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ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Reformatory Schools:—

Addressing the Govt of India on the subject of the working of the system of enquiries which are now made about conduct of ex-students of—

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 {1905} of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL.

Recd. } 1905. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

ORIGINAL

G.O., &c., Nos. 229, 230, 8th April 1905.

H. P.

APRIL.

Reformatory Schools.

Addressing the Government of India on the subject of the working of the system of enquiries which are now made about the conduct of ex-students of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers :—

From W. S. MARRIS, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Education), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department, dated Calcutta, 3rd February 1905, No. 107.

I am directed to refer to the Home Department letter No. 456, dated the 14th October 1899, in which instructions were issued regarding the preparation of the statements (Forms I and II) appended to the annual reports on Reformatory Schools in India. Statement II dealt with the conduct subsequent to release of boys discharged during the three years preceding the year of report.

2. I am to enclose, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of a letter from the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 14018, dated 29th November 1904, in which it is represented that the preparation of this statement necessitates the making of inquiries every six months for a term of three years after the discharge of each boy. The Chief Commissioner suggests that the inquiries made regarding boys discharged from Reformatories may prejudice the boys in attaining a respectable livelihood. Sir Frederic Lely accordingly recommends that the statement should either be discontinued or modified.

3. The question of the maintenance of a watch over discharged boys was one of the problems affecting the management of Reformatory schools which the local Governments were invited to consider in paragraph 7 (4) of the Home Department Resolution No. 374–379, dated the 2nd September 1899. The Government of India were then disposed to think that a watch should be kept over discharged boys both in their own interests and for the purpose of gauging the effects of the reformatory system. But though reference was made to the fact that Reformatory schools would henceforth be controlled by the Educational department, no precise directions were then issued regarding the manner in which the watch should be maintained nor have any proposals relating to the matter reached the Government of India since that time. It may, however, be mentioned that the Committee appointed to consider and report on the introduction into the Punjab of the Reformatory Schools Act (Act VIII of 1897) proposed to institute a system of allowances as a check on the good conduct of boys after discharge, and suggested that if during any period for which allowances are payable to a boy, information is received that he is not conducting himself properly, the Superintendent and the Committee of Visitors should be authorised to depute any member of the Reformatory staff to visit the place where the boy is residing and to make inquiries about him. An extract from the proceedings of the Committee is enclosed for the information of the Government of Madras. But the allowances proposed are payable for one year only after discharge and the system appears to afford no means of tracing boys beyond that period.

4. The question is a difficult one upon which the Government of India would be glad to receive the advice of local Governments. They recognize that there are forcible objections to any system of surveillance which hampers a boy in severing himself from a disreputable past—but if this objection can be surmounted they would be unwilling to forego a useful means of judging of the effects of the reformatory system. They would be glad to be furnished in the first place with information showing exactly how the present system of inquiry in each province is worked in practice. In particular they desire to know by what agency the information regarding the boys is obtained and with what degree of frequency the boys are subjected to inquiry. It should be explained whether the present practice is found to have a discouraging effect on the boys themselves, and how far it can be said to be successful in its object of obtaining complete information regarding them. I am also to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be favoured with the advice of the Government of Madras upon the question whether inquiries should or should not be continued and in the former case with any suggestions for the improvement of the existing system.

Enclosures.

From F. S. A. SLOCOCK, Esq., I.C.S., Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated 29th November 1904, No. 14018.

I am directed to address the Government of India on the subject of the discontinuance or modification of Statement II appended to the Reformatory Schools Report which deals with the conduct subsequent to release of boys discharged during the three years preceding the year of report.

2. The statement was prescribed in Home Department letter No. 461, dated the 14th October 1899, and necessitates the making of enquiries every six months for a term of three years after the discharge of each boy. The Reformatory School authorities and the Director of Public Instruction have recently brought to the notice of the Officiating Chief Commissioner that this system has worked unsatisfactorily in the past, as the enquiries tend to disclose to the public the previous careers of boys who may be living and working respectably. The subject was alluded to in the same sense in paragraph 4 of the Officiating Chief Commissioner's Resolution on the Jubbulpore Reformatory School report for 1903.

3. Mr. Lely, while recognizing the difficulty that will result in the identification of a convict as a previous inmate of the school without continuous police surveillance, is strongly in favour of allowing the boys to start their lives unfettered, and I am accordingly to request that the Government of India may be pleased to sanction the abolition of the statement. The Inspector-General of Police, who was consulted, concurs in this suggestion.

Extract from the proceedings of the Committee appointed to consider matters connected with the introduction into the Punjab of the Reformatory Schools Act (VIII of 1897).

Moreover we have been able to devise a method of maintaining touch with discharged boys, which seems to us preferable to any system by which enquiries into their conduct is made through the district authorities of their homes. As will be seen by reference to Rule V in that part of our draft Notification VIII which is headed "Discharge", we propose to make use of a system of allowances as a check upon the good conduct of boys after discharge. As a rough estimate we think that the system proposed by us would entail upon Government an annual expenditure of not more than about Rs. 1,250 for such allowances (apart from money earned by the boys as rewards for good conduct). If during any period for which allowances are payable to a boy information is received that he is not conducting himself properly, the Superintendent and Committee of Visitors should, we think, be authorized to depute any member of the Reformatory staff to visit the place where the boy is residing and to make enquiries about him, all travelling and other expenses connected with such visit and enquiries being paid by Government. In every case we think that the District Magistrate should use his best endeavours to obtain employment for a boy on his discharge and to induce some respectable and influential resident of the place in which the discharged boy will reside or in the neighbourhood to do what he can for the boy, and we would recommend that District Magistrates should be especially asked by Government to do all in their power in this connection.

Appendix.

V. (i) At the time of the discharge of every boy the Superintendent and the Committee of Visitors shall, after a scrutiny of his history ticket, class him as good, fair, or indifferent.

(ii) After discharge a monthly payment shall be made for three months of —

(*a*) Rs. 4 to each boy classed as good ;
(*b*) Rs. 3 to each boy classed as fair ; and
(*c*) Rs. 2-8-0 to each boy classed as indifferent.

The object of these payments is to enable the boy to maintain himself while seeking work.

(iii) After three months from his discharge a monthly payment of half the amount set forth in clause (ii) of this rule shall be made to each boy, according to his class. These payments shall be continued for nine months with the object of inducing the boy to maintain touch with the Reformatory.

(iv) Monthly payments under clauses (ii) and (iii) shall be made by money order (for which the commission shall be paid by Government) at a Post Office selected by the boy, and shall be subject to the following conditions, viz :—

(i) no payment shall be made except upon the application of the boy, written in his own hand and signed by him with the impression of his thumb mark ; and

(ii) the payment shall be subject to good and industrious conduct.

Endorsement No. 80, Educational, dated 9th February 1905.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

(By Order.)

A. GALLETTI,
Ag. Assistant Secretary to Govt.

From the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. BOURNE, D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 10th March 1905, Ref. on Confdl. No. 10.

Referring to your Endorsement No. 80, dated 9th February 1905, on letter from the Government of India, Home Department (Education), No. 107, of the 3rd idem, herewith returned, calling for information showing exactly how the existing system of enquiries made regarding ex-students of Reformatory schools is worked in this province, I have the honour to state that such enquiries are in the mufassal made through the District Magistrates generally through their revenue subordinates, but that in the Presidency town of Madras they are made by the Chief Presidency Magistrate through the Police. The system which has worked well on the whole is described in more detail below.

2. When a boy is discharged he is given a letter to the District Magistrate who is requested to do what he can to ensure the boy's having a fair start in life, to furnish a brief report on the career taken up by the boy or the steps taken to provide him with work and to afford him all reasonable protection against temptations to a relapse into crime, chiefly against his own evil-disposed relations and friends. The Magistrate is also requested to make use of village officers to exercise some sort of supervision over him for the space of three years avoiding everything of the nature of police surveillance. Half-yearly reports are obtained on the mode of occupation and conduct of ex-pupils for three years and in the last report additional information is asked for on the following points :—

(1) Whether the boy is married and is settled in habits.

(2) Whether he continues to live with his people.

(3) What is his monthly average income.

3. It is reported that the boys so far from objecting to being looked up constantly, voluntarily keep in touch with the school, that they do not look on their connection with it as a disgrace, that even ten years after they have left it they return or write and claim the interest and intervention of the school authorities in their affairs, and that they frequently come back and ask to be allowed to see their old school. In the face of these facts the system can hardly be said to have a discouraging effect on the boys.

4. As regards the payment of an allowance to ensure keeping touch with them I am of opinion that this would tend to prevent boys settling at once into a permanent billet, while it might have the effect of placing a premium on laziness. It is reported that nearly every boy takes with him when he leaves the school earnings amounting to between Rs. 10 and 20 and in some cases nearly as much as Rs. 100. This amount keeps them for a short time while waiting for work and has, it is stated, proved sufficient in the past. Should a boy leave with no good conduct money it would mean that for years he had been incorrigibly lazy and troublesome and to give such a boy a monthly allowance would be useless.

5. The Superintendent, Reformatory School, Chingleput, proposes the following alterations in the rules and I see no objection to their being adopted :—

(1) The Superintendent might be authorized to pay a boy's savings to him personally in the form of a monthly allowance instead of handing the money to his parents who may spend it on themselves, or, if the boy prefers it, to spend the money on buying tools or starting him in business.

(2) All enquiries as to the boy should be made through revenue or village officials only and never through the police.

6. On the general question whether inquiries should or should not be continued it seems obvious that as the real criterion of the usefulness of a Reformatory is found in the percentage of youths who do well in the world after discharge and as this information cannot be obtained without some system of enquiry it is very necessary that enquiries should be made.

7. I enclose a copy of the rules under which the Reformatory School at Chingleput is worked for transmission to the Government of India, if necessary.

Order—No. 229, Educational, dated 8th April 1905.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

H. D. TAYLOR,
Ag. Secretary to Government

Letter—No. 230, Educational, dated 8th April 1905, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Marris's letter No. 107 (Education), dated the 3rd February 1905, on the subject of the working of the system of enquiries which are now made about the conduct of ex-students of Reformatory schools.

2. In reply I am directed to forward a copy of the rules of the Chingleput Reformatory school and to invite the attention of the Government of India to rule 22. I am to state that in this Presidency all enquiries about past students of the Reformatory school who reside in the mufassal are made through the District Magistrates, generally through their revenue subordinates, while in the case of students who reside in the Presidency town the enquiries are made by the Chief Presidency Magistrate through the police. The system followed is this : when a boy is discharged he is given a letter to the District Magistrate who is requested to do what he can to ensure the boy's having a fair start in life, to furnish a brief report on the career taken up by the boy or the steps taken to provide him with work and to afford him all reasonable protection against temptations to a relapse into crime, chiefly against his own evil-disposed relations and friends. The Magistrate is also requested to make use of village officers to exercise some sort of supervision over him for the space of three years avoiding everything of the nature of police surveillance. Half-yearly reports are obtained on the mode of occupation and conduct of ex-pupils for three years and in the last report additional information is asked for on the following points :—

(1) Whether the ex-pupil is married and is settled in habits.

(2) Whether he continues to live with his people.

(3) What is his monthly average income.

3. It is reported that ex-pupils, far from objecting to the interest taken in them, voluntarily keep in touch with the school, that they do not look on their connection with it as a disgrace, that years after they have left it they claim the interest and intervention of the school authorities in their affairs and that they frequently come back and visit their old school. These statements can hardly be true of each and

every ex-pupil ; but there is no doubt that the boys in school exhibit the conduct and mien of school boys and not of prisoners, and there seems no reason for believing that the system has a discouraging effect on ex-pupils.

4. On the general question whether enquiries should or should not continue to be made I am directed to state that partly because there is no evidence to show or reason to suppose that in this Presidency public knowledge of the facts or the interest taken by the authorities in the boys is in any way injurious to them and partly because information as to the subsequent career of discharged boys affords the administration a useful means of judging whether a Reformatory school is working well or not, His Excellency the Governor in Council is not in favour of the discontinuance of enquiries.

5. As regards the proposal to institute a system of allowances as a check on the good conduct of ex-pupils, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that this system might have the effect of placing a premium on laziness and that, as under present circumstances ex-pupils keep sufficiently in touch with the school, extra expenditure incurred on allowances would not be justified by any results that might be obtained. Nor is there any necessity to incur this extra expenditure on other grounds. It is reported that nearly every boy takes with him when he leaves his school earnings averaging between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20 and in some cases amounting to nearly as much as Rs. 100. This amount keeps him for a short time while waiting for work and has, it is stated, proved sufficient in the past. Should a boy leave with no good conduct money it would mean that for years he had been incorrigibly lazy and troublesome and to give such a boy a monthly allowance would be useless.

6. His Excellency the Governor in Council would however have no objection to altering the rules in force in the Madras Presidency so as to provide—

(1) for the Superintendent being authorised to pay a boy's savings to him personally in the form of a monthly allowance instead of in a lump sum to his parents who may spend it themselves, or if the boy prefers it, to spend the money on buying tools or starting him in business ;

(2) for all enquiries as to the boy being made through revenue or village officials only and never through the police.

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

Exd. P. Sankaran Naiyar.

Educational Department.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., Nos. 229, 230, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 8th APRIL 1905.

[Subject.—*Regarding ex-pupils of Reformatory Schools.*]

From the Government of India, dated 3rd February 1905, *No.* 107.

" *Director of Public Instruction, dated 10th March* 1905, *No. Cl.* 10.

A draft is placed below for approval. It follows the Director's letter.

P. T. Tharyan—23-3-05.

Do natives consider it a disgrace for a boy to have passed through the Reformatory school? The Superintendent apparently thinks not. He thinks the boys are rather proud of it than otherwise ; look upon themselves as under the special protection of the authorities. I pass the draft on ; but the matter being one of opinion and the Government not having expressed theirs yet, office might have waited.

I doubt it!
H. D. Taylor.

A. Galletti—26-3-05.

My own experience as to these "reformed" boys, and the surveillance that is exercised over them is not very favourable. I can recollect one case in which when, after the record had shown that a boy had been handed over to his parent at a certain place, further inquiry arose for the boy in order to pay him some petty allowance, he could not be traced and it was stated that no person of the name borne by his father had ever lived in the village in which the boy was reported to have been handed over !

2. The proposals in paragraph 5, especially the first seems to me a good one and may be adopted.

3. In the absence of evidence to the contrary the statement of the Director of Public Instruction as to the interest taken by past pupils in the Reformatory must be accepted, but I should take this to be the exception rather than the rule.

More or less the case I should think. But probably Mr. Lewis (or Mr. Coombes) has been blowing his trumpet a bit.
J. T[homson].

H. D. Taylor—28-3-05.

The Secretary has not passed the draft letter. It has now been typed. The file has not been marked for circulation.

P. T. Tharyan—29-3-05.

A. Galletti—30-3-05.

2

For approval.

H. D. TAYLOR—31-3-05.

J. T[HOMSON]—2-4-05.

Draft approved.

A[MPTHILL]—4-4-05.

Issue.

H. D. TAYLOR—6-4-05.

[G.O., Nos. 229, 230, Educational, dated 8th April 1905.]

1,000—16-11-00.

60/

Educational (1905) Department.

CURRENT No. 437

From

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

[Designation] Director of Public Instruction,

[Station] Madras

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL
11 MAR1905
SECRETARIAT.

No. Ref on Confl No. 10 of 05

Dated 10th March 1905

Enclosures one

Received 11—3—1905.

Registered 190 .

SUBJECT.

Submitting information showing exactly how the existing system of enquiries made regarding ex-students of Reformatory Schools is worked in the Madras Presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

Memo 80/05 ✓

FURTHER PAPERS.

N.L. 13-3.

2

To

The Secretary to Government,

Educational Department.

Sir,

Referring to your endorsement No. 80 d/ 9th February 1905 on letter from the Government of India, Home Department (Education) No. 107 of the 3rd idem, herewith returned, calling for information showing exactly how the existing system of enquiries made regarding ex-students of Reformatory schools is worked in this province I have the honour to state that such enquiries are in the mofussil made through the District Magistrates generally through their revenue subordinates but that in the Presidency town of Madras they are made by the Chief Presidency Magistrate through the Police. The system which has worked well on the whole is described in more detail below.

2. When a boy is discharged he is given a letter to the District Magistrate who is requested to do what he can to ensure the boy's having a fair start in life, to furnish a brief report on the career taken up by the boy or the steps taken to provide him with work and to afford him all reasonable protection against temptations to a relapse into crime, chiefly against his own evil disposed relations and friends. The Magistrate is also requested to make use of village officers to exercise some sort of supervision over him for the space of three years avoiding everything of the nature of police surveillance. Half yearly reports are obtained on the mode of occupation and conduct of ex-pupils for three years and in the last report additional information

[E. / 1]

1,000—5-12-02.

3

Educational (1905) Department.

CURRENT No. 200.

From

[*Name*]_____

[*Designation*] The Govt of India Home Dept

[*Station*] Calcutta

No. 107 *Received* 6. 2. 1905.

Dated 3. 2. 1905.

*Enclosures*_____ *Registered* Do 190 .

SUBJECT.

Requesting to be furnished with the opinion of this Govt on the suggestion for discontinuing Statement II appended to the annual reports of the Reformatory Schools, dealing with the conduct subsequent to release of the boys from the School.

BACK PAPERS.

Gof I 104 56 14-10-99 374 9-12-9-99 461 14-9-99	Gon. 715 dg 25-6-99 Copy ✓ Gon. 1044 dg 29-9-99.

FURTHER PAPERS.

N.Y. 7-2

[E. 12]

1,000—24-9-04.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

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

" " " " " " 190 .

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 200 , From the Govt of India Home Deptt. No 107 , dated 3. 2 1905.

" " 437 , " " D.P.I. , " dl 10 , " 10. 3 1905.

" " , " " , " , " 190 .

ORDER No. 229 , dated 8—4— 1905.

The Govt. of India will be address-ed.

P.T.T.
23-3-5.

H.D.T.
28-3-5.

Letter to No. 230 dt 8-4-05

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,

Home Deptt.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Harris's letter No. 107(Education), dated the 3rd Feby. 1905 on the subject of the working of the system of enquiries which are now made about the conduct of Ex-students of Reformatory schools.

2. In reply I am directed to for-

ward

92 P

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(1). whether the ex-pupil is married & is settled in habits

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3. It is reported that ex-pupils far from objecting to the interest taken in them voluntarily keep in touch with the school, that they do not look on their connection with it as a disgrace, that years after they have left it they claim the interest and intervention of the school authorities in their affairs and that they frequently come back and visit their old school. ~~In the face of these facts the system can hardly be said to~~ have a discouraging effect on ex-pupils.

4. On the general question whether inquiries should or should not continue to be made I am directed to state that partly because there is no evidence to show or reason to suppose that in this Presidency public knowledge of the facts or the interest taken by the authorities in the boys is in any way injurious to them and partly because information as to the subsequent career of discharged boys affords the administration a useful means of judging whether a Reformatory school is working well or not, H.E the Governor in Council is not in favour of the discontinuance of enquiries.

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check

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(2) for all enquiries as to the boy being made through revenue or village officials only and never through the Police.

P.T.T.
23-3-5.

A.G.
30-3-5.

4-4-05

Fair copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

Number of copies required. { Order complete. / Letter only. 60 / Order complete with Letter. 25

Read again G.O., No. 190 . Date

Current No.

10 P
Letter 1-5 Stout
Notes 1-2 P

Enclosures to C. No.

Order of Government.

Letter of Government.

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original.

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