

Home (1916) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O., No. 887

DATED 18.8.16

[Despatch Abstract.]

Memorial.

Memorialists informed that they should address the University of Madras in regard to the revision of the pass lists of the Intermediate examination held in 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.

24/10
CN 2884-63
4-8/6
V
PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MADRAS.



Memo. No. 182-6

Transferred to the Secretary to Government, Home
(Education Section)
Department for favour of disposal.

ENCLOSURES :

2

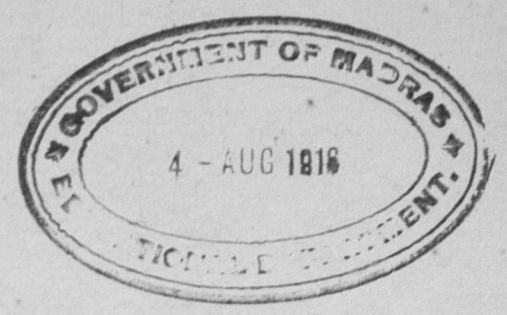
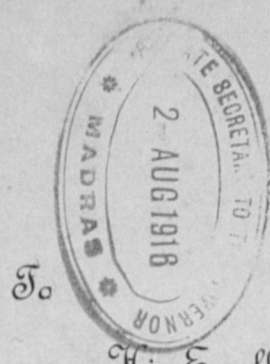
(By order of His Excellency the Governor.)

Madras

Le Mori

Private Secretary.

The 2nd Aug 1916



To
His Excellency the Right Hon'ble
Lord Pentland of Lyth, P.C., G.C.S.E.,
The Governor in Council,
Fort St. George, Madras.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In the name of God, the most merciful, we, the loyal and humble memorialists most respectfully pray that the most merciful God will be graciously pleased to shower His blessings on your Excellency, on whose supreme assent rests the sanction of the supplementary Pass List, by redressing the severest sufferings of the most aggrieved parents that greatly suffer on account of the recent failures of their deserving children in the recent Intermediate Examination of 1916.

But the proposal must first come from the university.

Pittendrih

2. Realising the above situation Professor P. Lakshminarasu Naidu, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Seshagiri Iyer convened a meeting for moving propositions for raising the percentage of passes in the said examination, and in the Extraordinary meeting, the proposition of Mr. Justice Seshagiri Iyer was moved first, and while several senators were speaking Rev. Mr. Moffat brought in a new proposition for a Committee to enquire into the causes of failures etc. for future years, while Mr. Allen, the Principal of Presidency College retorted him saying that a Committee could not be appointed for the future year which was a hypothetical one; whereupon the Vice Chancellor put the proposition of Rev. Moffat to vote when the Director of Public Instruction and the Rev. Mr. Moffat and the Hon'ble Pretendrig asked the Vice Chancellor to declare definitely before they vote for the proposition of Mr. Moffat as to whether the original proposition of Mr. Seshagiri Iyer would be put to vote afterwards and on the reply from the Vice Chancellor, that the reply thereto would be given later on, the senators voted in favour of Mr. Moffat's proposition which was carried and subsequently when it was asked by the senators about Mr. Justice Seshagiri Iyer's proposition being voted the Vice Chancellor declared that the debate was closed. So the proposition of Justice Seshagiri Iyer (though moved and supported) and that of Professor Lakshminarasu Naidu remain undisposed of.

3. We, the humble memorialists, most respectfully beg to submit that at least the proposition of Professor P. Lakshminarasu Naidu which brings in only 264 passes could have been allowed to pass if not Mr. Justice Seshagiri Iyer's as per Mr. Ramasem's amendment, on the apprehension that the former would bring

in 1,200 and the latter 400; but Prof. P. Lakshminarasu Naidu's proposition is in quite consonance with the manner in which the Moderation Board has dealt with in certain cases where the general total was 50%. Professor P. Lakshminarasu Naidu wants in his proposition an invariable dealing in the same English subject keeping in view the total of 'decided ability i.e., 265 as demanded by the University Regulations and not 50%. as per opinion expressed by the Director of Public Instruction in the Senate Meeting of October last that the Standard in English is too high. The Board has passed candidates by giving 15 grace marks in English to those obtaining 50% general total and thus those that obtained 110 in English failed because the total was below 50% (which is not required by the Regulations) while others who even obtained 105 in English passed whose general total was 50 per cent. notwithstanding the fact that this increase in total might be due to a large percentage in Vernacular composition, a subject quite unnecessary in one's future career. We, the humble memorialists most respectfully beg to submit that the Proposition of Professor Mr. P. Lakshminarasu Naidu at least might be allowed to pass for it brings in only 264 increase of passes, which number is very small and this number would more than adequately afford room and be a sprinkling of candidates in so many colleges who desire to obtain a degree irrespective of the Technical colleges.

*As per cutting
of "The Hindu"
enclosed herein*

The humble memorialists further beg to submit that in a similar occurrence under the auspices of this very sympathetic Director of Public Instruction, the Senate, in 1910 under the Transitory Regulations sanctioned a Supplementary Pass List and the government were pleased to sanction the same, and therefore the passing of one now holds a precedent.

*265
15-4-10*

In these humble circumstances we the humble memorialists most respectfully pray that your benevolent Excellency will be most mercifully pleased to take the above pitiable facts into your Excellency's kind consideration, and thus your Excellency by pleasing God by redressing the poor sufferers will surely earn God's choicest blessings and thus your Excellency's sympathetic name will be gloriously remembered to posterity by the humble aggrieved parents.

For which act of charity and mercy, the Almighty God will be mercifully pleased to grant your Excellency sound health, longevity and prosperity.

Your Excellency's most humble memorialists,
Beg to remain,

Mamunachetty

Lakshminarasu Naidu
Asst. Chief S. M. Ry
Madras
TR. Margam Aiyar
V. Samar
Govt. P. S. High School
Mylapore

THE MODERN PRINTING WORKS, MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

Manay and
L. V. Vaidyanathan
R. S. Srinivasan
V. A. Sundaram
K. V. Srinivasan

1916.

Edl: DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper — *The Hindu*
2. Published at — *Madras*
3. Dated — *the 20th July 1916.*

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE MODERATION BOARD.

About 25 per cent of the candidates were allowed to pass i.e. about 1,200 candidates were allowed to pass. About 900 candidates only passed under Regulation 185; by giving grace marks to candidates about 300 more were allowed to pass. The Special Board gave 5 p.c. of the total marks in English or in any of the other subjects to candidates who got 320 marks in all subjects. The Special Board awarded grace marks in the following manner:

- (1) 1 or 2 marks grace in any one subject.
- (2) with regard to Vernacular composition or Sanskrit Translation only.
- (i) 3 marks grace to those who got a total of 270 marks and failed in one subject only.
- (ii) 4 marks 280 marks.
- (iii) 5 marks 290 marks.
- (3) With regard to failure in English only.
- (i) 7 marks grace to those who got a total of ... 280 marks.
- (ii) 8 marks grace ... 290 marks.
- (iii) 10 marks grace ... 310 marks.
- (iv) 15 marks grace ... 320 marks.
- (4) A similar scale was adopted with reference to the subjects.
- (5) Then with reference to failures in two subjects 4 marks grace in each of the two subjects for failures in two subjects.

The higher the total marks the candidates obtained the higher the percentage of grace marks that were awarded. Candidates who got 105 marks in English and who failed only in English were allowed to pass where as candidates who got even 110 marks were not allowed to pass because they got a total of 285 marks instead of 320 marks. The reason for insisting upon high total marks is not known. If all subjects of the Intermediate Examination are subjects for the B.A. pass course or B.A. Honours or for Medical or Engineering the principles adopted by the Board will be sound. They should have regulated giving grace marks according to the total marks obtained by the candidates "in groups" i.e. total marks in Mathematics and Physics or Physics and Chemistry. When once the Special Board has gone down to lessen the rigour by giving 5 per cent.

grace marks they should have given the 'grace marks' invariably in all cases (irrespective of the total marks. Regulation 185 does not insist upon total marks for a mere pass. Candidates who failed in English by getting 110 marks and failed in English alone were not allowed to pass, whereas candidates who failed in 2 subjects were given 4 grace marks in each subject. When once they had power to add 300 more to the list of passed candidates by giving a system of grace marks, they had power to add 300 or larger number. They did not exercise the power given liberally either because they thought that only so many as about 1,200 were fit to pass or because they were puzzled by seeing a voluminous list of failures. Different principles of moderating the rigour were adopted in different years. They should have first raised the percentage of marks obtained by the candidates in subjects in which there were the largest failures.

How far Mr. P. Lakshminarasu Naidu's Resolution is merely the first extension of the principles already adopted by the Special Board must be considered. His proposition gives relief only to candidates who got 265 marks and failed only in one subject by the want of 5 p.c. The Special Board has given relief to candidates who failed in one subject by the want of the same 5 p.c. but who have obtained higher total marks. If the getting of total marks is so important a matter, Regulation 185 would have provided for such contingency, as in the Law and other examinations. According to his proposition only about 263 candidates will get relief and all colleges will get additional passes. Mr. Justice T. V. Seshagiri Aiyar's proposition as amended by Mr. V. Ramesam gives relief to almost the same number of candidates but does not give relief in Vernacular Composition or Sanskrit Translation.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SPECIAL BOARD.

The Special Board is only a creation of the Syndicate. Four members of the Syndicate who were chairmen of the several Boards were members of the Special Board. It ceased to exist as soon as their power or discretion was exercised. And other 8 members of the Syndicate found it delicate to modify the decision of the Special Board. So the matter has to come before the extraordinary meeting of the Senate. Again as many as 9 out of 12 Syndicate members are members of the Examination Boards. The standing rule, that was prevailing some years ago, that Syndicate members ought not to be examiners, is now violated. Syndicate members taking part in the work the Special Board and taking part in the work of the Examination Boards are anomalies that prevail in Madras only. The work of moderating the rigour of the examination results does not require any special knowledge of special subjects. The Chairmen of the various Boards would naturally try to magnify the importance of their own subjects and in their desire to do so would throw the blame on the candidates. They seem to have allowed, by an extraordinary act of grace, some few, candidates more, than those that have passed according to Regulation 185, to pass. If the Special Board have been constituted by

some other Fellows of the University the results would have come to at least 35 per cent.

STIFF VALUATION IN ENGLISH.
The valuation in English is becoming stricter and stricter as can be seen from the decreasing number of distinctions in English year after year:—

Year.	No. appeared.	No. of distinctions.	Percentage of passes in English.
1913 ...	2482	31	50 p.c.
1914 ...	3100	56	65 p.c. (exceptional year)
1915 ...	3869	26	35 p.c.
1916 ...	4863	13	35 p.c.

DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN THE NATURE OF THE EXAMINERS' WORK.

S. S. L. C. Board assigns 400 answer papers to each examiner. University assigns 800 answer papers to each assistant examiner. In the hottest parts of the year, i.e., in April and May, bundles of answer books are assigned to them for valuation. Chief Examiners should not have valued English papers but should have only revalued 5 per cent of the answer papers and accordingly modified the marks. (Their remuneration ought to be the same as they do get now) For about 20 years after the institution of the examinations candidates were required to get 33 per cent. of the marks in English to secure a pass. For the next 20 years candidates had to get 35 per cent in English and Vernaculars and 30 per cent. in two subjects and 20 per cent. in the remaining subjects. Are such products inferior to the present day graduates? Are they less useful as Professors, Lawyers, Doctors, Engineers, Journalists and Clerks?

The first set of S. S. L. C. candidates appeared for the Intermediate Examination of 1913 and in that year about 34 per cent. of the candidates passed the Intermediate Examination. The second set appeared in 1914 when about 39 per cent. of the candidates passed. The third and fourth sets appeared in 1915 and 1916 when 25 per cent of the candidates passed.

The statistics shown by a correspondent in "The Hindu" of the 18th July 1916 would prove that the Principals of Colleges did not make any indiscriminate admission but that the bad results were due to high standard of knowledge expected from students.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

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

Such high minima in several subjects are not required for securing an ordinary pass in other Indian Universities (Only in Calcutta University 36 p. c. is required for passing in English in the Intermediate Examination. The papers are generally easier and the valuation is liberal).
A supplementary pass list should be issued for no English or Indian Fellow loses anything by such course of action. On the other hand they will earn the gratitude of the people. This is the first time that sixteen prominent members of the community ask for an extraordinary Senate meeting, for they well understand the temper of the people and the uneasiness prevailing in the country and knowing well their ideas they want to promote peace and happiness in the country.

Box 48
recd. 15.8.16
del. 17.8.16

NOTES.

Page

St. George's
(Education)

Co. 2884 Edl.

Order 887 Edl. d. 18th Aug. 1916
MUS.

The memorialists
will be informed that
they should address the
Syndicate of the University
of Madras on the subject
matter of their memorial.

©
recd & accepted
MUS
22.8.16
To The memorialists (3 to)

HE
P
14.8.16

15/8/16
14.8.16

CR
14.8.16

Note. The Extraordinary
meeting of the Senate held on the
22nd July does not hold out
definite
any prospect of a revision
of the 'intermediate' pass lists of
the last examination.
It has simply been proposed
to appoint a committee to
enquire into and report upon
the causes of the failure.

Newspaper cut at ②

The News
paper of
the 24th July
1916

When given for copying

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When examined

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22.8.16

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
19

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