

E. Dicalma (1916) Department.

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G.O. No. 205 Ed. ms.

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DATED 25-2-16

[Despatch Abstract.]

Tour Recording office note
on the arguments of a Muhammadan
deputation that waited on His
Excellency the Governor
during his — to ^{Tanjore} that district
relating to the concession of
half-fees to Muhammadan students

BACK PAPERS.

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S TOUR, 1915.

Muhammadan Deputation in Tanjore.

SUBJECT III.—*Concession of half fees to Muhammadan students.*

Arguments.—"We beg to submit that the Muhammadan community is still considered as a backward community in education. The chief obstacle that stands against the cause of our education is our poverty. We are unable to pay the enhanced rate of school-fees. On the representation of the Muhammadan Educational Association of South India, Madras, and of the Muhammadan members of the local Legislative Council, the Government of Madras were pleased to pass G.O. No. 404, Educational, dated 10th May 1912, in which the amount of fee income foregone from the Muhammadan pupils in accordance with rule 102 of the Madras Educational Rules was added to the teaching grant ordinarily admissible to a school. Again on the representation of the Director of Public Instruction with reference to the Government Order *supra* the Government were pleased to pass another G.O. No. 842, Educational, dated 17th September 1912, in which the following proviso was added to rule 32 of the Grant-in-Aid Code: "Provided that the allotment ordinarily admissible may be increased by half the amount of fee income foregone under rule 102 of the Educational Rules in respect of Muhammadans, Uriyas, girls and backward classes and castes."

"The above Government Orders are only optional and are not obligatory on the managers of private schools. The managers and headmasters of the private schools say that it is left to the discretion of the management to grant the concession asked for. And no compulsory effect can be claimed by the Government Orders. We beg to submit that at present the school-fees are very exorbitant and that many Muhammadan boys have to give up their studies after they complete their elementary course on account of high rate of school-fees. The Muhammadans of Tanjore are not well off in life to give this costly education to their children."

"In the interests of the Muhammadan
"education we earnestly pray that His
"Excellency the Governor may be
"pleased to so modify the Government
"Orders as to make them compulsory
"upon all managers of the schools to
"grant the concessions so kindly thought
"to be necessary by the Government.
"The amount of concession so granted by
"the managers may be made good by
"grants by the Government."

Collector's remarks.

Though the Muhammadan community in Tanjore town is poor, in many other places in this district it is very wealthy, and the Muhammadan boys in such places have certainly no case for paying half-fees only. It is not the poverty of the Muhammadans which drives the boys from school at an early age, so much as its unsuitability for the trading career they aim at.

Secretariat note.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

The deputation brings to notice that the concession of half-fees to Muhammadan pupils allowed in G.Os. No. 404, Educational, dated the 10th May 1912, and No. 842, Educational, dated the 17th September 1912, is not freely allowed to them by managers of schools with the result that most of the Muhammadan boys, being too poor to pay the standard rates of fees, give up their studies after completing the elementary course. It is therefore suggested that the Government may be pleased to so modify the above Government Orders as to make it compulsory on all managers to observe the half-fee rule. Under rule 93 of the Madras Educational Rules, the rates and levy of fees are left to a large extent to the discretion of the managers of private institutions. The policy of the Government is not to use compulsion on private managers in the matter of levying fees, and the Government are not likely at present to make any deviation from the accepted policy. They have already offered sufficient inducement to the management to observe the half-fee rule by partly compensating them for the consequent loss of income. It does not seem to be possible to do anything further. Attention is, in this connection,

solicited to the question on the same subject proposed to be asked by the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur V. K. Ramanuja Achariyar at the Legislative Council meeting to be held on the 23rd instant and the answer proposed to be given thereto. The Director of Public Instruction has observed in that connection as follows:—

"All our rules about fees rest on the idea that managers should be left to levy fees as they like so far as the amount charged goes. We seek to encourage them to levy as much as possible by the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid Code. We can hardly *compel* managers to admit boys at half-fees on the ground that they are Muhammadans. To some extent we do encourage them to do so, but a proposal to increase the encouragement was negatived by Government as will be seen from G.O. No. 729, Educational, dated 3rd July 1915."

2. The Collector observes that it is not so much the poverty of the community as the unsuitability of the schools for a trading career which drives the boys from school at an early age. The same opinion has been recorded by the Collector in connection with the address to be presented by the Muhammadans of Negapatam and Nagore. It has been noted thereon that it may not be possible to frame a separate curriculum for Muhammadans with a view to their being trained for a mercantile career. If the wealthy Muhammadan traders want commercial training for their sons they should contribute towards providing it.

C.R.—18-11-15.

C. G. TODHUNTER—18-11-15.

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The Muhammadans, before making their representations, expressed their regrets at the entry of Turkey into the conflict forgetful of the assistance which Great Britain had rendered to her during the Balkan war, and their hopes for the success of the Allies.

2 Their first request was that a plot of land in the Southern Regany opposite to the Union Club be granted for construction of a building for the Anjuman. His Excellency advised them to place the matter before the Collector who would do all he legitimately could to secure consideration of their request.

3 They next requested that the managers of private schools be ~~comp~~ compelled to grant the concession of half fees to Muhammadans. They ~~urged~~ urged their poverty and backwardness, and stated that most of the Muhammadan boys being too poor to pay the standard rate of fees gave up their studies prematurely. It was suggested that the present Government order on the subject might be so modified as to make it obligatory on the part of managers of private schools to charge only half fees. His Excellency pointed out that the policy of the Government was not to use compulsion in this matter. They had already offered inducements to the managers of private schools to observe the half-fee rule by partly compensating them for the consequent loss of income. His Excellency added that it did not seem practicable to move any further and that at any rate the present was not a favourable opportunity to consider questions involving further burdens on Government funds.

4 They next prayed that the construction of a building for the Muhammadan Girls' School on the site already acquired might be begun. His Excellency informed them that the Government had already approved the construction of a building at a cost of Rs. 11,900 and that it was proposed to allot Rs. 4,000 in next year's budget. He impressed upon them however that the present financial stringency might cause delay in the execution of the work, and told them that the acquisition of a site and the Government approval for the construction of a building were sufficient proof that Government were in sympathy with the scheme.

5 The last subject related to the provision of conveyances for ~~Muhammadans~~ Muhammadan girls above a certain age. They requested that bandies should be supplied at Government expense to take them to school. If this request was impracticable, they expressed their

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readiness to buy a bandy and bullocks if Government would undertake to maintain them. They suggested another alternative namely that a special mistress be appointed by the Government to give zenana instruction to grown up girls in their respective homes.

6. His Excellency expressed his gratification at the earnestness shown by the community in respect of girls education. He pointed out that all Government could attempt was to provide for education and also for women teachers and that the rest should be done by the community itself. If the Tanjore Muhammadans were too poor to bear the entire cost of conveyance or if they could advance any other reasons for special treatment, they might address the Director of Public Instruction.

7 In conclusion, His Excellency remarked that Government were anxious to promote girls' education and regretted that the war had delayed the carrying out of several schemes which he himself would very much like to see executed in other circumstances.

Let Min
21.2.16

Educational Dept.

Four copies of a printed note on the arguments of the Muhammadan deputation in Tanjore relating to the marginally noted subject are placed below. They may be forwarded w/o to the P.S.C.

Ch. 24.11.15
24.11.15

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P.S.C. u.o.

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Returned with a copy of the proceedings of the deputation.

Ch. 21.2.16

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Educational Dept.

The notes may now be
Order No. 205 EX. 11/25
ms. Recorded

Ch. 22.2.16

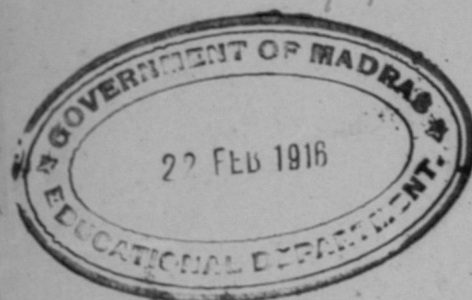
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Cpy to the D.P.O. (with extracts)

Ch. 24.2.16

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