

Educational (1902) Department.

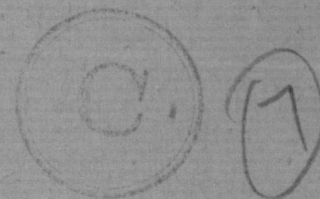
ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 62

DATED 7. 2. 02

INDEXED.

ORIGINAL



[Despatch Abstract.]

Lawrence Asylum, Cotacacumund

Recording letter from the vice chairman of the
— regarding the case of an imbecile boy
in the Asylum, named Watson.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government {1902} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

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Enclosures
1902.
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ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 62, 7th February 1902.

N. P.

FEBRUARY.

Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.

Recording letter from the Vice-Chairman of the — regarding the case of an imbecile boy in the asylum.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From C. M. MULLALY, Esq., I.C.S., Vice-Chairman of the Lawrence Asylum Committee, to the Secretary to Government, Educational department (through the Director of Public Instruction), dated Ootacamund, 21st October 1901.

I have the honour to forward herewith an extract from the proceedings of the Lawrence Asylum Committee, dated 16th August 1901 (marked enclosure No. 1), with the connected papers (enclosures Nos. 2, 3 and 4), concerning the case of a boy in the asylum, named W. C. S. Watson.

2. He is over age and ought to have left the asylum some time ago, but all the Committee's attempts to dispose of the boy in a satisfactory manner have been non-plussed. Enclosure No. 4 gives an epitome of the Committee's procedure in the form of extracts from their proceedings.

3. With reference to the suggestions contained in Mr. Higgins' letter (enclosure No. 3) I may say—

(a) So far as we know the boy has no relations whatever in England. In India he has a grandfather and grandmother by marriage, but no blood relations. The step-grandfather's name is Cunningham. He refuses to have anything to do with the boy (*vide* enclosure No. 4—proceedings of 11th January 1901).

(b) He cannot be sent to England through the workhouse as this can only be done under section 17, Act IX of 1874, and for this it is necessary that he should be first declared a vagrant under section 5 which is not desirable. Moreover, the workhouse is intended only to give temporary, not permanent, assistance and it is not a desirable place for a boy.

4. I can trace no precedent to govern a case of this nature. He ought to be sent to a permanent home for imbeciles, but there is no such home in India. He cannot be sent to the Lunatic Asylum as the Medical officer (Major Williams) declines to certify him as such, nor can he be sent to the workhouse for reasons mentioned above, and the Friend-in-need will not take him. The best course therefore appears to be to send him to a home for imbeciles in England, but the Committee has no information concerning such homes, either Government or private, and would be glad to receive orders or directions to enable it to send the boy away from the Lawrence Asylum and to make the best arrangements possible for his welfare.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Lawrence Asylum Committee, dated 16th August 1901.

Item No. XVIII.—Regarding boy Watson; copy of Principal's letter of 15th July 1901 and Mr. A. W. B. Higgins' reply thereto.

Resolution.—That the facts of the case be laid before Government with an intimation that the Committee would be glad to receive directions to enable them to dispose of the boy in a satisfactory manner.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Rev. F. J. TAYLOR, Acting Principal, Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, to A. W. B. HIGGENS, Esq., Woodstock, Nungambaukam, Madras, dated 15th July 1901.

We have a boy here, whose case is a very difficult one. Perhaps the Friend-in-need Society may be able to help us. The facts are briefly as follows. Would you mind laying them before the Friend-in-need Committee?

The boy's name is Watson. When he was admitted in 1893 he was certified to be "free from mental and bodily disease". But he has never got on as the other boys have. The masters could not get him to learn in class; he has been put to different trades, but has made no progress whatever. Since he came here his father, who was a private in the 2nd Somersetshire Light Infantry, has died, and there are no relatives except a younger brother who is here and making satisfactory progress. The boy is now seventeen years of age and it is not good that he should remain here among junior boys. The age limit of the institution is sixteen, that is, boys are not usually kept here after that age.

Our Committee would, I am sure, be grateful if the Friend-in-need Society could arrange to take the boy from here. We are already paying Rs. 5 per mensem to your society as an allowance for a man, named A. Stock, and are willing to make a similar payment for this boy Watson. Perhaps some light simple employment might be found for him in connection with your work-yards. He is quite harmless. Captain Palk (Superintendent of the Asylum at Kilpauk) has been communicated with, but the boy cannot be admitted there unless he is certified as a lunatic. I understand however that his condition is not such as to justify a certificate of lunacy.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From A. W. B. HIGGENS, Esq., to the Rev. F. J. TAYLOR, dated Madras, 14th August 1901.

I am sorry there has been so much delay in replying about the boy Watson. The letter came to me in camp and had to be circulated to the members of the Home Committee of the Friend-in-need Society, which took time. On the whole I think that we had better not undertake the lad, even though the asylum should pay us for doing so. Would it not be possible for the military authorities to arrange to send him to England to his father's relations, or could he not be sent to England through the workhouse? I am sorry not to be able to help you in this matter, but we are afraid that the boy would prove a nuisance in a mixed society like that in the home and might get into trouble.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Lawrence Asylum Committee, dated 12th October 1900.

Item No. 7.—Reported on the case of the boy Watson, who is more than seventeen years of age and imbecile.

Resolution.—The Principal is asked to write to Mr. Hill and ascertain if employment can be found for the boy at the Asylum Press, Madras.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Lawrence Asylum Committee, dated 9th November 1900.

Item No. 5.—Read a letter from Mr. Hill, stating that the Agents to the Trustees of the Lawrence Asylum Press declined to receive Watson.

Resolution.—The Principal is requested to write to Watson's relatives and ask them to take charge of him.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Lawrence Asylum Committee, dated 11th January 1901.

Item No. 7.—Read a letter from Mr. Cunningham, declining to receive the boy Watson.

Resolved that the Principal be asked to draw up a statement of the boy's case and that the Medical officer in charge be requested to report on his mental capacity.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Lawrence Asylum Committee, dated 8th February 1901.

Item No. 6.—Read a letter from the Medical officer in charge of the Lunatic Asylum forwarded by Captain C. L. Williams, M.D., in regard to the boy Watson.

Resolved that the case be submitted for the orders of Government.

Note on preceding extract by the Rev. F. J. Taylor.

Captain Palk said that the boy could be admitted into the Kilpauk Lunatic Asylum if the Lawrence Asylum Medical officer signed the ordinary form of admission. This would involve the description of the boy as a "lunatic", and Captain Williams, the Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum consulting physician, declined to certify him as such.

It was thought that, before submitting the matter to Government, one more attempt might be made to dispose of the boy, and the Friend-in-need Society was approached. Nothing definite resulted. During the changes which at this time took place in the principalship, the matter was in abeyance. On 15th July I wrote to Mr. Higgins, the President of the Friend-in-need Society.

Copy of this letter is enclosed herewith, marked enclosure No. 2. Mr. Higgins replied on the 14th August. Copy of his reply is attached, marked enclosure No. 3.

These letters were laid before the meeting of 16th August, extract from the proceedings of which is prefixed to these papers.

N. Dis. on C. No. 8060.

Submitted to Government.

G. H. STUART,
Director of Public Instruction.

5th November 1901.

ORDER—No. 62, Educational, dated 7th February 1902.

Recorded, as the Governor in Council understands that Major Williams has withdrawn his objection to granting the certificate necessary for the lad's admission into the lunatic asylum at Madras.

(True Extract.)

C. J. WEIR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Committee of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund
(through the Director of Public Instruction).

Educational (190/) Department.

CURRENT No. 1532

From

[Name] The Honble Mr. G. H. Stuart, Ma.

[Designation] Director of Public Instruction

[Station] Madras



DESPATCHED
NOV. 1901

on C
72. Dis. No. 8060 of 10

Dated 5th November 1901

Enclosures original & duplicate

Received _____ 190

Registered 6-11 190/

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Govt. a letter from the Vice-Chairman
L. A. Ootacamund, forwarding an extract from
the Proceedings of the Committee regarding the
case of a boy named W. C. S. Watson who is
said to be suffering from mental derangement

BACK PAPERS.

G.O. 689 of 22-12-00 Copy

FURTHER PAPERS.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Educational Department.

Sir,

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 62, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 7TH FEBRUARY 1901.

[SUBJECT.—Disposal of an imbecile boy now in the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.]

From the Director of Public Instruction, No. 8060, dated 5th November 1901.

The committee of the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, submits the case of a boy named Watson for the orders of Government.

2. The boy is over age and an in docile and all the committee's attempts to dispose of him in a satisfactory manner have failed. No employment can be found for him in the Lawrence Asylum press; the Friend-in-Need Society is unwilling to take him and he cannot be sent to the Lunatic Asylum. The boy has no relations whatever in England, and the only relation he has in India—a step grandfather by marriage—refuses to have anything to do with him.

3. The boy cannot be sent to the workhouse; as, for this, it is necessary that he should be first declared a vagrant under section 5 of the European Vagrancy Act, 1874, and this is not desirable. Moreover, the workhouse, which is intended to give only temporary assistance, is not the place for the boy, who is in need of some permanent help.

4. The committee considers that the boy ought to be sent to a permanent home for imbeciles in India or in England; but there is no such home in India, and he must therefore be sent to one in England. The committee has, however, no information concerning such homes, and would be glad to receive orders or directions to enable it to send the boy away from the asylum and to make the best arrangement possible for his welfare.

5. There is an asylum for imbeciles in Leavesden, near King's Langley, Herts; Whitaker's Almanac for 1900, page 289. another in Caterham, Surrey; and a third in Dareuth, near Dartford, Kent; but how admission into any one of these asylums can be secured is not known. There is, however, another asylum for idiots and imbeciles at Earlswood, Redhill, and admission to this is by election or pay. If the Lawrence Asylum committee is prepared to meet the charge of sending the boy to England and to make a monthly allowance for his maintenance till his death, it may write to the Secretary to the last-mentioned asylum and ascertain the terms of admission; but the charge will not apparently be a legitimate one on the asylum funds, and the only course open to

It is clear that Watson is a "natural", and it is not a good thing to try and keep him at Lovedale. the committee seems to be to consider whether some light employment cannot be found for the boy in the asylum itself.

A. T. PRINGLE.
18-11-01.

His presence was objected to as likely to be detrimental to other boys, I remember.

C. J. WEIR.
19-11-01.

The step grandfather is not bound to maintain the boy—*vide* section 488 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

T. KANAKASUNDARAM PILLAI.
15-11-01.

P. T. THARYAN.
15-11-01.

Secretary—

If it is held that the charges could not legitimately be debited to the funds of the Lawrence Asylum—and, considering the fact that the boy is over age and when once removed from the institution have really no connection with it, this view is reasonable,—the case falls under one of charity, and the debits will be against the head “donations for . . . charitable purposes”.

It is submitted that under the circumstances reported the best plan is to send the boy to Earlswood. If this is decided upon, the Secretary of State may be addressed and asked to make the necessary enquiries and arrangements.

A. T. PRINGLE.
18-11-01.

The step grandfather might be willing to look after the boy if he was paid, and this would be cheaper than sending him to England. But it would probably not be a satisfactory arrangement nor would it be likely to last long.

Perhaps Judicial department may be able to advise and refer to some precedents.

C. J. WEIR.
19-11-01.

Judicial department u.o.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To Under Secretary—

There is no exact precedent in Judicial. Instructions have been issued by the Government of India for the guidance of local Governments as to the circumstances which warrant their sending insane paupers to England. Paragraph 2 of the Government of India resolution states that even lunatics of European parentage should not be sent to England unless their transfer is likely to promote their recovery or there is reason to believe that they have relations in the United Kingdom who will be able and willing to bear the cost of their maintenance. The boy in the present instance is not a lunatic, but only an imbecile, and it does not appear that he has got any one in the United Kingdom to support him.

* This point is purely for determination by Government in the Educational department.

A. T. PRINGLE.

It would therefore appear that his deportation is * not desirable.

A. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR.
30-11-01.

Chief Secretary—

Judicial is not in a position to afford much assistance in the matter. There may be some Military institution at home which would take the boy in: the Secretary of State, if written to, would doubtless advise in the matter.

A. R. KNAPP.
2-12-01.

G. S. FORBES.
4-12-01.

Educational department u.o.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

H.M.—

For orders as to whether the Secretary of State may not be addressed.

P. T. THARYAN.
5-12-01.

A. T. PRINGLE.
5-12-01.

C. J. WEIR.
6-12-01.

Various Directories might be looked up, such as Thacker's Bengal one, to see if there is any such institution. I fear, however, there is not.

C. J. WEIR.
1-12-01.

I consulted every available source of information personally before noting on the case.

A. T. PRINGLE.
11-12-01.

A most difficult business. Hadn't we best first ask the other Governments if they have any suitable institutions? He will cost less yearly in this country, and journey and care of him to England would be saved.

Can he be charged to the institution? Is he not rather a charge on Government?

J. T. [HOMSON].
7-12-01.

For the Assistant Secretary—

Thacker's Directory is the only one available in the Secretariat. This has been looked into but no suitable institutions appear to exist in India. The committee also say so—*vide* paragraph 4 of the Vice-Chairman's letter.

In the note at A on page 1 it is stated that the expenses on account of the boy's transfer from the asylum and maintenance cannot be a legitimate charge on the asylum funds.

P. T. THARYAN.
10-12-01.

Telephonic message from the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, to the Surgeon-General, dated 11th December 1901.

It is understood that there is no such institution anywhere in India as an asylum for idiots. Can you confirm this?

Telephonic message from the Surgeon-General, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated 11th December 1901.

Your telephone of this day. Idiocy is only a type of insanity, and those who are subject to this are admitted into Lunatic Asylum. But there is no institution styled an Idiot Asylum.

Secretary—

I think we may trust Thacker's Directory: it is an accurate one; moreover if there were such an asylum in India, it would be well known. The Surgeon-General's telephonic message corroborates the statement made in paragraph 4 of the first office-note.

2. As already submitted, it would not be fair to put charges of the kind upon the asylum funds. As soon as this boy leaves the school, he will have no more title to be kept at the expense of the charity than any other ex-pupil. It is thought that he is a charge on Government.

3. The popular sentiment in England is, I have always understood, opposed to placing a “natural” for ever in the company of lunatics: his *amentia* may scientifically be only another type of their *dementia*, but the fact remains that lunatics are prone to be noisy, if not violent, and filthy in their habits, while born naturals need not be filthy, and are very rarely offensive in any way.

A. T. PRINGLE.
14-12-01.

Submitted to Honourable Member again. There is apparently no good in making inquiry of other local Governments in India.

C. J. WEIR.
23-12-01.

Put the papers before the Surgeon-General with special reference to Major Williams' refusal of certificate and for any advice, proper to the case, that he can offer.

J. T[HOMSON].
24-12-01.

The file may now go u.o. to the Surgeon-General for remarks.

P. T. THARYAN.
3-1-02.

Yes.

A. T. PRINGLE.
8-1-02.

C. J. WEIR.
8-1-02.

To Surgeon-General u.o.

After explaining to Captain Williams that the Lunatic Asylum is the only place in this country provided for the care of idiots and after directing his attention to the definition of the word lunatic as used in the Act, XXXVI of 1858, he consents to sign the necessary certificate. At the present time no less than fourteen idiots are under care in the local Asylum.

D. SINCLAIR.
3-2-02.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

The draft placed below may issue.

P. T. THARYAN.
4-2-02.

A. T. PRINGLE.
5-2-02.
C. J. WEIR.
5-2-02.

$$\left[\frac{E.}{4} \right]$$

1,000-25-10-01

READ AGAIN G.O., No., dated 190

” ” ” ” ” ” 190

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1531, From the Law. Asylum Committee, No., dated 21st October 1901

” ” ” ” ” ” 190

” ” ” ” ” ” 190

ORDER No 612, dated 7-2-1902

P. S.

Recorded as the
~~The~~ Governor in Council
~~Considers that the lady is~~
~~question should be sent to~~
~~the Lunatic Asylum~~ ^{unless such that} Major
Williams has ~~it is understood~~,
withdrawn his objection to
granting the necessary certificate,
necessary for the lady's
mission into the d. st. at
Madras.

6000 ^{AP}
5.2.02 5.22

76
4.2.02

To
The Committee of the Law Asylum,
city, thro' the D-P. J. J. J.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
120 .

1975

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DIRTD.

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