

Educational (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 854

Dated 1st Nov. 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN INDIA.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
80	53.		28-1-96				

Govt. of {1893} Madras.
REVENUE.

To

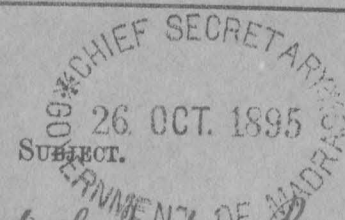
The Educational Department.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 23rd Oct. 1895, No. 699.



Comtg. Govt. of India Resoln. passing remarks on the re-commendations of the Agri-Cultural Conference on the Subject of Agricultural Education in India, and appointing a Committee to discuss and report on the Subject.

727: 28.9.94

517: 1-9-88

D. Volckers Report
Report of the Agri. Conf.
1893-

Order of 1 Nov. 95, No. 854

Communicated to

D.P. 1 a.

28 + 85
31/10/95

To The S.P.S. Secy
1895
57

G

D

1895.

File No. 98 of
1895.
Serial No. 1

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

RESOLUTION.

No. $\frac{19}{9-1}$.

Dated Simla, the 20th September 1895.

SUBJECT.

Communicates remarks on the recommendations of the Agricultural Conference of October 1893 on the subject of Agricultural Education in India.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 688 R. & A. D.—21-9-95.—968.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture,—(No. ¹⁹/₉₈₋₁, dated Simla, 20th September 1895).

READ—

Paragraph 25 of Government of India, Home Department Resolution, No. 199, dated 18th June 1888, on the Review of Education in India in 1886.

Proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Agricultural Conference held at Simla in October 1893.

Paragraphs 527 and 528 of Dr. Voelcker's Report on the Improvement of Indian Agriculture.

Paragraph 17 of Government of India, Home Department Resolution, No. 2, dated 7th September 1894, on the Progress of Education, 1887-88 to 1891-92.

RESOLUTION.

In paragraph 17 of the second Resolution mentioned in the preamble, allusion was made to the suggestions of Dr. Voelcker respecting the education of the agricultural classes. The subject has now to receive renewed attention in connection with the recommendations of the Agricultural Conference which was convened in October 1893 to consider Dr. Voelcker's Report.

2. The general view taken by the Government of India in the Resolution of 1894 was that greater success is to be expected from making instruction in the rudiments of agriculture part and parcel of the primary system of instruction in the country, than from teaching it as a subject apart from the general educational programme, and that such general enlightenment and intellectual expansion of the agricultural classes as would enable them to perceive for themselves the small reforms which are within their means and opportunities, would be more likely to produce substantial results than special instruction in particular agricultural processes. This view is in practical accord with the opinions expressed by the delegates of Local Governments and Administrations at the Conference of 1893. In their second Resolution they recommend that as a general rule instruction in agriculture should be combined with the existing course of education and not depend on separate special institutions.

3. The principles which govern the introduction of agricultural instruction into the educational system apply also to all branches of technical instruction. The question, therefore, is not merely how to adapt education to the training of agriculturists, but how so to fashion the plan of instruction as to promote in the pupils taught the power of assimilating easily any kind of technical instruction. The moulding of the educational scheme into a form which will lead to such a result is one on which ideas and methods have during recent years undergone a radical change in all of the more advanced countries of Europe. One great feature in the change has been the substitution of the idea of development of faculty for that of mere acquisition of knowledge. It is now acknowledged that the hand and the eye should be trained; that the powers of observation should be brought into play and improved by exercise, and that the actual teaching of a particular trade is of less importance, in the first instance, than educational

50 727
28-9-94

methods which will adapt the pupil for the subsequent reception of technical instruction of any description. "A system of education," writes the late Professor Huxley, "which does nothing for the faculties of observation, which trains neither the eye nor the hand and is compatible with utter ignorance of the commonest natural truths, may naturally be regarded as strangely imperfect." All technical instruction must indeed be founded on a preliminary training of a practical character in primary and secondary schools. In the reports recently submitted from various countries in England on the results achieved at technical institutions a common cause of failure was found to be the absence of any training of the powers of observation in the schools of lower grades. On similar grounds a charge was laid against the educational system formerly prevailing in the rural schools of England that it "actually unfitted the children of farmers for an agricultural career." "Nevertheless," wrote the author of the second Report published by the Royal Commission on technical instruction, "there need be nothing in any scheme of rural education specially designed for the agricultural classes which should unfit the children for any other career for which individually they may be better suited." The Government of India hold the same view. They admit indeed that agriculture, as the mainstay of the prosperity and wealth of the greater part of the population of India, deserves, more than any trade or profession, the special attention and care of those who are responsible for the instruction of the rural classes; but they are convinced that the early school instruction which is most calculated to produce eventually the best agriculturists will be equally useful to those who intend to follow any other occupation.

4. At the same time the circumstances and surroundings of rural schools must give to any educational plan based on the principles already indicated a leaning towards agriculture. In the official syllabus for rural schools in France it is laid down that "teachers should commence by directing the attention of pupils to visible and tangible objects which they should make the children see and feel, and then put them face to face with concrete realities, from an intelligent comprehension of which they will be led, by a gradual exercise of their reasoning faculties, to the formation of abstract ideas." And in the Report of the Royal Commission already quoted it is urged that "rural education should be based on what a child can see round him." The view recorded in the proceedings of the Conference of 1893 that any system of practical education in rural schools must, for whatever class intended, acquire an agricultural colouring, because the surrounding objects are themselves agricultural seems therefore to be unexceptionable.

5. In the Resolution of 1894 on Educational Progress the Government of India have acknowledged that there is a general tendency to modify the course of primary instruction in the desired direction. In some Provinces material progress has been made. But they are not fully aware how far the principles advocated have been systematically adopted, or to what extent opportunities exist for their wider introduction. Nor have they been informed what action, if any, has been taken on the suggestion in the 25th paragraph of the Resolution of 18th June 1888 that Conferences should be held with which the Agricultural Department should be associated for the purpose of discussing the educational system in its bearings on agriculture. It is true that the questions under examination have not, so far as the agricultural classes are concerned, yet assumed the general importance which they will possess in the future, in view of the fact that as a rule the rural population actually engaged in tillage have not

hitherto made any appreciable use of the rural schools, otherwise than with the object of training their children for occupations which have no immediate connection with agriculture. But the time must soon come when this position will be changed. Serious discussion of the subject ought not to be longer postponed.

6. The Governor General in Council desires therefore that the suggestion of the Resolution of 18th June 1888, should now be carried out, and that advantage should be taken of the visit of the officer deputed by the Government of India to discuss the proposals of the Agricultural Conference of 1893 to hold in each Province a Conference of such officials as the Local Government may appoint, including, it is suggested, representatives of the Educational and Agricultural Departments, for a formal examination of the Resolutions recorded at the fifth meeting of the Conference of 1893 with the view of submitting definite suggestions and proposals for the consideration of the Local Government or Administration.

7. The Government of India do not wish, until Local Governments and Administrations have had the opportunity of recording their own views, to deal further with the specific proposals of the Conference, nor do they desire to authorize the officer deputed by them to convey any final judgment on the issues raised. The chief duty of that officer will be to place for their information before the Local Governments or their representatives either facts and statistics obtained in other provinces, or the reports of other Provincial Conferences. For the present a sufficient indication has been given of the general views of the Government of India and of the desire of the Governor-General in Council that the subject should be earnestly examined in the interests of future agricultural development.

To the Government of Madras.	}
" " " Bombay.	
" " " Bengal.	
" " " North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	
" " " Punjab.	
" Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.	
" " " " Burma.	
" " " " Assam.	
" " " " Ajmere.	
" " " " Coorg.	
" Resident at Hyderabad.	}
" Inspector General of Forests.	
" Inspector General of the Civil Veterinary Department.	
" Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India.	
" Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India.	

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations and Officers noted in the margin for information and guidance.

Ordered also, that copy be forwarded to Sir E. Buck, Secretary to the Government of India, on deputation, for information.

Ordered also that copy be forwarded to the Home Department for information.

[True extract.]

DENZIL IBBETSON,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Copy attached.

Read Resolution of the Government of India, d/ 20th. September 1895, No. 19-98-1, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

Order thereon, No. 699 Rev. Press, d/ 23rd Octr. 95

Communicated to the Educational Department and to the Board of Revenue.

2. With reference to para 6 of the Resolution read above, the Government is pleased to appoint a committee of the marginally noted officers to meet Sir. Edward Buck in

Commr. of R.S. & Dr. of the Dept. of Land Records and Agriculture.	: the office of the Board of Revenue
Director of Public Instruction.	: to discuss and report on the best
F.A. Nicholson Esq., I.C.S.,	: methods of carrying out the sug-
Collector of Anantapur.	: gestions of the Government of In-
Dy. Director of L.R. & Agriculture.	: dia contained in their Resolution
Ag. Principal, College of Agri.	: of 18th. June 1888 and the propo-
Saidapet.	: sals of the Agricultural conference
	: held at Simla in October 1893, so
	: far as they relate to Agricultural

Conference education and experiment. In their deliberations and discussions connected with the latter subject, the Committee will give due consideration to the orders already issued by this Government and it should be specially reported whether in their opinion these orders require any modification and if so, in what direction.

3. Copies of the Resolutions of the Supreme Govt No. 199, d/ 8th June 1888 and No. 2, d/ 7th September 1894, will now be furnished to the Board and Mr. Nicholson for information.

(True Extract).

Alibon

Secretary to Government.

To,

The Educational Dept.

" Board, Settlement.

F.A. Nicholson Esq. I.C.S.

5
Exp
1
1252

When given for copying _____
 When copied 2 _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189

BRAD AGAIN G.O., No.
 189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
 A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied.
 F = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only.

A A A A A A A