

100-28-12-01.
Educational (1902) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 790

DATED 23 12 02

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Universities' Commission

Forwarding to the Govt of India a
memorial from the North West Teacher
association in regard to the recommendation
of the ———.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

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1,000-23-12-01.

Educational (1902) Department.

CURRENT No. 1935

From

[Name] A. M. Gnanamanickam.

[Designation] Secy, North Arcot Teachers' association

[Station] Vellore

No. _____

Dated 12. 12. 1902

Enclosures _____

Received 16. 12. 1902

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SUBJECT.

Forwarding a memorial on the subject of the report of the Universities Commission.

BACK PAPERS.

725, 717, 710, 683-4 of D2.

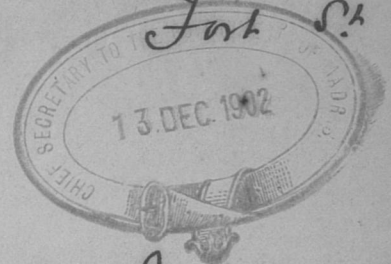
FURTHER PAPERS.

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CURRENT NO. 1935



To,

The Chief Secretary to the
Governor-in-Council
Fort St. George



Honoured Sir,

I have the honour to forward
the Memorial of the North Arcot Teachers
Association re "the Report
of the Indian Universities Commission"

I have the honour to be
Honoured Sir,

Yr. most obedient servant

A. M. Gnanamani Ram
Secretary

North Arcot Teachers' Association }
Vellore: Dec^r. 12th 1902 }

To

THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL,
FORT SAINT GEORGE.

THE HUMBLE MEMORIAL OF
The North Arcot Teachers' Association,

in re

The Report of the Indian Universities Commission.

The Memorialists have, after due consideration and prolonged discussion, resolved to submit the following resolutions to your Excellency, for transmission to the Government of India, and pray that these may be taken into consideration in passing final orders on the subject :—

I.

New Universities.

That, in the opinion of this Association, the time has come when New Universities may be established in this country in addition to those already established, for the following reasons :—

1. The existing Universities have worked successfully so far, particularly the Madras University.
2. The number of candidates for the University Degree Examinations is steadily on the increase, and a good many of these have to come to the Metropolis for the said examinations from distant parts of the several Presidencies at considerable expense, inconvenience and trouble.
3. Hundreds of young men have also at present to go to the Metropolis for the purpose of attending the model colleges there, and are put to serious inconvenience, owing to their having in many cases to board and lodge amidst very undesirable surroundings. They have also to subject themselves to the dangers of life in populous and crowded cities, like Madras, which naturally are far less healthy than mofussil towns are likely to be under similar conditions.
4. Several other towns like Trichinopoly and Bangalore are well adapted to be seats of Universities, in consideration of their size, importance and favourable environments.
5. When small countries like Great Britain, Germany, and the United States have a far larger number of Universities, in this vast continent of India, there is room at least for as many more Universities as we have at present.

II.

Senate and Syndicate.

1. Senate :—

That this Association is of opinion that, since the Senates of the Universities were in their origin intended to be bodies of persons qualified to advise and to exercise control in Educational matters, any changes proposed should be in the direction of making them rather more than less self-governing. They should be large enough to secure formal debates and the expression of a well considered opinion. At the same time they should be protected against the introduction of voters who are brought together in large numbers only by the prospect of a debate on some question which has been agitated out of the University doors.

2. *Syndicate* :—

That the Syndicate, since it is the executive body of the Senate, should not be a large body. The Association agrees with the principle that a Committee of the Senate, which exercises such large executive powers as must, in the nature of the case, be entrusted to the Syndicate, should be truly representative of the Colleges and the teaching staffs by which the practical work of the University is so largely carried on; and it believes also that any changes intended should secure a still closer relationship between the Colleges and the administration of the University. And while, in the main, these governing bodies of the University will be naturally bodies of experts, the Association deprecates any undue insistence upon official representation.

III.

Second Grade Colleges.

That this Association, being of opinion that the Second Grade Colleges in the Presidency are generally as efficient and as successful in their results as the First Grade Colleges, in most respects, and are within the easy reach of students of different parts, as they are evenly scattered through a vast area, begs that the recommendations of the Commission urging the abolition of the Second Grade Colleges and the location of College and High School classes in separate buildings and under separate management, may not be adopted, since their adoption will injure Higher Education by making it too costly to suit the conditions of the people of this Presidency, and retard all private enterprise—results deplorable in their effect.

IV.

Minimum rate of Fee.

That the Association feels doubtful as to whether the time has arrived in this country when a minimum rate of fees may be levied in Arts Colleges, seeing that such a measure is likely to place higher education beyond the reach of the masses, owing to the poverty of the country. And if it still be thought necessary to introduce a minimum rate of fees in Colleges, it respectfully suggests that the minimum may be fixed as low as possible, and that the percentage of free scholarships allowed in Colleges be raised to at least 10 per cent. The reasons for the above are the following :—

1. At least in the matter of education, there should be no distinction between the rich and the poor, as the boy who is poor in his means need not necessarily be poor in intellectual powers.

2. It is certainly desirable that an intelligent but poor boy should have the chance of a University career in preference to a dull boy who happens to be rich.

3. It is possible to get only really able Students into the College, and thus to put an end to the danger pointed out by the Commission that the work of Colleges is impeded, by raising, if necessary, the standard of the Entrance Examinations.

4. Average ability in the poor should not be considered a disability while similar ability in the case of the rich is not considered to be such.

5. The under-selling among Colleges, to which the Commission wants to put an end, may be checked by a more rigorous working of the conditions of affiliation.

6. The institution of scholarships, which the Commission recommends with a view to help poor and capable boys, will not help even a reasonable number of such boys, as in the nature of things that number will be very large in a poor country like this.

V.

Curriculum.(1) *Vernaculars* :—

That this Association, being strongly of opinion that the recommendation of the Commission, that the Vernacular Languages of India be not recognised as second languages for any of the University Examinations above the Entrance, will materially injure the progress of Education in Vernaculars and deal a death blow to them, protests against this recommendation.

The reasons for protesting against this recommendation are obvious. The Commission itself admits that the study of Vernacular languages is neglected so much so that even a large number of graduates are not able to express themselves clearly and correctly in their mother tongue. While so, that the Commission should expect these graduates and others with less educational attainments to possess an adequate knowledge of Vernaculars so as to aim at good style, especially when the Vernaculars are excluded from the Curriculum is more than any one can reasonably expect. In these circumstances, it would be a great hardship if the recommendations of the Commission were carried out, and surely it would retard the progress of Education in Vernaculars.

(2) *Text Books in English for Examination* :—

That this Association is strongly of opinion that the introduction of prescribed Text Books in English for the Entrance Examination would be of great advantage to both teachers and pupils for the following reasons :—

(a) the abolition of the English Text has, instead of suppressing cram, led students to cram up works on Grammar, idioms and essays, published so widely, so that the evil intended to be remedied has not been remedied;

(b) the absence of a prescribed Text in English has caused much negligence, indifference, and inattention to the teaching of English Readers now used, in spite of the pressure brought on students by the class-masters, so that the trouble of the masters bears no proportionate fruit;

(c) if text books were reintroduced, the defects noted above will disappear, and what the students learn with care and attention will serve them in good stead in their after life.

(3) *Physics and Chemistry* :—

That this Association also feels that the retention of Elementary Physics and Chemistry in the Entrance course would be beneficial to the interests of Education for the following reasons :—

(a) the teaching of Science, besides giving the pupils an idea of the elementary laws and principles of nature, and acquainting them with the nature, and properties of the bodies with which they come in daily contact, cultivates their powers of observation, and trains their mind giving it the power of judgment, drawing correct inferences, &c;

(b) while Science in the lower classes and forms is taught in the way of object lessons, and while Hygiene, Elementary Science &c., are prescribed as subjects for the Lower Examinations, it is not consistent that no book on Science should be studied as a text for the Matriculation Examination;

(c) the learning of elementary facts in Physics and Chemistry in the Matriculation course will be helpful to students in their study of advanced science during the College course.

ЖКВ
17.12.02

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
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MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT

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MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
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N.B.—

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Handwritten notes on the left page, including "the Secretary to the Govt of India" and "the Secretary to the Govt of Madras".