

Ed (1915) Department.

his SERIES.

G.O. No. *292 Ed*

DATED *15-3-15*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Governor's tour

Recording notes relating
to the speech to be delivered in
connection with the laying of the
foundation stone of the hostel
of the Islamiah Secondary School,
Vaniyambadi.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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VE Cole. No 535

13.2.15

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MADRAS.

13th February 1915.

Dear Mr. Rajagopalachariyar,

I send you herewith a copy of a statement which the Vanivambadi Madrasa-e-Islamiah authorities propose to deliver on the occasion of His Excellency's laying the foundation stone of their hostel. You will see it is out of all proportion too long and I have asked that it be curtailed. To save delay I am sending a copy as it is; in any case the bracketed portion in page 6 will be eliminated. Will you please send me as soon as possible a full note on the substance of the statement?

I also send you the original G.O.No.2 dated 3rd January 1912 which has been sent along with the file in connection with the N.Arcot Mussalmans' address, in case it is required.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. Rajagopalachariyar Avl., C.I.E.,
Secretary to Govt., Educational Department,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Handwritten signature

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Ed Dept

*Col no 535-1
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The note placed below may, after approval, be forwarded to P.S.S. no.

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LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE MADRASA-E-ISLAMIAH
HOSTEL, VANIYAMBADI BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR ON 2ND MARCH 1915.

Mr. Yakub Hasan's speech.

Your Excellency,

The Madrasa-e-Islamiah Hostel, the foundation stone of which Your Excellency has so kindly consented to lay today, marks a great advance in the progress of Muslim education in this Presidency which the Community chalked out for itself in December 1901, when the All India Muhammadan Educational Conference was, for the first time, held at Madras. The late Nawab Mohsinul Mulk addressing Lord Ampthill on that occasion said that he and his associates had not come from all parts of India to make heavy demands on the generosity of the Government of Madras or to add in any way to the already many difficulties of administration by putting forward unreasonable requests: but they had come to tell their own co-religionists how to help themselves, how to work for their amelioration, and in what spirit to place their requests before Government if they felt constrained to ask for help. Self-help, self-reliance and self-respect were the points on which the revered leader of those days laid the greatest stress in his eloquent addresses. Yet, in that very Conference we were constrained to make several demands on the Government; we asked for the reorganization of the Madrasa-e-Auzam which has come down as a legacy from the late Muslim rulers of the Carnatic and which the Government has so generously maintained for the benefit of Mussalmans; we begged the Government to find a better habitation for that school, and to establish a hostel in connection with it. At the same time we recognized that we owed a duty to ourselves also and our spirit of self-help then demanded that the Community should establish for itself in other centres what it had desired the Government to maintain at in the capital of the Presidency. The cry of self-help continued to ring in our ears, our spirit felt it, our heart was willing, but the ways and the means that was the question of question. At last the response to the call of duty came; and that from a quarter and a class it was least expected from. Who

could have thought that the merchants of Vaniyambadi, noted for their uncompromising orthodoxy, most conservative in their modes of life, deeply attached to traditions and time honored customs, possessing that frame of mind which saw no good in the culture and knowledge that had not the element of orthodoxy in it; who could have thought that such people living in surroundings supposed to be deeply saturated with ideas that were hardly conducive to modern progress, would eventually become the pioneers for the spread of modern thought and learning? Indeed it is hardly less than a miracle that the realization of the ideals ~~which the Sage of Aligarh set before his co-religionists~~ ~~which the Sage of Aligarh set before his co-religionists~~ which the Sage of Aligarh set before his co-religionists should be brought about through the agency of the very people who had not very long ago looked askance at his teaching. Lest I may be misunderstood, let me add that this happy result has not come into existence in the twinkling of an eye by the stroke of a magician's wand. It did not suddenly crystalise out of the effervescence of enthusiasm which extraordinary eloquence often produces but only for the time being. It has grown in the slow but sure process of time out of ideas that took deep root at the National Assembly to which I have already referred and it has survived the rude shocks of a decade and half. In this structure no brick was laid till the one underneath it was well and firmly set, so that the Vaniyambadi Muhammadan Educational Society founded in 1902, could evolve from the modest beginning in the year 1900 of a class of three infants with one teacher, the present Madrasa by the simple addition of a class year after year. Nor was the attainment of the full stature as a high school achieved at the cost of its strength and robustness. It has expanded as much as it has grown. While ample provision has been made for teaching the usual subjects on the approved method and by trained teachers, particular attention has been paid to the equipment of the Science section. Urdu as the lingua franca of India and as the repository of the best Muslim thought in the country forms of the school, while Tamil, the vernacular the principal vernacular of the District and of the greater

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part of the Presidency, is by no means neglected. Persian and Arabic, without which there can be no Muslim culture worth the name, are specially fostered. Commercial subjects are taught as a matter of course to pupils most of whom will eventually inherit the commercial career of their parents. And physical culture is insured by encouraging manly games and gymnastics. But the distinguishing feature of our system of education is the religious teaching. Religion is the backbone of Muslim society and it plays such an important part in our daily life that no education can make us good citizens, in the sense we understand citizenship, that has not an adequate proportion of religion in its composition. It was the absence of religion in Western education and the fear that the modern system bereft of religion might shake the basis on which Muslim culture was founded - a fear subsequently found only to be too well founded - it was this that kept Mussalmans through India from participating early enough in the benefits to which only English education was a passport. We have therefore made religion the basis of education in our schools and it was only on a full and unequivocal assurance on this head that the funds have been contributed and the endowments in aid of the school have been created. It is a solemn trust which the management will, I hope, never be guilty of neglecting.

Although the Madrasa was primarily founded for the education of Mussalmans and the religion of Islam is compulsorily taught to all Muslim boys, the higher classes in which English and not Urdu is the medium of instruction are open alike to Hindus and other non-moslems - a concession which is fully appreciated by our Hindu brethren, for there is no other secondary school within 15 miles of the Madrasa. We trust that our Hindu brethren in other parts where Mussalmans have not similar educational facilities will admit them into their National Schools.

The full realization of the Society's objects has not been of course achieved without great sacrifices, strenuous labour and active co-operation of all concerned - the idealists

who planned and executed, the capitalists who helped the educationists who encouraged and others who did their allotted parts to the best of their respective ability. Above all harmony and good understanding existed here to a degree rarely seen elsewhere between the products of the old school and the new.

Although there is scarcely a soul in Vaniyambadi, however humble, who has not in some way or other, at sometimes or anon, given his help to the noble cause, the names of some benefactors stand out in bold relief on the tablets of memory which are sure to go down to posterity in undiminished glamour. I can only name them at random, as it is difficult to say who did more than the other. To T. Aminuddeen Sahib we owe the nucleus of our funded capital which his good example soon enabled it to reach Rs.33,000/-. He also contributed Rs.5,000/- towards the building fund and has recently handed over to the Society a property worth Rs.20,000/- which yields a monthly income of Rs.75/-. In addition to these contributions which total a respectable sum of Rs.30,000/- he has been paying for a number of years a monthly subscription of Rs.100/-.

His name can never be dissociated in our minds from that of his inseparable friend Malayalam Haji Abdur Rahman Sahib, whose devotion to the cause and whose persuasiveness have been the means of attracting considerable sums of money to the coffers of the Society though his own contributions have been comparatively modest.

To Hajee Budruddeen Sahib's generosity and initiative we owe the handsome building which Your Excellency has inspected a little while ago. His benefactions in the shape of the site for the school premises and contributions to the building and capital funds are valued at a respectable figure of Rs.25,000/-.

Malang Hyath Batcha Sahib with whose benefactions the name of his late lamented Uncle Malang Haji Abdur Rahman Sahib would also remain associated, has given a handsome donation of Rs.15,000 for the addition of the second storey to the present building. He also contributed Rs.5,000 to the capital fund and has created an endowment of a number of house properties that

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yield a monthly income of Rs.200/-. His total benefactions have the capitalized value of Rs.40,000/-.

I may mention that these four gentlemen were elected Trustees for life, long before the Trusts themselves were created mainly owing to their own contributions. A rarer instance of the prophetic justification of an appointment can hardly be found. With them in the office of the trusteeship has been associated from the beginning our other respected co-worker whose recent elevation to the coveted chair of the local Municipal Council has given great satisfaction to the Society. I, of course, mean Bangi Sahebju Sahib.

The kind of help, advice and co-operation which the Mussalmans of Vaniyambadi had perforce to seek in the beginning from outside the town, cannot, except in a single instance, any longer be described "outside assistance" since the transfer of Vaniyambadi from Salem and its inclusion in the North Arcot district has brought it and the home of the two principal office bearers of the Society within one Collectorate (at the ~~end~~ head of which for the time being, it is our good fortune to have a most sympathising officer in the person of Mr. Richards). Haji Moulvi Ziauddeen Muhammad Sahib of Vellore as President of the Society has ~~expended~~ expended for the good of the Madrasa that great influence which his high and enlightened moulviet and unique position as the worthy Peerzada (son) of Shumsul ^{Wahab} Ulema Moulvi Abdul/Sahib has given him over all those with whom he comes in contact. Mr. Ghulam Ahmad Kalami, another resident of Vellore, in his capacity of Joint Secretary upto October 1913 and General Secretary thereafter has rendered to the Madrasa services the value of which cannot be exaggerated. The inestimable personal influence which only a man of his head and heart and universal popularity could render, were supplemented now and again with pecuniary help. His was the first endowment (of the value of Rs.1,000/- yielding Rs.35 a month) which attracted other benefactions of a similar nature and insured for the Madrasa a permanent monthly income of Rs.400/- in addition to Rs.200/- which the invested capital fund of the Society gives.

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While speaking of one Colleague I am naturally reminded of another Joint Secretary who alas is no more, but of whose devoted services we will ever be reminded by the Vavaguny Ibrahim Gymnasium which the Society has resolved to build at an early date. To his office has succeeded his energetic nephew Pisyari Abdus Shakur Sahib. The so-called exigencies of the Government service have deprived us of the co-operation of another Joint Secretary the Sub Assistant Surgeon Muhammad Jamaluddeen Sahib who was transferred from Vaniyambadi in spite of the representations of the entire population of the town testifying to his meritorious medical services as unmistakably as we testify to his national work in connection with our Madrasa.

The services that I have so far enumerated were of a kind essential to successful organization and popularization of the cause and collection of the sinews of war. The real friend of work lay, however, within the four walls of the Madrasa itself and for that no novice could do. The Society fortunately found in Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib Cureishi not only a ready and willing worker but a worker of great ability and efficiency. At the time the Madrasa Islamiah was reorganized he was the only Mussalman L.T. and his service in the Madrasa-e-Azam had borne testimony to his capacity as a teacher and organizer. As Honorary Secretary of the School Committee he organized the school on sound modern lines and his services became so indispensable to the good management of the Institution that when it attained the Secondary state he was prevailed upon to give up the Government service and its prospects and devote the rest of his life - which had only just professionally begun - to the cause of Muslim education.

I will be guilty of ingratitude if I do not make mention of the help and encouragement which we have received at the hands of the Government and their officials from time to time. Three successive directors Mr.T.T. Logan, Sir Alfred Bourne and the Hon'ble Mr. J.H. Stone evinced great interest in our work and two of them, the first and the last, have honoured us with personal visits. Among the Inspectors of Schools Mr. Kershaw and Mr. Champion have given us greater help than we could look up to them

for in the usual discharge of their official duty.

We have enjoyed Government aid from the Municipal grant of Rs.200/- in 1905 and Government grant of Rs.581/- in 1909 to the teaching grant of Rs.6,000/- last year. Though these grants were generous in the spirit they were given, were hardly in an equitable proportion to the sums we have been spending on the maintenance of the school and its two branches/and on the Provident Fund for teachers. This expenditure had grown from Rs.2600/- in the year 1905, Rs.7,200/- in 1909 to over Rs.22,000/- in 1913-14.

Our best thanks are also due to Your Excellency's Government for the sum of Rs.10,000/- granted for the building which has cost us more than Rs.30,000/-. You have also kindly sanctioned a further grant of Rs.18,500/- for the upper storey which will be completed at an estimated cost of Rs.37,000/-. In respect of the Islamiah Hostel our application for grant-in-aid has met with a specially generous response and a sum not less than Rs.32,000/- has been sanctioned towards its construction.

After this rather long digression, which Your Excellency will kindly pardon permit me to revert to the business of the day which has brought us together. In inaugurating the scheme which will provide not only boarding and lodging arrangements to 100 students who may seek admission but also provide for their efficient supervision and control calculated to make them good men and good Mussalmans, in laying the foundation stone of the hostel Your Excellency is practically extending the Society's invitation to the whole of the Madras Presidency to come and participate in the blessings of education which the unexampled generosity of the Vaniyambadi Mussalmans has provided. Our optimism may be pardoned if we, on this occasion indulge in the vision of the days to come when these extensive grounds will be studded with a number of students' homes which may necessitate a corresponding expansion and elevation of the Madrasa, in short when Vaniyambadi will have become the Aligarh of Southern India.

With these words, on behalf of the Vaniyambadi Muhammadan Educational Society, I beg Your Excellency to kindly lay the foundation stone of the Madrasa-e-Islamiah Hostel.

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Secretariat Note.

Educational Department.

As regards the Islamiah ^{see} Secondary School at Vaniyambadi, please paragraph 2 of the address to be presented by the ~~Muslimans~~ ^{Muslimans} of North Arcot and the Secretariat Notes thereon, printed copies of which have already been furnished.

2. FINANCE. Including ~~the~~ the cost of the new buildings the total expenditure of the school in 1913-14 amounted to Rs.35,889, of which the Government grant was Rs.17,088, fees Rs.2,833, income from endowments Rs.2,890, subscriptions and donations Rs.11,221, and miscellaneous receipts Rs.1,857.

3. ACCOMMODATION. The accommodation though scattered is ~~is~~ fairly satisfactory. In this connection attention is invited to paragraph 2 of the Secretariat ^{or} Note on pages 5 and 6 of the printed notes referred

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page 4 of the
inspection report
for 1914-15

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page 17 - do -

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referred to in paragraph 1 supra.

It is stated therein that there is no likelihood of ~~the~~ school getting any more grants for buildings for sometime to come. The Director of Public Instruction has, however, recently stated in another connection that the building grant of Rs.18,147 recommended by him for the school might be paid in advance this year out of ~~the~~ recurring grant of Rs.30,000 given by the Government of India for Muhammadan education, and he has promised a separate communication on the subject, which is awaited.

4. There is no hostel at present and it is proposed to ~~now~~ erect one at a cost of about Rs.58,625, for which a grant of Rs.38,625 (not Rs.32,000 as stated in the draft speech) has been sanctioned by the Government.

(H) G.O. No. 10532d,
Dy the 16-9-14

(F) G.O. No. 5932d,
Dy the 22-5-14

page 10 of the
⑤ Imp. report for
15-14-15

⑤ p 29 - do -

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5. The school has a small library containing 1176 books.

6. Mr. Champion who inspected the school in January last has recorded his general impression in the following words :-

"This institution the only
"complete secondary school for
"Muhammadans in the Presidency outside
"Madras City, has many peculiar
"problems with which to contend.
"Chief among these are the maintenance
"of a good working strength of Muhammadan
"pupils, who are drawn from all parts
"of the Presidency, with the attendant
"necessity of sufficient hostel provi-
"sion and the acceptance of fees far
"below the standard rates for Muhammadans;
"and the difficulty of securing ~~qualified~~
"qualified Muhammadan teachers and the
"liberal salaries that have in conse-
"quence to be offered. These, with

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"the ambitious building programme
" contemplated by the management, require
" a large capital, and the management is
" proceeding on sound lines in taking
" steps to convert subscriptions into
" permanent endowments.

"Commendable activity has been
" shown in all directions, particularly
" in that of hostel-provision and the
" acquisition of land.

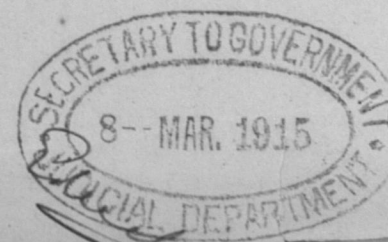
"The institution appears to be
"well managed externally and internally."

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Returned with a copy of His Excel-
lency's speech.



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Gentlemen,

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The history of the Madrasa-e-Islamia which I have just had the pleasure of inspecting and of whose hostel I shall presently lay the foundation stone, presents points of singular interest to all who have the progress of Muhammadan education at heart - and among these I may be permitted to include myself and my colleagues of the Government. Founded some ten years ago by the Muhammadan Educational Society and commencing with a class of three infants and a single teacher it has grown steadily from year to year until it now possesses a staff, for the most part fully qualified according to accepted educational standards, of 33 teachers and counts over 450 pupils on its rolls. It is especially gratifying to me to learn that of this total no less than 150 boys have been attracted from other parts of the Presidency and that the sphere of influence, so to say, of the institution extends so far as the Ceded districts and Mysore to the north, to remote Tinnevely on the south, while the west coast is

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represented by boys from Malabar South Canara and Cochin. The Muhammadan community in this Presidency as compared with other parts of India is a somewhat scattered one, and it speaks highly for the good reputation of your school that its advantages should have appealed to members of that community over so wide an area. It has been a special pleasure to me to meet a number of the merchants of Vaniyambadi who have so liberally contributed to this institution. I have just remarked that the growth of the school presents features of special interest, and not the least of these I think is the illustration which it affords of the generosity, the steadfastness of purpose and the practical good sense of those who by their liberal benefactions and their wise guidance have contributed so materially to its successful development. In particular the provision of a provident fund for Assistant teachers, your policy of finance which aims at increasing as far as possible your endowed resources and your efforts to combine with more general studies

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special instruction in commercial subjects suited to the needs of the community appear to me to deserve special commendation.

I am gratified to think that Government has been in a position to render you a measure of assistance which if not as large as you could wish - few of us I fear are in the happy position of receiving according to the full measure of our desire! - is yet not inconsiderable. In addition to teaching and other grants which the Director of Public Instruction has power to sanction you have received during the past two years grants for the construction of school buildings and for the new hostel Rs.28,539 and 38,625 respectively. I have much pleasure in acknowledging the expression of your thanks for the assistance you have received and in assuring you that the Government will watch your further progress with benevolent interest and sympathy. The addition of this hostel which is the immediate occasion of our meeting marks a stage in the development of the corporate life of the School,

the importance of which cannot be too much emphasised. In the formation of character, in the training of loyal and public spirited citizens the influences which are brought to bear on its youthful inmates by such an institution are all-powerful, and it behoves the management to exercise the utmost care in the selection of those to whom the immediate charge of this hostel will be confided.

I have only one further word of advice to give before I proceed to perform the pleasant duty you have entrusted to me. You have made steady and very marked progress thus far. Much has been accomplished but much remains to do. I would counsel you in undertaking what remains to be done to proceed in the same sober and businesslike spirit by which you have been hitherto guided and to see to it that at each stage in your progress you carry with you the full support of the community to whose educational needs you minister. This is by no means to say that your progress is not to be more rapid in the future than in the past. With educational as with other institutions it is at the earlier

stages that difficulties are most formidable and progress slowest; thereafter each succeeding year should, in a healthy institution, add increased vitality for further development. But it is important that growth should not be forced, and that the institution should adapt itself to the living needs of your community from time to time. I congratulate the management on their adoption of this policy hitherto and I doubt not that, if they adhere to it, the edifice they will raise will rest upon foundations as well and truly laid as the stone which I will now proceed to place in position.

Edl Dept

No action is called for. The papers

may be ^{order} _{misc} Recorded 292 Edl mob 15. 3. 15

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STATEMENT WITH DETTO.

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