

Law (Education) (1925) Department.

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 85

DATED 22.1.1925

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Question

M. E. L. M. school, Amliw - compulsory recitation
of Christian creeds - notes recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Law/Econ

Memo: 2646B-2 929.10.24

Leg. council Question

N. 1077 - M. E. & M. School
at Ambur -

with reference
to the above question (copy
enclosed), the D.P.S. is
requested to obtain ~~the~~
~~writing~~ from the ^{(manager of the} M.E.D.M.
school, Ambur, and submit
to Govt. a statement ^{in writing} to
the effect that the ~~compulsory~~
~~recitation~~ recitation of the
Apostle's Creed by the boys
of the school is not ~~now~~
Compulsory.
~~and the~~ ~~and the~~ ~~and the~~ ~~and the~~
~~and the~~ ~~and the~~ ~~and the~~ ~~and the~~
~~and the~~ ~~and the~~ ~~and the~~ ~~and the~~
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Shd 1929/4

CVV
28.10.24

8/9
28.10.24

The D. P. S. (with copy of
An. on p. 5 CF)

Remind after 3 weeks

Law(Education)

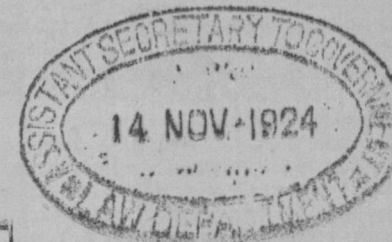
DEPARTMENT.

Received 192 Registered 192

Subject.

Legislative Council question No.1077- M.E.L.M.

School, Ambur.



ENCLOSURES.

No. Inoriginal

Spare copies

R.O.C No. 260 D/24

Station Madras, Dated the 12- 11- 24 192

From (Name) R. Littlehailes Esq., M.A.,

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction

Madras

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Law(Education)

Department.

Sir,

With reference to Government Memo No.2646

B-2 dated the 29th October 1924, I have the honour to submit herewith a letter in original from Mr.S.

Borieck the Correspondent of the M.E.L.M School at Ambur stating that the students of the M.E.L.M.High School are not compelled to recite the Apostles Creed now.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

for Director of Public Instruction

A.R. 13/11/24

Ambur

5-11-24.

Mr. D. Educational Officer,
Vellore.

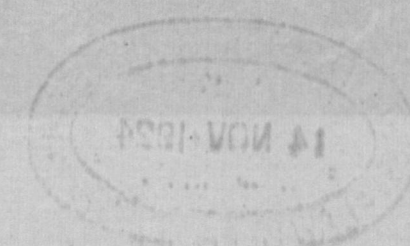
Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the ^{Students} boys of the M.E.L.M.H.S.,
Ambur, are not "compelled to recite the Apostles Creed. nor

Yours sincerely,

Bonack

Q. No. 1/57



2
Council Office,
13-6-24.

Question

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi

THE LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

19th in 20th Aug)
238. Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased

(a) to state whether any enquiry was held by departmental officials regarding the allegations against the Head of the Mission School at Amboor, concerning the forcing of certain religious practices on the pupils; and

(b) to lay on the table a copy of the report, if any; as well as the opinions received from the public bodies they consulted on the subject of introducing a conscience clause?

S.R.

the opinion Law (Ed) at
second clause (a) and first part of clause (b).

Due enquiries have been made by the D.P.S. in the matter and the reports received have been sent to the council office for being placed on the council table - M. 7-12 of 8.

(c) N. 906 of 2.6.24.

Second part of clause (b).

the question of introducing

X Placed on the Table
- flag (N)

3
67

a conscience clause has been referred to St. Secondary Edⁿ. Boards by the D.P.S. who has promised to send a report on the matter after all the replies are received. The question of placing the opinions on the table may be considered after they are received by Govt. with the D.P.S.'s remarks.

2. the following draft

answer is sub? :-

(a) yes.

(b) copies of the reports

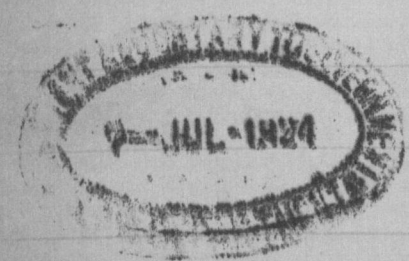
received regarding religious instruction in the M.E.D.M. school at Ambur have been placed on the table.

the opinions of St.

Secondary Edⁿ. Boards on the subject of the introduction of a conscience clause in the grant-in-Aid code have not yet been received by Govt.

CV
2.7.24
8/7
2.7.24
VTK
#7

Copied
18/7/24
CCV
R. dep. sec. to Govt.
21/7/24



29

QUESTION.—No. 1077

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the 10th October 1924.

2646B
L. du 24/9/24

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the

Law (Education) Department.

The Question has been answered



209

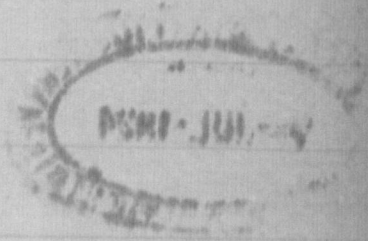
U.O. No. 3055-1, dated 22.9.24
h.6.

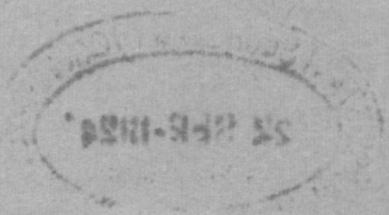
To

The Law (Edw)

Department.

122
20.9.24





Council Office.
15th September 1924.

Question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti:

The Law (Education) Department.

1077: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the letter of the Rev. G. M. Leith and the Rev. A. S. Woodburne, President and Secretary of the Missionary Educational Council of South India - published at page 11 of the issue of the Daily Express of 13th September 1924;

(b) whether he has taken any steps to prevent the compulsory recital by the boys of the school of this creed; and

(c) if not, why not?

A. S. P.

Law (Eds)

clause (a) of the question. The

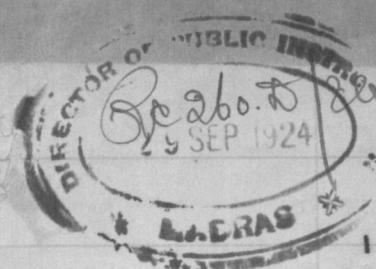
letter referred to will be found in the newspaper cutting put up at flag (M). The answer to this clause may be —

"The Govt. have perused the letter referred to."

2. clauses (b) and (c).

Attention is invited to para

As regards this, please see the notice the Minister's reply to a supplementary question asked on the 19th August last - p. 2 of (R)



(D)
(for removal
for D.C. Res. dir
re conscience
clause)

* Flag (N)

1 (C) and 2 of the Director's letter R.O.C.
N. 260 D/24 of 18.3.24 (M. 3-4 of G.O.
(where he reported)
N. 906 of 2.6.24) that the practice
of compelling the students to recite
the Apostle's creed was in vogue in
the school from about 15-10-23 to
about 18-2-24 and that it was
hereafter stopped; ^(He also stated) that this
stoppage was due to the manager's
illness and that ^(the practice) would possibly
be continued when he got better.
This letter has been placed on the Council Table.
It is not known whether the practice
has since been ^{revived} in the
school. Before framing an answer to the query
~~(the Director may perhaps~~
be consulted.



23.9.24

8/4

Lambdin 2646 BT
26.9.24

25.7.24 25.9

D.P.1 u.o

The manager of the M.E.L.M. High School, Ambur, wrote on the 8th October to the D.E.O., North Arcot District the instruction of the Apostle's Creed will probably be continued. The recitation of the same never was compulsory upon the pupils of the M.E.L.M. High School, Ambur".

The D.E.O. in a letter to me dated 9th October considers that the statements of the manager of the M.E.L.M. High School, Ambur, are not statements of facts. He has not, however, so far as I can gather, held any formal enquiry.

If Government desire a formal enquiry made it will be done provided that persons are found willing to come forward and make statements. How much truth there will be in the statements will be a matter for subsequent consideration.

If, however, Government desire to answer this question immediately I can only suggest that clauses (b) and (c) be answered as follows:-

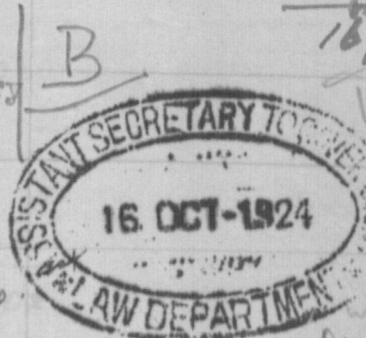
"The manager of the school has stated that the recitation of the Apostle's Creed never was compulsory upon the pupils of the M.E.L.M. High School, Ambur".

Law (Edn)

the statement at A and the answer suggested at B above are not in consonance with the information already furnished to Govt. and placed by them before the Legislative Council - please see the portions marked in the paper at flag (W) placed on the Council table. The D.E.O. has clearly

A

C



H. L. 2991 B
16/11/24

Amarty
22.9.24
P. 4. 10
G. 10. 24
N. 22/10

D.E.O. letter
in (N)

states, after the interview with the manager of the school, that the recitation of the Apostle's Creed was compulsory in the school.

Before answering the question on p. 5 ante, it seems necessary that the D.P.O. should be asked to institute a formal enquiry in the matter, as suggested by him on p. 7 ante. We must have got at the truth.

23.10.24
8/11
23.10.24

23.10.24
25.10.24
24.10

I do not think any useful purpose will be served by an enquiry on this point now, after this lapse of time. I think the Govt should have the Manager's written assurance that the recitation of the Creed shall not be compulsory. The question may be answered after this is received. May the D.P.O. be asked?

4.10
M 2

The question is to any steps were taken to prevent the compulsory recitation of a written

10
12
13

Alleged compulsory recitation of certain Christian creeds by the boys of the M.E.L.M. school at Ambur.

1327 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the letter of the Rev. D. G. M. Leith and the Rev. A. S. Woodburne, President and Secretary of the Missionary Educational Council of South India, published at page 11 of the issue of the *Daily Express* of 13th September 1924;

(b) whether he has taken any steps to prevent the compulsory recital by the boys of the school of this creed; and

(c) if not, why not?

A—(a) The Government have perused the letter referred to.

(b) & (c) Students of the school are not now compelled to recite the creed.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer to (c) and (b), I want some light. Hon. Members will remember that last time it was the accidental sickness of the member that prevented the recital of the creed. Is it still dependent upon that human infirmity or is it by any change in the discipline of the school by which the boys are not compelled to recite the creed?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The latter, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am very glad to hear this."



Draft memo: to the D.P.J. sub?

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28.10.24
8/8
28.10.24.

29.10.24

[memo: to the D.P.J., No. 2646 B-2 & 29.10.24] p.1 CF

[C-3190 B] From do., No. 260 D/24 & 12.11.24 (p.2 CF)

As.

The answer to the question on p.5 ante may be—

(a) the Govt. have perused the letter referred to.

(b) and (c) Students of the school are not now compelled to recite the ~~specific~~ Creed.

(cf. Para 1, p.5 ante)

M. dep. am. to

21/11/24

copy

Law (Edn) no 2646 B-3.
18/11/24

21/11/24

Order 85 of 22-7-25

Recorded.

Leg. Council Question

M.E.L.M. school, Ambur
— compulsory recitation
of christian creeds —
not recorded.

cvv
21.11.25

21.11.25

13

14

VIDE "COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL" IN THE
LIST OF BUSINESS FOR 18TH AUGUST 1924.

*Report on the compulsory recitation of certain Christian creeds by the boys
of the M.E.L.M. school at Ambur, North Arcot district.*

Letter from R. LITTLEHAILES, Esq., Director of Public Instruction, R.O.C.
No. 260 D/24, dated 18th March 1924.

I have the honour to submit below the information asked for in clauses
(a) to (e) of Legislative Council question No. 630:—

(a) All boys of the M.E.L.M. School at Ambur, were compelled to recite
the Apostle's creed.

(b) Threats were used but not carried into effect.

(c) The practice was in vogue in the school from about the 15th of
October 1923 till about the 18th February 1924. It has been stopped now.

(d) Inquiries were instituted as soon as the matter was brought to the
notice of the educational authorities. A report has just been received. The
matter is still under consideration.

(e) There are no papers on the subject.

2. The District Educational Officer has just informed me that the practice
of saying the Apostle's creed has been stopped on account of the manager's
illness but will possibly be continued when he gets better.

3. Another secondary school has just been opened in Ambur and I have
received an application for its recognition. I have referred the matter to the
District Secondary Education Board for its remarks. There is little doubt,
however, but that recognition will be granted if the management of the
M.E.L.M. School is to insist upon religious instruction being given in the
School, religious instruction of a type which is not insisted upon in any other
school in South India under mission management.

4. Regarding Legislative Council question No. 528, I have the honour to
suggest that the questioner be referred to the answer to be given to question
No. 630 as regards queries (a) and (b). With regard to query (c), it will
suffice if the questioner is informed that the matter is still under consideration
and that the question of a conscience clause has been referred to District
Secondary Education Boards.

Letter from the District Educational Officer, North Arcot, R.O.C. No. 267/24,
dated 19th February 1924, to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

[Reference.—Your Proceedings R.O.C. No. 260-D/24, dated
10th February 1924.]

In obedience to your proceedings which I received on 13th February
1924, I reached Ambur on 14th February 1924. As the schools were closed
on account of some local festival I had to content myself with some preli-
minary inquiries. Next day 15th February 1924 I made further inquiry,
and interviewed the Rev. Mr. Boriack, Manager and Bible Instructor, to the
pupils of the sixth form. The pupils were questioned in the class in the
presence of the headmaster. Some members in the staff were also interviewed.
There is truth in the statement that the manager compelled the pupils to
recite the particular creed of the Lutherans and study the commentary
thereon—

(1) I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and
Earth.

(2) And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third day He
rose again from the dead. He ascended into the Heaven, and sitteth at the
Right Hand of God the Father Almighty from thence He shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

(3) I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Holy Christian Church, the
Communion of the Saints, the Forgiveness of the Sin, the Resurrection of the
Body, and the Life Everlasting.

Routine punishments allowed in school discipline such as imposition or standing for a few minutes for not learning a lesson cannot be considered as a serious form of punishment. *Threat may have been made though never carried. The pupils were given the alternative of going out of the school. This was difficult for the pupils at this stage of their high school course.* The manager's letter and the report of the headmaster are submitted in original. Copies of the statements of two pupils are submitted as being sufficient for the purpose, the names of the pupils are omitted for obvious reasons in the copies.

Letter from Rev. L. BORIACK, B.A., Manager, M.E.L.M. High School, Ambur to M.R.Ry. R. Tatacharya Avargal, M.A., L.T., Acting District Educational Officer, North Arcot, Vellore (at present in camp at Ambur), dated February 1924, No. R.O.C. 5/24.

I have the honour, upon your personal request and in reply to your letter, dated 15th February 1924, to give in writing a brief account of our conversation this forenoon.

In the VI form we have been reading the Gospel according to St. Mathew and learning the six chief parts of Dr. Luther's Small Catechism, taking a few small portion for every class, with very few exceptions, when the lesson for the day was not well known and then treated as review in the next class. For several months all the boys learned quite well. We finished the first Chief Part and a portion of the second, when on 24th January 1924 not any of the Hindu boys had learned their lesson for the day. When asked how it was that the lesson had not been learned, some few minor excuses were offered at first. But later in the lesson the real reason came out.

As there is no bar on religious instructions, I told the boys that this being a Mission School, I could expect them to learn the lessons in the religion also. This was not a prayer or devotion or confession at all. It was simply a lesson for the purpose of getting acquainted with Christianity. When they enrolled in our Mission school, they thereby agreed to take the course offered. If however any of them felt, that they could not conscientiously learn these fundamentals and 'First things' about Christianity, they were at liberty to leave our Mission school and go to another school. The term certificate would be issued them without any objection.

In the afternoon of the day on which this happened I had to go away for a conference. After a week I returned. During the first class after my return I spoke to the boys again along the same lines. For the next class all the boys had learned their lessons and are still learning.

The allegation that various punishments were threatened is not in accordance with fact. The fact that they were given the liberty to leave the school, if they could not with a good conscience take the religious course planned, would go to show that already.

Finally trusting that the foregoing account will be satisfactory and meet with your approval.

M.E.L.M. HIGH SCHOOL, AMBUR,
15th February 1924.

A statement of what the students of the VI form said in my presence for the question put to them by the District Educational Officer.

All of them admitted that the Bible Instructor had asked them to study the Creed, and that if they refused to do they would not be allowed to appear for the Board Examination. They also admitted that they did not believe that he would influence the staff against their being sent up for the Public examination. They said that two of them had been punished with imposition for the non-preparation of this lesson in Bible.

(Signed) . . .

I am a student of VI form of M.E.L.M. High School at Ambur. We have to attend Bible classes conducted by Rev. L. Boriack, B.A., the Manager of the institution. I have been the student of this institution for the last eight years (i.e., from 1915). Neither Rev. Hamanon nor Rev. Kuchle who were also handling Bible classes previously ever compelled us to believe in Christianity. Unfortunately the present Manager not only went as far as compelling us to believe in Christ, but also went a step further in compelling us to repeat the Creed by heart, the text of which in Tamil runs as follows:—

We were also compelled to get by heart the particular Lutheran Commentary upon the Creed.

One day he came to the class and the undermentioned conversation took place between the Hindu students and the Manager.

Manager: (When he came to the class he asked the Christian students to recite the Creed at first). *They finished repeating. Then he asked me to repeat the Creed.*

Myself: (I am a Hindu. A Tamil saying says that we must study a particular thing without a mistake and then we must act according to it. If not, we would not get Heaven according to our Sastras. So, thinking the above-mentioned thoughts, I replied him as follows):—
'I have got a boil in my eye, so I could not study any lessons to-day.'

Manager: "You would have studied it by closing one of your eyes in which you have got a boil."

Then I kept quiet. He asked for my name and noted it down in his Bible book. Again he asked all the Hindu students who told him some lame excuse.

Another part of the Creed was written on the blackboard and he asked me whether I would recite another day's part. I told him as follows:—

"My parents reproach me for reading the Bible at home and they say that they will drive me out of their house and they also told me that I would be converted as a Christian in course of time."

Manager: "Oh! First you must obey the God and then your parent. It is told in the Bible."

Myself: "I have no belief in your Bible."

Manager: "Then why do you read in a Mission School? Here you ought to study the Bible."

Myself: "As there are no other schools of Hindus in this town I have to study here and as you are compelling me to read I am reading, otherwise I won't read it."

Then he wrote something in his book and turned to the other student asking him to recite the Creed. He at once cried "I have no belief in Jesus Christ".

Manager sat still for a while keeping his finger on his nose. Then he wrote something in his Bible book (I think) about the student. He asked another student who told him that he would not get salvation by reading the Bible and explained in detail. Then he asked all the Hindu students; all of them refused to recite it. Teaching some verses in St. Mathew he told us to prepare next day's lesson for which we answered in negative.

After that, he told us that he would not send us for the Board Examination and would also dismiss us if we would not study the Creed and Bible.

(Sd.) ———

Student of VI Form,
M.E.L.M. High School, Ambur.

M.E.L.M. HIGH SCHOOL, AMBUR,
15th February 1924.

To the Inspector of Schools,
North Arcot district, Vellore.

Dear Sir,

I am asked by you to give a statement about the studying of the Creed in the Bible class. So I am saying all that happened in the class in the following paragraph.

First our Bible Instructor taught us only St. Mathew. One day he asked us whether we know the Commandments or not. All except the Christians said that they did not know. So he asked us to study the Commandments and their meanings. We did not refuse. We simply studied and recited them. All except two recited the Commandments. So he found that the two were disobedient and gave them imposition.

Then he asked us to study the Lord's Prayer. Some of them studied in Tamil and the others studied in English. Then all of us studied in English. After this he asked us to study the Creed either in English or in Tamil. We asked him to teach in English. He taught us in English and we recited the Creed in English. Then he asked us to study the meaning. When he asked

us to study the meaning I, even though a non-Lutheran boy, like the Lutheran Christians, studied and recited it. *The Hindu students refused.* Then our teacher said that we must study, *because it is a Christian school.* When the students found this, they said that they would not study because they are unbelievers. *Then he began to threaten them saying that he would not allow them to sit in the examination which he never did and also said that if they did not like to study they could go to any other school.* He said that he had no objection if the students wanted to go to any other school.

The students who refused to study said that because it is a Creed they could not confess by studying on the Creed. Then he said that is not a confession but it is only a class lesson. When he found that all except the Christians are refusing, he left out the Creed and asked us to study some portion in St. Mathew which is the class book for us in Bible. We then studied the portion in St. Mathew. Only these happened in the class.

(Signed) * * *
Student of VI form.

*Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, R.O.C. No. 260
D/24, dated 12th March 1924.*

READ—the following paper:—

Letter from the District Educational Officer, North Arcot, dated 19th February 1924, R.C. No. 367/24.

The District Educational Officer is requested to be good enough to give specific answers to the following questions:—

- (1) Were the non-Christian boys of the M. E. L. M. High School at Ambur compelled to recite the Christian Creeds, such as the Apostle's Creed?
- (2) Were any threats used to exact obedience in this matter, such as the threat to disallow them from appearing for examination?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative from what date to what date was this practice continued in the school? Has it been stopped now?

2. The reply to this reference should be submitted to the Director by return of post.

Camp Ambur, 17th March 1924.

From M.R.Ry. R. TATACHARYA Avargal, M.A., L.T., District Educational Officer, North Arcot, to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated the 17th March 1924, No. R.O.C. 267/64.

Reference your Proceedings No. 260 D/24, dated 12th March 1924.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit, after interview with the Manager, the following reply:—

- (1) and (3). Yes. The Apostles Creed is not taught in other Mission schools.

From about 15th October 1923 to 18th February 1924.

Temporarily stopped on account of the Manager's illness; will possibly be continued when he gets better.

- (2) Threats may have been uttered, but unfortunately the pupils gave him no chance for carrying them out as they learnt the Creed. The pupils have all been sent up for the Public Examination.

Allegations against the Headmaster, Ambur Mission School.

161 Q.—Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased—

(a) to state whether any enquiry was held by departmental officials regarding the allegations against the Head of the Mission School at Ambur concerning the forcing of certain religious practices on the pupils; and

(b) to lay on the table a copy of the report, if any, as well as the opinions received from the public bodies they consulted on the subject of introducing a conscience clause?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Copies of the reports received regarding religious instruction in the M.E.L.M. School at Ambur have been placed on the table. The opinions of district secondary education boards on the subject of the introduction of a conscience clause in the Grant-in-Aid Code have not yet been received by Government.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"In the Report, we find the following statement. The District Educational Officer has just informed us that the practice of saying the Apostle's Creed has been stopped on account of the manager's

19th August 1924]

illness but will possibly be continued when he gets better. In view of this statement, does the hon. the Minister propose to take any action and, if so, what?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" If there are further representations from the guardians that the system which had been in vogue previously should not be reintroduced, then the matter will be inquired into. As matters stand at present, there is no difficulty about it. Option has been given to students to keep away from the classes or from the school altogether. There is no enforcement. If students choose, they may not attend that school at all."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The hon. the Minister says that option has been given to students. I am putting to him as one who values religious tolerance whether the Government will take any steps to save the boys belonging to other religions from compulsory religious instruction and the recital of the Apostle's Creed which is going to be renewed according to the report."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" There is another rival school and if the students do not wish to go to the mission school and abide by the rules and procedure followed in that school, it is open to them to join the other school."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Has the other school been recognized?"

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether any time limit is fixed for the submission of opinions of the Secondary Education Boards?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" As early as possible."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" That is indefinite."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I do not know whether advantage is given to the boys to absent themselves from this particular class or quit the school, and give up their education if they do not like this religious instruction."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" There is another school; and option is given to them to go to that school if they do not like the religious instruction given in the mission school."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" The hon. the Minister referred to some school and said that students might go to that school. I want him to carefully consider whether one school would be sufficient to accommodate all the boys in that locality. You have refused recognition to the other school, and what is the good of these boys going to that school?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I am much obliged to the hon. Member for his speech, but it is not relevant to the question at issue."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" I do not know what my hon. Friend's idea of relevancy is. I maintain that more than one school is necessary and one school cannot accommodate all the boys of that locality. Therefore the kind of remedy suggested is not a remedy at all."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister especially in view of the statement in paragraph 3 of the Government Order laid on the table, viz., 'another secondary school has just been opened in Ambur

1924.

Law

DEPARTMENT.

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CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper— *Daily Express*
2. Published at— *Madras*
3. Dated— *13. 9. 1924*

Religious Instruction in Schools.

The Rev. Dr. G. M. Leib, President and the Rev. A. S. Worlbourne, Secretary of the Missionary Educational Council of South India, write:—
Our attention has been called to a question asked in the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. S. Satyamurti, the member for Madras University, regarding the method of religious instruction in the M.E.L.M. School, Ambur and to the report presented on the subject by Government to the M.E.C.

For perusal.

8/16.9.24

CR 17.9.24

V.T.K. 18/9

3/20

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

[19th August 1924

and I have received an application for its recognition. I have referred the matter to the District Secondary Education Board for its remarks' whether that school has been recognized up to date?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The matter has not come before the Government for recognition. The question of recognition will be disposed of by the Director of Public Instruction. If it is temporary or tentative sanction it will not come before the Government."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I take it therefore according to the information of the hon. the Minister that there is at present only one recognized school in Ambur?"

Missouri Evangelical Lutheran Mission (which maintains the Ambur School) and the Salvation Army. The Executive believes that in no other Christian School in South India is such a method of teaching in existence and feels it due to parents who send their children to Christian Schools to inform the public that the Missionary Educational Council is opposed to any such method of religious instruction.

[19th August 1924]

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13. 9. 1924

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The Rev. Dr. G. M. Leib, President and the Rev. A. S. Woodburne, Secretary of the Missionary Educational Council of South India, write:—

Our attention has been called to a question asked in the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. S. S. Srinivasulu, the member for Madras University, regarding the method of religious instruction in the M.E.L.M. School, Ambur and to the report presented on the subject by Government to the Madras Legislative Council. From the report it appears that "all boys of the M.E.L.M. School at Ambur were compelled to recite the Apostles' Creed". This creed is a statement of personal faith beginning "I believe in God the Father Almighty—and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord."

To the study of any creed there can of course be no objection. The Executive of the Missionary Educational Council of South India has heard however with deepest regret that the practice of compelling non-Christian boys to recite such a creed as if it were their own has been in vogue. To train boys to repeat a creed which they do not with their mind and heart accept is unsound educationally, morally and religiously and tends to produce the dangerous habit of insincerity.

The Missionary Educational Council is composed of representatives of practically every Protestant Missionary Society in South India with the exception of the Missouri Evangelical Lutheran Mission (which maintains the Ambur School) and the Salvation Army. The Executive believes that in no other Christian School in South India is such a method of teaching in existence and feels it due to parents who send their children to Christian Schools to intimate publicly that the Missionary Educational Council is opposed to any such method of religious instruction.

For perusal

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V.T.K. 18/9

1924.

L88 DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—

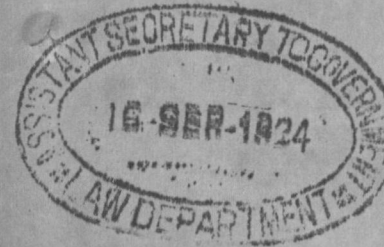
Madras Mail

2. Published at—

3. Dated—

12-9-24.

Law (Hon) W. J. J. 1528



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Religious Instruction in Schools

To THE EDITOR OF THE "MADRAS MAIL"

SIR—Our attention has been called to a question asked in the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. S. Satyamurthi, the member for Madras University, regarding the method of religious instruction in the M.E.L.M. School, Ambur, and to the report presented on the subject by Government to the Madras Legislative Council. From the report it appears that "all boys of the M.E.L.M. School at Ambur were compelled to recite the Apostles' Creed". This Creed is a statement of personal faith beginning "I believe in God the Father Almighty—and in Jesus Christ His only Son, Our Lord."

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D. G. M. LEITH,
President.A. S. WOODBURN,
Secretary.Missionary Educational Council of
South India.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

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