

Home (1919) Department.
Educational
Civics SERIES.

G.O. No.

652 *Mrs*

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INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council resolution
 Recording papers relating to the resolution moved by the
 Honble Mr. L. B. Krishna Rao at the meeting of the Legislative
 Council held on the 8th February 1919 regarding budget provision
 for the establishment of free boarding houses in select places
 in the Presidency for the benefit of scholarship of the
 depressed classes.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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



LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Resolution No. XLIII

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the 5th February 1919.

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Resolution may be forwarded to the
 File, Home (Educ) P W Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the
 rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these Resolutions in the
 Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due
 course.

L. A. C.

28.1.19

Leg U.O. No. 2241, dated 28.1.19

To

The

Home (Educ) Department with Re XLIII

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION REGARDING ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

[For the meeting of the 5th February 1919.]

[SUBJECT.—Provision for free boarding houses for scholars of depressed classes.]

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO :—

XXIV

XLIII.—This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be provided under '22. Education' for the establishment of free boarding houses in select places in the Presidency for the benefit of scholars of depressed classes and that a corresponding reduction be made under '45. Civil Works—Civil Buildings.'

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The grant of free meal and clothing to Panchama pupils is one of the several measures which have been put forward from time to time in connexion with the encouragement of Panchama education. The suggestion was first made by the Missionary Conference in 1892, and the Director of Public Instruction (Doctor Duncan) observed that it was out of the question to think of adopting it (paragraph 5 of note on page 14 of Notes to G.O. No. 875, Revenue, dated 19th April 1916). In 1914, the Rev. A. Andrew suggested that all the Panchama children might be granted a midday meal or a night meal if they could only attend a night school. The Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Stone, concurred in Doctor Duncan's view and observed that it was eminently a matter for philanthropic rather than State action (page 15 of Notes to G.O. No. 875, Revenue, dated 19th April 1916). The proposal was dropped.

2. When His Excellency the Governor visited South Kanara in 1917, the Secretary, Depressed Classes Mission in that district, made certain representations about Panchama education (page 24 of G.O. No. 272, dated 25th February 1918). He pointed out among other matters that owing to the poverty of the community it was difficult to enforce attendance of the children "unless food, dress, umbrellas and everything required is supplied from school in addition to free education." He therefore asked that the Director of Public Instruction should be directed to give aid to Panchama schools in South Kanara district at liberal concession rates not less than 100 per cent for at least ten years. On this, the Director of Public Instruction remarked that he could not, under the Grant-in-Aid Code, give money for feeding and clothing children, but that if Government were prepared to find special funds for the purpose he could allot them. The Honourable Member (Financial) in his note, dated 15th January 1918, noted as follows :—

"As regards educational grants, I am not sure what the percentages quoted mean. No special provision in the budget is necessary, but the Director of Public Instruction has been given ample funds and I think he should deal fairly liberally with these Panchama schools in South Kanara. He promises to see what he can do for them this year. I doubt if special rulings are required."

No further action was taken in the matter.

3. The Additional Member desires that a sum of Rs. 50,000 should be provided for free boarding houses in select places in the Presidency for pupils belonging to depressed classes. It is not known whether his intention is that the Government

should themselves establish these boarding houses. It may not be practicable to do this. The question till now has been that the Government should pay grants to managing bodies towards the provision of one meal. The practice of making grants-in-aid towards the provision of free meal already obtains in the case of certain classes of pupils. The Code of Regulations for European Schools provides for the payment of a special grant of Rs. 8 per mensem for each child in aid of boarding charges to orphanages and schools which, in the opinion of the department, provide an education suitable for children of the poorer classes of Europeans. Out of the recurring grant of Rs. 30,000 sanctioned by the Government of India for the extension of education among the poorer classes of the domiciled community in the City of Madras, a sum of Rs. 11,250 is utilized in the payment of grants towards the provision of free meals in day schools—G.O. No. 203, dated 4th March 1913. Recently, the Government have sanctioned the payment of scholarships to Chentsu pupils to cover their boarding charges—G.O. No. 100, dated 24th January 1919. The question for consideration is whether such a system should be extended to the children of depressed classes. The term "depressed classes" has not yet been defined and the extra expenditure may eventually amount to a very large sum. The question of the provision of funds for the purpose need be taken up only after the main question is settled.

4. Orders are solicited as to whether further information should be called for, whether the resolution should be discussed in the Executive Council and as to who will be in charge of it.

S.K.—29-1-19.

N.K.—29-1-19.

The Director of Public Instruction may be consulted u.o.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—30-1-19.

The resolution asking as it does for a free boarding house without further details cannot be accepted. But the Director of Public Instruction will in usual course perhaps in the interests of Panchama education consider the advisability of concentrating Panchama pupils in a suitable centre of education by giving them a special hostel. All this requires consideration and a budget provision appears to be premature.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—30-1-19.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The whole matter requires further consideration and budget provision would therefore be premature as remarked by the Secretary. Government recently made a reference to me in regard to Mr. Gray's proposals* which is relevant in this connexion.

* Separately under consideration.

H. S. DUNCAN—30-1-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that the file may now be circulated to His Excellency.

S.K.—30-1-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—30-1-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—30-1-19.

P[ENTLAND]—31-1-19.

Extract from the Proceedings of an Adjourned Meeting of the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 5 & 6 Geo. V, Ch. 61.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 6th day of February 1919.

RESOLUTION RE PROVISION FOR FREE BOARDING HOUSES FOR SCHOLARS OF DEPRESSED CLASSES.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have the honour to move :—

'XXIV. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be provided under 22. EDUCATION for the establishment of free boarding houses in select places in the Presidency for the benefit of scholars of depressed classes and that a corresponding reduction be made under '45. CIVIL WORKS—Civil Buildings.'

" Your Excellency, the question of the education of the depressed classes including in that term the Panchamas has received continued attention for some time past and if I move this resolution it is with the full belief that unless steps are taken in that direction, much cannot be done to improve their condition and to improve their education.

" Before I offer a few remarks as to the necessity for the establishment of such free boarding houses it is but desirable that we take a retrospect of the advance made in the case of education of Panchamas during the last five or six years. It will be found in the quinquennial report from 1911-12 to 1916-17 that there has been an increase of about 1,910 institutions for the education chiefly of Panchamas. The number of institutions was 3,781 in 1911-12 and it increased to 5,691 at the end of 1916-17; and the strength of these institutions which was 100,881 at the end of 1911-12, increased to 158,593 at the end of 1916-17, an increase of 57,712 pupils. If you take into account the Panchama pupils alone in these institutions, it was 72,190 at the end of 1911-12 and it increased to 120,607 at the end of 1916-17, an increase of 48,417. This progress is and can be considered to be fair in that quinquennium. But when we take into account the progress made in the year 1917-18, we have a different story to consider. In the year 1917-18, that is the last year for which information is available, the number of institutions increased from 5,691 to 5,814, an increase of 123; the strength in these schools was 159,593 in 1916-17 and in 1917-18 it was 165,467, an increase of 6,874. Notwithstanding the increase in the number of schools intended for them by 123, and the number of pupils in these schools by 6,874, we find that the number of Panchama pupils alone increased only by about 71. It was 120,607 at the end of 1916-17 and 120,678 at the end of 1917-18. The number of schools increased by 123, the number of pupils by 6,874, but the number of Panchama pupils alone by only 71. Having placed these figures before this Council, I may remind the Council that there can be no denial of the fact that the people, generally, the municipalities and the local boards and the Government have been paying increasing attention to the question of the education of the depressed classes. That is a fact which cannot be denied or ignored. It must also be admitted that if any prejudice existed in the way of the admission of the Panchama boys for education, that prejudice has been waning. This is a fact which is known to everyone and which is also recognized in the report of the Director of Public Instruction for the year 1917-18. It is fairly acknowledged therein that the Hindu community is evincing greater interest in the matter of the education of these classes. There is one important cause which, it must be stated, has really obstructed the progress of education, and has made education neither real, nor useful and that is the poverty of these people. It is that aspect of it which I consider necessary to place before this Council to-day. You find in your own experience when you visit the Panchama schools there are a number of cases in which there are no boarding houses or boarding places for their benefit, and the pupils are ill-fed and poorly clad and present a miserable appearance. If they are in that condition, can we really believe

(Mr. Krishna Rao ; Mr. Littlehailes.) [6TH FEBRUARY 1919.]

that they will have the real benefit of education and that they will improve by the education which is imparted to them in these schools? I can refer in this connexion to a very pathetic incident which was my own personal experience. It was on the 12th of December last, the Darbar day when all schools were instructed to have celebrations. It was usual for each individual school, to have all the pupils therein assembled on that day and to have some celebrations, probably some sweets and some festivities. On the last occasion, it struck me that so far as the municipal schools in Nellore were concerned, it would be better to take advantage of the opportunity, to bring all the pupils to a particular place so that the boys of all the schools may enjoy in common. There are two Panchama schools; and the headmasters of those schools went to me and pathetically requested that they might be excused from attending the celebration and that their pupils might not be asked to go there. They said 'we do not want to exhibit our Panchama pupils along with others; they have no clothes, they have no dress, they are ill-fed and they present a starving appearance. Do not insist on the attendance of these boys at that gathering. Please excuse us.' It was a pathetic story but with some inconvenience, some arrangements were made for their benefit and they were induced to come. Can we believe that if they are to be in that condition, a condition in which they cannot have proper food at home and proper clothing, they can really have the benefit of good education? I am sure not. If we find that persons of the depressed classes have been showing improvement, it is in places where there are schools under the management of Mission agencies, where there have been boarding houses and where arrangements have been made for their benefit. I would therefore suggest that this problem of the advance of Panchama education can only be satisfactorily solved if some arrangements are made in the immediate future for improving their condition and for establishing boarding houses for their benefit. It will be found that this aspect of it also was considered by the Department of Education in dealing with it in their report of the last quinquennium. After pointing out some difficulties and some prejudices in certain parts of the Presidency, and after referring to the general interest taken in the community it is stated that 'other difficulties in the way of progress are poverty and the want of teachers. Poverty proves a bar to education in two directions. The parent is naturally disinclined to send his child to school when his earnings may be of help to the family. On the other hand, if his son is sent to school, he often comes half-starved and benefits little from the instruction given.' That is the statement of the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction in the report. I have placed before this Council what was within my experience and what I believe would be within the experience of almost every Honourable Member of this Council.

"I do not think there can be any difference of opinion as to the object of this resolution. Every one will be satisfied at once that unless facilities are afforded, it is not possible to expect any improvement in their condition. The only question is whether it is feasible to take up this question and whether it is possible to make a provision in the budget for that purpose. That is the question with which I have to deal on this occasion.

"My Lord, I know that this question, if it is to be extended to all the schools in the Presidency all at once, may cost much more than what I have asked for in this resolution. I know that in working boarding houses in various parts of the Presidency, there are several initial difficulties to be contended against; but if Your Excellency's Government are satisfied that there has been increasing interest taken by local bodies in the development of the education of this community, I have every hope that the local bodies can be used as agencies for the purpose of establishing these boarding houses and maintaining them in a satisfactory manner. Government should come to their rescue and allot funds for that purpose, with whatever safeguards or restrictions that the Government may think fit to impose. It may not be possible to start these boarding houses all at once throughout the Presidency; but it is possible, I am sure, to start such free boarding houses in some selected places in the Presidency after considering the conditions of the locality, the number of persons who are likely to take advantage of these institutions and the agency which will gladly undertake that responsibility; and after taking steps in that direction in some selected places, the system can be gradually extended to other places as far as possible. It is with that object that I have considered it desirable to place this resolution before this Council to-day. I have asked for a budget allotment of Rs. 50,000 for this purpose. As to the scheme which is to be framed, I have not the slightest doubt whatever that once the provision is made, a satisfactory scheme can be worked out by correspondence between the Department of Education on the one side and the local authorities on the other; when once it is understood that both of them have the cause of the depressed classes at heart and want to improve their education, there will be no difficulty whatever in working out a scheme which will satisfactorily solve this problem. With these remarks, I commend this resolution. I have not the slightest doubt that the Government would be in a position to allot some funds for this purpose, be it Rs. 50,000 or for an experiment being tried, Rs. 25,000. Some reasonable provision must be made in the coming year."

The Hon'ble the Most Reverend John Aelen seconded the resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES:—"Your Excellency, I feel I am voicing the sentiments of everyone when I say that we all have the object of this resolution at heart, that is to say the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. The difficulty lies not in sympathizing with the resolution, but in the practical application of our sympathy. The depressed classes have not, so far as I know, been carefully defined. We speak, in our ordinary code and rules, of the Panchamas and certain backward classes, as educationally backward classes; but the depressed classes of

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this Presidency number at a rough estimate about 10 millions and the question that is opened before us is so immensely large that I do not think, Sir, I see any way out of the difficulty that has been presented before us of ameliorating their condition by this specific method. The department has always given every consideration in the award of grants to Panchamas and backward classes and I am certain that the Government are always willing to consider what can be done in that direction. But the problem appears to me at present to be one of offering facilities for education to these backward classes who are able to take advantage of them. The matter of depressed classes is being considered by the department and until the department has further time to consider it, I do not think that it has reached the stage yet when a specific budget provision can be provided for; as the Honourable Mover has mentioned, a great deal of correspondence is required between the Director of Public Instruction and the local bodies and I do not think that any successful settlement of the question can be come to in the course of the incoming year which would necessitate the insertion of the budget provision."

The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. NARASIMHA AYYAR:—"Your Excellency, on this resolution I expected that there would be something specific coming from the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction which would convince this council that this resolution should be negatived. We have heard, *ad nauseam*, about the neglect of the interests of the depressed classes by various sets of persons, but the test has always been stated to be how far people are really coming forward to help the depressed classes out of their present lot of illiteracy. The question has always been, how much can be done and various apologists have come forward for the local bodies, for the Government institutions, and for various caste institutions to explain why much could not be done. I have had the pleasure of listening to one apology now from the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction, an apology for not doing more, and I must say that I am not convinced that the apology is satisfactory. There is a proposal now that we should start helping the depressed classes in a way that we have not done before. One particular way is chalked out now and that is providing for free boarding houses for such depressed classes as could be attended to within the sum of Rs. 50,000 during the budget year. I have not heard anything from the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction to show that this is a wild scheme or that the money is not forthcoming or that it will disturb the budget, that we will not be able to proceed further. The one objection which had some appearance of a ground in it was that correspondence would have to be maintained and this correspondence will go on not only during the rest of the present year, but during the major portion of the next year, that with our red-tapism we will not be able to get any scheme and therefore that no provision need be made. If that is so, I must say that this confession is sufficient condemnation of red-tapism and of our present methods and some drastic remedies must be adopted. The Honourable Mover pointed out that with very little correspondence, the scheme could be started. The Department of Public Instruction has got a great advantage in being more learned and has discovered a great many things about education. But on the simple question of finding out who the depressed classes are, who should be helped and in which way, the department has failed and we have now to trust local bodies to do it. Suppose to the Nellore District Board you hand over Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 5,000 and ask them to select five centres where they could give free boarding to Panchama boys to improve their education, rules as to funds have to be framed and other correspondence may be carried on for decades, but that is not such an essential pre-requisite that we should postpone the proposal if otherwise it is good. If this Council is going for this simple reason to reject the proposal, the Council will be open to attack by the poorer classes; they will say 'they will all talk nicely on platforms and in despatches, but when it comes to the true test of action, we find that their professions are only lip-deep; it is merely lip sympathy.' My own humble opinion is that it is much better that we do not lay ourselves open to such an attack. Apart from the question of attack or defence, let us consider whether there is anything serious that stands in the way of assisting Panchama education. The great block on the progress of education is the fact that there are so many millions who remain immersed in dense darkness and if we are going to suggest one slight way to get out of it, and if we are to be frightened by the correspondence which would stand in the way, I am afraid we do not deserve the name of business men. I am perfectly certain that correspondence of more than two or three months would be undesirable, and will prove that we shall lack in business habits. We can trust the presidents of various district boards to administer small sums with such supervision as the educational authorities can give. If there is the will, even red-tapism can give way. On this occasion I would earnestly entreat all Honourable Members here not to give way to this bogey of correspondence and veto this scheme. The other objection raised appears to be extremely departmental and technical and would not impress laymen. It is that the depressed classes are not defined. These terms have acquired a definite meaning. I am afraid even the term 'vegetable' cannot be fairly accurately defined. And yet vegetarianism is a fact. We people are apt to be too learned and may become unintelligible to ordinary people. The other objection stated was that the depressed classes number 10 millions and how can we do anything for them? It is undoubtedly true that the task is great, but is that a reason for giving up any scheme? If we can assist so many as two millions in the course of next year, we will have made an honest beginning. Else the ten millions are entitled to say 'your professions are great but your performances are poor'.

"There is a rather vague phrase of the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction that he does not see any way of improving these classes except by grants. Grants are well-known. Government are doing a great deal and private bodies have been doing a great deal so far as the

(Mr. Narasimha Ayyar; Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao; [6TH FEBRUARY 1919.
the President.)

past is concerned, but it is the future that has to be regarded because the past has really, after all is said and done, been a very poor performance. To add a word from my own personal experience, I must say in my attempts as chairman and as a public man to improve the Panchama classes and their status and education, I found that it was their grinding poverty that prevented my work. I wanted to go into the slums and tried to induce a few parents to send their children, but the Panchama was so wretchedly poor and the idea of sending a child five years old to school seems to be entirely out of his way. His idea is to keep the wolf from the door with the help of the child though the little child is practically naked without proper clothing. There are a number of obstacles which prevent him from sending the boy to school some of which would be removed by free boarding institutions. If a grant of Rs. 1,000 were to be placed at the hands of the Salem District Board, I can guarantee that you will find full value for every pie of your money; there will be no humbug, there will be no fraud; many councillors and many taluk board members will come forward with their real sympathy, not lip sympathy on the platform or in press communiqués. I hope the real sympathy of Honourable Members here in this Council which they have expressed any number of times would show itself in voting on this proposition."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"My Lord, I wish the Hon'ble Mr. Littlehales had made a reply which was more satisfactory than it was. He gave three reasons for not accepting this resolution. One of them is that before this resolution can be accepted, the exact category of the classes who would come within the term 'depressed classes' must first be settled. My Lord, the Educational Conference took some pains to elaborate a definition of these classes who come within that category of the backward classes and Your Excellency's Government have rejected the proposals of the Conference and have referred the matter back to the Director of Public Instruction. I take it that his statement amounts to this: till he completes his inquiry as suggested in the Government Order, he will not be in a position to accept any such motion. That is the first argument. Independently of any inquiry as to who should be regarded as depressed classes, it seems to me that the question may be tackled by applying this grant to the class known as Panchamas. In the Telugu country the Malas and Madigas and in the Tamil country the Pallas, the Paraiyas and the Chucklers are known to belong to this class. Under these circumstances, it seems to me that it is unnecessary to wait till this inquiry as to who should be regarded as backward classes is completed. My Lord, I have been to many mission boarding houses which are maintained by voluntary subscriptions and a great deal of good work is being done for the amelioration of this class and what is now asked for is if the various depressed classes societies which are doing a good deal of useful work and which are in charge of educational institutions are asked to undertake the question of boarding, then the question of the education of Panchamas will be much more easy. Apart from this, there are also local bodies and I do not see how it would be difficult to distribute Rs. 50,000 or any lesser sum among these two agencies which are now doing educational work, namely, the local bodies, and the various depressed classes societies and also the missionary bodies to whom also some relief might be afforded. As regards the desirability of undertaking boarding, it is unnecessary to say in support of the proposal. If a Panchama is allowed to keep his child without education, he would prefer to do so for the very simple reason that he would like his boy to supplement his own resources, he would like his boy or girl to be employed either in agricultural labour or any other kind of labour. The whole question of Panchama education is beset with very great difficulties and even if Rs. 50,000 is taken merely for the purpose of an experiment to see what can be done and how we can improve their position and how we can keep them in some degree of comfort, at the time they are in school, if it does not lead to anything else, it will be valuable experiment in attacking the question of Panchama education. I trust, Your Excellency, that this proposal to put down some amount of money for maintaining boarding houses for these unfortunate people will be received with better consideration than it has from the Government and if I may say so, any money spent in this direction will never be objected to; but, on the other hand, I believe that every Honourable Member of this Council would welcome any proposals in aid of these unfortunates. If we are merely to confine ourselves to an elaborate scheme of educational facilities, I do not think that we should be doing very much in furthering Panchama education. It seems to me that we must go further and make an exception not merely for providing educational facilities, but also some facilities for boarding during the period of education. It is unnecessary to discuss this at greater length.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"Might I be allowed to say a word? There has been a debate on a subject on which there is no difference of opinion. We are all anxious to help the education of the depressed classes. We are having rather a controversial debate on a matter on which there is perfect agreement generally on principle in the Council, but the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction has unfortunately been obliged to adhere to the rules and regulations under which these discussions have to be carried out. He has been obliged to point out that there is no scheme put before this Government for the allotment of this money, that the resolution is quite general in its terms and that it proposes to lay upon the Government the responsibility which they never had to bear hitherto. Let us try and reconcile the differences which seem to exist. It may be an excellent thing to establish boarding houses for such children, but let me say this: the difficulty is not in defining the backward classes, but the difficulty is in defining the depressed classes. It is quite easy for missionary societies or charitable

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or voluntary societies of any kind when they wish to establish boarding houses for children in any particular locality,—it is quite easy for them to admit children whom they wish to admit. But when you want to lay that responsibility on the Government, then they have to be impartial to all localities and as to what children are to be admitted into such institutions. The Hon'ble Mr. Narasimha Ayyar's point of view is that district boards and local authorities should establish those institutions or other local authorities should establish such institutions and he said 'give the district board Rs. 1,000 and it will make a sound experiment on these lines'. I would ask the Honourable Gentleman how far this Rs. 1,000 would go towards paying the annual cost for a free boarding house for children of the depressed classes. Then the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao makes quite an interesting suggestion that voluntary societies who are already doing the work should be helped. I think that is a very good and practical suggestion that voluntary societies, missionary and other societies should be helped so that they may be encouraged, but as a matter of fact they have been encouraged; such institutions are being encouraged. I do ask this Council—I am afraid it is a very dull and prosaic view—to remember that we have to settle how much sum of money is to be put into the budget this year. There is practically no scheme before Government under which this money could be spent. I am quite sure if any society will send up a practical scheme, an experimental scheme for the purpose, it will be considered most carefully and that will possibly be the best way of approaching a subject of this kind. Let some experiment be started which may prove successful and which will reveal to us the difficulties which any institution of the kind has to meet. That is the practical way of dealing with the question. Let us for a moment withdraw this resolution, there is really no detailed scheme for the application of money; we shall not magnify differences and make differences when no differences exist. There are a great many questions that have to be considered when you transfer efforts of this kind from the voluntary sphere to the Government sphere. It is quite a different matter to lay on the Government a duty of this kind. You will have to treat all parts and all people equally, and you will have to be fair. I venture most respectfully to lay these suggestions before this Council."

The Hon'ble Mr. B. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"Your Excellency, there is no difficulty, so far as the application of this resolution is concerned, as to whom it is to be made applicable. We have taken it that it practically relates to the Panchamas or the untouchables. Even in our own Presidency, when we refer to page 140 of the Civil Budget Estimate, we find, under the head of 'European education', boarding grants to children and grants to children in out-of-the-way places to the extent of Rs. 1,10,000. Therefore, we know how boarding grants are given for European boys. At the one end we have that class; now we shall go to the other end and give something to the Panchama class. For the ruling class, we have provided; let us go to the other end and give to the panchamas some grant. How to provide grants, it is not difficult for the Secretariat to come to some understanding. If the intention is to provide something, a cut and dry scheme may be prepared in the Government office as to how best the budget grant may be utilized. I do not think that the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction will find it difficult to devise a scheme by which to provide free meals to Panchama boys. The question is we must begin at one time or another, let us make a beginning now with the Panchama boys."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO:—"Your Excellency, it has been suggested that so long as there is no difference in the object underlying this resolution and that so long as there is no ready scheme which can be worked out at once, it is not necessary to make a budget provision. Your Excellency will be pleased to notice that the idea of starting boarding houses and the method of working them is not a new one with which people are unacquainted in this country. Hostels have been established in various districts of the Presidency and are attached to various schools; and they are being worked in a satisfactory manner. The difficulty has been all along one of resources, one of ways and means, one of funds. If it is possible to find the funds, there can be no difficulty whatever in giving a start in various places. So far as the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction is concerned, his difficulty appears to be that much time is required for considering whether the Educational Department can take up this responsibility and for the Educational Department evolving a scheme which will be satisfactory. If the department is prepared to take up this work and start such boarding houses in some selected centres in the Presidency, it is, I believe, quite possible to have the necessary correspondence through the Inspectors and give it a start in the course of the next year. If for any reason it is believed that the correspondence between the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspectors, between the Inspectors and their assistants is likely to take much time, may I not ask that the necessary allotment can be made and the district boards may at once be consulted whether they can take up this task in suitable centres? I am quite sure that within the remaining portion of this year it will be possible for some of them to make up their minds and come forward with proposals; and in some cases a beginning can be made in that direction. I would, therefore, suggest, Your Excellency, that if for any reasons Government find it difficult to take up that heavy task without a very long inquiry, which cannot be completed till next year, some provision may be made and after consulting district boards funds may be allotted to some of them for giving a start to carry out this long-needed reform. I do not myself see that there would be any difficulties in carrying out this experiment. Several managers of schools are well acquainted with the system of starting boarding houses; and even the question of accommodation is not likely to cause difficulties, as hundreds of students are not likely to require accommodation. In the beginning they may be located in a rented house. It is very unfortunate that local bodies are not themselves in a position—by an examination of their

(Mr. Krishna Rao; the President.) [6TH FEBRUARY 1919.]

budgets, I say this—to give a start in this direction. An examination of the budgets sent by them shows that they find it very difficult to maintain the minimum balance and that they come forward to the Government with requests for money. Such is their unfortunate condition; and that is the reason why they are not in a position to make a beginning. If Government are pleased to make an allotment and help them, it will be possible to help the depressed classes. Even if it be only a few children who are helped, I think it will serve a useful purpose. As to the definition of depressed classes, I can inform Your Excellency that I have taken it in the sense in which it is used in the report of the Director of Public Instruction."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"Is it depressed classes or backward classes?"

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO:—"I took it from the Quinquennial report, page 67. The heading is 'Education of backward and other special classes' and the sub-heading (a) is 'depressed classes'. Then they deal with the education of the depressed classes; they include under it the Panchamas, the Pallas, the Madigas, the Malas and they proceed to consider the progress made in education. I would request that for all practical purposes we can, for the present, adopt the definition given by the Director of Public Instruction; we might try the experiment and make a beginning."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"I can assure the Honourable Member that any practical scheme that is sent up will be considered."

The resolution was put and lost.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

For	Against
The Hon'ble Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao.	The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew.
" " P. Siva Rao.	" Mr. L. Davidson.
" " K. Rama Ayyangar.	" " C. G. Todhunter.
" " K. Sadasiva Bhat.	" " A. Y. G. Campbell.
" " K. R. Suryanarayana-	" " R. Ramachandra Rao.
murti Nayudu.	" " M. Young.
" " B. Venkatapati Raju.	" " L. E. Buckley.
" " Muppil Nayar.	" " R. B. Wood.
" the Raja of Pithapuram.	" Khan Bahadur Aziz-ud-din
" Mr. A. Subbarayalu	Sahib.
Reddiyar.	" Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks.
" " T. Ranga Achariyar.	" " R. Littlehailes.
" Yaqub Hasan Sahib	" Sir Fairless Barber.
Bahadur.	" " Gordon Fraser.
" Mr. A. Suryanarayana Rao.	" Mr. J. H. Thonger.
" " A. S. Krishna Rao.	" " W. Hutton.
" " B. V. Narasimha Ayyar.	" " W. J. J. Howley.
" the Most Reverend John	" the Advocate-General.
Aelen.	" Mr. P. Rajagopala Achariyar.
	" " H. G. Stokes.

The resolution was lost 15 voting for and 19 against it.

H. G. STOKES,
Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

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