

Home (1918) Department.
& Education

Ordinary, SERIES.

G.O. No. 1097

DATED 28-8-1918

INDEX

[Despatch Abstract.]

Address.-

Recording papers relating to an ----- read
on the occasion of His Excellency's opening the Gough
Memorial hall in the Voorhees College, Vellore.

BACK PAPERS.

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To

His Excellency

The Right Hon'ble the Lord Pentland,
Governor of Madras.



Your Excellency,

The Elizabeth R.Voorhees College esteems it a peculiar privilege to receive the Governor of this Presidency into its halls, and to extend to Your Excellency a most cordial welcome. Upon a previous occasion at the time of another visit to Vellore Your Excellency was pleased to visit the institution and to inspect some of the classes in the High School and in the College Departments. But upon this occasion we are able to take special pleasure in welcoming to our new College building the Cobb Memorial Hall, the Chief Representative in this Province of His Majesty the King, the Emperor of India. Our pleasure is heightened by the fact that on this occasion Your Excellency comes not only to visit this Institution, not only to be present upon this auspicious ceremony, but to formally open to the youth of this community and city these portals of learning.

Particularly do we consider ourselves most happy in that as one who has taken so vital an interest in the advance of education among the people of this Presidency, and whose every endeavour has been toward the enlightenment of the youth of this Province of His Majesty's Empire, Your Excellency has consented to be present. From time to time have we realised that in Your Excellency have all those who have given themselves to the uplift of lowly, to the training of the youth of this land for the tasks that await them in life, and to the holding ever high the noble ideals of manhood and courage, had a true friend. Your Excellency's kind consideration of the needs of the educational institutions and of the best methods of securing the goals toward which we are striving has always been a source of great encouragement to Masters and to students. May we not say that it was this kindly interest of Your Excellency that has made possible this most happy and auspicious visit to Vellore.

In the name of the Council, of the Masters, and of the students of Voorhees College, I desire to extend to Your Excellency a most cordial welcome.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

The Principal, the Council, the Master
and the students of Voorhees College.



His Excellency
The Right Honourable The Lord Pentland, G.C.I.E.,
Governor of Madras.

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Governor of Madras.

Your Excellency,

As we are here assembled upon this most happy and most favourable occasion it becomes my pleasant duty to review briefly the history of Cobb Memorial Hall which Your Excellency has just declared open.

For several years our only accommodations for the classes of the College Department were exceedingly cramped and entirely unsatisfactory. With the hope of securing property upon which a large building might be erected the Mission authorities entered into negotiations with the owners of the land upon which this building now stands and secured the promise of sale. Upon the strength of this promise in the year 1905 just at the time that a Deputation of the Reformed Church in America came to visit ~~the~~ the Arcot Mission, the Cornerstone was laid by the late Dr. H.N. Cobb on the site where this building, erected to his memory, now stands. With full expectation that the new building would soon be a reality he looked into the future and saw the increased advantages the youth of this district would enjoy. The realization of his hopes was however not to be at once achieved for the property became involved in litigation and the agreement terminated. Again the future looked dark and conditions became most trying especially when subsequently an exorbitant figure was placed upon this property by the owners.

Then, as Your Excellency will remember, in the year 1915 when Your Excellency visited Vellore, a deputation of the Mission Authorities waited upon Your Excellency and placed before Your Excellency the action that Government had been pleased to take in certain instances for the acquisition of lands for educational purposes. Your Excellency became interested and through Your Excellency's kind influence the Government

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was pleased to acquire for the College this present site of land whereon the Cobb Memorial Hall is erected. With all possible speed the dismantling of the small building that stood upon the site was commenced and in February 1917 the foundations of the present structure were laid. Notwithstanding the many delays that were occasioned in the procuring of the necessary materials and in the securing of transportation facilities the work advanced rapidly and within the brief period of sixteen months the building is ready for use.

When one pauses to realize that Voorhees College is the highest educational institution of the Arcot Mission and that the youth from all districts of the Mission continuing their education come to this institution, one can understand the large opportunity it has. Further thought in the matter of the educational benefits of the surrounding community brings the recognition that it is the leading institution in this district and that its horizon of influence is not the limits of the Municipality but that it counts upon its ~~xxx~~ rolls students from this and other districts. And among its graduates may be counted men in every walk of life stationed in various parts of the Empire. Its aims have ever been the uplift of the lowly, the strengthening of the physique, the development of the intellect, and the moulding of character after the pattern of the Man of Galilee.

A few statistics may not come amiss in arriving at an idea of the work of Voorhees College. We have upon the rolls of the College Department 52 senior students and 48 junior students making the total of 100 in the College Department. In the High School there are 512 and in the Lower School 547 making the total strength of the institution 1159. At the last public examinations out of seventy candidates of the School Final Class in the High School twenty four passed the Government Examination and six Supplementary students completed the Secondary School-Leaving Certificates making a percentage of forty three.

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In the Intermediate Examinations out of forty eight students thirteen passed completely and eleven partially, making a percentage of approximately thirty seven.

The greater participation which the larger accommodations afforded in this new building open to us in the noble effort put forth by the people of Great Britain to widen the sphere of knowledge, to lift to higher planes of morality, and to instil the highest ideals in the lives of the people of this great land, we hold as a royal trust to which we pledge our best effort and our undying allegiance.

For this manifestation of the interest in the education of this district of which this visit of Your Excellency is the assurance; for the recognition and the assistance rendered to us by the officers of the Government and of the Department, for the many evidences of the kind consideration shown by the ladies and ^{the} gentlemen of the district and of the station we are sincerely thankful.

We beg ~~to~~ leave to thank Your Excellency for the honour of this visit which will ever be vividly associated in our memories with the opening of these portals of learning to the youth of Vellore and of the surrounding districts, and venture to bespeak for this institution a continuation of the interest Your Excellency has already shown.

We beg to remain,
Sir,

Your most obedient servants,
The Principal, the Council,
The Masters and the students of
The Elizabeth R. Voorhees College.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
OOTACAMUND.

5th August 1918.

My dear Ramachandra Rao,

His Excellency has consented to open the Cobb Memorial Hall, the new building for the Intermediate Classes in Voorhees College, Vellore on the 12th instant. I send herewith copies of the two addresses which will be read on the occasion. Would you kindly let me have a short note showing the help which the Government have given if any towards the Hall, by the evening of the 7th August?

Yours sincerely,

K. R. Rao

Very truly

The hon'ble

Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Aml.,
Secretary to Government, Home Dept.

Home (Sd) Department

The following help has been given by the Govt towards the construction of the Cobb Memorial hall attached to the Voochees College, Valloze.

2. Land. As stated in the address proposed to be read, the Govt. acquired the land required by the authorities of the College under the Land Acquisition Act, sanctioned a grant not exceeding Rs 6,538 towards the cost of acquisition, handed it over to the College authorities in advance of the execution of a formal deed of conveyance and finally conveyed it to them by means of a deed.

3. Buildings. This was estimated to cost Rs 6,000 and when in 1916 an application was submitted for a grant in aid of the buildings, no funds were available and consequently the College authorities were permitted to proceed with the work and they were requested to renew the application after the close of the war. Fortunately however funds became available soon after; and ^(on the total sum of Rs 6,000 + Rs 10,250 from the Govt. of Madras) grant of Rs 33,312 was readily sanctioned.

The other grant of Rs 3,728 since sanctioned for the installation of gas and water supply and that of Rs 3,495 for the purchase of furniture are also apparently for this building.

4. The above information may be forwarded to the P.S.G. W.O. with reference to his d.o. above.

7.8.18
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Gp. No. 3263 24.3.16

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9678 13-9-16

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11328 1-9-17

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Dr.Scudder, ladies and gentlemen,

I think I am right in saying that 65 years have passed since the Arcot Mission commenced its work in this district, and I am sure that no words of mine are needed to commend it to the citizens of this town who have daily evidences of the beneficent activities in which it is engaged and of the manner in which it has devoted itself to promoting the welfare of a district with which its history is so closely identified. I can myself claim some personal knowledge of that work and of its value, and it was therefore a great pleasure to accept the kind invitation extended to me by the Mission authorities to visit Vellore on my way to Madras and to have the honour of taking part in two functions which mark notable additions to the equipment of the Mission for the great task which it has so generously and devotedly undertaken. Dr.Scudder has given us some particulars of the difficulties which impeded the completion of the project to which this Memorial Hall is due, but from what I know of the Arcot Mission the greater the difficulties the greater the enthusiasm with which they approach an undertaking. So far from daunting or discouraging them, impediments and hindrances merely add to the zest of final success. I shall therefore offer no condolences on the obstacles which delayed the construction of this Hall and content myself with offering my heartiest congratulations on the conclusion of their labours and on results of which they have every reason to be proud. I am confident that this addition to the Voorhees College not merely as a material fabric but as a centre of learning and a training ground of enlightened, conscientious and God-fearing citizens, will justify the hopes to which Dr.Scudder has given expression. There is an additional reason for the pleasure I feel in being here today to which I feel sure you will permit me to refer. The Arcot Mission represents to the people of this district the highest and noblest ideals of the great nation to which its members belong and I feel sure that all the

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friends of the Mission have felt a special interest in the recent accounts of the great courage and irresistible dash of the American armies now fighting on the western front. At the first test the young armies of the United States have established their claim to rank with war tried veterans of Europe, and I would assure their kinsmen who are here today that we appreciate and share the pride which they must feel that great as is the debt which civilization and humanity owe to their country no less great and irresistible is her determination to resist the menace by which they have been assailed. We share the calm confidence with which the Arcot Mission is carrying on its admirable work and looking forward to yet greater opportunities of services, and I would ask you all to express the hope that in that work this Hall will take a share worthy of the devotion to which it bears witness and of the honoured name of him to whose memory it has been raised.

NOTES.

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Returned with a copy of His Excellency's speech.

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READ AGAIN G.O. No.
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STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

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

N.B.—

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