Educational (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 53

Dated 28th Jany 1896

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Recording a report from the Director of Public Instruction explaining the decrease in the number of candidates in Agriculture for the Elementary Technical Examination and postponing the question of giving -- a prominent position in the Educational system of this Presidency until the orders of the Government of India have been received on the subject.

BACK PAPERS.

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Memorandum on Instruction in Agriculture in the Madras Presidency

Agriculture is an optional subject of instruction for boys in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh standards constituting the upper primary and lower secondary departments of schools for general education. In the infant, first, second and third standards, instruction in this subject is not imparted directly, but a good deal of information bearing on Agriculture and allied subjects directly or indirectly is conveyed to pupils in connection with the teaching of "object lessons or elementary science," which is an optional subject of study in all the primary and lower secondary standards.

For the fourth and fifth standards the *First Book of Agriculture* prepared by Mr Benson and C.K. Subba Rau, and for the Sixth standard Mr Robertson's *Agricultural class Book* have been approved as text-books. The former has been translated into Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Canarese, Uriya and Hindustani, the chief vernaculars of the Presidency. No books have yet been prescribed for "object lessons"; the standard English works on the subjects are generally followed.

The vernacular Readers prepared at the instance of the Department some years back contained hardly any reference to Agriculture; but these readers have for several reasons been condemned by the Text Book Committee. Lessons bearing on Agriculture can be inserted in new readers to be recommended for use in the lower primary standards. Of the 522,944 boys in public primary schools on the 31st March 1895 only 38,376 were in the upper primary (fourth) standard. Some thing more should be done to convey an elementary knowledge of Agriculture to a large number of boys in rural parts whose education stops at the lower primary stage of instruction.

At the last Primary Examination, 1265 male candidates, pupils and others, brought up Agriculture

as

as an optional subject of whom 783 were successful; during the past year only *984 pupils were presented in Agriculture under the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth standards direct from public schools. Object lessons were brought up by 6125 pupils as an optional subject in the primary results standards (infant to fourth)

*Fourth standard	—	876
Fifth - do -	—	104
Sixth - do -	—	4

The number of boys studying agriculture would be much larger than at present, if it were not for (i) the want of trained and efficient teachers to impart instruction in the subject; (ii) the absence of any encouragement by way of employment for young men going through a course of instruction in Agriculture and passing the public prescribed tests; (iii) the prevailing opinion that a knowledge of the science and art of agriculture is not calculated to develop the agricultural resources of the country; (iv) the fact that the University has not instituted a degree in Agriculture and does not recognize Agriculture in any of its examinations.

As regards the first drawback, it must be observed that the Junior department once attached to the College of Agriculture has been abolished; but the farm schools, intended to take its place, have not been started as yet. If these schools were established, some of the students educated in them might be induced to undergo training and join the teaching profession; a few teachers in training schools might also be induced to join the farm schools and fit themselves to teach agriculture

As regards the second drawback, I am strongly of opinion that the Revenue and Kindred departments should employ more largely than hitherto young men trained in agriculture other things being equal; or should require candidates selected by them for employment as Revenue Inspectors to undergo a course of instruction in the College of Agriculture or in the proposed farm schools. As the officers of these Departments come in constant contact with the ryots and are in a position to advise them in several ways, the possession of a knowledge of agriculture

by

by these officers might be expected to produce beneficial results. There seems no reason why one should be sceptical about the ultimate results of such a measure.

As regards (iii), the Hindus are proverbially conservative and it is only through the wide diffusion of a knowledge of improved methods of agriculture and the example of the successful working amidst them of experimental and demonstration farms in connection with farm schools that they will be convinced of the benifits to be derived from a scientific knowledge of this important subject.

The University is not in favour of the institution of a degree in agriculture. But, the recent action of Government in opening the Revenue & Criminal Ests, Higher grade, which were previously open to graduates or to graduates and under-graduates of the F.A. Standard alone, to students of the College of Agriculture who have obtained the Diploma in Agriculture at the Government Technical Examinations, though these may have passed only the Matriculation Examination has given a public recognition to the Diploma in Agriculture, and will not fail to be an incentive for the study of agriculture. If the revised Upper Secondary examination Notification now before Government is sanctioned, I trust a much larger number of pupils than at present, will pass the compulsory subjects, and that a few of these may come up for the Intermediate Technical Examination in Agriculture to qualify for Government Service.

D Duncan

12th December 1895.

Director of Public Instruction

No 1

Enclo to D.P.I.'s letter No 13425 14-12-95

1895 Dec.
Enclosure No. 1
To
G.O. No. 1466

1466

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction,
Madras, 14th December 1895.

No. 13425

From

The Honorable Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc.,
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras,

To

The Honorable The CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to the apparent decrease in the number of candidates for the Government Elementary Technical Examination in Agriculture noticed by Government in para 6 of its order No. 843 Educational dated 24th October 1895, I have the honour to Summarize in the margin the results obtained at the above examination during the past four years.

	Examined	Passed
1891–92	"	"
1892–93	42	23
1893–94	2	2
1894–95	"	"

The College of Agriculture, the only institution in which instruction in

Agri

Ed. Cor. 15 (b) 1,500—17-11-94.

Agriculture up to the Technical Examination standards is at present imparted, prepares candidates for the diploma in Agriculture and no student from the college cares to appear for the Elementary Examination in that subject. This accounts for the absence of any candidate in 1891–92 and 1894–95. In 1892–93, however, 42 candidates appeared and 23 passed. All of them were students of the Teachers' College who attended a course of lectures at the College of Agriculture and appeared for the Examination *voluntarily*. But as the preparation for the above examination interfered with the legitimate work of training the students ceased to appear for the examination from 1893-94. Of the two candidates who appeared for the examination in

1892–94

1893–94 one is credited to the Teachers' College and the other to the Native High School, Kumbakonam. These candidates were probably the failures of the previous year. From 1893–94, such of the students of the Teachers' College as are willing to study Agriculture are permitted to attend the lectures delivered on Saturdays at the College of Agriculture. They are tested by the Principal of that College and such of them as pass the examination held at the end of the course receive a certificate from him to that effect. This information will be found embodied in the annual reports on the Teachers' College submitted to Government.

2. Agriculture was brought up for the last Primary Examination as an optional subject by 1265 male candidates, of whom 783 passed. For the

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the Lower Secondary Examination the Elementary Technical Standard in Agriculture is prescribed but no Candidate appeared in the Subject. Few Lower Secondary Schools have teachers qualified to teach the Subject up to the Elementary Standard, and the pupils probably look forward to entering upon a high School course of Study and ultimately passing the Matriculation Examination which does not embrace Agriculture. It would be well in Lower Secondary Schools attended by pupils belonging chiefly to the ryot class to provide for Elementary Science and Agriculture being taught as the two optional Subjects required for a pass in the Lower Secondary Examination.

3. I beg to enclose copy of a memorandum which I have drawn up in connexion with Sir Edward Buck's visit to Madras.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

D Duncan

Director of Public Instruction

Educational

CURRENT No 1466

Ed

From

The Director of Public Instruction
Madras

To

The Honourable the Chief
Secretary to Government
Fort St George

DESPATCHED
14 1895

No

Dated 14
Despd 14
Recd 15 } December/95

Rep 16

CHIEF SECRETARY
No 1325
15 DEC 1895
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

843 – 24-10-95
ord
455

Enclo (1)

456 – 31-5-95
789 – 30-9-95 SC
725 – 28-9-94 SC
741 – 10-10-93

~~Subject~~

Explaining the apparent decrease in the number of Candidates for the Elementary Technical Examination in Agriculture.

843: 24-10-95 ord & le
456: 31-5-95
789: 30-9-95 SC
725: 28-9-94 SC
741: 10-10-93
854: 1-11-95
727: 28-9-94

H.M.

Order
mis

Recorded.

For orders.

The papers deal with a very important subject, but it is not clear that the time is yet ripe for passing any comprehensive orders, & whether it would not be better to wait until the Govt of India have laid down a general policy as the results of the tour of Sir Edw. Buck (please see G.O. 854. Ed. / 1.11.95) before tinkering our present system in the way suggested by the D.P.I. or in any other method.

7/12
19/12

It is submitted that to do any real good agriculture must be a compulsory subject in the prim. exam^n. Whether there are text-books & teachers to enable this to be done is not known. It is a compulsory subject in the Panjab Normal schools (please see telegram in the "Madras Mail"

To

The D.P.I. p.t.o

[G. / 25]
1,000—5-11-95

DEPARTMENT

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

of the 21st Dec. put up).

A leader on Agricultural Educat^n in the same paper also seems worthy of perusal. The writer's idea that what is wanted is a *taste* for agriculture seems sound. At present the subject appears only to be learnt by those who hope to make an income out of teaching it, or who require to have passed in it to obtain Govt. employment. The openings in both these directions are at present so few, & Agriculture is not a subject at the Matric, that it seems of little use merely to make it optional in one Exam^n.

Submitted that any steps taken should, to be useful, be comprehensive,

& that therefore before a move is made the Govt of India's orders on the opinions of all Local Govts. may be awaited

WF 15.1.96

I quite agree with the U.S. and consider that matters may very well stand over as suggested.

It will be of no use to introduce Agriculture as a lower Secondary subject unless it is made compulsory

HD
18/1/96.

C.S.
/

Order. No. 53 d/28 Jan 96

Recorded

2. The Govt. considers that before taking ~~the~~ steps to give the teaching of Agriculture a more prominent position in the Educational system ~~in~~ of this Presidency it is desirable to await the orders of the Govt. of India upon the result of the enquiries set on foot by its Resolution dated 20th. Sept. 1895, read in G.O. 854/1.10.95 Edne.

WF 22.1.96 HD (from orders).
27/1/96.

To D.P.I.
desp. 30/1/96

Agricultural Education. —

We had better await the orders of the G. of I.

JG
20/1/96

FOR ORDERS.

~~H. E. THE GOVERNOR.~~

~~THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.~~

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE.

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When signed ______ }

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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