[E.]

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Educational (1903) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 147

DATED 31st March.

14

INDEXED.

Q

[Despatch Abstract.]

Public Examinations.

Recording remarks of the D.P.I. on the subject of reducing the number of ——— in this presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Stock Form No. 127
2,000—1-5-02.

Educational (1903) Department.

CURRENT No. 156

From

[*Name*] The Honorable Mr. G.H. Stuart, M.A.,

[*Designation*] Director of Public Instruction,

[*Station*] Madras.

DESPATCHED
28½ JAN. 1903

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL SECRETARIAT. 29 JAN 1903

No. Cl-1 *Received* ——— 190 .

Dated 28½ January 1903.

Enclosures Nil *Registered* ——— 190 .

SUBJECT.

Examinations. Submitting remarks on the subject of ----- referred to in Mr. Hewett's letter read in G.O.No.673, Educational, dated, 21st November 1901.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Educational Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following remarks on the subject of Examinations referred to in para 6 of Mr.Hewett's letter read in G.O.No.678,Educational,dated,21st November 1901:-

There are three examinations which are to some extent utilised for the purposes of the Educational Department,viz,

(1) The Primary Examination

(2) - Lower Secondary Examination

(3) - Upper Secondary Examination.

None of these is under the control of the Director of Public Instruction. They are conducted by the Commissioner for Government Examinations,but as the Commissioner is,and for many years has been,the Director of Public Instruction,the distinction is not of much practical importance.

The only direct use made of the Primary Examination by the Educational Department is to award results grants in the 4th standard, which is the highest standard in Upper primary schools,and to test the fitness of candidates for admission to primary training schools. As soon as the staff of Sub-assistant Inspectors is sufficiently enlarged,the Primary Examination may be discontinued as a compulsory examination for results grant,and pupils presented for results grants in the 4th standard will then be examined by the Inspecting officers in the school itself in the same way as the lower standards (Infant to third) are now examined. Admission to primary training schools can be regulated by a special entrance examination. The Primary Examination will then cease to be used for any Educational purpose. It may therefore be asked why it cannot be abolished altogether. The examination is however also used as a Public service Examination for the lower grades. Out of the 25,000 candidates for this examination in 1901,about 13,000 were "private" candidates and it is to be presumed that the object of these candidates was to qualify for the public service. It is for Government to say whether they desire the Primary Examination to be retained as a service examination.

The change from the Primary Examination to Examinations by the Inspecting officer in situ will not however be such a great one as the Government of India appear to think. The Primary Examination is at present conducted by 29 Boards,each composed of a Chairman and not less than 6 members,of whom three must be inspecting officers. The number of members in 1901 was 533 or an average of 18 to each Board. It is held at 277 different centres,and,though the pupils of each school are not examined separately, the centres are so numerous that pupils have not to go very far to be examined. The number examined in 1901 was 25,466 or an average of 92 for each centre. The Boards travel from centre to centre,each Board having on the average about 10 centres. There are no printed papers and the examination is in the main viva voce. Each Board conducts its examination independently of the others,and,so far as pupil candidates are concerned,the Boards form a cheap and effective agency for testing the work of the 4th standard in Primary schools. The system possesses none of the so called evils of a public examination,and I doubt whether the work will be better done by the inspecting officers working singly and examining each school separately. The candidates value the certificates which they obtain from the Commissioner for Government Examinations and find them useful in obtaining employment.

The Lower Secondary Examination is the descendant of what was formerly called the Middle School Examination. This was instituted in 1880 and,besides being a public service examination for appointments on Rs.15 and upwards,was used for the purpose of regulating the promotion of pupils from Middle schools to High schools. It was abolished in 1891,its place being taken by the Lower Secondary Examination which however ceased to be a public service examination (except as a substitute for the Primary Examination) and was entirely optional for pupils. Headmasters might if they so pleased regulate

their promotions to the high school by means of it, but they were no longer compelled to do so. This is the present position of the examination. It is utilised for educational purposes to award results grants in the 7th standard or 3rd form of Lower Secondary schools and also to test the fitness of candidates for admission to Lower Secondary Training schools. Pupils are however not compelled to appear for this examination in order to earn results grants: if they do not do so they have to be examined by the Inspecting officer in the school itself. There are moreover not many Lower Secondary schools now on the results grant system; most of them are now aided by fixed grants. Admission to Lower Secondary Ttaining schools can (as is proposed for Primary Training schools) be regulated by a special entrance examination. The Lower Secondary Examination will then cease to be used for any departmental purpose, and here again the question arises why it cannot be abolished altogether.

But, although the examination is not compulsory for any educational purpose, and qualifies for Government service only as an alternative to the Primary Examination, it is yet exceedingly popular with schools, as is evident from the number of pupil candidates appearing for it - 7,082 out of a total of 11,184 in 1901. Schools are glad to have some public test of the work done by them, and candidates for employment find that they have a better chance with a lower secondary certificate than with a primary certificate. The popularity of the examination is of course no reason for continuing it if it is bad in itself, but I cannot see that it has that malign influence on education that some of the members of the Conference supposed. The subjects for the examination are the ordinary subjects of the school curriculum, which must be taught whether the school sends up pupils for the examination or not. No special preparation is either needed or given: the examination has no effect on the course of study pursued and the teacher's mind is <u>not</u> constantly directed towards preparing his pupils for it. The standard is easy, and if the pupils work a little harder with the prospect of an examination before them, so much the better. The average age of the pupil-candidate is 14-an age at which pupils may be supposed capable of benefiting rather than otherwise from the stimulus of an examination.

The Government of India appears to contemplate two classes of

of schools only, primary and secondary. In Madras we have, and have had for a long time, three perfectly distinct classes, primary, lower secondary (or middle) and upper secondary (or high). I consider this classification to be well suited to the circumstances of Madras and that it must be maintained. There are many places which cannot support an upper secondary school though they can easily support a lower secondary school. The number of Lower secondary schools in 1901-02 was for boys 381, for girls 172: the number of Upper secondary schools (most of them having lower secondary departments) was for boys 157, for girls 25: a total of 553 lower secondary schools (containing only the 1st, 2nd and 3rd forms) and 182 upper secondary schools (containing the 4th, 5th and 6th forms and generally × also the 1st, 2nd and 3rd). The number of male pupils in lower secondary and upper secondary forms was as given in the margin. It will be seen that there is a sudden drop in passing from the lower secondary to the upper secondary department. There are between 3,000 and 4,000 pupils whose education stops at the end of the lower secondary course and I think it is right that they should be able to obtain some kind of leaving certificate. This the Lower Secondary Examination provides for them at present. The Government of India apparently intend that such certificates should be given by headmasters or by Inspectors. The latter cannot examine such pupils individually without an altogether unreasonable increase in their number, and the former I am afraid cannot as a general rule be trusted to refuse certificates to incompetent boys. I do not think the proposed check, namely, that Inspecting officers should endorse the certificates of headmasters, will be worth very much. Inspecting officers would be obliged to test each applicant and this as I have said they cannot be expected to do.

× in all but 14 cases

Lower Secondary	
1st Form	14,414
2nd do	11,543
3rd do	10,651
Upper Secondary	
4th Form	7,063
5th do	5,096
6th do	6,603

At the end of the upper secondary or high school course we have now the Upper Secondary Examination which was instituted in 1889. This again is not compulsory upon anybody. It qualifies for Government service, but so does the Matriculation Examination of the University, although the University has refused to recognise the Upper Secondary Examination as equivalent to its Matriculation

Examination. Pupils prefer an Examination which admits them to two privileges to one which admits only to one. Hence the Upper Secondary Examination has never been very popular, and only 194 candidates appeared for it in 1901. The same fate awaits any School Final Examination that can be devised, unless Government ceases to accept the Matriculation Examination as qualifying for Government service, or the University accepts the School Final as a complete entrance examination. The University was influenced in the course it took in 1889 by the prospect of the financial loss it would have to sustain if the Matriculation Examination ceased to have the same importance as it had then: but this could be obviated by charging a matriculation fee without holding a Matriculation Examination. Whatever the course taken by the University, Government should however cease to recognise the Matriculation Examination. If this be done the scheme for the Upper Secondary Examination can easily be modified and completed so as to make it a satisfactory test of upper secondary education.

I am not convinced

As to the question of uniformity of character and nomenclature, it is evident that the character of the examination must depend on the character of the education given. No doubt it is interesting to be able to compare the results of one province with those of another, but such comparisons are after all not necessary, and they would be futile unless the examinations in different provinces were identical and the examiners the same. For these reasons I consider the character of the examinations must be determined by each province for itself. As to nomenclature I see no particular object in uniformity; the primary, lower secondary and upper secondary examinations in Madras correspond to the primary, lower secondary and upper secondary stages of instruction: the nomenclature is consistent, suits our circumstances, and in my opinion cannot be improved.

Scholarships in this Presidency are generally speaking awarded only to girls and to boys belonging to backward classes who are supposed to need encouragement and assistance. They are not awarded by competitive examination. Except in the primary department where no qualification is required candidates must qualify by passing the Primary, Lower Secondary, or Upper Secondary or Matriculation Examination as the case may be: the Director makes the appointments, etc.

distributing the scholarships as evenly as possible among the different institutions. In cases where there are not enough scholarships for all the candidates from an institution, the manager is permitted to hold a selection examination among his own candidates. I propose for the future to assign a certain number of scholarships to each of the 4 inspecting circles and to leave the selection of schools and scholars to the inspectors.

To recapitulate, the present primary examination may, as far as schools are concerned, be replaced by the new primary examination to be conducted for each school separately by the inspecting staff. This will not be an examination of individual boys for certificates but an examination of the highest class as a whole. Boys who want certificates will have to get them from the headmaster and very little value will be attached to them. The change will necessitate a large increase in the number of Sub-assistant Inspectors who will now have to do a considerable portion of the work hitherto done by primary examining boards.

The Lower Secondary Examination should I think be retained. It suits our classification of schools, is needed as a leaving examination at the end of the lower secondary stage, does not affect for the worse the instruction given, pays its way, is valued by parents and teachers and does no harm to anybody.

The Upper Secondary Examination will be modified so as to make it complete in itself and independent of the Technical Examinations so that it may serve as a test of the education given in all Upper Secondary schools.

There will then be three examinations distributed over the eleven years of school life: first the Primary Examination at the end of the fifth year, next a Lower Secondary Examination at the end of the eighth year for those who wish to leave school then, and last an Upper Secondary (or School Final) Examination at the close of the school career. None of these examinations will be compulsory and I do not think it can be said that they are too numerous, especially as most of the pupils will only go in for one of the three. Therefore I do not propose any reduction in the number.

I have the honour to be,
Sir
Your most obedient servant
G H Stuart
Director of Public Instruction

[E. / 5]

500—5-7-02.

6

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 156.

These papers should be circulated that Govt may be in a position to hear & discuss the matter with Mr Orange before he goes to the Presidency.

4.
12.2.03

SUBJECT.

Reduction in the number of Public Examinations.

slip O

The report submitted by the Director with reference to paragraphs 6 and 7 of Mr. Hewett's letter in G.O. no. 678 Edl. of 21st November 1901 is intended only for the consideration of this Government and not for communication to the Govt. of India - vide page 2 of the notes connected with G.O. no. 428 Edl. of 24th July 1902.

P

2. The Govt. of India thought that some reduction in the number of examinations and greater uniformity in their character and nomenclature were desirable. They were of opinion that during the whole of a pupil's school course he should, if he has no intention of entering the university, be made to undergo only one public examination. This Examination should be called the School Final Examination and should mark the close of his school

school course. Certificates given on passing this examination should qualify the holder for entering the public service as well as for entering the university. There may be a separate examination for the latter purpose to be passed either in its entirety or in such subjects additional to those passed at the School Final as the University may require.

3. The Govt. of India also thought that there might be an examination called the primary examination to mark the close of a pupil's primary course but this was to be conducted by the inspecting officers in situ and was not to be a public examination.

4. Subsequently in connection with the question of the Education of Europeans the Govt. of India said that it might probably be necessary to retain the middle school examination for European schools – vide paragraph 5 of W. Hewett's letter in Gjo. no. 755 Ed. of 16th Dec. 1901. Slip Q.

5. In this presidency there are at present three public examinations to mark the close respectively of a pupils' primary, lower secondary and upper secondary course. The primary examination is

Conducted

conducted almost in situ by different Boards of examiners. It is used for the purpose of awarding results grants in the fourth standard and for testing the fitness of candidates for admission to primary training schools. But other arrangements will or can be made for these purposes as soon as the subordinate inspecting staff is strengthened. Proposals in this behalf have gone up to the Govt. of India – vide Gjo. no. 492-493 Ed. of 20th August 1902. Slip R. The examination is however also used as a public service test and the Director leaves it to Govt. to decide whether after it ceases to be used for any Educational purpose, it should be retained or not. In the letter to the Govt. of India no. 320 Ed. of 29th May 1902, the proposal was accepted that school certificates of proficiency and conduct in the primary stage should qualify for entrance to the lower grades of the Govt. service but the condition was attached that only those pupils who intended leaving school and were able to show that they had a promise of appoint-

ment

appointment should be regarded as
bearing the right to claim certificates. The
abolition of the primary examination as at
present conducted was thus practically
resolved upon. It is for consideration whether
the examination is necessary even in its
altered form. It is now the qualifying
test for all inferior appointments which
are not menial in character and for
all inferior appointments carrying less than
Rs. 15. A fair knowledge of the three "Rs" is
all that is required for these appointments
and a certificate from the headmaster of
a recognised school countersigned by the
inspector of schools that a pupil has July 4
completed his or her course in the fourth
standard class ought to be sufficient
for all practical purposes. All recognized
schools are under inspection and that will
be a guarantee for their maintenance in
an efficient condition and against the promotion
of incompetent pupils. A slight difference
in the degree of efficiency to which the pupils
attain will make very little difference
in this stage. The abolition of the Examination
will

Here about Rs. 12000 (or 7 2000) private candidates (after Primary Exam?)

I don't suppose that Govt would lose much by the examinations: but only that Govt should not lose money over them.

year.	Receipts	Charges
1899-1900.	38947	31196
1900-1901	38502	28116
1901-1902	39988	27721

Skip T.

with of course entail a loss on Govt: the receipts and charges for the last three years having been as shown in the margin but this it is submitted cannot be helped.

6. The Govt. of India consider that the middle school examination may be necessary for European schools and this Govt have expressed the opinion that if it is retained for one class of boys it should be retained for the other classes also - vide letter no. 175 Edn. of 26th March 1902. The Govt of India have also said that a school final examination at the conclusion of the middle course is desirable as a culminating point of the Education of a large number of pupils and that its institution - continuance in this presidency - may be considered provided it is confined to those who are bona fide leaving school. Mr. Stuart seems to advance very good reasons for its retention, but with the exception of the one fact that the pupils who usually appear for it are old enough to stand the strain of a public examination

4

examination there is hardly anything in his arguments which does not apply equally well to the primary examination. The lower secondary is not required as a service test except as a substitute for the primary. Its popularity with parents and managers counts for nothing. If half a dozen public examinations were instituted in the course of a pupil's career the majority of the managers and parents if left to themselves would be only glad to send up pupils for every one of them. Parents in Madras if not in India are in the very few exceptions as anxious to see that their children pass some public examination or other as managers are to show that their schools produce better results than others or at any rate are not inferior to them. It appears therefore that there is no necessity for the retention of this examination also. A certificate of the kind suggested in the foregoing paragraph is quite sufficient in the

Case

case of those boys who leave school at the End of the lower secondary course. Of Course if the examination is abolished there will be a loss to Govt. which can be ill afforded in this case also the receipts and charges during the last three years being as shown in the margin.

Year.	Receipts	Charges	net profit
1899-1900	49090	43782	5308
1900-1901	48068	42251	5817
1901-1902	50017	42787	7230.

† N.B. includes expenditure under upper secondary Examns. & Recognition of Schools Code.

Lastly there is the upper secondary examination. This examination which is now so unpopular with no doubt be abolished in favour of the School Final examination which will and must serve as a service test. In the letter to the Govt. of India No. 320 Edl. of 28th May, it was stated that as soon as the School Final examination was instituted this Govt. would be prepared to recognise it. This however means nothing as the School Final will simply take the place of the upper secondary which is now recognised. If the School Final should be a success which the upper secondary is not, the matriculation examination should cease to

Slip S.

be

be an alternative test for entrance to Govt. service and this question is now under consideration separately.

8. To sum up the upper secondary or School Final seems to be the only public examination that is necessary in the course of a pupil's school career and in order to be a success it must replace the matriculation examination for those who do not intend to enter the University. Things will if the suggestions now made are approved only go back to the pre-examination days and schools will be free to impart a liberal education without being confined to one groove.

This seems to confound the use & abuse of tests.

9. The question at present is however only one for discussion with Mr. Orange. Final orders will have to be deferred till receipt of the resolution which the Govt. of India propose to issue soon after Mr. Orange's return to Simla in April next — vide Mr. Williams's letter in Govt. no. 695 Edl. of 8th Nov. 1902.

Slip W.

PM
30/1/3

maybe.

The D.P.I. points out that, as regards the Primary Exam^n, the Govt. of India's proposals will not make any great change. The Madras system of conducting the Exam^n by Boards, on which Inspecting Officers are substantially represented, works well, & as it is not incompatible with the Govt of India's scheme, it may perhaps be continued. The Primary Exam^n was, I believe, prescribed as the necessary qualification for inferior Government Service with the idea of stimulating primary education. Its effect in that direction has been inappreciable, & its retention as a service exam^n is therefore unnecessary.

Mr Stuart proposes to retain the Lower Secondary Exam^n on the ground that boys whose education stops at the lower secondary stage ought to be able to obtain some kind of leaving certificate. This is apparently a concession to the Indian practice of demanding "chits" from all classes of applicants. but it is of doubtful soundness, & there is no other argument of much weight in favour of the retention of the Examination. The very fact that a leaving certificate can be obtained by a boy whose education stops at the Lower Secondary stage must make every pupil intent on obtaining it: the examination thus becomes the main object to be achieved; & education is conducted solely or mainly with the aim of passing the test. This evil can only be met by abolishing the lower secondary exam^n altogether.

And is not the Sch. degree a "chit"? If the pupil is not to study further is it not useful for himself & the community that it should be known without difficulty how far & how well his studies have proceeded? The same argument would abolish all tests.

The mode of applying a test may abuse the test: it should not do so.

In the case of the School Final or Upper Secondary,

the same objections apply - but the necessity for supplying a standard qualification for Govt Service is supposed to override them. Adopting this view, it is proposed by the Govt of India to transfer the control of the Exam: which closes Upper Secondary educ: from the University to the Department. The change has been long contemplated but Mr Grigg's attempt to carry it out about 1890 signally failed. It will clearly be necessary both to withdraw from the Matriculation Exam: its position as a qualifying test for Government Service and to induce the University to accept the School Final as an equivalent, in whole or in part, for Matriculation.

Mr. Stuart's Letter dated 22.1.03 on this subject in this linked file - & his conclusions appear to be appropriate, but much criticism & opposition may be safely expected.

AGl
5.2.03.

The only idea I seem to have found on the subject is that a School final such as Mr Stuart describes is the only public examination required for the schoolboy; that it may be substituted by Mr Stuart's to make it a University Examination; and that schoolboys study their School Career at an earlier stage should have a school leaving certificate to show his general ability & character

12.2.03

1. Honble Sir H Winterbotham
2. H.E. the Govr.

AGl
13.2.03

The wisest thing I can do is to refrain from writing on this matter which is beyond my métier -

The remarks of our D.P.I. seem full of good sense, & I gather that he anticipates no great good or improvement from the proposed reforms HD -

15-2-03 -

I see no reason for dissenting from the views expressed by the D.P.I but I shall reserve my opinion until we have discussed the matter in Council.

H
23-2-03

These papers may apparently be recorded, the subject having been discussed by the Members of Govt with Mr Orange, & the results arrived at having been practically summed up in the Letter to the Govt of India on the School Final Exam[n]

AGl
28.3.03.

[L. & M. 84]

2,000—23-10-02.

Educational

~~LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL~~ DEPARTMENT.

14

C. No. 156, from the D.P.I., No. _____, dated 28 Jan 1903

SUBJECT.

Number of Public Examns.

~~Memorandum~~ No. 147, dated 31st March 1903.

Mis. ~~Order~~

Recorded.

AGJ 28.3.03

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When signed ——

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190 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

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