

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1915.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O. No. 56, 19th January 1915.

Industries.

Recording papers relating to the question of making provision for teaching the manufacture of gold thread in this Presidency.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

**Endorsement of the Government of India, Department of Education
(Education), dated Delhi, the 4th December 1914, No. 1831.**

The undermentioned paper is transferred to the Government of Madras for favour of disposal.

(By Order.)

H. SHARP,
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

ENCLOSURE.

*Letter—*from E. J. TURNER, Esq., Assistant Secretary, Revenue and Statistics Department, India Office, London.
*To—*the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.
*Dated—*the 6th November 1914.
*No.—*R. and S. 4393.

From Mrs. Whitehead, dated 23rd October 1914.
To Foreign Office, dated 2nd November 1914.

I forward, for information, copy of the papers noted in the margin on the subject of an alleged deficiency in gold thread in Madras.

It may be thought desirable to communicate to the Director of Industries, for consideration the suggestion that arrangements should be made for teaching the manufacture of gold thread.

SUB-ENCLOSURES.

(1)

*Letter—*from Mrs. ISABEL WHITEHEAD, Sarsen Land, Lockeridge, Marlborough.
*To—*C. ROBERTS, Esq.
*Dated—*the 23rd October 1914.

I have never, I think, had the pleasure of meeting you, but we have corresponded on the subject of the temperance movement in India.

I now venture to write to you on quite a different subject. My last mail from India brings a letter from an educated Indian in the Coimbatore district of the Madras Presidency, speaking of the distress which has arisen in the weaver caste through lack of the gold thread which is necessary for their work, and which comes from Paris. It is obvious that there must be on this account great distress in all centres of the weaving industry throughout India. Gold thread is largely used in all the better-class women's clothes and also for men's turbans, etc. I imagine that the demand will not be greatly affected by the war, unless there is very great scarcity and want all through the country; and it seems a great pity that one industry at least which might be maintained in a flourishing condition should languish for want of raw material.

It has occurred to me that it might be possible for Government to take action and make arrangements for this gold thread to be produced either in England or Ireland, or to send workers out to India as teachers. One would think that only a small amount of organisation would be necessary in order to arrange for the gold thread workers to carry on their trade.

It is possible that this subject is already before you, in which case I must apologise for troubling you.

My husband is hoping to call upon you when he is at the India Office next week.

We are both so sorry that we have not had an opportunity of meeting you this year. We return to India on November 7th.

Believe me, etc.

(2)

*Letter—*from C. ROBERTS, Esq.
*To—*the Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office.
*Dated—*the 2nd November 1914.
*No.—*R. and S. 4393, Rev.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to inform you that his attention has been called to a statement that distress has arisen among weavers in parts of the Madras Presidency owing to the absence of supplies of gold thread which usually comes from Paris and is necessary for the production of the goods usually produced on their looms.

Lord Crewe would be glad if inquiries could be made in France as to the condition of the gold thread industry, and the prospect of an early resumption of the usual exports to India of that material.

II

Memorandum No. 3830-1, Educational, dated 23rd December 1914.

A copy of the correspondence received from the India Office regarding the trade in gold thread will be communicated to the Director of Industries and he will be requested to report on the suggestion contained therein that arrangements should be made for teaching the manufacture of gold thread in this Presidency.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Industries.

III

*Letter—*from K. T. B. TRESSLER, Esq., Acting Director of Industries.
*To—*the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
*Dated—*Madras, the 24th December 1914.
*No.—*19.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of correspondence from the India Office regarding gold thread and in reply have to state that I addressed the Board of Trade in England on the matter some months back; I have not yet received a reply. As regards the prospect of starting the gold thread industry I have to explain that this industry is one of the few remaining secret industries and that Mr. Chatterton, when last on leave, went to France to study the question. He made arrangements for the purchase of a plant but the vendor, at the last moment, withdrew from the bargain saying that in view of the local opposition to the sale of plant he was not prepared to enter into negotiations.

One of the Madura Sourashtras did however succeed in getting a plant and has set it to work in Madras. He, however, has not been successful and has lost about Rs. 60,000 in the venture. I had a look at the plant with a view to taking it over and trying to turn it into a successful concern. It would be impossible in India to manufacture the finer qualities of gold thread but it seems to me that the coarser varieties could be made if due care is exercised in manufacture and control. I therefore offered the proprietor to take over his plant but the proprietor was afraid that his "secrets" might become known and also wished me first of all to make good his losses. Such an arrangement being clearly out of the question, I have been unable to do anything in the matter.

If there is plant ready to hand, the development of the industry might be considered. The margin of profit is not large and there are considerable difficulties with regard to marketing indigenous thread whilst the capital cost of the plant is considerable. I think the venture is not of a sufficiently attractive character to warrant the purchase of plant for experimental purposes.

As a matter of fact I rather doubt whether the situation with regard to the supply of this thread is as critical as Mrs. Whitehead imagines. Gold lace articles are luxuries for which the demand will naturally, to a great extent, vanish during times of financial stringency and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by making enquiries in France.

Order—No. 56, Educational, dated 19th January 1915.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Industries.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 56, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
19TH JANUARY 1915.[SUBJECT.—*Provision of facilities for the teaching of the manufacture of gold thread.*]*From the Government of India dated 4th December 1914, No. 1831.*

The India Office forwards copies of certain letters regarding the stoppage of the supply of gold thread from France owing to the war and suggests that a proposal made by Mrs. Whitehead that arrangements should be made for teaching the manufacture of gold thread may be communicated to the Director of Industries for consideration.

2. The question of taking steps for the revival of the gold thread industry has already been under the consideration of the Government. One of the recommendations of the Industrial Conference held at Ootacamund was as follows:—

“The Conference considers that it is desirable that the gold thread trade should be re-established in India, if possible, but that no action should be taken by Government in the matter pending the results obtained from the experimental factory recently started in Madras.”

Wite reference to this recommendation, when Mr. Chatterton was placed on special duty in England in 1910 to study certain industrial subjects, he was asked to make himself acquainted with the process of the manufacture of machine-made gold thread in France, in order that he might be able to judge of the possibility of developing it in Madras. Mr. Chatterton's report on this subject will be found in G.O. No. 1618, Revenue, dated 30th May 1911. In this report, Mr. Chatterton expressed himself as being hopeful about the successful establishment of the industry in this Presidency. But no action was taken on the report pending the decision of the Secretary of State in regard to the organization of a Department of Industries in this Presidency.

3. In the meanwhile, in connection with the reply to a Legislative Council question regarding the establishment of the gold thread industry in this Presidency, Mr. Tressler (who was acting for Mr. Chatterton as Director of Industries) suggested that the machines which were obtained for the gold lace factory at Perambur might be sent to Madura to be set up at the Weaving Institute and the gold lace workers there induced to give them a trial. He added that it would then be easy to see what machines were suited to the country and from that, the possible reduction in the cost of manufacture could be ascertained. This proposal was subsequently referred to Mr. Chatterton for remarks. The latter stated that it was set up the gold thread factory in Madras, would agree to the terms suggested by Mr. Tressler and that nothing could be done to improve the industry unless the work was carried on commercially. He added that at least three expert workmen should be got out from Europe and that satisfactory arrangements should be made for the supply of raw material. He also

Paragraph 6 of Mr. Tressler's letter, page 3 of G.O. No. 647, Educational, dated 18th July 1912.

Memorandum No. 2554-1, dated 19th January 1911.

Page 4 of Government order.

Paragraph 23, pages 21 and 22 of G.O. No. 647, Educational, dated 18th July 1912.

thought that in view of the Secretary of State's orders the only possible direction in which the department could render any assistance was in advising private enterprise how best to set about regaining the lost industry. When passing orders on the scheme for the reorganization of the Madura Technical Institute, the Government

Paragraph 8, page 35 of G.O. No. 647, Educational, dated 18th July 1912. stated that, with some reluctance, they accepted the conclusion that the development of the manufacture of gold thread was an enterprise which could not then with advantage be further pursued.

4. In his note on industries, submitted by Mr. Tressler in October last, he stated that he was in touch with the owner of the Madras gold-lace firm. It is not known what conclusion Mr. Tressler has arrived at after his enquiries. It is for orders whether, as suggested by the

India Office, the correspondence now received from them may be communicated to Mr. Tressler and whether any special report on the matter should be called for from him. The file may be sent to Revenue u.o. for perusal.

S. KRISHNA AYYAR—15-12-14.

C. RAMANUJACHARI—16-12-14.

After issuing the reference to Mr. Tressler.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—17-12-14.

A draft memorandum is submitted for approval. After its issue the file will be sent to the Revenue Department.

S. KRISHNA AYYAR—18-12-14.

C. RAMANUJACHARI—18-12-14.

His Excellency the Governor—

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—19-12-14.

His Excellency approves the draft. He should like to see further papers on this subject.

C. B. COTTERELL—22-12-14.

Issue.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—23-12-14.

[Memorandum No. 3830-1, Educational, dated 23rd December 1914.]

From the Director of Industries, No. 19, dated 24th December 1914.

Mr. Tressler submits his reply to Memorandum No. 3830-1, Educational, dated the 23rd December 1914, regarding the question of providing facilities for teaching the manufacture of gold thread in this Presidency. He considers that it would be impossible in India to manufacture the finer qualities of gold thread, but that the coarser varieties could be made if due care is exercised in manufacture and control. He anticipates several difficulties in the experimental manufacture of gold thread in this Presidency; plant will not be available, and much less probably experts. He therefore leads to the conclusion that there is no prospect of, or much use in, any arrangements being made for teaching the manufacture by machinery.

2. Attention is, however, solicited to Mr. Hadaway's monograph on wire and tinsel. On page 2 of this note, he stated that there were excellent opportunities for anybody "enterprising and experienced enough to establish here the making of gold

thread on a large scale by machinery." Mr. Hadaway also wrote enthusiastically about the Madras lace factory. In paragraph 4 of his letter No. 18 G., dated the 19th July 1910, Mr. Tressler stated that

Page 3 of G.O. No. 647, Educational, dated 18th July 1912.

the failure of the Madras factory was attributable to gross mismanagement and could not be considered as due to any drawbacks inherent to machine manufacture.

It is also observed from the past correspondence that the hand lace industry was once in a flourishing condition and that it has been gradually vanishing owing to the competition of the machine made article from France; both Mr. Hadaway and Mr. Tressler have testified to the equality

Paragraph 4, page 3 of G.O. No. 1618, Revenue, dated 30th May 1911.

Paragraph 2, page 3 of G.O. No. 647, Educational, dated 18th July 1912.

of hand made lace to, if not its superiority over, the imported article. Mr. Hadaway in his monograph regretted the decline of the hand industry; and Mr. Tressler had ideas of introducing the machinery to replace a portion of the hand industry, i.e., using machinery for flattening

Paragraph 4, page 3 of G.O. No. 647, Educational, dated 18th July 1912.

and drawing alone. The imposing of impossible condition by the old Madras factory in letting the Government have the use of the machinery is apparently responsible for Mr. Tressler's giving up his original ideas in experimenting in this direction. In these circumstances, it is for consideration whether the question should be dropped without any further action being taken.

S. KRISHNA AYYAR—6-1-15.

C. RAMANUJACHARI—6-1-15.

What is the further action you propose please?

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—7-1-15.

It was thought that Mr Tressler might perhaps be asked to report whether, as originally intended by him, the hand industry may not be improved by the replacement of a portion of it by machinery.

Page 3 of G.O. No. 647, Educational, dated 18th July 1912.

C. RAMANUJACHARI—8-1-15.

His Excellency the Governor—

Perusal is solicited of Mr. Tressler's last letter on the subject. His opinion that "the venture is not of a sufficiently attractive character to warrant the purchase of plant for experimental purposes" may be accepted; and the correspondence may be recorded.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—9-1-15.

P[ENTLAND]—12-1-15.

Let me have draft Government order recording the papers.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—15-1-15.

Please see the draft order placed below.

S. KRISHNA AYYAR—15-1-15.

C. RAMANUJACHARI—16-1-15.

Issue.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—18-1-15.

[G.O. No. 56, Educational, dated 19th January 1915.]

78 b

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191 .

" " " " 191 .

READ ALSO:-

C. No. 3830, From the India Office, No. 4393, dated 6 . 4 . 1914

" " 4063 " " D. I. 19 " 24-12-1914

" " " " 191 .

ORDER.

Pres

No. 56, dated 8.11.1915

Recorded.

SK
15.1.15

CR

16.1.15

[Signature]

To The S. I. (P. I.)
[Signature]

[Signature]

ORDINARY.

PREFERENCE.

URGENT (a).

Seott. II-38-3-14.

Educational DEPARTMENT.

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[P.T.O.]

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