

Law (1921) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1728

DATED 3-12-1921

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Resolution—November 1921.

Muhammadan Secondary School, Georgetown—building—
notes recorded.

Rest 149

VI

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF
GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[For the meeting of the 12th October 1921.]

[SUBJECT.—*Construction of a suitable building for Government Muhammadan
Secondary School, Georgetown.*]

COUNCIL OFFICE.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—

149. That this Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to construct a suitable building for the Government Muhammadan Secondary School, Georgetown, and to raise it to the status of a high school.

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The resolution proposed to be moved by the member raises two questions, viz.—

(1) the construction of a suitable building for the Georgetown Muhammadan Secondary School, and

(2) the raising of the status of the school to that of a high school.

2. (i) *Construction of a suitable building.*—The Government Muhammadan Secondary School, Georgetown, was opened in 1914 (G.O. No. 107, Educational, dated the 23rd January 1914) and is now located in a private building in Armenian Street, for which a rent of Rs. 125 per mensem is paid by Government (G.O. No. 1648, dated 21st December 1918). In paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 1648, dated 21st December 1918, the Director of Public Instruction was asked to report as to the advisability of the construction of a new building for the school. Accordingly in 1919 (pages 1-2 of G.O. No. 403, dated 29th March 1920) the Director of Public Instruction came up with the proposal to acquire the site opposite Mahfuz Khan's Garden. It was estimated that the cost of the acquisition would amount to about Rs. 30,818. Before orders could be issued for the acquisition of the plot, the value of the site went up to Rs. 95,000 and the transaction for its purchase by Messrs. Kaliyanji Raminji was almost completed. As provision in the budget for the year was Rs. 30,000 only and owing to financial stringency the proposal had to be abandoned. The Director of Public Instruction has however been asked to select another site for the school at a reasonable price, though he had stated in his un-official note at pages 9 of the notes to G.O. No. 403, dated 29th March 1920, that no other suitable site was available. No further report has yet been received from the Director of Public Instruction. Pending the acquisition of a site and the construction of a new building thereon, the present arrangement under which the school is accommodated in a rented building will have to be continued.

(ii) *Raising of the status of the school to that of a high school.*—The Government are not indifferent to the needs of the Muhammadan school-going population of Georgetown. In 1918, the residents of Georgetown memorialized to Government for raising the school to the grade of a complete secondary school (G.O. No. 21, dated 5th October 1920). The Director of Public Instruction to whom the matter was referred stated that although it was desirable to open the IV, V and VI Forms one by one in the school the existing accommodation is barely sufficient for its present needs and that he was unable to select additional suitable accommodation in the neighbourhood. It will thus be seen that any further development to the school must wait the construction of a new building.

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5.10.21

3. The case may be sent to the Director of Public Instruction un-officially for remarks.

(No similar resolution was moved during the last twelve months.)

C.S.D.—22-8-21. N.K.—22-8-21.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—22-8-21

P. C. DUTT—22-8-21.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

U.O. Reply No. 470/21.

If the word 'immediate' is deleted the resolution might be accepted. There is no possibility of taking immediate steps to construct a suitable building until the land upon which that building is to be constructed has been obtained and this department has been for some time and is still endeavouring to obtain suitable site at what Government might consider a reasonable cost.

The barracks square was suggested but Government have apparently decided to keep the barracks square as an open space and not allow it to be built upon. This suggestion therefore fell through.

Another suggestion was made by the Inspector which involved the acquisition of private houses and this was likely to be extremely expensive. So it was dropped.

A third suggestion was made that the school might be built upon a site belonging to the Corporation and lying between the Government Panchama School and St. Mary's European School. The Commissioner, however, was not willing to agree to this.

At the present moment the Inspector reports that the Civil Jail building is likely to be available shortly and he has been called upon to report on its suitability for school purposes.

From the above it will be seen that the department has been and still is endeavouring to find a suitable site at a reasonable cost. It must be noted that the site should be within the easy reach of the Muhammadan population of Georgetown.

The opening of higher forms has been deferred for want of suitable accommodation.

I am given to understand that the mover of this resolution lives near the Muhammadan school and he probably knows the difficulty that this department is faced with in obtaining a suitable site at a reasonable figure. He would more easily have realised the object of his resolution if he had assisted the department in his endeavours to secure suitable accommodation instead of proposing this resolution in the Council.

R. LITTLEHAILES—26.8.21

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

May be submitted to M-3.

2. Orders are requested as to whether the resolution should be discussed in the Cabinet and as to who will take charge of it.

C.S.D.—29-8-21.

C.R.—30-8-21.

P.C.D.—30-8-21.

The resolution will be replied to as indicated in the note above.

A. P. P[ATRO]—30-8-21.

To

850-22-9-21.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Law (Edn)



The following resolution was—

not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn in the absence of the mover, deemed to have been withdrawn.

Resolution No. 149 (169)

Building for the Muhammadan Secondary School, Georgetown, and its status.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—

149 [169] That this Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to construct a suitable building for the Government Muhammadan Secondary School, Georgetown, and to raise it to the status of a high school.

By leave withdrawn

Amendment.

L. Swamikannu

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OFFICE,

15-11 1921.

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

*Building for the Muhammadan Secondary School, Georgetown,
and its status.*

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:—

149. That this Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to construct a suitable building for the Government Muhammadan Secondary School, Georgetown, and to raise it to the status of a high school.

"At present we have got an incomplete secondary school located in an ill-ventilated building in Armenian street. Pupils seek admission to the school in large numbers but they are refused admission on the ground of want of accommodation. Secondly, Sir, three or four years ago the Government announced that they would raise the school to the status of a high school. But

somehow or other ~~that~~ was given up, the reason being that they were not able to provide that school with a proper building. Last year efforts were made for the construction of a building. I was told that the Inspector of Schools recommended to the Government the purchase of a site in Georgetown; but before the Government came to any conclusion that site was purchased by some other people. Therefore that land was lost. If Government wish to construct a building they should make up their mind at once for investing some money. Otherwise nothing could be done. In Georgetown it is very costly to construct a building. Unless Government came forward and made up their mind to spend money over the construction of the building, it will go on as at present. At present the school is located in a very ill-ventilated building and the accommodation is such that only very few pupils are admitted. I hope the Hon'ble the Minister will take a sympathetic attitude in this matter and see that the high school becomes an accomplished fact at an early date."

The resolution was duly seconded.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I have every sympathy with the resolution. We have been making endeavours to find a suitable site for the location of the Georgetown Muhammadan Secondary School. First a site was selected in ~~Mohafukhan~~ Gardens, that being the centre of the Muhammadan population in that area. When we were negotiating, its price was said to be Rs. 30,000. But after a few weeks the price went up to Rs. 95,000. Therefore it was considered undesirable to acquire a site at such a high cost. Again another site was attempted to be acquired which belonged to the Corporation. The Corporation after a prolonged negotiation said that they proposed to keep that site for public purposes and could not alienate it for the purpose of constructing a school building. A third attempt was made to get a portion of the barracks square but the Government ultimately desired that the square should be left open for purposes of the public. The honourable mover of this resolution is living quite close to the school and the Government will be much obliged if he is able to assist the Inspector of Schools by showing him a suitable site for the construction of the school. Thus we are willing to acquire a site and to provide a building for the school for the Muhammadan population in Georgetown.

"As regards the raising of the school to the status of a high school, we are also in full sympathy with that. Forms will be introduced year after year as soon as accommodation will be available. The school will be developed provided we have sufficient accommodation. With this assurance, I hope the honourable mover will not press his resolution."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB:—"In view of the very sympathetic reply given by the Hon'ble the Minister, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

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'Recess'

(S) 29.11.21

A 1.12.21

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Ag. Council Resn - Nov. 21

Muhammadan Secondary
School, Georgetown - Building
note in case

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