

Law (1921) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1305

DATED *14th September 1921*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Meeting. September 1921-Resolution-abolition
of selection test to send up students of the sixth form for the
S.S.L.C. examination-notes recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Edu 2053B
9.7.21

Council Office.

Resolution 27.6.21

Mr. M.C. Rajan.

US
The LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

83 55. That ^{his Council recommends to the Govt.} in the opinion of this Council ^{not} pupils who are reading in the sixth ^{form} ~~form~~ ^{should} not be detained from appearing for the S.S.L.C. Examination as a result of any selection test.

S.R.

Law (Edu) Dept

In para 33 of their report

*h.7 of
G.O. No 5102
9.7.08*

(A)

the Committee appointed to consider the question of the institution of a School Final Examination stated as follows:-

" To it rests with the headmaster
" in the first place to judge of
" the merits of the pupil's school
" work, his permission to appear
" for the public examination ^{where}
" necessary; we therefore propo

para 6 of Bio

Nº 427 2st

21.7.09

(E)

p. 40 ibid

p. 37 - so

The Govt were of opinion that power must be given to a headmaster subject to revision by the Board of Management to be constituted under the rules to declare a pupil incompetent to appear for the public examination. Such pupil will however be entitled to the certificate as a record of his attendance and attainments.

pp 45-46 of the

Board's Calendar

"propose that no pupil may appear unless his certificate is sent in by the headmaster." The Govt approved the proposal and accordingly, under para VI of the S.S.L.C. scheme, the headmaster shall at the end of the course in the sixth form forward to the Secretary to the Board the certificates of such of his pupils as wish to complete them by appearing for the public examination conducted by the Board and as are, in his opinion, competent to appear for that examination.

2 Under the subsidiary rules and instructions issued by the Board D. P. I, "a list of the pupils to be presented at the public examination must be forwarded by the headmaster of the school from which they are presented to the Secretary to the Board not later than the 20th of January preceding the examination. This list should be accompanied by the treasury receipts for the fees. The fee will not under any circumstances be returned. Headmasters are therefore requested to take particular

p. 46 of the
Comm'n's Report

p. 1 ante

Q "particular care to see that the pupil³
"will be eligible to appear for the
"examination.
"To present a pupil for the public
"examination will be regarded as
"a declaration on the part of the
"headmaster that in his opinion the
"pupil, by the end of that school
"year, will have completed satisfactory
"by a definite course of study. In
"deciding whether a pupil is competent
"to appear, the headmaster should
"be guided by considerations precisely
"similar to those on which he
"decides the annual promotions
"from one form to another."

~~3~~ Presumably the headmasters
of high schools decide the fitness
of pupils to appear for the public
examination on the results of a
preliminary selection examination.
The M.L.C. suggests that all
pupils who have completed the
school course should, irrespective
of their fitness, ^(as a result of any selection test) be permitted to
appear for the public examination.
It is obviously undesirable to
permit a candidate who is

not

not likely to be successful ⁴ in the public examination to appear for it. The acceptance of the M.L.C's suggestion will result in a number of incompetent pupils appearing for the public examination ~~and will only tend to accentuate the existing complaint that there is an annual slaughter in the S.S.L.C examination~~

(N) Vide newspaper cutting in Cro No 713 Hame (Row) of 12.8.20. It may be noted that the Board have on previous occasions declined to interfere on behalf of pupils who were not permitted to appear for the public examination —

(X) Cro's No 322 Hame (Row) of 17.3.19
(V) and No 334 Hame (Row) of 17.3.19

4. The objections of the Member appear to be centred more on the selection test, by which apparently he means selection examination, than to the exercise of the discretion by the headmasters in sending up students for the ^{public} examination. A selection examination seems to be an absolute necessity. Headmasters have to be guided by considerations similar to those on which they decide the annual promotion of the students from one form to another. We cannot get over the fact that the result of examination is a test of proficiency. Even ~~the S.S.L.C. scheme~~ ^{the S.S.L.C. scheme} ~~is intended to be~~ ^{which is intended to be}

a record of continued progress in the school course, we have not been able to dispense altogether with the public examination ~~in connection with the school~~, though a minor position is now assigned to it as compared to school work and progress in classes. The student gets promoted from one form to another chiefly as a result of the class examination held at the end of the year. The same system is introduced at the end of the course in the sixth or final form. It is ^{not} possible to test the progress of the student in the sixth form except by the final school examination to be held at the end of the year. Notwithstanding the usefulness of the examination as a test for selection for the public examination, a certificate of the progress of the student ^{in the Secondary Course} ~~during the course~~ will not be complete without the result of that examination as showing the record of the student's progress in the sixth form, especially as the certificate is to show progress of attendance and attainments also.

Attention is invited to pages 34 and 41 of the notes with G.O. 427-Educational, dated 21st July 1909.

Sir Murray Hammick ~~has~~ noted as follows in that connection. "Headmasters must have authority to prevent a boy going out for the examination. They have the same power as regards Matriculation. An appeal would I suppose lie against a headmaster's action to the Director or the school committee".

Sir George Forbes ~~has~~ noted thereon as under -

"(The above) I understand is for the written examination but the boy should be entitled to a certificate of school attendance and school attainment from his headmaster."

Admission to every public examination is regulated by a school or annual examination e.g. intermediate, B.A., Matriculation etc. But no reason has been

p-41 n notes ^{Sid}

advanced as to why it should be dispensed with under the S.S.L.C. scheme alone. ~~No reason for the suggestion is also apparent.~~ Perhaps it may be suggested that headmasters, merely on account of prejudice or other cause, ~~however~~, plough down the student and prevent him from appearing for the public examination. It may be observed that if the boy is otherwise clever and has shown satisfactory progress in the classes and if in the selection examination alone he is improperly plucked, the remedy is provided in the rule that an application ^{may be made} to the Board of Management to rectify the mistake. There is also the Inspectors' inspection at which such cases might be brought to notice when it would surely be rectified. No cases have hitherto come to the notice of Government at which such improper use has been made of the selection examination.

It is for consideration whether the resolution may be opposed.

5. For orders if any further information should be called for, whether the resolution should be discussed at the Cabinet, and as to who will take charge of it.

6. The file may first go to the D.P.I for remarks.

para 6(ii) of
Crown 427 (E)
21.7.09

W. No 2055 B-4
21.7.24

20/7/24

D.P. Ins.

P. T. O.

I know of no case where a pupil reading in the VI form has been detained as a result of a selection test alone. The detention is usually made as a result of the boy's previous work in the school. While therefore I would be in sympathy with the resolution were the underlying presumption correct I regret that I am not in sympathy with it since detentions are not made only as a result of a selection test.

It seems fairly clear that we must allow to headmasters the same power in the VI form as they have in the V and other forms viz., that of stating ^{whether} ~~that~~ ^{or} a pupil has not satisfactorily completed his course of study during the year. If so, detentions must be allowed to be made. It is for the mover to prove---and I am fairly convinced that he will not be able to prove it---that detentions are made as the result of a selection test alone independently of a candidate's previous work throughout the year.

It may be mentioned en passant that the record of work of the boy ^{throughout the year} is available for inspection in the school.

The words of the mover are "any selection test". This is very wide and cannot be accepted. If the mover were to replace the word 'any' by 'one' and insert the word 'alone' at the end of his resolution I ^{should} have no objection to its acceptance.

home 385
26.7.21

En 2229 B
27.7.21



26.7.21

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Law (Em)

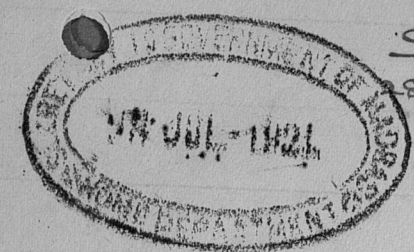
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For order as to circulation

to M3

CA
28-7-21

CV
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M3

2842

The resolution is too far too wide.
By the selection of all the
but suffer. as suggested by 28.9
if the resolution is amended
it will be accepted by me.

28/7/21

~~will be 28.8. please take charge~~
~~of this resolution~~

Resⁿ not moved.

28
3/9/21



To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

The Law (Edn) DEPARTMENT.

The following is the result of the debate on Resolution No. 83

Resolution.

Abolition of selection test to send up students of the sixth form for the S.S.L.C. Examination.

Mr. M. C. RAJA:—

83 [55] That this Council recommends to the Government that pupils who are reading in the sixth form should not be detained from appearing for the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination as a result of any selection test.

The Honorable Member not being in his place, the resolution was deemed to have been withdrawn

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OFFICE,

1-9 1921

h. d. Sewamkannu

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

Order 1305 Recorded.
14-9-21

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Agg
10/9/21

Legislative Council meeting

September 1921 - Resn

abolition of selection

test to send up students

of the sixth form for the

S.S.L.C. exam - notes

recorded.

7-9-21

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