

Home (1917) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 796

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording notes connected with the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. K. B. Krishna Rao Pantulu at the meeting of the Council held on the 3rd April 1917 on the subject of the encouragement of the Boy Scout movement.

C.No. 1384

NOTES CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF
GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[For the meeting of 2nd April 1917.]

[SUBJECT.—*Encouragement of the Boy-scout Movement*].

The Hon'ble Mr. K. R. V. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—

XIV. **XV.** This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that adequate measures be taken for the introduction of the boy-scout movement among Indian students in some important secondary schools as a beginning in this Presidency and that a Committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to enquire into and suggest the lines on which such a movement can be introduced.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Attention is solicited to the extract from the newspaper report placed below The "Hindu" of the 22nd March 1917. from which it will be observed that the Hon'ble Mr. B. N. Sarma moved the following resolution at the meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council held on the 21st instant:—

"This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council the urgent desirability of encouraging the boy-scout movement among Indian students."

The Hon'ble Sir Sankaran Nair accepted the above resolution on behalf of the Government, but expressed the desire to correct an error made by some Honourable Members who sought to differentiate between Anglo-Indian and Indian boys. He observed that the boy-scout movement had emanated in Great Britain, that when introduced in this country it naturally made its first progress in Anglo-Indian and European circles but that the Government had neither encouraged nor discouraged it. He also said that the only point that the Government insisted upon was that the movement should be controlled by efficient scout masters.

2. The scope of the present resolution is wider than that moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma. The former urges the Government to take adequate measures for the introduction of the movement in certain selected secondary schools for Indians and the appointment of a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into and suggest the lines on which such a movement can be introduced, while the latter only recommended a principle for acceptance. It may be noted that there are in this Presidency six European schools and three non-European schools which have adopted or encouraged the movement. It is also reported that four European boys' and two European girls' schools in Bangalore support the movement—vide letter No. 369, Education, dated the 16th March 1917. With reference to the first part of the present resolution it is for consideration whether India's further action which they might take in the matter may not be awaited. At any rate it does not seem necessary for the Government to take any initiative in the matter at present and all that they can do is to encourage the movement.

In regard to the appointment of a committee of officials and non-officials suggested by the Additional Member, it is doubtful whether there is really any need for such a committee assuming that the Government view with sympathetic consideration the question of encouraging the movement. Further it is probably difficult to find competent persons at present who are fully acquainted with the movement so as to be useful members on the committee.

3. The Director of Public Instruction may perhaps be requested u.o. to offer his views on the resolution.

4. Orders are solicited as to who should take charge of the resolution, whether further information should be called for and whether the resolution should be discussed at the Executive Council meeting.

E.A.V.—23-3-17.

T.K.—24-3-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—24-3-17.

E. A. HARVEY—24-3-17.

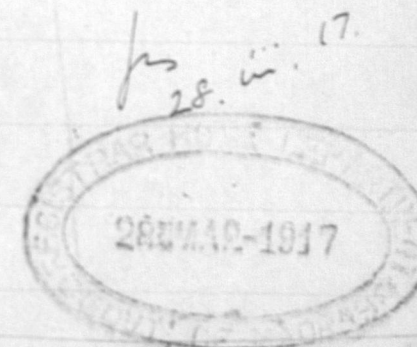
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The time has already passed when the formation of a committee might be necessary because the "Madras High Schools Indian Boy Scouts Association" has already been formed and patrols have been started in several schools and a surprisingly large number of boys have come forward. There is no reason why similar associations should not be started in mufassal centres and a general association formed for the Presidency. Government are quite prepared to extend encouragement and advice but strongly deprecate any officialising of the movement which they consider must, to be successful, be extended on private initiative.

J. H. STONE—28-3-17.

No. 99 of 28.3.16

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Home (Edn) Dept.
For orders as to circulation to H.E.

J.H.
28.3.17

A
28.3.17

H.E. for adv.
Ch.
28.3.17

XIV

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Extract from the Proceedings of an Adjourned 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 re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 3rd day of April 1917.

RESOLUTION *RE* A COMMITTEE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

2 RESOLUTION RE A COMMITTEE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

(Mr. K. R. V. Krishna Rao ; Mr. Yaqub Hasan.) [3RD APRIL 1917.]

RESOLUTION RE A COMMITTEE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF
THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. R. V. KRISHNA RAO.—“The resolution which I have the honour to move is as follows.—

‘XIV. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that adequate measures be taken for the introduction of boy scout movement among Indian students in some important secondary schools as a beginning in this Presidency, and that a committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to inquire into and suggest the lines on which such a movement can be introduced.’

“My Lord, I want that a boy scout movement for Indian students should be introduced in this Presidency, and that the practical lines of introducing such a movement as the boy scouts must be ascertained and determined upon. It is necessary that a movement of this kind should be started in order that the feelings of loyalty to the King-Emperor and of devotion to the mother country may be fostered and that self-restraint and discipline may be introduced among the students. It is also necessary, my Lord, that young students should be trained in a movement of this kind in order that they may be enabled hereafter to undertake more responsible duty in defence of their country. The Defence of India Act enables respectable people to qualify themselves for the defence of their country, and as such those students who will now be trained as boy scouts will in their time be useful to undergo further training for enabling them to defend their mother country. I may also mention, my Lord, that Mr. A. C. Miller, the Headmaster of the Sirdar High School, Belgaum, introduced a device of the sort by starting a boy scout movement in that school. The Government of Bombay have found the system devised by Mr. Miller as being acceptable and good and have recommended it to the Director of Public Instruction for being introduced in other schools also. I have not at present got the details of the scheme which Mr. Miller has devised in Bombay, but to suit the conditions of this Presidency enquiry may be made and a system that would answer the purpose having due regard to the peculiar circumstances and conditions of this Presidency may be easily devised, and this system introduced as early as possible in some of the secondary schools in this Presidency. I only want that a beginning should be made in this direction and that this system of boy scout movement should be introduced in some selected schools wherever the Government might find it possible and suitable to introduce it.

“My Lord, a resolution on the boy scout movement was moved in the Imperial Legislative Council at the last session, and it was accepted by the Government of India and I hope therefore that your Excellency's Government will accept this recommendation contained in this resolution and will enquire into the possibilities of introducing the boy scout movement and appoint a small committee to devise practical means and methods for its introduction in this Presidency. My Lord, we have found in other Presidencies in this country several social service leagues formed from among students of secondary schools, and all these social service leagues are found to work very well. Similarly if on suitable lines the boy scout movement is introduced, I have every faith it will work successfully in this Presidency. It is no doubt true that in order to introduce the boy scout movement suitable scout masters are necessary and it may not be very easy to find such suitable teachers for introducing this system. But a beginning may be made, a small beginning may be made by introducing in a few secondary schools at least, the system and the lines upon which the boy scout movement can be introduced and made successful in this part of the country may be found and devised. It is with this hope that the Government will give their serious attention to this aspect of the question and also devise means as to the methods that can be profitably and advantageously undertaken for introducing such a system as the boy scout movement in this Presidency that I brought this resolution before this Council and I hope it will be accepted.”

The Hon'ble Mr. YAQUB HASAN.—“I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Krishna Rao. As a similar resolution has been

RESOLUTION RE A COMMITTEE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 3
BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

3RD APRIL 1917.] (Mr. Yakub Hasan ; Mr. Stone ; Mr. Narasimha Ayyar.)

accepted by the Imperial Government, I hope that the local Government will also see their way to accept this resolution. The managers of secondary schools, I am sure, will take this up very enthusiastically, and they will come forward to co-operate with the Government officials in making it a success. The only thing required is that an impetus should be given to this movement by introducing it under good auspices. At the present time the country is prepared to welcome a movement of this nature. In the resolution it is asked that a committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed to enquire into and suggest the lines on which such a movement can be introduced. I would wish that these non-officials should be managers of schools who are actually in touch with the student population, and who are in a better position to advise the committee as to the lines on which the movement should be worked.”

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE.—“Your Excellency, I think this resolution comes a little late in the day, because the Honourable Member, in the first place, wishes that adequate measures should be taken for the introduction of the boy scout movement in some important secondary schools. The boy scout movement has already been introduced in some secondary schools in the city in the following schools: the Pachchaippra's College, the Hindu High School, Triplicane, the Teachers' College, Saidapet, the Pennathur Subramaniam High School, Mylapore, the High School attached to the Wesley College, the S.P.G. High School, Vepery, and an association has actually been formed on which the authorities of these schools are represented either in their own persons or by members of their staff particularly interested in this movement. So that as regards the first part of the resolution, I think the Honourable Member will see that it is not very necessary.

“As regards the second part of the resolution that there should be a committee to enquire into and suggest the lines on which such a movement can be introduced, the existence of an association seems to me to make that committee also unnecessary. The association, I may say, is called the Madras High School Indian Boys Scouts Association. At present its activities are confined to the Presidency town. No doubt they will be extended to the Presidency at large. The thing has been just started, and I am told the number of boys that are coming forward wishing to be boy scouts, is as large as or larger than was expected at first. How far the difficulty of scout masters has been got over I am not in a position to say. It is a difficulty; this association is doing its best to meet it. It is a difficulty which is thoroughly recognised by all those who are in any way concerned with the boy scouts movement.

“I do not know if I need say anything more, except that the movement as it originated in Great Britain was essentially a non-Government movement. It was not in the least degree official. It was spontaneously entered upon and carried on without any official assistance, almost perhaps without any official recognition, and it has spread to all parts and it has spread to India. The Government have the greatest sympathy with this movement, and look for important and good consequences from its introduction in Indian schools provided it is done with judgment and care. At the same time they consider that it is highly important that the movement should not be officialised, that it should be a spontaneous movement carried on without official help and free from official pressure. Therefore, they do not think that a committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed to enquire into the lines on which such a movement can be introduced, partly because the system has been introduced and the Government have reason to believe that it is going on satisfactory lines, and partly because the formation of a committee of this kind containing officers of Government would tend to officialise the movement, and that is a result which they do not at all wish to see take place.”

The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. NARASIMHA AYYAR.—“I wish to ask the Hon'ble Mr. Stone for information on this question, whether the association that he mentioned, the Madras Association, has for its objects also the spread of the boy scouts movement into the mufassal. I do not know whether that is one of the objects, the objects written down in the rules. If the Hon'ble Mr. Stone is not in a position to give this information, I believe this resolution would be still necessary. There is necessity for us to consider this question and pass this resolution. It is a great pleasure for us to know that half a dozen schools in the Presidency town have taken up the movement. If you take the rest of the Presidency in the mufassal there is ample justification for

4 RESOLUTION RE A COMMITTEE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.

(Mr. Narasimha Ayyar; the President; [3RD APRIL 1917.
Mr. K. R. V. Krishna Rao; Mr. Stone.]

introducing the measure. If the objection is to the employment of the word 'introduce', we can amend it by saying that what we want is its introduction into the mufassal. The objection as to officialising has been met by the wording of the resolution. It is not a committee of officials that is suggested, but there may be some officials in order that the enquiries in various districts may be easier. If there are officials it will be easy to find ways and means by which we can appeal to the schools. The resolution says that the committee should consist of officials and non-officials, so that it will be sufficiently non-official, and the officialising of the boy scout movement cannot be put forward in the face of such a resolution. I do not think, however, that this matter should be pushed to any further degree of discussion, if the Hon'ble Mr. Stone is in a position to assure us that the work we are anxious to see done, the extension of this movement is being done by this Madras Association."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"I am confident of the association, I have no doubt if opportunity offers the work will be extended to the mufassal. Does the Honourable gentleman wish to press the resolution?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. R. V. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"My only object in moving this resolution is that the introduction of this movement should not be restricted to a few schools in the Presidency town and it should be made as far as possible popular in mufassal secondary schools. It is for that reason I propose a committee of officials and non-officials, so that they may in consultation and after taking various suggestions from the mufassal into consideration, suggest the best means of introducing it. I suggested the inclusion of officials, not because I wanted that this movement should be made an official movement altogether, but since the management and control of secondary education is entirely in the hands of Inspectors and the Director of Public Instruction, they will be able to help as much as possible the spread of this movement and also to give advice, practical advice, with regard to the diffusion, the spread and the introduction of this movement. It is with this hope that I brought forward this resolution before this Council. Since I am assured that the association that has been formed and is working in Madras will see that this movement is gradually extended to the mufassal also, I do not press this resolution, but my only anxiety is that what the schools in the Presidency town are able to do in this direction, what advantage the secondary schools in this City have been realising may also be made to be shared by all other schools in the mufassal. In the mufassal there are, my Lord, very often well-managed secondary schools in which this system can be well introduced, and there are persons in the mufassal who will co-operate and help in spreading this movement and in extending it. My anxiety is that some sort of disciplinary control should be brought to bear upon the students and the extra energy which these students have must be directed in some useful channels, but since I am assured that the association formed here will gradually extend to schools in the mufassal, I do not press this resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE:—"May I add a word, sir? As regards the extension of the boy scouts movement to the mufassal, the point is the Government would like to see the initiative come from the schools themselves. Taking advantage of the publicity which this discussion affords, any school which wishes to form a boy scout movement should communicate with the association in Madras, that is the step which I would advise them to take as the first step."

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

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

An extract from the discussions at the meeting of the Legislative Council appertaining to the resolution have been added to the file (pages 4 & 57 supra). The resolution was withdrawn on the Govt. pointing out that action had ~~been~~ already been taken in the matter. No further action is necessary.

2. It may be noted that a communication ^{also} has been received from the Govt. of India on the attitude to be observed by local Govts towards the Boy Scout movement. It has been communicated to the D.I., - G.O. no 498 dated the 23rd ^{April} 1917.

3. These papers may, if it is submitted, be ~~over~~ no. 796 D. 15. 6. 17
" Recorded "

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Madras
Legislative Council

Recording notes connected with the resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. K. R. V. Krishna Rao Pantulu at the meeting of the — held on the 3rd April 1917 on the subject of the encouragement of the Boy Scout movement.

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