

Law (Edn) (1926) Department.

vis. SERIES.

G.O. No. 492

DATED 30-3-26.

[Despatch Abstract.]

College Presidency - Post of
Principal.

CONFIDENTIAL.

LAW (EDUCATION)

DEPARTMENT.

2-2 666A 1V

Received 192 Registered 1926.

Subject.

Principalship of Presidency College--Filling up permanently



ENCLOSURES.

No.

Spare copies

CONFIDENTIAL.

Cl. No. 60726.

Station Madras, Dated the 20th February 1926.

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

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Law (Education) Department.

Sir.

In connection with the Principalship of the Presidency College which has fallen permanently vacant consequent on the retirement of Mr. H. S. Duncan with effect from 21-1-1926 and in which Mr. P. F. Fyson is now officiating, I have the honour to submit that I am unable to advise Government that Mr. P. F. Fyson be confirmed in that post. His administration of the college has not been such as would justify my recommending his confirmation as Principal. He has not kept me fully informed of important college events and his control over the students and their associations is weak. He has permitted overlapping of important engagements in the college; on one occasion, two separate meetings were fixed in the college at almost the same

time, one presided over by Her Excellency and the other presided over by the Honourable the Minister for Education without consulting me on these engagements. His correspondence with this office further indicates that his proposals are hardly ever fully thought out. They require frequent references in order to ascertain the facts which are necessary to enable me to form an opinion.

In University life, he carries little if any weight although next to the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Public Instruction, the principal of the Presidency College and the Principal of the Madras Christian College, the two most important colleges attached to the University of Madras, should be persons who should make themselves most felt in University life. On the Syndicate of the University, he is not, so far as I have been able to judge of great value. In fact from a University standpoint Rao Bahadur K. Ramunni Menon is of much more value than is Mr. Fyson; both are members of the Syndicate of the University and professors in the Presidency College.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

Confidential.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction,
The Old College, Nungambakkam, Madras,

D.O.No. R. 6/26.

26th February 1926.

Dear Sir Parasuramdooss,

As requested in our conversation yesterday afternoon and in continuation of my confidential letter No. 6/26 dated 20th February 1926 I write now to give you my views regarding the filling of the post of the principalship of the Presidency College, Madras, which has been permanently vacant since the 21st January 1926 and in which Mr. Fyson is at present officiating.

I recommend that the permanent post of Principal be filled by Mr. William Erlam Smith who apart from being much the most able and suitable officer for this post among those engaged in professorial work in the Indian Educational Service, has already officiated as Principal from 10th July 1922 till the 11th December 1922 and is the next senior officer to Mr. Fyson excluding Messrs. Yates and Grieve who are engaged in work as inspecting officers and in connection with the training of teachers.

Mr. Smith has however been granted leave and the question arises of the appointment of some officer to officiate in the post of principal during his absence. The next senior officer to Mr. Smith who has experience in collegiate work is Mr. Kershaw the present Inspector of European schools. The appointment of Mr. Kershaw to officiate would cause less dislocation than the appointment of any other officer since he has already officiated as Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College on two former occasions in 1915 and 1919. Mr. Kershaw is rather meticulous often paying too much attention to small points and not sufficient attention to broad outlines of policy. He has however seniority and experience in his favour and has within recent years improved considerably by his experience.

The next officer for consideration is Mr. Green, the present Principal of the Government Muhammadan College. Mr. Green is a good disciplinarian but I doubt whether he will be able to bear the burden of controlling a large college like the Presidency College, Madras. He has specialised in History and his appointment to the Presidency

College would involve the transfer of Mr.Candeth from that college which would be in my opinion to the disadvantage of the college at the present time. Mr.Green is not a man of great weight in University circles.

The next officer is Mr.Statham. He is also a Historian in training and his transfer to the Presidency College would involve the transfer of Mr.Candeth from that college. Mr. Statham is required for work in this office and I do not think it will be in the interests of educational administration in this presidency to post Mr.Statham to the Presidency College as Principal transferring Mr.Candeth from that college. He is moreover rather young for the post.

The next official is Mr.Douglas who is going on leave.

The next officer is Mr.Candeth. Mr.Candeth is a most useful member of the college and of the University but I consider that he is too young and too junior at present to be given the post of the officiating principalship of the Presidency College.

The next officer is Mr.Papworth who is also too young and too junior for appointment to this post.

Finally there is Mr.Ramunni Menon. Mr.Ramunni Menon is 53 years of age and is due to retire in September 1927. He has been a member of the staff of the Presidency College for a longer period than any other officer and he is a man of considerable weight in University affairs. I consider that he would be a suitable officer to officiate as Principal of the Presidency College.

For the officiating appointment therefore I consider that the names of Mr.Kershaw and Mr.Ramunni Menon are those which should receive greatest consideration.

As noted above I recommend for the permanent post of Principal of the Presidency College the appointment of Mr.W.E.Smith.

Since this letter referred to appointments I send it in duplicate in accordance with Government's instructions regarding recommendations for appointments in order that one copy may be submitted ^{direct} immediately to His Excellency.

Yours sincerely,

Hon.Sir A.P.Patro, Kt.,
Minister of Education,
Port St.George.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Madras,

23rd March 1926.

Dear Mr.Krishnamachariar,

With reference to the permanent appointment in the Presidency College, a point has been raised as to whether the question is one of appointment or posting i.e. whether the vacancies that occur in the Educational Department are not filled by ordinary postings as e.g. in the case of Secretaryships (except the Chief Secretary and the Second Secretary to Government). The officers of the Educational Department are on a time scale and there is prima facie no reason why their posting should not be the same as that of e.g. Collectors. If this view is correct, there will be no case of filling up a permanent appointment in the Presidency College. Will you kindly have this point examined very urgently?

Yours sincerely,

M.R.Ry Rao Bahadur V.T.
Krishnamachariar Aml., C.I.E.,
Secretary to Government,
Law Department

[Handwritten signature]

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Date.	Initials.
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When received for Fair-copying.

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READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated

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READ ALSO:—

C. No. 66611, From the _____, No. _____, dated _____ 192 _____.

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ORDER.

Mis.

No. 692, dated 30. 3. 1926

The D.P.I. is informed that,
as there is no separate post of

Principal of the Presidency College,
one of the professors doing the duty of principal on permanent basis,
the question of permanently filling

it does not arise. Mr. P.F. Tyson will

continue to discharge the duties of

Principal in addition to his duties as

Professor of Botany.

DESPATCHED
31 MAR 1926

To

The D.P.I., Madras.

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