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1907-1-1-06
Educational (1907) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 15

DATED 10-1-07

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[Despatch Abstract.]
University Regulations -
Memorial - Recording ^{with a small memorial} from the President
Madura Tamil Sangam ^{bowing to the notice of God} with the remark that he
now the position of the Indian vernaculars is affected
should address the University in matters refer-
to in the - by the view

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 of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1907.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 15, 10th January 1907.

University Regulations.

Recording, with remark, memorial from the President, Madura Tamil Sangam, bringing to the notice of Government how the position of the Indian vernaculars is affected by the new —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

I

Telegram—from the President, Madura Tamil Sangam.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—the 22nd December 1906.

Madras University Regulations will throttle the vernaculars. Pray your Excellency assign vernaculars a separate group in Intermediate and Degree examinations. Memorial follows.

II

Letter—from the President, Madura Tamil Sangam.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—Madura, the 24th December 1906.

I beg that you will kindly place this representation before His Excellency the Governor for his gracious consideration and favourable orders.

2. The Madura Tamil Sangam, of which I am the President, is composed of the most eminent Tamil scholars and pandits of the land, and conducts the work of original research in Tamil. It has a very good library of printed and rare manuscript Tamil works, a press of its own for publishing the Tamil monthly journal called "Sen Tamil" and bringing out the hitherto unpublished classics, and a boarding school for training bright young men for panditship. Every year it holds examinations by means of a Board of Examiners for the Matriculation, F.A. and B.A. students on the Tamil texts prescribed by the Madras University, and awards medals and prizes for proficiency, and issues certificates to the successful candidates. Not only these but examinations for panditship are also conducted on the same lines, and certificates issued to the successful among them.

3. So far as the Indian vernaculars, the living languages of this Presidency, are concerned, their position, according to the Draft Regulations of the Madras University, is as follows, and the changes proposed do not tend to foster their study, but are detrimental to it:—

Matriculation.—The text prescribed to be mainly in modern prose.

Intermediate.—The vernaculars alternate with foreign languages, and form one of the three subjects of an optional group.

B.A. Degree.—Two languages chosen for the Intermediate examination with portions of the history of the language and literature chosen.

4. In regard to the *Matriculation*, it will be observed that good prose in the Indian vernaculars is meagre and not worth the name, and everything worth preservation and transmission to posterity occurs in poetry, classical or modern. In the light of this fact, to limit the quantum of poetry to be learnt by the Matriculation candidates will lead to the gradual but effective decay of the vernacular studies, and the learning, therefore, of more of good simple poetry of the ancient or medieval ages is a great desideratum. As regards the *Intermediate* Examination, the vernaculars are tacked on to *History* (ancient or modern) and *Classical* languages. The learning of a classical language at this stage will be a great hardship to more than 75 per cent. of the candidates, Brahmins and non-Brahmins; for even the majority of the Brahmins,

whose daily prayers are in Sanskrit, and who, therefore, hold it sacred, have taken up Tamil for their examinations, because it is their *mother tongue*, while Sanskrit is a *literary* language printed in Devanagari characters; and the subordinate place assigned to the Indian vernaculars in the curriculum proposed will lead in a decade to the entire desertion of the vernacular studies. When they cease to attract the Intermediate candidates, little need be said as to their being chosen by the candidates for their Degree examinations, for it will be herculean task to attain proficiency in two languages and their history in a couple of years.

5. These being the disadvantages of the new curriculum, the Tamil Sangam composed of pandits and professors of new learning propose the following slight alterations, with a view to enable the future University men to carry on their work of research with great efficiency, and supply the materials for the history of South India yet to be written, which materials being buried fathom deep in the classics of the Indian vernaculars:—

Matriculation.—Poetry and prose as obtaining at present.

Intermediate.—History (ancient or modern) to be scored out altogether out of the fourth optional group, unless it should be the history of the chosen vernacular or it should be Logic in the place of history.

B.A. Degree.—Provided the alteration proposed for the Intermediate be approved, the course of studies prescribed for this examination may stand with the slight modification of "classical or vernacular" instead of "classical and other languages."

6. Thanks to the goodness of the Government and the University the much-neglected vernaculars have attracted some little attention of the Indian students who, in a large majority of cases, cannot afford to love learning for its own sake, and should they now withhold their countenance and support, the study of the Indian vernaculars, now in a state of revival, will sink into the limbo of things forgotten.

7. Among the vernaculars of South India, Tamil occupies a unique place. It holds its own with Sanskrit, and, unlike the other vernaculars, has an independent and highly rational grammar and a world of valuable literature from remote antiquity.

8. A few years ago, when Dr. Duncan was Director of Public Instruction, an attempt was made to add an Oriental side to the University, and the vernaculars, it was then thought, would have an auspicious time. But as the unexpected always happens, the proposed scheme fell through, and the only consolation was that the authorities had not altogether lost sight of the Indian languages. But the changes mapped out now by the Senate spell out the decay of the Indian vernaculars. Had the Government and the University enforced the use of the vernaculars as the medium of teaching in English schools and colleges, western ideas would have permeated Indian society, and worked a deal of good for the people of the land. While we were expecting a time of prosperity for the languages of the land, the changes proposed have come upon us as a bolt from the blue, and we look to the Government for the rescue of our languages from the impending peril to them.

Order—No. 15, Educational, dated 10th January 1907.

Recorded with the remark that the memorialist should address the University on the matters referred to in his memorial.

(True Extract.)

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

To the memorialist
Editors' Table.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 15, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
10TH JANUARY 1907.

[SUBJECT.—*Regarding the University Regulations.*]

Telegram from the President, Madura Tamil Sangam, dated 22nd December 1906.

From the " " " 24th " "

A draft order on the lines of the Honourable Member's orders on page 2 of the notes with G.O., No. 13, Educational, dated 10th January 1907, is submitted below for approval.

P.R.—7-1-07.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR--7-1-07.

C. G. MACKAY--9-1-07.

[G.O., No. 15, Educational, dated 10th January 1907.]

CURRENT FILE.

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[9]. Madura Tamil Sangam.	24-12-06		2-5

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No.

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (=O.) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Despatcher to note the return of the papers to the departments concerned.

G 13. *Do Recd 23 Dec 1906*
 From *Edl* *24 DEC 1906* *170*
 SUBJECT :—

Code. } *1*
 Class. } *INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.* Monthly Number. *460*

To *ms Cathedral* From *Madura*
 (Office) (Office)

Words *36* Day *22* Hour *15* Minute *30* Official Instructions. *lfd*

To *The Chief Secretary* From *President*
 (Person) *to the Govt* (Person) *Madura*
23 DEC 1906 *Samil sangam*

Madras university regulations will throttle the vernaculars pray your Excellency assign vernaculars a separate group in intermediate and degree examinations memorial follows

Recd. from *LN.* Sent to *LN.*
 At *Hrs.* Mts. by *At Hrs. Mts. by*

CATHEDRAL 22 DEC 06
x repto
 Telegraph Master.

W. no.
Cul
23.1207
PR

From,

THE PRESIDENT,

THE MADURA TAMIL SANGAM,
MADURA

TO,

The Chief Secretary to

His Excellency The Governor of Madras,

MADRAS.

Sir,

I beg that you will kindly place this representation before His Excellency the Governor for his gracious consideration and favorable orders.

2. The Madura Tamil Sangam, of which I am the President, is composed of the most eminent Tamil Scholars and Pundits of the land, and conducts the work of original research in Tamil. It has a very good library of printed and rare manuscript Tamil works, a Press of its own for publishing the Tamil monthly journal called 'Sen Tamil' and bringing out the hitherto unpublished classics, and a Boarding School for training bright Young men for Punditship. Every year it holds examinations by means of a Board of examiners for the Matric, F. A. & B. A. students on the Tamil texts prescribed by the Madras University, and awards medals and prizes for proficiency, and issues certificates to the successful candidates. Not only these but examinations for Punditship, are also conducted on the same lines, and certificates issued to the successful among them.

3. So far as the Indian Vernaculars, the living languages of this presidency are concerned, their position, according to the Draft Regulations of the Madras University, is as follows, and the changes proposed do not tend to foster their study, but are detrimental to it.

MATRICULATION:—The text prescribed to be mainly in modern prose.

INTERMEDIATE:—The Vernaculars alternate with foreign languages, and form one of the 3 subjects of an optional group.

B. A. DEGREE:—Two languages chosen for the Intermediate examination with portions of the history of the language and literature chosen.

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4. In regard to the *Matriculation*, it will be observed that good prose in the Indian Vernaculars is meagre and not worth the name, and everything worth preservation and transmission to posterity occurs in poetry, classical or modern. In the light of this fact, to limit the quantum of poetry to be learnt by the Matric candidates, will lead to the gradual but effective decay of the Vernacular studies, and the learning, therefore, of more of good simple poetry of the ancient or medieval ages, is a great desideratum. As regards the *Intermediate Examination*, the vernaculars are tacked on to *History* (ancient or modern) and *Classical* languages. The learning of a classical language at this stage, will be a great hardship to more than 75 P/C. of the candidates, Brahmins and non-Brahmins; for even the majority of the Brahmins, whose daily prayers are in sanskrit, and who, therefore, hold it sacred, have taken up Tamil for their examinations, because it is their *Mother Tongue*, while sanskrit is a *literary* language printed in Devanagari characters; and the subordinate place assigned to the Indian vernaculars in the curriculum proposed, will lead in a decade to the entire desertion of the vernacular studies. When they cease to attract the Intermediate candidates, little need be said as to their being chosen by the candidates for their Degree examinations, for it will be herculean task to attain proficiency in two languages and their history in a couple of years.

5. These being the disadvantages of the new curriculum, the Tamil Sangam composed of Pundits and Professors of New Learning propose the following slight alterations, with a view to enable the future University men to carry on their work of research with great efficiency, and supply the materials for the history of South India yet to be written, which materials being buried fathom deep in the classics of the Indian vernaculars :—

MATRIC :—Poetry and Prose as obtaining at present.

INTERMEDIATE :—History (ancient or modern) to be scored out altogether out of the fourth optional group, unless it should be the history of the chosen vernacular or it should be the Logic in the place of history.

B. A. DEGREE :—Provided the alteration proposed for the Intermediate be approved, the course of studies prescribed for this examination may stand with the slight modification of 'classical or Vernacular' instead of 'classical and other languages.'

6. Thanks to the goodness of the Government and the University the much-neglected vernaculars have attracted some little attention of the Indian students who, in a large majority of cases, cannot afford to love learning for its own sake, and should they now withhold their countenance and support, the study of the Indian vernaculars, now in a state of revival, will sink into the limbo of things forgotten.

7. Among the vernaculars of South India, Tamil occupies a unique place, it holds its own with sanskrit, and, unlike the other vernaculars, has an independent and highly rational grammar and a world of valuable literature from remote antiquity.

4 3P. 8

8. A few years ago, when Dr. Duncan was Director of Public Instruction, an attempt was made to add an Oriental side to the University, and the vernaculars, it was then thought, would have an auspicious time. But as the unexpected always happens, the proposed scheme fell through, and the only consolation was that the authorities had not altogether lost sight of the Indian languages. But the changes mapped out now by the senate, spell out the decay of the Indian vernaculars. Had the Government and the University enforced the use of the vernaculars as the medium of teaching in English schools and Colleges, western ideas would have permeated Indian Society, and worked a deal of good for the people of the land. While we were expecting a time of prosperity for the languages of the land, the changes proposed have come upon us as a bolt from the blue, and we look to the Government for the rescue of our languages from the impending peril to them.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

Tamil Sangam, Madura. }

24—12—06. }

Handwritten signature

President,
The Madura Tamil Sangam.

1,000-10-11-06.

EH

C. No.

64

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SUBJECT.

24-122

Re: the University Regulations.

3 of the notes in linked file I is submitted below for approval.

2/1/09

Chen
5/1/07

READ AGAIN G.O, No. 841, dated 27-12-196

” ” ” ” ” 190

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 2112. From the President's Madras Tamil, No. 71, dated 22.12.1906

9. 11. 1906

” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” 190

ORDER.

No. 15, dated 10 - 1 - 1907

P. S.

Recorded with the remark that
the memorialist should address the University
~~2: The University should be addressed.~~
on the matters referred to in his memorial.

7/107

Ben
9/1/07

26.

The Memorialists (in two parts)!

u E. T.

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Director, National Bureau of Investigation

2112

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a. n.

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Director, National Bureau of Investigation

P. 3

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
190

DATE

CURRENT NO.

2112 } A
9 }

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER TO GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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