

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

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G.O. No. 635, 8th June 1916

Report

Recording — on the working of the Government College, Kumbakonam, during 1915-16.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE, M.A., F.R.H.S., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—the 29th May 1916.

No.—R.C. 3548.

I have the honour to submit herewith for the information of Government a copy of my Proceedings R.C. No. 3548, dated 22nd May 1916, reviewing the report on the working of the Government College, Kumbakonam, during the year 1915-16.

ENCLOSURE.

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Ref. on C. No. 3548, dated 22nd May 1916.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from R. M. STATHAM, Esq., Acting Principal, Kumbakonam College.

To—the Director of Public Instruction.

Dated—the 22nd April 1916.

No.—Cur. 179 of 16.

I have the honour to submit my report on the working of the college for the year 1915-16.

2. Throughout the year I acted as Principal for Mr. Yates on other duty.

M.R.Ry. N. E. Vijayaraghava Achari was transferred on 19th November 1915 and Mr. D. Samuel did his work throughout the year from that date. Consequent on the retirement of M.R.Ry. K. R. Doraiswami Ayyar Avargal and M.R.Ry. T. Sankara Rao Avargal, M.R.Ry. K. Srinivasa Patrachariar Avargal and M.R.Ry. A. V. Venkatarama Ayyar joined the staff on the 6th (afternoon) and 8th July 1915 respectively. M.R.Ry. P. Rajagopala Ayyar Avargal appointed as Physics Lecturer took charge on 12th July 1915, M.R.Ry. S. V. Venkateswara Ayyar was appointed as History Lecturer (sub. *pro tem.*) in a post outside the cadre of the Provincial Educational Service with effect from 1st July 1915. C. Somasundara Mudaliyar appointed as permanent Librarian of the College, relieved H. Y. Harihara Ayyar on 21st December 1915. Gymnastic Instructor Mira Khan Sahib retired from the public service with effect from 15th July 1915 and K. R. Subrahmanya Ayyar, appointed for the place for one year on probation, took charge only on the 26th October last.

3. *Accommodation and equipment.*—During the year the electric installation was completed, and the plant has worked satisfactorily.

Proposals are before Government for the extension of the college to meet the demands of a new laboratory consequent on the question of affiliation of the college in the 2 (a) Branch of the B.A. degree course.

4. *Strength and attendance.*—The number at the end of the year was 270 and the average daily number on the rolls was 272 and the average daily attendance was 250. The following statement gives the number of students on the rolls in the first and second terms of 1914-15 and 1915-16 :—

	1914-15.		1915-16.	
	First term.	Second term.	First term.	Second term.
First-year class	118	110	86	85
Second-year class	125	114	130	121
Third-year class	23	23	25	25
Fourth-year class	24	23	40	38

The strength of the junior Intermediate class was purposely restricted with a view to maintaining a higher standard, and the results of the promotion examinations of this year have been an ample justification of such a step. There has been a marked rise in the strength of the B.A. classes, which have the highest number of students for the last seven years. This increase is very encouraging, and it is to be hoped that it will be maintained next year. The increase is undoubtedly due to the better representation of the college on examining boards, etc., and the very large number of new scholarships that have been recently allotted to the B.A. classes.

5. *Classification of students.*—The distribution under the several heads is shown in Appendices A and B. All the students have been either vaccinated or bear marks of small-pox.

6. *Library.*—Three thousand one hundred and forty-five volumes were issued from the main library to students and members of the teaching staff during the year. This figure excludes the number of books issued from the class libraries by the lecturers in charge of them. The number of books consulted or taken for temporary study during library periods by students was 4,445. Five hundred and fifty-five volumes were added during the year, one hundred and thirteen books were sold by public auction as being unfit for further use or service. The total number of volumes at the end of the year was 8,495.

7. *The tutorial system.*—To see that the students in the town are living under proper guardianship, etc., is perhaps the greatest of all the difficulties that the college authorities have to face. In spite of every effort, students manage to avoid a report on their manner of living. The hostel last year was half empty, whereas I am of the opinion, that, in spite of our tutorial system, there were many more students who ought to have been in the hostel.

Next year a very special effort will be made to bring more boys into the hostel, and if necessary an additional building will be rented to be used for the same purpose.

8. *Discipline and work of the college.*—Discipline has been good, and, though it is not easy to judge, it would seem as if all classes had been doing more work and reading more widely than in the previous year. The system of library and study hours does not yet work as well as it should. But still in some cases at any rate it has been productive of wider reading and a better appreciation of the subjects studied.

9. *University examinations.*—The results of the examinations are shown in statements C and D appended. The results of the B.A. degree examinations were on the whole extremely creditable, as the college obtained a higher percentage of passes than it has had for five years. The history results were especially good as compared with preceding years.

In the Intermediate examination the college did badly in common with most other colleges. But in group I we ranked second to the Presidency College in our percentage of passes, which was extremely encouraging in such a universally bad year. In the total percentage of passes we ranked just midway in the list of colleges affiliated to the University. I can only repeat, with the Principal of Rajahmundry College (in his report of last year) that it remains a mystery to us how our very best boys so often fail and how 72 per cent of a class, which has been carefully selected and trained, manage to fail.

10. *Promotions*.—Of 86 students in the first-year class that were on the rolls at the time of the examination, 77 were promoted. The first-year class of this year shows a very marked improvement on last year, especially in group III.

All the students of the third-year class were promoted.

11. *Scholarships and prizes*.—The following students received the prizes and scholarships noted against them during the year :—

R. Nagarajan, IV class	...	...	The Moopanar and Beauchamp's prize for proficiency in Philosophy (1914-15).
K. Vasudevan, IV class	...	...	The Moopanar and Beauchamp's prize for proficiency in Mathematics (1914-15).
S. Viswanathan, IV class	...	...	The Moopanar and Beauchamp's prize for proficiency in History (1914-15).
M. K. Ramamritam, IV class	...	...	The Moopanar and Beauchamp's prize for proficiency in English Composition (1914-15).
K. Vasudevan, IV class	...	...	Morris medal prize for 1914-15.
S. Viswanadhan, IV class	...	...	The Sundarama Ayyar's prize for 1914-15.
P. Narasimham, III class	...	...	K. Ranganatha Rao's scholarship for 1915-16.
S. Sundaresan, III class	...	...	Senior Subrahmanian's scholarship for 1915-16.
P. S. Sundaresan, IV class	...	...	
S. Krishnaswami, I class	...	...	Junior Subrahmanian's scholarship for 1915-16.
S. Krishnamoorti, II class	...	...	
S. Ponnuswami, III class	...	...	These have been in receipt of Government scholarships throughout the year.
K. Sambandam, III class	...	...	
S. Srinivasaraghavan, III class	...	...	
S. Raghunathan, I class	...	...	

12. *Games and athletics*.—The past year has been characterised by a feverish activity on the part of clubs and committees, the activity has not unfortunately produced a corresponding increase in the work of games, etc. A real effort has been made to induce a greater number of students to take part in games, but the results have not been very successful as yet. During the year 34 per cent of the college students took part in games, which figure, though we believe higher than at other Government colleges, is far too small. The evil really begins in the schools. In the Town High School, Kumbakonam, which is one of the chief feeders of the college only 17 per cent take regular part in games. In order to try and increase the interest in games the following alterations have been made during the year, or are to be introduced as from the coming July. The athletic committee has been

* Cricket is to be introduced. A new tennis court has been laid out, also a new badminton court.

entirely revised so as to give more members of the staff an opportunity to take an interest in particular games.* A practice cricket pitch has been made for

nets. A permanent running track has been marked out to enable students to train without interfering with other games. Gymnastics have to some extent been revived and a gymnastics club formed. From July forwards all students joining the first class of the college will be required to give an undertaking in writing to take part in some form of sport, or else produce a medical certificate.

On the whole the year has been a much more active one from the point of view of sport than the preceding one. The tennis team played nine matches, going to Mangalore, Trichinopoly and Mannargudi. The hockey team played nine matches, going to Coimbatore, Cuddalore and Tanjore. The football team played two matches and the badminton team, seven.

13. *Finance*.—The total receipts and charges for the year were Rs. 26,001-6-6 and Rs. 56,819-6-6. The net expenditure to Government was Rs. 30,318 against Rs. 17,907-3-1 in the previous year. The net cost per student was Rs. 111 against Rs. 74 in the previous year.

14. *Hostel*.—A detailed report on the working of the hostel will be submitted in June as usual.

15. *College societies*.—A new society was founded during the year—The Sanskrit Association. All the societies completed well-filled programmes of lectures and debates. The members of the Literary Society staged a very successful production of Julius Caesar, and published the first number of their Society's journal.

16. *General*.—The old boys' association has continued to aid the college in an excellent way. It has been giving twelve scholarships during the past year, and will next year, thanks largely to the generosity of M.R.Ry. N. Radhakrishna Ayyar, an old student, give more than twenty. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the staff for their generous co-operation in all departments of college work. I would also draw attention to the willing and painstaking work done by the college writer during the year.

APPENDIX A.

I. Distribution of students according to caste or race.

Caste or race.	Number.
Muhammadians	7
Brahmans	244
Non-Brahmans	18
Indian Christian	1
Total	270

II. Distribution of students according to occupation of parents or guardians.

Officials	89
Petty officials	13
Landholders	148
Traders	15
Mendicants	3
Others	2
Total	270

III. Distribution of students according to wealth.

Richer classes	6
Middle do.	243
Poorer do.	21
Total	270

APPENDIX B.

DISTRIBUTION of students according to the districts to which they belong.

Districts.	Intermediate.		B.A. class.		Total.
	First-year class.	Second-year class.	Third-year class.	Fourth-year class.	
Tanjore	79	109	24	33	245
Trichinopoly	1	..	1	1	3
Madurai	2	4	..	1	7
South Arcot	2	2	..	1	5
North Arcot	..	1	..	..	1
Cochin	..	..	..	1	1
Pudukkottai	..	..	..	..	1
Coimbatore	..	2	..	..	2
Kistna	1	..	..	..	1
Malabar	..	1	..	..	1
Tinnevely	..	1	..	..	1
Ramanad	1	..	..	..	2
Total	89	121	26	38	270

APPENDIX C.

RESULTS of the Intermediate Examination in arts and B.A. Degree Examination—
Pass course, 1914-15.

Examination and group.	Examined.	Number passed.			Percentage of passes for		
		First class.	Second class.	Total.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
Intermediate Examination—							
Group I	31	1	11	12	37	23	23
„ III	82	2	12	14			
B.A. Degree Examination—							
(i) English Language division ..	19	..	10	10	55	33	52.6
(ii) Science Division—							
Mathematics	7	..	2	2	..	60	28.6
History	9	..	6	6	50	13	66.7
Logic	5	..	4	4	50	80	80

APPENDIX D.

NUMBER of students examined, passed and failed in the several subjects of the Intermediate Examination held in 1915.

Subjects.	Examined.	Passed.	Gained distinction.	Failed.
English	113	31	..	82
Tamil composition	82	65	..	17
Sanskrit translation	31	30	..	1
Mathematics	31	25	3	6
Physics	31	19	1	12
Chemistry	31	22	3	9
Ancient history	78	57	..	21
Modern history	79	44	..	35
Logic	46	29	..	17
Tamil	21	20	..	1
Sanskrit	22	15	..	7

Ref. on O. No. 3548, dated 22nd May 1916.

Recorded.

2. The noteworthy events of the year were the retirement after a long and efficient service of M.R.Ry. K. R. Duraiswami Ayyar Avargal and M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur T. Sankara Rao Avargal, the History and Mathematics lecturers, respectively, in the College and the filling up of the new lecturership in Physics.

3. There was an increase in the strength of all the classes except the Junior Intermediate, admissions to which were expressly restricted by the Principal in view to the efficiency of the class. As usual, the bulk of the students were natives of the Tanjore district, and of the several other districts represented, Madura, South Arcot and Trichinopoly contributed in order the largest number.

4. The results of the B.A. degree examination were on the whole satisfactory, but better results should have been obtained in the Mathematics division. If admissions to the Intermediate class were carefully made the Director shares the Principal's surprise at the low percentage of passes in the examination.

5. The Director notes with satisfaction the great interest taken by Mr. Statham in regard to the physical culture of the students. He agrees with him in thinking that a larger number of students should be brought out of College hours under the direct influence of the College authorities by inducing them to join the College hostel.

6. The general condition of the institution continued to be satisfactory.

(True Extract)

J. H. STONE,
Director of Public Instruction.

To the Principal, Government College, Kumbakonam.
„ Principals of other Government Colleges.
„ Inspector of Schools, Sixth Circle.
„ Assistant Inspector of Schools, Tanjore district.
Copy to the Collector of Tanjore, for information.
„ Government, with C.L.

Order—No. 635, Educational, dated 8th June 1916.

Recorded.

(True Extract)

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table.

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