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(1926) Department.

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G.O. No.

1514

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DATED

9. 8. 1926

[Despatch Abstract.]

Tour - His Excellency the Governor's tour in Madura and Ramnad
Address of the Indian Christian League - Disabilities of Christians
in Educational Department. - Notes - Recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Copy of D.O. from E.C. Smith Esquire, C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor,
Ootacamund, dated 7th July 1926:-

In connection with His Excellency's forthcoming tour
in the Madura and Ramnad districts the Madura and Ramnad -
Indian Christian League requested His Excellency to receive
a deputation from them for the purpose of making the represent-
ations contained in the enclosed. His Excellency could not -
accede to the request for a deputation for want of time, but
would like to have the representations examined and send a
written reply later on to the League. Would you kindly have
the representations examined and suggest suitable replies in
due course?.

Portion of the population of the Districts of
Madura and Ramnad numbering 55,301 in the former
and 12,112 in the latter district.

3. We beg leave to take this opportunity of
bringing to the notice of your Excellency a matter of
great concern to the political advancement and progress
of the Indian Christians viz., the effect of the Reforms
on the political aspirations of our community. The late
lamented the Rt. Hon. E. S. Montague in the course of his
speech introduced the Reforms Act in Parliament said that
the essence of the problem is to train the electors and
that the problem is not merely solved by putting the voters
on the register and added "If a man is asked to vote and
then nothing happens as the result of it, nothing that
he can see, nothing that he can appreciate, nothing that
he can either reward or punish by the transference or
maintenance of his vote, you will never train an electorate".
In a province like Madras where the large majority of
Indian Christians have not undertaken to divorce religion
from politics, certain religious organizations have

2
Draft Address.

To

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Viscount Goschen of Hawkhurst,
G.C.I.E., G.B.E., V.D.,

Governor of Madras.

May it please Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Indian Christians of Madura and Ramnad Districts we beg to extend to you our hearty welcome on this first official visit to this historic city of Madura and we beg to convey through your Excellency our heartfelt devotion and unstinted loyalty to the throne and person of His Majesty the King Emperor.

2. The Indian Christians form not an inconsiderable portion of the population of the Districts of Madura and Ramnad numbering about 65,301 in the former and 85,102 in the latter district.

3. We beg leave to take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of your Excellency a matter of vital concern to the political advancement and progress of the Indian Christians viz., the effect of the Reforms on the political aspirations of our community. The late lamented the Rt. Hon. E. S. Montague in the course of his speech introduced the Reforms Act in Parliament said that the essence of the problem is to train the electors and that the problem is not merely solved by putting the voters on the register and added "If a man is asked to vote and then nothing happens as the result of it, nothing that he can see, nothing that he can appreciate, nothing that he can either reward or punish by the transference or maintenance of his vote, you will never train an electorate" In a province like Madras where the large majority of Indian Christians have not understood to divorce religion from politics, certain religious organizations wield

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influence to such an undesirable extent that it is apprehended the aim of training the electors in the art of responsible Government is likely to be completely frustrated. Further in such a short term as six years all the fears and apprehensions of those eminent men who opposed communal representation have been realised in this electorate. Communal representation has wholly crammed and cribbed the national outlook promoted inter-communal factions and feuds and stimulated the acerbities of racial and denominational prejudices. While the number that ~~the~~ could be elected by them is ridiculously small, the Indian Christians wield no influence in the general electorate which returns the largest number of members to the Council. It passes our comprehension why a small but very influential class like the Zamindars should be given separate seats and still retain the advantage of participating in the general electorate while the Indian Christians with much smaller proportion of special representation are precluded from voting or standing as candidates in the general constituencies. While the special Christian constituencies seem to bestow undue advantage to certain populous Christian centres like South Kanara and Madras, the consequence of having a vote in the general constituency will be, even if they are not returned as members, to afford Indian Christians in every district to have some sort of representation readily accessible and free from linguistic or denominational prejudices. Several Indian Christian Association and conferences all over India have also condemned the present system of communal representation. May we offer a humble suggestion that a representative committee may be called for to find out a solution to the existing anomalies.

4. We beg also to submit that the much canvassed agitation for communal representation in the Services for various communities and sub-compartments of communities

on mere population basis has no glamour for us. It is our deliberate conviction that communal representation in posts requiring high order of intelligence and administrative efficiency is likely to lead to loss of efficiency and impair public confidence besides involving grave injustice to more educated individuals in other communities.

5. Further may we also bring to your Excellency's notice that the administration of some of the departments in the Ministerial portfolios has of late been highly detrimental to the progress and advancement of our community. According to a recent order of Government which has been defended by the Minister for Education the education rules have been so revised as to double the fees of most of the school going girls. The Indian Christian community though comparatively poor has been supplying most of the women teachers and Doctors in this province and it is a poor appreciation of their efforts that the above rule hits the members of that community hardest of all. The invidious distinction in stipends for girls in Training Institutions, the Indian Christian girls being specially marked for the lowest figure is another illustration in point. The recruitment of Indian Christians has been closed in certain departments and there is a growing feeling in the community that the claims of some of the Indian Christian officers have been unnecessarily overlooked. We ascribe these tendencies not to the individual proclivities of any particular member or officer of Government but to the unsatisfactory electoral arrangement whereby in a Government by vote the influence of the Indian Christian community has been circumscribed to a vanishing point. It is otherwise inexplicable that in matters enumerated above in spite of the strength of feeling and much protest outside

(4)

Council, there was found only one Indian Christian member to protest against these glaring acts of injustice and unfairness and he from the Opposition benches.

6. Another matter we desire to bring to Your Excellency's notice is that when a member belonging to the backward or depressed classes becomes a Christian, he loses all the privileges which the Government offers to the members of those communities. As such concessions and privileges have been ordered on the ground of their economic backwardness, the removal of those concessions to Indian Christians drawn from those communities while there has been no change in their economical condition is tantamount to penalising them for their change of faith.

7. We are indeed very glad to learn that Your Excellency takes deep and special interest in medical relief and all that tends to the alleviation of human sufferings. The hospital accommodation in Madura--the city next in importance and size only to Madras, is so miserable that it is hard to find a parallel in the whole of the Presidency. Located in an area where traffic and dust nuisance is at its highest the buildings are in a state that requires constant repair. Patients are crowded in dingy rooms, corridors and outside. The infectious wards are located in close proximity to living habitations and boys recreation grounds--a constant menace to public health. These patients who deserve the greatest pity and attention are closed in temporary thatched sheds and are left to the tender mercies of ward boys and scavengers and the periodical visits of an L.M.P. without any attempt at providing them adequate nursing staff. Most of the existing nurses are untrained and unqualified according to Government standards and there are no residential quarters for any of the medical staff. It is very desirable that the Indian nurses should be provided with quarters inside the hospital premises and

We beg to remain etc.

Address to be presented to His
Excellency the Governor by the Madras
Planned Indian Christian League

A copy of the address and the 30
received from the P.S.G. is put up.
The file may be sent to Law (Edw)
with reference to para 5 of the
address.

MR
12.7.26



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12.7.26
12/7/26

Law (Law) no

Education Department.

A note on the points in the address
with which Education is concerned is submitted.

B.M.

20.7.26

It may be added to the P.S.G. Memo: M2

24/7

24/7

L.E. 2199C
12/7/26

File M2 DM.

P.J.G.

Law (Law) sept

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para 5, pp 3-4
C. 6.

The points in the address with which this Department is concerned are:-

- (1) fees for girls
- (2) stipends for Indian Christian mistresses undergoing training; and
- (3) half fee concessions to converts to Christianity from the backward classes.

G. O. No 1829 (W)
24-11-24

(1) Fees for girls The position is fully explained in the Press communique issued by the Government on the 24th November 1924. The Press communique evoked comments in the newspapers stating that the Govt. order of 1920 confirming the concession of half-fees to girls whose parents or guardians were poor was not enforced till the end of 1924 and that girls were being admitted to the half-fee concession irrespective of the ability of their parents to pay fees. It was suggested that the rule as it stood in 1920 which allowed fee concession irrespective of poverty might be reverted to. The Director who was asked to furnish an estimate of cost involved in the adoption of the rule so far as girls were concerned reported that it would cost Rs. 31,796. The question was placed before the Finance Committee at its meeting held on

~~At its meeting held on the 11th July 1926, the Committee has recommended as follows:-~~

The Committee was of opinion that no case had been made out for restoring the general concession and considered that the present provision for a reduction of fees in cases of poverty was sufficient.

It is not proposed to take any further action on the question.

- (2) Stipends for Indian Christian mistresses under training.

p 39, the note
at T
(6) + 51.9

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Besides the ordinary rates of stipends the Madras Educational rules provide for special rates of stipends to certain communities. Indian Christian mistresses are not among those to whom special rates are admissible. Different rates of stipends came to be sanctioned for the various classes of pupils with reference to the standards of living and expenses normal to the several communities and with reference to the educational backwardness or otherwise of the communities concerned. No special rates of stipends have been sanctioned for Christians because they are not as a class educationally backward and there is no paucity of candidates belonging to the community coming forward to undergo training. Recently Mr. J.A.Saldanha, M.L.C. asked a question in the Legislative Council why the special rates of stipends should not be allowed to Indian Christian women. The D.P.I. who was consulted stated that for the reasons mentioned at 'A' above, there was no case for the abolition of the differential treatment. The Govt. concurred in the Director's view.

(3) Half-fee concessions to converts to Christianity from the backward classes.

Prior to 1924 the half-fee concession admissible to pupils belonging to backward classes under rule 92 of the Madras Educational rules had not been extended to converts from among them to Christianity. In that year on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Education, it was ruled that the half-fee concession to which poor pupils of the depressed classes ~~are~~ otherwise eligible should not be denied to them because of their conversion to Christianity.

Subsequently representations were received from the Kanara Indian Christian League, the Catholic Association of S. Kanara and the Christians of Tinnevely asking that the half-fee concession should be extended to

Rule 117, pp 15-16
of G.O. No. 1212
24-7-24

A

G.O. put up in
another file.

p. 12 of ⑤

G.O. No. 855 dt
19-5-25

G
p. 15 of G.O. No. 1048
7-6-26

p. 21 of ⑤

G.O. No. 1048 dt
7-6-1926



Jaw. H. E.
The Governor's
letter in Madras
and Kanara -
Address of the
Indian Christian
League - Disalibhi
& Christians
in Sol. sept.
Notes - Recorded

converts to Christianity not only from depressed classes but from all "backward classes". The Govt. declined to accede to the request on the ground that in the case of backward classes conversion to Christianity usually implied a rise in their economic and social status and that in practice it was difficult to investigate and find out whether or not a Christian was of 'backward' origin. It was, however, ruled that a pupil belonging to any of the classes recognised as backward who was in receipt of the half-fee concession or a scholarship should not be deprived of it if he became a Christian while holding the concession or scholarship

I.B.M

20-7-26

CA
21/7

V.T.K.
22/7

Under His Excellency's instructions I have conveyed the information in the sense of the above note to the League.

P.S.G.
3-8-26.

Law (Edu) sept

The papers may be
order 1574 dt 9. 8. 26.
Recorded.

CA
7-8-26

When given for copying—
 When copied—
 When examined—
 When signed—

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READ AGAIN G.O. No. 192

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT ..

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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