

Home (1919) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1301

DATED 27-10-1919

[Despatch Abstract.]

ADDRESSES.

Recording notes on the ----- presented to His
Excellency the Governor by the Adl Dravidas of Malabar.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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CMS 25194

Representations to be placed before His Excellency by the Audi Dravidas of Malabar.

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5. As we are branded as untouchables and unapproachable by Brahminical Hinduism we are denied admission to certain public roads and certain public institutions, such as schools and Post and Telegraph Offices. We are not even permitted to quench our thirst by drawing water from certain public wells. We shall look to Your Excellency to prevent the higher castes from thus infringing upon our rights as citizens of this mighty British Empire.

6. The benefits of Sir Frederick Nicholson's policy in regard to educational and co-operative facilities, if extended to us, will, we submit, be a great boon.

7. Our poverty is so great that we cannot help asking for free education to our boys and girls to at least for a limited period, which will enable them to avail themselves of the blessing.

Collector's note.

* * *

(i) Removal of social disabilities. The Pulayas and other low caste men are not by custom permitted to use public roads in certain localities: are denied admission to public institutions such as schools; Post and Telegraphic offices: and are not allowed to draw water from public wells. The custom is long established. So far the Government has not been objecting to it. Does Government desire to depart from this position now?

* * *

(iii) Extension to the community of Sir Frederick Nicholson's policy of cooperative and educational facilities.

(iv) Free education to boys and girls up to a certain standard.

The Pulayas and other kindred castes being the most backward classes in the district, any definite scheme in these directions deserves sympathetic consideration.

Secretariat note.

Home (Education) Dept.

Admission of Pulayas and other depressed classes in schools.

In G.O., No. 329 Home (Education), dated 17th March 1919, orders have been issued impressing on local bodies the obligation which rests on them to consider seriously and to remove gradually and persistently the difficulties and disabilities to which the Panchamas are now subjected in the matter of the admission of their children in schools under public management attended by caste ~~children~~ children.

2. Educational facilities for the depressed classes of Malabar.

The memorialists refer to Sir Frederick Nicholson's policy in regard to the provision of educational facilities. Last year, Sir F. Nicholson submitted a scheme for opening special schools (providing also facilities for technical training) for fisher children in Malabar and South Kanara, and it has been approved by Government. Presumably the memorialists desire that a similar scheme should be formulated to encourage education among them. In connection with the question of the amelioration of the depressed classes now under consideration in the Home (Miscellaneous) Department Mr. (now Sir Henry) Stone noted as follows:-

"My last quinquennial report shows that the

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page 15 of notes (K)

"percentage of Panchamas in elementary schools has risen
"in the last five years more rapidly than that of children
"in general, but my impression formed by visits to many
"elementary schools of all kinds is that the work done
"in Panchama schools is on the whole below the level of
"that of elementary schools in general, and that educa-
"tion has done very little for Panchamas as a class,
"though it has enabled individuals to rise superior to
"the circumstances in which they were born. What is
"really wanted therefore is that Panchama education
"should be made infinitely better in kind, so that a
"Panchama who has passed through an elementary school
"will have had his intelligence so developed as to be
"able to obtain his share of the increasing wealth of the
"country, e.g., by avoiding becoming a bond slave by
"debt, by taking to another trade, by leaving his village
"for a place where labour is in more demand, by thrift,
"or in the last resort, by emigration.

"I think there is a good deal to be said for
"Government's spending lavishly in providing Panchama
"Elementary schools of a high quality, either directly
"or by utilizing Missionary Agency of all kinds and for
"giving such schools a decidedly vocational turn. This
"would probably solve the problem of the exclusion of
"Panchamas from schools by bringing caste children into
"the superior Panchama schools.

"The expenditure would have to be lavish because
"compulsion would have to be employed on the schools
"would be wasted and this would involve giving free meals,
"books, etc., and clothing".

Mr. H.S.Duncan, when he acted as Director, also
noted on this question as follows:-

"If rapid progress is to be made, it seems to me
"that not only should they be provided with special schools
"but the schooling should be entirely free and a knowledge
"of the 3 'Rs' should be followed by the teaching of

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"bread-winning occupations, e.g., carpentry, blacksmith
"work, tailoring, weaving, coir making, etc. The voca-
"tional side of the work in the schools should have
"reference to local conditions and local industries. I
"look to the district educational authorities to be esta-
"blished under the Elementary Education Act to promote
"development along these lines. In addition to books and
"slates, the pupils should occasionally be supplied
"with clothing and be given a midday meal where the
"circumstances require it. This is what some Missions do.
"Such a scheme will dispense with the need for scholar-
"ships at the elementary stage. Pupils of exceptional
"merit, however, may be awarded scholarships for secondary
"education".

No definite decision has yet been arrived at on
the above proposals, though some of them e.g., provision
of free meals, clothing etc, have been considered to be
impracticable.

3. Free education.

In this Presidency, elementary education is free
for pupils belonging to the castes and classes which have
been declared to be backward. Pulayas are included in the
list of backward classes and presumably the other commu-
nities which have styled themselves 'Adi Dravidas' are
also included in that list. The principle of giving free
education to chosen classes has not been extended to
secondary schools. In these schools, the children of
backward classes may be admitted on payment of half the
standard rates of fees. The Government have recently
sanctioned the institution of 16 special scholarships
for secondary education and 16 free admission for Pancha-
mas and pupils of the aboriginal or criminal tribes.

S.K.
18-9-19.

N.K.
18-9-19.

C.R.
19-9-19.

para 4, p. 237 (K)

Rule 50 of Est. Rules.

Rule 102 of the Hyderabad
case

Rule 102 of Est. Rules.

Lys. No. 1038 (5) (K. B. B. B.)
12/8/19

Panchamas are admitted free in elementary schools; and on half fees in higher schools. Even here there is a considerable number of scholarships. It cannot be denied that these concessions have not materially advanced Panchama education.

There is wide divergence of opinion as to what is better - to open special schools; or to permit admissions by scholarships in ordinary schools.

The suggestions put forward viz, (i) to give board and clothing &c, (ii) to introduce vocational training, have not been seriously examined. Perhaps it is best that Paddison ~~then~~ deals with them.

These Cherumas - as the Panchamas of Malabar are called - are scattered all over the district and their normal level of intelligence and even physical stature low. Their problem has not yet been seriously tackled.

R.R.R.
20-9-19.

H.M.

L.D(avidson).
20-9-19.

P.S.G. U.O.

R.R.R.
20-9-19.

Returned with the following extract from the proceedings of the deputation:

"In reply to the request that a total exemption from payment of fees in secondary schools should be granted, His Excellency reminded them that such a course would result in a demand for similar treatment from several other communities and Government would find it impossible to meet all the claims on its purse."

Order No 1301827-10-19.
W.S.

Adm.
P.S.G.

Home (Ed.) Dept.

These notes may be 'Recorded'

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8th
10/10/19.

CA
10/10/19.

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