

Edl(1916.) Department.

Mis SERIES.

G.O., No. 147.

DATED 12/2-16.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

*Legislative Council Proceedings Recording
notes relating to the question asked
at the meeting of the Legislative
Council held on 1-2-16 regarding
the education of Nair children
of Malabar.*

CN: 8284

8.1.16

VERMONT

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

QUESTION - No. 16

for the meeting of the

Legislative Council to be held on the 1st February 1916.

Submitted that two copies of this Question may be forwarded
to the Educational 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.

U.T.K.

8.1.16

70

The Educational dept u.o. with Q. 16.

Leg no 51-1

8.1.16



Legislative Department,

The Honourable Mr. K.K.R. Kavalappara Muppil Nayar:

Educational Department.

16. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to what has appeared about the education of the Nambudiris of Malabar in the following issues of the newspapers:-

- (1) West Coast Spectator of the 4th and 8th December 1915.
(ii) Indian Patriot of the 13th December 1915?

If the answer to this is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to consider, as soon as it is convenient, the method of action to be taken in this matter?

Editorial Reflections

The following sent to us by a leading Nambudiri gentleman well known for his progressive views will be read with interest:—I read with anxious interest the article headed "The New Nambudiri" which appeared recently in the columns of your paper, and much appreciate that friendly tone and sound practical advice which you preferred to any adverse criticism or even scandal which has been so much heaped on this unfortunate community. I hope that you will publish this short notice on the prospect of the Nambudiris and how to remedy that colossal ignorance and superstition with which they have been so often identified. There is at present an ever-increasing appreciation of the immense good accruing from English education among the Nambudiris and proportionately growing desire to profit by it. But the orthodox element is still powerful and will continue to bar all ways to reform and progress. Without sympathy from within and without, wholly prompted by a true instinct for good, without knowledge, the rising Nambudiris stand up for the highest blessings of modern civilisation. They have created the "Yogakshema Sabha," which though doing little is capable of the highest expectation if directed properly. They have approached the Governor with an address, begging Government help and they have been promised much sympathy. They have chosen a committee to promote the cause of education, but little or nothing has been done of any practical use, and what more can be expected of them if there is no sympathy and help from outside. It is certain that such a community, though without much intellectual influence, exercising unbounded moral influence and possessing wealth to support itself is a very important set for good or for evil. It is certain that stained and corrupt to the core, this indulgent and in many cases tyrannical set is an extremely vicious stock and that their elevation is in some measure essential and beneficial to Malabar as a whole. Will the Government favour this community on whose

well-being depends the well-being of the thousands of Malabar? The honourable, the late Mr. Nayanar, and the Hon'ble Mr. Kavalapara Moopil Nair espoused their cause in the Legislative Council and I do not know what the Government intends to do. There will be nothing more welcome to them and nothing more effectual in rousing the orthodox than Government pressure and help. Money and means they will readily find among themselves. The Zamorin has long been the mainstay of this community and is bound by tradition and rule to help it. Since the estates have been committed to the management of the Court of Wards it is natural that the Nambudiris should seek sympathy and help from that quarter. As the Zamorin's representative will Mr. Thorne generously look to it? The "Thirunavaya Madam" which was under the Zamorin's jurisdiction has now fallen under evil stars. Mismanagement and chaos prevail unchecked. Will the educational committee chosen by the Nambudiris interview Mr. Thorne or he them and do something for the good of Malabar? I am sure any official pressure is likely to be of immense use. Will he earn the undying gratitude of the Nambudiris and will the Government secure their hearty loyalty and gratefulness? There is a great danger that helpless and disappointed the rising Nambudiris may lose hope and spirit. Instead of laughing at them or deriding them for their folly it is the duty of every one in the name of humanity and progress, to help this tottering community.

Extract from the West Coast Spectator, Calicut, dated 4-12-15

5.4.
Extract from The West Coast Spectator, Calicut,
dated 8-12-15

The article on Nambudri education we published in our last issue ought to be read by the general public and the Nambudri Yogakshema Sabha with thoughtful attention. The writer rightly takes the Sabha to task for its ~~inertia~~ inertia, and his suggestion that the Vedic College at Tirunavaya should be improved and expanded ought to receive the sympathetic attention of the Court of Wards, as representing the Zamorin who was for ages the patron of this ancient repository of learning.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *The Madras Patriot*
 2. Published at— *Madras*
 3. Dated— *13. 12. 15*

The Nambudri Problem.

There is a genuine awakening among the Nambudris, an ardent desire to have English education and to enter the new expanses of thought that the new literature will open to the vision. But they cannot take advantage of the existing schools; they must have special institutions, some new inventions. It is a pity that such a rich and influential class of people should be practically unexploited. If only they are taken in hand and the breath of enterprise blown into them, what an enormous capital would be available for industrial enterprise. Of course we do not want that the Nambudri should be educated into taking rank with the High Court Vakils, of course such of them as have a legal head, must seek legal education. We want, however, that after a thorough grounding in general education, the Nambudri should be taken to the Industrial College, or the Agricultural College. In other words, the Nambudri education should be a combination of general and industrial education. In ten years the result would be simply astounding.

The Call to Government.

But the Government must lend a hand. The community is certainly what may be described as backward. They have money, but they must be taught to spend it for educational purposes. Cochin and Travancore must lead the way. The Madras Government should not hesitate to give a third of the required amount, the other two-thirds being found by the Native States and the Nambudris. Those who know them—and Dewan Bahadur Rajagopalachari certainly knows them—must be feeling very very sorry, indeed, that such a wealthy expanse should lie fallow. We are most unimaginative and deserve to be laughed at, indeed, when we fail to develop Nambudri talent. Dewan Bahadur Rajagopalachari has given attention to the problem, and he should seriously take it up, now that he has the ears of the Government.

A hopeful Sign.

There are, however, hopeful signs. Travancore has already led the way by starting a school. Dewan Bahadur Krishnan Nair, who knows this problem as well as anyone else, can be expected to open an ideal institution at Alway. Provided the Government of Cochin will also join forces. Cochin has a special duty towards the Nambudris. The relations between the Royal family and the Nambudri families are so close. As yet Cochin has not raised its little finger. With the advent of the new Rajah, however, the whole aspect has changed, and Cochin stands on the tip toe of expectation. With Sir Sankaran Nair in charge of the portfolio at Delhi, with Dewan Bahadur Rajagopal Chari at Madras, and Dewan Bahadur Krishnan Nair, at Trivandrum, it would be surprising, indeed, if the Nambudris should not make headway. The Nambudris pay a large portion of the land revenues in Malabar. Government must not hesitate to take special measures for their development. The wealth of many a temple could be used for this

purpose. What is needed is a man of action. We must not wait for the Nambudris to demand; we will have to wait long. We must put them in the way of making that demand. There are signs of awakening. Let us take advantage of them. We must act.
 R. C.

1916.

Educational DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *The West Coast Spectator*
2. Published at—
3. Dated— *6. 11. 15.*

The New Nambudiri.

For some time past there have been lying before us proceedings of a general meeting of the Nambudiries of South Malabar at which questions of momentous importance to the community were discussed. It is a happy sign of the times that the problem of English education has commenced to agitate the minds of the leaders of the community. This community, as every school boy knows, occupies the foremost place in society and from time immemorial the Nambudiri has been leading a life of indolence, detached from the maddening crowd's ignoble strife, or, as somebody has put it, hourly defrauded by his *Kariastas*. Even to-day, in the midst of twentieth century surroundings, he follows the customs and usages laid down by the legendary hero, Rama of the Axa, and the civilizing influences of British rule have stopped short of the *Illom* or *Mana*. At one time, the Nambudiri was the leader of thought and society in Malabar; in fact, he was the arbitrator of the Malayalee's destiny, a position guaranteed by his wealth and divine attributes. Time has, however, wrought changes, but with little effect on the community, and the result is that people who were once under the thumb of the Nambudiri have liberated themselves and stolen a march over him. The Nambudiries are no longer the custodians of learning, and except in some out-of-the-way villages, they exercise the least influence. In short, in the words of Mathew Arnold, they have let the legions thunder past in silent, deep disdain, and fallen several degrees below the position they once occupied. But, the struggle for existence and the levelling influences of democracy have opened the eyes of the Nambudiri, and the result is the birth of a new spirit that is leavening the whole mass of the community. Thoughtful men among them have realised, before it is too late, that they should move along with the times and give up the tract they have hitherto been trading. The civilization of to-day, in spite of the impregnability of the citadel of Nambudiri orthodoxy which it has been battering against for ages past, at last seems to have made an impression on the walls of iron. The "Nambudiri Yogakshema Sabha" is the outward manifestation of the

spirit that has levered the community up to work for a higher destiny. This is a result of which the community as a whole, should congratulate itself. Pax Britannica has established another triumph, and it must now be the duty of Nambudiri leaders to direct the newly awakened energies into righteous and fruitful channels, without either allowing them to cool down or to, run riot. We have realised, and it is our experience that the enthusiasm of the Malayalees is what may be called "soda-water enthusiasm", that rises and fizzles out in one moment. This unhappy land of ours has been the grave of the reputation, political social and moral, of many a leader; and several movements having as their object the amelioration of the condition of the people have all perished for want of support or enthusiasm. The Malayalee has a particular knack of making good resolutions—and breaking them with equal rapidity. We trust the Nambudiries will not make this fatal mistake, and retreat to the background after making a deal of noise. Their activities must not be blatant or spasmodic, but real, practical and persistent. We are forced to write in such strain because we have a lurking suspicion that the enthusiasm of the Nambudiries is not now what it was a few years ago. We admit that this enthusiasm has not cooled down in the rank and file of those who have revolted against the old order; but ultimate victory does not rest with them. They have to be led and conserved, held within the bounds of discipline and led in order and without confusion towards the new goal that is now before them. But we have to give a bit of friendly advice to the leaders of the community. The "Yogakshema Shaba" was created a good many years ago with a flourish of trumpets, boomed in the vernacular press and talked of in every nook and corner. It professed to do much, and although we have been watching it all along we have not heard of anything practical being achieved by the

DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. *Name of Paper—*
2. *Published at—*
3. *Dated—*

organisation. The leaders who run the Sabha have a great responsibility, which we trust, they will meet in a spirit of devotion, sacrifice, and love. It must be remembered that unaided by leaders, the common people cannot do much, and if the former do not rise equal to the occasion, the cause is doomed to failure. As they have rightly realised, the leaders should first of all direct their attention towards the secular education of their people. Beyond a grinding in the literature of the Vedas and in Malayalam, the Nambudiri boy does not get any education that is useful in this work-a-day world. An up-to-date educational institution on the lines of the Central Hindu College or the Gurukul Institution of the Arya Samaj is a crying need—one which the leaders should strive to meet. They may count upon the support of the Government and the general public; and strengthened by the sacredness of the cause, the Nambudiries should strive to give practical shape to the scheme they are now said to be in possession of. We have to express the hope that something will be done before the next session of the Sabha.

Ed! Department.

Slip ⑥. ⑤ + ⑧

Submitted ^{that} the newspaper articles referred to in the question urge that special steps should be taken for the improvement of the education of Nambudiris and that the ~~Board of Education~~ ^{Board of Education} ~~School~~ Vedic College at Tirumavaya should be looked after by the Board of Wards as the representative of the Samosin. It is submitted that the Late Mr. Kunhiaman Nayanor & the Hon'ble Mr. Kavalappara Mappil Nair both urged in the Legislative Council that the Govt ~~also~~ should take steps to start ~~special~~ ^{special} institutions specially intended to benefit the Nambudiri community. No action was taken on this suggestion as it was thought that the community should be left to itself to move in the matter. It is for orders whether any special action should ~~now~~ be taken with reference to the suggestions made in the new paper.

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page 17 of Int. Stat. for 1914-15.
page 325 of " " for 1915-16.

page 7 of notes to p. 1200 ⑦
page 4 of notes to p. 1257 ⑧
⑤

newspapers.

2. The suggestion regarding the improvement of the 'Erumavaya' Kedic College by the Court of Wards is one for consideration by the Revenue Department.

3. If it is decided that no action need be taken in the matter, the following draft answer may be given with the concurrence of the Revenue Dept:-

"The Govt have now perused the 'newspaper articles. They consider that the community concerned 'should take the initiative in 'the matter'."

SK
17.1.16
17/1/16

The note is incomplete. Put up a
① a census report explaining why the Hambrois must have special intimation, ② the West coast Spectator article on "the new revolution" and ③ the petition on the subject to H.C. The Governor with notes and orders thereon, in 'West coast Spectator' of 21.12.15.

SK
17/1/16

18.1.16.

With reference to the Secretary's note on the previous page, the following are submitted:-

(1) the Census reports (Parts I & 2) 1911. Separate figures for Nambudiris are not given in the report. ~~Two figures~~ Attention is however solicited to the note on the address presented to H.E. the Governor in 1914 by the Kerala Brahmin Samajam on pages 4 & 5 of G.O. No. 1313 Est., dated the 20th November 1914.

(2) the West Coast ~~Sp~~ Spectator of the 6th November 1915, which contains the article headed "The New Nambudiri".

(3) note on the address presented to H.E. the Governor by the Kerala Brahmin Samajam, Kollengode, on pages 4 & 5 of G.O. No. 1313 Est., dated the 20th November 1914. The reply given by ~~His~~ His Excellency to the address is on pages 48 to 51

(Please see book put up.) Of the Account of his Seventh tour.

~~ck~~ ^{ck} _{21.1.16.} The Nambudiris' ~~claim~~ demand for special institutions for them is based upon their educationally backward condition.

(In the Chief Secy's library the paper was not available. It was obtained from outside & was received only today.)
ck
21.1.16.

NOTES.

Page 16

due to their religious scruples to mix freely with other castemen. Their children will not attend ordinary schools.

21/1/16.

The question seems to be one upon which Mr. Rajagopal Acheriar possesses special knowledge. Will he please suggest an answer?

22.1.16.

The Nambudris of British Malabar and Cochin - unlike those of Travancore - are a particularly well-to-do community. Some of the wealthiest men in British Malabar belong to this community. I am very doubtful if special schools for them are either necessary or advisable in British Malabar. Assuming that the community would prefer to have special schools, I think that they should be left to start them of their own initiative, relying for such aid from the Government as the grant-in-aid rules would warrant. So far as the general educational question is concerned, I would support the answer proposed at page 4 ante, that the Government consider that the community concerned should take the initiative in the matter.

The suggestion in regard to the improvement of the Tirunavaya Vedic College is a vague one.

NOTES.

Page 12

This college is not now under the control or inspection of the Educational Department, so far as I know. It is a private college run by the Zamorin of Calicut. The question whether the College needs any improvement has to be dealt with by the Revenue Department as the Court of Wards has taken up the Zamorin's Estate.

To the Hon'ble Mr. C.G. Todhunter.

So far as Educational are concerned it seems sufficient to say that you have read the articles and see no necessity for any special action. Will be come kindly dealt with the question of the Trimmara Vedic College?

24.1.16

Rev. K.O.

If Educ^e consider no special action necessary, I do not think Revenue can advise the Court of Wards to take any steps. It is up to the Rarbaries to approach the Court on the subject.

The question seems to me much more Educ^e than Revenue but

REVENUE - A

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24/1

NOTES.

Page 13

16

4/11
to be
24/1

Est Box No. I
25-1-16

a provisional answer as below may
go to Legislative Council direct from
Revenue before the pp. are
transferred to Educ.

LD
24.1.16

The draft answer below is
submitted for approval

CS
25.1.16

H. E. the Governor

H. H. Revenue.

P
26/1

I do not see that this question concerns the
Revenue Dept. at all. If we were asked
directly whether the C. of Wards would
develop the Vedic College, it would concern
us - but that is not asked.

I have no objection to the Educ. Dept's reply
but should there be a supplementary question
(as is unlikely) it will be for Est. to answer it.

CS
27.1.16

27.1.16

forwarded
27/1/16

Intimate to Govt.
approval to be
27/1

Q. 16.

Combined answer
Each and Revenue.

The Govt. have pursued the poor
communications referred to. They
considered that the Kambadu com-
-munications should take the initiative
in the matter.

8 1. 16
~ 4.

Sp. answer above
to regulations then
revenue to Govt. Co
24/1

DESPATCHED.
24 JAN 1918

Rev. A. O. D. 60/16-1
24-1-16

do not see that this question concerns the
Revenue Dept. at all. If the Govt. asked
directly whether the C. O. would
develop the Vicer College, it would concern
us - but that is not asked.
I have no objection to the Special Dept. reply
but would there be a supplementary question
which would be for the Revenue Dept.

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Revenue Dept. at all. If the Govt. asked
directly whether the C. O. would
develop the Vicer College, it would concern
us - but that is not asked.
I have no objection to the Special Dept. reply
but would there be a supplementary question
which would be for the Revenue Dept.

The final form of the question & answer was as follows:—

19 Q.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to what has appeared about the education of the Nambudiris of Malabar in the following issues of the newspapers:—

Education of Nambudiris of Malabar.

- (i) *West Coast Spectator* of the 4th and 8th December 1915 ;
- (ii) *Indian Patriot* of the 13th December 1915 ?

If the answer to this is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to consider, as soon as it is convenient, the method of action to be taken in this matter ?

19 A.—The Government have perused the communications referred to. They considered that the Nambudiri community should take the initiative in the matter

Submitted that the papers may be one No. 147 Eadl M's 9/12-2-16
Recorded

8A
10-2-16. K
10/2/16

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____ } 10
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 19

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETAIL.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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