

Home (1921) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 470

DATED 30-3-1921

[Despatch Abstract.]

School - Hobart Training School for Muhammedan women, Royapettah -
Certain complaints - notes recorded.

Confidential

470/3
1,77,986-24-1-13
C.F.-31

DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT NO.
1135

Received 191 Registered 191

Subject
Memorandum No 1000-1 P. of 14th July 1921
Submitting with reference to the English
Translation of the article in the Zamir
Report of the 5th July 1921.

ENCLOSURES.
No.
Spare copies

No. 9/2
Station Rongapellat, Dated the 21st July 1921

From (Name) W. J. Prendergast Esqre B. Litt (Oxon)
Arabic and Persian Degrees of Honours
(Designation) Asst. Persian Hind. Translator to Govt.

To The Chief Secretary to Govt.

Sir,
With reference to Memorandum
No 1000-1 P. of 14th July 1921 Confidential
I have the honour to submit an English
Translation of the article in the Zamir
Report of the 5th July 1921

I have the honour to be
Yours most obedient servant

W. J. Prendergast

Asst. Pers and Hind. Translator to Govt.

Translation of the article in the
Zammi Report of the 5th February/21
referred to in the Memorandum No 1000-1 P
dated 14th Feb/21. Confidential ⁴⁷⁰/₄

Zammi Report of Saturday 5th Feb/21

Zenana School, Madras

A delicate situation

The Government Zenana School was established in the City for the education and training of Muhammadian girls, but it appears that the original aim and object have undergone a change. English is now included in its curriculum and English education is imparted by English lady teachers and with these English ideas, customs and habits have found their way into the institution. An English Band now plays in the School, English songs, English games and sports have been introduced. So long as there was a majority of Muslim lady teachers, the girls were compelled to adhere to Muslim customs and habits and they were not allowed to be lax in the observance of their religion and

This was already
foreseen when
a teacher for
teaching English
was introduced
into the school
and the girls were
proposed to be
Q

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Faith, but at present ⁴⁰ owing
to the predominance of non-
Muslim lady teachers, the
girls have been given their
freedom and therefore derive
no advantage from religion.
In fact they become indifferent
and apathetic towards it.

It appears that non-
Muslim lady teachers are trying
to give the school an English tone
to bring English influence to bear
on their dress, their habits, their
ideas and their writings and
conversations and to convert
them entirely into Mem (Sahibs).

The real object of
the non-Muslim lady teachers
appears that in case the girls
become anglicised the Mems can
take possession of the school
when there will be no occasion
for Muslim lady teachers,
for Islamic influences will
be gone and the Mems will
always find employment.

We are not now
discussing this self-interestedness

but there is a question before
us viz. -

Is the treatment
accorded by Mems to Muslim girls
satisfactory and are these
girls on the right path?

We put this question
to the parents, brothers and
guardians of these girls. They
must reply solemnly. If they
have not understood, they must
ask their girls and consider
whether the education at the
Howard School makes the
girls Muslims or Mem (Sakils)

It has always been
our desire to save the Howard
School from criticism, but
the facts and the state of
affairs do not allow us
to remain silent and now
we cannot endure any longer
that which offends our aesthetic
lash. We say freely and nothing
can prevent us from expressing
the truth that if certain parents
agree to their girls becoming

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independent or to go astray
it is left to their option.
otherwise, if they do not
wish to ruin their own
self-respect, the respect of
their family and more than
this the respect of Islam
they should protect their girls
and should withdraw them
immediately not only from
the Howard School but also
from all the Government
and aided ^{zemaneh} schoolastic
institutions.

It is useless either
to complain to the Government
or against the Meen (Sahibs). The
Muslims are to blame for
they are pushing their girls
into a black pit, and are
indifferent to the position and
the misfortune of their girls.
The other day we
published (in these columns) an
unpleasant incident at the
Howard school. The details
of which have to-day been received
through some reliable sources

Not only this but also ²⁷⁰ other occurrences have come to our knowledge.

We learn that a certain lady teacher of the Hobart School named Miss Stone addresses the girls as Monkeys and Donkeys and that these expressions are her favourite terms of address. Another phrase the lady is fond of is "I will Kick Thee"

It is understood that the other day it happened that a big girl of the Fifth Form was displeased with Miss Stevens' bad treatment of a little girl, and the girl took courage and asked the Mem Sahib in English why she pulled the child's plait. If she was on fault she could have been punished. It appears Miss Stevens was very angry on seeing an independent girl objecting to the procedure of a (paid) servant and therefore she said very harshly "I am a teacher and can do whatever I like, you pupils have no right to question me. This retort savours of General Dyer and we commend the girl of Form the Fifth

(sic) (form) that she put ^{up} with it and gave a good proof of Islamic conduct.

But it is regrettable that the affair did not end here probably the Mems took their own version of the occurrence to the Superintendent.

The Superintendent too is Mem Sahib and when the same truthful girl appeared and told the other side of the story the Superintendent became very annoyed and said, "You were insolent to the teacher and quarrelled like the common person the least. You should have said nothing to the teacher but have reported the matter to me". After this outburst she said to the girls, "Never bring a complaint against a teacher".

Now if parents, who are sending their girls to the school, have any brains or hearts they should reflect how their girls are being treated and what kind of imperial orders are being issued by the employees

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The Second incident. ^{470/9}~~470~~

The fact appears to be that a few days ago a girl named Shahzadi was beaten at the school and sent home in a carriage.

The Third incident.

It is stated the girls are taught acting and take male part. For instance at last year's function a respectable girl of the Gwarlis Kunchinbada was dressed in male attire.

The fourth incident.

bears on Miss Robin, Superintendent who entered the Sewing Classroom a day before the inspection. Copies of the Koran were kept here and there. There was some dust on them. A female Panchama servant took them and placed them on the floor and dusted them and then drew attention of the lady teacher while the girls remained standing, no one

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Learning to show ^{the} respect
shown to the Holy Koran.

If these incidents are
correct Mussalman should mourn
for the Howard school and
after shedding tears of blood
at the fate of their girls, should
remain silent. In these circumstances
no true Mussalman can ever
mention the name of education
for daughters.

Such being the treatment
of the girls and the condition of
religion what have the community
to gain from education for these
girls? We again say that it is
unlawful for Mussalman to allow
their girls to continue in that degraded
position for a single moment longer.

If the girls' parents do
not do their duty, Holy Islam itself
will do its duty and abandon
the parents.

M. M. M. M. M.

Persian & Hind. Translators' office }
Rajpeth, 21st February 1921 }

Ag. Persian & Hind. Translators & Secy.

470/12

1.4. 1921 11.4.21 to Hindustani, Madras
to C.P. 11.4.21 from

I called for a copy of this article on information received in one of the D.D. Reports.

It deals with various incidents alleged to have occurred in the school & comments on the conduct of individual teachers. It is a matter for Law Education to deal with.

[The file may be transferred to them with the remark ^{that} in flagrant cases of misrepresentation on the part of N.C.O. advocates, the policy of Public is to prosecute if possible.]

AS
23.2.21

CS

Law Dept. for perusal.

AS
23.2.21

Law (Enq) Dept

Copies of resolutions passed at a Public meeting regarding certain complaints about the Hobart Muhammadan Training School, Royapettah, have separately been received & the file, with the D.P.'s remarks, ~~there~~ was sent in circulation to M, on 24.2.21. As this file contains more specific allegations it may also be sent to the D.P. for perusal.



Enq. C.P. 657B
25.2.21



AS
23.2

Recd 28/2/21

AS

657B

22
1.3.21
Ta
13.21

perusal and remarks if ^{any} ~~any~~ ¹⁰ ~~10~~ ¹⁹ ~~19~~
21/3/21 5 11/3/21

DP 9/11/21

U.O. 657B-1 Esq
1.3.21

U.O. 137
8.3.21

U.O. Reply.
below

I append herewith the report of the Superintendent of the Hobart Secondary and Training School. This report deals with complaints mentioned in the ~~Qam~~ ^{Qam} report of the 5th February 1921.

"With reference to the incidents mentioned in the ~~Qam~~ ^{Qam} Report of Saturday 5th February 1921, I have the honour to make the following statements:

(a) There is no teacher of the name of Stone in this school. I do not believe that the expressions quoted are used by my staff, nor have I received any complaints of their use.

(b) On or about February 3rd a complaint was made to me that Mrs. Stephens, III Assistant Mistress, had ill-treated a small child. When I learnt from the complainant's own account that she (a girl of the 4th Form) had herself spoken rudely to Mrs. Stephens in this connection, I told her that she must not speak to a teacher so, but if any complaint were necessary, it should be made to me. The statement that I forbade complaints is untrue.

I went myself to see what was going on; but found the class proceeding pleasantly, with no sign of tears, or punishment. At an enquiry which I held immediately afterwards I learned that the complaint was entirely unfounded, and that there had been no question of the child's punishment, much less of her ill-treatment.

(c) I believe the statement that a girl named Shazadi (or any other girl of this school) was beaten and sent home in a carriage to be entirely false.

(d) In 1919, when a Muslim lady was Superintendent, a girl did impersonate Ali Baba, possibly in male attire. The girls are not taught

acting nor were they being taught
taught to act when I took over charge.

(e) In January, soon after taking charge while directing the cleaning of the sewing class room, I found on a shelf some bundles of books, utterly unrecognisable, covered with dirt, and very worn-eaten. They were placed on the floor, as there are neither desks, tables, nor chairs in the sewing class room. On ascertaining that they were copies of the Quran I had them dusted by the girls of the Industrial Class, and I directed the Muslim teacher who has always charge of the Urdu library, to dispose of them suitably. So far as I know they were not handled by any non-muslim except myself, and by me only when it was impossible to see what they were. Nor is it a fact that they were treated with disrespect.

(f) I have from the beginning impressed upon the muslim teachers in the school (1) my desire not to interfere in any way with their religious practices; and (2) their obligation to inform me if anything were being done in the school contrary to their religion. They have brought nothing of the sort to my notice.

The only thing in the nature of a complaint I have received from the parents of the children was a letter stating that a child had been kept away from the Prize Distribution as there would be dancing. (In fact there was no dancing, there was musical drill which had been introduced by a former muslim Superintendent). This child has been attending school regularly since and I am receiving numerous applications for admission to the School.

(Sd.) Elizabeth Ryan.

The Hobart School was for many years an elementary school until it was raised to the Secondary grade in response to recommendations of the progressive elements in the Muhammadan community. Since this has been done there has always been a small reactionary faction which is criticising in season and out of season the working of the Secondary school. The Superintendent's report disposes of the allegations made in the complaint. I will only add that this year 3 Muhammadan girls

are completing their 6th form course and it
is proposed to appoint them as teachers in the
school so as to make the staff a Muhammadan one
so far as possible and this policy will be con-
tinued to the extent that we can secure Muhamma-
dan Secondary grade women teachers.

RAA
8/3/21

Law (Edw) Dept

Submitted no action seems to be necessary
in the matter so far as this Dept is concerned.
The D.P. in note above may perhaps be sent
to the Chief Secretary for perusal.

AD 9/3/21
IL 9/3/21
CA 10.3.21
b.s.
M 16.3.21
M 14/3/21

The note may now be

Code 470 Referred
Mis dated 30.3.21

AD 16/3/21
IL 17/3/21
M 1.4.21
H.E. 6.23.3.21
after perusal by M.
18.3.21
M 8/3/21

Ho Bai School
Certain Complaints -
under record
by 10.16.42
OO on 19.3.21



250 C.N. 80 B
8.3.21



300
9.3.21

200 780 B-1 E
15.3.21