

Law (192 /) Department.

(Cronaker)

SERIES.

Cronaker

G.O. No.

901

DATED

13-6-21

[Despatch Abstract.]

meeting,
Legislative Council--February 1921--Resolution--
Portable school-house des gns--Notes recorded.

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NOTES.

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

[For the meeting of the 14th February 1921.]

[SUBJECT.—*Portable school-house designs for elementary schools.*]

THE LAW (EDUCATION), THE PUBLIC WORKS AND THE
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.

M.R.Ry. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI AVARGAL, M.L.C.:—

~~XXX.~~ That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of one or more engineering experts, an Inspector of Schools and a taluk board president may be appointed to devise plans and specifications with a rough estimate of costs for a portable school-house with an eye to the standardization of parts to accommodate thirty children for use in rural parts by the local boards in view of the probable need to shift schools from one place to another in connexion with the enforcing of compulsion.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The question of issuing a type design for *elementary* schools has been engaging the attention of Government for some time past. Attention is solicited to Mr. Littlehailes' note on pages 15 to 17 and 20 to 25 of the notes in the linked file. On his advice it has now been held that it is not of much use circulating a design to be rigidly adhered to in the case of every elementary school building without regard to varying local conditions, but that it would be desirable to issue a body of instructions on school designing leaving it to the management to decide on the exact type of building to be constructed consistent with economy. All that the Government would expect is that certain cardinal principles of school construction should be adopted. A draft of the rules in designing school buildings has just been prepared by the Public Works Department and these are being separately sent to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks. These instructions apply however to permanent structures.

2. The committee suggested in the resolution is to devise plans and specification for a portable school-house to accommodate thirty children. The idea of a 'portable school-house' is rather novel. It is not clear of what materials it should be constructed. The suggestion does not appear to be feasible of adoption. Attention is solicited to the following extract from the notes in the linked file:—

(i) *Materials for school buildings.*—"Materials for the construction of buildings that are cheap in one district or part of a district are expensive in another district. Old iron rails are available in Madras at a reasonable figure but their cost in the Wynaad is prohibitive, while good wood is cheaper in the Wynaad than it is in Madras. Laterite suitable for building purposes is available in parts of Malabar and it is cheap; while in parts of Nellore stone is available at a very reasonable figure and yet in other parts the only suitable material is brick."

"If a cheap building is to be aimed at the widest possible choice of materials should be allowed to the local authorities and it is chiefly the illustration and not any specification which will be useful to them."

(ii) *Size of school buildings.*—"In deciding that a school is necessary at any place, the most important thing is to consider the area and population for which it is necessary to design, and this is the first fact required in the report attached to the estimate. The report should also give the number and kind of schools and number of pupils in each that exist already in the area under consideration."

*File no. 1111
of rules of
design for
elementary
school
buildings—
separately
under cover*

linked file

*p. 15 of
the linked
file*

*para 2
of draft
instructions
Slip (2) in
the linked file*

para 2 ibid

para 2 of
draft instruction
in letter file (2)

"Supposing the new school is for a village of 2,000 inhabitants (with no existing institutions) then the number of girls of school-going age is likely to be 350 and boys 300. The exceptions or permanent exemptions will reduce this number somewhat, but the probable increase of population has to be allowed for for a period of 10 to 15 years in advance, and a boys' school to accommodate 160 and a girls' school to accommodate 200 would be built at the start and designed so as to be capable of easy and convenient extension whenever required."

"Buildings should ordinarily be designed so that an expansion is possible with the growth of pupils in the school. This is particularly necessary in a country like India where a very large number of pupils still remain to be educated."

E.A.V.—4-2-21. N.K.—5-2-21.

The object of the proposal, viz., standardization of parts has been, it will be seen from the above, definitely given up.

2. Next as regards the other it is not clear how a 'portable' school is going to aid compulsion. Under the Elementary Education Act (section 45) compulsion cannot be introduced unless sufficient number of school places have been provided; and the number of school places shall not be considered sufficient unless provision is made, subject to certain specified exceptions, for the education of every child in an elementary school situated within one mile from the residence of such child. There will then be less need for moving schools and there will be necessity for a net work of permanent structures throughout the country. In any case the design for a portable building is the last thing needed for introducing compulsion.

The resolution may be opposed. The Director of Public Instruction may be consulted.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—5-2-21.

I agree that I am unable to understand what portability has got to do with compulsion.

2. But the idea underlying the resolution is probably this. We start a school in a locality and impart the necessary amount of education declared compulsory. After the first batch of pupils go out, there may not be enough pupils of the school-going age within the prescribed distance. So unless the school is shifted, there will not be enough pupils and the building will be useless. In the interests of economy, design is to be evolved.

3. The objections to the above are these. If the original buildings are cheap, there is nothing to be gained by portability. If the materials are cheap, they get damaged. Regarding design, see in this connexion the Ceylon designs.

4. But even if the attendance falls off after the first batch, will not some pupils still be left? Further the school building will have immense potentialities as a community centre—vide the recent report of the missionaries on village education. The idea to do away with school and attendant facilities once the attendance goes down after a modicum of elementary education to a modicum of pupils that would be swept within the folds of a compulsory law is really opposed to sound educational progress.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—7-2-21.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

I have little to add. Schools established under compulsory education are not likely to have to be shifted. The District Educational Councils are to make an educational survey of the area under their control and this survey will include the question of accommodation.

R. G. GRIEVE—7-2-21.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

May be circulated to the Hon'ble the Minister for orders as to who will take charge of the resolution, whether any further information is required and whether the resolution is to be discussed at the meeting of the Cabinet.

C.R.—9-2-21. R.R.—9-2-21.

Director of Public Instruction takes charge.

A. S[UBBARAYALU]—10-2-21.

Further notes

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The current was transferred to Law (Education) through the Secretary, Legislative Council u.o. with Public Works u.o. No. 251-Wks./A-1, dated 4th February 1921.

—9-2-21.

The resolution asked for a committee of an expert and non-experts. This office note remarked that if the appointment of the committee was agreed to by Government, the Public Works Department expert to be included therein would presumably be the Consulting Architect to Government.

As the resolution was marked to the Education Department also, to which it primarily related, the current was transferred with these remarks to Law (Education).

T.B.S.—9-2-21.

The disposal ought to have been shown to me for approval because Law (Education) require to be supplied with some information whether the proposal is reasonable from the Engineering point of view. It is presumed the intention is not to have a primary school on wheels, which can be hauled about a district as such a proposal cannot be approved. (Out of place and expensive.) The alternative is to have a frame building which can be taken to pieces and re-erected on a new site in an adjoining village. There is no reason why money should be thrown away by adopting this proposal if we can meet the desired aim of testing the suitability of location of a primary school otherwise. In this country construction in bricks in mud and pan tile roof similar to the ordinary house in a village is a cheap method and primary schools should be so constructed in the first instance.

B If anything cheaper is required the natural thing to propose is a cadjan leaf hut with an earthen or sand floor.

If the brick in mud building is not required after the experiment, then it can be usefully employed as a hut and in the case of the cadjan leaf primary school the materials can be sold.

Proposals at A and B are more reasonable than the proposal in the resolution and I therefore submit that the resolution should not be accepted.

W. HUTTON—10-2-21.

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The main file was circulated to M-1 on 9th February 1921. This may also be circulated in continuation.

N.K.—10-2-21.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—10-2-21.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—10-2-21.

Law (Edn) Dept.

It has been ascertained from Legislative that the resolution was withdrawn without being moved. The notes may as usual be ordered.

See Order
Nos. 1

Recorded

5.3.21.

RESOLUTION RE PORTABLE SCHOOL-HOUSES.

45. That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of one or more engineering experts, an inspector of schools and a taluk board president may be appointed to devise plans and specifications with a rough estimate of cost for a portable school-house with an eye to the standardization of parts to accommodate 30 children for the use in rural parts by local boards in view of the probable need to shift schools from one place to another in connexion with the enforcing of compulsion.

Mr. T. Sivasankaram Pillai begged permission to withdraw the resolution, and the resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The above is the
copy: Council - 12/6/21 relevant extract from Council
Resoln - portable Proc. S. The notes may be
School - House designs
- notes recorded.
Order 901 dated 12/6/21
MCS.

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6.6.21
MM
7/6/21

'Recorded'
R
9.6.21
11/6/21



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CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT. _____

STATEMENT WITH DIWTO. _____

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