

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 865.

DATED 27-6-1917

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording notes connected with a resolution moved by the
Hon'ble Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu at the meeting of the
held on the 2nd April 1917 regarding the promotion, encouragement
and assistance in the publication of vernacular scientific literature

HOME LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

CN^o 1371 En
15.3.17

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

SUBJECT.—No. V for the meeting of the Legislative
Council to be held on the 2nd April 1917.

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Resolution may be forwarded to the
Home (Education) Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the
rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these Resolutions in the
Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due
course.

V.T.K.
15-3-17

leg U.O. No. 672-2 dated 15.3.17

To

The Home (Education) Department. with Refⁿ V



3

©

Please see paragraph 8 of the Chairman's report and paragraph 45 of the proceedings of the Finance Committee for 1917. The Honourable Achariyar asked for a grant towards the publication of scientific primers in vernacular languages suggested a provision of at least Rs.5,000 for this purpose. It was agreed that no budget provision need be made for this purpose as the sum would be inconsiderable but that the suggestion would be further investigated. *A reference has since gone u.s. on the subject.*

It may be noted that this formed the subject of interpellation and discussion at the meetings of the Legislative Council in 1913, 1914 and 1916. At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th May 1913, the Honourable Mr. Ramachandra Rao asked whether any and if so what steps were being taken for the encouragement of scientific literature in the vernaculars. The Government then replied as follows:--

"The action taken has hitherto, for the most part, been confined to the selection of approved works for use in schools but occasionally direct aid has been given in the shape of an honorarium to the author or translator or the purchase of copies of his work" -

®

vide page 5 of G.O.No.532 Edl., dated the 9th June 1913.

2. Again at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th April 1914, the Honourable Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma brought forward a resolution recommending that non-language subjects be taught through the medium of the vernaculars throughout the school final course in primary and aided schools. In the

the Honourable Mr. Srinivasa Sastri said--

"I am also aware that we are at present
"no text-books that might be used as media
"instruction in non-language subjects. Such
"books as we have are very elementary and
"cannot be said to have established a vocabu-
"lary sufficient to express scientific, administra-
"tive, historical, and other ideas. Such a vo-
"bulary takes a long time to establish. It
"takes a good deal of time to acquire power to
"express those thoughts effectually and at the
"same time gracefully. My fear is that it will
"be perhaps fifteen or twenty years before the
"vernaculars could become proper vehicles for
"modern scientific thought."

The Honourable Mr. Pittendrigh also observed--

"This resolution is entirely impracticable
"for in the first place, we have not the staff
"of teachers fitted to give practical teaching;
"in the second place we have no scientific
"literature to impart instruction in physics
"and chemistry to the higher classes in the
"vernaculars; in the third place, we have no
"scientific terminology yet created; and in the
"fourth place, many schools of this Presidency
"have an extraordinary admixture of pupils
"speaking different languages. All these
"difficulties stand in the way of any practical
"effect being given to the resolution."

The Honourable Mr. Stone concurring in the above
opinion said that the Government were quite unable
to accept the resolution, if for no other reason,
because it would be entirely inoperative. The
resolution was then withdrawn (vide pages 13 to 15
of G.O.No.693, Educational, dated the 11th June
1914).

3. The Honourable Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma
again brought forward at the meeting of the
Legislative Council held on the 7th April 1916
resolution recommending that Govt.
undertake the preparation of
of suitable text books

the Honourable Mr. Stone pointed out as follows:—

"The Honourable Mover is asking the Government to take the initiative in this matter of the provision of text books in schools. There was a time, I believe, when the Government did try to provide text-books themselves. That was many years ago. It is many years now since the Government adopted the procedure of relying upon what we may call private effort for the production of text books. I may say that at any rate at present, the Government would not be prepared to embark upon the text book producing business if only because the present state of things forbids the launching out into expenditure which cannot be proved to be urgently necessary.

"Apart from that reason it is extremely doubtful whether the Government would ever launch out into this business of providing text books. There are obvious advantages in relying upon private efforts: x x x I do not think it is desirable that we should prescribe text books for the majority of schools. x x x I am far from saying that we are satisfied with the supply of text books at present. I think if we want to improve it we should do it by the department seeking to assist the publishers more than we have done in the past as for instance by letting them know the kind of books we want. The department should seek more than it has done to co-operate with the publishers in the matter of the supply of text books.

"There are now a good many text books in existence in subjects as distinct from reading books and since they have been approved by the text book committee we cannot imagine they are altogether bad. x x x There are a dozen books in Tamil, eighteen books in Telugu, nine in Hindustani and eight in Canarese, two in Uriya; there are five in Urdu and Hindustani and two in Persian. That suggests that the supply of text books is very fair numerically speaking. x x x

A "I am quite prepared to give consideration to the whole question of the provision and supply of text books and to see what co-operation can be given by the department to the publishers."

The resolution was put to the vote and lost.
(Vide pages 6 and 7 of G.O. No. 681 Edt., of the 22nd June 1916)

4. But with reference to the observations of Stone at .A in paragraph 3 above, the Director of Public Instruction has been requested to consider the question of the provision and supply of text books in the principal vernaculars of the Presidency and of imparting instruction in non-language subjects.

in elementary and secondary schools and to see what co-operation may be given by the department to the publishers of such books.—vide G.O.No.681 Educational, dated the 22nd June 1916.

Apparently the matter is still under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction. As noted in paragraph 1 ante, a u.o. reference has since been made to the Director asking him to state in what stage the matter is at present. Probably Mr. Stone will be in a position to explain to the Additional Member what has been done in the matter or in what stage the matter now is.

~~in which case the Additional Member may withdraw the resolution.~~

5. It may be noted that the same Additional Member proposed to move a resolution at the last meeting of the Council (13th March 1917) recommending that a provision of Rs.15,000 might be made for promoting, encouraging and assisting the publication of vernacular scientific literature. But the resolution was disallowed under rule 13(e) of the rules for the discussion of the Financial Statement. The Additional Member has therefore proposed to move the resolution at the next meeting of the Council.

6. Orders are solicited as to who should be in charge of the resolution, whether further information should be called for and whether the resolution should be discussed in the Executive Council.

NOTES.

Page 7

7. Perhaps this file may ~~be sent u.o. to the~~
Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

Th.
20.3.17

CR
20.3.17

J. P. I. u.o.

Chk
21.3.17

Edl 401371-1

21.3.17

u.o. no. 90 of 23/3/17

A good deal of the above letter seems to
be irrelevant as the Hon. Member
is concerned with scientific vernacular
literature and I presume is not

meant to include school text books.

Resolution ~~XXII~~ moved on ^{April 4th} May 5th

1916 is on the same line, so asks that
that called for an enquiry.

I suppose by "promote, encourage and
assist" the Hon. Member means before
the vest. When such literature has been
published Govt. has not been backward
in showing it such recognition
as has been possible.

Nobody denies, I think, that there is
at present very little demand for
such literature. Such as has been

(M)

producer has had little sale. If for 1/5 what the
Hon. member wishes it is probable that
the number of unsaleable books would be
increased.

It is of course possible that the books are
for produce are not read because
they are unsaleable. If for 1/5 think it
worth while to risk something perhaps
the resolution might be accepted in the
sense that any proposal for the production
of popular books on scientific or quasi
scientific subjects will be examined
and such assistance given in them
as any case is thought by Government
to justify.

23. 3. 17

For Regr.

Home (Ed?) Dept

Subs for orders as to circulation

STP
24.3.17

24.3.17

24.3.17

H. E.

24.3.17

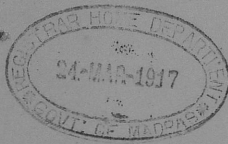
D.P.I. will take this Resolution please.

I will discuss it with him

Thursday -

P.

26.3.17.



Box C.6
Circ 25.3.17
Retd

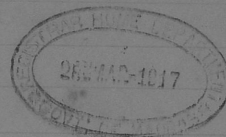
NOTES.

Page 9

to demand: if then should be demand, which
private effort cannot satisfy, then wd. be the
time to invite Govt. help. Try lectures.

To be approved.

P.
20.3.17.



An extract from the Council Proceedings
relating to this resolution is attached:

Hm (Eam) 10
19

Extract from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 5 & 6 Geo. V. Ch. 61.

The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 2nd day of April 1917.

RESOLUTION *RE* PROMOTION OF VERNACULAR SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO:—"The next resolution that I have the honour to move is as follows:—

'V. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council to take steps to promote, encourage and assist the publication of vernacular scientific literature.'

"It is a simple resolution and does not involve any large expenditure of money. It is not likely to embarrass the Government, as regards their financial resources. I hope that this will meet with a better fate than the last resolution. It was in 1914, at the April meeting, that a discussion was raised in this Council about the publication of vernacular scientific literature. It will be remembered that on that occasion it was

RESOLUTION RE PROMOTION OF VERNACULAR SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

(Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao.)

[2ND APRIL 1917.]

pointed out that it was highly necessary that the masses who were mostly illiterate and most of whom were unacquainted with English should have the means of becoming acquainted with scientific literature. It is for that purpose the resolution was moved; and after discussion the resolution was lost. There are two reasons why it is highly essential that some further attempt should be made in that direction. It is well known that for the improvement of sanitation in this country various conferences have been held; and various steps have been taken to improve rural sanitation. Sanitary conferences were held at which papers were read. The Pilgrim Committee investigated the matter and the press also contained various suggestions on the subject. All these things show unmistakably what changes should be effected before the sanitary condition of the villages can be improved. Can any one with a sufficient knowledge of the sanitary condition of the rural parts say that the recommendations of the sanitary conference can be carried out, unless some means are devised whereby scientific knowledge is brought home to the masses. That is the problem which underlies the resolution; and as to the ways and means by which this problem is to be solved, I shall deal later.

"There is another aspect which deserves consideration. It is accepted by the most responsible administrators in this country that the present system of education whereby persons are forced to learn even the rudiments of sciences, and non-language subjects, in a foreign tongue, must be done away with. It is a matter for satisfaction that Lord Chelmsford in opening the Conference of the Directors of Public Instruction gave sympathetic expression to this sentiment,—that it is not at all desirable that persons should be forced to learn subjects in a foreign language. Unless scientific literature is made available in the vernaculars and unless means are devised by which further text-books are brought into existence, much improvement cannot be expected. For these reasons I hope that your Excellency will take steps to promote, encourage and assist the publication of vernacular scientific literature.

"Regarding the publication of scientific literature we have to consider the matter from two standpoints. One is the production of text-books on scientific subjects and secondly publication and circulation of scientific ideals amongst the masses. Both these courses have to be adopted in solving the problem. It will not do if one alone is thought of and no attention is paid to the other. The reply that may be given is that the Government cannot be expected to subsidise vernacular scientific literature, that there is no proper demand for it and that the Government have been doing something for the dissemination of knowledge about scientific truths. It may be pointed out that whenever some publications were made which the Government thought were useful such as treatises on plague, malaria, etc., they were translated and circulated. What I now wish to place before this Council is that when once we are satisfied about the necessity and desirability of improving vernacular scientific literature, let us pause for a while and see whether we have done all that is possible to be done. Two courses are open—to encourage the study of vernacular scientific books and secondly to substantially help or give grants to persons who have taken upon themselves the task of bringing out such scientific text-books. It is a matter within the knowledge of the Council that there have been some societies which have taken upon themselves the task of preparing scientific text-books. The Vignana Mandal series must have attracted the attention of the Government; the Tamil Sangam of Madura have been publishing contributions on important subjects. These facts show unmistakably that people are anxious to promote the publication and dissemination of scientific literature. But it is a difficult business; and it is also a costly business for which some further impetus and support must be given by the Government. If the Government will lay down definite rules whereby special amounts or subsidies can be given for the publication of books, much useful work can be done; and it cannot be argued that the Government cannot support such literature when the Government have already contributed for the preparation of the Lexicons which in themselves are calculated to improve the knowledge of the vernaculars and improve scientific literature in the long run. The Government have accepted the principle already; and having done that, is it too much for your Excellency's Government to go a step further and see if further assistance cannot be given for the encouragement of vernacular scientific literature? If this liberal policy is pursued, scientific truths will become more widely diffused among the people."

RESOLUTION RE PROMOTION OF VERNACULAR SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

[2ND APRIL 1917.]

(Mr. K. R. V. Krishna Rao; Mr. Stone.)

The Hon'ble Mr. K. R. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. In April 1914 a resolution similar to this was brought to the notice of this Council by my Honourable friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao. He then suggested the desirability of encouraging the publication of books on scientific subjects in the vernaculars of the Presidency. This resolution suggests that it is necessary to encourage and assist the publication of such a literature in the vernaculars. My Lord, it is more or less agreed that it is in the interests of the school-going population and that it would be to the efficiency of education, to have all non-language subjects taught, as far as possible, in the vernaculars of the country; and besides a knowledge, at least a rudimentary knowledge, of scientific principles and of scientific subjects, is necessary in the matter of improving sanitation and it is necessary that hygienic subjects should be taught for the sake of health.

"My Lord, it is necessary in the first place that proper terminals for scientific words will have to be invented, found or coined in the various vernaculars; and it is also necessary that suitable text-books should be published and the publication of these books encouraged by their being prescribed in the school. That is what is contemplated by this resolution. Unless the Government take in hand and try to encourage the publication of scientific literature by prescribing these books in schools it is not possible to bring about any publication of literature on scientific subjects in the vernaculars of this Presidency.

"Again, my Lord, in reply to the resolution which was brought before this Council in 1914 by my Honourable friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao it was said that the Government whenever they found it possible and whenever they found that any publication deserved Government support, they were purchasing a number of copies of such publication and thereby giving the encouragement to such publication; but the kind of encouragement that is now required is more than what the Government have been doing hitherto by purchasing a few copies or a few hundreds of copies of books published. The Government should not only try to subsidise and encourage the publication of such books but they should try as far as possible to find a demand for them, by prescribing as courses of study such books as may be found acceptable by the Education Department, on scientific subjects. My Lord, I understand that a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been given to the Madras University in aid of giving prizes for the publication of vernacular books on scientific subjects by Mr. Ramarayaningar. That was announced in 1913 during the visit of Lord Hardinge to Madras. There is that small contribution made by him towards that purpose. And it is more or less in the hands of the University. But what is required of this Government is what this resolution suggests that they should take this matter seriously into their consideration and provide a means for a number of books being published on useful scientific subjects in the various vernacular languages of this Presidency and encourage their publication by prescribing them as suitable text-books in schools. That is what I understand by these words "encourage and assist the publication." I think, my Lord, that unless the Government turn their attention to this aspect of the matter and see that some books are published on scientific subjects a most important branch of learning will not be made known to the people. It is said that a great hindrance in the way of sanitary progress is education. Attempts should be made to dispel illiteracy. Unless books are made available which can be read by people with advantage, they will not be able to derive much benefit from education, unless suitable text-books are published on scientific subjects and made available. It is for these reasons I heartily support that the Government may be pleased to take steps in order that suitable text-books on scientific subjects may be published and their publication promoted and encouraged. With these words I heartily second the proposition."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE:—"Your Excellency, I should like to begin by saying a word or two as to the way that scientific knowledge can be acquired. Honourable Members who have spoken on this resolution seemed to think that if only you have got books in a language which you understand you will be in a position to acquire scientific knowledge. I do not think I can too emphatically repudiate the truth of that idea. You cannot learn the sciences, assuming, I mean that you have had no scientific training, by simply reading little books about them. These series mentioned to-day mostly consist of what I might call text-books on

4 RESOLUTION RE PROMOTION OF VERNACULAR SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

(Mr. Stone; the President; Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao.) [2ND APRIL 1917.]

elementary sciences. The promoters of such text-books have taken the sciences most taught in the schools such as physics and chemistry and the natural sciences. I deny that any one who has not undergone training in physics and chemistry can derive any benefit by taking up a text-book on these subjects; it cannot be of the smallest good to the people who have not had any English education and who wish to read things in the vernaculars, because they cannot, in the nature of things, have an instinctive perception of the facts contained therein. The series referred to did not sell—the series that had been produced, did not sell—they did not disseminate scientific literature; they remained on the shelves of the extremely well-meaning people who produced them. The Government are now asked to give an honorarium to the gentlemen who have produced the series. That is what we are asked to do. I will put it in this way:—If you give an honorarium, will these books sell any better? Will the scientific literature be any better disseminated? I say 'no.' Secondly, if these books sell and scientific literature is being disseminated, there is no need to give an honorarium. That is a dilemma from which I am unable to escape.

"So far I have been talking of scientific subjects in general. The Honourable gentlemen have been talking of scientific text-books in the schools; but that is different from that of scientific literature. I have more sympathy in the matter of text-books being placed in the hands of school boys. If you put a book in the hands of a school boy and use a sufficient amount of coercion, you can make him read it. As regards the number of text-books I see from the notes that I have taken of the debate I seem to have made some kind of promise. What I did say was that I would consider how the department could co-operate better with the publishers in the production of school text-books. I must confess, except that something has been done in the way of providing text books in Uriya, that very little has so far been done; and if I have not done more than what I have done in trying to secure co-operation between the department and the publishers it is because we have been occupied mostly with framing curricula as I mentioned at the last meeting, we have been busy with the business of making curricula for students taking up the school-final course and also for the courses of study for the first, second and third forms, where some Honourable Members seem to think that rudiments of sciences are taught in an alien language. It is not so; we do get people to teach them in the vernaculars in forms I, II and III. I am getting a course of study made out not only for the three higher forms, where we have already had them, but also for these three lower forms also. With the aim we have in view, as regards the teaching to be adopted in the three lower forms, we shall be able to see something more definite done in the way of the production of text-books. The production of text-books will have to depend upon the settlement of the curricula. We shall not be long in getting the curricula out for these lower forms; and then I shall be able to see or to tell the publishers what the department can do about the production of text-books and possibly to invite them to co-operate more than the department has been inclined to do so far in the matter of the production of the text-books."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"Perhaps the Honourable gentleman will be satisfied with the reply."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO:—"Yes, my Lord. I need not pursue the matter further. I hope that the Hon'ble Mr. Stone who has himself admitted that he has not been able to do much except in the Uriya language will see his way to encourage the production of text-books in other languages."

With the permission of His Excellency the President the Resolution was withdrawn.

R. A. GRAHAM,
Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

2. It will be seen that the resolution was withdrawn in view of the Hon'ble Mr. Stone's remarks that the Department was designing a course of study providing for the teaching of ~~some~~ scientific subjects in vernacular in Forms I, II & III and that ^{it} would help the production of more text-books on scientific subjects in vernacular. Besides this no specific action was promised. In the circumstances the papers may be recorded and a copy communicated to the S.P.D. for information. The following draft order is for approval:—

Order
M.S.

Recorded.

P.D.
20.6.17

J.L.
20.6.17

Copy to the S.P.D. with copy of Extract from the Council Report

When signed

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.