

16/3  
Educational (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 154

Dated 16-3-97 ✓

INDEXED.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Amending Art 31 (a) of Ch. II of the Mad-  
ras Ed. Rules directing the wearing of a  
suitable covering for the head in schools.

# BACK PAPERS.

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*Local & Muni.* (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 182



From The Dir. of Pub. Instruction,  
Madras.

Order.

No. 1294

Dated 10 February 1897.

Received 12-2-97

Registered 12-2-97

Enclosures *me*

Spare copies *nil*

## SUBJECT.

Submitting a letter from  
the Council of the Madras Christian  
College regarding article 31 (a) of  
Chapter II of the Madras Educational  
Rules

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No.                                               | Department.                             | Date.            |
|------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------|
|      | Madras Educational<br>First + second<br>337<br>72 | Rules<br>Editions<br>Educational<br>" " | 6/6/96<br>2/2/91 |

## FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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FROM

THE COUNCIL OF THE  
MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

1. We have the honour through you to address HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL with regard to a "rule of discipline" which has been inserted in the last revision of the Madras Educational Rules. The first meeting of the Council of the Madras Christian College since the publication of that revision, was held on the 2nd December 1896, and, in virtue of a resolution unanimously adopted at that meeting, we now embrace the earliest opportunity of inviting attention to a rule which we cannot but regard as standing in need of reconsideration and revision.

2. The new rule appears in para. 31 (a) of the Madras Educational Rules, and is one of several which apply to "Upper Secondary Schools and to Special Schools teaching up to the Standards of the Technical Examination,"—and, apparently, to such Institutions only. It runs as follows:—"Every pupil shall wear a clean and decent dress, and, in cases where good manners require it, a turban. The wearing of caps in schools is not permitted."

3. We are at a loss to know what the new rule means and how it is intended to apply it in practice. The first part of it, viz., "Every pupil shall wear a clean and decent dress," is old, and no objection will be raised to it by any one. Nor, if it stood alone, should we object to the new addition to the first sentence, viz., "and, in every case where good manners require it, a turban." It is the second sentence, viz., "The wearing of caps in school is not permitted," that introduces difficulties both of interpretation and of application. There are two ways in which the new rule, when viewed in the light of this second sentence, may be understood and applied. It appears to us that whichever of these two methods of interpretation be followed, difficulties will arise in the application of the rule which cannot have been foreseen by those by whom it was devised.

4. According to the ordinary rules of politeness in Southern India, turbans are worn in public by men of any standing in Hindu society, but not by boys, unless on very rare occasions of special festivity or ceremonial. Of course it is hard to define the exact point at which a young person ceases to be a boy and becomes a man; but the point can scarcely be fixed lower than the time when he completes his seventeenth year and, perhaps, if it is to be fixed at all, ought to be fixed somewhat later. Now it seems fair enough, according to the standard of Hindu manners, to expect those who are no longer looked upon as boys to wear turbans "in every case where good manners require it." But the great majority of Hindu pupils in Upper Secondary Schools are below, and most of them much below, the age of seventeen. They are certainly to be regarded not as men but as boys, and are therefore not required to wear turbans by the standard of good manners accepted in the community to which they belong. A question thus arises as to what the new rule aims at laying down about the head-dress of the great bulk of the pupils attending Upper Secondary Schools, that is of Hindu schoolboys from about thirteen to about seventeen years of age. If the new rule stopped at the end of the first sentence, any one familiar with the customs that have prevailed from time immemorial in the city of Madras would suppose the intention to be that pupils below seventeen or thereabout should wear becoming caps of some kind and that those above that age should wear turbans. This interpretation seems, however, to be excluded by the second sentence of the rule. There remain two possible interpretations of what is meant to be prescribed for Hindu pupils who are still boys, viz., (a) that they should attend school bare-headed, or (b) that they should be compelled to follow the ordinary fashion of full-grown men and wear turbans.

5. In support of giving the former of the above interpretations to the new rule, it may be urged that in some parts of India, as for instance in Bengal, it is held to be polite and becoming for all Hindus, both men and boys, to appear in public bare-headed, and that in most parts even of Southern India, where politeness requires men to cover the head, boys are not expected to wear any head-dress. The main objection to giving this interpretation to the new rule is that in other parts of

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No. 1294

From

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D. Sc., LL.D.,

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras,

To

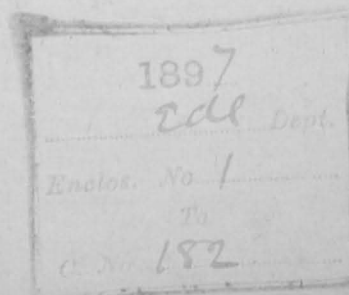
The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit a letter to your address, dated 8th December 1896, from the Council of the Madras Christian College, regarding article 31 (a) of Chapter II of the Madras Educational Rules.

2. In the first edition of the Educational Rules, the rule read as follows:—Every student and pupil shall wear a clean and decent dress, and, in all cases where good manners require it, a suitable covering for the head (see Madras Educational Rules Section III article 6 (a) first edition). This rule applied to aided colleges and schools. In the draft of the revised edition which I submitted to Government, I made no change either in the substance or in the wording of the rule, except the omission of the words "student and", in conformity with a general rule in this Department, according to which the name "student" is confined to ~~one~~ attending a college, and "pupil" to ~~one~~ attending a school. For reasons set forth in paragraph 4 (15) of my letter read in G.O. No 337, Educational, dated 6th June 1896, I embodied this rule in Chapter II 31 (a) as a condition of recognition of upper secondary schools and special schools teaching up to the technical examination standards. In sanctioning the new edition of the Rules, Government ordered that "For the words a suitable covering for the head," the words "a turban" should be substituted, and "after them should be inserted the following:—



the wearing of caps in school is not permitted" (See paragraph (4) of G.O. No 537, Educational, dated 6th June 1896). If Government had consulted me before making this change, I would have recommended that it should not be made, as in my opinion the turban, however suitable it may be as a head dress in Colleges, is not suitable in the case of boys of the Upper Secondary School age. The average age of boys on completing their high school course is about 17, and the course being a three years' course the average age at the commencement of that course is 14. I do not think the turban a suitable head dress for boys of the age of from 14 to 17.

3. The question of the dress of students in Colleges is one of the points which will presently come up for full discussion by the Senate in connection with my proposals regarding the relations between affiliated colleges and the University. When the results of the Senate's deliberations come before Government, an opportunity will be afforded of passing final orders on the subject.

4. I would strongly recommend that paragraph (4) of G.O. No 537, Educational, dated 6th June 1896, be cancelled and that article be allowed to stand in the terms in which it was submitted by me, namely:-

"Every pupil shall wear a clean and decent dress, and, in all cases where good manners require it, a suitable covering for the head."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. G. Gnanan

Director of Public Instruction.

[ G. ]  
[ 26 ]  
1,000-14-12-06.

Educational DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 182797

SUBJECT.

Madras Educational Rules  
Ch II. Art 31(a)

- (3) H. E. THE GOVERNOR.  
(2) THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.  
(1) THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

FOR ORDERS.

The Council of the Madras Christian College requests a reconsideration and revision of art 31(a) of Ch II of the Madras Ed. Rules which runs as follows:-

"Every pupil shall wear a clean and decent dress, and, in <sup>all</sup> cases where good manners require it, a turban. The wearing of caps in schools is not permitted."

The old rule ran as follows:-

"Every pupil shall wear a clean and decent dress, and, in <sup>all</sup> cases where good manners require it, a suitable covering for the head."

In G.O. no. 337 Ed. & 6<sup>th</sup> June 1896 the Govt. ordered that for the words "a suitable covering for the head" the words "a turban" should be substituted and that after them should be

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 1896, No. 337

Again G.O., dated 189, No.

Current No. 182 of 1897, dated 10<sup>th</sup> Feb from the D.P.

" " " 189, " " "

" " " 189, " " "

ORDER. N. 154 of 16 3-97

In the circumstances now reported, art. 31(a) of Ch II of the Madras Education Rules will be amended, the words "a suitable covering for the head." being substituted for the last eleven words beginning with "a turban" (from orders).

When the rule as it stands was sanctioned by Govt, the circumstance was overlooked that it applied did not apply to institutions of higher in grade than upper secondary schools

To the D.P. 940. Dec/2-8 18/3/97

Note. It is presumed that nothing need now be said about college students wearing turban. Please see para 3 of the D.P. 9's letter.

10/3/97.

I think not JG

13/3/97 R 15/3/97

inserted the following "The wearing of caps in schools is not permitted." vide flag M. and flag J. in the note for orders under cover of G.O. no. 337 Ed. 2 6<sup>th</sup> June 1896.

The D.P. I. strongly recommends the restoration of the old rule.

The Council also requests that hereafter managers of schools may be consulted before important changes are introduced into the Educational rules orders are solicited.

It should never be forgotten in connection with questions of this kind that Dr. Drummond, in spite of the orders of Govt, did not insist, when Principal of the Presidency College, on the Professors wearing their gowns - He is not a University man, in the proper sense, & is by no means impressed with proper ideas, matters such as this which affect the good order & discipline of schools & colleges - JG

Some points put in about JG

The Memorial of the Council of the Madras Christian College sets out the case very clearly & I see nothing in its arguments to take exception to.

Perhaps the old rule may be restored.

I think the old rule should be restored. The Chapter only refers to upper secondary schools & therefore as the D.P. refers to boys between the ages of 14 & 17. I was thinking of College students where I objected to the use of caps.

JG 3/3/97

Now the Hon Mr. Bliss

So was I. There is no objection to boys wearing caps, but turbans should be insisted on in Colleges in all cases in good manner & the wearing of a head dress - i.e. of Hindus & Mussulmans JG

5/3/97

23/3/97 24/3/97 25/3/97 26/3/97 27/3/97

254 9.3.97

78 14/1/97

H.M.

JG 1/3/97

I think the old rule should be restored

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

16 } 3 } 189

16/3/97

READ AGAIN G.O., No.  
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

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