

EdL (1916) Department.

Miss SERIES.

G.O. No. 96 EdL

DATED /-2-16

[Despatch Abstract.]

Address Recording notes prepared for the use of H.E. the Governor on the occasion of his laying the foundation stone of the new building of the Church of Scotland Mission High School, Coimbatore.

Copy of a statement to be read by the Rev. J. Maclean on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new building of the Church of Scotland Mission High School, Conjeeveran.

Your Excellency,

Origin

The school which Your Excellency is honouring with a visit is one of the oldest high schools in the Presidency. It was opened on the 29th of May, 1839, by the Rev. John Anderson, the pioneer of the Scottish Church to South India, who had arrived in Madras two years before and founded the school which afterwards became the Madras Christian College. Mr. Anderson's strength of character is strikingly shown by the way he overcame the difficulties in the way of his enterprise. The time chosen was unfavourable, the season being at its hottest and the great festival absorbing the attention of the inhabitants. Although Mr. Anderson had the support of several eminent Government officers the only building which he could secure was a stable connected with the Taluk Office. It is accordingly not surprising that only seven boys attended on the first day. Even when outward conditions became more favourable the growth of the school was slow, for while there was a desire on the part of many for the English education which the school offered, the distinctly missionary lines on which the work was carried on from the first made the education given unacceptable to the adherents of the traditional faith ~~xxx~~ of this sacred city.

Growth

2. But Mr. Anderson persevered and the school steadily grew. Through the kindness of the Government of the day the site on which the school now stands was granted in the following year and the first building was erected a few months later. The school was left in the hands of teachers whom Mr. Anderson and his colleagues had trained in Madras, but it was regarded as a branch of the Madras institution and was visited from time to time by the missionaries. It may be noted in passing that Mr. Anderson was the pioneer of female education

also. A girls' school was opened in the same premises, but afterwards removed to a separate building.

For some years the school was the only one in the town in which English was taught. Another school was opened by the trustees of Pachaiyappa's Charities in 1846, but it has been found that in a town of the size of Conjeeveram there is room for both schools.

Staff: Strength
to 3

The school had its ups and downs. During Mr. Anderson's lifetime it sometimes had over 200 on the roll, but in the year 1874 we find it with 133, and a staff of eight teachers. Fees ranged from As.4 to Rs.1-8-0 per mensem, and the fee income in that year was Rs.1,043/-, the Government grant received being Rs.1,169/-. Not much advance was made for about twenty years. In 1903 the roll number was 214 and the fee income Rs.2,381/-. From that time, however a rapid increase began, and the number now on the roll is 525, (not including 157 pupils in a branch school in Little Conjeeveram). The fee income for the last official year was Rs.10,209/- and the Government grant Rs.1,315/-. The number of teachers employed is 30, of whom six are trained graduates. At the close of the official year the pupils were classified thus:

Brahmans ...	35%
Non-Brahman Hindus	52%
Muhammadians	8%
Christians	5%.

The classification by departments is as follows:

High	153
Middle	175
Primary	197.

The curriculum is on the usual lines. The addition of shorthand and typewriting classes about six years ago has added to the practical efficiency of the school. That the efforts of the staff to implant high ideals in the minds of the pupils have not been in vain is shown by the recent establishment of a Brotherhood Society for social service, the chief effort of which is a night school for poor boys conducted in the premises, with two paid teachers and ^{about a dozen} ~~ten~~ voluntary workers. Since the

outbreak of the war the boys have been instructed regarding the greatness of the issues at stake, and teachers and pupils have combined in an effort to support the Hospital Ship, the total amount contributed up to date being Rs.102/-

Buildings

The building erected by Mr. Anderson was added to from time to time. Up to the present at least five extensions have been made, the latest, which was completed last year, being the expansion of the original building by the substitution of broad terraced verandahs for the old tiled verandahs. This, including the renovation of the central portion of the building, cost Rs.5,966/- of which Rs.2,500/- was obtained from Government. For several years, however, it has been obvious that nothing would satisfy the requirements of modern education but a large extension. Plans were accordingly submitted to Government, and approved, for a new building in the same compound to be erected at a cost of

Sanctioned by the Govt. under art. 50 of the Grant-in-aid Code.

Govt. 7881P (P) 17.1.14

Rs.62,200/-, of which a grant of half the amount has kindly been promised by Government. Owing, however, to the necessity of a stronger foundation than was originally contemplated, a further expenditure of about Rs.3,750/- has been incurred on the advice of the officers of the Department of Public Works, and it is hoped that Government will be pleased to sanction half of this amount also. The total cost is thus about Rs.66,000/-. Of this amount Rs.22,325/- has been received from the Foreign Missions Committee of the United Free Church of Scotland, and about Rs.1,000/- from friends in Scotland. For the balance required (about Rs.9,675) we must appeal to friends in all quarters, including former pupils, and the parents and friends of those at present studying.

Only 1/2 of the 200

The building consists of two stories. The ground floor is occupied by a large hall, six class rooms, headmaster's room and writer's room. The upper storey contains a science room, an art room, six ordinary class rooms, and smaller rooms for the Sanskrit and Telugu classes. Above the porch is a room which is to be used as a museum. The building thus provides complete accommodation for the classes from the first form upwards, with two divisions in each

class. The old building, as now renovated, will provide sufficient accommodation for the primary classes, and the other two blocks will be used for technical classes, library, reading room and tiffin rooms.

5 The new building has, as will be seen, made considerable progress, and it is hoped that it will be finished in about eight months. Although Your Excellency was prevented by other engagements from visiting Conjeeveram about the time when the foundation was being laid, we bore in mind the promise so kindly made and reserved a place for the stone which is to be laid today. On behalf of the managerent, the teachers and the pupils, I beg to thank Your Excellency for the signal favour you have bestowed upon the institution and have great pleasure in asking Your Excellency to lay the stone.

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DEPARTMENT

CURRENT No.

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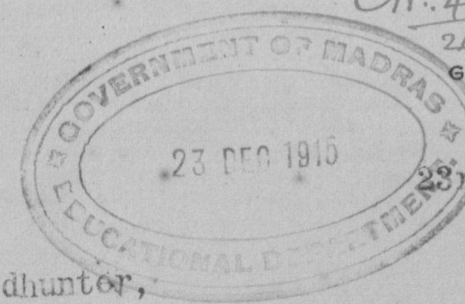
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Subject.



CN 450928

24/12/15

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MADRAS.

23rd December 1915.

My dear Todhunter,

I send herewith a copy of the address to be presented to His Excellency by the Conjeeveram Municipal Council on the 27th January at Conjeeveram, together with a copy of the Collector's notes. Will you please let me have two typewritten copies of a note on such of the subjects as relate to your Department not later than the 15th January?

2. His Excellency will also lay the foundation stone of the new building of the Church of Scotland Mission School and I enclose a copy of the statement to be read on the occasion. Will you please let me have a note by the 15th of January?

Yours sincerely,

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The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter, I.C.S.,
Secretary to Government, Educational Department,
Fort St. George.

SK/PR

Two typewritten copies of the note submitted below may be forwarded, u.o. to the P.S.G.

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P.S.G. u.o.

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Educational Department.

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Subject.

The Church of Scotland Mission High
School, Conjeevaram.

Origin.

Information regarding the ~~origin~~
origin and growth of the institution is
given in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the address.
As there is no information in this office
on the point, it is not possible either to
verify the statements made therein or to
supplement them. In the reports on public
instruction, the institution is shown as
the "United Free Church Mission School,
Conjeevaram."

2. Management.

The school is under the management
of the Rev. J.H. Maclean, M.A., B.D., who
is also the chief English teacher in the
school.

3. Strength.

The school contains classes Infant

to

pages 1+2 of C.F.

to fourth and forms I to VI.

The following statement ^{Compares} ~~gives~~ the

strength of the school in 1902-03 ^{with that}

1913-14 and 1914-15:-

(verified from the
reports of those
years)

	1902-03.	1913-14.	1914-15.
VI Form	29	65	56
V "	22	33	36
IV "	28	60	66
III "	29	71	56
II "	30	44	45
I "	24	60	51
IV Class.	9	45	56
III "	11	55	48
II "	12	34	29
I "	10	27	28
Infant	11	22	27
Total	215	516	498

4. Staff.

According to the last inspection report (of the 22nd March 1915) the school had a staff of 21 teachers (including the chief English teacher, Mr. Maclean and the headmaster, Mr. V. Gnanadikam), 3 pandits, an instructor in drawing, two instructors in gymnastics and a technical assistant. Of these, three were

Page 672 (4)

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Graduate L.Ts, five were graduates
and two First-in-Arts men.

5. Finances.

	Receipts from				Total expenditure.
	Provincial funds.	Local funds,	Fees.	Other sources.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1902--03	676 ✓	334 ✓	2,435 ✓	1,465 ✓	4,910 ✓
1913-14	3,375 ✓	--	10,305 ✓	6,027 ✓	19,707 ✓
1914-15	1,315 ✓	--	10,209 ✓	3,425 ✓	14,949 ✓

6. Buildings.

No papers are traceable in the office on the subject of the grant of Rs.2,500 sanctioned for the improvements to the old building. Apparently the amount was sanctioned by the D.P.I himself under the powers vested in him by article 50 of the Grant-in-aid Code. The inspecting officers appear to have been drawing the attention of ^{the} school authorities year after year to the insufficiency

insufficiency of the school accommo-
 dation. In October 1913, plans and
 estimates amounting to Rs.62,987 for
 making certain extensions to the --
 school buildings were submitted to
 Government, who after scrutiny altered
 the estimate to Rs.62,200 and ~~sanctioned~~
 sanctioned a grant of Rs.31,100--Vide

(F) G.O.No.78 Edl., dated the 17th January
 1914. It is this extension to lay
 the foundation stone of which His
 Excellency the Governor is now --
 invited.

As regards the additional grant
 necessitated by the enhanced expend-
 iture incurred by the management on
 the advice of the P.W.D. officers, it
 is submitted that the management
 should submit a formal application
 through the D.P.I. and when received,
 it may be favourably considered.

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 JK
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 7.1.16

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Mr. Maclean, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The opportunity of taking part in this function and thereby expressing our sympathy with and appreciation of the excellent work which has for so many years been carried on in Conjeeveram by the Foreign Mission of the United Free Church of Scotland Mission which it offered added to those pleasurable anticipations with which Her Excellency and I found it possible to undertake a visit to Conjeeveram. That visit has indeed for various reasons had to be postponed so that we could not be present at that earlier stage in the construction of this building which is usually associated with the laying of a foundation stone, but I trust that the consequent reservation of a place for the stone which is to remain as a memorial of this pleasant occasion has not been a source of inconvenience to either the architect or the builder.

The history of missionary education and activities in Southern India presents to those who

understand it rightly a romance of effort and of progress which is of absorbing interest, and it is clear from the statement to which we have just listened that one of its most interesting chapters centres round this institution. As Mr. Maclean has told us, from its humble beginnings in a stable with a roll of 7 pupils and in spite of difficulties and vicissitudes this institution has in three quarters of a century developed into a High School in which over 500 boys now receive sound and efficient instruction which aims not merely at developing their intellect but also at implanting high ideals of conduct and character. The Mission and all those who devote themselves to this work may well feel proud of the results which have been achieved: and that the people of Conjeeveram appreciate their work is amply evidenced by the way in which parents of all classes and creeds avail themselves of the advantages which this High School offers. I appreciate greatly the anxiety which the Mission authorities and their friends have

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shown to meet the ever increasing requirements of modern education and I am glad that the Government which ^{represent} ~~present~~ have found it possible to make a substantial grant towards the construction of this building in which considerable progress has already been made. I hope that it will soon be completed and prove of great service in the education of many generations of scholars.

You referred, Mr. Maclean, to the fact that the expenditure will exceed the original estimates by a considerable sum, and express the hope that Government may find it possible to bear a share of the additional expenditure thus incurred. I cannot at present commit the Government in this respect, but if you will submit a statement of the facts through the Director of Public Instruction I can assure you that it will receive most careful consideration.

I will now ask all those present to join me in wishing most cordially success to the School and its new buildings, and assure you that it gives

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me great pleasure to lay this foundation stone
which with your permission I shall now proceed to
do.

(True copy!
Lettor
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Refer 7-10 ante.



Returned with a copy of His Excellency's speech.

Let
28.1.16.
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No further action is called for on these papers. They may merely be
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Records.

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READ AGAIN G.O. No.
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DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH BITTO.

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

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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