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20-26-97.

# Educational (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 658

DATED 20. 11. 97.

INDEXED.

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18/11/97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comg: to the D.P.J. letter from the  
L.G. forwarding copy of  
despatch from the Secy of  
State relative to the establish-  
ment of a system of education  
for the deaf & dumb in habitants  
of India

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20.11.97

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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[ Ed. ]  
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1,000-5-5-87.

# Educational (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1108

20.658820 11-97 From The Govt of India  
Home Deptt  
Order 15/11/97  
Comm. to the D.P.O.  
for information and guidance.

No. 225

Dated 14"  
Received 21"  
Registered 26"  
Enclosures 1  
Spare copies. 7  
} Sept 1897

Note - Blind and deaf & dumb  
children are paid results grants  
at 150 per cent higher than the  
standard rates - vide Art 27(c)(1),  
of Ch IV of the Grant-in-aid code  
page 22. - But no any  
schools for them are in Tumkur

# SUBJECT.

Forwarding for information  
a copy of a Dispatch & enc-  
losures from the Secy. of State  
relative to the Establishment  
of a System of Education for  
the deaf & dumb inhabitants  
of India.

To M.D.R. also Dec 20/11/97

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No.   | Department. | Date.   |
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| "    | 76-77 | "           | 29-1-90 |

## FURTHER PAPERS.

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*Educational Cell 1108.*



No. 225.

FROM

L. M. THORNTON, Esq.,  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

*The (Chief) Secy. to the Govt. of Madras  
Educ'l Dept*

Home Department.  
Education.

Simla, the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1897.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward for the information of the Madras Government a copy of a Despatch and enclosures from the Secretary of State relative to the establishment of a system of education for the deaf and dumb inhabitants of India. I am to say that, while the Government of India adhere to the view, expressed in the Home Department Resolution noted in the margin, that the assistance of Government in this matter should, as a rule, be limited to grants in aid of public or private charity, they nevertheless trust that, where institutions for the training of deaf-mutes are established or where a scheme for establishing them is set on foot, the Government of Madras will, as far as possible, aid in their formation and maintenance.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

*L. M. Thornton*

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

*S.C. 7 of the C. + Enclos. each*

INDIA OFFICE;

London, 1st July 1897.

Public,

No. 66.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor General of  
India in Council.

MY LORD,

I forward, for the consideration of Your Excellency's Government, a petition  
From Home Office, dated June 10th, 1897, with enclosure. for the establishment of a system of education for  
the deaf and dumb inhabitants of India which by  
Her Majesty's Command has been referred to this Department.

2. Mr. Maginn, the promoter of the petition, is the writer of the accom-  
panying letter on the same subject which appeared  
Dated August 17th, 1896. in the *Times* in August 1896.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

GEORGE HAMILTON.

No. B.-24254, dated Home Office, Whitehall, the 10th June 1897.

To—The Under-Secretary of State, India Office.

I am directed, by the Secretary of State, to transmit to you, to be laid before  
Lord George Hamilton, the accompanying petition to the Queen, forwarded to this  
office by Mr. Francis Maginn, praying that schools and teachers may be provided  
for the education of the deaf-mutes in India. The petition has been laid before  
the Queen, and referred by Her Majesty's command to your Department, and  
Mr. Maginn has been so informed.

C. S. MURDOCH.

To

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY VICTORIA, QUEEN OF GREAT  
BRITAIN AND IRELAND, EMPRESS OF INDIA, ETC., ETC.

WE, your Majesty's faithful subjects and others, being a portion of and  
representing the educated deaf-mute population of your Majesty's Dominions  
and other countries in Europe and America, desire respectfully and earnestly  
to represent the great need of education which exists among the deaf-mute  
population of India. We would gratefully call to mind the inestimable benefits  
which have been conferred during your Majesty's Life and Reign, upon ourselves  
and the class to which we belong. To all preceding generations of the deaf  
until a century ago education was non-existent or unattainable. We have now  
been happily brought, by the education we have received, to enjoy the blessings  
of civilisation and religion and earnestly desire that the same blessing should be  
extended to the 150,000 living sufferers from life-long deafness among the popu-  
lation of India. For us and for our fellow-countrymen in other parts of the  
world at least 500 *special schools* are open, while in the whole of the vast territory  
of India there is but one of recent foundation, containing less than thirty pupils.

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Bombay itself, in which the Institution stands, contains 551 deaf-mutes of different races, the Presidency contains over 16,000, and the whole of India a total variously estimated at from 150,000 to 200,000 souls. As the Indian peoples are now so largely admitted to English rights and privileges, education and religious influence, we humbly pray your Majesty graciously to exercise your Imperial influence and authority to establish within your Empire of India a system of education which will afford to the deaf and dumb inhabitants of that vast land those advantages of education which we gratefully enjoy and which our unhappy brethren in the East have never known.

And your Majesty's petitioners will ever pray.

## THE DEAF OF INDIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *TIMES*.

SIR,—Allow me to bring to your notice and to the notice of your readers the miserable condition of our deaf fellow-subjects in India. As I am myself a deaf-mute, I naturally take a deep interest in people similarly afflicted. While a student at the National Deaf-Mute College at Washington, United States of America, where I was sent by my father, the Revd. C. A. Maginn, whose brother was Dr. William Maginn, of Fraser's Magazine, events happened to draw my attention to India. After my return to Ireland I had correspondence with a citizen of Calcutta to go there and start a school for the deaf. But events happened which induced me to give up the project.

From the last census report I understand there are nearly 200,000 such people in India in whose ears the sweet human voice—mothers included—never sounds. For this incredibly large number of people there are only two very small schools, containing not more than 50 pupils. In other words, only one in four thousand deaf-mutes receive education, while they are more in need of it than their hearing brethren.

I am glad that I did not go to Calcutta to open a school, for we have in our midst now a young man, Babu J. Banerji, who, with the help of some friends, started the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School in May, 1893. With a view to investigate the various methods of teaching the deaf he came to England in October 1894. He was present at the British Deaf and Dumb Association Congress, held at Dublin in August 1895. By an eloquent speech he won the hearts of the members of the Belfast Deaf and Dumb-Missionary Society, who sent him at their expense to the Washington Deaf-Mute College for a course of training. During his stay in the United States, Mr. Banerji's expenses were paid by the Government of that country. He was heartily welcomed, not only by President Cleveland, but also by Sir Julian Pauncefote, our Ambassador, and Dr. E. M. Gallandet, the President of the College.

Mr. Banerji has come back to London and is about to return to India. Young though he is Mr. Banerji is a highly-cultured person, with a sympathetic heart and broad mind. He has visited a large number of schools on both sides of the Atlantic. He has acquainted himself with all the various methods of teaching the deaf, and through his admirable common sense has made friends with people of diverse opinions.

We have heard from Mr. Banerji with heart beating the pitiable condition of our unfortunate fellow-subjects in India.

The two small schools—one at Bombay and the other at Calcutta—cannot be efficiently conducted unless more funds come. The institution at Bombay is the result of a missionary enterprise, while that at Calcutta is an entirely unsectarian native movement having among the members of the managing committee Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians. To the former the Government grant-in-aid is Rs. 100 a month, and the Municipal contribution is Rs. 1,800 per annum.

To the school at Calcutta, with 26 pupils—two Christians and the rest Hindus—the Government have not yet thought fit to give any aid. This, I am

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sorry to say, is a gross violation of their solemn promise which they made a few years ago. At the request of the late Royal Commission, the then Secretary of State for India instituted an inquiry. The Government of India refused to start any schools for the deaf themselves, but promised to help any private enterprise. The school at Calcutta is a private enterprise and a successful one.

The people of India have no knowledge of the fact that deaf-mutes can be educated, and they scarcely credit it. So that the school at Calcutta can hardly expect any substantial aid from them for some years to come until it has proved its utility. A few friends of the deaf in the United Kingdom have made successful efforts to give Mr. Banerji's school a start by raising some money here for its aid; a very small sum can render a great service to it now. If any of your charitably-disposed readers feel inclined to make a little sacrifice, Mr. W. E. Harris, Treasurer of the Belfast Deaf and Dumb Missionary Society, 11, Fisherwick-place, Belfast, Ireland, will be very glad to receive and acknowledge any contributions on behalf of the Calcutta School.

I am, etc.,

18, LEACROFT-ROAD, DERBY;

Dated August 17th, 1896.

FRANCIS MAGINN.

1897  
Educ. Dept.  
Enclosure No. 1  
to C. V. 1108.

When given for copying 18/11  
When copied 18/11  
When examined 19/11 } 189  
When signed \_\_\_\_\_

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

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

APERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH  
IN ORIGINAL.

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