

Government of Madras
HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 818, 1st July 1919

Report

Recording the — on the working of the Government College, Kumbakonam, during the year 1918-19.

INDEXED

ORIGINAL

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G.O. No. 818, 1st July 1919

Report

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READ—the following paper :—

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 18th June 1919.

No.—R.C. 4626.

I have the honour to submit herewith for the information of Government a copy of my Proceedings R.C. No. 4626/19, dated 14th June 1919 reviewing the report on the working of the Government College, Kumbakonam, for the year 1918-19.

ENCLOSURE

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, R.C. No. 4626, dated, 14th June 1919.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from R. M. SIATHAM, Esq., Principal, Government College, Kumbakonam.

To—the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

Dated—the 20th May 1919.

No.—R.C. 211.

I have the honour to submit my report on the working of the college for the year 1918-19.

2. *Teaching staff*.—I was on special duty in connexion with the Publicity Board from 31st October 1918 to the 5th January 1919. M.R.Ry. P. Rajagopala Ayyar Avargal, lecturer, acted as Principal during my absence.

M.R.Ry. S. Balakrishna Ayyar remained in the college till the afternoon of 16th September 1918 when he was relieved by M.R.Ry. S. Muttukrishna Ayyar of the Rajahmundry College.

M.R.Ry. K. C. Subrahmanya Ayyar remained in the college till the afternoon of 26th September 1918 when he was relieved by M.R.Ry. S. Ganapatisubrahmanya Ayyar of the Mangalore College.

M.R.Ry. A. Raghava Ayyar remained in the college till the 26th July 1918 when he was relieved by M.R.Ry. P. V. Subrahmanya Ayyar of the Mangalore College.

M.R.Ry. K. C. Viraraghava Ayyar took charge in this college as assistant lecturer in chemistry with effect from 22nd July 1918 [being the appointment newly sanctioned by Government in G.O. No. 510, Home (Education), dated 20th April 1918.]

M.R.Ry. S. Venkata Acharya took charge in this college as additional assistant lecturer in history with effect from 12th August 1918. The appointment was newly sanctioned by Government in their order quoted above.

Two demonstrators—one in (physics) and the other in (chemistry) were sanctioned in the Director of Public Instruction's Proceedings R.C. No. 7273, dated 6th September 1918, till the 8th July 1919.

M.R.Ry. K. Minakshisundaram (demonstrator in physics) took charge in the college on 13th September 1918.

M.R.Ry. S. Palaniandi Pillai (demonstrator in chemistry) took charge in the college on 23rd September 1918.

Mr. L. Srinivasa Ayyar continued in service as Tamil tutor [vide G.O. No. 1630, Home (Education), dated 18th December 1918].

The college was strengthened by the appointment of a permanent typewriting clerk with effect from 1st March 1919 in lieu of the temporary clerk sanctioned till that date [vide G.O. No. 891, Home (Education), dated 28th March 1919].

Storekeeper.—Mr. H. Y. Harihara Ayyar acted as storekeeper from 23rd May 1918 to 9th August 1918 (both days inclusive) and he was transferred to the Director of Public Instruction's office. He was relieved here in the afternoon of 9th August 1918. K. R. Chinnappa Pillai (senior laboratory attendant) was appointed in his stead temporarily from 10th August 1918 till 31st March 1919 under exemption from the examination rules till that period sanctioned in the Director of Public Instruction's Proceedings R.C. No. 4175, dated 2nd October 1918.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Sastri was appointed as an acting Sanskrit Pandit for two months. He joined duty on 1st February 1919.

English tutor.—M.R.Ry. V. Venugopalan was transferred from the Teachers' College, Saidapet, as temporary tutor in English in this college. He joined duty in this college on the 3rd February 1919. He was relieved here in the afternoon of 31st March 1919 to join his appointment in the Teachers' College, Saidapet.

3. **Accommodation and equipment.**—The fittings of the new chemistry laboratory were completed during the year. A large number of new dual desks were made locally and supplied to the college. Two outhouses in the compound were demolished. They are to be reconstructed elsewhere.

4. **Strength and attendance.**—The number at the end of the year was 404, the average daily number on the rolls was 434, and the average daily attendance was 402. For particulars as to the number of students on the rolls in the first and second terms of 1917-18 and 1918-19 please see statement X. The figures given in the statement do not show the real strength of the college, since in the short term a large number of students (second year) left the college. During the year the maximum strength of the college was 471. The junior B.A. class reached the unprecedented total of 99.

It is gratifying to note that the large increase in the strength of the college was almost entirely due to additional students in the B.A. classes. The number in the Junior Intermediate slightly declined.

5. **Classification of students.**—Please see appendices A and B. All students have been either vaccinated or bear marks of smallpox.

6. The number of books issued to students and members of the college staff was 5,633*

The number of volumes added to the library 400

The total number of volumes at the end of the year 10,024

7. **Finance.**—The total receipts and charges for the year were Rs. 40,651-3-0 and Rs. 67,525-3-7 respectively. The net expenditure was Rs. 26,874-0-7 against Rs. 27,898-2-6 in the year 1917-18. The net cost per student was Rs. 67 against 79 in the year previous. The college accounts were audited during the year.

8. **Hostel.**—A new hostel was opened in a rented building next to the old hostel, in order to meet the large increase of students coming to the B.A. classes from outside the Tanjore district. The detailed report on the working of the hostel will be submitted in June as usual.

9. **The tutorial system.**—The increased strength of the college has made the tutorial work of the staff considerably heavier. As explained elsewhere in this report, the ill-health amongst the staff and the students during the year prevented the tutorial system from working as well as it did during the previous year.

10. **Discipline and work of the college.**—The year has been an exceptionally unfortunate one; and regular work was continually interrupted throughout the long term. Frequent changes in staff and the repeated ill-health of students and of individual members of the staff, necessarily seriously affected all college activities. The Senior Intermediate class, in particular, suffered severely and I cannot look forward with any confidence to the coming Intermediate examination results. The

* This figure includes the number issued from the class libraries by the lecturers in charge of them.

Senior B.A., however, worked more steadily and less interruptedly and the results of this class should be good. Even during the normal years in Kumbakonam, students are at the mercy of cholera and smallpox epidemics. But this year, the ravages of influenza which was epidemic in Kumbakonam, three times during the long term, not only caused regrettable deaths in the college, but also seriously weakened the already none-too strong stamina of the students. During one epidemic, I had to close the college for a period of ten days. It is to be hoped that the University and Government will recognize the disabilities under which the students worked during the past year. Four students of the college died during the year; two of them being particularly bright students. In my last college report, I had also to draw the attention of the Government to the grave state of ill-health in the Kumbakonam town and its resultant effect on the college students. And I would again urge the necessity for a brisk campaign against disease. Kumbakonam is one of the largest educational centres in the Presidency; and every year the physique of both the school and college students declines. Regular medical examination of college students would be a great help; although in most cases, it comes too late unless there has been regular medical examination in the schools.

During the year, a local eye doctor of repute, Doctor Ekambaram very kindly volunteered to examine the college students for eye trouble free of charge.

University and promotion examinations.—The results of the University examinations are given in the Appendices C and D. The number of complete passes in the Intermediate examination were as usual regrettably small, but nevertheless showed an increase of 5 per cent on the previous year's result. The B.A. degree examination results were good. For the first time for many years, we obtained a first class in English. The results in the English Language division showed an increase on last year of 23 per cent; in the History division there was an increase of 20 per cent. The new Physics division passed 75 per cent, though of course, it was only a small class.

The Philosophy Lecturer Mr. L. A. Ganapati Ayyar continued his record of passing a 100 per cent each year. The mathematics results were a little disappointing, but we have always found it very difficult to retain the good mathematics students from the Intermediate at Kumbakonam. Most of them attempt to gain admission in Madras Colleges.

In the promotion examinations one student of the Junior B.A. class was detained and seven students were detained in the Junior Intermediate.

11. **Scholarships.**—The following students were in receipt of the scholarships and prizes noted against each of them:—

S. Raghunadan	IV class.	Government Scholars.
L. Kuppu Rao	III	
P. R. Srinivasan	II	
M. Ghulam Dustagir	I	
N. Gopalan	Beauchamp and Mooppanar's Prize for Philosophy for the year 1916-17.	
M. Kannan	Beauchamp and Mooppanar's Prize for English for the year 1916-17.	
S. Srinivasaraghavan	Sundarama Ayyar's Prize for 1916-17.	
	Beauchamp and Mooppanar's Prize for History for the year 1916-17.	
	Morris Medal for the year 1916-17.	
G. Srinivasa Rao	Beauchamp and Mooppanar's Prize for Mathematics for the year 1916-17.	
T. S. Vaidhyanthan.	Junior Subrahmanyam scholarship for the year 1918-19.	
R. Rangamannar		
K. Venkataraman	Senior Subrahmanyam scholarship for the year 1918-19.	
R. Krishnamachari.		
S. D. Srinivasan	K. Ranganatha Rao's scholarship for the year 1918-19.	
G. Gopala Rao	Chittoor Ayyaswami Ayyar's scholarship.	

The Kumbakonam College Old Boys' Association has, during the past years, as usual, magnificently supplemented the college scholarships. They provided funds for 37 scholarships a month, and at the recent annual general meeting of the Association they set aside a sum of Rs. 3,400 as a permanent endowment. Diwan Bahadur

V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E. (an old boy) has almost made a permanent endowment for the institution of a scholarship for Sanskrit. The College Old Boys' Association is registered under the Charitable Endowment's Act.

12. *Games and athletics.*—Mr. S. Balakrishna Ayyar who had done splendid work on behalf of college athletics left us during the year, and I appointed Mr. S. Muttukrishna Ayyar as secretary in his stead. The Rowing club had a disappointing year, as very little water flowed in the Cauvery during the year; but Mr. P. Rajagopala Ayyar was as active a builder as ever and two large new four-oared boats were built during the year. The college teams, hockey, football and badminton, toured to Bangalore. The football team, after a severe struggle, defeated the Mannargudi College in the finals of Seshu Ayyar Memorial Mayavaram Tournament, and brought back a silver shield. The college annual sports were held in October. The tennis team again reached the finals of the Tanjore District Tournament. A new tennis court was constructed during the year, and considerable repairs were executed in the grounds.

13. *College societies.*—The college societies though more numerous were less active than last year, owing to reasons already referred to. A musical society was founded at the end of the year, and a college co-operative society began work under the guidance of Mr. T. K. Hanumanta Rao, who is a veteran co-operator. The society should prove of great use to students in these times of high prices. The literary society staged "Richard III", in aid of its Journal Fund, when Mr. P. Rajagopala Ayyar was acting Principal. The Tamil Sangam successfully staged "Manohara", with Mr. K. S. Patrachariar as conductor. The staff of the college literary society's journal were very active and have been given an office room of their own.

14. *General.*—A temporary shed was erected during the year as a common room for students. The need for a permanent structure for this purpose is greatly felt. The general library has outgrown its room and badly needs more accommodation. Mr. P. Rajagopala Ayyar has done much to popularise the new physics courses in the B.A. and there was a large increase of physics students in the Junior B.A. this year. The two halls vacated by the transfer of the chemistry laboratory to a new block have been partly fitted up and an early application for an allotment with which to complete the fittings will be made. With an additional assistant lecturer in physics, it should be possible to apply for affiliation for the B.Sc. course. The Madras University Commission inspected the college during the year. Their report is awaited. The gymnastics training class attached to the college worked well and three members of the class passed the annual examination held at Madras. A report on the working of the Art School attached to the college will be as usual submitted later. I am very grateful to Mr. P. Rajagopala Ayyar for the efficient and tactful manner in which he carried on all the activities of the college during my absence on deputation.

I take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the members of the college staff for their generous co-operation throughout the year. Many of them suffered severely and repeatedly from ill-health during the year, and their work was thereby rendered the more arduous. The college writer and the members of the clerical staff including the gymnastic instructor worked most ungrudgingly and well throughout the year. Even with the addition of a permanent typewriting clerk the college office has great difficulty in coping with the large increase of work, caused by the growing strength of the college. I have pointed out these difficulties in my reply to the auditor's report.

STATEMENT X.

Statement giving particulars as to the number of students on the rolls in the first and second terms of 1917-18 and 1918-19.

Classes.	1917-18.		1918-19.	
	First term.	Second term.	First term.	Second term.
First year	127	118	104	103
Second	192	146	186	162
Third	50	49	96	95
Fourth	42	39	61	54

APPENDIX A.

I. Distribution of students according to caste or race—

Mohammedan	1
Brahmans	361
Non-Brahmans	42
Total	404

II. Distribution of students according to occupation of parents or guardian—

Officials	125
Petty officials	51
Traders	16
Landholders	200
Mendicants	3
Others	9
Total	404

III. Distribution of students according to wealth—

Richer classes	16
Middle	272
Poorer	116
Total	404

APPENDIX B.

Distribution of students according to the districts to which they belong.

Districts.	Intermediate.		B.A. class.		Total.
	First-year class.	Second-year class.	Third-year class.	Fourth-year class.	
Tanjore	99	145	79	48	365
Trichinopoly	1	1	..	..	2
Puduchottai	..	..	..	2	2
North Arcot	..	1	..	..	1
South Arcot	2	3	2	1	8
Ramanad	1	..	..	..	3
.. .. .	..	..	..	2	2
South Kanara	..	1	1	..	2
Madura	..	..	3	1	4
Coimbatore	..	..	..	1	1
Mercaara, Coorg	..	..	3	1	4
Malabar	..	..	..	1	1
Oudupah	..	..	1	..	2
Cochin	1	..	2	..	2
Nellore	..	..	3	..	3
Tinnevely	..	..	1	..	1
Mysore	..	..	..	..	..
Total	103	162	95	54	404

APPENDIX C.

Results of the Intermediate examination in Arts and B.A. Degree examination pass course, 1917-18.

Examination and group.	Examined.	First class.	Second class.	Total.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION.							
Group I	49	4	22	26	27.9	15.6	20.8
III	79		..	9	..	..	..
Part I only	..		..	27	..	..	..
.. II	..		..	..	..	..	..
Part I only (already passed in Part II)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Part II only (already passed in Part I)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION.							
1. English language division	36	1	16	17	20 per cent.	24 per cent.	47.2 per cent.
2. Science division	4	..	3	3	..	75	..
Mathematics	..	..	2	2	70 per cent.	33.3 per cent.	40
History	6	..	8	11	..	30.8	50
Philosophy	10	..	10	10	100	100	100

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