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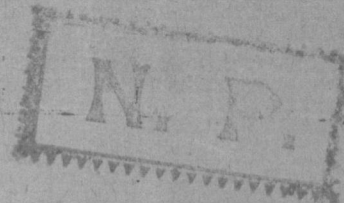
Educational (1904) Department.

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ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

St. Michael's College, Coimbatore.

Accepting the proposal of the managers
of — to raise the fees to Rs 28 per term
for the F. A. classes of the College.

J

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 {1904} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1904.

Enclosures

Spare copies

ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 358, 9th June 1904.

N. P.

JUNE.

St. Michael's College, Coimbatore.

Accepting the proposal of the Manager of — to raise the fees for the F.A. classes of the college to Rs. 28 per term.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., Nos. 157, 158, Educational, dated 8th March 1904.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Director of Public Instruction to place himself in communication with the authorities of St. Michael's College, Coimbatore, and to report as to the arrangement to be made with them for terminating the unfair competition of that college with the Native College at Coimbatore, and informing the Government of India of the action taken in regard to this matter.

READ—also the following paper:—

From the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. BOURNE, D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated 24th May 1904, Cur. No. 4715.

With reference to G.O., No. 157, Educational, dated 8th March 1904, I have the honour to submit copies of the further correspondence which has taken place between myself and the manager of St. Michael's College and the Registrar of the University together with a chart showing the attendance at the two colleges at Coimbatore. The latter seems to me to show that there is just room for the two colleges. I consider 80 a suitable strength for such a college as the Hindu College, so that it appears to me that it requires a little protection.

2. I made two proposals to the manager of St. Michael's College: firstly, that the fees for non-Christian students should be the same as at the Hindu College and, secondly, that the number of non-Christians admitted should be restricted. He is prepared to accept the first proposal but objects to the second on the ground that it would give the college a sectarian character. The objection seems curious considering that the college was founded on a sectarian basis. I am, however, not much in favour of pressing this proposal, unless it were accepted by Government as a general policy. There are so many Mission institutions which have no sectarian aims and many which it would be difficult to classify. I think that for the present it will be well to insist on the St. Michael's College charging non-Christian students the same fee as is levied at the Coimbatore College, viz., Rs. 28 per term, so long as it continues to receive aid.

3. The interference with the rate of fee now proposed and proposed also for the American Mission College at Madura appears to be in accord with the policy of the Government of India, but I am bound to confess that I cannot myself see any objection to the provision of funds by a body or an individual for the purpose of cheapening education so long as efficiency remains unimpaired and so long as Provincial funds are not utilized for the purpose.

ENCLOSURES.

PROCEEDINGS of the Director of Public Instruction, dated 22nd March 1904, Ref. on C. No. 6844 of 1903.

Read—the following papers:—

From Government, No. 491, dated 8th September 1902, enclosing letter from the Government of India.

Letter to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, Ref. on C. No. 6844, dated 6th November 1903.

G.O., No. 582, Educational, dated 24th November 1903.

Letter from the Registrar, Madras University, dated 8th December 1903, No. 5811, with its enclosures.

Letter from the Principal, St. Michael's College, Coimbatore, dated 1st January 1904.

Letter from the Inspector of Schools, Western Circle, dated 11th January 1904, Ref. on S. No. 629 (a).

Letter to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated 27th January 1904, Ref. on C. No. 6844.

G.O., No. 157, Educational, dated 8th March 1904.

Ref. on C. No. 6844 of 1903, dated 22nd March 1904.

The application for the affiliation of the Catholic High School, Coimbatore, to the University of Madras, up to the standard of the First Examination in Arts, was based upon the representation of the manager that there was a deeply-felt want for an institution imparting higher education on the part of the Catholic population of the Coimbatore diocese. The Syndicate recommended and the Governor in Council authorized the affiliation sought for on this ground.

2. It appears that only a small percentage of the students in the college classes are Christians, and the Director believes that the comparatively low scale of fees has induced a large number of non-Christians to join the college.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council is convinced that a state of unhealthy competition exists in Coimbatore and that measures should be taken to put a stop to it.

4. The Director proposes to advise Government that the fees levied from non-Christian students in St. Michael's college should henceforth be at the same rate as those levied at the Coimbatore College, viz., Rs. 28 per term.

5. Further, that St. Michael's college should not admit more than 50 per cent. of non-Christians in any of its departments.

6. The manager is requested to report at a very early date whether he is prepared to accept these proposals.

A. G. BOURNE,
Director of Public Instruction.

To the Manager, St. Michael's college, Coimbatore.

From the Manager, St. Michael's College, Coimbatore, to the Director of Public Instruction dated 25th March 1904.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, No. 6844 of 1903, dated 22nd March 1904, I have the honour to submit the following remarks:—

1. I have taken steps to obviate what may have been considered up to this as unfair competition in the matter of fees in the college department. My first care on taking charge of the management of the college has been to fix at Rs. 24 per term the rate of fees in the college classes and to insist upon this sum being paid. Out of eleven pupils there is only one free scholarship granted last year after a competitive examination, two boarders (Catholics) and one student who was given this favour by way of compensation for his having lost one year, somewhat through an oversight of the late manager.

When trying to enforce this new rate, I found the pupils somewhat reluctant to comply with my request, and I regret to say that unfortunately they were more or less backed by some of the Hindu teachers. To put an end to what I considered an undesirable state of things, I felt it my duty to summon a special meeting of the Managing Committee, and to communicate to the staff a copy of the proceedings of the said committee with reference to this question. I quote here part of those proceedings—

"As to the fee policy of the college, considering (a) the Government Notification of May 1903, (b) the correspondence that has taken place on the subject between the departmental authorities and the Principal of the college in December last, the issue of which correspondence is still a matter of uncertainty, (c) considering also that cheap education is not likely to be much valued, the Managing Committee of the St. Michael's college does not see the advisability of lowering the rate of fees in the college department below the amount fixed, viz., Rs. 24—dated 12th March 1904."

2. If the Director of Public Instruction cannot amend his proposal that the fees levied from non-Christian students in the St. Michael's college should henceforth be at the same rate as those levied at the Coimbatore college, viz., Rs. 28, I am prepared to accept it; but I would suggest to the Director of Public Instruction to sanction for the present the rate of Rs. 24 for our college classes. My reasons for asking this are that this slight difference of Rs. 4 would not involve competition injurious to the interests of education with any existing college in the neighbourhood, as described in the despatch of the Government of India Nos. 199—211, Calcutta, dated 11th March 1904. On the contrary the existence of two colleges in a place like Coimbatore is rather in favour of the interest of education. It tends to foster "a spirit of honourable rivalry which preserves the efficiency of both institutions", as says the despatch of 1854. When admitting pupils of all classes at a rate somewhat less than the one in force in the Coimbatore college, it seems that we are in accordance with the wishes of Government as laid down in the Government order—Simla, 28th October 1884, chapter VII, paragraph 5. "Though it is desirable to see high education made as self-supporting as possible, the steps to this end should be cautious and well considered. Any considerable raising of fees must be accompanied by establishment of scholarships on a sufficient scale to obviate any danger of closing the avenues of high education to youths of ability but with restricted private means." As was pointed out by my predecessor we do not draw after all pupils from the Coimbatore college; those who come to us belong as a rule to a middle class, and cannot afford to pay high rates of fees such as demanded in an institution which depends, like the Coimbatore college, for its support on its income from fees and Government aid. If some pupils do come from the richer class they are attracted by those guarantees of true education and good discipline which they are sure to find in our institution.

3. It may be objected that the affiliation was sought for and granted for the benefits of the Catholic population in this part of the Presidency. This I admit; but it was never intended to make the college a mere sectarian institution. Every year the calendar of the Madras University states that we admit all classes of pupils, as well as St. Joseph's college at Trichinopoly or St. Aloysius college at Mangalore. That the majority of the students chiefly in the higher classes are non-Christians, is easily accounted for by the fact that our Catholic population is comparatively small; our college could not be worked properly were it to be restricted to a percentage of 50 per cent. of non-Christian pupils; while acknowledging our claims to educate our Catholic youth, the Government cannot impose on us restrictions which would make it impossible for the college to have a secure basis and safe conditions of existence. Such a step would clearly mark out our college as a sectarian institution, and thus render it altogether unpopular.

4. The Director proposes also that the same limitations to 50 per cent. of non-Christian pupils should be enforced in all the departments of the institution. Why should such a proposal be made, I fail to see any reason whatever. There are at Coimbatore three high schools—Coimbatore college, St. Michael's college and London Mission High school. Each of these levies different rates of fees, and I am not aware that there has been in the school department anything like unfair competition. The London Mission High school is also a missionary institution, with which we have been always in friendly terms: I am sure it contains but a very small percentage of Christian pupils. Their rate of fees is below the standard rate, which is in force at the Coimbatore college. Why should then be any restriction imposed on us. Several schools, upper and lower secondary, are maintained by agencies and missionary societies; are they fettered in any way; why should such a drastic measure be imposed on us. I am quite unable to understand it, unless there have been made allegations which I am positively ignorant of. Our Catholic population is poor on the whole. How then shall we maintain a school, if we are limited in our fee income. Mission funds cannot and will not be endlessly forthcoming. The institution must as far as possible become self-supporting, and the Director's proposal would prevent us altogether to reach such a desirable end. On the face of it there is nothing short of a censure on us in this proposal: eventually, should it be carried into effect, it would shut altogether out of the educational field the Catholic mission in this part of the Presidency. Are we an institution which "fails to conform to the elementary principles of sound education"—Government order, dated 11th March 1904. We have a flourishing boarding attached to our college. My intention was to add to it at the beginning of next term a special department for Panchamas. I am proud to say that as regards sound education we are second to none in fulfilling the wishes of the Government as laid down in paragraphs 28 and 42 of the Government order, dated 11th March 1904, already referred to. May I be permitted to say that the Director's proposals if carried out into effect would stigmatize our institution to the eyes of the population; eventually it would be our death blow.

5. As far as I am aware, there has been an official statement sent by the Coimbatore college authorities tending to show the existence of unfair competition at Coimbatore. The Coimbatore college are bent upon doing away with our college classes: they had already brought the same complaints to Mr. G. H. Stuart on the occasion of his last visit to Coimbatore. But a few words of conversation with Mr. N. Rony, the late Principal, sufficed to put things in their true light. It is after the death of Mr. G. Stuart that a fresh attack was made on us, but this time directly to Government, and no more to the Director of Public Instruction as ought to have been done. May I suggest that if I had known the exact facts that have been alleged against St. Michael's college, it would have been easier to discuss them. More or less we are pronounced guilty without knowing anything else but more or less defined accusations wherewith we are charged perhaps wrongly. That such extraordinary proposals should have been thought of tends to show that the Coimbatore college have much exaggerated the drawbacks of the system followed heretofore—a system which myself and the present managing committee of the college repudiate altogether. The principles that shall dictate our policy are different and we mean to abide by them.

6. From G.O., No. 582, dated 24th November 1903, it may be seen that the only ground of accusation is that we were in contravention of the rule published in G.O., No. 198, Educational, dated 2nd May 1903, as an additional paragraph to rule 1 of chapter IV of the Educational Rules. I beg to remark that the said G.O., No. 198, was not meant to have a retrospective effect, and as it reached us during the second half of the last year, it was hardly possible to raise, in the middle of a term, the rate of fees that had been settled as usual, at the manager's discretion, for the whole year. On the other hand, as very effective steps have been taken at the beginning of the present year to put an end to what has been declared to be a state of unhealthy competition, I sincerely hope that such hard and unnecessary measures as those proposed by the Director, to put a stop to what has already been stopped, shall not be enforced.

7. Accordingly for all the reasons stated above, I have the honour to request the Director of Public Instruction to sanction our present rate, viz., Rs. 24 per term, for our college classes, which rate, I promise, shall be levied from non-Christian students. If the Director does not see the advisability of sanctioning this rate, I am prepared to accept his proposal of levying Rs. 28 as in the Coimbatore college.

I request further that no limitation should be imposed on us with regard to the number of non-Christian pupils admitted to the several departments of St. Michael's college.

From the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. BOURNE, D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the Registrar, University of Madras, dated the Old College, 31st March 1904, No. 6844 of 1903.

I have the honour to request you to draw the attention of the Vice-Chancellor and the Syndicate to the state of affairs at Coimbatore, and to inform me whether they are prepared to take any action.

2. There are two second-grade colleges at Coimbatore—the Coimbatore college, affiliated in November 1877, and St. Michael's college affiliated in January 1892. My attention has been drawn to the fact that a very unhealthy competition has developed between them. The manager of the Catholic high school at Coimbatore when applying for affiliation to the University up to the standard of the First Examination in Arts, stated that it was "to place the benefits of a liberal education within the reach of the Catholic community of the diocese, which numbers presently 30,000, and to train the Catholic youths to virtue and piety that the mission has resolved on raising the present high school at Coimbatore to the status of a college."

3. I find that the authorities have by no means confined themselves to their original programme. At the last inspection only ten students out of a total of fifty-five in the college department were Native Christians, the others were probably and for the most part led to join this college on account of the fact that the rate of fees levied has been far below that obtaining in the Coimbatore college.

From the Registrar of the Madras University, to the Director of Public Instruction, dated Madras, 14th April 1904, No. 1302.

With reference to your letter, No. 6844 of 1903, dated the 31st March 1904, drawing the attention of the Syndicate to a certain state of affairs regarding the two second-grade colleges at Coimbatore, I am directed to inform you that the Syndicate does not see its way to taking any action under the existing by-laws."

ORDER—No. 358, Educational, dated 9th June 1904.

The Government accept the proposal of the manager of St. Michael's college, Coimbatore, to raise the rate of fees levied from the non-Christian students attending the college to Rs. 28 per term.

(True Extract.)

H. D. TAYLOR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 358, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
9TH JUNE 1904.

[SUBJECT.—*Competition between the Native College and the St. Michael's College,
Coimbatore.*]

From the Director of Public Instruction, No. 4715, dated 24th May 1904.

In their order No. 157, Educational, dated 8th March 1904, the Government, after satisfying themselves that the St. Michael's College had been competing unfairly with the Coimbatore College, stated that unless the authorities of the former institution put a stop to this unfair competition by levying proper fees or by confining themselves to their original programme, namely, the education of Roman Catholic youths, it would be necessary for Government to intervene. The Director of Public Instruction was accordingly requested to place himself in communication with the authorities of the St. Michael's College, and to report what arrangements could be made with them for terminating this unfair competition.

2. The letter read above contains the Director's report. On receipt of G.O., No. 157, Educational, dated 8th March 1904, the Director proposed to the authorities of the St. Michael's College—

(1) that the fees levied from non-Christian students in the college should, in future, be at the same rate as those levied at the Coimbatore College, namely, Rs. 28 per term;

(2) that the number of non-Christians admitted to any of the departments of the college should be restricted to 50 per cent. of the strength of that department.

The Director also drew the attention of the Syndicate to the state of affairs at Coimbatore and asked them whether they were prepared to take any action.

3. The Syndicate replied saying that they did not see their way to taking any action under the existing by-laws.

4. The manager of the St. Michael's College replied saying that fees were levied at the college at Rs. 24 per term against Rs. 28 in the Coimbatore College, and that the slight difference of Rs. 4 would not "involve competition injurious to the interests of education with any existing college in the neighbourhood" as described in the resolution of the Government of India Nos. 199—211, dated 11th March 1904. If, however, Rs. 24 per term was considered insufficient the manager said he was prepared to raise it to Rs. 28 per term. He would not, however, consent to the admission of non-Christians to any department of the institution being restricted to 50 per cent. of the strength of the department.

5. The Director thinks that it will be enough for the present to insist on the fees being raised to Rs. 28 per term; the proposal about restricting the admission of non-Christians being dropped. It is submitted that so long as there is only a difference of Rs. 4 in the rates of fees per term in the two colleges there is hardly any case for Government interference, but as the manager has promised to raise the rate in his college to Rs. 28 he may be asked to do so.

P. T. THARYAN—3-6-04.

A. GALLETTI—4-6-04.

H. D. TAYLOR—6-6-04.

Say that the Government accept the manager's proposal to raise the fee to Rs. 28.

G. S. F[ORBES]—7-6-04.

The draft placed below is submitted for approval.

P.T.T.—8-6-04.

A.G.—8-6-04.

H.D.T.—8-6-04.

[G.O., No. 358, Educational, dated 9th June 1904.]

Educational (190⁴) Department.

CURRENT No. 948 1

From

[Name] The Hon'ble Mr. A.G. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S.,

[Designation] Director of Public Instruction,

[Station] Madras.

Current No. 4715 of 1904.

Dated 24th May 1904.

Enclosures 5

Received 1904.

Registered 26-5-1904.

SUBJECT.

Reporting the arrangements ~~to be~~ made with the authorities of St. Michael's College, Coimbatore for terminating the unfair competition of that college with the Native College there.

BACK PAPERS.

Gp no. 157 Ed 8-304

FURTHER PAPERS.

Si.

READ AGAIN G.O., No 157-158, dated 8-3-

190 4

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 948, From the 299

, No. 4715, dated 24-5- 1904

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ORDER

No. 358, dated 9-6-

1904

per term. H₂O 6.6

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9-606

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respatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
190

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C.No.

OF GOVERNMENT.

OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DMTD.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

X.B.—

- A = Print in full.
- B = Not to be printed.
- P = Print abstract only.
- Q = Print heading only.

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No.

14

1912

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The first series of papers
after the passage of the
Bill. Committee to
act of the House of
Representatives.