

Home Education.

Gr. NO 1069.

Date 4.9.1919.

2

ORIGINAL

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 1069, 4th September 1919

Boy Scout movement

Replying to the reference from the Government of India on the subject of the development of the — in India.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. H. SHARP, C.S.I., C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (Education).

To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Delhi, the 25th March 1919.

No.—336.

I am directed to address you in continuation of this department letter No. 260, dated the 22nd March 1917, on the subject of the Boy Scout movement in India.

2. In paragraph 5 of that letter the general lines of action were indicated which appeared to the Government of India suitable for giving reasonable encouragement to the movement, especially in schools for Indians. At the same time, it was pointed out in the next paragraph that the Boy Scouts Association was unable at present to incorporate such troops in its own organization, although it would be glad to render assistance in the way of inspection, etc. It was also stated that should the constitution of troops in Government high schools on these lines prove successful, it might be possible to establish a closer connexion at some future date between the Indian troops thus constituted and the Association.

3. I am now to enclose for your information copies of three telegrams, dated the 16th and 20th July 1918 and the 21st December 1918, from the Secretary of State. The two points to be observed in these telegrams are the apprehension with which the Secretary of State views the development of separate organizations for European and Indian boys and the necessity which is emphasised for some measure of Government intervention. The hope is further held out that facilities for training scoutmasters may be given in England to students in this country and to some who are now serving with the Young Men's Christian Association in France.

4. The Government of India have learnt from other sources that the separation of European and Indian troops under different organizations has not met with approval. They would themselves have been glad to see amalgamation; but they realize that the Association, which is a private one, was hampered in its action by war conditions and that, until the position became easier, it was difficult for it to take any more prominent part in the development of troops in schools for Indians than that indicated in the circular letter. With the conclusion of war it is hoped that these difficulties will disappear and, while it is felt that the rate of development of the Boy Scout movement and the form which it may take must necessarily be dictated by the conditions prevailing in different provinces, the Government of India are in full sympathy with the desire to see a considerable expansion of a form of activity which, under proper guidance, is calculated to prove of great educational value.

5. The Chief Commissioner, Boy Scouts Association, India, has been addressed regarding some of the aspects of this question. The Government of India are at the same time anxious to obtain at an early date the general views of His Excellency the Governor in Council on this matter and, in special, upon the following point :—

(i) In case there are any suitable persons who could be trained in England as scoutmasters, the Government of India would be glad to be apprised of their names, the period they should spend at home, the stipends they should draw, including fares for the journey, etc.

(ii) When persons have been trained, either in England or in India, as scoutmasters, it will be a matter for consideration how they can best be employed, whether as schoolmasters or in some special capacity, and what rate of pay would be suitable for them.

(iii) The question arises not merely of the amalgamation of European and Indian troops under General Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts Association but also whether it will be practicable and desirable to mix European with Indian boys in one troop.

It is obvious that difficulties arising from caste differences, habits, etc., may be experienced. The Government of India would be particularly glad to receive the views of His Excellency the Governor in Council on this important point.

It is assumed that the majority of those sent home for training would be Indians. The question is also being considered of the possibility of training scoutmasters in India. The Government of India consider the question of training scoutmasters to be the most important step which can be taken up at the present time; since, unless suitable persons can be found and properly instructed, the movement is likely to be handicapped from the start and to end in failure. They would be glad to receive opinions on the whole subject.

ENCLOSURES

(1)

Telegram—from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
To—His Excellency the Viceroy (Education Department).
Dated—London, the 16th July 1918.

See your Secretary's letter No. 348, dated November 17th, on the subject of boy scouts. I should be glad to have information as to development of the movement amongst Indian boys. I view with grave apprehension the effect of separate organizations for European and Indian boys a generation hence. It seems desirable that youths of European and Indian races should be trained on lines ensuring a community of ideas and ideals of character and also that we should now seize the opportunity afforded by so excellent a movement as the boy scout movement, in order that closer sympathy between the races might be ensured. With this end in view European and Indian boys should be placed under the same central organization. The units will be numbered in most cases corresponding to schools and where schools are mixed, European and Indian, the scout movement should not separate races. It may be possible, on the other hand, in some cases to combine schools and races in unit. That the boy scout movement is not a Government matter is recognised by me but the dangers to be avoided and objects to be gained are of such importance that I hold the opinion that Government intervention is necessary. Baden-Powell shares my view that the formation of separate organizations unconnected with the parent organization is to be strongly deprecated and he is anxious to work entirely with Your Excellency's Government. Would you let me know what the position is at present.

(2)

Telegram—from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
To—His Excellency the Viceroy (Education Department).
Dated—London, the 20th July 1918.

Boy scouts. Reference is invited to my telegram dated the 16th July. The training of a few Indian students in England as scoutmasters is being considered by Baden-Powell. He, however, states that the experiment is not worth trying unless the extension of the movement amongst Indian boys has the sympathy of the Government of India. There are two or three students among those suggested who are doing duty with the Young Men's Christian Association in France. I shall be glad of your views in this connexion with the least possible delay.

(3)

Telegram—from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
To—His Excellency the Viceroy (Education Department).
Dated—London, the 21st December 1918.

Boy scouts. Please refer to your telegram of the 18th August 1918. The debate in your Council has been read by me. In view of the termination of hostilities I trust that the question of developing the scout movement in India will be taken up energetically. My approval of the proposal that Indian students should be trained in this country as scoutmasters has been communicated to Baden-Powell by myself, and I shall keep you informed as to developments. Is it not possible to undertake at definite centres in India, the training of scoutmasters?

II

Endorsement No. 886 A-1, dated 2nd April 1919.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for early remarks.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

III

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES, M.A., Acting Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 10th May 1919.

No.—R.O. 3287/19.

With reference to your endorsement No. 886 A-1, dated 2nd April 1919, referring for my remarks copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, No. 336, dated 25th March 1919, regarding the boy scout movement in India I have the honour to state that there are at present three different associations of boy scouts in this Presidency. I have received the following information about them.

The Baden-Powell boy scouts.—At present limited to European and Anglo-Indian boys.

Chief Commissioner: Sir Henry Richards, K.C., Chief Justice, Allahabad. He has recently, I believe, vacated. Commissioner for Madras: A. J. Leech, Esq., "The Towers", Nungambakam, Madras.

II. *The Boy Scouts of India (Madras).*—An organization on exactly the same lines as the Baden-Powell boy scouts organization open to all Indian boys but chiefly of Madras Presidency. Troops are organized only when scoutmasters have received training—the training being undertaken by Mr. J. Vincent Mendis formerly district scoutmaster of the Baden-Powell Scouts, Ceylon (medal of merit from Chief Scout Baden-Powell) and now Deputy Chief Commissioner. The organization has Rev. H. Ashcroft as Chief Commissioner and Rev. H. J. Edmonds as Secretary. This movement aims at affiliation with the Empire organization (Baden-Powell's) at headquarters, London. It is under the presidentship of His Excellency the Governor of Madras. The Association keeps itself in touch with Sir Robert Baden-Powell by regular reports.

III. *"The Indian Boy Scouts Association"* is the name of another organization of Boy Scouts for Indian boys conducted under the "Protectorship" of Mrs. Annie Besant and by an association composed of men of the particular political party to which she belongs. They profess to run their movement on exactly the same lines as Baden-Powell's. They have troops of scouts in several parts of Madras, and also in Sind and a few troops in some other places, for instance, in Benares and Indore. Their scoutmasters are all of the political party of Mrs. Besant, and the troops receive the support of the Home Rule Leagues in various parts. Breaches of the scout association rules by them consist in their providing guards of honour to political leaders of Mrs. Besant's party, attending political meetings (there were Indian Boy Scouts at the recent congress) and going round with boxes begging on behalf of National education, etc. On account of these breaches of the scout association rules the Baden-Powell scouts (European and Anglo-Indian) refuse to recognize the Indian Boys Scouts while the Baden-Powell scouts all over India help and join with the other movements for Indian boys. This Association has funds allotted to it from Mrs. Besant's National Education Fund.

2. The European troops of the Baden-Powell boy scouts organization have more than once joined with the Indian troops of the Boy Scouts of India in combined rallies. In August 1913 I circularized Inspectors of Schools and requested them to see, that as far as possible, scout troops are not started or encouraged in schools unless such troops are registered and affiliated to the "Boy Scouts of India" Association, which is under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

3. With regard to scoutmasters and their training "the Boy Scouts of India" Association, Madras, does not register any troop unless it possesses a trained scoutmaster. Scoutmasters have been trained in Madras and in district centres by Mr. Vincent Mendis, formerly a district scoutmaster of the Baden-Powell movement in Ceylon (he won the medal of merit from the Chief Scout Sir A. Baden-Powell) and now Assistant Physical Director to the Educational Department, Madras. Mr. Mendis has been specially permitted to help in the proper organization among Indian boys of the Boy Scout movement in this Presidency. Within the past fifteen months he has trained about 160 scoutmasters selected mainly from teachers in recognized schools who are now running successful troops in various parts of the Presidency. In view therefore of the steps that have already been taken and the advance already made in South India in the Boy Scout movement I doubt whether there is any immediate need for deputing any one to England for training. I consider the method already adopted in this Presidency excellent, namely, of appointing a qualified scoutmaster, imported if necessary, or taken from the Baden-Powell organization, to look after inter alia the advancement of the scout movement, to give courses of training for scoutmasters, selected from recognized schools, at different centres and to organize the movement only through the schools and by means of the trained schoolmasters who receive in addition and at their option, the scoutmaster's training.

4. Adverting to paragraph 5 (iii) of the letter of the Government of India it would appear that if we differentiate between affiliation and amalgamation or mixing we get a clearer idea of what is possible. Baden-Powell troops are usually attached to European schools. In these schools and troops there are some Indian Christians who mix with the Europeans and here amalgamation of European and Indian presents no difficulty. It is an established fact. Boy Scouts of India troops are attached to Indian schools, clubs or associations and in these there are no Europeans. The question of mixing or amalgamation of European with Indian does not arise. An indiscriminate mixing of Europeans and Indians in one troop is not likely to meet with success at the present day, for difficulties due to caste, diet and social differences will be certain to arise nor do I consider such amalgamation necessary for the proper development of the scout movement. I consider it desirable, however, to permit of the affiliation of all troops whether under the Baden-Powell or the Boy Scouts of India organization to the central London organization, either directly or indirectly through an all-India branch headquarters, or probably even a Provincial headquarters, the two organizations possibly merging into one through course of time, though this merging is not essential. It is much better to accept the existing organizations and by affiliating them to a parent body obtain their co-operation one with the other than to endeavour to amalgamate organizations which are in their origin and customs essentially different and which offer as yet little that is common and which might form the basis for true amalgamation.

IV

Official Memorandum No. 1178 A-1, dated 4th June 1919.

With reference to his letter R.C. No. 3237, dated the 10th May 1919, the Director of Public Instruction is requested to furnish Government with fuller particulars as to the constitution, progress and activities of the two boy scout movements in the Presidency, viz., the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts and the Boy Scouts of India (Madras). The Director of Public Instruction is also requested to state whether before framing his reply referred to above he consulted the leaders of the two movements, Messrs. Leech, Ashcroft, Edmonds and Vincent Mendis, on the principal issues raised in the Government of India's letter, viz., the possibility of the amalgamation of European and Indian troops under General Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts Association, the need for the training of more scoutmasters and the agency required for such training. If not, he is requested to consult the above mentioned gentlemen and to forward their opinions to Government.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

V

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES, M.A., Acting Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Camp Madras, the 15th July 1919.

No.—R.C. 3237.

I have the honour to reply to Government Memorandum No. 1178 A-1, dated the 4th June 1919. I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Ashcroft, dated the 9th July 1919 and of a letter from Mr. Leech, dated the 12th July 1919. Mr. Edmonds has not yet replied to me.

2. Before submitting my letter No. R.C. 3237, dated the 10th May 1919, to Government I consulted Mr. Vincent Mendis on all the issues raised in the Government of India's letter. I did not consult Messrs. Leech, Ashcroft and Edmonds on the issues raised though I frequently come across them and am in touch with their general views on the Boy Scout movement.

ENCLOSURES

(1)

Letter—from Mr. H. ASHCROFT, Commissioner, Boy Scouts of India.

Dated—the 9th July 1919.

In reply to your letter No. 3237, dated 18th June 1919, I have the honour to submit the following statement:—

The constitution of the Boy Scouts of India is identical with that of the Baden-Powell Boy Scout Association. The Boy Scouts of India works on the same lines with a view to affiliation in the British Empire Movement for Boy Scouts. The Baden-Powell, officials both in Madras and in Calcutta, at headquarters, are in sympathy with our work and we have kept in touch with them as also with the headquarters in London.

Progress.—Organized in 1917; encouraged by the keen sympathy of His Excellency Lord Pentland and supported by the Director of Public Instruction whose department gave the services of Mr. Mendis who has organized about 80 Troops of Scouts and 20 Packs of Cubs. These are all under masters all of whom had a course of training under Mr. Mendis before they started work. Local Associations have been formed in several centres to get popular support and financial assistance for the troops in those areas. The actual number of scouts enrolled in the Boy Scouts of India cannot be given, but we believe the total is safely over 2,000.

Activities.—These in general have been the training of the boys on the lines laid down by Baden-Powell. Our scouts have been of service during the influenza epidemic in spreading information on the prevention of influenza, in assisting in many cases by the distribution of medicine; they have on many occasions rendered help in cases of fire and accidents, by police duty during the food riots, and distribution of rice and kerosene oil during scarcity periods, and in many other instances where their help was possible.

Two big rallies were held in Madras (one of these in Government House) and displays given for the benefit of the public. Several rallies and displays have been given in different parts of the mufassal.

Opinion on—(1) We are of opinion that there is great advantage to be gained by affiliating our scout troops in the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts Association and that there is every possibility of its being done. Our troops being generally attached to Indian schools, have only Indian boys; consequently in a few minor details we have had to make small alterations in the rules. These are not such as to disqualify us for amalgamation with the British Empire Movement of Boy Scouts which we very earnestly seek.

(2) We are strongly of opinion that if the Boy Scout movement is to do any good work, all leaders of the boys must be trained by an experienced and efficient officer. The Boy Scouts Association is very grateful to the Government for the services of Mr. Mendis who has carried on this work so efficiently and trained scoutmasters in the city and in some parts of the mufassal, and we urgently request that his services may continue to be given. It is not too much to say that the work could not have been done without his help, and we rely on him for the future. The work organized by him in such a short time is considerable but there is a great demand for more scouting from many parts of the Presidency. From some of the districts that have not yet been touched at all and from those where some troops are already working, requests are pouring in for the training of men as scoutmasters. Then also, occasional visits are necessary to give a helping hand and to see that the work is being developed along right lines. Mr. Mendis has been able to visit a few of the stations and these have received an impetus and are working splendidly. We do not recognise any troop unless it has a trained scoutmaster and our rule has been justified by results.

(2)

Letter—from Mr. A. J. LEROCH, Commissioner, Baden-Powell Scouts, Madras.
Dated—the 12th July 1919.

I duly received your favour No. 3237 of 1919, dated the 18th ultimo, regarding the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts.

There is a Provincial Council for the Presidency, but I should find it difficult to define its functions; in all matters of business, such as applications for scoutmasters' warrants or the submitting of annual returns, the local association communicates direct with headquarters at Lahore. Since the death of Captain Baker the office of Provincial Commissioner has, I believe, been vacant; I was asked to take it but declined, feeling that I could not devote sufficient time to it.

As I am only Commissioner for Madras town itself, I am not in a position to report on the troops in other parts of the Presidency.

Our local activities are nominally controlled by the Madras Local Association, of which His Excellency the Governor is Patron, and most of the leading Europeans in the city are members. The business of the association is to supervise and encourage the movement generally; as a matter of fact it practically never meets, though periodical reports are sent to the members to keep them informed of our doings. There is no subscription, but at one time and another several of the members have assisted our general fund with donations. All practical control is exercised by the Executive Committee, which was appointed in the first instance by the association. This committee, of which I am the Chairman, consists of the scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters of all troops in Madras and any members of the association who are willing to take an active interest in the work, but these are unfortunately few, and the committee practically consists of scoutmasters only.

I have been Commissioner of Madras since 1913. When I assumed office there were six troops in our association, with a total of about 120 scouts. In the meantime three troops have dropped out, and two new ones have risen from the ashes of the old. The only actual loss is the outlying troop at Perambur, for which we were not able to find any one to act as scoutmaster. Our strength is, on paper, about the same as in 1913, but in reality, we are considerably stronger, as in those days, a good number of the names were only 'paper' scouts. These we have weeded out, and any scout who does not attend is promptly turned out. The troops all have weekly rallies with reasonable regularity, and they have one combined rally every month, though this is dropped for a few months in the year when the schools are closed and many of the scouts are away from Madras for the holidays.

One troop is run in connexion with the Civil Orphan Asylum, and another in connexion with Christ Church, Madras, and membership of these troops is practically restricted to the institutions with which they belong, though this is not essential. The other three troops, however, are, so to speak, open troops, in connexion with no special institution, and they can be joined by any one who fulfils the necessary requirements. All the troops have European scoutmasters, though in most of them the assistant scoutmasters are Anglo-Indians. One of the troops, North Georgetown, where the European scoutmaster has never taken an active part in the work, has been successfully run by an Anglo-Indian Medical student, who has shown more aptitude for control than is usually found in this community. He has, however, recently left the station, and the troop is rapidly showing signs of deterioration. The Anglo Indian needs a great deal more pushing than the European scout and the success of a troop depends even more in India, therefore, upon the character of its scoutmaster than in England. If he is active and keen, the troop does well, but otherwise, left to itself, it very quickly drops to bits. It is extraordinarily difficult to raise the necessary *esprit de corps* in the lower class of Anglo-Indian, such as compose Civil Orphan Asylum and Christ Church troops, though we do see decided improvement where there is continuity of control and a keen scoutmaster. Unfortunately, the continuity of control is often broken through scoutmasters going on leave. Much readier response is received from the *Eversleigh* troop, where the boys are drawn from the better class Anglo-Indians; but, here also a great deal depends on the scoutmaster.

Since the war began, and even before, it has been most difficult to get the right sort of European to interest himself actively in this movement. The Anglo-Indians are often slightly spoken of by the younger Europeans who come to India, and a new comer, finding this, is very diffident of facing a certain amount of chaff by throwing himself into the movement. The young Englishman finds so much to do in the way of sports, which motor-bicycles have brought within such easy reach, that within a very few months of arriving in this country, his time is fully occupied with perhaps more congenial amusements. Several of our scoutmasters went to the war, as did also a considerable number of our senior scouts, and this has left us with up-hill work during the past few years and has prevented our being able to run the yearly camp, which needs the constant attendance of Europeans the whole time. The individual troops have mostly had week-end camping trips which have been much enjoyed. The *Eversleigh* troop had ten days at Ootacamund, the expenses for which were met by concerts and displays given by the troop itself.

Two of our troops are run by the Padres in charge of the institutions with which they are connected. This cannot be helped, as we have no other scoutmasters to take their place, but it is not an ideal arrangement, for their schoolmaster in working hours is still, in the eyes of the boys, a schoolmaster out of hours. Thus a certain feeling of compulsion is hardly to be avoided, which is directly antagonistic to the spirit of scouting as a matter wholly of the boys' own free will.

On the whole, the movement among the Anglo-Indians is just about where it was six years ago, and our numbers are about the same. The one troop composed of the better class of Anglo-Indians is really efficient, and would hold its own with an English troop. The others are not as good as I should like them to be, though they are by no means inefficient. This is due to the class of boy that we get than to lack of labour expended upon him.

2. In reply to your three specific questions—

(1) I have considered the matter of the amalgamation of European and Indian troops very carefully, but cannot see my way to approve of it. From what I have seen of the Anglo-Indian, I feel quite sure that if put in direct competition with the Indian, and probably entirely out-numbered by Indians, he would quietly drop out. The two classes do not mix or work well together, and I think it would be to the benefit of scouting if they were kept separate. We have this arrangement at present in Madras, and it works quite well. Our organizations are entirely separate, but our objects and aims are the same, and there is a certain amount of friendly rivalry among units. We meet together at times on big rallies and there is a good scout feeling between the respective organisations.

By amalgamation, we should lose not only the Anglo-Indian Scouts, but also the European scoutmasters, who are mostly busy men and find it a sufficiently severe task to look after a hundred or two Anglo-Indians. They would find it impossible to tackle a large addition to the numbers in the way of Indian recruits, and would, I fancy, drop out. In other words, it is for the good of the greatest number to remain separate, as amalgamation would I believe eventually mean loss to the movement of the Anglo-Indian and European element.

I would like to qualify this statement by saying that, while not wanting to amalgamate for the reason that it would be the end of Anglo-Indian scouting, I am entirely in favour of Indian scouts and of the two organizations working together in an entirely friendly spirit. In Madras we are in close touch with the Boy Scouts of India, have had several rallies together and find that healthy rivalry is good for us all. We treat them in every way as scouts, return their salutes and recognize that they have every right to be, and in fact are, as good scouts as we are. I may say that I have myself spoken at several meetings of the Boy Scouts of India.

(2) This matter goes at once to the root of the problem. If we could get keen scoutmasters who had the time to give to the work, there is no question that a satisfactory state of efficiency could be obtained. Europeans in this country are generally very busy men, and this has been especially the case during the war, when every one has been working short-handed, and few of them could find energy or time to devote to what was by no means a sinecure. Even now I really do not know where to turn for my scoutmasters. I am at present badly in want of three. It is the catching of them, not the training of them, that is the difficulty.

(3) The agency required for training scoutmasters.—The one thing required is keenness. A man who has the love of boys in him and possesses therefore, as a matter of course, a faith in the value of scouting, can practically train himself with the aid of Baden-Powell's excellent handbooks. I am convinced that classes for scoutmasters are unnecessary; that frequent conferences of scoutmasters, where the younger men could discuss their difficulties with, and profit by the experience of, older hands, are invaluable. This refers more to what I might call the deeper things of scouting, question of moral influence, discipline, delegation of responsibility, cultivation of self-reliance and *esprit de corps*—the more external and material qualifications such as, signalling, first-aid, the use of maps, and the hundred and one things which constitute proficiency in scoutcraft any man of average intelligence can pick up for himself.

There is no question that a keen scoutmaster who, either through possessing independent means, or by being paid, could devote his whole time to a district or association, would be a tremendous asset, but it is of the essence of scouting that all work done for the boys or by the boys should be voluntary, a labour of love. What we really need is a few men of the stuff of which, say medical missionaries are made, men who would come out inspired by the desire to do something for the boyhood of this country. If men of independent means are not forthcoming, then some might be found to whom a small grant might be made, either from local or from Government funds, without constituting them Government servants and making scouting, in the minds of the boys, a Government concern, on a par with schools and taxes and other necessary evils.

In any case we look first to the benefit of the scouts, and if such men can be found, paid or unpaid, then scouting would be immensely strengthened and improved. They should be men of fair position, commanding the respect of all classes; able on the one hand to win the confidence of the Indian and on the other hand to attract fellow-workers from amongst the Europeans.

No. 1069, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919

VI

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES, M.A., Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Madras, the 5th August 1919.

No.—R.C. 3237.

In continuation of my letter R.C. No. 3237, dated 15th July 1919, and with reference to your Memorandum No. 1682 A/1, dated 31st July 1919, I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of Mr. Edmonds' reply, dated 29th July 1919 on the subject of the Boy Scout movement in India.

ENCLOSURE

Letter—from Rev. H. J. EDMONDS, M.A., Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, the Boy Scouts of India.

To—the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

Dated—the 29th July 1919.

With reference to your letter Ref. on C. No. 3237, dated 18th June 1919, I have the honour to state that I understand an identical letter was received and answered by the Rev. H. Ashcroft, our Commissioner, and so I have nothing further to report on the points he dealt with.

As regards finance, since January 1st, 1919, we have received at headquarters Rs. 1,800 and have spent Rs. 1,300.

The receipts include Rs. 1,000 from Lord Pentland and a loan of Rs. 400 from the Rev. H. Ashcroft.

The expenditure includes the repayment of Mr. Ashcroft's loan, also Rs. 400 debt incurred in 1918, in the preliminary organisation, purchase of badges, etc., and Rs. 150 towards starting a magazine.

Order—No. 1069, Home (Education), dated 4th September 1919.

The following reply will be sent to the Government of India.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

No. 1070

From

THE HON'BLE DIWAN BAHADUR

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO AVARGAL,

Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Home (Education) Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

Dated Ootacamund, the 4th September 1919.

SIR,

I am directed to reply to your letter No. 336, dated the 25th March 1919, on the subject of the Boy Scout movement in India.

2. There are three different associations of boy scouts at work in this Presidency, viz.—

(1) the Baden Powell Boy Scouts, at present limited to European and Anglo-Indian boys;

(2) the Boy Scouts of India (Madras);

(3) the Indian Boy Scouts Association.

3. The Boy Scouts of India (Madras), is an organization under the presidentship of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, working on exactly the same lines as the Baden Powell Boy Scouts organization. It is open to all Indian boys but chiefly of the Madras Presidency. Troops are organized only when scoutmasters have received training, the training being undertaken by Mr. J. Vincent Mendis, formerly District Scoutmaster of the Baden Powell Scouts, Ceylon, and now Assistant Physical Director in the Madras Educational Department. The Association aims at affiliation with the Empire organization at headquarters, London, and keeps in touch with Sir Robert Baden Powell by regular reports. The Baden Powell Scouts help and co-operate with the Boy Scouts of India and the former have more than once joined the latter in combined rallies. Inspectors of Schools have been directed to see that, as far as possible, scout troops are not started or encouraged in recognized schools for Indians unless such troops are registered and affiliated to the Boy Scouts of India (Madras) Association.

4. The Indian Boy Scouts Association is under the control and supervision of men who recognize Mrs. Annie Besant as their political leader. The scoutmasters employed by the Association also belong to the same political party and the troops receive the support of the Home Rule Leagues in various parts. It is reported that various breaches of the Scout Association rules have been committed by the troops in

the past, e.g., providing guards of honour to political leaders of Mrs. Besant's party, attending political meetings and going round with boxes begging on behalf of 'national education', etc. In consequence, the Baden Powell Scouts have hitherto refused to recognise the Indian Boy Scouts. The Association having more or less a political basis, cannot well be affiliated to the Baden Powell organization and may be left out of consideration for the present.

5. As regards the training of scoutmasters referred to in paragraph 5 of your letter, I am to state that, in this Presidency, Mr. Mendis has, within the past fifteen months, trained 160 scoutmasters, selected mainly from teachers in recognized schools, and these are now running successfully troops in various parts of the Presidency. In view of this fact and of the advance already made in South India by the Boy Scout movement, the Governor in Council does not consider that there is any immediate need for deputing persons from this Presidency to undergo training in England as suggested in your letter. The existing system, under which a qualified officer selected from the Baden Powell organization *inter alia* looks after the advancement of the scout movement, gives courses of training to schoolmasters selected from recognized schools at different centres and organises the movement only through the schools and by means of the trained scoutmasters, has produced excellent results and the Governor in Council proposes to continue it for the present.

6. Adverting to paragraph 5 (iii) of your letter, I am to state that, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, the amalgamation of European and Indian troops and the formation of mixed troops are neither feasible nor expedient in present circumstances. In this Presidency, the Baden Powell troops are usually attached to European schools in which there are also some Indian Christians who mix with the Europeans; and the amalgamation of European and these Indian Christian scouts presents no difficulty. The Boy Scouts of India troops on the other hand are attached only to Indian schools, clubs or associations and in these there are no Europeans. An indiscriminate mixing of European troops with the Indian is not likely to meet with success at the present day, as difficulties due to caste, diet and social differences are sure to arise and as the two organizations, which are in their origin and customs essentially different, offer as yet little that is common which might form the basis of true amalgamation. Nor is such amalgamation necessary for the proper development of the scout movement. The Governor in Council however considers that what cannot be achieved by amalgamation can in a large measure be attained (i) by a general affiliation of all troops, whether under the Baden Powell or the Boy Scouts of India organization, to the Central London organization, either directly or indirectly through an all-India branch headquarters, or probably even a provincial headquarters and (ii) by bringing the different troops together by methods, such as, combined rallies, which are already common in this Presidency. The Governor in Council is of the opinion that the object in view will, under existing conditions, be better secured by giving all possible encouragement to this feature of the scout movement in India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,

Secretary to Government.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 1069-70, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919.

[SUBJECT.—*Boy-scout movement.*]

From the Government of India, dated 25th March 1919, No. 336.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 10th May 1919, R.C. No. 3237.

The Government of India desire to be furnished with the general views of this Government on the question of the expansion of the boy-scout movement in India. They also ask for the opinion of this Government on the following specific points connected with the movement:—

- (1) whether there are suitable candidates in this Presidency who could be sent to England for training as scout masters and if so, what remuneration should be offered to them and for what period;
- (2) how best can persons trained in England or India as scout masters be employed and what rate of pay would be suitable for them; and
- (3) whether it will be practicable and desirable to mix European and Indian boys in one troop.

2. The Director of Public Instruction to whom the Government of India's letter was referred for remarks, explains the various agencies at work in this Presidency in spreading the movement. In view of the success already achieved by the Boy Scouts of India (Madras), of which His Excellency the Governor is the patron, and especially of the local training of teachers as scout-masters, the Director of Public Instruction states that there is no immediate need for deputing any one to England for training as scout masters and he is in favour of the continuance of the existing arrangement under which a qualified scout master appointed by Government looks after the development of the movement and gives courses of training in scouting to selected schoolmasters. It is however doubtful whether one officer (Mr. Vincent Mendis) will be able to look after the increasing number of troops that are being formed in this Presidency. However, as suggested by the Director of Public Instruction if the need for the services of an additional officer arises in future, a qualified scout master may be imported from England.

3. The Director of Public Instruction is not in favour of mixing European with Indian boys in one troop as such a measure is neither necessary nor desirable at present. He, however, considers that co-operation should be secured by affiliating the European and Indian organizations to one parent body, the central London organization. It is for orders whether the Director of Public Instruction's views may be concurred in and the Government of India informed accordingly.

N.K.—18-5-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—20-5-19.

We can leave out of consideration the Indian Boy Scouts Association; it appears to be a politically inspired body. We are left with two movements—

- (1) The Baden Powell Boy Scouts—chiefly for Europeans.
- (2) The Boy Scouts of India—chiefly for Indians.

The Director of Public Instruction considers that these two movements should remain distinct in India though eventually affiliated to the same headquarter organization in London.

2. I think that the Director of Public Instruction has entirely missed the Secretary of State's intention. The Secretary of State views with apprehension the development of separate organizations for European and Indian boys. The scout movement is educational and it is possible to cultivate brotherly feelings by working together. Once you start parallel movements for the different communities, the anticipated rapprochement between them and the development of sympathy will fail. The Secretary of State even contemplates mixture of students for different schools to ensure this object. If this object is to be achieved, the idea of two separate organizations should disappear. Otherwise

Why?

L.D.—23-5-19.

advantages of large numbers in the next working in a spirit of camaraderie cannot

But you cannot force the pace and if you insist on amalgamation, you may and probably will stop development in both classes.

L.D.—23-5-19.

3. The Secretary of State wants the movement to be taken up energetically. For this purpose local training is indispensable; and as observed by the Director of Public Instruction Mr. Mendis may be asked to train scout masters.

4. At the same time, to keep the movement on proper lines, it is necessary to train a few Indians at least in England and the Director of Public Instruction asked to furnish the particulars required.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—22-5-19.

I should say it is better not to do so for the present and would prefer to leave the training with Mr. Vincent Mendis.

I agree generally with the Director of Public Instruction and would reply accordingly to the Government of India. But first please circulate to His Excellency who is President of the Boy Scouts of India (Madras). It might be a good thing to consult the leaders of that organization and those of the Baden Powell Scouts as to the possibilities of amalgamation, the need for the training of more scout masters and the agency required for such training.

Mr. A. J. Leech, Messrs. Ashcroft and Edmonds and Mr. Vincent Mendis are all men whose opinion should be of value but possibly the Director of Public Instruction has already consulted them.

I do not myself believe the attempt to combine Indian and European schools for the formation of mixed troops would succeed, if made now. Combined rallies bring the different classes together from time to time, but each troop should, I think, normally be recruited from a single school and officered by members of the school staff.

L. D[AVIDSON]—23-5-19.

Submitted.

R.R.—24-5-19.

The boy-scout movement has advanced so rapidly in the Madras Presidency that I would certainly like to learn more about its activities before I give an opinion on this reference from the Government of India.

Particularly as regards the possibility of amalgamation I should much like to know if the Director of Public Instruction has asked the opinions of the gentlemen my Honourable Colleague refers to in his note. If he has done so, and his remarks are the result of taking their opinions I think any further references would be of no value, and I will note further: if not, I should be glad if these gentlemen could be referred to for their opinions.

W[ILLINGDON]—24-5-19.

A draft memorandum to the Director of Public Instruction is submitted for approval.

S.K.—26-5-19.

N.K.—27-5-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—28-5-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—1-6-19.

L. D[AVIDSON]—2-6-19.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 15th July 1919, R.C. No. 3237.

The Director of Public Instruction forwards copies of letters from Messrs. Ashcroft and Leech on the boy-scout movement in this Presidency. Mr. Edmonds has not yet replied to him. Mr. Ashcroft seems to be of the opinion that the Boy Scouts of India, Madras, should be affiliated to the Baden Powell organization and that the present system of training scout masters in this Presidency might continue. He does not express any opinion on the question how far it is desirable to mix European with Indian boys in one troop. Mr. Leech considers that the European and Indian scouts should be kept separate. He apprehends considerable difficulty in securing in India suitable Europeans who will have time to devote to the training of scouts. In his opinion a man who possesses a faith in the value of scouting, can practically train himself with the aid of Baden Powell's excellent hand books. He is not in favour of holding classes for scout masters, but recommends frequent conferences of scout masters, where younger people could learn.

2. Orders are solicited as to the reply which should be sent to the Government of India.

S.K.—23-7-19.

S.A.—24-7-19.

Mr. Leech gives strong reasons against amalgamation and points out that such a step will practically result in the extinction of the Anglo-Indian element altogether in the scouting movement. Further, assuming that an amalgamation is practicable, the present not altogether satisfactory condition of scouting among the lower class of Anglo-Indians, who now form the bulk of the scouts in the city, may militate against a combined healthy growth. We have no definite information about the Baden Powell Boy scouts in the mufassal, as we now have about those in the city. It is, however, unlikely that they would be any better, except probably on the Nilgiris. The report that is available about the Boy Scouts of India, on the other hand, is encouraging.

The idea expressed in the last sub-paragraph of paragraph 2 (1) of Mr. Leech's letter may, when developed, furnish an alternative solution to the question of amalgamation.

C.R.—25-7-19.

Two gentlemen have replied. Mr. Edmonds has not. Ask Director of Public Instruction to remind Mr. Edmonds.

R.R.—29-7-19.

A draft official memorandum is submitted for approval.

S.K.—30-7-19.

S.A.—30-7-19.

C.R.—30-7-19.

[Official Memorandum No. 1682 A-1, dated 31st July 1919.]

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 5th August 1919, R.C. No. 3237.

The Director of Public Instruction submits a copy of Mr. Edmonds' reply in which he states that he has nothing to add to Mr. Ashcroft's report on the boy scout movement.

(2) the **Boy Scouts** of India. (Macrus)

Read

(3) the Indian Boy Scouts Association.

3. The Boy Scouts of India (Madras) is an organization under the president-ship of H.E. the Governor of Madras, working on exactly the same lines as the Baden Powell Boy Scouts organization. It is open to all Indian boys but chiefly of the Madras Presidency. Troops are organized only when scoutmasters have received training - the training being undertaken by Mr. J. Vincent Mendis, formerly District Scoutmaster of the Baden Powell Scouts, Ceylon, and now Asstt. Physical Director in the Madras Educational Dept. The Association aims at affiliation with the Empire organization at headquarters, London, and keeps itself in touch with Sir Robert Baden Powell by regular reports. The Baden Powell Scouts ^{Self and} ~~Madras~~ cooperate with ^{the} Boy Scouts of India and the former have more than once joined the latter in combined rallies. Inspectors of Schools have been directed to see that, as far as possible, scout troops are not started or encouraged in recognized schools for Indians unless such troops are registered and affiliated to the Boy Scouts of India (Madras) Association.

4. The Indian Boy Scouts Association is under the control and supervision of ~~the~~ ^{who} recognise Mrs. Annie Besant as their political leader. The Scoutmasters employed by the Association also belong to the same political party and the troops receive the support of the

page 2 of cf.

p. 2 of cf.

page 2 of cf.

Read

Home Rule Leagues in various parts. It is reported that various breaches of the Scout Association rules have been committed by the troops in the past e.g., providing guards of honour to political leaders of Mrs. Besant's party, attending political meetings and going round with boxes begging on behalf of 'national education', etc. In consequence, the Baden Powell Scouts have hitherto refused to recognise the Indian Boy Scouts. The Association having more or less a political basis, cannot well be affiliated to the Baden Powell organization and may be left out of consideration for the present.

5. As regards the training of scoutmasters referred to in para 5 of your letter, I am to state that, in this presidency, Mr. Mendis has, within the past 15 months, trained 160 scoutmasters, selected mainly from teachers in recognised schools, and these are now running successfully troops in various parts of the presidency. In view of this fact and of the advance already made in South India by the Boy Scout movement, the Governor in Council does not consider that there is any immediate need for deputing persons from this presidency to undergo training in England as suggested in your letter. The existing system, under which a qualified officer selected from the Baden Powell organization looks after inter alia the advancement of the scout movement, gives courses of training to schoolmasters selected from recognised schools at different centres and organises the movement only through the schools and by means of the trained scoutmasters, has produced excellent results and

page 2 of cf.

para 3, p. 9 of cf.

Read
the Governor in Council proposes to continue it for the present.

6. Adverting to para 5(iii) of your letter, I am to state that in the opinion of the Governor in Council the amalgamation of European and Indian troops and the formation of mixed troops are neither feasible nor *in present circumstances* necessary. In this presidency, the Baden Powell troops are usually attached to European schools in which there are also some Indian Christians who mix with the Europeans; and the amalgamation of European and these Indian Christian scouts presents no difficulty. The Boy Scouts of India troops on the other hand are attached only to Indian schools, clubs or associations and in these there are no Europeans. An indiscriminate mixing of European troops with the Indian is not likely to meet with success at the present day, as difficulties due to caste, diet and social differences are sure to arise and as the two organizations, which are in their origin and customs essentially different, offer as yet little that is common which might form the basis of true amalgamation. Nor is such amalgamation necessary for the proper development of the scout movement. The Governor in Council however considers that what cannot be achieved by amalgamation can in a large measure be attained (i) by a general affiliation of all troops, whether under the Baden Powell or the Boy Scouts of India organization, to the Central London organization, either directly or indirectly through an all India branch headquarters, or probably even a provincial headquarters and (ii) by bringing the different troops together by methods such as combined rallies which are already common in this presidency. The Governor

p. 2 of cf.

page 10 of cf.

Read in Council is of the opinion that the object in view will, under existing conditions, be better secured by giving all possible encouragement to this feature of the scout movement in India.

N.Y.
1-9-19. C.R.
2-9-19.

I have etc.

R.R.R.
3-9-19.

may 3/19

1919.

Home (Edm) DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper-- New India
2. Published at-- Madras
3. Dated-- 30-7-19

Attach this to the C. f. on the Subject. re Annual Conference 27/8/19
CR
4/8/19
5

BROTHERHOOD OF BOY SCOUTS

SIR R. BADEN-POWELL ON AN IMPERIAL BOND

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the organisation of Boy Scouts, has just returned from a visit to the United States and Canada, where he went at the request of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of both countries. These organisations, said Sir Robert, in conversation yesterday, are being developed on a big scale, because in both countries all the leading men seem to see the need of this kind of training as a supplement to the ordinary school education.

President Wilson had just issued a proclamation to the people, when Sir Robert arrived in America at the end of April, calling on them to support the Scout movement because of its value from a special training point of view. The Americans are responding by arranging a big campaign to extend the movement on a very large scale. They have already 400,000 Boy Scouts, and they propose to enrol about a million associates this year. The Girl Guides number about 32,000. In Canada, similarly the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides are fond by educationists to be a valuable aid to education, and they, too, in their turn, are developing on big lines, as fast as they can get men and women to come in and take up the work of organising—people with sufficient leisure and sufficient keenness and knowledge of boys and girls to carry it on.

This brotherhood, which extends now so deeply into the young life of both countries, is recognised as a practical step in keeping up in the next generation, the comradeship which has been formed by the war among the present generation. In the same way throughout all the different British Dominions overseas, the same sense of brotherhood prompts such a personal touch between the rising generation in those States as will form a strong Imperial bond.

Scouting, continued Sir Robert, offered practical training in citizenship. Dean Russell, Professor of Education at Columbia University, has recently stated that scouting is the finest piece of training turned out in three or four centuries past. Speaking as a schoolmaster, he said it was his honest conviction that the schools in America will not be equal to the task of the next generation unless they incorporated into them so much as was possible of the scouting spirit and the scouting method.

"I found that the Boy Scouts" he added, "were very enthusiastic, and very keen to know our boys better; and the consequence is that a large number of our boys—something like 1,000—are now writing to them and regularly inter-

changing correspondence, and about 600 Girl Guides are doing the same thing. By this means they are becoming the best of friends; and if they keep up the correspondence a certain time we repay the postage of the letters, thus encouraging them to continue it. Next year we are having an international "Jamboree," which means an exhibition of scouting craft... things made by the boys, displaying their activities in many directions; and we hope the Americans and Canadians and, indeed, the British Dominions, will be able to send over teams to meet our boys.

"We have just heard that the Polish Scouts in Warsaw have reorganised themselves, and that there are 3,000 Girl Guides there. From the Murmansk Coast we have just got a cheque for £6 from the Russian Boy Scouts for their less fortunate comrades in the war. We have an 'S.O.S.' Fund to which Boy Scouts subscribe what they can towards relieving their less fortunate brother Scouts who have been rendered homeless by the war, and it is to this fund that the cheque was sent. Most of the money subscribed is being distributed among the Scouts and Girl Guides in Belgium, North of France, Serbia, and Rumania. The boys are only asked to subscribe pennies, and they have raised well over £1,500, towards which American boys have sent over £100. Subscriptions are also coming from Vladivostok."—(Times)

MR
2/8/19

95-2026
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT
No. 1070

From

THE HON'BLE DIWAN BAHADUR
R. RAMACHANDRA RAO AVARGAL,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home (Education) Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Dated Ootacamund, the 4th September 1919.

SIR,

I am directed to reply to your letter No. 336, dated the 25th March 1919, on the subject of the Boy Scout movement in India.

2. There are three different associations of boy scouts at work in this Presidency viz.—

(1) the Baden Powell Boy Scouts, at present limited to European and Anglo-Indian boys;

(2) the Boy Scouts of India (Madras);

(3) the Indian Boy Scouts Association.

3. The Boy Scouts of India (Madras), is an organization under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, working on exactly the same lines as the Baden Powell Boy Scouts organization. It is open to all Indian boys but chiefly of the Madras Presidency. Troops are organized only when scoutmasters have received training, the training being undertaken by Mr. J. Vincent Mendis, formerly District Scoutmaster of the Baden Powell Scouts, Ceylon, and now Assistant Physical Director in the Madras Educational Department. The Association aims at affiliation with the Empire organization at headquarters, London, and keeps in touch with Sir Robert Baden Powell by regular reports. The Baden Powell Scouts help and co-operate with the Boy Scouts of India and the former have more than once joined the latter in combined rallies. Inspectors of Schools have been directed to see that, as far as possible, scout troops are not started or encouraged in recognized schools for Indians unless such troops are registered and affiliated to the Boy Scouts of India (Madras) Association.

4. The Indian Boy Scouts Association is under the control and supervision of men who recognize Mrs. Aunio Besant as their political leader. The scoutmasters employed by the Association also belong to the same political party and the troops receive the support of the Home Rule Leagues in various parts. It is reported that various breaches of the Scout Association rules have been committed by the troops in the past, e.g., providing guards of honour to political leaders of Mrs. Besant's party, attending political meetings and going round with boxes begging on behalf of 'national education', etc. In consequence, the Baden Powell Scouts have hitherto refused to recognise the Indian Boy Scouts. The Association having more or less a political basis, cannot well be affiliated to the Baden Powell organization and may be left out of consideration for the present.

5. As regards the training of scoutmasters referred to in paragraph 5 of your letter, I am to state that, in this Presidency, Mr. Mendis has, within the past fifteen months, trained 160 scoutmasters, selected mainly from teachers in recognized schools, and these are now running successfully troops in various parts of the Presidency. In view of this fact and of the advance already made in South India by the Boy Scout movement, the Governor in Council does not consider that there is any immediate need for deputing persons from this Presidency to undergo training in England as

suggested in your letter. The existing system, under which a qualified officer selected from the Baden Powell organization inter alia looks after the advancement of the scout movement, gives courses of training to schoolmasters selected from recognized schools at different centres and organises the movement only through the schools and by means of the trained scoutmasters, has produced excellent results and the Governor in Council proposes to continue it for the present.

6. Adverting to paragraph 5 (iii) of your letter, I am to state that, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, the amalgamation of European and Indian troops and the formation of mixed troops are neither feasible nor expedient in present circumstances. In this Presidency, the Baden Powell troops are usually attached to European schools in which there are also some Indian Christians who mix with the Europeans; and the amalgamation of European and these Indian Christian scouts presents no difficulty. The Boy Scouts of India troops on the other hand are attached only to Indian schools, clubs or associations and in these there are no Europeans. An indiscriminate mixing of European troops with the Indian is not likely to meet with success at the present day, as difficulties due to caste, diet and social differences are sure to arise and as the two organizations, which are in their origin and customs essentially different, offer as yet little that is common which might form the basis of true amalgamation. Nor is such amalgamation necessary for the proper development of the scout movement. The Governor in Council however considers that what cannot be achieved by amalgamation can in a large measure be attained (i) by a general affiliation of all troops, whether under the Baden Powell or the Boy Scouts of India organization, to the Central London organization, either directly or indirectly through an all-India branch headquarters, or probably even a provincial headquarters and (ii) by bringing the different troops together by methods, such as, combined rallies, which are already common in this Presidency. The Governor in Council is of the opinion that the object in view will, under existing conditions, be better secured by giving all possible encouragement to this feature of the scout movement in India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,

Secretary to Government.

24-9-11
 G.O. No. 1069, 4th September 1919
 Boy Scout Movement
 15

Replying to the reference from the Government of India on the subject of the development of the — in India.

READ—the following papers :—

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. H. SHARP, C.S.I., C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (Education).
 To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department.
 Dated—Delhi, the 25th March 1919.
 No.—336.

I am directed to address you in continuation of this department letter No. 280, dated the 22nd March 1917, on the subject of the Boy Scout movement in India.

2. In paragraph 5 of that letter the general lines of action were indicated which appeared to the Government of India suitable for giving reasonable encouragement to the movement, especially in schools for Indians. At the same time, it was pointed out in the next paragraph that the Boy Scouts Association was unable at present to incorporate such troops in its own organization, although it would be glad to render assistance in the way of inspection, etc. It was also stated that should the constitution of troops in Government high schools on these lines prove successful, it might be possible to establish a closer connexion at some future date between the Indian troops thus constituted and the Association.

3. I am now to enclose for your information copies of three telegrams, dated the 16th and 20th July 1918 and the 21st December 1918, from the Secretary of State. The two points to be observed in these telegrams are the apprehension with which the Secretary of State views the development of separate organizations for European and Indian boys and the necessity which is emphasised for some measure of Government intervention. The hope is further held out that facilities for training scoutmasters may be given in England to students in this country and to some who are now serving with the Young Men's Christian Association in France.

4. The Government of India have learnt from other sources that the separation of European and Indian troops under different organizations has not met with approval. They would themselves have been glad to see amalgamation: but they realize that the Association, which is a private one, was hampered in its action by war conditions and that, until the position became easier, it was difficult for it to take any more prominent part in the development of troops in schools for Indians than that indicated in the circular letter. With the conclusion of war it is hoped that these difficulties will disappear and, while it is felt that the rate of development of the Boy Scout movement and the form which it may take must necessarily be dictated by the conditions prevailing in different provinces, the Government of India are in full sympathy with the desire to see a considerable expansion of a form of activity which, under proper guidance, is calculated to prove of great educational value.

5. The Chief Commissioner, Boy Scouts Association, India, has been addressed regarding some of the aspects of this question. The Government of India are at the same time anxious to obtain at an early date the general views of His Excellency the Governor in Council on this matter and, in special, upon the following point :—

(1) In case there are any suitable persons who could be trained in England as scoutmasters, the Government of India would be glad to be apprised of their names, the period they should spend at home, the stipends they should draw, including fares for the journey, etc.

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No. 1069, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919

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No. 1069, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919

(ii) When persons have been trained, either in England or in India, as scoutmasters, it will be a matter for consideration how they can best be employed, whether as schoolmasters or in some special capacity, and what rate of pay would be suitable for them.

(iii) The question arises not merely of the amalgamation of European and Indian troops under General Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts Association but also whether it will be practicable and desirable to mix European with Indian boys in one troop.

It is obvious that difficulties arising from caste differences, habits, etc., may be experienced. The Government of India would be particularly glad to receive the views of His Excellency the Governor in Council on this important point.

It is assumed that the majority of those sent home for training would be Indians. The question is also being considered of the possibility of training scoutmasters in India. The Government of India consider the question of training scoutmasters to be the most important step which can be taken up at the present time; since, unless suitable persons can be found and properly instructed, the movement is likely to be handicapped from the start and to end in failure. They would be glad to receive opinions on the whole subject.

ENCLOSURES

(1)
Telegram—from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
To—His Excellency the Viceroy in India (Education) Department.
Dated—London, the 16th July 1918.

See your Secretary's letter No. 348, dated November 17th, on the subject of boy scouts. I should be glad to have information as to development of the movement amongst Indian boys. I view with grave apprehension the effect of separate organizations for European and Indian boys a generation hence. It seems desirable that youths of European and Indian races should be trained on lines ensuring a community of ideas and ideals of character and also that we should now seize the opportunity afforded by so excellent a movement as the Boy Scout movement, in order that closer sympathy between the races might be ensured. With this end in view European and Indian boys should be placed under the same central organization. The units will be numbered in most cases corresponding to schools and where schools are mixed, European and Indian, the scout movement should not separate races. It may be possible, on the other hand, in some cases to combine schools and races in unit. That the Boy Scout movement is not a Government matter is recognised by me but the dangers to be avoided and objects to be gained are of such importance that I hold the opinion that Government intervention is necessary. Baden-Powell shares my view that the formation of separate organizations unconnected with the parent organization is to be strongly deprecated and he is anxious to work entirely with Your Excellency's Government. Would you let me know what the position is at present.

(2)
Telegram—from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
To—His Excellency the Viceroy in India (Education) Department.
Dated—London, the 20th July 1918.

Boy scouts. Reference is invited to my telegram, dated the 16th July. The training of a few Indian students in England as scoutmasters is being considered by Baden-Powell. He, however, states that the experiment is not worth trying unless the extension of the movement amongst Indian boys has the sympathy of the Government of India. There are two or three students among those suggested who are doing duty with the Young Men's Christian Association in France; I shall be glad of your views in this connexion with the least possible delay.

(3)
Telegram—from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
To—His Excellency the Viceroy in India (Education) Department.
Dated—London, the 21st December 1918.

Boy scouts. Please refer to your telegram of the 18th August 1918. The debate in your Council has been read by me. In view of the termination of hostilities I trust that the question of developing the scout movement in India will be taken up energetically. My approval of the proposal that Indian students should be trained in this country as scoutmasters has been communicated to Baden-Powell by myself, and I shall keep you informed as to developments. Is it not possible to undertake at definite centres in India, the training of scoutmasters?

...the following points:—
1. The Government of India have been asked to consider the possibility of training scoutmasters in India. The Government of India consider the question of training scoutmasters to be the most important step which can be taken up at the present time; since, unless suitable persons can be found and properly instructed, the movement is likely to be handicapped from the start and to end in failure. They would be glad to receive opinions on the whole subject.
2. The Government of India have been asked to consider the possibility of training scoutmasters in India. The Government of India consider the question of training scoutmasters to be the most important step which can be taken up at the present time; since, unless suitable persons can be found and properly instructed, the movement is likely to be handicapped from the start and to end in failure. They would be glad to receive opinions on the whole subject.
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Endorsement No. 886 A-1, dated 2nd April 1919.
Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for early remarks.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

III

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES, M.A., Acting Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 10th May 1919.

No.—R. C. 3237/19.

With reference to your endorsement No. 886 A-1, dated 2nd April 1919, referring for my remarks copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, No. 336, dated 25th March 1919, regarding the Boy Scout movement in India I have the honour to state that there are at present three different associations of boy scouts in this Presidency. I have received the following information about them:

The Baden-Powell boy scouts.—At present limited to European and Anglo-Indian boys.

Chief Commissioner: Sir Henry Richards, K.C., Chief Justice, Allahabad. He has recently, I believe, vacated. Commissioner for Madras: A. J. Leech, Esq., "The Towers", Nungambakam, Madras.

II. The Boy Scouts of India (Madras).—An organization on exactly the same lines as the Baden Powell Boy Scouts organization open to all Indian boys but chiefly of Madras Presidency. Troops are organized only when scoutmasters have received training—the training being undertaken by Mr. J. Vincent Mendis formerly district scoutmaster of the Baden-Powell Scouts, Ceylon (medal of merit from Chief Scout Baden-Powell) and now Deputy Chief Commissioner. The organization has Rev. H. Ashcroft as Chief Commissioner and Rev. H. J. Edmonds as Secretary. This movement aims at affiliation with the Empire organization (Baden-Powell's) at headquarters, London. It is under the presidentship of His Excellency the Governor of Madras. The Association keeps itself in touch with Sir Robert Baden-Powell by regular reports.

III. "The Indian Boy Scouts Association" is the name of another organization of Boy Scouts for Indian boys conducted under the "protectorship" of Mrs. Annie Besant and by an association composed of men of the particular political party to which she belongs. They profess to run their movement on exactly the same lines as Baden-Powell's. They have troops of scouts in several parts of Madras, and also in Sind and a few troops in some other places (for instance, in Benares and Indore). Their scoutmasters are all of the political party of Mrs. Besant, and the troops receive the support of the Home Rule Leagues in various parts. Breaches of the scout association rules by them consist in their providing guards of honour to political leaders of Mrs. Besant's party, attending political meetings (there were Indian Boy scouts at the recent congress) and going round with boxes begging on behalf of National education, etc. On account of these breaches of the scout association rules the Baden-Powell scouts (European and Anglo-Indian) refuse to recognize the Indian Boys Scouts while the Baden-Powell scouts all over India help and join with the other movements for Indian boys. This Association has funds allotted to it from Mrs. Besant's National Education Fund.

2. The European troops of the Baden Powell boy scouts organization have more than once joined with the Indian troops of the boy scouts of India in combined rallies. In August 1918 I circularized Inspectors of Schools and requested them to see, that as far as possible, scout troops are not started or encouraged in schools unless such troops are registered and affiliated to the "Boy Scouts of India" Association, which is under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

3. With regard to scoutmasters and their training "the Boy Scouts of India" Association, Madras, does not register any troop unless it possesses a trained scoutmaster. Scoutmasters have been trained in Madras and in district centres by Mr. Vincent Mendis, formerly a district scoutmaster of the Baden-Powell movement in Ceylon (he won the medal of merit from the Chief Scout Sir A. Baden-Powell) and now Assistant Physical Director to the Educational Department, Madras. Mr. Mendis has been specially permitted to help in the proper organization among Indian boys of the Boy Scout movement in this Presidency. Within the past fifteen months he has trained about 160 scoutmasters selected mainly from teachers in recognized schools who are now running successful troops in various parts of the Presidency. In view therefore of the steps that have already been taken and the advance already made in South India in the Boy Scout movement I doubt whether there is any immediate need for deputing any one to England for training. I consider the method already adopted in this Presidency excellent, namely, of appointing a qualified scoutmaster, imported if necessary, or taken from the Baden-Powell organization, to look after *inter alia* the advancement of the scout movement, to give courses of training for scoutmasters, selected from recognized schools, at different centres and to organize the movement only through the schools and by means of the trained schoolmasters who receive in addition and at their option, the scoutmaster's training.

4. Adverting to paragraph 5 (iii) of the letter of the Government of India it would appear that if we differentiate between affiliation and amalgamation or mixing we get a clearer idea of what is possible. Baden-Powell troops are usually attached to European schools. In these schools and troops there are some Indian Christians who mix with the Europeans and here amalgamation of European and Indian presents no difficulty. It is an established fact. Boy Scouts of India troops are attached to Indian schools, clubs or associations and in these there are no Europeans. The question of mixing or amalgamation of European with Indian does not arise. An indiscriminate mixing of Europeans and Indians in one troop is not likely to meet with success at the present day, for difficulties due to caste, diet and social differences will be certain to arise nor do I consider such amalgamation necessary for the proper development of the scout movement. I consider it desirable, however, to permit of the affiliation of all troops whether under the Baden-Powell or the Boy Scouts of India organization to the central London organization, either directly or indirectly through an all-India branch headquarters, or probably even a Provincial headquarters, the two organizations possibly merging into one through course of time, though this merging is not essential. It is much better to accept the existing organizations and by affiliating them to a parent body obtain their co-operation one with the other than to endeavour to amalgamate organizations which are in their origin and customs essentially different and which offer as yet little that is common and which might form the basis for true amalgamation.

IV

Official Memorandum No. 1178 A-1, dated 4th June 1919.

With reference to his letter R.C. No. 3237, dated the 10th May 1919, the Director of Public Instruction is requested to furnish Government with fuller particulars as to the constitution, progress and activities of the two boy scout movements in the Presidency, viz., the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts and the Boy Scouts of India (Madras). The Director of Public Instruction is also requested to state whether before framing his reply referred to above he consulted the leaders of the two movements, Messrs. Leech, Ashcroft, Edmonds and Vincent Mendis, on the principal issues raised in the Government of India's letter, viz., the possibility of the amalgamation of European and Indian troops under General Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts Association, the need for the training of more scoutmasters and the agency required for such training. If not, he is requested to consult the above mentioned gentlemen and to forward their opinions to Government.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

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Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES, M.A., Acting Director of Public Instruction.
To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—(Camp) Madras, the 15th July 1919.
No.—R.C.3237.

I have the honour to reply to Government Memorandum No. 1178 A-1, dated the 4th June 1919. I enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Ashcroft, dated the 9th July 1919 and of a letter from Mr. Leech, dated the 12th July 1919. Mr. Edmonds has not yet replied to me.

2. Before submitting my letter No. R.C. 3237, dated the 10th May 1919, to Government I consulted Mr. Vincent Mendis on all the issues raised in the Government of India's letter. I did not consult Messrs. Leech, Ashcroft and Edmonds on the issues raised though I frequently come across them and am in touch with their general views on the Boy Scout movement.

ENCLOSURES.

Letter—from Mr. H. ASHCROFT, Commissioner, Boy Scouts of India.
Dated—the 9th July 1919.

In reply to your letter No. 3237, dated 18th June 1919, I have the honour to submit the following statement:—

The constitution of the Boy Scouts of India is identical with that of the Baden-Powell Boy Scout Association. The Boy Scouts of India works on the same lines with a view to affiliation in the British Empire Movement for Boy Scouts. The Baden-Powell officials, both in Madras and in Calcutta, at headquarters, are in sympathy with our work and we have kept in touch with them as also with the headquarters in London.

Progress.—Organized in 1917; encouraged by the keen sympathy of His Excellency Lord Pentland and supported by the Director of Public Instruction whose department gave the services of Mr. Mendis who has organized about 80 Troops of Scouts and 20 Packs of Cubs. These are all under masters all of whom had a course of training under Mr. Mendis before they started work. Local Associations have been formed in several centres to get popular support and financial assistance for the troops in those areas. The actual number of scouts enrolled in the Boy Scouts of India cannot be given, but we believe the total is safely over 2,000.

Activities.—These in general have been the training of the boys on the lines laid down by Baden-Powell. Our scouts have been of service during the influenza epidemic in spreading information on the prevention of influenza, in assisting in many cases by the distribution of medicine; they have on many occasions rendered help in cases of fire and accidents, by police duty during the food riots, and distribution of rice and kerosene oil during scarcity periods, and in many other instances where their help was possible.

Two big rallies were held in Madras (one of these in Government House) and displays given for the benefit of the public. Several rallies and displays have been given in different parts of the mufassal.

Opinion on—(1) We are of opinion that there is great advantage to be gained by affiliating our scout troops in the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts Association and that there is every possibility of its being done. Our troops being generally attached to Indian schools, have only Indian boys, consequently in a few minor details we have had to make small alterations in the rules. These are not such as to disqualify us for amalgamation with the British Empire Movement of Boy Scouts which we very earnestly seek.

(2) We are strongly of opinion that if the Boy Scout movement is to do any good work, all leaders of the boys must be trained by an experienced and efficient officer. The Boy Scouts Association is very grateful to the Government for the services of Mr. Mendis who has carried on this work so efficiently and trained scoutmasters in the city and in some parts of the mufassal, and we urgently request that his services may continue to be given. It is not too much to say that the work could not have been done without his help, and we rely on him for the future. The work organized by him in such a short time is considerable but there is a great demand for more scouting from many parts of the Presidency. From some of the districts that have not yet been touched at all and from those where some troops are already working, requests are pouring in for the training of men as scoutmasters. Then also, occasional visits are necessary to give a helping hand and to see that the work is being developed along right lines. Mr. Mendis has been able to visit a few of the stations and these have received an impetus and are working splendidly. We do not recognise any troop unless it has a trained scoutmaster and our rule has been justified by results.

No. 1069, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919

Letter—from Mr. A. J. LEECH, Commissioner, Baden-Powell Scouts, Madras.
Dated—the 12th July 1919.

I duly received your favour No. 3287 of 1919, dated the 18th ultimo, regarding the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts.

There is a Provincial Council for the Presidency, but I should find it difficult to define its functions; in all matters of business, such as applications for scoutmasters' warrants or the submitting of annual returns, the local association communicates direct with headquarters at Lahore. Since the death of Captain Baker the office of Provincial Commissioner has, I believe, been vacant; I was asked to take it but declined, feeling that I could not devote sufficient time to it.

As I am only Commissioner for Madras town itself, I am not in a position to report on the troops in other parts of the Presidency.

Our local activities are nominally controlled by the Madras Local Association, of which His Excellency the Governor is Patron, and most of the leading Europeans in the city are members. The business of the association is to supervise and encourage the movement generally; as a matter of fact it practically never meets, though periodical reports are sent to the members to keep them informed of our doings. There is no subscription, but at one time and another several of the members have assisted our general fund with donations. All practical control is exercised by the Executive Committee, which was appointed in the first instance by the association. This committee, of which I am the Chairman, consists of the scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters of all troops in Madras and any members of the association who are willing to take an active interest in the work, but these are unfortunately few, and the committee practically consists of scoutmasters only.

I have been Commissioner of Madras since 1913. When I assumed office there were six troops in our association, with a total of about 120 scouts. In the meantime three troops have dropped out, and two new ones have risen from the ashes of the old. The only actual loss is the outlying troop at Ferambur, for which we were not able to find any one to act as scoutmaster. Our strength is, on paper, about the same as in 1913, but in reality, we are considerably stronger; as in those days, a good number of the names were only 'paper' scouts. These we have weeded out, and any scout who does not attend is promptly turned out. The troops all have weekly rallies with reasonable regularity, and they have one combined rally every month, though this is dropped for a few months in the year when the schools are closed and many of the scouts are away from Madras for the holidays.

One troop is run in connexion with the Civil Orphan Asylum, and another in connexion with Christ Church, Madras, and membership of these troops is practically restricted to the institutions to which they belong, though this is not essential. The other three troops, however, are, so to speak, open troops, in connexion with no special institution, and they can be joined by any one who fulfils the necessary requirements. All the troops have European scoutmasters, though in most of them the assistant scoutmasters are Anglo-Indians. One of the troops, North Georgetown, where the European scoutmaster has never taken an active part in the work, has been successfully run by an Anglo-Indian Medical student, who has shown more aptitude for control than is usually found in this community. He has, however, recently left the station, and the troop is rapidly showing signs of deterioration. The Anglo Indian needs a great deal more pushing than the European scout and the success of a troop depends even more in India, therefore, upon the character of its scoutmaster than in England. If he is active and keen, the troop does well, but otherwise, left to itself, it very quickly drops to bits. It is extraordinarily difficult to raise the necessary *esprit de corps* in the lower class of Anglo-Indian, such as compose Civil Orphan Asylum and Christ Church troops, though we do see decided improvement where there is continuity of control and a keen scoutmaster. Unfortunately, the continuity of control is often broken through scoutmasters going on leave. Much readier response is received from the *Beversleigh troop*, where the boys are drawn from the better class Anglo-Indians; but, here also a great deal depends on the Scoutmaster.

Since the war began, and even before, it has been most difficult to get the right sort of European to interest himself actively in this movement. The Anglo-Indians are often slightly spoken of by the younger Europeans who come to India, and a new comer, finding this, is very diffident of facing a certain amount of chaff by throwing himself into the movement. The young Englishman finds so much to do in the way of sports, which motor-bicycles have brought within such easy reach, that within a very few months of arriving in this country, his time is fully occupied with perhaps more congenial amusements. Several of our scoutmasters went to the war, as did also a considerable number of outsider scouts, and this has left us with up-hill work during the past few years and has prevented our being able to run the yearly camp, which needs the constant attendance of Europeans the whole time. The

No. 1069, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919

Letter—from the Hon. Mr. A. J. LEECH, Commissioner, Baden-Powell Scouts, Madras.
Dated—the 12th July 1919.

I have the pleasure to reply to Government Memorandum No. 1113 of 1919, dated the 18th July 1919, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. A. J. LEECH, Commissioner, Baden-Powell Scouts, Madras, dated the 12th July 1919, and of a letter from Mr. A. J. LEECH, Commissioner, Baden-Powell Scouts, Madras, dated the 12th July 1919, and of a letter from Mr. A. J. LEECH, Commissioner, Baden-Powell Scouts, Madras, dated the 12th July 1919.

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Letter—from the Hon. Mr. A. J. LEECH, Commissioner, Baden-Powell Scouts, Madras.
Dated—the 12th July 1919.

In reply to your letter No. 3287, dated the 18th July 1919, I have the pleasure to inform you that the following information is being furnished to you:

The Commissioner of the Madras Local Association, Mr. A. J. LEECH, has been informed that the following information is being furnished to you:

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individual troops have mostly had week-end camping trips which have been much enjoyed. The Everleigh troop had ten days at Otacumund, the expenses for which were met by concerts and displays given by the troop itself.

Two of our troops are run by the Padres in charge of the institutions with which they are connected. This cannot be helped, as we have no other scoutmasters to take their place, but it is not an ideal arrangement, for their schoolmaster in working hours is still, in the eyes of the boys, a schoolmaster out of hours. Thus a certain feeling of compulsion is hardly to be avoided, which is directly antagonistic to the spirit of scouting as a matter wholly of the boys' own free will.

On the whole, the movement among the Anglo-Indians is just about where it was six years ago, and our numbers are about the same. The one troop composed of the better class of Anglo-Indians is really efficient, and would hold its own with an English troop. The others are not as good as I should like them to be, though they are by no means inefficient. This is due to the class of boy that we get than to lack of labour expended upon him.

In reply to your three specific questions—

(1) I have considered the matter of the amalgamation of European and Indian troops very carefully, but cannot see my way to approve of it. From what I have seen of the Anglo-Indian, I feel quite sure that if put in direct competition with the Indian, and probably entirely out-numbered by Indians, he would quietly drop out. The two classes do not mix or work well together, and I think it would be to the benefit of scouting if they were kept separate. We have this arrangement at present in Madras, and it works quite well. Our organizations are entirely separate, but our objects and aims are the same, and there is a certain amount of friendly rivalry among units. We meet together at times on big rallies and there is a good scout feeling between the respective organizations.

(2) By amalgamation, we should lose not only the Anglo-Indian Scouts, but also the European scoutmasters, who are mostly busy men and find it a sufficiently severe tax to look after a hundred or two Anglo-Indians. They would find it impossible to tackle a large addition to the numbers in the way of Indian recruits, and would, I fancy, drop out. In other words, it is for the good of the greatest number to remain separate, as amalgamation would I believe eventually mean loss to the movement of the Anglo-Indian and European element.

I would like to qualify this statement by saying that, while not wanting to amalgamate for the reason that it would be the end of Anglo-Indian scouting, I am entirely in favour of Indian scouts and of the two organizations working together in an entirely friendly spirit. In Madras we are in close touch with the Boy Scouts of India, have had several rallies together and find that healthy rivalry is good for us all. We treat them in every way as scouts, return their salutes and recognize that they have every right to be, and in fact are, as good scouts as we are. I may say that I have myself spoken at several meetings of the Boy Scouts of India.

(3) This matter goes at once to the root of the problem. If we could get keen scoutmasters who had the time to give to the work, there is no question that a satisfactory state of efficiency could be obtained. Europeans in this country are generally very busy men, and this has been especially the case during the war, when every one has been working short-handed, and few of them could find energy or time to devote to what was by no means a sinecure. Even now I really do not know where to turn for my scoutmasters. I am at present badly in want of three. It is the catching of them, not the training of them, that is the difficulty.

(4) The agency required for training scoutmasters.—The one thing required is keenness. A man who has the love of boys in him and possesses therefore, as a matter of course, a faith in the value of scouting, can practically train himself with the aid of Baden-Powell's excellent handbooks. I am convinced that classes for scoutmasters are unnecessary; that frequent conferences of scoutmasters, where the younger men could discuss their difficulties with, and profit by the experience of, older hands, are invaluable. This refers more to what I might call the deeper things of scouting, question of moral influence, discipline, delegation of responsibility, cultivation of self-reliance and *esprit de corps*—the more external and material qualifications such as, signalling, first-aid, the use of maps, and the hundred and one things which constitute proficiency in scoutcraft any man of average intelligence can pick up for himself.

There is no question that a keen scoutmaster who, either through possessing independent means, or by being paid, could devote his whole time to a district or association, would be a tremendous asset, but it is of the essence of scouting that all work done for the boys or by the boys should be voluntary, a labour of love. What we really need is a few men of the stuff of which, say medical missionaries are made, men who would come out inspired by the desire to do something for the boyhood of this country. If men of independent means are not forthcoming, then some might be found to whom a small grant might be made, either from local or from Government funds, without constituting them Government servants and making Scouting, in the minds of the boys, a Government concern, on a par with schools and taxes and other necessary evils.

In any case we look first to the benefit of the scouts, and if such men can be found, paid or unpaid, then scouting would be immensely strengthened and improved. They should be men of fair position, commanding the respect of all classes; able on the one hand to win the confidence of the Indian and on the other hand to attract fellow-workers from amongst the Europeans.

For approval
SK
28/9/19

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.
NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 1069-70, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919.

[SUBJECT.—Boy-scout movement.]

From the Government of India, No. 336, dated 25th March 1919.
From the Director of Public Instruction, R.C. No. 3237, dated 10th May 1919.

The Government of India desire to be furnished with the general views of this Government on the question of the expansion of the boy-scout movement in India. They also ask for the opinion of this Government on the following specific points connected with the movement :—

- (1) whether there are suitable candidates in this Presidency who could be sent to England for training as scout masters and if so, what remuneration should be offered to them and for what period;
- (2) how best can persons trained in England or India as scout masters be employed and what rate of pay would be suitable for them; and
- (3) whether it will be practicable and desirable to mix European and Indian boys in one troop.

2. The Director of Public Instruction to whom the Government of India's letter was referred for remarks, explains the various agencies at work in this Presidency in spreading the movement. In view of the success already achieved by the Boy Scouts of India (Madras), of which His Excellency the Governor is the patron, especially of the local training of teachers as scout-masters, The Director of Public Instruction states that there is no immediate need for deputing any one to England for training as scout masters and he is in favour of the continuance of the existing arrangement under which a qualified scout master appointed by Government looks after the development of the movement and gives courses of training in scouting to selected schoolmasters. It is however doubtful whether one officer (Mr. Vincent Mendis) will be able to look after the increasing number of troops that are being formed in this Presidency. However, as suggested by the Director of Public Instruction if the need for the services of an additional officer arises in future, a qualified scout master may be imported from England.

3. The Director of Public Instruction is not in favour of mixing European with Indian boys in one troop as such a measure is neither necessary nor desirable at present. He, however, considers that co-operation should be secured by affiliating the European and Indian organizations to one parent body, the central London organization. It is for orders whether the Director of Public Instruction's views may be concurred in and the Government of India informed accordingly.

N.K.—18-5-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—20-5-19.

We can leave out of consideration the Indian Boy Scouts Association; it appears to be a politically inspired body. We are left with two movements—

- (1) The Baden Powell Boy Scouts—chiefly for Europeans.
- (2) The Boy Scouts of India—chiefly for Indians.

The Director of Public Instruction considers that these two movements should remain distinct in India though eventually affiliated to the same headquarter organization in London.

2 NOTES to G.O. Nos. 1069-70, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919

2. I think that the Director of Public Instruction has entirely missed the Secretary of State's intention. The Secretary of State views with apprehension the development of separate organizations for European and Indian boys. The scout movement is educational and it is possible to cultivate brotherly feelings by working together. Once you start parallel movements for the different communities, the anticipated approachment between them and the development of sympathy will fail. The Secretary of State even contemplates mixture of students for different schools to ensure this object. If this object is to be achieved, the idea of two separate organizations should disappear. Otherwise one of them will always be branded with a stigma of degradation. The political

Why?

L.D.—23-5-19.

advantages of large numbers in the next generation understanding each other and working in a spirit of camaraderie cannot be underestimated. The Government of India apprehends caste difficulties if the troops are mixed. It is among the young that these are least; and amongst Indians themselves there is so much diversity and yet troops have been formed.

But you cannot force the pace and if you insist on amalgamation, you may and probably will stop development in both classes.

L.D.—23-5-19.

3. The Secretary of State wants the movement to be taken up energetically. For this purpose local training is indispensable; and as observed by the Director of Public Instruction Mr. Mendis may be asked to train scout masters.

4. At the same time, to keep the movement on proper lines, it is necessary to train a few Indians at least in England and Director of Public Instruction asked to furnish the particulars required.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—22-5-19.

I should say it is better not to do so for the present and would prefer to learn the training with Mr. Vincent Mendis.

I agree generally with the Director of Public Instruction and would reply accordingly to the Government of India. But first please circulate to His Excellency who is President of the Boy Scouts of India (Madras). It might be a good thing to consult the leaders of that organization and those of the Baden Powell Scouts as to the possibilities of amalgamation, the need for the training of more scout masters and the agency required for such training.

Mr. A. J. Leech, Messrs. Ashcroft and Edmonds and Mr. Vincent Mendis are all men whose opinion should be of value but possibly the Director of Public Instruction has already consulted them.

I do not myself believe the attempt to combine Indian and European schools for the formation of mixed troops would succeed, if made now. Combined rallies being the different classes together from time to time, but each troop should, I think, formally be recruited from a single school and officered by members of the school staff.

L. D[AVIDSON]—23-5-19.

Submitted.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—24-5-19.

The boy-scout movement has advanced so rapidly in the Madras Presidency that I would certainly like to learn more about its activities before I give an opinion on this reference from the Government of India.

Particularly as regards the possibility of amalgamation I should much like to know if the Director of Public Instruction has asked the opinions of the gentlemen my Honourable Colleague refers to in his note. If he has done so, and his remarks are the result of taking their opinions I think any further references would be of no value, and I will note further if not, I should be glad if these gentlemen could be referred to for their opinion.

W[ILLINGTON]—24-5-19.

NOTES to G.O. Nos. 1069-70, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919 3

A draft memorandum to the Director of Public Instruction is submitted for approval.

S.K.—26-5-19.

N.K.—27-5-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—28-5-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—1-6-19.

L. D[AVIDSON]—2-6-19.

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 15th July 1919, R.C. No. 3237.

The Director of Public Instruction forwards copies of letters from Messrs. Ashcroft and Leach on the boy-scout movement in this Presidency. Mr. Edmonds has not yet replied to him. Mr. Ashcroft seems to be of the opinion that the boy scouts of India, Madras, should be affiliated to the Baden Powell organization and that the present system of training scout masters in this Presidency might continue. He does not express any opinion on the question how far it is desirable to mix European with Indian boys in one troop. Mr. Leech considers that the European and Indian scouts should be kept separate. He apprehends considerable difficulty in securing in India suitable Europeans who will have time to devote to the training of scouts. In his opinion a man who possesses a faith in the value of scouting, can practically train himself with the aid of Baden Powell's excellent hand books. He is not in favour of holding classes for scout masters, but recommends frequent conferences of scout masters, where younger people could learn.

2. Orders are solicited as to the reply which should be sent to the Government of India.

S.K.—23-7-19.

S.A.—24-7-19.

Mr. Leech gives strong reasons against amalgamation and points out that such a step will practically result in the extinction of the Anglo-Indian element altogether in the scouting movement. Further, assuming that an amalgamation is practicable, the present not altogether satisfactory condition of scouting among the lower class of Anglo-Indians, who now form the bulk of the scouts in the city, may militate against a combined healthy growth. We have no definite information about the Baden Powell Boy scouts in the mufassal, as we now have about those in the city. It is, however, unlikely that they would be any better, except probably on the Nilgiris. The report that is available about the Boy Scouts of India, on the other hand, is encouraging.

The idea expressed at A in Mr. Leech's letter may, when developed, furnish an alternative solution to the question of amalgamation.

C.R.—25-7-19.

Two gentlemen have replied. Mr. Edmonds has not. Ask Director of Public Instruction to remind Mr. Edmonds.

R.R.—29-7-19.

A draft official memorandum is submitted for approval.

S.K.—30-7-19.

S.A.—30-7-19.

C.R.—30-7-19.

[Official Memorandum No. 1682 A-1, dated 31st July 1919.]

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 5th August 1919, R.C. No. 3237.

The Director of Public Instruction submits a copy of Mr. Edmonds' reply in which he states that he has nothing to add to Mr. Ashcroft's report on the boy scout movement. Mr. Ashcroft's letter is on pages 15 and 16 of current file.

The file may be circulated to His Excellency through Honourable Member.

S.K.—12-8-19.

N.K.—13-8-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—14-8-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—15-8-19.

4 NOTES to G.O. Nos. 1069-70, HOME (EDUCATION), 4TH SEPTEMBER 1919

Please let me have the file after despatch of the reply to Mr. Pickford's letter on the * linked file, which should then be put up (with relevant pages in this file.)

* G.O. 1000, 16th August 1919.

L. D[AVIDSON]—15-8-19.

The reply to Mr. Pickford has been issued—Letter No. 1000, dated the 16th August 1919. The file is submitted.

S.K.—16-8-19.

N.K.—18-8-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—18-8-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—19-8-19.

Now please circulate to His Excellency as it was at his instance that the additional information at pages 13 et. seq. of the ~~file~~ was called for. There is nothing in it, so far as I can see, which suggests any modification of my initial opinion as noted on page 2 supra.

L. D[AVIDSON]—20-8-19.

I think it is clear that it is too early yet to consider amalgamation though I feel that my honourable Colleague's suggestion that joint rallies might be desirable should be kept in mind.

I agree to a reply being sent on the lines of Director of Public Instruction's views.

W[ILLINGDON]—22-8-19.

A draft letter to the Government of India is submitted for approval.

S.K.—26-8-19.

N.K.—1-9-19.

C.R.—2-9-19.

R.R.—3-9-19.

Print after issue, please.

L. D[AVIDSON]—4-9-19.

[G.O. Nos. 1069-70, Home (Education), dated 4th September 1919.]

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DEPARTMENT

Current No. dated 191

G.O. No. 1069-70 dated 4-9-1919

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