

Government  of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 393, 28th March 1919

Madras Students' Advisory Committee

Recording report on the working of the — from the 9th March 1918 to the 7th March 1919.

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G.O. No. 393, 28th March 1919

Madras Students' Advisory Committee

Recording report on the working of the — from the 9th March 1918 to the 7th March 1919.

READ—the following paper:—

*Letter*—from A. DAVIES, Esq., M.A., Bar.-at-Law, Secretary, Madras Students' Advisory Committee, Madras.

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

*Dated*—the 18th March 1919.

*No.*—548.

I have the honour to submit herewith in duplicate proceedings of the committee held at its meetings on the 26th October 1918 and 8th March 1919 together with the Secretary's Annual Report from 9th March 1918 to 7th March 1919.

ENCLOSURES

(1)

*Madras Students' Advisory Committee, Saturday, 8th March 1919.*

[The twentieth Meeting of the Committee was held at the Senate House at 8 a.m.]

P R E S E N T :

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras, *President*.

The Director of Public Instruction, Madras, *Vice-President*.

The Hon'ble the Rev. G. PITTENDRIGH, M.A.

Mr. L. C. HODGSON, M.A.

„ F. S. DAVIES, B.A.

„ K. RAMUNNI MENON, M.A.

„ SAIYID ROSS MASUD, B.A. (Oxon), I.E.S. (Bar.-at-Law).

„ YOUNG NECKER, M.A.

The Rev. W. M. ZUMBRO, M.A.

The Hon'ble Mr. YAQUB HASAN.

Dr. KRISHNAN PANDALAI, LL.D. (Bar.-at-Law).

The Principal, College of Engineering, Madras.

Mr. ARTHUR DAVIES, *Secretary*.

1. *Read* letters from the Hon'ble the Residents at Hyderabad and in Mysore and from Messrs. Raja Vasudeva Raja, Paul Appaswami, K. Ramanuja Acharya, the Rev. Allen Gardiner, the Principal, Medical College and the Director of Industries regretting their inability to attend the meeting.

2. *Read* and recorded letter from Dr. T. W. Arnold, dated 1st October 1918, requesting to send him a note giving the dates of the various University examinations held by the University of Madras.

NOTE.—A list was obtained from the Registrar and forwarded to Doctor Arnold and this was acknowledged by him in his letter dated 30th January 1919.

3. *Read* and recorded letter from Doctor Arnold dated 14th November 1918, stating that Mr. Burrows has drawn his attention to the fact that the ordinary B.A. Degree of the Madras University is not accepted for the status of 'Senior' student at the University of Oxford but only the B.A. Honours Degree in the I or II class.

4. *Read* and recorded letters from Doctor Arnold dated 10th December 1918 and 4th February 1919, advising dispatch of prospectuses, etc., of the various educational institutions for the session 1918-19.

In the letter, dated 10th December 1918, he states that the Registrar of University of Oxford has remarked that there is no likelihood of an examination for the Diploma in Ophthalmology being held there in 1919.

5. *Read* and recorded letter from Mr. R. E. Field, dated 16th January 1919, informing us that the fee of 1 per cent upon official guardianship accounts is to be abolished with effect from 1st January 1919 but this does not apply to Oxford or Cambridge.

6. Read and recorded letter from Doctor Arnold, dated 5th February 1919, asking that the authorities of the various colleges should be informed of the importance of students who are going to Great Britain consulting this Committee before they depart so that they may not lose time and money for want of the necessary papers.

Read and recorded the following Government Orders :—

7. No. 672, Home (Miscellaneous) Department, dated 20th September 1918, recording endorsement of the Government of India, Foreign Department, forwarding copy of the correspondence with the Government of Bihar and Orissa regarding the grant of passports to Indian students desirous of travelling to England for bona fide purposes of study.

8. No. 1474, Home (Education) Department, dated the 20th November 1918, recording, with remark, the proceedings of the Committee dated 26th October 1918.

9. No. 1669, Home (Education) Department, dated the 25th December 1918, communicating with remarks, the copy of correspondence of the Government of India with the Secretary of State on certain points raised in the report of the Simla Conference.

NOTE.—Secretary's letter, dated 6th November 1918, to Doctor Arnold calling his attention to certain paragraphs of the Simla Conference Report and to the suggestion that a new edition of the Handbook should be published every year.

10. Read and recorded Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction R.C. No. 649/19, dated 24th January 1919, requesting Principals of first grade colleges to obtain and submit applications from students for award of two State scholarships for the study of Sanskrit by Indians in 1919.

11. Read and recorded the following letters from the Registrar, University of Madras, (a) No. 7897, dated 9th November 1918, stating the University of Edinburgh has been addressed with a request for the exemption of the graduates of the Madras University from the provisions of the proposed new regulation, (b) in continuation of above, copy dated 8th February 1919, of letter dated 8th January 1919 from Registrar, Edinburgh University to Registrar, University of Madras, stating that the matter has been referred to the Joint Board of Examiners for Scotland, (c) in further continuation of above, copy dated 4th March 1919 of letter dated 23rd January 1919 from Convener, Joint Board of Examiners of the Scottish Universities to the Registrar, Madras University, stating that Board has decided that a candidate who presents evidence of having passed in English in the Intermediate or Degree Examinations in Arts of the University of Madras is not subjected to the additional examination in English contemplated in the regulations for foreign students.

12. Read and recorded letter from the Registrar, University of Madras, No. 127, dated 6th January 1919, forwarding from the Secretary, Academic Registrar, University of London, ten copies of the pamphlet with regard to the admission of students from other Universities as candidates for Higher Degrees (except in Medicine and Surgery) and also ten copies of the forms of application under statute 113.

13. Read and recorded Notice dated 14th January 1919 from the Registrar, University of Madras, of the Government of India (University) Scholarships which will be placed at the disposal of the University of Madras in the year 1919.

14. Read and recorded reports on the work of the Provincial Advisory Committees of Dacca and United Province of Agra and Oudh and a letter from Mr. J. C. Coyajee forwarding his pamphlet on "Admission to American Universities and Colleges."

The Secretary will issue a circular to Principals drawing their attention to Mr. J. C. Coyajee's handbook.

15. Read and recorded letter from the Curator, Bureau of Education of the Government of India, No. 14, dated 4th February 1919, forwarding for the use of the Committee a copy of publication of the "opportunities for foreign students at Colleges and Universities in the United States."

16. Read and approved with amendments Secretary's Annual Report from 9th March 1918 to date.

(2)

*The Madras Students' Advisory Committee, Secretary's Report, 9th March 1918 to 7th March 1919.*

It is inevitable that this year's annual report should give a prominent place to the effect produced upon the Committee's work by the cessation of hostilities on the 11th November last. In the report for last year it was noted that, although as an immediate result of the war the number of students going to Great Britain each year diminished from a pre-war figure of from 30 to 40 to one of 4 or 5, and these mostly persons with Government Scholarships, the number of inquiries made only diminished very slightly until the beginning of 1917—the number of applicants for advice in the year 1917-18 was however only 180, as contrasted with 264 in the previous year and 303, the figure for 1913-14. The number for this year is 266, a sufficient testimony to the effect upon the work of this Committee produced by the signing of the armistice, but the effect of the change is even more clearly indicated by the fact that more than half of these applications have been made for the first time in the four months since

11th November at a time of year when in normal times inquiries are usually infrequent. The very large increase in number of interviews—the figure 128 has not been approached since 1909-10 when 111 interviews were held and 34 students went to Great Britain—should also be noted, as it is an indication of more serious intention to go abroad than is shown by letters.

Last year's report contained a somewhat detailed account of the nature of the applications made. Without giving particulars so minutely it may be noted that roughly the remarks there written apply to this year too. There are still a few inquiries from residents in places outside the Presidency, i.e., from Lucknow, Delhi, Bombay, Rangoon and Ceylon and one even from Bagdad! Also many inquiries are made as to the London examinations at Colombo and the Cambridge Senior local at Ootacamund. The usual proportion of students—i.e., between 5 and 10 per cent—propose to go to Japan or the United States of America: no one has ever applied to this Committee with a view to going to any other place outside Europe. Local inquiries have also been made about students who have returned to India from England and in some cases the desired information has been forthcoming. An occasional request for information about educational facilities in the Madras Presidency itself shows that the exact purpose of this Committee is not universally understood—perhaps its name may mislead some.

It is advisable to mention in greater detail the cases of students who have been or are now in England about whom correspondence with the Educational adviser to the Secretary of State for India has been necessary. It is pleasing to record that debts amounting to over £30 in all in three separate cases to the Distressed Indian Students Aid Committee and others from England-returned Indians of this Presidency have been recovered during the year under report. A fourth debt due since 1912 it is still hoped may yet be liquidated. The importance of getting such debts settled cannot be too much insisted upon, for the reputation of Indian students generally in Great Britain depends upon the prompt and regular meeting of his liabilities by each individual. Inquiries are occasionally made about students who have not corresponded regularly with their relations in India. Two such cases were mentioned in last year's report; this year again there are two such at present under investigation. The importance of consulting the Secretary before leaving for England is illustrated once more this year by at least two cases where students have gone with insufficient papers for being called to the Bar or getting admission at Cambridge. This point is emphasised by Doctor Arnold directly in his letter of 5th February 1919 recorded in the proceedings of this day's meeting and indirectly again and again, e.g., in his letter of 2nd July 1918 recorded at the meeting of 26th October 1918. Reference was made last year to a case where a student was suffering from want of sufficient allowances from his relatives here. It is pleasing to be able to report that perhaps in part due to our representations his position has now been made satisfactory. A new case of a similar kind has however to be recorded, and another in which a student has been in England for more than two years wandering from one University town to another till in Doctor Arnold's words "he has lost what habits of regular industry he may ever have acquired and seems unable to settle down to work of any kind." It would be a great triumph for this Committee if it could impress upon parents who think of sending sons to Great Britain how important it is to weigh carefully in what way their sons are going to profit by travelling abroad and in most cases, especially where there is any doubt as to stability of character, the imperative need for placing their boys under some form of guardianship. The fee for official guardianship small as it was has been abolished since the 1st January 1919 and there is therefore no excuse for parents refusing to take advantage of such guardianship when it is necessary and they can arrange for no other kind. Two deaths of Madras students, one at Woolwich, the other at Edinburgh, have been reported. Undoubtedly the years of war followed by the influenza epidemic have been particularly trying to Indian students especially to those whose means are not great: but even in normal times it behoves every careful parent (1) to have his son medically examined with a view to the trying climate of Great Britain and (2) to insist on his living in healthy surroundings.

Of normal applications for advice and information about courses in Great Britain the character is much as usual. Law, Medicine, the I.C.S. examination, Forestry, Agriculture, Engineering in their usual proportions form the subject matter of the great mass of the applications. Two inquiries about special higher courses for already trained scientific agriculturists are worth noting. An inquiry for a pencil factory, another for a paper mill and a third for weaving are examples of some half-dozen or more cases where the student proposes to himself some technical pursuit. It may be a sign of the time that there are at least 5 or 6 aspirants for the commercial degrees which several of the modern English Universities are now offering to confer. There were the usual inquiries about the Indian Police service, and this year for the first time too as to the possibility of obtaining a military training in England. At present apparently neither door is open to Indians. Sometimes an applicant wishes to know something of the value of the 'correspondence' classes that are occasionally to be found advertised in educational and other papers. This Committee has no 'official' information about these, but it is safe to warn the inquirer against hoping for very much from such a means of acquiring education. Perhaps the most noticeable feature of this year's applications is the large number of those who wish to go to Oxford or Cambridge. Thirty-six students at least have this in view, and in addition to the four who have actually gone, I have already sent in applications for admission to a college at Oxford or Cambridge next October for seven students and several other applications are already in preparation. Generally even in pre-war days not more than one or two applications would have been made by this time—it remains to be seen how many

will be successful. There will be a great competition to get into colleges at Oxford and Cambridge this year and some eligible students may suffer disappointment.

It will be seen that only seven students have actually gone to England since the date of the last report, but of these six went during war time, and the armistice came too late to enable any large number to go for the present academical year in England which commenced in October. The normal months of departure are July, August and September, and there seems every probability of a very large number going this year.

There remains the recording of the Report of the Simla Conference which reached this Committee at the end of March 1918. The report was fully discussed at the October meeting of this Committee and the resolutions then passed together with the recommendations of the Secretary of an earlier date have all been considered by the Local Government. It may not be out of place to note the progress that has been achieved for the more efficient working of this Committee as a result of that conference.

In the first place the constitution of the Committee itself has been distinctly improved by the addition to it as ex-officio members of the Principals of the Engineering and Medical Colleges and Director of Industries.

Then the necessity for the Committee being provided with some information about courses in other places than Great Britain has been recognized. The Bureau of Education at Simla has already supplied the Committee with a number of the calendars of Australian Universities and a Hand-book prepared by the United States Government of the Colleges and Universities of that country. The latter has very recently been supplemented by a pamphlet on Admission to American Universities and Colleges drawn up by Mr. J. C. Coyajee, the Secretary of the Calcutta Advisory Committee. The American publications have already been of the greatest use. As is pointed out above besides Great Britain students in this Presidency at any rate never contemplate going anywhere except to the United States and Japan. The great need at present is for reliable information about Japan, which it may be hoped will shortly be forthcoming. This Committee has also represented to the Local Government the importance of obtaining the services of some such bodies as the British Consular Departments in Japan and United States to exercise in those countries functions similar to those exercised for Indian students in Great Britain by the Students' Department of the India Office. It is to be hoped that these representations will in due course bear fruit.

With reference to the recommendation of the Simla Conference and of this Committee for annual editions of the Hand-book it may be noted that the Secretary of State for India in his letter of 6th September 1918 thought it unnecessary to issue a second edition until the end of the war. Now that consummation has been happily achieved possibly the question may be reopened. In any case according to Dr. Arnold's letter of 1st November 1917 a new edition may now be expected soon. One may hope that the new editions will be small in number and sold out with sufficient rapidity to enable frequent re-editing.

Pamphlets of the nature of Mr. Campion's on Engineering on the various other pursuits—such as Agriculture, Forestry, Medicine—commonly followed by Indians, describing the necessary preliminary qualifications for success, the comparative advantages and cost of training in this country and Great Britain and the prospects for a successful student remain still to be produced.

The Simla Conference recorded its opinion that Advisory Committees in this country should be informed as far as possible of the subsequent careers of those who had gone to Great Britain under their auspices both during their student days abroad and after their return to this country and the matter is still pending.

Another result of the Simla Conference in this Presidency has been the order of the Local Government to passport issuing authorities to give notice to the Secretary of each passport granted for 'Educational' purposes.

The usual annual notices to all Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Committee's existence and purpose are now being issued.

11th March 1919.

ARTHUR DAVIES,  
Secretary.

TABLE I.

Number of applicants, letters received, replies sent, and interviews held, from 9th March 1918 to 8th March 1919.

| Community to which applicants belong.     | 1914-15. | 1915-16. | 1916-17. | 1917-18. | 1918-19. |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Hindus .. .. .                            | 162      | 70       | 196      | 146      | 219      |
| Muhammadans .. .. .                       | 8        | 3        | 20       | 3        | 6        |
| Indian Christians .. .. .                 | 17       | 6        | 30       | 22       | 31       |
| Domiciled community .. .. .               | 14       | 6        | 18       | 9        | 10       |
| Total .. .. .                             | 201      | 85       | 264      | 180      | 266      |
| Number of communications received .. .. . | 312      | 66       | 257      | 279      | 325      |
| Number of replies sent .. .. .            | 322      | 67       | 258      | 280      | 297      |
| Number of interviews held .. .. .         | 68       | 17       | 63       | 55       | 128      |

TABLE II.

Number of students who have gone to the United Kingdom.

| Community to which those who have left belong. | 1914-15. | 1915-16. | 1916-17. | 1917-18. | 1918-19. |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Hindus .. .. .                                 | 12       | 2        | 4        | 3        | 6        |
| Muhammadans .. .. .                            | ..       | ..       | 1        | ..       | ..       |
| Indian Christians .. .. .                      | 3        | ..       | 1        | ..       | 1        |
| Domiciled community .. .. .                    | 2        | 1        | 1        | 1        | ..       |

TABLE III.

Studies to be pursued in the United Kingdom.

|                                                 | 1914-15. | 1915-16. | 1916-17. | 1917-18. | 1918-19. |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| University Degrees in Arts and Sciences .. .. . | 5        | 3        | 4        | 3        | 4        |
| Indian Civil Service and other services .. .. . | 3        | ..       | 1        | ..       | 1        |
| Bar { London Inns .. .. .                       | 3        | ..       | 2        | ..       | 1        |
| Kings Inns .. .. .                              | (?) 2    | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| Engineering .. .. .                             | 3        | ..       | 1        | ..       | ..       |
| Medicine .. .. .                                | 5        | ..       | 2        | 1        | 2        |
| Forestry .. .. .                                | ..       | ..       | 1        | ..       | ..       |

TABLE IV.

Educational centres to which students have gone.

|                           | 1914-15. | 1915-16. | 1916-17. | 1917-18. | 1918-19. |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Oxford .. .. .            | 4        | (?) 1    | ..       | 1        | 3        |
| Cambridge .. .. .         | (?) 1    | ..       | 2        | 2        | 1        |
| London .. .. .            | 3        | ..       | 1        | ..       | ..       |
| Bar { London Inns .. .. . | 2        | ..       | ..       | ..       | 1        |
| Kings Inns .. .. .        | 2        | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| Edinburgh .. .. .         | 3        | 2        | 3        | ..       | 1        |
| Glasgow .. .. .           | 1        | ..       | ..       | 1        | 1        |
| Dublin .. .. .            | 2        | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| Unknown .. .. .           | 1        | ..       | 1        | ..       | ..       |

(3)

Madras Students' Advisory Committee.

SATURDAY THE 26TH OCTOBER 1918.

The Nineteenth Meeting of the Committee was held at the Senate House at 8 a.m.

Present :

The Hon'ble Mr. F. D. P. OLDFIELD, I.C.S., *Vice-Chancellor and President.*  
M.R.Ry. Raja VASUDEVA RAJA AVARGAL, C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble the Rev. G. PITTENDRIGH, M.A.  
Mr. L.C. HODGSON, M.A.  
M.R.Ry. K. RAMUNNI MENON AVARGAL, M.A.  
Mr. PAUL APPASWAMI, M.A., LL.B., *Bar.-at-Law.*  
Rao Bahadur K. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR, M.A.  
The Rev. W. M. ZUMBRO, M.A.  
Mr. YOUNG NECKER, M.A.  
Dr. KRISHNA PANDALAI, LL.D., *Bar.-at-Law.*  
The Principal, *College of Engineering.*  
The Principal, *Medical College.*  
Mr. ARTHUR DAVIES, M.A., *Bar.-at-Law, Secretary.*

I. Read letter from the Residents at Hyderabad and in Mysore and from the Director of Industries regretting their inability to attend the meeting.

Recorded.

II. Read letters from Dr. T. W. Arnold, Educational Adviser at the India Office, dated the 16th May 1918, suggesting in reply to ours of the 12th March 1918 that the University of Madras may possibly be asked to approach the joint Board of Examiners of the Scottish Universities with a view to their proposed regulation regarding examination in English for candidates for admission being withdrawn in the case of graduates of Madras.

The Secretary is requested to address the Syndicate.

III. Read and Recorded the following :—

(a) Letter from Dr. T. W. Arnold, dated 21st June 1918, stating for the information of students that no teaching or examining body in Great Britain is holding examinations for diploma in Ophthalmology during the period of the war.



(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

TO PRESS, MADRAS OOTY.

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**B**  
Proof returned corrected. Please strike  
off and send number of copies as indicated.

**C**  
As the matter is clear in manuscript and  
has been carefully edited, (b) proof need  
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at once.

Type may be released after usual interval.

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Clerk.

Referencer.  
Clerk.

Referencer.  
Clerk.

Supdt.

Supdt.

Supdt.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

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