

Home (1919) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 968

DATED 8-8-1919

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Native High School, Kumbakonam.

Declining to comply with the request of the manager---
that the school may be taken over by Government and that he may
be given additional grants-in-aid of the school.

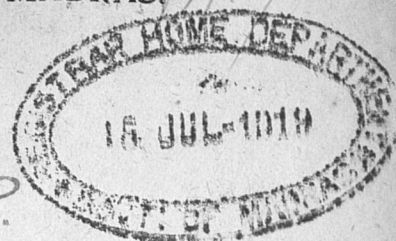
BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MADRAS.



Memo. No. 196-P.

Transferred to the Secretary to Government, Home (Education)

Department, for favour of disposal.

ENCLOSURES :

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(By order of His Excellency the Governor.)

Ootacamund,

The 12th July 1919.

Aditya
Private Secretary.

Native High School, Kumbhakonam.

29th June 1919

To

200 K. Mahadevan S. Appa Sastri B. A.,
Manager, Head-Master & Correspondent,
Native High School, Kumbhakonam.



To

The Private Secretary

of His Excellency Lord Willingdon C.B. S.I., C.B.I.S. C.B.E.
Governor of Fort St George (Madras)

Sir,

I have the honor to request you to be so kind as to place my memorial before His Excellency for His Excellency's favorable consideration and disposal.

In this connection, I beg to submit that I am the Head-Master, Manager, Proprietor & Correspondent of the Native High School, Kumbhakonam, Tanjore District, which was founded by me on the 1st of March 1876, in which month I graduated from the Government College, Kumbhakonam. During this exceptionally long period of 43 years & 4 months, I have done good & efficient work as Teacher, Head-Master & Manager to the satisfaction of the Department, & a result pronounced by all the Educational authorities to be uniformly so. To the excellent character of the management & of the results produced, successive Inspectors of Schools & Directors of Public & other great educational institutions - Principals & Professors of Colleges & have borne appreciative testimony. The Imperial & the local Government

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have marked their appreciation of my work by conferring on me
distinctions & titles from time to time; and I am exceedingly grateful
to the Government & the Department for these marks of honor. I
stand alone among Head-masters & Managers, for no other Headmaster
has been similarly recognized & similarly honored. No other graduate-teacher
or graduate Headmaster has done similar work for such a long period
as 43 years & 6 months in the capacity of Teacher, Headmaster, Manager,
Proprietor & Correspondent at the same time. This is my claim for aid
based purely on the good & efficient work done, & this claim I have
set forth clearly in the memorial which you will kindly present
into the hands of His Excellency & oblige:

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant
Das Bahadur S. Afflu

To

His Excellency The Right Hon'ble

THE LORD WILLINGDON G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.,

**Governor of the Presidency of Fort St. George,
MADRAS.**

May it please your Excellency,

I, the Manager, the Head Master, Proprietor, and the Correspondent of the Native High School, Kumbakonam, most humbly and respectfully beg to submit the following to your Excellency, in the most earnest conviction and sanguine expectation that it will receive your Excellency's sympathetic consideration and liberal treatment.

This institution, the Native High School, Kumbakonam, was established by me on the 1st of March 1876, when the Government Model High School was in existence in Kumbakonam, then. I took my B. A. Degree in the same month and year—March 1876. Ever since the **1st of March 1876**, I have done work in this institution **continuously** for the **last 43 years and 3 months**, with singleminded devotion, zeal, perseverance and self-sacrifice and managed it with great ability, credit and success to the satisfaction of the highest educational authorities and the public. To the **excellence of my management** and to the **exceptional success** which has crowned my persevering and strenuous efforts in the **cause of unaided education**, successive Inspectors of Schools, successive Directors of Public Instruction for more than 40 years, illustrious members of Council, such as the Hon. Sir Henry Stokes K.C.S.I., eminent Judges of the Madras High Court, such as the late Sir T. Muthuswami Aiyar Avl. K.C.I.E., great Dewans, such as the late Sir K. Seshadri Aiyar Avl. K.C.S.I., and five Governors have borne appreciative testimony and referred to me and to my work in terms of praise and appreciation.

This appreciation may be clearly seen from the following:—

Firstly, the long interview granted to me by the late Sir W. W. Hunter, President and the late Rai Bahadur P. Ranganatham Mudaliar M.A., who represented the Education Commission, in Kumbakonam in 1883.

Secondly, the offer of a probationary Deputy Collectorship in 1883.

Thirdly, my appointment as a member of the Grant-in-aid Code Committee in 1885.

Fourthly, my appointment as a witness by the Madras Government to give evidence before the Public Service Commission in 1887.

Fifthly, the conferring of the title of 'Rao Bahadur' on me as a personal distinction in May 1889.

Sixthly, my appointment as a member of the Educational Committees and Conferences that sat in 1890, 1899 & 1900.

Seventhly, my nomination as a Fellow of the University in 1899.

I am exceedingly grateful to the Imperial and the Local Governments for the **unique distinctions and honors** they have conferred on me from time to time in recognition of my long and self-denying labors in the field of private effort in Secondary Education. **Recognitions** like these have a **special** and even **exceptional significance in my case** for the reason that **no other Headmaster** (indigenous, Municipal or Local and Missionary Schools included) has been similarly recognised or similarly honored either in this Presidency or elsewhere, so far as I have known, these 50 years. I am, therefore, **within strict measure**, when I say that **I stand alone among Headmasters in this Presidency**, as the **recipient of honors and distinctions and honorary appointments**, for there is not another Headmaster of any school that is either a 'Rao Bahadur' or a Fellow of the University. I am both a 'Rao Bahadur' and a Fellow of the University. I am proud of these honors and distinctions, as they have come to me unsolicited and unsought, in recognition of my work in the field of Secondary Education. But **my poverty all along** and **my indebtedness** at this moment, are **hard facts**. Had I sought financial aid such as large grants for the **building, furniture, Library and apparatus**, as an **exceptional case**, by making a representation, I might have got them, as a matter of course. But the thought never entered my mind till the year 1907, the year of a succession of terrible bereavements which left me suddenly heirless. It was also the year of the change of Educational policy when the conditions of recognition were made more rigorous and severe. I shall only state here that I have not till now received **even one Rupee by way of building grant**, that **I have sunk my all in the school-building the enforced extension of which in 1909**, has created a **debt of over Rs. 10,000**. It will not be out of place here to refer to the building-grants of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 20,000, Rs. 25,000 and even forty and fifty-thousands given to institutions of ten, fifteen or twenty years' standing elsewhere.

At the time when I was forced by a combination of unprecedented circumstances, to seek aid from Government, it happened to be a time of war. I cannot help remarking here that the giving of special grants on a liberal scale to me will be in strict conformity with the declared policy of encouraging private enterprise in Secondary Education and of **aiding private effort** and with the principle and the spirit of the policy so clearly laid down in the **Despatch of 1854**. Firmly relying on this policy, reiterated and emphasised in 1859, 1882, 1888, 1904 and 1913, I have gone on working steadily, successfully, self-sacrificingly, silently and unostentatiously, in the most sanguine expectation that the Department and the Government would, unsolicited and unsought, reward and honor 'approved merit and ability,' and approved work, in a **substantial manner, financially**, and make good the deficits and the losses incurred by the withdrawal of the rent-grant. Necessity of position, indebtedness and a keen solicitude to maintain the prestige of my institution have compelled me to seek aid from Government now, to which I am in every way entitled.

The levying of high rates in my School from the very beginning in strict accordance with the Government School-fee notification gives me a more powerful claim to all kinds of pecuniary aid—grants-in-aid, for the Despatch of 1854 contemplates the giving of liberal grants-in-aid chiefly to private institutions levying even a nominal fee. That which enhances the value and the utility of my work a hundredfold is the fact that I have been levying the highest rates of fees—Government rates, even when my school had to carry on its work in competition with two High Schools in this town, one of which was the Government Model High School, a fully equipped and a highly developed institution supported liberally by the practically inexhaustible resources of the State. The famous John Bruce Norton—the great Advocate-General and a patron of the Pachiappa's High School was greatly afraid that the levying of eight annas as fee in 1861 would seriously affect the strength of the Pachiappa's High School, so magnificently endowed by Pachiappa Mudaliar.

In the face of this fact, it will seem strange and surprising that the Native High School, Kumbakonam (even now it is unendowed and unaided) started by me in 1876, only fifteen years after, should have got on so well and satisfactorily (without an endowment and without a powerful and influential patron like the great J. B. Norton whose stirring annual addresses in the Pachiappa's were such a strength to that institution) even when it levied the Government rates from the very beginning. In the conviction that the instruction which is paid for is always more valued and appreciated than that which is gratuitously bestowed or given for small nominal rates, I have always been levying the highest rates—the rates obtaining in Govt. High Schools. Though I have suffered financially, I have gained in prestige. By the observance of this principle as well as by single-ness of purpose, self-sacrifice, firm self-reliance and patient and persevering devotion, I have succeeded in making it what it is at this moment—a model High School with an efficient staff and increasing strength of more than 700 boys. The uniformly successful results have attracted the attention of all. My School has practically taken the place of the Government Model School which was abolished in 1881 when Government retired from the field of Secondary Education in Kumbakonam, and resolved to encourage private effort in Secondary Education. The Government Model High School if continued in Kumbakonam from 1881 to 1919 would have cost Government at least 4 or 5 lacs these 38 years. I venture to take credit for myself for doing the work of this Model School these 38 years (1881—1919) and thus effecting this large saving of several lacs to Government. The late Mr. H. B. Grigg M.A., the Director of Public Instruction for a decade, held out hopes of encouragement to me in person. It was during his regime that I had an interview with the President of the Education Commission in 1883, that I had an offer of a Deputy Collectorship in 1883, that I was appointed a member of the Grant-in-aid Code Committee in 1885, that I was made a 'Rao Bahadur' in 1889 which distinction was conferred on me by the Government of India, that I was appointed a member of the Educational Committee, and that His Excellency visited my School. If I had applied for grants and substantial financial assistance he might have unhesitatingly given me, but this thought never struck me. My time, attention, labor and energy were solely given to the work of the School and I most conscientiously confess that I did not think of anything else—either my future prospects, or salary, or saving of money for my future needs &c. In view, therefore, of the unique and exceptional honors and distinctions that have been conferred upon me, in view of the good and efficient work I have actually done, and the uniformly successful results I have achieved, these 43 years continuously, in the

capacities of Headmaster, Manager, Proprietor, Correspondent &c., in view also of the long blameless and unprecedented record of good work I can boast of, in view of my great services to Higher Education generally and to the Government College, Kumbakonam, in particular, and last but not least in view of my present poverty and indebtedness on account of the management of this School, without aid—subscriptions, bequests, donations or endowments, I have most humbly and earnestly to request your Excellency to take over my school—the Native High School, Kumbakonam, in preference to the Board High School, Tiruvalur, partly in my own interest, but mainly in the permanent interests of the Kumbakonam Government College, to make good the deficits for the last 10 or 11 years at least, and to compensate me for the heavy loss incurred by me by the withdrawal of rent for the School-building, by giving me rent with retrospective effect for 5 years at least at Rs. 150 per mensem before 1st of March 1914, from which date the Hon. Mr. J. H. Stone has fixed Rs. 150 as rent of the School-building per mensem.

When His Excellency Lord Pentland, anxious to render me substantial help, was pleased to question me in person at the private interview in December 1915, about the price I would put upon the School-building—the erection and the extension of which have created a heavy debt, I said that I would be content with any amount that a building fetching Rs. 150 rent per mensem is likely to bring and that professional men and experts in the art of estimating the prices of buildings estimate it from Rs. 45,000, Rs. 50,000, Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 75,000 and more and that in the locality in which it is situated, considered central and important for Commercial purposes, it is sure to fetch Rs. 300 and more per mensem as rent just at this moment. I am, however, ready and willing to abide by any conditions that Government may be pleased to impose upon me.

I need hardly remark that I shall be in a most helpless and pitiable condition, aggravated a hundredfold by an unprecedented succession of domestic bereavements which left me suddenly heirless, and the severe strain of long, continuous and strenuous work of more than 43 years, if Government does not support me liberally now at least. This is the 44th year of my continuous work in the Native High School, Kumbakonam, as teacher, Headmaster, Manager and Correspondent—a phenomenon that is regarded as unique and wonderful in the history of Secondary Education these 65 years. I am still doing active work in all these capacities—and the grand out-come of all this self-sacrificing work is the Native High School, Kumbakonam, in its present prosperous condition, with more than 700 boys, with an unprecedented record of good work done and successful results achieved, still contributing greatly to the glory and the success of the Kumbakonam Government College, as it has done these 38 years and more.

This is also the 44th year of my graduation from the Kumbakonam Government College, and the 64th year of my age. It may not thus be out of place here to state that I am the oldest teacher, the oldest Headmaster, the oldest Manager and Correspondent, that has managed a large Native High School based on private effort, with singular success, ability and credit for such a long period.

A former Director of Public Instruction was pleased to style me as 'the pioneer of unaided education', 'a good scholar', 'an able Manager', a sound disciplinarian, whose 'sweet reasonableness', 'blameless life' and 'unswerving rectitude' and 'unblemished character' are 'an excellent example for the students to follow'. On account of the special attention that I have always paid to discipline and to the cultivation of good manners and to moral instruction, the same Acting Director of Public Instruction—the Hon. Mr. A. Munro M.A., styled the school as 'a School of good manners and sound discipline and not only as an instrument of passing examinations' and also as 'a nursery of morality and good manners' in 1889. This opinion and the opinions of successive Inspectors of Schools and Directors of Public Instruction, those of the late Sir T. Muthuswami Aiyar Avl. K.C.I.E., the late Mr. Middlemast M.A., the Hon. Mr. J. H. Stone M.A., and the late Lord Connemara in 1889, which I append along with this, for favor of perusal, are my only certificates and my only recommendations for the help and support that I seek at the hands of your Excellency. If your Excellency will only graciously condescend to go through my memorial to His Excellency Lord Pentland in 1915 in which I have stated in detail my claims for exceptional recognition and substantial support and the opinions of Educational experts such as Inspectors of Schools and Directors of Public Instruction and those of the late Lord Connemara and the late Sir T. Muthuswami Aiyar Avl. in which they have referred to my attainments, capacity for work and management, and to my character,

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your Excellency will be deeply convinced that I have done a great Educational work in the midst of the greatest difficulties without any aid from any quarter and that I deserve substantial encouragement and support for the work I have done under conditions which have been exceptional and which have not existed elsewhere and which exist only in my case.

On your Excellency's protection and support, I earnestly rely. If called upon to appear before your Excellency to state in greater detail anything about myself and the School with which I have linked my prospects in life, I hold myself in readiness to do so, in obedience to your Excellency's orders.

If it is not found possible, by any means, to comply with my request based upon recognised facts, by reason of any arrangement already made by the Department, I have most humbly to request your Excellency to give me some special grants, make good the deficits for the last 10 or 11 years at least and the losses incurred by me for 5 years at least previous to the 1st of April 1914 by the withdrawal of the rent grant for the building, at the rate of Rs. 150 per mensem, fixed by the Hon. Mr. J. H. Stone M.A., in September of 1914. The Department and the Government have always power to do anything if exceptional circumstances are shown to exist. I beg permission to suggest that if a large amount—a lac of rupees, is given, as special circumstances and conditions exist, there is not another individual like myself and another School like mine, similarly circumstanced, to claim the same privilege and to demand the same conditions.

In conclusion, I have again to submit most earnestly that I rely solely on the sympathy of Government as I have established the strongest claim on the generosity and support of Government.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,

Rao Bahadur S. Appa Sastri
Head-master, Manager, Proprietor & Correspondent
Native High School, Kumbakonam

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The following are the special circumstances which differentiate the Native High School, Kumbakonam, from the other Native Institutions in the Presidency.

1st, that the Native High School, Kumbakonam, is the first instance of a large native institution that has been managed efficiently and successfully by a single individual—a graduate of the Kumbakonam College, as Manager, Head-master, and Proprietor during the long period of 39 years and 9 months, and is the only Native High School that has done good and efficient work and produced uniformly successful results to which so many Governors, Successive Directors of Public Instruction and Principals of First Grade Government Colleges &c. &c., have borne appreciative testimony for more than 39 years.

2ndly, that I am the only Headmaster and Manager that has been made a 'Rao Bahadur' which was conferred on me as a personal distinction in 1889, nominated 'a Fellow' of the University in 1899, appointed a witness by the Madras Government to give evidence before the Public Service Commission of 1887, and made a member of the Educational Committees and Conferences that sat in 1885, 1889, 1899 and 1900, in recognition of my successful efforts in the cause of private effort in Education. Here I stand alone, because no other Headmaster of any other High School in this Presidency or elsewhere, has been similarly recognised and similarly honored by the Imperial and the Local Governments, the University and the Educational Department during the last 40 years in the history of Education.

3rdly, that I have more than any other Headmaster, paid special attention to discipline, to the cultivation of good manners in my school which made the Honorable Mr. Monro, Acting Director of Public Instruction, style it as 'a school of good manners and sound discipline, and not, only an instrument for passing examinations' in 1887, and 'as a nursery of morality and good manners' in 1889. I was also the first, among Headmasters of High Schools to think of Religious and Moral Instruction in my school, referred to in terms of praise and appreciation by the late Sir. T. Muthuswami Aiyar Avl., the first Native High Court Judge of Madras, by His Highness the Maharajah of Cochin, by the late Sir. K. Seshadri Aiyar Avl., Dewan of Mysore for 19 years, by Dewan Bahadur Mr. A. Ramachandra Aiyar Avl., retired Chief Judge of Mysore and a student of the Kumbakonam College and by Mr. V. P. Mathava Rao Avl., Dewan of Travancore, the Dewan of Mysore and now Dewan of Baroda under His Highness the Guickowar, and a student of the Kumbakonam College nearly 50 years ago. In my humble opinion, Religious and Moral Instruction alone can develop and form character, 'the crown and glory of life' by training the feelings and moulding the daily habits, and mere culture of intellect and knowledge without character is useless.

4thly, that I am the only Headmaster, as far as I know, that declined several offers of Government service—once in 1883 when a Deputy Collectorship was offered, a second, time in 1885 when an Assistant Lectureship in History was offered by the late Mr. H. B. Grigg, Director of Public Instruction, a third time in 1887 when an Assistant Inspectorship was offered, and later on a fourth time when the Principalship of the 2nd grade College, Madura was offered. I am the only Headmaster that has always followed the rules and regulations of the Department, and levied the standard rates of fees from the very beginning, in spite of the discretion allowed to the Managers of private institutions to levy lower rates, availed of by the Managers of so many native and mission institutions. Again, I am the only Headmaster that can shew a long, successful and unprecedented record of good work done, and successful results achieved, from which it will be clear that the Native High School, Kumbakonam, has systematically contributed to the success and glory of the Kumbakonam College to which it has supplied materials every year for the last 40 years.—A few facts and figures will clearly bring out this feature—that the boys that passed creditably from the Native High School, Kumbakonam, in the Matriculation Examination joined the College as a rule, and invariably passed very high in the F. A. and B. A. Degree Examinations. In 1880, my school stood first in the Presidency, having passed the largest percentage. In 1881, the boy that passed second in the Presidency from my school, stood first in the Presidency in F. A. from the Kumbakonam College and first in the B. A. Degree Examination from the Kumbakonam College. In 1883, the boy that passed high in the first class from my school in the Matriculation, stood First in the Presidency in the F. A. from the Kumbakonam College and took a first class in the B. A. Degree from the Kumbakonam

College, and this boy is V. S. Srinivasan, now the Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri B. A., L. T., a member of the Legislative Council. In 1884, the first boy in the Presidency was from the Native High School, Kumbakonam. In 1890, the boy that passed creditably from this school, now holds the position of District Judge, after being Sub-Collector and Acting Collector of Trichinopoly. This boy is Mr. R. Narayana Iyer I. C. S., the first Brahmin Civilian from the Madras Presidency. In 1909, the worst year for the Matriculation Examination, the Native High School, Kumbakonam, passed **two boys** in the First Class out of **twelve** First Classes only, for the whole Presidency consisting of more than 200 High Schools. Of these two, one stood **First** in the Presidency and the other **Third** in the Presidency and both these, at my instance, joined the Kumbakonam College, though elsewhere scholarship were offered to them, to draw them away, and passed high in the First Class in the Intermediate Examination though both left for the Presidency College, Madras, for the Honors' Course. The Inspector of Schools referring to the results of 1909, remarked in his inspection Report thus—'The inference I am tempted to draw is that the **teaching is good.**'

The good work of this school and its remarkable efficiency and success can be judged from this fact, that several that have gone forth from this School are now holding positions of trust and responsibility in every Department of Government—a few instances will suffice here—Mr. R. Narayana Aiyar I. C. S., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly is now District Judge; Mr. C. R. Tiruvenkatachiar B. A., B. L., is now City Civil Court Judge in Madras; the Hon'ble Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sasti Avl. is a member of the Legislative Council and the President of the Servants of India Society; the late Mr. C. Rajagopala Pillai B. A., B. L., who died a few days back was Chief Judge and Durbar Member in the State of Pudukottah. Several are Subordinate Judges and District Munsifs, Executive Engineers, Sub-Engineers, Sub-Assistant Inspectors, Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers in Government and other Colleges; several are Headmasters and Assistant Teachers, Sub-Registrars, Law-Lecturers, High Court Vakils who form a very large number and Editors of good Newspapers &c. &c. The present Headmaster of the premier High School in Kumbakonam, managed by a Committee, consisting of over 1000 boys—Mr. R. Swaminatha Aiyar B. A., L. T., and four of his Assistants who are B. As. and L. Ts. were pupils of the Native High School, Kumbakonam, more than fifteen years ago. Three of the Lecturers in the Kumbakonam College, just at this moment, both Science M. A., L. Ts. and a Mathematics M. A., L. T., are old pupils of the Native High School, Kumbakonam.

The following are some of the NOTE WORTHY FEATURES of this School.

1st, that no teacher of my school has left it either from discontent or misunderstanding or indifferent treatment and that perfect harmony has always existed between the Manager and the Headmaster and the Assistant Masters—reference has been made in the Inspection Reports by Inspectors of Schools to this harmony and hearty co-operation, which is another evidence of its steady prosperity and growing usefulness. It is also my rare good fortune to enjoy the love, confidence and gratitude of my pupils who have invariably approached me with reverence and gratitude because they know I have always been their true friend and well-wisher and realised their point of view.

2ndly, that there has not been a single instance of unhealthy competition between this school and the Town High School, managed by a Committee, though both have been in existence for more than 35 years, even during the worst decade of adventure schools (1881—1891).

3rdly, that I, the Headmaster and Manager, have, with undeviating regularity paid my staff every month before the evening of the 1st day of that month, even if it should be a Sunday or a holiday—my conscience and discretion have been my old guides here. The punctual discharge of this simple duty has given immense satisfaction to all.

4thly, that the Native High School, Kumbakonam, is the only school visited by several eminent personages on account of its great popularity, success, self-sacrifice and efficiency—such as, four Governors, several High Court Judges, several Dewans of Native States, the Maharajah of Cochin, the President of the Education Commission, the late Mr. W. S. Caine, President of the Temperance Association, successive Directors of Public Instruction, the late Mr. R. F. Austin &c. The late Mr. W. W. Hunter, the late Mr. W. S. Caine and the late Mr. R. F. Austin remarked to me that such schools and such types of Managers and Headmasters are rare even in England and that I deserve special encouragement and recognition.

Want of accommodation is actually felt and accounts for its present strength of nearly 680 boys only as every year admissions have to be refused to 50 boys and more.

The following are some of the EXCEPTIONAL FEATURES.

1st, that I have spent Rs. 20,000 and more, within the last 40 years, on poor and deserving students alone, by way of free-scholarships which alone have enabled them to pass their Matriculation Examination from my school and to continue their higher studies in the Kumbakonam College. The recipients of these scholarships are now holding positions of trust and responsibility in every Department.

2ndly, that I have clung to this institution, recognising the nobility and the sacredness of the teachers' vocation, in spite of a succession of domestic bereavements in 1907 when the death of my **only two adult sons** within 15 days of each other left me suddenly heirless, and in spite of the several offers for the school-building ranging from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 70,000 and more. The most substantial and respectable offer came from the Roman Catholic Missionary who seemed to be willing to pay me Rs. 60,000 and more for the school building, its equipment and the good-will. On principle I declined the offer, for I was the first to think of Religious and Moral instruction on national lines.

My persistent self-sacrifice in declining several offers of Government service more than 25 years ago and several offers for the school building and its equipment within the last 10 years, my steady zeal and obstinate determination to cling to the school and to work in it, irrespective of other considerations, were a formidable obstacle in the way of the Missionaries starting a High School in this foremost centre of education in Southern India, whereas in much smaller centres like Shiyal, Mannargudi, Ramnad, &c. (not to refer to such large centres like Calicut, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Madurai, Negapatam, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Tinnevely &c.) Mission High Schools and Colleges have been established and conducted with efficiency and success. Several friends of mine, official and non-official, and experts in Education have often congratulated me on the success of my institution and requested me to work in it, as long as it may be possible to do so, in the interests of national education based upon religious instruction which alone can produce loyal citizens and worthy sons of the country.

3rdly, that the late Hon'ble Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar Avl., Member of the Executive Council, in reply to a letter from Mr. T. O. Hodges, the then Inspector of Schools, said that my school should be taken over as a 'model school' in 1911, when the 'Model School Scheme' was expected to come into force and Dr. Bourne (the late Director of Public Instruction) whom I saw in April 1912, seemed to be in favour of making it a 'model school' after hearing everything from me in detail. Dr. Bourne left for England soon after and the Hon'ble Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar Avl., suddenly died. The late Mr. R. F. Austin I. C. S., Collector of Tanjore and the Collector of Madras, who attended the meeting in Kumbakonam held in my honor on the 9th February 1911, remarked to me in person that there are few schools like mine and very few Headmasters like myself even in England and that, were my lot cast in England, he would raise five thousand pounds in less than 6 months. He was transferred soon after to Madras where he died.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Aiyar Avl. has known me and my work well and has visited my school. The Hon'ble Mr. T. Sadasiva Aiyar Avl., a student of the Kumbakonam College, is an old friend of mine and an admirer of my institution these 35 years and has visited my school more than once and encouraged me by giving a subscription for the extension, when I sent him a copy of the appeal. The Hon'ble Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri Avl., an old pupil, knows me and my work very well. The Hon'ble Mr. V. K. Ramajachariar Avl., Chairman of the Kumbakonam Municipality, may be consulted about the good work of the school and about my indebtedness and poverty and other difficulties. The Hon'ble Mr. Sir. P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar Avl. has known me and the character of my work for 30 years nearly, and **may be consulted**, as he is himself the Manager of a large and successful High School at Tirukkattupalli.

Mr. H. S. Duncan, Acting Director of Public Instruction and now Principal of the Teachers' College, was the Principal of the Kumbakonam College and Acting Inspector of Schools of the 6th Circle and in all these capacities he has had ample opportunities of judging of me and of my work, of the difficulties I had to face, of the sacrifices I have had to make, and the success with which I have been carrying on the work of the institution. The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone, Director of Public Instruction, who knows the difficulties of conducting a large school successfully and satisfactorily in Kumbakonam, by the side of a powerful institution managed by an influential Committee in this town with a large fund at

its disposal, has known me very well for more than 20 years at least and has already marked his appreciation of my labors by restoring the rent for the school-building and fixing it at Rs. 150 per mensem, after he became Director of Public Instruction.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sir. C. Sankara Aiyar Avl., now a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, has a good opinion of me and my work and has known me well as the successful Headmaster and Manager of the Native High School, Kumbakonam.

As it does not generally fall to the lot of a humble worker like myself, the Headmaster of a High School, to command the respect, confidence and good opinion of such eminent and honored personages, I have ventured in this connection to mention the names of some of them, leaving out the names of several Senior Members of Council and several High Court Judges and several Dewans and the names also of successive Principals of the Kumbakonam College from the time of the late Mr. W. A. Porter, Principal of the Kumbakonam College in 1876, my revered teacher and honored patron, to the time of Mr. R. M. Statham, the present energetic, enthusiastic and popular Principal of the Kumbakonam College who has shown his appreciation of my work and of my self-sacrifice on so many occasions.....

4thly, that I beg to submit that though my school has been doing good work these 40 years under my management and supervision, it has drawn much less than other schools of fifteen, twenty or twenty five years' standing, by way of teaching-grants, salary-grants, grants for furniture &c., and **absolutely nothing by way of building grant**, though High Schools much younger and less strong than my school have drawn big building and other grants of over Rs. 15,000 Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000 and more, within the last 10 or 15 years.

5thly, it may not be out of place here to refer to a fact which I happen to know very well in the course of my long educational experience. As long as a **Government Model High School under the direct supervision of the Principal of the Kumbakonam College** was in existence in this town, so long the **results of the Kumbakonam College** were **remarkable, often splendid and even brilliant**. I refer to the **Secondary Department of the Kumbakonam College** which was **abolished in 1881**. The **re-establishment**, therefore of a **Model School**, under the **supervision of the Principal of the Kumbakonam College** in Kumbakonam, will be a **most effective method of making the Kumbakonam more attractive, for this alone will put the best materials into the College and make it the centre of attraction in Southern India**. Such a School will be an **example and a model** for all the other schools to follow, and a **tower of strength to the Kumbakonam College**. It is, therefore, my most earnest request that your Excellency should be pleased **to take over the Native High School, Kumbakonam, as a model school by purchasing it**, place it under the supervision of the Principal of the Kumbakonam College, or lend it to me on certain conditions and also **compensate me for the losses caused by the annual deficits**, by the **withdrawal of the rent of the school-building** for more than 5 years, and **by the equipments on which I have had to spend much**, in view of the **special circumstances, the note-worthy features, and the exceptional conditions of the Native High School, Kumbakonam**, to which I have made reference in the foregoing pages.

It will be a 'true and lasting pleasure and satisfaction' to your Excellency, if your Excellency will be graciously pleased to aid the work I have been doing so long by substantial encouragement, and thus mark your Excellency's keen appreciation of my hard work in the field of private effort, for I **have borne my own humble, and even distinguished, part, 'in forwarding the interest of Education' in this Presidency in a silent, self-sacrificing, persistent and unostentatious manner these 40 years continuously**.

The addresses of the late Lord Connemera and the late Sir T. Muthuswami Aiyar Avl. in my school, the opinion of several great Educationists and the extracts from some of the Inspection Reports, which your Excellency was pleased to accept on the afternoon of the 11th December 1915 after the private interview was over, are the only testimonials of moral excellence I have to submit to your Excellency.

December 19/15 12

To

His Excellency The Right Hon'ble

THE LORD PENTLAND P. C., G. C. I. E.,

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

May it please your Excellency,

IN view of the good and efficient work I have done, and the uniformly successful results I have produced in the public examinations as Teacher, Headmaster and Manager during the last 39 years and 9 months, in view of the special attention I have always paid to the cultivation of good manners, discipline and physical training in my school, and to religious and moral instruction long before others thought of it, in view of my self-sacrifice, single-minded devotion to work, steady and strenuous application, and of the excellence of my management, to which four Governors, several members of Council, several High Court Judges, several Dewans of Native States, the Education Commission, and successive Directors of Public Instruction from 1880, &c., have borne appreciative testimony, and in view also of the recognitions accorded to me, and the distinctions conferred upon me by the Educational Department, the Local and the Imperial Governments, I most humbly and earnestly request your Excellency to be gracious enough **to order the purchase of the Native High School building and its equipment for Government, make it a model school or lend it to me or to a committee, to make good the deficits according to the Financial statements for the last 15 years at least and the loss incurred by me by the withdrawal of the rent for the school-building for 5 years and more, before the 1st March 1914, from which date The Honorable Mr. J. H. Stone, the Director of Public Instruction, has fixed the rent of the school at Rs. 150 per mensem**. I beg to submit that a building that can fetch Rs. 150 per mensem is estimated at Rs. 45,000, Rs. 50,000, Rs. 60,000, Rs. 70,000, &c. (from Rs. 45,000 to Rs. 75,000 and even more, by professional men), that in the locality in which it is situated, considered central and important for commercial purposes, it may fetch more than Rs. 200 rent per mensem, and that I am ready and willing to abide by the conditions that Government may be pleased to impose on me. I solicit the sympathy and support of Government just at this moment after a hard and exacting work of nearly 40 years, approved and appreciated by competent authorities. Without substantial support at the hands of Government, I shall be, as I stated in person at the private interview with your Excellency on the afternoon of the 11th December in Kumbakonam, in a most pitiable and miserable condition, aggravated at this moment especially, a hundred-fold by **advancing years, terrible domestic bereavements and the heavy strain of long, continuous and strenuous work of 40 years**. I have just entered on the 61st year of my age, and am about to complete the 40th year of my service in the Native High School, Kumbakonam, and the 40th year of my graduation, for the school was founded on the 1st of March of 1876 and I took my B. A. Degree on the 23rd of March of 1876.

The support of Government just at this moment will give me a new lease of life, breathe into me fresh energy and renewed vitality, and enable me to work some time longer with renewed zeal and interest to place it on a footing of greater stability. The moral effect of my example and character which alone I have it in my power to bequeath to other teachers and to my pupils—past and present, will be an inspiration and an encouragement to workers in the field of private effort in Education. I beg to submit in this connection that I am ready and willing to sever my connection with the school, if called upon to do so, if proper and suitable arrangements are made by Government for purchasing the building, for compensating myself for my losses caused by the deficits and by the withdrawal of the rent for the building. As **special circumstances and exceptional conditions which do not exist elsewhere, exist in my case**, I most humbly request your Excellency to shew me **exceptional consideration** and thus protect the interests of this institution with which I have linked my prospects in life. On this protection and support, I entirely rely.

With these remarks, I beg to submit the following for your Excellency's gracious and sympathetic consideration and favourable disposal.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,

Rao Bahadur S. Appaiah

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**The Honorable Mr. Justice Muthuswami Aiyar's Speech
on the occasion of the distribution of prizes in the
NATIVE HIGH SCHOOL, KUMBAKONAM.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

As a native of this District and as one who owes much to education, I feel a peculiar pleasure in taking part in the Proceedings of this evening. It is always a pleasure to distribute prizes to successful students in public schools, but it is a source of special gratification to be able to do so in recognition of the value of an institution which is the outcome of independent effort on the part of our graduates.

I consider the Native High School to be an agency of considerable local importance in the field of Secondary education. This town, as you all know, is an important centre of education in Southern India, and the local College is an institution which has, under the supervision and guidance of distinguished educationists, uniformly held a conspicuous position among the First Grade Colleges in the Presidency. The Native High School and the Town High School, (it is no small credit to them to say) are its two recognised and important feeders. When referring to the College here, I cannot but remind you of the heavy debt of gratitude which this District and higher education owe to two eminent educationists in particular, namely Messrs Porter and Gopal Row, whose portraits so appropriately adorn this Hall. It gives me pleasure to add that the good work so nobly wrought by them is successfully continued by the present extremely popular Principal of the College, Mr. Bilderbeck.

The past history of this High School is full of interest to those who desire to see a healthy system of Secondary Education established throughout the Presidency on self supporting basis. It shows that at least in some of our important towns there are graduates who can be trusted to organise and develop efficient High Schools. It shows also that some of them can rise superior to considerations of personal gain, stand by the institution they organise in the hour of need, and link their prospects in life with its permanent success. It indicates further that wherever there is room enough for two or more High Schools in a large city like this, our graduates can adequately appreciate the conditions of healthy competition and turn the rivalry between them into a means of adding to their efficiency. It proves also that as labourers in the field of education they are fully alive to the necessity of steady, patient, and discriminating application and to the importance of devotion to their work, of even ennobling it by personal sacrifice where necessary, and of firm and unostentatious self-reliance in the hour of need—qualities without which it is impossible to achieve lasting success in any honorable profession. It reflects great credit on the managers of this institution that they have throughout its career strictly adhered to the requirements of the school-fee notification and the rules of the Educational Department. The organisation and development of this Institution and the steady advance it has made from its commencement to the present time are highly creditable to all connected with it. Having regard to the ordinary tests of efficient management, such as numerical strength, average attendance, results achieved at the public examinations and financial condition, this High School must be pronounced on the whole to be a decided success. Its present proprietor and Headmaster, Mr. Appu Sastriar, has special claims to the thanks of the local community. It is just to say that this institution is indebted to him in particular for its stability, its status amongst similar institutions in the Presidency and for its high efficiency. His position and attainments as a graduate, the use to which he has always put them, his arduous labours in the interests of this institution, his constant solicitude to improve its status, the talent and tact which he has brought to bear upon its organisation and management, and above all his determination to identify his success in life, with its success and to accept for his remuneration such surplus as might be left after adequately providing for its high efficiency, stamp him as one worthy of the recognition accorded to him by the Director of Public Instruction and by His Excellency the Viceroy on the recommendation of the local Government. I take this opportunity of publicly congratulating him on the well-merited distinction which has recently been conferred upon him by Her most Gracious Majesty's representative in India—His Excellency the Viceroy. And I should not omit to mention that great credit is due also to the assistant Masters who have so ably co-operated with him and assisted him in achieving the success which has attended the institution.

I wish, gentlemen, I could speak generally of High Schools in this Presidency, as of this Institution. There are no doubt several High Schools in each of the districts, but testing their value by the results of public examination, the system of the Secondary Education now existing in the Presidency in general, cannot be said to be as satisfactory as might be desired. I desire to draw attention on this occasion to what are called adventure-schools which appear for a time and then disappear. They are the products either of amateur effort or of unhealthy speculation in the field of education. And during their ephemeral existence they tend not only to lower the tone of High School instruction but also injure the interest of well conducted schools. The time has arrived for bringing them under some control, and it may not be amiss to consider whether in towns where there are well-conducted schools which sufficiently satisfy the local demand, some guarantee of stability should not be demanded from other rival Institutions in return for the privilege of sending candidates for the Matriculation Examination. In districts in which aided schools are in a backward state and the percentage of passes is unsatisfactory, it might be well to insist upon the formation of supervising local committees as a condition subject to which those schools are to be aided by the Government. It may not be difficult to form committees consisting of men of intelligence and local influence who may be expected to come forward to discourage speculation and to raise the quality of the High School instruction with the advice and under the guidance of the officers of the Educational Department.

Gentlemen, it has hitherto been usual to treat Secondary Education, as subsidiary and leading up to collegiate education, and to recognise the Matriculation Examination as qualifying for public service in regard to general culture. But under the scheme of Upper Secondary Examination, recently inaugurated, the Matriculation Examination no longer qualifies for the Public service and it is displaced by the First in Arts Examination, or by the Upper Secondary Examination. It is not my present purpose to refer to the discussion that has taken place elsewhere as to the probable effects of the new scheme upon collegiate education. Very strong opinions have been expressed both for and against the scheme and now that action has been taken, their relative weight must be left to the arbitrament of time. Confining myself therefore to the High Schools, I do not see at present why the scheme should injure them or have a serious unsettling effect, if sufficient time is allowed to enable them to meet the additional demand upon their energy and to make the necessary alteration in the existing curriculum. Possibly there may be Institutions which may require some help for a time in meeting the increased expenditure which the scheme might entail on them. But if they are really efficient and worthy of assistance I have no doubt, they will be considerably treated by the Director of Public Instruction. Turning to the policy of rendering Secondary Education self-supporting, it is satisfactory to note that the progress which has hitherto been made in this direction, is encouraging. In 1887-88, out of the nearly 140 High Schools in the Presidency, there were but six Government Schools and sixty-seven aided schools. Though the time when Secondary Education may be said to be self-supporting is distant yet it is not unreasonable to say that the policy is in course of rapid and successful development.

Gentlemen, this is an age of public examinations and the number which one has to pass before he enters on life is rather formidable. It is difficult not to pity native parents when they struggle to naturalise in their vernacular the abstruse and learned vocabulary of the examination department, and complain that their children young as they are, are driven by the action of the examination-machinery to anticipate a little too soon the anxieties and ordeals of real life. A feeling is therefore steadily gaining ground in the country in favour of a scheme of public examinations organised more as tests of leading and marked stages of culture than of the results achieved by the several classes in the various departments of the High Schools and which gives sufficient time especially in the case of young children for acquired knowledge to ripen into elements of culture. In this connection I may refer with satisfaction to the provision made in this High School for physical education of which the value can hardly be over-estimated on this country. I may also refer to the attention that is paid here to religious and moral instruction so far as it is possible to do so in the absence of suitable text books. I should not omit to mention that as far as I am aware, this is the first High School in which provision is made for imparting such instruction by a course of lectures delivered at stated periods and by the formation of a library. This is a branch of instruction which I think ought to form part of the curriculum in every private school. And it is likely to check the tendency to irreligion and denationalisation and to neutralise the unsettling effect which English education is considered to have upon the youth of this country. I hope that, at no distant date suitable text-books will

be published and materially aid the efforts that are being made in that direction. In this connection I may also allude with pleasure to the growing percentage of students who take up Sanskrit as their optional language. Gentlemen, I need hardly add that Sanskrit has an ancient and a magnificent literature very rich in classic thought and diction. The revival of the study of Sanskrit literature will not only give a finish to liberal culture, but also be of immense value in this country as it contains the key to the principles which have, for centuries, influenced and still continue to influence our action in the sphere of domestic, social and religious life. Gentlemen, on an occasion like this I shall not be justified in taking up much of your time. One word more, and I have done. We are living in a transitional epoch in which seed is sown in all directions of what may be required for the silver wedding in the distant future to which Lord Ripon has feelingly referred in one of his eloquent speeches. The couple expected to be united in wedlock, at that wedding, I may add, consists of the civilisation of the west and that of the east. Under God's providence they are brought into contact with each other in order that a bond of union may be created and strengthened. It is scarcely necessary to add that it is incumbent upon every one living in this epoch to give a healthy direction to the numerous influences and impulses which are generated from time to time by the contact between the two systems of civilisation and turn them into efficient means of inspiring and promoting mutual esteem and love. I firmly believe that if we should do our duty in this respect the silver wedding, I mean, of our national regeneration will sooner or later become an accomplished fact under the auspices of the British rule.

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**An Extract from the address of
His excellency Lord CONNEMARA in the Native High School,
Kumbakonam.**

(On the 10th September 1889.)

I feel it my duty as the representative of Her Majesty to come here this morning **and to offer my support and countenance to the Native High School,** which is one of the few institutions in the Presidency, **based on the principles which it practises.** It has given me great satisfaction to offer you my support, because any well-directed effort at self-support, is one which any Governor of the Presidency must regard with sympathy and interest. It has also been a great pleasure to me to come here and to see for myself what great efforts have been made during the last **fourteen years to establish a self-supporting school upon such a good foundation, and having for its object such high aims.**

You have gone through apparently **a considerable amount of difficulty,** and I attribute the mode in which you have encountered and overcome them to the **public spirit** chiefly of the **Head-Master** who has **devoted his time, attention and labour** to the cause in which he is engaged. I am informed that he has done so from **conscientious motives, and not from a wish to obtain gain.** The desire to obtain gain is a great stimulus to human action; at the same time, we all respect, even more than the persons who accumulate money, those who devote **their time and attention** to the cause of Education **gratuitously and with self-sacrifice.** The golden ball which deterred Atalanta in her race seems to have been **disregarded by Mr. Appu Sastriar,** for, a golden path might have been open to him, if he had taken to other pursuits.

**Extracts from the address of
The Honorable Mr. Justice Muthuswami Aiyar Ayl., K. C. I. E.**
(On the 1st of July 1889.)

I consider the Native High School to be an agency of considerable local importance in the field of Secondary education.

In this connection I may refer with satisfaction to the provision made in the High School for physical education of which the value can hardly be over-estimated in this country. I may also refer to the attention that is paid here to religious and moral instruction so far as it is possible to do so in the absence of suitable text-books. I should not omit to mention that as far I am aware, this is the first High School in which provision is made for imparting such instruction by a course of lectures delivered at stated periods and by the formation of a library. This is a branch of instruction which I think ought to form part of the curriculum in every private school. And it is likely to check the tendency to irreligion and denationalisation and neutralise the unsettling effect which English education is considered to have upon the youth of this country. The past history of this High School is full of interest to those who desire to see a healthy system of Secondary Education established throughout the Presidency on a self supporting basis. It shows that at least in some of our important towns there are graduates who can be trusted to organise and develop efficient High Schools. It shows also that some of them can rise superior to considerations of personal gain, stand by the institution they organise in the hour of need, and link their prospects in life with its permanent success. It indicates further that wherever there is room enough for two or

more High Schools in a large city like this, our graduates can adequately appreciate the conditions of healthy competition and turn the rivalry between them into a means of adding to their efficiency. It proves also that as labourers in the field of education they are fully alive to the necessity of steady, patient and discriminating application and to the importance of devotion to their work, of even ennobling it by personal sacrifice where necessary, and of firm unostentatious self-reliance in the hour of need—qualities without which it is impossible to achieve lasting success in any honorable profession. It reflects great credit on the managers of this institution that they have throughout its career strictly adhered to the requirements of the School-fee notification and the rules of the Educational Department. The organisation and development of this institution and the steady advance it has made from its commencement to the present time are highly creditable to all connected with it. Having regard to the ordinary tests of efficient management, such as numerical strength, average attendance, results achieved at the public examinations and financial condition, this High School must be pronounced on the whole to be a decided success. Its present Proprietor and Head Master, Mr. S. Appu Sastriar, has special claims to the thanks of the local community. It is just to say that this institution is indebted to him in particular for its stability, its status amongst similar institutions in the Presidency for its high efficiency. His position and attainments as a graduate, the use to which he has always put them, his arduous labours in the interests of this institution, his constant solicitude to improve its status, the talent and tact which he has brought to bear upon its organisation and management, and above all his determination to identify his success in life with its success, and to accept for his remuneration such surplus as might be left after adequately providing for its high efficiency, stamp him as one worthy of recognition accorded to him by the Director of Public Instruction and by His Excellency the Viceroy on the recommendation of the Local Government. I take this opportunity of publicly congratulating him on the well-merited distinction which has recently been conferred upon him by Her Most Gracious Majesty's representative in India His Excellency the Viceroy.

The letters of
The Honorable Mr. A. MONRO M. A., Inspector of Schools,
the Acting Director of Public Instruction Madras,
& the Inspector-General of Education, Central Provinces.

I need only repeat what I said at Kumbakonam that I shall be glad to afford your institution all the support and encouragement that is in my power to afford. I am aware of the high opinion in which you are held by your fellow townsmen. I am persuaded that your personal influence and moral example will conduce largely to making your institution a school of good manners and sound discipline and not only an instrument for passing examinations.

Kodaikanal,
 5th December 1887.

(Signed.) A. MONRO M. A.,
 Inspector of Schools, 5th Division.

The fact I find in schools in Madras, and which I have always endeavoured to counteract is that there is too great a tendency to treat Education as a question entirely of passing examinations, when the end to be had in view is, I take it, the harmonious development of the faculties intellectual, moral and physical. It is because I have observed in your school that more attention was paid to discipline,

the cultivation of good manners, and to physical training, that I have always supported it. Long may it continue to prosper under your excellent management. It is not often that men such as yourself take to Education as a hobby, and not as a source of profit. I only wish we had some men of your stamp in Central Provinces. I offer a prize of book to the boy who is reported by the votes of his fellow students (by ballot) to be the best behaved and most deserving student in your school at the end of your school year.

Nagpore, Central Provinces,

22nd August 1888.

(Signed.) A. MONRO M. A.,
 Inspector General of Education,
 Central Provinces.

Mr. Appusastris is, I believe, a man of marked ability and of the highest moral character. He is held in high esteem not only by his fellow citizens, but by all who know him on account of his polished manners, his unblemished character and his enthusiasm in the cause of Education. Mr. Appusastris possesses it in a high degree that sweet reasonableness of which a celebrated English author speaks. He may be said to be the pioneer of unaided Education. For some 13 years he has maintained a good school and with signal success without seeking any aid from Government. He strives to work this school not merely a place in which intellectual instruction is given but a nursery of morality and good manners. I am able to say that his efforts have been crowned with success.

Camp Betual, Central Provinces,

24th January 1889.

(Signed.) A. MONRO M. A.,
 Inspector General of Education,
 Central Provinces.

I am glad to hear of the continued success of the institution to which you have unselfishly devoted so much time and attention. You may rest assured that my interest that will not relax so long as I remain in this Presidency.

22nd December 1893.

(Signed.) A. MONRO M. A.,
 Ag. Director of Public Instruction.

I have known Rao Bahadur Appu Sastri for upwards of 19 years. His work as Manager and Head Master of the Native High School, Kumbakonam, is worthy of the highest commendation. He is a good scholar and an able manager, firm and tactful in his dealings with his boys and a sound disciplinarian. The success of the school in public examinations and the good behaviour of the boys, attest the excellence of his management. Apart from this, his blameless life and unswerving rectitude are an excellent example for his students to follow. His courteous manners make dealings with him a pleasure.

4th August 1897.

(Signed.) A. MONRO M. A.,
 Inspector General of Education,
 Central Provinces.

Rao Bahadur Mr. C. Nagoji Rao's letter.

I have received your letter of the 18th Instant. When I visited your school last week I was struck with the high tone of the institution, the earnestness of the teachers, and the thoroughness with which their work is done, and I was glad to find that while due attention was paid to studies, the physical and moral development of the scholars was not neglected. This was shown by the efforts

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made by you to encourage gymnastics and sports, and the zest with which your scholars had taken to them. That you have not been caring merely for success at public examinations, which alone attracts public notice was evident to me from the importance you have been attaching to hand-writing, recitation and other subjects, which do not directly pay at examinations. In short you have not been content with manufacturing a certain number of Matriculates every year, but have had as your chief aim the all-round development, physical, intellectual and moral, of your scholars. You have, almost unaided, built up a very successful High School, a model one in many respects, and it is no wonder, that successive Directors of Public Instruction, Inspectors of schools, and distinguished visitors have spoken in such high terms of your work.

Camp Villapuram,
20th November 1896.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed.) C. NAGOJI RAO.

Mr. E. W. Middlemast's letter.

Rao Bahadur S. Appusastriar B. A., is rendering excellent service in the cause of education as Head Master and Proprietor of the Kumbakonam Native High School.

During the 18 months I acted as Principal of the Kumbakonam Government College I had some opportunity of judging the character of the work in which Mr. Appusastriar is engaged and could not fail to be impressed with the success which his enterprise and character commanded. By his own unaided efforts he has established and still successfully carries on a large and important High School in the face of many difficulties and disadvantages. He has practically demonstrated the possibility of establishing High School Education on a satisfactory basis with the minimum of external aid.

Besides being a successful teacher Mr. Appusastriar has done much to advance the moral and physical training of his pupils. Himself a keen Cricketer he has tried with some success to promote a love of out-door sports among his boys. Mr. Appusastriar's character is one for which I have a great esteem; and he is universally respected by all who have been brought into contact with him. I trust that his efforts in the cause of education will meet with the amount of appreciation and support that they merit.

Madras, (Signed) E. W. MIDDLEMAST M. A.,
Principal,
16th October 1895. Kumbakonam Government College.

Mr. J. H. Stone's letter.

I am very happy to add my testimony to that of so many eminent persons to the able, energetic, and self-sacrificing way in which you have carried on the Native High School at Kumbakonam. It is one of the best schools that I have seen in this country and will I trust be an enduring monument of your enlightened public spirit. I hope you have not yet given up cricket, as I have many pleasant recollections of our Kumbakonam matches. I trust also that the Native High School boys continue to hold their own as athletes in the College.

Presidency College,
6th May 1896.

(Sd.) J. H. STONE,
Principal, Presidency College.

SRI VIDYA PRESS, KUMBAKONAM.

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His Excellency Lord Connemara

AND

**THE NATIVE HIGH SCHOOL, KUMBAKONAM.
1889.**

Gentlemen, Mr. Appu Sastri, and boys:—

I feel it my duty as the representative of Her Majesty to come here this morning, and to offer my support and countenance to this Native High School, which is one of the few Institutions in the Presidency, based upon the principles which it practises. It has given me great satisfaction to offer you my support, because any well directed effort at self-support particularly in the cause of education is one which any Governor of the Presidency must regard with sympathy and interest. It has also been a great pleasure to me to come here, and to see for myself what great efforts have been made during the last fourteen years to establish a self-supporting school upon such a good foundation, and having for its object such high aims. You have gone through apparently a considerable amount of difficulty, and I attribute the mode in which you have encountered and overcome them to the public spirit chiefly of the Head-Master who has devoted his time, attention and labour to the cause in which he is engaged. I am informed that he has done so chiefly from conscientious motives and not from a wish to obtain gain. The desire to obtain gain is a great stimulus to human action; at the same time, we all respect even more than the persons who accumulate money, those who devote their time and attention to the cause of education gratuitously and with self-sacrifice. The golden bail which deterred Atalanta in her race seems to have been disregarded by Mr. Appu Sastriar, for a golden path might have been open to him, if he had taken to other pursuits. I am quite sure that all his fellow countrymen and fellow townsmen are ready and willing to give him that praise, which after all must be the chief guerdon of public men. You say that the Director of Public Instruction has always given this school his support. I am sorry to say that he is detained in Madras with a fit of the gout; else he would have been here upon this occasion. I am happy to think that gout is a fashionable complaint, and sometimes does not attack people for a very long time. Therefore I hope most sincerely that the Director of Public Instruction will soon be able to devote his energies to the work which he is engaged in day by day, and I may say night by night. No person can do his duty more thoroughly to the State than Mr. Grigg, and his whole mind and soul is occupied with the various problems of a most difficult kind which must come before the Director of Public Instruction in this Presidency. He has been devoting a great deal of attention lately to the introduction of a new scheme of higher secondary education. I hope the examination that has now been arranged to supplant or take the place of the one which has hitherto existed will be of advantage to education generally throughout the Presidency. I think it is a great compliment to those who have been instructing the youth of late years for the Government to feel that the time has come when an examination such as the Higher Secondary examination for Government service should be made more difficult than it has been hitherto. I sympathise very much with the boys in their exertions and in their labours. If I am obliged to go through those exertions myself, I think it is highly probable that I should fail in the examination, but the rising youth are much better educated by such an examination than those who have gone before them. I have just said in the school from which I came now, that as the boys become educated it behoves them to follow the example of their ancestors and masters by showing deference to their superiors and inferiors. It would be a thousand pities if the national life of this country as it became more instructed in science and literature should forget those ancient customs and manners which are of so much importance for your happiness. If persons have not good manners, nobody wishes to associate with them; and if a person has a rough way of addressing you, I think most people would take very great care that they are not addressed by him at all. The more gentle manners people have, the more they are likely to be associated with persons of distinction in literature and general attainments. I am very often struck myself, when I find difference in this respect amongst gentlemen who are candidates for the public service. I do not know whether it is owing to the school that they come from, or whether it is owing to the association of persons with whom they should not associate. I can assure you that there is such a difference in the ways and views of some of those who come to see me. It has been said, I think, that self-respect consists in reverence to inferiors, and everybody in my opinion should recollect that maxim.

Home (Edn) Department

Subject - As to the Native high school, Kumbakonam.

[Cm. 1381 B] From the P.S. No. 196 Pd. 12-7-19.

Pages 6+7 of C.F.

Perhaps all these remarks are superfluous in this school; at the same time I thought it my duty to make them because as this is one of the leading native high schools in the Presidency, many of the boys here may hereafter become teachers in other schools in different parts of the Presidency. I was reading a few days ago a speech made by the Hon. Mr. Justice Muthuswamy Iyer, I think in July last. There is a great deal in it which, had I time, I would like to comment upon. It is well worth the consideration of all those engaged in education, and it must have been extremely satisfactory to you all to see a man who has risen to the highest position that he can possibly attain in this country, coming down to his native place to offer you the advice which he did upon that occasion. His life is a sufficient example for you to follow, and if you take him for your example I am quite sure you can do no better. People now-a-days talk a great deal about the books necessary to teach boys with respect to conduct. Well, now, I should say that the best book I think you should decide to have to guide you is the life and example of a man so distinguished as the Hon. Mr. Justice Muthuswami Iyer. You have there a living example before you of what a man can do with high education and with rectitude of character. High education and rectitude of character are the two things that guide and must guide us to right. It is the example of such men like him that I think are of more value than any books that you can possibly read upon the subject of your conduct in life. I have only to say that I am very much obliged for the welcome that you have given me, and I hope your days in the school here will be happy and that your career in the College after training here will be a distinguished one, and that you will hand down to those who succeed you, good example both as regards literary and scientific attainments, and also general character. I should like to ask Mr. Appu Sastri to give the boys a holiday in remembrance of my visit.

Mr. Rao Bahadur S. Appu Sastri, the principal of the Native high school, Kumbakonam, requests

(1) that his school might be taken over by the Government to be utilized as a model school in preference to the Board high school, Tirunelveli, and

(2) that he may be given a special grant to make good the deficit of the ^(school for the) past 10 or 11 years to compensate him for the loss incurred by the withdrawal of the rent for the school at least for the past 5 years previous to 1882.

2. Mr. Appu Sastri made the same request in 1915 when he was informed that the Government was unable to take over his high school under

- (A) management - please see G.O. No. 333 mis. 2. Since then the model school scheme has been under the sanction of the Secy of State and the Board high school, Tirunelveli, has been taken over under Govt. management with effect from the 1st June 1919 - paras 2+3 of G.O. No. 174 (Edn) dt 17.4.19. Mr. Appu Sastri's first request cannot therefore be complied with.

3. As regards the second request for a grant, no information is available in this office as to the accumulated deficit referred to in the petition or as to the circumstances in which

NOTES.

P

the rent grant was withdrawn by the
Mr Appu Sastri's previous application w
Mr Stone un-officially he noted -

page 8 of G.O. No. 338 S.M.
28.3.16. (A)

2 It (the school) has always been
such a way as to give Mr Appu Sastri a
income as pay as headmaster and of rec
something on account of rent of his school
nothing more than this was considered
by way of aid to the school - please see
and H.E. the Governor's notes at bottom of

(A) G.O.

4. It is for consideration whether the
may be informed that the Govt. see no
to ~~reconsider~~ ^{reconsider} their previous G.O., or whether
question of grant. Should be examined
In the latter case the file may be for
to the D.P.D. who for remarks.

M
18.7.19
L
18.7.19

he may hear wh
the D.P.D. has to say
the second point. He
may be sent up to

CA
20.7.19

I do not think that any case is
made out for a permanent grant
See Sir John H Stone's remarks above
referred to & the Edel Dept

never makes grants for
past years

2. Re the taking over of the school.
The school is an excellent one &
it would be a pity if it fails
after such a long career. The
break down will tell on the
College also. ^{Under} the pecuniary arrangements
of the proprietors it is just possible
that the school may be neglected.

On the other hand, I believe that
the movement is making money
over the school & will decline
to hand over if no promise be
given him to pay a lump sum.

I need to me to say for
remarks W 21/7/19

no 1381 B. 1
21.7.19.

L.P. 7 (W)

no. camp no 215/19 931-

We have for some years
admitted a salary of £400 p.a. to the App
Section as Head Master in the calculation
the grant due to the school. For some
prior to last year rent was also admitted
£150 p.a. but this was increased

(last year) £165 p.a. on the valuation of the
T.W.D. I do not

we should be justified in granting any further concession in this regard. There is no immediate prospect of the school 'failing'. It and when it does or shows signs of doing, Govt. or the municipality can step in. According to the latest report I have on the school it is neither advancing nor going back.

[Signature]
30.7.14
Home (Govt) Dept

A draft order is submitted for approval. (Orders are solicited as to the circulation of the Case to H. M. and H. E. the Governor)

[Signature]
4.8.14
[Signature]
6.8.14
S

Not necessary to circulate as we merely reiterate a past order. Done

2/8/14



sever marked points for
past years
2. As the total cost of the school
the school is an excellent one
it would be a pity if it failed
after such a long career. The
work done will tell on the
other side. The financial condition
of the school is a good one
that it is in a position to receive
the necessary funds for its work.
The school is in a position to receive
the necessary funds for its work.

[Signature]
2.8.14
2
[Signature]
2.8.14

Nature High School, Kimbakonam

AIN G.O. No., dated 191

338 581 28-3-1916

LSO :—

p. 138-139 From the 289, No. 196P, dated 12-7-1919

....., " " , " 191

....., " " , " , " 191

ORDER.

Miss

No. 968, dated 8: 8. 191

with reference to his memorial
of 29. 6. 19 requesting that the Native
high school, Kumbakonam, may
be taken over by Govt. and that
he may be given some additional
grants in aid of the school, Mr.
Rao Bahadur S. Appu Sastriar Aot
is informed that the Govt. regret
their inability to comply with
the requests.

M
6-8-19.

$$\begin{array}{r} 48.2 \\ \hline 48.2 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{a}{6.828}$$

7/8719

4.8.19
 Ld
 4.8.19
 P. Rao Bahadur
 S. N. Sastriar. A.D. B.A.
 Manager, Native High School
 Kumbakonam

To the SPC

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

REF TO C. No.

OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—