

(Ednf)

1531—312^y.17

Gr. NO 1531

date — 3.12.1917

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NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1531, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 3RD DECEMBER 1917

[SUBJECT.—*Participation of students in political movements.*]

Previous papers :

G.O. 559, Home (Education), 1st May 1917
" 1031 " " " 10th Aug. "

Demi-official—from T. E. MOIR, Esq., C.I.W., I.C.S., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

To—the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 8th October 1917.

In sending you the accompanying memorial I am to say that His Excellency would be glad to see the papers dealing with the situation which led to the issue of the Government Order and its subsequent history. He would also like to have any information as to the attitude publicly adopted by the signatories to the memorial with reference to its enforcement.

Memorial—from Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN, Messrs. SAHYID MURTUZA SAHIB, K. V. JAMBUNATHA AYYAR, K. V. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR, and S. RADHAKRISHNA AYYAR, and the Hon'ble Messrs. K. V. RANGASWAMI AYYANGAR, and V. K. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR.

To—His Excellency the Right Hon'ble BARON PENTLAND, P.C., G.C.I.E., Governor of Fort St. George.

Dated—Trichinopoly, the 1st October 1917.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the undersigned, beg permission to wait on your Excellency in deputation to lay before Your Excellency's Government the difficulties under which the students labour in consequence of G.O. No. 559, Home (Education), dated 1st May 1917.

2. Before the issue of the Government Order the students of Colleges though attending public political meetings, never took active part therein by coming on the platform, giving their votes, or expressing approval or disapproval of any part of the proceedings of the meeting. The Educational rules distinctly prohibiting active part in politics were found sufficient to keep them in check. Their only sin, so far as the undersigned can see, was their joining Home Rule Leagues as associates; but the rules of the League provided that the associates should not take any active part in propagandistic work and only required them to attend "study classes" for academical discussions of political questions. The undersigned beg respectfully to state that there was no ground whatever for the issue of the Government Order.

3. The undersigned do feel that the Government Order unnecessarily takes away from the students a privilege accorded to students in every civilized country and deprives them of the chances of obtaining valuable education by attending the lectures of eminent men.

4. The Government Order has thrown the educational world into great consternation. The earlier orders on the subject applied only to students of High schools but not to students of colleges, so far as attendance was concerned. The Government Order has not only removed the distinction but goes much further than the old orders by extending the prohibition to every kind of participation including attendance in political meetings. The order was understood at the Provincial Conference held at Cuddalore in May last as prohibiting the continuance of students as volunteers, and the authorities of the Conference in their desire to loyally carry out the Government Order dismissed all the volunteers to the very great inconvenience of the delegates. This interpretation placed on the Government Order was confirmed by the action of the District Superintendent of Police who asked for a list of names of the student volunteers with their parents' names. The undersigned need not add that the order and the mode of carrying it out created much excitement.

5. It will be of some practical use to state the history of the working of the Government Order in this district. At the outset, the associates of the Home Rule League numbering about 300 in Trichinopoly alone were removed from the League, and at every meeting notice was distinctly given calling upon students to leave the place of meeting. More cannot be done.

But it has been found that the notice was not obeyed. In the town of Trichinopoly especially which contains over 2,000 students in College classes the Government Order has evoked general opposition. The Principals of Colleges have tried their best but are helpless. The parents cannot be expected to induce their boys to obey the Government Order in view of the fact that most of the parents themselves disapprove of the order. Besides a considerable section of the boys are not natives of Trichinopoly and are residents in various hostels and mess houses and thus necessarily beyond the direct control of their parents and guardians. To compel obedience by force is respectfully deprecated. It will make the students more obstinate, break up the schools and bring misery upon the students and their families not to mention unnecessary and uncalled for unpopularity of the Government.

6. The undersigned regret that the order was sprung upon the public without consultation with the Indian leaders and Principals of Colleges. The order cannot be carried out without converting Principals and Teachers into spies on the actions of their students. It must cause friction and must affect the harmonious working of schools and colleges. The undersigned beg to submit that no order seeking to regulate the conduct of students outside the colleges which is likely to be opposed by the entire student population should be promulgated.

7. The undersigned therefore propose to wait upon Your Excellency to place this memorial before you and furnish such information as Your Excellency may require.

8. It is requested that a date convenient to Your Excellency may be fixed.

It is respectfully requested that any reply to this memorial may be sent to the address of Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), and L.M.P. (Madras), Srirangam.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

A copy of G.O. No. 559, Home (Education), dated the 1st May 1917, with notes is submitted. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the notes of the Conference of Principals held in Madras in July last deal with the subject of the association of students with politics. The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. Narasimha Ayyar has given notice of a resolution to be moved at the next meeting of the Legislative Council urging that G.O. No. 559, Home (Education), dated the 1st May 1917, should be modified.

2. As regards the attitude of M.R.Ry. V. K. Ramanuja Achariyar towards the Government Order, attention is solicited to the extract from his speech at Trichinopoly. M.R.Ry. K. V. Jambunatha Ayyar is the Honorary Secretary to the Home Rule League, Trichinopoly. M.R.Ry. K. V. Srinivasa Ayyangar is also a member of the League and is apparently the brother of the Hon'ble Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Ayyangar. The other signatories seem also to be associated with the Home Rule movement.

S.K.—10-10-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—10-10-17.

Please put up a copy of His Excellency's speech at the last Legislative Council and also a copy of the Secretary of State's answer to an interpellation in Parliament.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—11-10-17.

A proof copy of His Excellency's speech is submitted. Please see G.O. No. 1031, Home (Education), dated the 10th August 1917, which contains the question and answer on the subject in Parliament.

S.K.—11-10-17.

His Excellency's speech indicates the circumstances under which the Government Order was issued.

2. Government Order No. 559, Home (Education), dated 1st May 1917 is the Government Order file with notes.

3. Regarding subsequent history. There have been flagrant breaches in many places. Emboldened by criticisms in the Press and eggings on of politicians students unfortunately without due consideration have broken the rules. No signal notice has been taken. But action is being taken in Madanapalle and Palghat.

4. The Hon'ble Mr. V. K. Ramanuja Achariyar is a determined opponent of the Government Order but advised the students to obey the order. The first signatory is Saiyid Murtuza Sahib, once a member of the Legislative Council.

R.R.—11-10-17

OFFICE OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency will receive the deputation on Wednesday the 7th November at 11 a.m. and would like to have the file sent to him on the 6th November.

T. E. MOIR—1-11-17.

Demi-official—from T. E. MOIR, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

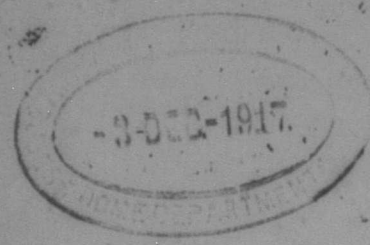
To—the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO Avargal, Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 2nd December 1917.

In returning these files to you I am to enclose the accompanying Government Order which His Excellency desires should issue as soon as possible. It may also be placed on the Editors' Table.

You will of course enter the date of G.O. No. 559 in the Government Order as issued.

[G.O. No. 1531, Home (Education), dated 3rd December 1917.]



private

Home (Edn.) Dept
Final form approved

P.
fo no 1531 of 3.12.17. 29.11.17

Abstract
Students and politics
Empowering heads of
Colleges to enforce
the policy of Govt.
in fo no 559 of 1.5.17
regarding the principals
students in politics

Representations have been made to the Government by various College authorities that while they are in complete agreement with the policy underlying G.O. No. 559, namely the desirability of preventing the participation of students in politics, the terms of the G.O. as regards the attendance of undergraduate students at political meetings are unduly rigid and deprive Principals of the discretion which rightly belongs to Heads of Colleges.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council recognises the force of this criticism and, while maintaining the policy of the Government order, he has come to the conclusion that this can best be secured by entrusting its enforcement to Heads of Colleges who will exercise their discretion in the circumstances of their respective institutions. He has accordingly resolved to commit to Heads of Colleges this discretion believing that these authorities will loyally carry out the wishes of the Government and that in so doing they will receive in full measure the support of parents and guardians of students.

To The D.P.O.
Registrar of the Madras University
Officer in charge of the Dept. of Industries
Surgeon General
Revenue Dept.

May 3/18

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
1-DEC-1917
G.O. No. 1531, 3rd December 1917

Students and politics

Empowering heads of colleges to enforce at their discretion the orders in G.O. No. 559, dated 1st May 1917, regarding the ~~participation of students in politics~~ attendance of *undergraduate students at political meetings*

Order—No. 1531, Home (Education), dated 3rd December 1917.

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(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Registrar of the Madras University.
" Officer in charge of the Department of Industries.
" Surgeon-General.
" Revenue Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
Editors' Table.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1531, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 3RD DECEMBER 1917

Participation of

[SUBJECT.—Prohibiting students in political movements.]

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" 1031 " " 10th Aug. "

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2 NOTES TO G.O. No. 1531, HOME (EDUCATION), 3RD DECEMBER 1917

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G.O. No. 559 Home (Edn) 8/1.5.17

ORIGINAL

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT. (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 1531, 3rd December 1917

Students and politics

Ordering heads of colleges to enforce at their discretion the orders in G.O. No. 559, May 1917, regarding the attendance of undergraduate students at political meetings.

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Secretary to Government.

Director of Public Instruction.
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Officer in charge of the Department of Industries.
Surgeon-General.
Revenue Department.
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ORDINARY.

PRESS SLIP.

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Sept. II-38-2-15.

DEPARTMENT.

Current No., dated 191

G.O. No. 1531, dated 3. 12. 1917.

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(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

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W. Karunanidhi

2/12/57

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