

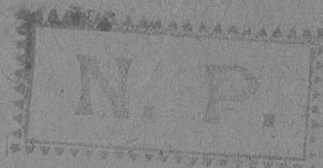
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Educational (1905) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 443

DATED 29-6-05



INDEXED.

ORIGINAL

— 6 —

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lower Secondary Examination.

Approving the proposal of the D. S. I.
to abolish the ———.

BACK PAPERS.

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Government {1905} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1905.

Enclosures

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ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 443, 29th June 1905.

N.P.

JUNE.

Lower Secondary Examination.

Approving the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to abolish the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—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, Cur. No. 5240, dated 13th June 1905.

I have the honour to propose that the Lower Secondary Examination should be abolished forthwith.

2. The Government of India have laid down in Indian Educational Policy (paragraph 12) that "in future there will be only two examinations preceding the University course". These are the primary examination conducted as it will be in future by the inspecting officer in the school itself, and the school final examination.

3. I have hitherto refrained from suggesting immediate compliance with this policy in so far as the abolition of the Lower Secondary Examination is concerned for two reasons—(1) that it formed the test for the eligibility of pupils of the seventh standard or third form for results grants, and (2) that as early orders were expected in regard to the school final examination I thought it might be convenient to deal with the two matters at the same time.

4. The first reason has now disappeared since the Government has approved my proposal to abolish examinations for results grants in their order No. 373, Educational, dated 3rd June 1905; the second reason is hardly of sufficient cogency to make it worth while to defer action until it is too late to take effect this year.

5. The examination is to disappear and I can see no reason now why it should not do so at once. The school final examination is to take place at the close of the secondary course, i.e., at the present matriculation stage and its arrangements have really nothing to do with the Lower Secondary Examination. I hope that eventually the education in rural schools which will be vernacular education and more or less practical in nature will frequently be carried beyond the present primary stage on similar lines but I see no reason to induce a number of pupils who are unlikely and for the most part unfit to complete a secondary course to enter and go through half of such a course. All the secondary schools should be arranged, as many of them are at present, so as to give a complete secondary course and should ordinarily admit only those who are likely to go through with it.

6. According to the Notification the Lower Secondary Examination was instituted to be a leaving certificate examination for lower secondary education, to test the eligibility of certain pupils mentioned above for results grants, and to test the general education qualifications of candidates for Lower Secondary Teachers' Certificates.

7. The use of the examination in prescribing a qualification for certain teachers is the only matter which needs further consideration and this need not I think delay its abolition.

In Madras Educational Rules 13 (i) it is laid down that ordinarily a teacher of an upper primary class shall possess a certificate of having passed the Lower Secondary or the late Middle School Examination. Few such teachers are likely to be appointed in future unless they have been trained and rule 85 has anticipated the abolition of the Lower Secondary Examination by stating that Lower Secondary Training Schools are institutions in which persons who have passed the Lower Secondary Examination

or have reached a corresponding stage of instruction are trained. It is probable that the primary teachers who have undergone two years' training in the future will be capable of teaching all the classes of a rural school but in the meantime an examination can be held at each training school to select the best among the applicants for training in the lower secondary classes.

ORDER—No. 443, Educational, dated 29th June 1905.

The proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to abolish the Lower Secondary examination is approved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Director of Public Instruction.
" Commissioner for Government Examinations.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 443, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
29TH JUNE 1905.

[SUBJECT.—*Abolition of the Lower Secondary Examination.*]

From the Director of Public Instruction, No. 5240, dated 13th June 1905.

Papers early please.

H. D. TAYLOR—15-6-05.

Submitted.

T. KANAKASUNDARAM PILLAI—16-6-05.

The Examination.

Page 39, Calendar of Commissioner for Government Examinations.

Page 27, Grand-in-Aid Code.

Page 152, Calendar of Commissioner for Government Examinations.

Gazette, page 387.

Cocanada.
Rajahmundry.
Ellore.

Subjects.—Four compulsory—language, arithmetic, geography, history; and various optional, of which it is compulsory to pass two.

Examiners.—Fairly well-qualified persons—see the lists in the calendar.

Centres.—Four or five in each district e.g., in Gódvári—

Bhadrachalam.
Amalapuram.

Also Native States, e.g., Ernaculam, Trichur.

Numbers of candidates—about 13,000 last year.

Objects of entering.—(1) To earn a grant for the school. Each pupil passed meant 16 or 17 rupees to the master. A pass in the four compulsory subjects was worth Rs. 10; a pass in an optional subject 12 annas to 7 rupees. As results grants have been abolished, this object has ceased to exist.

(2) Way into teaching profession. A pass was a qualification for a Lower Secondary training stipend. We abolished this recently by altering rule 85, Educational Rules.

(3) Way into the engineering profession through (a) Sub-overseer and Surveyor class, College of Engineering, (b) Draftsman class, College of Engineering—see rules 45 and 50, page 8, G.O., No. 366, dated 28th June 1901.

(4) Way into the medical profession. A hospital assistant should be a Matriulate, but for want of supply he is often a Lower Secondary man—see rule 3 on page 6 of G.O., Nos. 171, 172, dated 11th March 1904.

2. Attenders and temporary clerks are also often Lower Secondary men. I have known zamindars proud of having "passed Lower Secondary". But I suppose the results grant accounted almost entirely for the popularity of the examination. There were nearly as many "private" as "pupil" candidates* last year. But "private candidate" is a misleading expression; most "private candidates" are school-boys.

* Page 140, Calendar of Commissioner for Government Examinations.

Males only. There was a large excess in the number of "pupil" over private candidates amongst "females".

H. D. TAYLOR.

3. The examination is supposed to be a vernacular examination: the compulsory part is all vernacular. But most of the examinees know a little English and English is the most popular "second language", which is the most popular optional subject. (G.O., No. 520, Educational, dated 22nd August 1904).

4. The Director proposes total abolition and quotes paragraph 12 of the resolution on Indian Educational Policy.

5. For opinions, see G.O., Nos. 144, 145, dated 30th March 1903. Mr. G.H. Stuart's opinion is on page 9. He did not want it abolished. He wanted to introduce a rule that no pupil who had appeared for it should be admitted to an Upper Secondary form until one year after.

This Government's opinion is on page 13. It is obscure, but the meaning apparently is that the Lower Secondary should be retained, but a rule should be introduced that no one who had passed it should be allowed to enter for the Upper Secondary.

In spite of the resolution quoted by Dr. Bourne, retention of the Lower Secondary on conditions seems to have India's approval. They have said so in a paper just received regarding appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Government Examinations.

H. D. TAYLOR.—19-6-05.

6. If it is retained on conditions, it is submitted that Mr. Stuart's suggested condition is to be preferred to the Government's, which is, it is submitted, most arbitrary and could never be enforced. Take a case: when A is 13 his father is poor, thinks he cannot send him to school any longer and makes him enter for the Lower Secondary. A's father's circumstances then improve and he can afford to send A to school again. Is it just to prevent A entering for the school final, the avenue to the public service? Submitted that it would not be worth while to retain the Lower Secondary with that condition. It would prevent boys entering.

7. Government have already allowed Dr. Bourne to say that the Lower Secondary is to be abolished. He said it in the Public Instruction report for last year.

8. The main objects for which it existed in this Presidency have ceased to exist.

H. D. TAYLOR.

Probably no-one would miss it. It was only an optional examination leading to certain things.

But we do not know yet exactly what the Government of India's mind is in regard to the school final. They have—since the resolution—promised us a letter about it. But we haven't got it. They may decide that there should be both an Upper Secondary school final and a Lower Secondary school final.

9. The next examination takes place in December. The Commissioner for Government Examinations probably wants three or four months to make arrangements if the examination is to be held. Hence he will require orders before, say, the end of August.

Perhaps, if Government decide they want to abolish the Lower Secondary, it would be better to write to India at once asking if there is any objection and observing that it is necessary to come to a decision before the end of August as, if the examination is to be retained, the arrangements for it could not be deferred beyond that.

A. GALLETTI—17-6-05.

For orders.

2. Submitted that Dr. Bourne's proposals may be approved, and that the Lower Secondary examination may be abolished. The objects for which it was originally created have ceased to exist. It is no longer required for results grants, nor except in the case of the Engineering College as a channel for admission to the Government service. The reorganisation of the College of Engineering is now under consideration, and with it the rules for admission to the college. That file is not now available for reference having been referred to Mr. Chatterton for remarks. The sole object of retaining the examination would be to test the knowledge of pupils at the close of the lower secondary stage. The certificates would, in themselves, be of no practical use except, as Mr. Galletti remarks, for zamindars and others to exhibit and be proud of. But surely it is desirable to encourage them not to stop here, but to aim a little higher.

3. I do not think that any opposition on the part of India need be feared: it is to be regretted that the expression of the views of India on the proposed school final examination is so long in coming, but as I read letter No. 377, dated 5th June 1905, and especially paragraph 7 thereof, it seems that India would be quite ready to accept any proposal for the abolition of this examination, and would leave discretion in the matter to the local Government.

H. D. TAYLOR—19-6-05.

Approve of the Director's proposal to abolish.

J. T[HOMSON]—20-6-05.

I agree.

G. S[TOKES]—22-6-05.

A[MPHILL]—23-6-05.

Draft.

H. D. TAYLOR—24-6-05.

A draft is placed below for approval.

T. KANAKASUNDARAM PILLAI—24-6-05.

Should it be added that where the Lower Secondary examination has been the qualification for admission to classes in Government colleges or schools, the completion of the Lower Secondary course will now be considered the qualification?

A. GALLETTI—27-6-05.

I do not think that the provision is necessary—*vide* paragraph 7 of Director of Public Instruction's letter.

H. D. TAYLOR—27-6-05.

J. T[HOMSON]—28-6-05.

Issue.

H. D. TAYLOR—29-6-05.

[G.O., No. 443, Educational, dated 29th June 1905.]

10-04.
Educational (190⁵) Department.

CURRENT No. 1134

From

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

[Designation] Director of public instruction,

[Station] M a d r a s

Curr. No. 5240 of 05

Dated 13th June 190⁵

Enclosures

Received 15 JUN 1905 190⁵

Registered 15-6-1905

SUBJECT.

Submitting proposals for the abolition of the Lower Secondary Examination.

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70373-3-6-05-06	44-30-6-05
44410-05-05	178-14-3-04
215-6-05-05	210-11-5-03
144-15-30-05	723-7-12-01
	678-21-11-01

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