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Education
Ordinary SERIES.

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INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Question.

Recording notes connected with a question asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 21st November 1916 regarding the appointment of a Commission to investigate into the causes of the abnormal failures at the Intermediate examinations of 1915&1916.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

1916.

Educational DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *Hindu*
2. Published at— *Madras*
3. Dated— *24th July 1916.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS.

EXTRAORDINARY INDEED WERE THE proceedings in and the result of the 'extraordinary meeting' of the Senate held on Saturday last. The meeting had been looked forward to with a good deal of interest by a large section of the public in view of the fact that its main purpose was to consider what steps could be taken to modify the disastrous results of the last Intermediate Examination. This object was rendered impossible of accomplishment by the violent and obstructive tactics of several of the European Fellows, and by the incomprehensible final ruling of the bewildered Vice-Chancellor. There was apparently no order or decorum observed in the proceedings. We cannot make out head or tail of what happened, a fairly faithful account of which appears elsewhere. At one stage of the proceedings, "Mr. Justice OLDFIELD asked if the discussion on English was in order. The Vice-Chancellor replied that he thought there was a private conversation going on, and asked Mr. MOFFAT to address the House. Mr. STONE asked if Mr. MOFFAT was proposing a Committee. The Vice-Chancellor said:—I am not aware of any proposal to form a Committee." Then again we find that the language used by some of the European Fellows during their heated denunciation of the agitation on behalf of the vast mass of the slaughtered students, passed beyond the bounds of decency. The Reverend Mr. MACPHAIL is reported to have made the following remarks in the course of his speech:—"If rickshaw coolies and others were admitted into classes and allowed to appear for the examination, there would be a tremendous massacre of the innocents. Were the fit candidates plucked? . . . The Press was full of slanders. Absolute lies were said in the public press about the action of the examiners. . . . He could not go about contradicting all the lies. He wanted to show what was the sort of agitation that was carried on. It was a disgrace to the people spreading those lies about the University." Such insulting, improper and offensive remarks ought not to have been indulged in by one who is a missionary and claims the benefit of having received a high English education, and we think the Vice-Chancellor should have, as he was asked to do, called the irate missionary to order, for making them. We cannot

understand the violent hostility of many of the European Fellows to the universal feeling prevailing among the Indian Community that it is detrimental to the mental, moral and physical health of the student population that an appalling failure list like that of this year in the Intermediate Examination should be allowed to stand and to recur. Mr. ABDUR RAHIM, officiating Chief Justice, put the matter in a nutshell when he observed that "the discussion was unfortunate as the matter was very simple. Four thousand and odd students went up for the Intermediate Examination and most of them studied in Colleges under the direct supervision of the University and failed in a foreign language. This state of things would not be permitted in any other University. English was a difficult language to all of them. To exact a very high standard from boys in English was cruel." Mr. STATHAM, Principal of the Kumbakonam College, also observed that the standard of English required at the Intermediate Examination was unnecessarily high, and it should be lowered. He further gave the lie to the statement that admissions in Colleges were too lax and indiscriminate. If, as was pointed out in the course of the discussion, a question which was put to the Intermediate examinees in 1916, was the very same that had been put to the M. A. candidates in 1913, it indicates a very notable state of things. We think the government of the University ought, under the present circumstances, to pass from ignorant and bumptious European management into the hands of those who can correctly appreciate local conditions, and approximate their actions with practicable ideals. The extraordinary meeting of Saturday ended, however, in a fiasco so far as the immediate object of it was concerned; and it has caused profound disappointment among the public. We do not know what has become of the Resolution moved by Mr. Justice SESHAGIRI AIYAR and duly seconded. The proposition moved by Mr. MOFFAT curiously enough was declared to be in order though no notice of it had been given and it was expressly ruled by the Vice-Chancellor to be an independent one, and when it was put to the vote and declared carried, the Vice-Chancellor declared the meeting at an end. The obvious course was to put Mr. Justice SESHAGIRI AIYAR'S Resolution to the vote and take the sense of the meeting.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—

2. Published at—

3. Dated—

Page 2

after Mr. MOFFAT'S Resolution had been carried. As our contemporary, the *Madras Times* observes: "Mr. MOFFAT'S proposal related to future examinations and not to the past. It was not an amendment of the Resolution that was before the meeting. It was a new proposal: but somehow or other the Vice-Chancellor allowed it to take precedence of all the original Resolutions: and when it was carried, he ruled that the debate was at an end." Our Contemporary then proceeds facetiously to remark: "It was certainly late enough in the evening to bring things to an end, even though the manner of doing so may have been remarkable. The discussion promised to be interminable and Mr. MOFFAT'S Resolution was a way out—an emergency staircase—whereby hungry Senators got home to dinner." When as stated by our contemporary, hundreds of students were waiting outside the Senate House and got disappointed at the result of the meeting, the Senators going home to dinner may be likened to Nero fiddling, while Rome was burning. It seems to us clear, under all the circumstances, that Mr. Justice SESHAGIRI AIYAR'S Resolution has not been legally disposed of by the Senate. To all intents and purposes it is still pending before the Senate, which body is bound to dispose of it in due form. The Vice-Chancellor has neither ruled it out of order nor put it to the vote as he should have done. It is in our opinion open to the Fellows of the University interested in the subject to require the Senate by a suitable requisition to consider the Resolution and dispose of it. If the University authorities refuse to convene a meeting for such a purpose, there is, we believe, a remedy to compel them to do so by a writ of mandamus in the High Court.

P.T.O

1916.
Educational DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *Hindu*
2. Published at— *Madras*
3. Dated— *24th July 1916.*

Page 3

The Senate resumed its sitting on Saturday last in the Senate Hall with the Hon'ble Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Iyer in the Chair.

On the motion of Mr K V Rangaswamy Iyengar the consideration of the proposition of Mr. Ramalinga Reddi relating to the composition of the Syndicate was taken up first. The proposition required that in Regulation 88 the word *eight* be substituted for the word *five*, Regulation 88:—At least five of the elected members shall be heads of or Professors in colleges affiliated to the University.

The proposition was accordingly moved by Mr. Ramalinga Reddy and seconded by Mr. B. Hanumantha Rao.

Mr. P. V. Seshu Iyer then moved his amendment, that the word *six* be substituted for *eight*.

Mr. K. V. Rangaswamy Iyengar seconded the amendment.

Mr. Macphail opposed the amendment. The amendment when put to vote was carried, 32 members voting for and 25 against it.

The original proposition as amended was put to vote and passed, 38 members voting for and 1 against it.

ELECTION OF SYNDICATE MEMBERS.

Mr. G. A. Natesan then moved the following proposition:—

That five members of the Syndicate shall be elected by the Faculties, two by Faculty of Arts, and one each by the Faculties of Law, Medicine and Engineering and that the necessary regulations fully providing for such election by the Faculties be made.

In doing so he said that each of the Faculties should be given the right of representation in the Syndicate and they should be given the right to elect their own representatives. It would be to the advantage of the University to carry out the proposition. That was the practice that obtained in Calcutta. He saw no reason why it should not be so in Madras.

Mr. K. Ramanujachariar seconded the proposition.

Father Quinn said that the Syndicate was the executive body of the University and it seemed to him that it did not very much matter if the old state of things continued to be in force.

Rev. Pittendrigh said that he saw no great purpose served by the carrying out of the proposition.

Mr. Allen said that the present system of election appeared to him to be better; for the position of the Syndicate member elected by the whole body of the Senate was much better than that of one chosen by a small body of men constituting different faculties. Syndicate members should be chosen either by the Faculties or by the Senate not by both.

Mr. Natesan's scheme contemplated a third method by which the election had to be made partly by the Senate and partly by the Faculties. He did not exactly know if the case called for any change in the existing regulation. As it existed at the present time no injustice was done to any body.

Mr. Natesan said that the Arts Faculties had the largest number of members in the Syndicate. It might be so owing to an unconscious bias on the part of the Voters. If each Faculty should choose its own representative the invidious distinction would be removed.

The proposition was carried, 30 members voting for and 29 against it.

WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY.

Mr. Natesan moved the following proposition:— That the Syndicate be requested to furnish the members of the Senate before the 1st of September a full account of the work done by the University Professor of Comparative Philology and by the several Readers appointed by the Senate.

Mr. Natesan said that the Government of India gave them grants to be utilised in the best way possible. Formerly it was decided by the Senate to create a number of University Professors to be engaged in the Research work. There was a great opposition to the utilisation of the grants in the direction of improving the languages and there was great demand for the utilisation of the grants to encourage scientific study and research work. University Professors had been appointed together with a number of readers and Languages were preferred to science. Every one was in the dark as to the work turned out by the Professor of Comparative Philology and it was but proper that the Syndicate should furnish some account to the members of the Senate regarding the work done by the University Professor of Comparative Philology and by the several Readers appointed by the Senate. It was the opinion of some that the amount of Rs. 36,000 was not spent very advantageously and they did not get enough return for the money spent. The Government of India even in the years of crippled finance had given them grants to be utilised to their best advantage. It was mainly intended to encourage research work. The research work of the University Professors was now in the dark; nobody could now say anything of the nature of the work done by the University Professor of Philology. The Senate should know exactly the quality and quantity of work turned out by the University Professor of Comparative Philology.

Mr. G. Venkatarama Rao seconded the proposition.

Mr. Mark Kreuter opposed the motion and said that it seemed to him that the University Professor of Comparative Philology was doing work under great disadvantages. He had to tackle the problem with special reference to Sanskrit, Urdu and the Dravidian languages. It was quite unfair to call upon the Professor to submit an account of the work done by him. It appeared to him to be invidious to call for a report from him while it was not so called from others. No where in the world was it done so. The Professor would send his annual reports to the Syndicate and the Syndicate would not withhold any information on that point from the Senate. The proposition was quite unnecessary.

Mr. Natesan said that much dissatisfaction existed at the time when the appointments were made and there was great disappointment felt by many members of the Senate that the study of science was not encouraged and money was not spent on scientific researches and study.

He said that he knew the kind of work done by the Professor and what Mr. Natesan intended to do.

work of the Professors and the readers. They did not want to have an account of the work done by the Professor day by day. They were all anxious to know the nature of the work done by him and the progress made from time to time.

Mr. J. H. Stone said that it seemed to him that the Committee appointed by the Senate would supervise the work of the Readers. It was quite unnecessary that the Professor of Comparative Philology should be asked to furnish an account of his work. To call for a report from him was highly objectionable.

Mr. K. V. Rangaswamy Iyengar said that the syndicate was asked to give the Senate some account of his work and not the Professor. The qualifications of the Professor were said to be growing day by day. Every attempt had been made to deny information to the Senate regarding the work of the Professor. He could not see any good reason why the information asked for was not given at all. As a member of the Senate he desired to be satisfied regarding the work done by the Professor.

Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Iyer said that when the Committee was appointed, it was clearly said that it had no power of supervision over the work of the Professor. Rightly or wrongly some doubts had been entertained as to the kind of work done by the Professor. They should have materials before them to judge if the work had been well done. They must know what work had been done by him, especially when the nature of the work done was called in question. The fact that other Professors were not asked to submit any report was no reason why the Professor of Comparative Philology should not be asked to submit an account of his work. The best course for the senate to follow would be to throw as best light as possible on the matter and prove how unfounded the criticisms against him had been. The resolution was carried, 33 members voting for and 31 against it.

SPECIAL LECTURES BY EXPERTS.

Mr. G. A. Natesan then moved the following Resolution:—

That it be a recommendation to the Syndicate to arrange for special courses of lectures under Regulation 390, by one or more of the following gentlemen:—

Dr. Jagadis Chandra Bose, B.Sc. (Cantab.), D.Sc. (London), C.S.I., C.I.E.
Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ray, D.Sc. (Edin.), C.I.E., The Hon'ble Prof. Raghunath Purushottam Paranjpe, B.Sc.

In doing so he said that he had not much to say on the proposition, since it was one that would meet with the approval of the Senate. It would be much to the advantage of the University of Madras that eminent Indians like those mentioned should be asked to deliver lectures on special subjects.

Mr. Macphail seconded the Resolution.
Mr. K. R. Guruswamy Iyer said that more eminent men could not be had for the purpose. He was feeling impatient why an invitation had not been already sent to them.

The Resolution was carried.

NOTICE OF SENATE MEETINGS.

Mr. Ramalinga Reddi then moved the following proposition:—

That in Regulation 6 A (1) (a), Line 6, the word 'February' be substituted for 'January'; and in line 8, the words 'First Friday in October' be substituted for 'Third Friday in September'.

Mr. P. Lakshminarasu seconded it.
The proposition was carried without much discussion.

B. SC DEGREE.

Mr. Fyson then moved the following resolution.

That to Regulation 187 "be added," at the end, the words "or Bachelor of Science Degree Examination or Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree Examination".

Mr. Fyson gave an elaborate account of the value of the Degree and said that all the Universities in the world had adopted it. In Great Britain almost all the Universities were conferring the Degree on eminent Science Graduates.

Mr. A. Moffat seconded the Resolution.
Mr. Allen said that the conferring of the Degree on Science graduates would tend to discourage other graduates who had gone through the same course.

Lt. Col A. Miller proposed an amendment to refer the subject to a Committee consisting of 16 persons. Three more names were then added.

Dr. Simonson seconded the amendment.
Mr. H. J. Allen remarked that Col. Miller's committee consisted mostly of scientists, and the Arts Faculty was not properly represented. He proposed that the committee appointed should be partly of a representative character and partly of an individual character consisting of the Directors of Public Instruction, Principals of Colleges, University Professors, and Fellows from the Faculties of Arts and Science. He suggested accordingly the addition of 19 other names to Col. Miller's Committee. Mr. Allen's amendment was lost, and Col. Miller's proposition was carried.

This concluded the business on the agenda for the adjourned general meeting.

Extraordinary Meeting.

An Extraordinary Meeting was then held for the purpose of considering the question of raising the percentage of passes in the last Intermediate Examination (1916).

Mr. K. R. Guruswamy Aiyar moved that Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar's proposition might be considered first by the meeting and that the propositions of Mr. P. Lakshminarasu and of himself might be taken up afterwards. He said that would be convenient for the proper discussion of the subject.

Mr. B. Hanumantha Rao seconded this motion.
Rev. Mr. Macphail said that the House would like to hear some reason for the proposed change which was rather an awkward one. He did not know whether the resolutions of Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar and Mr. Lakshminarasu were in order. That question he would submit for the decision of the chair. They should decide first the general principle as to what was desired by the Senate, viz., whether the percentage of passes was to be increased or not.

The Vice-Chancellor said that Mr. Guruswamy Aiyar's motion 'that the percentage of passes in the last Intermediate Examination be increased' was certainly open to several objections. In the first place the Senate had no power to do it consistently with Regulation 185 and there was no proposal before the Senate to pass any such regulation. The proposition of Mr. Guruswamy Aiyar, if passed, would be inconsistent with Regulation 185 and it could not be carried. It was open to that objection. It was also open to the objection that it was utterly indefinite and altogether impracticable. By how much the percentage of passes should be increased, he did not say. It was nothing more than a benevolent wish. The second and third propositions of which notice had been given as they were originally communicated would also be open to the objection that they were inconsistent with Regulation 185, but there were some who calculated and invite the Senate to consider a temporary

nature which might be sent up for approval and confirmation. The first proposition could not be really carried by the Senate and it would be perfectly futile to pass it. He would certainly advise the Senate to reject the first proposition. As to the second and third, having regard to the various amendments of which notice had been given, they would be in order.

Rev. Macphail:—Are they in order as they stand?

Vice-Chancellor:—It depends upon the amendments to these propositions.

Mr. J. H. Stone:—If these resolutions are not in order they cannot be discussed at all.

Vice-Chancellor:—The question is for a change in the order of business.

Mr. Stone:—It is necessary that the question whether these resolutions are in order should be asked first.

The motion for a change in the order of business was put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar asked leave under Regulations 40 and 41 to introduce a few words in his proposition which would thereby undergo a slight verbal alteration.

The Vice-Chancellor said that he could not move the motion and the amendment together. There was no motion before the House which he sought to amend.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar before moving his resolution asked the Vice-Chancellor if his resolution was in order to which the Vice-Chancellor replied it was.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar then moved the following proposition:—

(i) That this Meeting of the Senate considers it necessary that those candidates at the last Intermediate Examination of 1916 that obtained not less than 35 per cent of the total number of marks be declared to have passed the said Intermediate Examination, provided they have obtained not less than 30 per cent of the marks in English Language and Literature and not less than 25 per cent of the marks in the subjects comprised in the Optional Groups, and that Regulation 185 should not be enforced in the case of the said candidates.

(ii) That it be a recommendation to the Syndicate to pass such by-laws as would enable those who may be thus declared to have passed the Intermediate Examination to prosecute their studies for the higher course without being required to produce attendance certificates for the full term.

He said that since the resolution had been sent up by him there had been a special report of the Syndicate in which he figured as an educational expert. He did not pose as an expert in educational matters. He took it that the report was an answer to his motion and he would say a few words upon matters contained in the report. It did not follow that because there had been a larger number of candidates in 1916, therefore unfit candidates had been sent up. In 1911 the number of candidates that appeared for the Intermediate examination was 1427, in 1912 it was 1575, in 1913 it was 2427, in 1914 it was 2969, in 1915 it was 3749, and in 1916 it was 4722. Did that show that there had been an abnormal increase, quite out of proportion to the educational progress of the country? Later on it was said that there had been a fall in the number of High Schools as if it showed that there should be a fall in the number of candidates. The existing High Schools were altogether incapable of finding accommodation to the number of students that knocked at their doors. In some of those schools new classes had been opened. That was no reason

for supposing that the number of candidates sought entrance for the Intermediate examination should have gone down. Then again the percentage of passes in 1911 was 41.4, in 1912 it was 43.5, in 1913 it was 33.4, in 1914, it was 39, in 1915 it was 27.5, in 1916 it was 26.3. Thus it was seen that the low water mark was reached 1916. As regards failure in English alone the percentage was 45.2 in 1911, 38.5 in 1912, 50.8 in 1913, 34.1 in 1914, 63.6 in 1915, and 65.8 in 1916. That showed that it was not because unfit candidates had been allowed to go up that there had been a large percentage in failures, but because the examination had been unduly severe and the marking had been unduly stringent.

In the report it was found that the failures were due to the fact that the colleges in the presidency had been admitting students who ought not to have been admitted. He would say emphatically that some portions of the report should never have been circulated. There was a condemnation of the Principals, of the teachers and of students which ought not to have been allowed to go into the report without giving them an opportunity of explaining. Those principals and teachers would be able to take care of themselves. He held no brief for them. If those were the answers which the Syndicate had given to his proposition, it should not find favour with the Senate. In one portion of the report it was said that there had been no undue raising of the standard and that judges who were competent professors were of opinion that the standards were not unduly high. To that he would say that Judges equally competent were of opinion that the standard and marking had been unduly severe. Setting the opinion of these judges with the opinion of the persons who had drafted the report they would arrive at the following result. The number of passed candidates was going down year after year and the stringency of the English paper was so very great that there had been a failure of over 64 per cent in that subject. As a result of such failures poor parents were ruined and boys were morally and physically wrecks. The University should not encourage such a state of things. He had indicated in his resolution how the pass list should be revised. If his proposition was carried to its fullest extent, something like 50 per cent of the candidates who went up for the examination would be allowed to pass. Was it a heinous sin to pass 50 per cent?

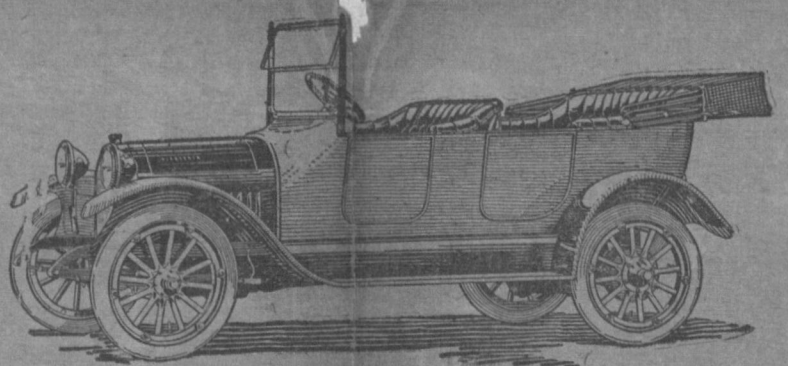
Mr. Hunter:—No! No!
Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar said that he was glad to hear that it was 'no sin.' Continuing he said that it was unfortunate that such a failure should recur year after year.

Mr. K. Ramanuja Chariar in seconding the Resolution said that in the Pachaiyappa's College admissions had been very careful. Still the results were not above the University average. If those boys were unfit for the University course, how was it that in English alone the percentage of failure had mounted higher and higher, while in other subjects there had not been the same rise in the failure. The increase in failure in English must be due to a particular cause for which there ought to be explanation.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar wanted to move a verbal amendment and the Vice-Chancellor said that he might do so with the permission of the Senate.

Mr. K. R. Guruswamy Aiyar then moved to insert after the first word "That" the words "In modification of Regulation 185 and others applicable to the matter, and as a Transitory Regulation for 1915 and 1916". He said that the

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proposition with those words added would be more complete as to what the Mover of the resolution meant. The motion was really in modification of the existing regulations. It was to give effect only for this year, leaving the question of permanent modification for further discussion.

Mr. C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar in seconding the amendment said that he had to refer to the report of the Syndicate again and especially to what was said in para 3. That showed that the report was particularly anxious that popular agitation should not have any influence over the discussion in the Senate. Opinion was expressed on the previous day that such an influence would lead to disastrous results upon the standard set by the University. Why should it be presumed that a compilation in a newspaper was necessarily wrong. In Hyderabad 34 went up and four passed. There was something rotten either in the University or in the Hyderabad centre or about the examiners. Kumbakonam college, a Government college, which took particular care in the matter of admissions sent up 118 candidates for the Intermediate and only 23 passed. Taking the Pachaiyappa's College where admissions were very strict the results were bad. The S. P. G. College sent up 237, only 37 passed, Rajahmundry College sent up 101 and 15 passed, Madras Christian College sent up 178 and 57 passed, Pachaiyappa's College sent up 311 and 79 passed and the Presidency College sent up 93 and 60 passed. Undoubtedly if those figures meant anything, they meant that the Presidency College was the only college under the control of the University which had been admitting students on proper basis.

Mr. Mark Hunter:—Kottayam!
Mr. Allen:—Women's College!
Mr. Ramaswamy Aiyar:—I take it that the candidates from the Women's College were passed out of a sense of chivalry.

Continuing he said that for the purpose of illustrating his thesis the figures quoted by him were sufficient. It was hinted in the report that the Principals of certain colleges had betrayed the trust reposed in them by admitting unfit students. It could not be said in the Senate that the responsible heads of institutions would have been guilty of such malpractices. The only other conclusion was that there was something wrong in the methods of examination and the methods of marking.

The Vice-Chancellor remarked that the language of the amendment was not quite apt to be embodied as a modification of regulation 185.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar accepted the amendment.

Mr. Statham opposed the spirit of the amendment and of the motion. He said that they should concentrate their attention on altering the future curriculum. The present curriculum was not the one best suited to the boys coming from the high schools at present. The English standard was too high. The standard of Intermediate and B.A. in English was rather greater than that in any other University in the Empire. Failure was not due to lax admissions by Principals. Less than two per cent of those who entered the colleges in 1914 got more than the minimum marks in English. It was neither the fault of the examiners nor of the Principals, but of the curriculum; and a University committee ought to be appointed to revise the curriculum of the Intermediate. The standard of English was fictitiously high. The object of the University was to make good citizens and cultured men. The English curriculum should be so altered as to make proper use of students going up for the University course. If the standard of English in the Intermediate was lowered, the standard of the B. A. also should be lowered, because both were inseparably bound up.

Dr. Simonson in opposing the Resolution and the amendment said that he had been examiner in Chemistry for the last three or four years and he found a marked deterioration in the results in the examination. The papers were infinitely worse down and the examiners were not more severe. They were almost the same examiners. The average mark per paper last year was 23 and this year it went down to 17. The standard answers in the books were most remarkably worse. The cause was not far to seek. Three years ago the number of students in Group (iii) was 1000 and in the present year it was 1600. Chemistry, being an experimental science could be learnt only in laboratory. Accommodation was being provided in the Presidency for adequate teaching for 600 candidates. If more boys were allowed to appear, they could not pass their practical subject without going through a further course of practical training. They were allowed to appear without further training. Obviously they would fail and they would go on swelling the list of failures. If the laboratories were crowded, they could not have proper training. Chemistry examiners said that the answers showed that many of the candidates had had no laboratory training. Again the formulae given in the papers were obsolete. Obviously teachers were to blame, not the examiners, for the failure in chemistry. Students had to suffer for the faults of teachers. There was also another cause for the failure in chemistry. The recurring grants given to schools for the laboratory were insufficient. There was one college where the grant for running a laboratory was Rs. 36 and the grant was spent in a month. During the rest of the year there was no laboratory work. Chemistry was an expensive subject and if colleges could not spend money, they must give up the subject and not pretend to teach the subject. Students in that College did not get any practical training and there was no use of their appearing year after year for the examination on text book knowledge. They should not try to lower the standard of examinations to pass some of the candidates. In the North of India they always wanted Madras men, because they attached some value to the Madras Degree. Did the Senate want to lose that estimation?

Mr. G. A. Natesan said that if the facts stated in the report of the Syndicate were taken as they were stated, they meant that the several gentlemen present in the Senate who were Principals and Professors of Colleges had misused the trust reposed in them and they ought to give an explanation why they misused themselves.

Mr. J. H. Stone asked if Mr. Natesan was in order in attributing motives to the members of the Syndicate. Their motives were pure.

Mr. Natesan felt sorry that his remarks led to those remarks from Mr. Stone. The Syndicate's report led to the only irresistible conclusion that the several persons who had been entrusted with the power of admitting boys had done their duty very badly. Referring to the remarks of Dr. Simonson he said that the remarks of the standard was unduly severe. A certain question was asked for the Intermediate candidates in 1916 and the same question in the same form was put for the M. A. candidates in 1913. [Here Mr. Natesan read the question.] There might be some explanation for it. But to him it was somewhat an insoluble problem. Except in the case of the Presidency College, the general result of the whole Presidency in the

Intermediate Examination was a disaster. From the speech of Mr. Statham it was clear that the students were made to study far more than was necessary for them. Something should be done to give some sort of relief to students.

Rev. Macphail in opposing the amendment and the resolution said that more students passed the Intermediate Examination in 1916 than in any previous year either in the Intermediate or the old F. A. Examination—nearly 100 more passed. Those percentages were things which one might juggle with very easily. If the number of candidates fit to pass was the same and if the number of candidates that went up for the examination increased, the percentage of failures would be enormously increased. That was what happened on the present occasion and what had been happening during the last few years. He knew what was taking place in the Colleges. He knew what used to happen at the Matriculation would happen at the Intermediate and they would say that the examination was badly conducted. This year a large number of students unfit for the present standard had failed, even though a larger number passed than ever before. Some gentlemen waxed eloquent over the Syndicate's report. Some members of the Senate had very short memories. An enormous amount of pressure was being used upon Principals of Colleges to admit pupils into Colleges owing to the abolition of the Matriculation Examination. The Syndicate was trying to put an end to the laxity found in the reports of the School Leaving Certificates. What used to happen in the Matriculation even now happened in the Intermediate. If Rickshaw coolies and others were admitted into classes and allowed to appear for the Examination, there would be a tremendous massacre of the innocents. Were the fit candidates plucked. The number that passed this year was larger than ever before. Since the introduction of the S.S.L.C. Scheme a large number of unfit boys were put into the fifth and sixth forms. It was not fair to blame the examiners in the manner in which it had been done and encouraged by the Papers. The Press was full of slanders. Absolute lies were said in the public Press about the action of the examiners. He held no brief for the English examiners. It was said that Mr. Hunter gave orders that not more than a certain percentage should pass. One of his old students came to him and complained to him that he failed because Mr. Mark Hunter gave him less marks. He showed him that Mr. Mark Hunter had given him more marks than a good many other examiners. It was said in the papers that Professors in the Presidency College held special classes for their examiners. He could not go about contradicting all the lies. He wanted to show that was the sort of agitation that was carried on. It was a disgrace to the people spreading those lies about the University. It was said that there was an attempt to keep down higher education in this country out of a political motive. What political motive had he? Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar asked if Rev. Macphail was in order.

Vice-Chancellor.—Go on.

Rev. Macphail continuing said that it had been openly said in a public meeting that the great failures took place, because Government wished that very few people should pass. Why should he pay attention to what Government said. His business was to pass people who were fit to pass.

Mr. Wallace said that the University must adjust itself to the conditions of the country. Some ideal standard could not be maintained for ever. They should submit to popular clamour and something should be done. They were not living in an ideal world.

Mr. Clarke observed that there was more sincerity in this debate than in any other debate since he joined the Senate. He was an Assistant Examiner in English. In composition papers for non-detailed study if the boys could not put simple sentences together, he could not make them pass. If he passed any more candidates than those whom he thought fit, then it would be a great mistake.

Rev. Penn in opposing the Resolution said that they would be stultifying themselves if they attempted to lower the standard. They could not believe that the English examiners were incompetent men. The men who sat on the English Board had been well tested men. He was told that the averages of boys' marks in High Schools could be manipulated. If that was so, that diminished the value of the school average.

Mr. Moffat then made a speech which could not be heard at all. He said that they ought not to be satisfied with the very low percentage of passes and that they should do something to raise the percentage.

At this stage there was some conversation going on between some of the Fellows.

Mr. Justice Oldfield asked if that discussion on English was in order.

The Vice-Chancellor replied that he thought there was a private conversation going on, and asked Mr. Moffat to address the House.

Mr. Stone asked if Mr. Moffat was proposing a Committee.

Vice-Chancellor:—I am not aware of any proposal to form a Committee.

Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri in supporting the resolution said that there was left in his mind a certain amount of uneasiness as to whether in that matter there was some consideration or other to disturb the value of their deliberations. It was said in the report that if the proposition was carried, the first consequence would be that a much larger number of students would be admitted to the B.A. class than first grade colleges could adequately provide for. That was not the kind of argument which the syndicate should bring forward. It was the question of efficiency they had got to consider, not whether additional candidates could be passed and whether there was sufficient room for them in the colleges. The Board appointed to select eligible candidates should not stop at passing the number of candidates that should find accommodation in colleges. That should not be the sort of argument advanced in a document produced to defend the examiners from charges made against them.

The document was issued in the name of the Syndicate and not in the name of the examiners. Again the Syndicate was largely composed of examiners. There was a rule that no member of the Syndicate should be an examiner. He did not know that the rule still stood, perhaps it had been discarded. The document would receive far greater consideration from the Senate, if it had proceeded from an independent examining body. Now the Syndicate had to sit in judgment over themselves and had therefore to throw the blame on another body. The argument to prove the infallibility of examiners required a little closer examination. He had been an examiner in various capacities. He could not claim that the work of examiners was characterised by methodical precision. There might be two Assistant Examiners who had taken instructions from the same Examiner as to the way in which a particular answer should be valued. But he knew of examiners who knew what particular percentage

of marks they had to work up to. One examiner put 12 in one paper and 27 on another so that he might get the required average and escape the scrutiny of the principal examiner. There would be nothing to show that he committed a capital blunder. There was a possibility of serious error in those matters. The matter required serious consideration at their hands. He should have been very glad to support the proposition for a committee, if some body had proposed it.

Mr. Winckler said that the resolution did not go to the root of the matter. There were only two parties—candidates and examiners. They should settle once for all where the fault lay. The papers should be submitted to an entirely fresh body of examiners to settle the question whether the candidates this year were inferior to those of the previous years. It would be very expensive, but that would settle the question once for all. He had been teaching in this University since 1873 and he found no deterioration in the calibre of the candidates in recent years. On the other hand there was a slight improvement, especially in their capacity for hard work. But the vagaries of the examiners had gone far. Quoting the figures of passes and failures in his own school he said that personally he would be benefitted if the proposition was carried. Still he was decidedly against it, because it did not go to the root of the matter. The scandals and defects lay deep seated and it was the business of the Senate to find them out.

Hon. Rev. G. Pittendrigh said that he hoped that Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar would withdraw his resolution.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar said he was not going to withdraw it.

Rev. Pittendrigh continuing said that no self-respecting examiner would vote for the resolution. He listened to Mr. Clarke's speech with great interest. Several examiners and assistant examiners had made their remarks. They said they could not pass a larger number of candidates. He was prepared to accept the testimony of those gentlemen. When Mr. Hunter was in the control of Intermediate Examinations, the percentage of passes in English of the Intermediate Examination was 60 and 57. It might be that the course of studies was high. But that would not justify the resolution before them.

Mr. Hunter in opposing the resolution said that he had been connected with the English study for the last 25 years. He was last year Chairman of the Board of Examiners in English. There was no desire on the part of any examiner to fail candidates. He was told that the statements in the Syndicate's report were not true. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri took one sentence in the report about the passing of students in proportion to accommodation in colleges. It must be presumed that that was repeating a false charge brought against him.

Mr. Srinivasa Sastri:—I expressly disown that suggestion.

Mr. Hunter said that the examiners had not been treated as honourable men. They were condemned without any evidence being produced before them. The first years of the Intermediate Examination were normal years. It was hoped that the Intermediate was going to be a success. Unfortunately boys were admitted freely into Intermediate classes and the University wanted to resume control of the admissions to Intermediate classes. Nobody wanted to call principals names.

Mr. S. Krishnaswamy Aiyangar said that out of the 7000 and odd candidates those who failed in one subject and those who failed in two subjects might be considered fit for admission into the higher class.

Mr. Moffat moved for the appointment of a committee to investigate the whole question.

Dr. Nair in seconding the resolution said that the resolution of Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar was not the proper one. They must study what the disease itself was. The Syndicate's report stated that the S.S.L.C. certificates had had a disastrous result. It had been suggested that the Intermediate standard was too high. If that was so, failures must increase if the number of boys increased. The failures were appreciably in English. If it was due to deterioration, it must be manifest in all branches of study. Why should it be manifest in English alone?

Mr. Mark Hunter:—No body said that. (Cries of order order!)

Dr. Nair continuing said that it was said that the failures were due to admissions of unfit candidates into Intermediate class and to want of teaching in classes. Examiners put it on to teaching and said that the teachers were not competent. It was also said on the other side that the examinations were not properly held. The examiners were strongly entrenched behind the Syndicate. Students, Teachers and Examiners, those three items should be thoroughly investigated. It was for the closer investigation of examiners that a Committee was required that evening. Even if the resolution of Mr. Seshagiri Aiyar was carried, it would come to nothing at all, as the causes which had brought about the unsatisfactory state of things would still continue. The system was unsatisfactory. They should get into some sort of satisfactory state of things. A radical change ought to be brought about and this should be made something like a University.

Mr. Justice Abdur Rahim said that the discussion was unfortunate and the matter was very simple. Four thousand and odd students went up for the Intermediate Examination and most of them studied in colleges under the direct supervision of the University, and failed in a foreign language, which state of things could not be satisfactory. This state of things would not be permitted in any other University. English was a difficult language to all of them and their children. To exact a very high standard from boys in English was cruel.

Mr. Moffat moved that a committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the causes of failure in the recent Intermediate Examination and to recommend to the Senate, if necessary, any measures to be adopted to obtain more satisfactory results.—The Committee to consist of Messrs. Stone, Hunter, Skinner, Seshagiri Aiyar, Statham, Slater, Wallace, Ramunni Menon, K. Srinivasa Aiyangar, James Miller, K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar and Moffat (convenor).

Mr. Natesan said that the amendment was not relevant to the question before the House and asked if it was in order.

Vice-Chancellor:—It is not an amendment. It is an independent proposition for the appointment of a Committee. It is in order.

Mr. Natesan:—If this is voted upon, will the original proposition also be voted upon?

Vice-Chancellor:—This is distinct from the original proposition. I put Mr. Moffat's proposition to vote.

Rev. Macphail:—Under Regulation 22 (8) either this motion for the appointment of a committee must be dropped or if it is carried, the discussion of Mr. Justice Seshagiri Aiyar's resolution must be dropped. The whole business of committee resolution is a

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"I thought I would try Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I was so pleased with the result of the free sample that I purchased some from the chemist. Before using the first tin of Ointment and the Soap I saw wonderful improvement, the irritation was allayed and I was able to have a night's rest. Now I am quite well." (Signed) Mrs. C. Bowyer, July 7, 1914.

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Mr. Allen:—We will be discussing two different questions at the same time. The amendment must be connected with the subject or it is not.

Mr. Guruswami Aiyar:—Is this motion in order at all?

Vice-Chancellor.—The matter before the House is with reference to failures in the Intermediate Examination. The original proposition is that a certain particular remedy be adopted with regard to the students who failed, viz., the percentage of passes should be increased. The motion of Mr. Moffat on the other hand deals with the same subject matter, viz., the recent failure. He proposes rather not to increase the number of passes but to inquire into the causes of failure and to suggest remedies. This does not entirely cover the ground of the original proposition. It is difficult to say that Mr. Moffat's motion for a committee completely covers the ground dealt with in the original resolution.

Rev. Macphail:—If it does not cover the ground it has no right to appear at all.

Vice-Chancellor:—It is rather difficult to say that.

Rev. Macphail:—Do you rule that in order?

Vice-Chancellor:—Mr. Moffat's motion does not cover the whole matter before the House, but only considers part of the matter. On the whole it is in order. I will put Mr. Moffat's proposition to vote.

Hon. Mr. S. Sreenivasa Aiyangar said that if that was put to vote the original proposition would be committed. The Committee would have to suggest remedies and the Senate could not again pass another Resolution with reference to the Intermediate Examination 1916.

Vice-Chancellor:—I do not know if it is intended to suggest any remedies with reference to past failures. I rather thought it was meant to regulate the future failures.

Mr. Stone:—We should be clear as to whether the original resolution is to go on, if this resolution for a committee is passed. The practice of this Senate has been that if there is a proposal for a Committee to deal with the same subject as the one before the Senate, the further consideration of the subject cannot go on. The appointment of a committee puts an end to the discussion altogether.

Vice-Chancellor:—I understood that it was not meant to do anything with regard to students who failed in 1916, but only with regard to future failures.

The Vice-Chancellor then asked Mr. Moffat "Do you wish to deal with past failures?"

Mr. Moffat:—Oh, no! no! That is not my intention.

Mr. Allen:—Mr. Moffat cannot appoint a committee with regard to future failures which would be a purely hypothetical question.

Vice-Chancellor:—I think Mr. Moffat's resolution is relevant and I will put it to vote.

Hon. Rev. Pittendrigh:—Do you rule that this will put an end to the discussion.

Mr. Stone:—Can we vote on this point without affecting the substantive resolution?

Vice-Chancellor:—I will tell you later on.

The motion for the committee was carried by a majority of 44 against 14.

The Vice-Chancellor before declaring the meeting dissolved said "I am really inclined to think that this will conclude the debate."

The meeting terminated.

விளம்பரம்.

கோயமுத்தூர் அடிஷனல் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்டு முன்சீப்கோர்ட்டு 1915ம்-ஆண்டு அசல் ரெம் பர் 284ல் கல்பா கோயமுத்தூர் டவுன் முன்சீப் 5வது வார்டு மாதேராஜா மஹால் வீதி வடபுரம் சிரேணி பழைய Door No. 192, புதிய ரெ. 204 லக்க மிட்ட கட்டடம் வகையரா. கல்பா கோய முத்தூரில் வசிக்கும் வைசிய மகா ஜனங்க ளுக்குப் பாத்தியப்பட்ட ஸ்ரீ சன்னிகாபர மேசுவரி அம்மன் தேவஸ்தானத்துக்கா கோயமுத்தூரிலிருக்கும் அய்யன்னை செட்டியார் (1) ஆஞ்சலேய செட்டியார் (2) முத்துயீரன்னை செட்டியார் (3) இராம நாதம் செட்டியார் (4) இவர்கள் தங்க ளுக்கு சுவாதினமாகவேனுமாய் ஷே யூரி லிருக்கும் பாலகுருநாத செட்டியார் வகைய ராக்கள் பேரில் வழக்கு தொ. ரெ. கோர்ட்டு 1916ம்-ஆண்டு I. A. 35 கொடுத்து மேலேகண்ட வாதிக்குக் கே. ரட்டார் அவர்களால் அனுமதிக்கொடுக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஷே அனுமதி கொடுக்க சரித்து ஷே ரெம்பர் நடந்து வந்து நாளச ஸ்டெமடம் 15 டிருக்கி

CN^o 3703 Ep
19. 10. 16

QUESTION.—No.

34

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the 21st November 1916.

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the
Home (E^g) Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the
rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these Questions in the
Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due
course.

V. T. K.
19. 10. 16.

22
1916

Leg U.O. No. 2485 dated 19 - X - 16

To

The Home (E^g) Department. with Q 34.

EA. V.

Home Dept.
(Ed.?)

It does not appear that it is ^{necessary} ~~to~~ to appoint a Commission in the manner desired by the Additional Member. It may be observed in this connection that, at the extraordinary meeting of the Senate convened on the 22nd ^{last}, July, Mr. Moffat moved that a Committee be appointed to enquire into and report upon the causes of failure in the last Intermediate examination and to recommend to the Senate, if necessary, any measures to be adopted to obtain more satisfactory results. From the concluding portion of the proceedings of the meeting it will appear that the proposed Committee will go into the question of the abnormal failures at the last Intermediate examination with a view to suggesting measures for the mitigation of similar failures in the future.

2 The D. P. D. may perhaps be able to furnish information

Leaving at ship (T)
from the 'Hindus'
of the 24th July '16

as to whether the Committee has
since been constituted and, if
so, as to the conclusions arrived
at by it.

3 Submitted that the file
may be circulated to H.E. the
Governor for orders as to whether
the D.P.D. may be consulted w/o as
suggested above.

22.10.16

W.

Perhaps the D.P.D. may
be asked to state whether
a reply on the following
lines will do:—

"The Govt. do not consider
it necessary to appoint
any special commission
to enquire into the matter,
It is understood that there
which, it is understood, is
under investigation by the
University."

23.10.16
L

Let us know the per cent
please find. what was the
percentage of papers during the

last two years, I mean,
at the last Intermediate
written, and the are
uprich? and that were
the Comparing percents
of the preceding five years?
Please telephone, if needed,
to the University, and
ascertain?

24/10/16

The percentage of passes
at the Intermediate examination
for the last several years is given
below:

year.	percentage of passes.
1916	26.3
1915	27.5
1914	39.0
1913	33.4
1912	43.5
1911	41.4
1909	32.6

(Figures taken from
the annual: Calendar)

For this year the old
F. A. Exam. was held
for the last time and
there were no annual
Exams. in Dec. 1910.

24.10.16

24.10.16

Box 6
Enc 24/10
Recd v/v

NOTES.

HE

The percentage of
passes was under 50
last (under 50) in 1915 and
1916. His honor is
wonder for the University to
inquire into it, think reason,
and to 'take such action'
which may seem advisable. It
is chiefly unnecessary for the
Gov. to interfere in a matter
like this. I therefore propose
the following answer to
the public letter is
proper: —

No.

24/10/16

A // "The Government are not prepared to take the course proposed."

(But what does D.P.I. think, please?)

P
26.10.16.

S. I. I. Co. Rees
Trust as agent.

(Notes New paper
authentic only)

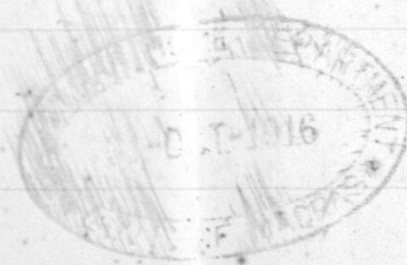
27th 10th 16

WONG 165 of 30.10.16

Eoluo 37037
27. 10. 16

18958 sub 3
11.01.16

The Committee has met once and
purposes to take evidence from principals
of concern. Although it has not to inquire
into the causes of failure it is impossible
that it should not incidentally elucidate
them. Perhaps the Hon. member might be
told that pending the report of the Com-
mittee Government is not prepared to
take the course suggested.



for 28.7.16

Hon. Dept.
(Edw.)

The following draft answer
has been on the last sentence of the
Director's note above is submitted
for consideration.

"The Govt. understands that

Box 24
date 2/4
LH

NOTES.

12

"The university of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ has
 "appointed ~~at the~~ a Committee to suggest
 "measures for obtaining more
 "satisfactory results in the
 "intermediate examination. Pending
 "the report of that Committee the
 "Govt: are not prepared to
 "adopt the suggestion of the
 "Honble: Member"

LH
1.11.16

LH
1.11.16

Q
1.11.16
LH

LH

The answer proposed
 of HE at page 6 may, I think,
 be adhered to.

Q
2.11.16

P
2.11.16

Current
 Section
 The answer on
 page 6 anti Q
 he copied and
 sent to Regre.
LH
20/11

Q
 41 nr. 3703-2
 4-11-16

Q
3/11/16

13

[no supply in]

65 Q.—Will the Government be pleased to appoint a commission to make necessary inquiries and report as to the causes which led to the abnormal percentage of failures in the intermediate examinations of the last two years?

Commission to investigate the failures at the Intermediate Examination.

65 A.—The Government are not prepared to take the course proposed.

Legislative Council
Recording
notes connected with
a question asked at the
meeting of the — held
on the 21st Nov. 1916 re:
the appt: of a Commission
to investigate into the
causes of the abnormal
failures at the Inter-
mediate exam: of
1915 & 1916.

An extract of
the question and answer in their
final form has been added to
the file.

2 Submitted that the notes
may be

Order
Mrs.

1327, Edin., do 9.12.16

Recorded

8.12.16
JL
8.12.16

9.12.16

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

HEAD AGAIN G.O., No. 19

DATED

ORDER No.

ENCLOSURE TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LETTER

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

A A A A A A A

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.