

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 585

DATED 4-5-1917

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Consejo Publico Library.

Recording papers regarding the non-admission of an Indian
visitor into the ----- for not wearing proper dress.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No.

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (= S.C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S. C.).	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

1917.

Home (Education) DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper-- *New India*
2. Published at-- *Madras*
3. Dated-- *21st March 1917 (Recd. 23.3.17)*

The Connemara Library

THIS Library belongs to Government, and was therefore presumably built from money chiefly taken from Indians. An Indian gentleman, a B.A. (Hons.) of Cambridge went there yesterday in pursuance of some research work on which he is engaged, and was refused admission on the ground that he was not wearing "a coat and a cap". He was dressed as an Indian gentleman, in dhoti, long Indian kurta and chaddar, but in India, Indian dress is "not proper". These petty and insulting regulations ought not to be permitted. A coat which does not wash is uncleanly and unhygienic in a hot climate, while the Indian dress is clean, healthy and graceful, and far more decent than the short open English coat.

For perusal

Ca
28/3/17

Engin. 1st Feb-17
1st Insp. Ca
23.3.17

7P

Memo No. 1734-1

4-4-17

With reference to the article in the accompanying cutting from the New India of the 21st March 1917, the Principal Librarian, Coimbatore Public Library, is requested to enquire and report on the facts of the case.

VCP
2-4-17Tel
2-4-17A
3-4-17

Despatch

To, The Principal Librarian

Coimbatore Public Library.

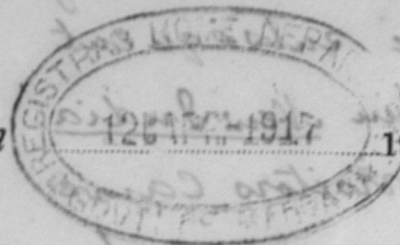
(with the cutting from the New India)

With reference to memorandum No. 1734-1 dated the 2nd instant (received here on the 2nd instant) forwarding a cutting from New India of the 21st March last regarding the non-admission of an Indian visitor into the Coimbatore Public Library, I have the honor to report as follows:

1. As three weeks have now elapsed since the incident and as the facts are now more definitely known, I have the honor to report as follows:

Home (Education) DEPARTMENT.

Received



191

Registered

12

4

1917

Subject.

Reporting on the facts of a case - re
the non-admission of an Indian visitor
into the Connemara Public Library for not
wearing a proper dress - in an article in "New India"

RNJLOS RES.

No.

Spare copies

No. 54-C.L.

Station Madras, Dated the 12th April 1917.

From (Name) J. R. Henderson, Esq., M.B., C.M., F.L.S.,

(Designation) Principal Librarian,
Connemara Public Library.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Home (Education) Department.

Sir,

With reference to Memorandum No. 1734-1
dated the 4th instant (received here on the 11th
instant), forwarding a cutting from New India
of the 21st March last regarding the non-admission
of an Indian visitor into the Connemara Public
Library, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. As three weeks have now elapsed since
the incident and as the case is not an isolated
instance but almost a daily occurrence, no
one here has a clear and distinct recollection
of it. From the available evidence, however,

p 2 of

VCP

NOTES.

I gather that the incident happened on Monday the 19th March last and not on the subsequent day as would appear from the note in New India. On the former day, three Indian visitors came together into the library, two of whom were admitted in the usual course. The third visitor who was clad in a dhoti and loose shirt and had a cloth on his shoulders, but did not wear a coat or a head-dress, and who it is presumed was the person referred to in the newspaper cutting under report, was refused admission on the ground that he was not "properly dressed" as required by rule 4 of the library rules. The visitor made no complaint either to the Sub-Librarian or to me who were on the premises at the time, but appears to have left the library without any protest.

3. The rule referred to, which was approved G.O. No. 310, Educational, dated the 19th May 1896, runs as follows:- "Readers will be admitted to library on condition that they are cleanly in person and properly dressed." The rule has been worked with the greatest possible latitude; but it has been the practice from the very beginning in the case of visitors not dressed in "European style" to insist on a coat and some kind of head-dress as essentials of "proper dress". This interpretation of the rule has been frequently challenged, but the practice has been maintained unaltered.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 your most obedient servant

J. N. Henderson.

Principal Librarian.

NOTES.

Page

5

Secretary's remarks on a cutting from the "New India" regarding the non-admission of a visitor to the Connemara Public Library.

"Enquire the facts of the Report"

E. A. H.
30-3-17.

p. 2. [Issued as Memo No 1734-1, dated the 4-4-17]

pp 3-4 of CNo 398. From the Principal Librarian, Connemara Public Library, No 54 C. L., dated the 12th April 1917.

For the Recd.

With reference to an article which appears in the "New India" of the 21st March last, regarding the non-admission of a visitor to the Connemara Public Library, the Principal Librarian was requested to enquire and report on the facts of the case. The Librarian's report is on pp 3-4 of.

The visitor, who had neither a coat nor a head dress, does not appear to have complained to the Sub-librarian or the Principal Librarian, where he was refused admission. With reference to Rule 4 on p 5 of Lgs. No 310 Edl, dated the 19th May 1896, quoted in para 3 of the current letter, there is nothing in the notes to the Lgs to show what exactly is meant by the terms "properly dressed". It has been the practice to insist on a coat and some kind of head dress and ^{the practice} has been maintained unaltered.

p. 5- (V)
p. 4 of

though the "interpretation of the rule has been frequently challenged". As the Librarian states that the rule has been worked "with the greatest possible latitude", no further action seems to be necessary and the papers may be recorded.

recd
26.4.17
LH
26.4.17

The person referred to in the article was apparently a Bengalee or Behar? in whose case alone dress of the description given in the article would have been "proper dress." Obviously the Principal Librarian does not seem to be aware of it. It may not be advisable to insist on such a person to change his dress or to refuse him admission. ~~Each~~ Each province has a distinctive method of dressing and it should be recognized by the authorities of the library.

CR
30/4/17

I don't think any users are lettered
If the person felt a provance, he would have complained at once -

Drop the matter
25/17

NOTES.

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For the Repr.

he

Submitted that the papers may

Order
Min

No. 585 of the 4-5-17.

Recorded.

2-5-17

3157

When given for copying
 When copied
 When examined
 When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
 191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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 P = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only.