

Home (1918) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 754.

DATED 11-6-1918.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council resolution.

Recording papers relating to the resolution moved by the
Hon'ble Mr. Sadasiva Bhat at the meeting of the Legislative Council
held on the ^{13th} ~~14th~~ March 1918 regarding the provision made for a
soap factory in the budget for 1918-19.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION REGARDING REVISED
FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

[For the meeting of the 13th March 1918.]

[SUBJECT.—*Establishment of an industrial and technical school on the West Coast.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SADASIVA BHAT :—

III. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that a provision of Rupees two lakhs for establishing a soap factory made under the minor head Fisheries in 26-B. be omitted and that an additional provision of Rupees two lakhs be made under the head 22. Education for the establishment of an industrial and technical school on the West Coast.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

A provision of only one lakh has been made for establishing the soap factory—vide page 194 of the Civil Budget Estimate, second edition (Revised). The Additional Member's figure, two lakhs, has apparently been obtained from page 194 of the first edition.

2. The reasons for the immediate starting of the factory are given in paragraph 9 of Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter, dated 18th September 1917, page 3 of G.O. No. 3666, Revenue, dated 20th November 1917. It will be observed that in his opinion the present time is a unique opportunity to get a factory and great practical experience and other benefits literally gratis. This department may, it is submitted, object to the omission of the provision for starting the soap factory.

3. The Additional Member's object in recommending the omission of the item is to provide funds for the establishment of an industrial and technical school on the West Coast. The necessity for the establishment of the school is a question for consideration in Home (Education). That department may, it is submitted, be requested to state if they will take charge of the resolution.

L.K.—4-3-18.

The Honourable Additional Member's proposal is entirely destructive of the foundations of a new and lucrative industry which Sir Frederick Nicholson has laid with so much ability and care at Calicut. The soapery as an experiment is nearing maturity and it is about to be developed into an industrial school for a specific industry. It would be a calamity to scrape Sir Frederick's work in favour of a nebulous "industrial and technical" school which would serve no specific industrial need.

F. J. RICHARDS—5-3-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The Additional Member recommends (1) that the lump provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for the establishment of a soap factory under 26-Bb. Fisheries be omitted and (2) that an additional provision of 2 lakhs be made under the head 22. Education for the establishment of an industrial and technical school on the West Coast.

The soap factory is under the control of the Honorary Director of Fisheries and the first part of the recommendation is therefore for the Revenue Department to whom a copy of the resolution has already been furnished. The remarks of that Department will be found above. As regards the second part attention is solicited to the notes on pages 5 to 11 of G.O. No. 1301, Educational, dated the 18th November 1914, from which it will be seen that Government had under consideration

in 1914 a proposal to assist the Basel Mission in the establishment of an industrial school at Calicut to meet the demand for industrial training on the West Coast. But as soon as war was declared the Mission expressed their inability to proceed with the proposal and the question whether a Government school need be started was considered. His Excellency the Governor however observed that the proposal should stand over until normal conditions supervened in Malabar—vide His Excellency's note on pages 11-12 of the above Government Order.

2. When the Musim (Mappilla) Educational Association, Kasaragod in the South Kanara district, prayed that a Government Industrial school might be opened at Mangalore for the benefit of the Mappillas, the Collector remarked that mechanical work and carpentry were taught by the Basel Mission and the Roman Catholic Seminary and that there was no further demand for industrial training—vide page 1 of G.O. No. 1816, Educational, dated the 20th November 1914. The Government also then held that the policy in regard to the opening of industrial and technical schools should be to rely mainly on aided agency and that the Association should themselves take steps to establish a school and submit for the consideration of Government an application for help from the Provincial revenues—paragraph 3 on page 3 of the Government Order, *ibid*.

3. Again in the course of his budget speech in April 1914 the Hon'ble Mr. Ahmed Tambi Marakktayar urged upon the Government the desirability of opening industrial schools in certain selected localities. As this was considered to be a matter mainly for private agencies or local bodies, no action was taken on this suggestion—vide item 8 on page 4 of notes to G.O. No. 1200, Educational, dated the 26th October 1914.

4. Attention is also solicited to the list of industrial schools printed as tables II and III on pages 20-24 of G.O. No. 1209, dated 19th September 1917. It will be seen therefrom that there are Government schools for industrial education only in Madras and Madura. Besides these, proposals are under consideration for the establishment of an industrial school at Cocanada and a provision of Rs. 25,000 has been made for the purpose under 26. Bm. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

5. Mr. Fyle, the Inspector of Industrial Schools, recently visited the several industrial schools in the Presidency and submitted a report to Mr. Innes. In forwarding a copy thereof to Government the latter has defined the policy which should in future be adopted in the matter of starting and developing industrial schools. In this connexion he has recommended the opening of a school at some suitable centre in the Northern Circars, where a workshop is already in existence but is silent as to the necessity for one on the West Coast. In the present financial condition it may not be possible to open a school on the West Coast and even if one is considered necessary it may take some time to frame detailed proposals therefor and there may not be any necessity to make provision for it in the next year's budget. Should however such a scheme mature before the close of next year the necessary funds might perhaps be found by re-appropriation.

Orders are solicited as to who should be in charge of the resolution, whether it should be discussed in Council and whether further information is necessary.

6. The file may perhaps be sent u.o. to Mr. Innes for remarks.

A.S.—5-3-18.

T.K.—5-3-18.

I would also add that the soap factory itself may serve the purpose of a school and training institution to some extent.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—6-3-18.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES.

I hope that the Honourable Additional Member will be sat upon and that heavily. Evidently he does not know what he is talking about.

2. Sir Frederick Nicholson's work on soap on the West Coast is of national importance. He has seized the psychological movement and is laying with great profit to Government, the foundations of what might, if he is not interfered with, prove a most important industry or rather group of industries on the West Coast. At the larger factory apprentices will be trained, and as Secretary points out, the factory will not only be a demonstration factory and a centre for research into oil and fat industries, but also a training school.

3. The Honourable Additional Member calmly proposes to scrap all this work, the most valuable industrial work that is now being done by any Local Government in India—and proposes to apply the money to the establishment of an Industrial and Technical school. He does not specify, it will be noted, what sort of Industrial and Technical school he wants, nor what are the industries the needs of which he proposes to serve, nor what training he proposes to give. It is a commonplace that industrial schools should be started to serve the needs of existing industries, and apart from the ordinary village industries, the industries of the West Coast consist mainly of tile works, saw mills and oil-presses which do not afford much scope for industrial and technical education. Probably the Honourable Additional Member is labouring under the delusion that if he starts a school the industries will follow. He is wrong as our experience in this Presidency has proved over and over again. My recent letter on the subject of technical education may be consulted.

4. Apart from all other considerations, I do not want Rs. 2 lakhs thrown at my head for the purpose of an industrial school on the West Coast. I shall have my hands full with the Madura Technical Institute, the Cocanada scheme and the scheme for the permanent Trades School in Madras. Further even if Government decided on a school in the West Coast I doubt if they would get it. Tools, machinery and plant of all kinds are almost impossible to get, and if procurable at all are procurable only at an appalling price.

5. As a matter of charity, the Honourable Additional Member should be induced, if possible, to withdraw his resolution. If not, he ought to be dealt with severely. If ever there were a proposal to sacrifice the substance for the shadow, it is this.

C. A. INNES—6-3-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

For orders as to circulation.

A.S.—7-3-18.

T.K.—7-3-18.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—8-3-18.

I shall oppose the resolution.

P. R[AJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR]—8-3-18.

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 Thursday, the 14th day of March 1918.

RESOLUTION RE AN INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR THE WEST COAST.

The Hon'ble Mr. SADASIYA BHAT :—“ I beg to move —

‘ XXXIII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for establishing a soap factory made under the minor head Fisheries in 26-B be omitted and that an additional provision of Rs. 2 lakhs be made under the head 22. EDUCATION for the establishment of an industrial and technical school on the West Coast.’

“ The resolution as it stands on the paper refers to a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for establishing a new larger experimental (I find the word ‘experimental’ in italics) soap factory but it will be observed that in the Revised Financial Estimate the provision is reduced to one lakh. I must say at the outset that I have nothing but admiration for the good work done by the Honorary Director of Fisheries, Sir Frederick Nicholson.

“ Honourable Members will see that this provision of one lakh is in addition to Rs. 1-10 lakhs lump provision for soap experiments. It will be seen also that a factory has been working for one year for which the necessary plant has been got down or made, and soaps of excellent quality turned out at a fairly good profit. When a new and larger allotment amounting to Rs. 2 lakhs is now proposed to be made, I wish to urge before this Council a few considerations. I am anxious that the Government should not do anything likely to prejudice those who have been for some time already engaged in the industry although in a small way. There are a number of small soap factories along the West Coast which turn out fairly good soap which find a ready market. I observe that some of them have secured recognition as soap makers in the shape of certificates of merit and medals at recent exhibitions at Cochin, Alleppey, Mangalore and I believe also in Mysore. I ask whether soap making is such an industry as can be said to be in the stage of experiment and that requires much experiment on a big scale. Soaps of very good quality are made in Western countries and even in India.

“ I submit that it is not right that Government should engage in what appears to me to be merely a commercial venture, when it will be brought into competition with those locally pursuing the trade. Government too have to purchase the materials and mix them. With the resources of Government and in the anxiety of the subordinates of Government to make the factory, where the Government have invested lakhs of rupees, a success, I fear that the small industry may be killed especially when some of the products like caustic soda, potash, glauber's salt, silicate of soda, rosin, etc., are not easily available in these days or are very dear. If the Government are in possession of improved processes, I say that the new factory should be like an Institute where Indian soap makers may be taken as apprentices and taught the new processes. The Institute may enable them to obtain these necessary products easily, advise them and put them in the way of improving their methods and outfit. If the Government will recognize that the duty of Government is demonstration of processes and methods and instruction of persons engaged in the trade—and that the Government ought not in the course of the experiment and in its name kill by competition, the smaller men—if the Government undertake to take in these men as apprentices as soon as possible and to advise freely those already engaged in the trade, I am satisfied. The technical school I have suggested is one that will train the people on the West Coast to utilize their fish products, their oils and woods to industrial purposes.

“ With these words I commend this resolution to the Council.”

The Hon'ble Mr. YAQUB HASAN :—“ I wish to say a few words.”

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—“ Let the Honourable Member in charge give his reply and then you can say what you have to say.”

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR :—“ I beg to introduce the head XXI-B-26-B. SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

“ I am glad to find myself in a considerable measure of agreement with the Hon'ble Mr. Sadasiva Bhat though I hardly expected it from the wording of the resolution, because some of the points he has mentioned have already been anticipated by Sir Frederick Nicholson, and the one reason why we started the soap factory is in the interests of the smaller men, for whom the Hon'ble Mr. Sadasiva Bhat is rightly anxious. In the letter in which this scheme was sent up in September last, Sir Frederick dealt with this question, and with the permission of the

(Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar; Mr. Yaqub Hasan.) [14TH MARCH 1918.]

Council, I will read a few passages from his report which will show exactly what our aim is—not a commercial venture to make money, which will incidentally have the effect of strangling a number of small industries. Honourable Members are aware that there has been a scheme of a large soap factory on the West Coast, and a very large sum of money—for a capitalist enterprise—was forthcoming. We could have no objection, but one of its effects would be to strangle all these people, on whose behalf the Hon'ble Mr. Bhat is rightly anxious. We wanted to do something, to provide these small men with the means of learning this trade. I shall now with the permission of the Council read a few passages. This is what Sir Frederick says:—“It will be seen that if we are to stimulate the establishment and ensure the success by instruction of a hundred or so of small local factories and prevent the establishment of secrecy and monopoly by larger factories, we must have a Government factory.” What Sir Frederick has apprehended is just the thing we apprehended; he took what I submit is the correct course. He says: “Moreover, in such factory will be trained the foremen, instructors, inspectors, and artisans who will be so much needed for a large Presidency soap industry. I may add that I have quite a number of applications already for instruction both by small capitalists and by students of whom at least two could usefully be trained if circumstances permitted. With a proper factory the place would become a small institute.”

“It is not merely starting schools where people can learn a great deal of theoretical knowledge but find great difficulty in applying it. It is doing a great deal to make them learn things under factory conditions. Sir Frederick says: ‘Again, the success of a small factory such as that of Government, will be a stimulating object lesson to small capitalists and show the possibility of success by small enterprise, whereas the mere establishment of huge monopolist soaperies would actually deter the small man from entering the industry.’”

“He says very properly: ‘Finally the Government soap factory with its chemists, laboratory, and other industrial aids would shortly form a small technological institution where other branches of the oils and fats industries could be studied and demonstrated, such as candles, glycerine, oil paints and varnishes, edible fats, etc. Moreover the laboratory would form a centre for oil and fat analysis, a special subject in which Mr. Menon is well experienced, and by which the known grave adulterations whether of edible or of technical oils and fats, and the crucial defects in village oil manufacture which lead to industrial and export difficulties and losses, can be detected, combated and removed.’”

“The fact of the matter is that this is intended not only for soap but to find a way for a great deal of improvement in the oil industry. Then the question naturally arises why should we rush it now? Sir Frederick says:—‘the present time is super-excellent for establishing a factory and laboratory and appointing a chemist; it is one which is now available but cannot recur. Present supplies of soap are very short and prices high, and, as will be shown below, if Government will forthwith establish a soap factory (with oil laboratory) costing about Rs. 60,000 for plant and pukka building and producing 1,000 to 1,100 tons of soap per annum (a mere trifle), the profits at present prices of the raw material on one side and of the finished goods on the other, will not only pay back in one year the whole cost of the factory and laboratory, but will give a margin. Sufficient to pay the oil chemist for some years: a second year should give a large additional profit.’”

“This is experimental not in the sense that any of us have got a doubt about it; but it is not intended to be a government concern for the purpose of making profit or for the purpose of entering the trade against anybody else. It is intended to be a centre from which we can train all these small men who are doing this work, so that they could do it better and make more money out of it and get a sufficient amount of stamina to stand on their own legs, when they are brought face to face in competition with a large capitalist concern. Suppose a soap factory is started at a cost of Rs. 20 or 30 lakhs, the Hon'ble Mr. Bhat will agree with me, that it is not likely that the owners of that factory would be particularly anxious to train these small men, for whom he pleads. It is these small men that we should take care of. It is for this very reason that we have taken action in this matter; and I trust now that I have explained the situation, the Honourable Member will see there is nothing that we are doing at which he need take alarm and would therefore withdraw the resolution.”

The Hon'ble Mr. YAQUB HASAN:—“Your Excellency, I am glad the Government do not propose to accept this resolution. I consider the resolution to be a retrograde step and against the very principle which we had been advocating all along in this Council. We have often brought forward resolutions asking the Government to encourage certain industries. I remember that the other day my Honourable Friend Mr. Krishna Rao asked the Government to encourage the paper and the chemical industries. In the case of soap manufacture, the steps taken by the Government are in the right direction. We welcome and appreciate what has so far been done in this direction. We only wish that the Government will similarly take up some other projects which, for want of enterprise on our part, and for want of encouragement on the part of Government have not yet been introduced in this country. We cannot expect that, with a small concern having a capital of one or two thousand rupees and with inadequate tools and plants and crude implements we can successfully compete with European countries and Japan in any industry. If we are to depend entirely on these methods and such limited resources we can never hope to do anything in the industrial line. These are days for large concerns and unless large amounts of capital are invested and factories are started on a large scale, we cannot hope to compete with foreign countries. Soap is one such enterprise that requires vast resources to develop it on the right lines.”

4TH MARCH 1918.]

(Mr. Yaqub Hasan; Mr. Sadasiya Bhat; Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar; the President.)

“It is not for Government to embark upon commercial enterprises, merely for the sake of making money, but they can do so only by way of introducing an industry into the country; and as soon as that industry becomes successful and takes firm root, it should be handed over to a private company to carry it on in the usual way, persons possessing the necessary trade capacity and capital will come forward to take it over. That was the case with chrome tanning and also ment and the moment they became successful they were handed over to the people who were ready to come forward and take them up. Similarly, I expect that this soap factory and the machinery will in course of time be handed over to private capitalists. I therefore strongly oppose the proposition and I thank the Government for having rejected it.”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SADASIYA BHAT:—“I have heard the speech of the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Achariyar and I find from the passages he has quoted from Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter that he calls the new factory a technological institute.”

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR:—“That is what it will develop into in the matter of the soap and oil industry.”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SADASIYA BHAT:—“Is that the language used in Sir Frederick Nicholson's letter to Government—that the factory will develop into a technological institute?”

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—“No, no, the Honourable Gentleman is mistaken. What Sir Frederick Nicholson points out in the passages quoted is that the establishment of a factory like this must be to train up people. We cannot discuss our future policy on the present occasion.”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SADASIYA BHAT:—“I do not press the resolution, your Excellency. I should like to know whether that letter is available. Sir Frederick Nicholson says that there were a number of applicants. I should like to know how many have been admitted.”

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR:—“There is no record of it on this file, but we can obtain the information for the Honourable Gentleman.”

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

N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

Home (Edn) Dept

Please see extract from Council proceedings on pages 4 to 6 supra. Towards the conclusion of the debate on the resolution, the Hon'ble Mr. Sadasiva Bhat enquired how many men were admitted for training in the soap factory. The H.N. (Industries) stated that the information ^{was not readily available but would} be obtained. ^{and 10} From paragraph of Sir F. Nicholson's letter dated the 18/24th Sept^r 1917, it would appear that his intention is to admit students for training ^{only after} ~~to have~~ a permanent soap factory ^{has been} ~~is~~ opened. At present the factory is held in temporary buildings and it is not likely that apprentices for training are now admitted. In his administration report of the Dept^r of Fisheries for 1916-17 Sir F. Nicholson stated as follows: "Several applications, some well supported, for admission to the soap works as students were received; but for the present it was impossible to

p. 6 suprap. 2 of gss. 3666 Rev^(H)
20.11.17para 24, p. 9
gss. 285 Rev^(C)
21.1.18para 30, p. 10 gss. ibid.

to accede to the requests as we are still in a very experimental stage and moreover have no facilities for teaching. This must stand over for the present."

- (H) 2. In G.O. No. 3666 Rev., dated the 20th November 1917, the Govt. approved Sir F. Nicholson's proposals for the establishment of a permanent soap factory and requested him to select a site and to submit proposal for its acquisition and detailed plans & estimates for the factory buildings. It is understood that these have not yet been received from him.

3. In these circumstances it is for orders whether with reference to H.H.'s remark in the Council any reference should be made to Sir F. Nicholson.

S.K.
1/6/18.

M.S.
G.M.

S. J. I don't think a ref. is necessary. It is to the Honble Mr. Phat, it may come in the same of the above. L.S.

No reply is necessary
 of A.H.M. wants any information,
 let him write. We can then consider
 future action
 my 8/6/18

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