

Law (1926) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1054

DATED 7-6-1926

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Meeting--budget motion--women's Colleges--shifting from to Nungambakkam
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.

With reference to this proposal the staff of the Queen Mary's College presented a petition to

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vide extract on 9.426
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Her Excellency Lady Willingdon

in the course of which they observed as follows:-

"We would like our Excellency to know how much
"we value the situation of our college with its
"unimpeded view of the sea and the benefit it
"drives from the breeze blowing freely through
"its ground floor, where lie the class rooms and the
"staff quarters. It was for this reason alone that
"we elected to stay here inconvenient in many ways
"as the remote situation is, when eight years ago
"His Excellency Lord Pentland and the Director of
"Public Instruction Mr. Stone, were good enough to
"allow us to choose between this plot of land and
"another at Egmore. Other institutions may have a
"finer ground but it has always been conceded that
"the sea makes up our deficiencies in that respect.

"It is with the utmost dismay that we now
"hear that there is a proposal to erect a block
"of buildings between us and the sea. We are unanimous
"in our strong dislike of such a scheme and we
"cannot but think that future generations would,
"like us, deplore such a spoliation of the natural
"advantages the choice of the site has given us.
"And though our buildings may not possess great
"architectural
"~~beauty~~ beauty we venture to think that
"they do not actually ~~deface~~ deface Madras' greatest
"pride, its Marina, in the way that a dead wall
"would inevitably do."

"We hear that the scheme is meant to
"give us privacy. We would certainly rather not be
"exposed even at a distance, to the public eye, but
"we think that a row of trees ~~would~~ afford us
"as much protection as a single storey building."

The Director also suggested that a line
"of ~~can~~ Marina trees erected along the ~~front~~ front
"would afford sufficient protection on the eastern
"side of the college.

The reasons given in the extracts above against shifting apply to a large extent to the lady
2. The shifting of the institutions will injure training colleges

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disturbed

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3 79
besides being objectionable ~~man~~ ~~man~~ ~~man~~ on

the ground that it might not be liked by the staff
would involve ~~involving~~ additional expenditure in the constructing new buildings

~~the buildings to be settled by agreement~~
~~the buildings to be settled by agreement~~

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13.3.26.

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Mr
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Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, I formally move the cut that stands in my name, that is,

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,200 for Queen Mary's College by Rs. 100.'

(to consider the advisability of shifting the women's schools and colleges in Madras from the Marina to Nungambakam.)

"I will not detain the House long but will only say this: I think the locality in which these schools and colleges are situated is on the main thoroughfares. Privacy which ought to be the main feature of a girls' school or college is lacking in the present institutions. So I suggest that the schools and colleges should be shifted to a place like the Director of Public Instruction's office in Nungambakam. Sir, there are two distinct advantages in shifting these institutions to that place. Firstly, there is already a college there, the Women's Christian College, and if these colleges are shifted there inter-collegiate lectures may be arranged and other social relationship may be made easier. Secondly, subject to correction I say that a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been given to the Women's Christian College for scientific research and laboratory, and in that way science can be specialized in one college, arts can be specialized in another, and there will be no necessity for the hon. the Minister to give any contribution to the Women's College. Under these circumstances, from an economic point of view the Government will save money, and from the point of view of education certainly there is every chance of greater inter-collegiate lectures and social relationship, and so on. For these reasons I commend this motion to the acceptance of the House."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, there is indeed a good deal to be said in favour of the resolution which the hon. Member has moved. (Laughter.) He says that there is the Women's Christian College and Women's Training College in Nungambakam, and he thinks that, if the Queen Mary's College is also located there, there will be inter-collegiate work and the possibility of economizing professorial work and that students from one college may be enabled to attend lectures in another college, thereby promoting real University life. To that extent I am sure the House will agree with me in saying that the proposal is very sound. But it seems to me in proposing that we are to shift the Queen Mary's College from its present very healthy surrounding to Nungambakam, the hon. Member has not properly appreciated the conditions of the Queen Mary's College. I am sure he is not so selfish in the matter as to suggest that men's colleges and public offices should be on the beach and enjoy all amenities of life, whereas the women's colleges should be deprived of that advantage and benefit of free and pure air. I am sure it is not the case, because we know how chivalrous he is. But the point seems to be that the balance of advantage is in favour of the present situation. There is at present no need to shift the college from the Marina to Nungambakam. That is all I can say at present."

* Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" I would put in a suggestion, Sir, in this connexion that the other two colleges may be shifted to the Marina in order that all may be located together, instead of shifting the Queen Mary's College from a healthy locality to a less healthy place."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I should like to endorse the suggestion that has been just put forward by the hon. Member for Trichinopoly. I remember, Sir, when the amendment of the Madras University Act was under consideration, the hon. the Minister consulted the Principals of the City colleges with a view to bring all the colleges together into one locality; the idea of developing corporate university life by arranging inter-collegiate lectures and at least getting the Honours and B.A. classes together in one locality so that they may all have common lecture classes from professors was very much in his mind. I should like to know from the hon. the Minister in what stage that proposal is. For the last two or three years, owing to some reason or other, there has not been that anxiety to bring all the colleges together to one common place as there was at the time. I remember quite distinctly the authorities of the Christian College having been consulted and my revered master, Dr. Meston, suggesting that it was possible for the teachers' mission to so arrange their accommodation in the present buildings as to shift the B.A. class at least to the Marina. It was also suggested to those in charge of the local institution over which you so ably presided till recently to remove some of the higher classes of that institution to the Marina. And Sir Charles Toddhunter, the then Finance Member, was very much in sympathy with that point, and I think has also promised in a certain way to give as much facility as possible to all these institutions for coming to one central locality so that corporate university life may be developed and that the principle of concentration, which has been so much emphasized during the latter days, may be better exercised. I am thankful therefore for the opportunity that the hon. Member for Madura has unwittingly given of pressing this aspect of the question before the hon. the Minister, and I freely echo the wish expressed by the hon. Member for Trichinopoly that the other women's colleges may be brought to the Marina quarters and that the educational institutions may have that free, uncontaminated—uncontaminated in more senses than one—atmosphere which they very much need. I do not care very much where the public offices now on the Marina are going to be located. They can very well be in the squalid surroundings which they are eminently fit for. But educational institutions which constitute a desideratum ought to be in such surroundings, as in the case of the Queen Mary's College, and our resolve should be not to shift them

to neglected nooks and corners of the City and unhealthy localities but to bring others to the same happy and healthy locality which this institution fortunately possesses. I have great pleasure therefore in opposing the motion of my hon. Friend from Madura."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I do not think, Mr. President, that there would be any necessity for supporting or opposing the motion of my hon. Friend from Madura, for I am sure he will withdraw it. But, as my hon. Friend from Chingleput has said, this is an opportunity when certain state of affairs could very well be brought to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Education. Much has been said already on the motion, but I have only one other matter to touch upon, which has not hitherto been referred to, and to which I hope the hon. the Minister and the Government as a whole will pay some attention. It is this, Sir. When I was a student in Madras years ago, I used to find all the carriages—I won't say motor-cars because there were not many at that time (A voice :—" Were there any at all ?)—at that time used to be parked opposite to the Senate House, and the utmost limit they could reach was the Presidency College. For some reason

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unknown to me and probably not known to many other Members of this House this scene has shifted, though the band still plays opposite the Senate House and there is plenty of room between the Presidency College and the Senate House which is as good a ground for stopping these cars and carriages if only the owners care. I mean no reflection upon the car owners, but at the same time I cannot help thinking that the freedom of the girls, some of whom might be willing to go to the beach and come back to their quarters which are exactly opposite the beach or even to spend their time in the grounds of the school buildings, is very much denied to them now on account of the parking of these cars opposite the college, with the result that I am afraid at least some of the girls are obliged to spend their time on the other side of the buildings—the western side of the buildings. I am quite sure that the men passing in the carriages and cars can easily see what the girls are doing in their rooms, whether they are reading or standing there—not that there is real objection to it, but I would prefer that this parking of these cars straight opposite to this college is an objectionable thing which ought to have suggested itself long ago to the good sense of those that are stopping there. I do not know whether I can seriously suggest the blocking up of the road at that place and taking the road round the college so that people can go the other way to the southern side of the City like Mylapore. If that is impossible, I would certainly suggest both to the hon. the Minister for Education as well as the Minister for Local Self-Government to exercise their influence with the Corporation and Police authorities to see that these motor-cars are not parked in a regular line from one end of the college to the other straight down even to the Police Inspector-General's office. If at least that reform is effected it would go some way, and I would make this suggestion entirely in the interests of the girls.

"There are girls whose parents are not residing here, and though I am perfectly certain that there is excellent supervision, I would not allow their freedom to be restricted by this nuisance of cars. I hope that this would satisfy the hon. Member from Madura."

*The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, some time ago a proposal was considered that the whole of the Marina from the Napier's bridge to San Thome should be devoted to University purposes, that all first grade colleges should be located there and they should be given facilities, as far as possible, to come over from Georgetown to the Marina so that we may have a whole block of University buildings and that should form the centre for educational purposes. This scheme was drawn up by me in consultation with the then Finance Member Sir Charles Todhunter. We worked the scheme half-way, but then came the difficulty in regard to the location of the Victory Memorial and the Prince of Wales Children's Hospital. These memorials have come in the way. Once they were prepared to locate the memorial at a particular place, and the foundation stone was laid; that was shifted and the second foundation stone was laid as you all know and again a third one. These schemes have obstructed the further progress of the proposal which we made. Now, this Victory Memorial and the Children's Hospital are to be removed from that locality to another place which my hon. Colleague the Chief Minister has already indicated to you yesterday. Therefore the question will again be taken up and the authorities of the colleges in Georgetown will be asked to see if it would be possible for them to shift their college departments to this place. It is not

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an easy matter, because the colleges—both the Pachaiyappa's College and the Christian College—are having classes from the school courses to college courses. The shifting would mean expenditure of large sums of money for them and rebuilding the institutions. How far Government will be able to give them financial help is a matter which has to be considered first. Some time ago the Madras Christian College authorities wanted to come in there and they have been in search of a site. At present, I understand, they have resolved upon some site in Nungambakam, but if that is not available, and as the scheme of the Victory Memorial and the hospital has been dropped, it is possible that the college authorities may revise their proposals. I cannot at present say what will be the final result of the scheme. But this is certain, namely, that now that these memorials are out of the way, it is quite possible that the scheme that was in progress to some extent will be taken up again in order to see whether we cannot give effect to it in full if it would be possible and practicable.

12-15 p.m. 6

"I also emphasized this aspect of it recently at the Loyala College and said that while the Loyala College buildings are located at Nungambakam it would be possible that other colleges in the town would be willing to come to one place so that there may be concentration and co-ordination of the work. In the interests of the University and in the interest of college education it is necessary that all the colleges should be located quite near each other. The principles underlying the Act was that this residential system and the teaching system could only be carried out in its essentials when these colleges are all together in a particular area. It was with a view to bring the colleges together to one area that the scheme was prepared and I hope it will be possible again to continue this scheme from where it has stopped owing to certain other intervening circumstances. In regard to the proposal of the hon. Member Sir Reddi Nayudu Garu it is suggested that some steps should be taken to shut out the vulgar gaze." (Laughter.)

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I did not use that expression."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I am using it on my own responsibility. The hon. Member wanted steps should be taken to shut out the vulgar gaze of the people passing in the street. We have anticipated the difficulties in the matter. We wanted first to put up a compound wall and the science blocks for the college along the Marina Road. But the staff and the Advisory Council of the college suggested that it would be spoiling the beauty of the Queen Mary's College, that it would be interfering with the free passing of air into the premises and that it would be inadvisable therefore to put up a block of buildings in the east. Hence we shifted the locality to the western side of the building, passing the Lloyd's Road where the foundation will be laid very soon in order that the science buildings may be completed for the Queen Mary's College. We have asked the Public Works Department to take early steps to grow four or five rows of casuarina trees so that the gaze of those that pass along the Marina may be as dim as possible. (Laughter). It is as I said left to the good sense of the people themselves. The public will have to co-operate with the department in trying to avoid the place as a place of resort. As he pointed out at one time the carriages and carts were not concentrated there. But recently no doubt there have been very big congregations there. It is possible when the public read the proceedings of the House and the opinion expressed on all sides the

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will realize that it is their duty to see that they do not congregate there, as much as they do and that they would like to avoid that place and go further south or north in order that they may have amenities of sea breeze, and that this particular place may be avoided. No rule can be imposed on the people. It is left to the good sense and judgment of the public, and I am sure that this discussion will have its effect in that direction. I therefore, Sir, think that there is no room at present to consider the proposal of the hon. Member for Madura."

Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Sir, on the assurance given by the hon. the Minister I withdraw my motion. What I wanted was privacy as elaborated by Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu. I have no objection whether the Queen Mary's College is located there or any where provided all these institutions get the privacy essential for them. I have no objection if all the colleges are shifted to Marina provided we don't make it a thoroughfare. That is the only objection on my part. I hope the hon. the Minister will consider the feasibility of making the necessary arrangements."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Lawferry Sept

The site facing the Lloyd's Road has been finally selected for the location of the science laboratories for the Queen Mary's College; and orders approving of the plans and estimates for the buildings have been issued in the P.W.D.

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