

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1915.

Enclosures

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G.O. No. 699, 30th June 1915.

Law College, Madras.

Recording report on the working of the —, during the year 1914-15.

2

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. DUNCAN, Acting Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—Madras, the 14th June 1915.

No.—Ref. on Cur. 3094.

I have the honour to submit herewith for the information of Government a copy of my Proceedings R.C. No. 3094 of 1915, dated 4th June 1915, reviewing the report on the working of the Law College, Madras, during the year 1914–15.

ENCLOSURE.

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction R.C. No. 3094/15, dated 4th June 1915.

Read—the following paper:—

Letter—from A. DAVIES, Esq., M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Principal, Law College, Madras.

To—the Director of Public Instruction.

Dated—the 16th April 1915.

No.—54 C.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the working of the Law College for the year 1914–15.

2. *Death of Mr. Nelson.*—I regret to record that Mr. R. A. Nelson, who was Principal of the College from its foundation in 1891 up to the 9th July 1913 when he was permitted to retire on an invalid pension, died in England in June 1914. A long line of students has passed through the college while he was its responsible head, and a committee has been formed to commemorate his services in a worthy and suitable manner.

3. *College staff.*—The staff remained the same as in the previous year with the re-appointment of M.R.Ry. K. Yegnanarayana Adiga as temporary special lecturer. He entered on his duties on the 11th July 1914 and continued till the end of the short term in 1915. The re-organization scheme is still being reconsidered, but I trust that finally satisfactory orders may soon be passed, as the college has been working under a purely interim arrangement for the past two years; a condition under which it is difficult to promote the greatest efficiency, especially as the number of the staff employed during these two years has been inadequate for the best teaching.

4. *College Council.*—In G.O. No. 1407, Educational, dated 10th December 1914, His Excellency the Governor in Council was pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice F. D. P. Oldfield, I.C.S., and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. Sadasiva Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur, to be members of the Law College Council, in the places vacated by the Hon'ble Sir C. Arnold White, Kt., and the Hon'ble Mr. L. C. Miller, I.C.S. The new members will hold office for a period of five years. His Excellency in Council was also pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Sir J. E. P. Wallis, Kt., Chief Justice, to be the President of the Council. The Council therefore as at present constituted consists of a President and seven other members. Two meetings of the Council were held, one on the 20th August 1914 and the other on the 3rd February 1915 and the minutes of both meetings were duly communicated to you.

5. *Strength.*—The number of the students on the rolls on the 31st March 1915 was 500 against 504 on the same date in the previous year. The number of students admitted during the year was 532 but as many as 32 students dropped out during the year. Some discontinued their studies owing to illness, some 'special' students left the College at the beginning of the spring term, some who were in service left on account of their inability to get extension of leave to complete their course and one died of fever.

The figures for the four preceding years are given below for comparison:—

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
B.L. class	90	151	183	186	233
F.L. class	207	233	295	256	213
Pleadership class	4	71	88	62	51
Special class	..	..	..	..	..
Total	301	455	566	504	500

The gradual increase of the B.L. class is probably due partly to fortuitous circumstances and partly to an increase in the number of students passing the F.L. Examination [See Appendix D (2)].

Figures regarding the distribution of students according to the classes of the community to which they belong, the occupation and financial status of their parents or guardians, and the facts as to their vaccination, appear in Appendices A and B.

The district distribution of the students is given in Appendix C.

6. The following table gives the number of hours of instruction each student had in the several subjects dealt with in the college during the academic year 1914–15:—

F.L. class.		B.L. class.		Pleadership class.	
Subjects.	Number of hours of instruction.	Subjects.	Number of hours of instruction.	Subjects.	Number of hours of instruction.
1. Jurisprudence	60	1. Law of Property	144	1. Civil Procedure and Law of Landlord and Tenant.	79
2. Roman Law	124	2. Hindu and Muhammadan Law.	128	2. Criminal Procedure.	72
3. Contracts	132	3. Criminal Law	73	3. Torts	47
4. Torts	50	4. Law of Evidence	73	4. Contracts	102
		5. Indian Constitutional Law.	39	5. Hindu Law	99
				6. Criminal Law	71
				7. Law of Property	53
				8. Law of Evidence	31

7. *Results of Examinations.*—

I. *University Law Examinations*—(a) *B.L. Degree Examination, April 1914.*—The number of students appearing direct from the college was 180. Of these 107 passed—a percentage of 59.4 as against 58.1 of the previous year. There were no first classes awarded. Seventeen out of 23 candidates placed in the second class appeared direct from this college.

(b) *First Examination in Law, April 1914.*—For this examination 244 students appeared from the college. Of these 137 passed—a percentage of 56.1 as against 50.3 of the previous year. There were no first classes awarded. Thirty out of 41 candidates who were placed in the second class appeared direct from this college.

Appendix D gives the figures for the three preceding years.

II. *The High Court Pleadership Examination, April 1914.*—For the Pleadership examination conducted by the High Court under the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act, 55 candidates appeared direct from the college. Of these 24 passed—a percentage of 43.6 as against 61.2 of the previous year. This cannot be regarded as a satisfactory result, but as only 31.8 per cent. passed in the Presidency as against 50.5 per cent. of the year before [See Appendix D (3)], it may perhaps be ascribed to an unintended raising of the standard required—rather than to any deficiency of the candidates or in the instruction received by them.

III. *Class Examinations.*—Two examinations were held during the year in each of the several courses of study and played the same useful part as hitherto. With a very much larger staff, these examinations might give an opportunity for

individual guidance, but when each professor has at each examination at least 500 papers to value, it is impossible that they should do much more than serve as a warning to those who fall below the minimum standard.

8. *Library and reading room*—(a) *Library*.—All three sections of the library, the consulting, the lending and the class libraries still continue to be well used by the students. The number of volumes added to the library during the year under report was 490 and the total number of volumes in the library on the 31st March 1915 was 4,444.

The library catalogue was revised and re-printed during the year under report.

The following table gives an abstract of the record as to the use of the three sections :—

	Consulting.		Lending.		Class Libraries.	
	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.
Students	13,719	14,411	954	978	8,738	14,942
Staff	1,090	1,052	13	..	204	130
Total	14,809	15,463	967	978	8,942	15,072

(b) *Reading room*.—The students also make good use of the reading room in their leisure hours for studying the numerous legal periodicals that the college receives. A large number of students find that the college affords a better atmosphere for study than their private lodgings and so from an early hour in the morning till dark they may be found studying their books in the reading room, in the library, in the class rooms, even in the passages and verandahs of the College. If proper lighting arrangements were made, they would be willing to remain and study till very late in the evening. It is to be regretted that the scheme for this purpose which has been under consideration for two years has not yet been put into execution. I hope however that in the course of the coming year it may be accomplished.

The usual moot meetings are also held in the reading room.

9. *Scholarships*—(1) *Morehead Law scholarship*.—This scholarship was awarded to R. Krishnamurti, the student who stood first in the F.L. Examination held in April 1914. According to the revised rules, the scholarship of Rs. 224 is being paid to the student in two instalments payable on the 15th November and 15th May.

(2) *College scholarships*.—Of the two Government scholarships of Rs. 100 each per term, one was divided equally between A. N. Krishnan and T. M. Ramaswami as they were bracketed equal in the second place in the F.L. Examination of April 1914.

The other Government scholarship which is reserved for a Muhammadan or Uriya student was awarded to Hamid Sultan of the B.L. class.

10. *Lectures and classes*.—During the early part of the autumn term, an experiment was made with a view to seeing how far the “class” system hitherto purely nominal could be introduced in fact into the college. The number of B.L. students and the number of F.L. students were then each about 240. While “lectures” were continued on the old lines, i.e., to the whole 240, sections were also formed containing 40 students each, and the professors took section by section as “classes,” with the idea of questioning the students in such a way that they should be drawn out as individuals by expression of opinion and discussion. Our methods were not all the same. In subjects like Contracts and Torts, there were cases to be argued and so comprehended and distinguished. In subjects like English Property, bristling with difficulties to an Indian student, the obvious plan was for the professor to discover where these difficulties lay and then as far as possible to clear them away. I believe that for the short time the experiment lasted, its results were most promising especially in increasing an interest in the subjects treated. But it had soon to be dropped as the staff of five was too small for its continuance. I hope however

that when the college has its full complement of nine professors, it may be possible to bring the “class” system into full play—at least in those subjects where it is most needed or likely to be useful.

11. *Hostel and kindred matters*.—We are still without a hostel, and though hopes have been held out to us of securing a building which should amply supply our needs, it seems likely that we shall have to wait for some years before the fulfilment of our hopes. Meanwhile the University Senate by a Committee is considering the accommodation of College students in Madras and I have very recently been asked how far the college is carrying out regulation No. 384 of the University, the spirit of which requires us to see that all our students are living in decent surroundings. Hitherto no attempt has been made to inspect the lodgings of students, and it is very difficult to see how this can be done with a staff composed entirely, except for the Principal, of non-permanent professors. I hope however that some plan may be devised for doing this work and I shall probably have to address you on the matter when I have a full staff to rely upon.

12. *College Associations and Athletics*.—The Students Representative Council with its various Sub-Committees has as usual done useful work.

(a) The moot club has held three meetings during the year under report presided over by M.R. Ry. T. Rajagopala Acharyar, Assistant Professor, the Honourable the Advocate General and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar: and also one meeting at which a bench of five students presided—their judgments being summarily and speedily revised by Mr. Appaswami, Acting Junior Professor.

(b) The Athletic Sub-Committee had the management of funds amounting to about Rs. 1,027 collected as athletic fees together with Rs. 400, the usual annual grant by Government for subsidising games; and these amounts were well utilised in the purchase of materials and amenities of various sorts. The four tennis courts are in working order and the students make very good use of them. For the first year a tennis competition among the students of the college was held and three silver cups were awarded to the winners, one for the singles and the other two for the doubles competition. As usual the college entered into a number of the competitions organised by the Madras Collegiate Athletic Association, but were not fortunate enough to be winners in any of them. The lack of a private ground for cricket, football and hockey is a great handicap to the athletic life of the college, though as usual there were a number of students keen enough to persevere in these games in spite of their disadvantages.

13. Financial summary.—

Year.	Receipts.	Charges.	Surplus.	Remarks.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	
From 1892 to 1914	12,28,337	8,29,828	3,98,509	* Preliminary figures subject to verification by the Accountant-General.
From 1914 to 1915	84,730 *	39,274 *	45,456 *	
Total	13,13,067	8,69,102	4,44,965	

The increased charges as compared with the previous year are mainly due to salary drawn by the permanent Principal with exchange compensation allowance and the increased rents, rates and taxes paid to the Madras Corporation.

14. The service books of those members of the establishment who are required to maintain them have been kept and verified up to date.

15. *General*.—(1) For the first time in the history of the College a First-Aid class in connection with the Saint John's Ambulance Association was opened in October 1914. It was joined by 26 students from the various classes. Lectures were delivered twice a week by Dr. V. T. Korke, M.R.C.P., D.T.M., of the General Hospital who took a keen interest in giving instruction and training the students. The students were examined in December 1914 by Dr. E. A. Fonceca and Dr. U. Rama Rao and 20 students were awarded certificates. The Madras Ambulance competitions were held on the 12th February 1915 and out of our First-Aid certificate holders two teams (four members each) were selected to compete. After a very

keen competition one of these won the first prize, an honour which they felt was specially due to the very efficient and thorough instruction which Dr. Korke had given them.

(2) During the year rule 10 of the Legal Practitioners' Act has been amended in such a way that candidates who have failed in the B.L. Degree examination but have passed the First Examination in Law can now appear for the Pleadership examination without undergoing the Pleadership course in the Law College.

(3) The Madras University has amended the form of the B.L. and F.L. attendance certificates, so that a student who has attended the College for *three-fourths* the working days of an academical year may now appear for these examinations, whereas under the old form it was necessary to show that he had attended *three-fourths* of the lectures in each of the subjects a rule that often worked great hardship.

(4) The Senate has passed a regulation regarding the lengthening of the law course to three years. The matter is now under the consideration of Government and its orders are awaited.

(5) M. S. Sundaram Ayyar has been confirmed as clerk of the college. Both he and the Librarian V. N. Rama Rao have done their work efficiently and well. The attenders and peons have also carried out their duties to my satisfaction. Finally I have to thank my professorial staff for the continuation of their loyal and cheerful co-operation in every branch of the college work.

APPENDIX A.

DISTRIBUTION of students according to class of community.

Classes of community.	B.L. class.	F.L. class.	Pleadership class.	Total for 1914 to 1915.	Total for 1913 to 1914.
Europeans and Eurasians	..	2	..	2	1
Indian Christians	4	2	..	6	28
Muhammadans	1	..	..	1	4
Hindus .. { Brahmins	176	164	51	391	379
Non-Brahmins	52	46	3	100	92
Total ..	233	213	54	500	504

APPENDIX B (1).

DISTRIBUTION of students according to occupation of their parents or guardians.

Classes.	Officials.	Petty officials.	Land-holders.	Traders.	Others.	Total.
B.L. class	120	..	101	12	..	233
F.L. class	98	..	104	10	1	213
Pleadership class	18	1	34	1	..	54
Total for 1914-15 ..	236	1	239	23	1	500
Total for 1913-14 ..	203	5	268	23	5	504

APPENDIX B (2).

DISTRIBUTION of students according to the financial status of their parents or guardians.

Classes.	Richer class.	Middle class.	Poorer class.	Total.
B.L. class	24	208	1	233
F.L. class	18	195	..	213
Pleadership class	..	54	..	54
Total for 1914-15 ..	42	457	1	500
Total for 1913-14 ..	34	463	7	504

APPENDIX B (3).

VACCINATION.

Classes.	Vaccinated.	Small-pox marked only.	Unprotected.	Total.
B.L. class	230	3	..	233
F.L. class	206	7	..	213
Pleadership class	52	2	..	54
Total for 1914-15 ..	488	12	..	500
Total for 1913-14 ..	468	36	..	504

APPENDIX C.

DISTRICT distribution of students.

District.	B.L. class.	F.L. class.	Pleadership class.	Total for 1914-15.	Total for 1913-14.
Ganjam	3	5	2	10	5
Vizagapatam	5	10	3	18	10
Godavari	15	16	3	34	28
Kistna	16	11	5	32	28
Guntur	2	3	3	8	7
Nellore	3	4	1	8	8
Madras	9	10	..	19	30
Chingleput	8	10	7	25	14
North Arcot	3	6	2	11	19
Chittoor	6	1	1	8	5
South Arcot	2	8	2	12	13
Trichinopoly	11	10	7	28	32
Tanjore	45	36	5	86	75
Madura	14	3	2	19	24
Ramnad	3	4	1	8	13
Tinnevely	11	4	2	17	30
Coimbatore	5	9	2	16	19
Salem	8	2	1	11	9
Cuddapah	2	3	..	5	5
Kurnool	2	3	..	5	3
Bellary	2	2	1	5	4
Anantapur	2	2	..	4	2
South Canara	10	12	1	23	16
Malabar	17	1	..	18	56
Travancore	19	2	1	22	10
Cochin	13	11	..	24	9
Mysore	3	4	..	7	9
Bangalore	1	..	..	1	6
Pudukkottai	2	4	1	7	4
Hyderabad	1	1	..	2	1
Ceylon	..	1	..	1	1
The Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..
Pondicherry	..	..	..	..	1
Coorg	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	233	213	54	500	504

APPENDIX D (1).

RESULTS of the B.L. Degree examination, April 1914.

	Number of students examined.	Number of students passed.	Percentage.
1911 { From Law College	88	40	45.5
Other candidates	228	41	17.9
Total ..	316	81	25.7
1912 { From Law College	152	88	57.9
Other candidates	276	88	31.9
Total ..	428	176	41.1
1913 { From Law College	179	104	58.1
Other candidates	288	106	36.8
Total ..	467	210	44.9
1914 { From Law College	180	107	59.4
Other candidates	274	85	31.0
Total ..	454	192	42.2

APPENDIX D (2).

RESULTS of the First Examination in Law, April 1914.

		Number of students examined.	Number of students passed.	Percentage.
1911	From Law College	203	108	53.2
	Other candidates	283	81	28.6
	Total ..	486	189	38.9
1912	From Law College	230	130	56.5
	Other candidates	299	119	39.8
	Total ..	529	249	47.1
1913	From Law College	286	144	50.3
	Other candidates	264	85	32.2
	Total ..	550	229	41.6
1914	From Law College	244	137	56.1
	Other candidates	318	132	41.5
	Total ..	562	269	47.8

APPENDIX D (3).

RESULTS of the Pleaderships examination, April 1914.

		Number of students examined.		Number of students passed.		Percentage.	
		First grade.	Second grade.	First grade.	Second grade.	First grade.	Second grade.
1911	From Law College	33	19	17	25	51.51	80.79
	Other candidates	100	389	29	208	29.0	51.94
	Total ..	133	408	46	233	34.58	43.46
1912	From Law College	67	..	35	..	52.2	..
	Other candidates	93	..	37	..	39.7	..
	Total ..	160	..	72	..	45.0	..
1913	From Law College	85	..	52	..	61.2	..
	Other candidates	85	..	34	..	40.0	..
	Total ..	170	..	86	..	50.5	..
1914	From Law College	55	..	24	..	43.6	..
	Other candidates	77	..	18	..	23.3	..
	Total ..	132	..	42	..	31.8	..

Proceedings R.C. No. 3094 of 1915, dated 4th June 1915.

Recorded.

2. There was an increase in the strength of the B.L. class and a corresponding decrease in that of the F.L. class with the result that the total strength of these classes was about the same as that of the previous year. The strength of the Pleaderships class also declined.

3. The results of the B.L. and F.L. examinations held in April 1914 compared favourably with those of the previous year, but there was a drop in the percentage of passes in the Pleaderships examination. The Principal's explanation for the unsatisfactory results of the last examination is, however, noted.

4. The chief features of the year were the opening of a First-Aid class in the college under the auspices of the St. John's Ambulance Association, the amendment of rule 10 of the Legal Practitioners' Act so as to allow failed B.L. candidates who

have passed the F.L. examination to appear for the Pleaderships examination without undergoing the Pleaderships course and the amendment by the University of the regulation regarding the B.L. and F.L. term certificates which prescribed a minimum attendance of three-fourths of the lectures in individual subjects. Under the amended rule a student who has attended the college for three-fourths of the working days of an academical year is eligible to appear for the above examinations.

5. The resolutions of the College Council passed in connection with the scheme of re-organization of the college and the Principal's comments thereon are under the Director's consideration. The whole matter will be laid before Government shortly.

6. The Principal and the Professors are to be congratulated on the efficient working of the college during the year.

H. S. DUNCAN,
Ag. Director of Public Instruction.

To the Principal, Law College, with 20 spare copies.
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Order—No. 699, Educational, dated the 30th June 1915.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table.

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