.	Complete correspondence and orders.	Notes.
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For filing with original ...		1	1
Total ..		46	16

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			No.	Papers.	
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Public Works Department.....					
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Spare copies					
The... 200		20			
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† Copies distributed on..... (Press Despatcher.)

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(b) Each letter, memorandum, or order, or set of orders, in the file of correspondence should be headed in succession with the Roman numeral I, II, III, etc., the number being written in red ink or blue chalk above the item. The particular papers to be printed in the special issue-copies should be indicated by the Roman numeral (I, II, etc.) by which that item has been headed in the correspondence file. All matter, including marginal remarks or references, to be printed should be written in ink and matter which should not be printed should be encircled. Initials and signatures that are not quite legible should be re-written distinctly.

(b¹) For rules regarding printing of notes, see rule 315 of the office Manual.

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESS.

(a) If, in the opinion of the Superintendent of the Press, a paper has been marked urgent unnecessarily, he should send the Press slip to the Registrar with a remark to that effect.

(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, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

TO PRESS, MADRAS OOTY.

A	B	C
Please send proof in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.	Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated.	As the matter is clear manuscript and has been carefully edited, (b) proof need not be sent. Please print and supply number of copies as indicated.
	Type may be released after usual interval at once.	Type may be released after usual interval.
Referencer. Clerk.	Referencer. Clerk.	Referencer. Clerk.
Supdt.	Supdt.	Supdt.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

Please print urgent
 7/17-10-13

Enkel

Forwarding to the Under Secy of S for India
 a copy of Dr. Maudslayi's report on the use of inferior dyes
 in the manufacture of Madras handkerchiefs
 intended for export.

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PRESS.

Diary.	Initials of Press official.
Received in Press on.....	12/10/13
First proof furnished on.....	
Call for revised proof received on.....	
Revised proof furnished on.....	
Corrected proof received for striking on.....	
Final copies supplied on.....	

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