

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 665

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INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording notes connected with the resolution moved by the Hon'ble
Bee Bahadur v. Ramnagar Acharyar at the meeting of the ----- held
on the 15th March 1917 on the subject of the introduction of the
Honours Course in the Government College, Bombay.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF
GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[SUBJECT.—Honours Course in the Government College, Kumbakonam.]

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur V. K. RAMANUJA AOHARIYAR :—

VI "III. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the provision under 22. Education—Government Colleges—General—be raised by one lakh, so that the Honours course may be introduced into the Kumbakonam College and that a corresponding reduction be made from the provision under 45. Civil Works."

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The desirability of introducing Honours courses in the Government College, Kumbakonam, was brought to the notice of His Excellency the Governor by the Tanjore District Association and by the deputation of the citizens of Kumbakonam on the occasion of His Excellency's visit to the place in 1915. In that connection the Director of Public Instruction noted on the subject as follows:—

"The specific prayer of the deputation is the introduction of the Honours courses. Government have decided that these shall be confined in Government Colleges to the Presidency College and I do not see any reason, at any rate at present, to seek a revision of the decision. There is no more reason for establishing them at Kumbakonam than at Rajahmundry and there is very decided reason not to spend from Provincial funds more than a limited amount on a college which even in the view of the deputations is to serve merely local needs. To secure affiliation in even one Honours course the University would certainly require an additional professor in the Indian Educational Service and in the case of history a large expenditure on the library. They are asking for the affiliation in physics a good deal more than we meant to provide. I think that no hope should be held out of starting Honours courses at Kumbakonam."

2. In reply to the deputation His Excellency undertook to consider the question further in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction. The following is an extract from the report of the proceedings:—

"The first object discussed was the strengthening of the Kumbakonam Government College by the introduction of the Honours course at least in the History and Philosophy groups. The deputation stated that this provision would not necessitate extra appointments in the Indian Educational Service. The Trivandrum College which was affiliated in History in the Honours course had an Indian professor and in the Presidency College the Professor of Philosophy was a member of the Provincial Service. It might be contended that provision for instruction in the Honours course in History and Philosophy groups might entail considerable expenditure, but the appointment of Indian professors as in the case of the Trivandrum and Presidency Colleges mentioned above would reduce it considerably. It was also stated that the College Old Boys' Association recently formed had instituted a dozen scholarships. Further, one Mr. N. R. Ayyar of Calcutta had provided and had promised to provide six more scholarships if the college was affiliated in the Honours course. His Excellency remarked that the institution of scholarships by the old boys of the college was a most encouraging sign but that the introduction of the Honours course was not practicable at present owing to financial stress. Mr. Statham stated that the Honours course asked for

" might be introduced with only two assistant lecturers who might be recruited from the Provincial Service. The expenditure would be about Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 a year. He also stated that there was a feeling that the college was going down in popularity for various reasons of which the following were two:—

" (1) the best boys were attracted to Missionary colleges by the Honours course and by the larger number of scholarships and lower rate of fees;

" (2) the Kumbakonam College was not represented either in the Board of Studies or in the Board of Examiners.

" Another reason urged by the deputation for the strengthening of the college was that it would remove congestion in other colleges.

" His Excellency expressed his sympathy with the views of the deputation, but remarked that this was not a favourable opportunity for embarking upon new expenditure. There was a great demand all over the Presidency for the extension of educational facilities and there was only a limited amount of money available for the purpose. His Excellency undertook to discuss the matter with the Director of Public Instruction on his return to headquarters and stated that it would not be for want of good-will if the Director could not devise some solution."

3. From the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor's note, dated the 24th February 1916, it appears that the Director of Public Instruction's attention has been drawn to the undertaking given by His Excellency and the file is lying over pending receipt of detailed proposals from the Director of Public Instruction for the strengthening of the college.

The provision of one lakh suggested by the Additional Member appears to be excessive. The deputation which waited on His Excellency in 1915 urged that the additional recurring expenditure on staff would amount only to Rs. 5,000 a year. The non-recurring expenditure on additions to the library is not likely to exceed Rs. 5,000. The provisions for buildings under 45. CIVIL WORKS is of a non-recurring character; and the Additional Member's suggestion that the recurring expenditure involved in the proposal should be met from the provision under 45. CIVIL WORKS can hardly be entertained.

4. It is submitted that the papers may be sent u.o. to the Director of Public Instruction for very early remarks.

N.K.—1-3-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARI—2-3-17.

E. A. HARVEY—2-3-17.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

I think the resolution should be opposed though I do not know that Government need commit themselves to the view that Honours courses are only to be provided by Government in the Presidency College. It is enough that at present there are more pressing claims on educational expenditure than this.

J. H. STONE—3-3-17.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders as to whether the resolution may be opposed as suggested by Mr. Stone, whether it should be discussed in Council and as to who should take charge of it.

N.K.—6-3-17.

C.R.—6-3-17.

E.A.H.—6-3-17.

Home (Edu) Dept.

Submitted for orders as to whether the resolution may be opposed as suggested by Mr. Stone, whether it should be discussed in Council and as to who should take charge of it.

5.3.17
5.3.17

6.3.17
6.3.17

V. E.

I have discussed this today with the D.P.I.

Mr. Stone will take the Resolution.

Discussion in Council unnecessary.

P.
6.3.17



Ex 6 (m) small

How, then, is it possible to achieve a more complete understanding of the world?

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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 Tuesday, the 13th day of March 1917.

RESOLUTION *RE* PROVISION FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
HONOURS COURSE IN THE KUMBAKONAM COLLEGE.

RESOLUTION *RE* PROVISION FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HONOURS COURSE IN THE KUMBAKONAM COLLEGE.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur V. K. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR:—"I beg to move the following resolution:—

VI. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the provision under 22. EDUCATION—"Government Colleges—General" be raised by one lakh, so that the Honours course may be introduced into the Kumbakonam College and that a corresponding reduction be made from the provision under 45. CIVIL WORKS.

"I need hardly inform the Council that the Kumbakonam College has been providing education to many a poor student and preventing the congestion of colleges in Madras. The College being a Government one has been handicapped by the permission given to private colleges to levy lower rates of fees. But the Old Boys' Association at Kumbakonam has come to the rescue of poor students; they have succeeded to some extent, in providing scholarships for poor deserving students.

"There is another difficulty which hampers the work of the college. A distinction has been made, in recent years, between the honours course and the pass course; and the Kumbakonam College is allowed to prepare students only for the pass course in the B.A. degree examination. Students who wish to take up the honours course have to leave Kumbakonam and poorer people are compelled to remain there. This refusal to open the honours course in the Kumbakonam College has impressed upon it the stamp of inferiority and this affects the strength of the College and therefore its efficiency.

"When your Excellency was at Kumbakonam in December 1915, an influential deputation waited upon your Excellency and we believe that we had a sympathetic response. A further memorial was submitted, but nothing is yet known as to what orders the Government are going to pass. The College has done very useful work for half a century. Your Excellency will pardon me if I quote a few sentences from the memorandum placed before your Excellency at the time:

"Among its alumni we may count several statesmen like the late Diwan Bahadur S. Srinivasaraghava Ayyangar and Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao who has been in succession Diwan of three Indian Principalities; the late Mr. V. Krishnaswami Ayyar and the Hon'ble Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar had been students of our College in the Intermediate course. In the High Court we have two of our old graduates Mr. Justice Sadasiva Ayyar and Mr. Justice Srinivasa Ayyangar. The first Indian Superintending Engineer Rao Bahadur A. V. Ramalinga Ayyar and quite a number of Executive Engineers are graduates of this institution in Mathematics. The College has contributed to the Finance Department of the Government of India some of its best talent. In the department of education and public justice there are many too numerous to be mentioned."

"The College is going to celebrate its Silver Jubilee in April next and it will be a fitting thing if the Government will celebrate it by providing the honours course in the College. The two subjects that I would suggest in connection with that course will be Philosophy and Mathematics. Tanjore students have a peculiar aptitude for Mathematics. There was a time when Kumbakonam was known as the Cambridge of Southern India. It was also the seat of study of Philosophies. There is Philosophy in the air and students can master that subject easily. Kumbakonam has a right to expect that its students should be allowed to study in the highest courses possible under this University.

"When I sent up this resolution, I roughly put the cost at rupees one lakh: but subsequent consideration makes me think that it is too high a figure—that rupees 20,000 ought to suffice. We want for the two subjects two lecturers, and two assistants. I think we might try Indians. We have in the Trivandrum College Indian lecturers teaching these subjects. We have in the Presidency College the Professor of Philosophy who is an Indian. If the Government resolve to employ Indians—the lecturers may be paid Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 and assistants Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 and the cost will then be Rs. 14,500 to Rs. 18,000 and adding to it something for equipment, the amount may be fixed at Rs. 20,000. It may be said that this is

18TH MARCH 1917.] (*Mr. Ramanuja Achariyar; Mr. Stone.*)

not the time when I should come up to the Council with a request for an increased expenditure. I will read from the memorandum given to me by friends at Kumbakonam who have looked into the subject:

"We would only refer to the accumulated savings of the income from religious institutions of the district which the Government was administering till 1863, then in the hands of Government, and which the Government of the day declared that they would keep in trust for the advance of education. This fund is perhaps forgotten and it will be well worth reminding the Government of it, as the fund with the accumulated interest of these 54 years would be more than sufficient to maintain the college: the Government is a trustee for this fund and cannot ignore it, however long it may have been forgotten." I, therefore, place this resolution before the Council and I hope that we shall get a sympathetic reply."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE:—"Your Excellency, the Honourable mover of this resolution began by speaking as though it were a grievance that Kumbakonam College was not allowed to teach or to make arrangements for teaching for the honours course. He said that only poorer people stayed at Kumbakonam, whereas richer students went to Madras to take the honours course. I think that he rather overlooks the fact that poverty and riches are not the criteria which enable the students to take the honours course. There is a certain amount of natural ability to be taken into consideration before a student is allowed to take the honours course. It cannot be true in any general way that rich boys go to Madras from Kumbakonam for the honours course, and that, if Kumbakonam had the honours course, the extent to which the migration of students from Kumbakonam to Madras takes place would be diminished and would only be a small one. On the contrary the number of students who would stay at Kumbakonam instead of going to Madras would be quite small.

"However I am instructed to say that the Government do not wish it to be supposed that they have made up their minds for ever that the honours course cannot be opened in the Government colleges situated in the mufassal. When these new courses were introduced by the University, the matter was carefully considered and the Government decided then at any rate that they were prepared to make provision for the honours course only in the Presidency College.

"No doubt, to some extent, financial considerations influenced that decision. At the same time it must be evident that things tend very much to a concentration of higher education in Madras—that Madras is becoming more and more the seat of the University. I mention these things because I do not wish it to be thought that any pronouncement made just now is good for all time to come. I mention these considerations because I do not wish it to be understood that the Government have authorised me to make any kind of pronouncement in the case of mufassal colleges. I was careful to state 'mufassal' colleges, because in anything that the Government may do for extending the honours course, they ought to take into account the other colleges in the mufassal, the Rajahmundry College particularly, in the light of what was said in the Council the other day.

"Then as regards the cost, I am not prepared to give an estimate as to what the cost would be. The Honourable Member now thinks that when he put Rs. 1 lakh he was over-estimating it. Whatever the Government might think about the matter, we have to go to the University for affiliation. I am quite certain that the University would scrutinise with particular care any proposal to introduce honours courses into any college.

"The Honourable Member also said that the teachers for the honours course might be Indians. I have not the smallest objection to that. But it does not follow that because we employ Indians, the cost would be very much less than if we employed Europeans, if we take the proposals of the Public Service Commission into consideration, which considerably increase the proportion of the Indian element in the Educational service.

"Very lately we extended the teaching in the Kumbakonam College when we introduced Physics for the pass course of the B.A. degree examination. That has involved the Government in some additional expenditure. That is the reason why the Government are not particularly eager to increase the cost of the Kumbakonam College. Speaking generally, I think, I may say that the Government do not wish to be thought to be taking an unsympathetic attitude in this matter, but there are other

Home Education Dept

An extract from the proceedings of the Legislative Council relating to this resolution has been added to the file. As no action is now necessary it is submitted that the paper may be

no. 665 D 24.5.17

Recorded

CR 18/5/17

pages 67

Legislative Council

Recording note cancelled with the resolution moved by the Hon. Rao Bahadur V. K. Ramanuja Achariyar at the meeting of the held on the 18th March 1917 in the subject of the introduction of the Honours course in the First College, Kumbakonam.

(Mr. Stone; Mr. Ramanuja Achariyar.) [13TH MARCH 1917]

schemes in the educational line which are at this moment more important, so that they are not prepared to take up the starting of the honours course at Kumbakonam at this time."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur V. K. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR:—"I see no use in my pressing this resolution to a division because I know what the result will be. I am not at all satisfied with the reply given. The logical conclusion of the observations of the Hon'ble Mr. Stone would be that the honours course would be allowed only in colleges in Madras, so that it will form a sort of residential university. If that is so, we must agitate that we should have a university in the south; or that the college classes at Kumbakonam should be closed. However, there is no use in pressing this resolution and I beg to withdraw it."

With the permission of His Excellency the President, the resolution was withdrawn.

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

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191

REAR AGAIN G.O. No.
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DATED

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITS.

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