

Educational (1897) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 678

DATED 25-11-97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Law College, Madras.

Recording with remarks, report
on the working of the —
for 1896 — 97.

25/11/97

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

921/98

Government {1897} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 678, 25th November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

Law College, Madras.

Recording, with remarks, report on the working of the — for 1896-97.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From J. B. BILDERBECK, Esq., M.A., Acting Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 16th August 1897, No. 9742.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a copy of my Proceedings reviewing the report on the working of the Law College, Madras, during the year 1896-97.

ENCLOSURE.

PROCEEDINGS of the Director of Public Instruction, dated 5th August 1897, No. 8361.

Read the following letter from the Principal, Law College, to the Acting Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated 13th July 1897, No. 50:—

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the working of the Law College, the submission of which has been greatly delayed owing to the illness and subsequent death of the College Clerk, K. Venkatakrishnayya, a regrettable event which has deprived the college of an industrious and efficient official.

Staff.—No changes occurred in the constitution of the teaching staff during the year under review. My tenure of the principalship of the college, which, under the terms of my agreement with the Secretary of State (printed in G.O., No. 360, Educational, dated 18th May 1891), expired on 2nd May 1896 was renewed for another period of five years—*vide* G.O., No. 265, dated 28th April 1896.

2. *The College Council.*—Two changes occurred in the constitution of the Council. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. S. Benson was appointed a member *vice* Mr. Justice Parker, retired (*vide* G.O., No. 450, Educational, dated 24th July 1896), and M.R.Ry. M. O. Parthasarathi Aiyangar, M.A., M.L., was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Council, which had existed since the decease of Sir T. Muthuswami Aiyar (G.O., No. 657, Educational, dated 22nd October 1896).

The Council held three meetings in the year under review, the first being held on the 4th September 1896, at which several important questions affecting the college were considered, and the Council made the following suggestions: (1) that, owing to the great increase in numbers (294 in 1891 to 731 in 1896) and the consequent unwieldy size of the classes attending lectures, two additional Professors be appointed in the college; (2) that the time of joining the College be changed from January to July and to request the University to change the date of the F.L. Examination to December; (3) that students who have failed in the First Law Examination, should not be permitted to continue their studies, and that a notification to this effect should be given at an early date, and should take effect from and after the First Law Examination of 1898.

These resolutions were forwarded to you in my letter, No. 70, dated 8th September 1896. At the second meeting held on 30th November, the Council considered various questions affecting the system of instruction in the college which had been touched upon in the Director's review of the report on the college for 1895-96, and their views have been embodied in my letter to you, No. 40, dated 15th April 1897. The third meeting was held on 7th December 1896. The Council resolved to make the following recommendations: (a) that Professors and Assistant Professors should be appointed for a term of three years subject to a right being reserved to dispense with

their services in the meantime, if necessary; (b) that, with reference to the question of remuneration for the examination work, the pay of Professors be raised to the equivalent of Rs. 400 per mensem and the pay of Assistant Professors to that of Rs. 200 per mensem. The above recommendations are embodied in my letter to you, No. 101, dated 9th December 1896.

3. *Numbers.*—The number of students on the college rolls on the 31st March were as follows:—

	1896-97.	1895-96.
Third Senior B.L. class	191	222
Second (Intermediate) B.L. class	246	201
First (Junior) B.L. class	152	273
Pleadership class	31	35
Total	620	731

It will be observed that the new junior class which joined this year numbers only 152, as against 273 in 1896. This large falling off is apparently due to the great number of failures in the English and science branches of the B.A. degree Examination of January 1897. In 1895-96, there were 593 passes in the former and 625 passes in the latter branch. This year only 333 passed in the former and 567 in the latter.

The number of students arranged by classes of the community is as follows. The corresponding numbers on 31st March 1896 are appended for the purpose of comparison:—

Classes of community.	I B.L.	II B.L.	III B.L.	Pleadership.	Total.	Total 1895-96.
Europeans and Eurasians	1	1	..	..	2	4
Native Christians	7	13	7	..	27	33
Muhammadans	2	2	2	..	6	7
Brahmans	99	176	145	26	446	539
Non-Brahman Hindus	48	53	37	5	138	147
Others (Parsis)	..	1	..	..	1	1
Total	152	246	191	31	620	731

The number of students arranged by their districts is as follows:—

Districts or provinces.	I B.L.	II B.L.	III B.L.	Pleadership.	Total.
Ganjām	1	5	1	1	8
Vizagapatam	2	5	4	4	15
Gótarari	9	7	5	2	23
Kistna	4	6	5	..	15
Nellore	4	7	2	3	16
Caddapah	..	..	3	..	3
Anantapur	..	4	..	..	4
Bellary	1	2	2	..	5
Madras	34	20	29	5	88
Chingleput	3	10	8	1	22
North Arcot	6	8	7	2	23
South Arcot	4	10	8	1	23
Tanjore	14	51	36	5	106
Trichinopoly	7	14	10	..	31
Madura	7	17	9	1	34
Tinnevely	12	17	7	2	38
Coimbatore	2	4	6	1	13
Salem	3	6	5	..	14
South Canara	1	5	8	..	14
Malabar	23	30	14	3	70
Travancore	1	1	2	..	4
Mysore	12	14	18	..	44
Coorg	..	2	2	..	4
Ceylon	2	..	..	..	2
Bombay	..	1	..	..	1
Total	152	246	191	31	620

4. *Examination Results*—(a) *University Law Examinations*—(i) *First Examination in Law, May 1896*.—For this examination 484 candidates were examined, of whom 92 or a percentage of 19.0 passed. Of the above, 265 candidates were from the 2nd and 3rd classes of the Law College, and of these, 57 or a percentage of 21.5, were successful. This result was certainly not satisfactory, but I think, that there were two causes which specially contributed to so large a number of failures. The first is that the examination in one subject (Jurisprudence) appears to have been conducted with special severity, for the figures appearing in the University calendar show that the total number of failures in this subject was 326, as against 226 (the next highest total) in the Law of Torts; and of the 392 candidates who failed, no less than 54, or a percentage of 13.6 failed only in this subject. The second special reason is that this particular subject is the first one in which students joining the college are instructed, and since such students did not join until the first term was more than half over (owing to the publication of the B.A. results being made in mid-March only) their course of instruction was necessarily a very brief one. In the results of this examination an illustration is to be seen of the urgent necessity which exists for so arranging matters, as to secure to new students a full first term's instruction in the college.

(ii) *B.L. degree Examination*.—The results of this examination are a distinct advance on those of the examination of 1896. Out of a total of 209 candidates 52 passed, thus showing a successful percentage of 25 as against 21.53 in the previous year. Of the above 209, 88 appeared direct from the Law College. Of these 25, or a percentage of 28.4 passed, as against a percentage of 26.22 in 1896.

(b) *Pleadership Examinations, 1896*.—As stated in paragraph 4 (b) of my report on the college for 1895-96, this examination was postponed to April 1896. The results, so far as the Law College is concerned, were distinctly satisfactory, as out of fourteen college candidates eight passed, and two of these passed in the first grade. 1897.—The College results in this examination were not so good as those of the year before, as no candidate secured a first grade. Out of the 23 who appeared 11 passed in the second grade.

5. *Library*.—There are now 1,322 volumes in the library, as compared with 1,233 at the close of 1895-96, 73 volumes were added to the consulting section and 16 to the lending section. Of the former 73 additions, 18 are the latest editions of books, replacing the old ones which have now been transferred to the lending section. These additions involved an expenditure of Rs. 999-15-2 excluding the amounts paid for the two educational and the law journals. In the course of the year there were 3,120 consultations by the students and 112 by the teaching staff, as against 1,695 and 53, respectively, during 1895-96. Thus there were 3,232 consultations as against 1,748 during the previous year. The figures have nearly doubled in one year, and they show how much a really good law library is appreciated by the students and how good a use they are making of it. There were 1,479 volumes issued to the students from the lending section as against 1,084 volumes and 27 to the Professors as against 18 during 1895-96. Here the figures are nearly half as much again as in the previous year. The great advance in the use of the library has been greatly aided by the appointment of a special librarian. During the year under review a catalogue corrected up to 31st of August 1896 has been issued.

6. *Occupation of students* (i) *B.L. Classes*.—Of the Senior class consisting of 191 students 52 return themselves as employed and 139 as unemployed. Of the Intermediate class consisting of 246 students, 40 are returned as employed, and 206 as unemployed. Of the Junior class the figures given are respectively, 12 and 140.

(ii) *Pleadership class*.—Of this class, thirty-one in number, eighteen are unemployed, six are public servants on leave, one is a public servant who has resigned, one a teacher resigned, three are employed as Government servants, one is a clerk in a firm, and one is a teacher.

7. *Scholarships*—(i) *Morehead Law Scholarship*.—The holder of this scholarship is P. B. Rangachari who stood highest amongst the candidates appearing from the Intermediate class at the First Examination in Law in May 1896.

(ii) *College Scholarships under Rule XI*.—The new scholars are A. Chakrapani and a Muhammadan student M. Abdur Rahim.

8. *Receipts and expenditure*.—The income of the College for 1896-97 amounted to Rs. 65,854-1-6 and exceeded the budget estimate (Rs. 60,000) by Rs. 5,854-1-6, but was less than the income of 1895-96, by Rs. 1,499-3-6, this decrease being due to the large falling off in the strength of the new junior class, which has been alluded to above. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 42,644-4-3, being less than the budget estimate (Rs. 45,000) by Rs. 2,355-11-9 and exceeding the expenditure in 1895-96 (Rs. 41,426-14-5) by Rs. 1,217-5-10. The balance to the credit of Government on the year is accordingly Rs. 23,209-13-3, as against Rs. 25,926-6-7 in 1895-96. I have pleasure in acknowledging the assistance I have received in the working of the College from all the members of its staff.

Proceedings No. 8361 of 1897.

The report on the Law College was due in this office on the 1st June, but was received on the 14th July. The delay, as the Principal explains, was owing to the illness and death of his clerk.

2. *Staff*.—During the year, the staff, in organisation and *personnel*, remained unchanged. The period of Mr. Nelson's engagement to serve as Principal of the Law College having, under his original agreement with the Secretary of State, expired on the 2nd May 1896, he was re-engaged under a modified agreement to serve for another period of five years.

3. *Accommodation*.—The new College buildings have been completed, and estimates for furnishing them are now under consideration. It is hoped that no difficulties will arise to prevent an early move into these buildings, for, until the scattered classes of the college are collected together and their work brought under the direct and constant observation of the Principal, thorough supervision and effective control are hardly possible.

4. *Library*.—The library contains 1,322 volumes, 89 having been added during the year. It is satisfactory to know that its value is being increasingly appreciated by the students, to whom its usefulness must be greatly enhanced by the issue of a new catalogue.

5. *Strength and attendance*.—Annexed is a statement showing the strength of the several classes of the college at the close of each year of the past quinquennium.

Class.	31st March 1893.	31st March 1894.	31st March 1895.	31st March 1896.	31st March 1897.
Senior B.L. class	88	115	156	222	191
Intermediate B.L. class	116	167	235	201	246
Junior B.L. class	201	279	213	273	152
Total B.L. Classes	405	561	604	696	589
Pleadership Classes	107	30	26	35	31
Total	512	591	630	731	620

It will be seen from the above that the number of students on the rolls steadily increased till 1896 when it stood at 731, the highest figure recorded in the annals of the college. On the 31st March last, the strength had fallen to 620, owing chiefly to a large decrease in the number of admissions to the Junior B.L. class of 1897. The Acting Director is inclined to agree with the Principal in thinking that this large and sudden decrease is to be accounted for by the heavy failures in the English language division of the B.A. Examination of January 1897.

The table in paragraph 3 of the report showing the districts from which the students of the college are drawn is interesting, for, while it reflects, in large measure, the social conditions and relative educational progress of the districts of the Presidency,

it also serves to indicate how wide is the area in which the college may be able to extend its influence. With two exceptions, every district in the Presidency is represented in the college, to say nothing of Native States and places outside the Presidency, while, as might be expected, the districts of Tanjore, Madras and Malabar and the districts of Ganjám, Cuddapah, Anantapur and Bellary stand at opposite extremes in respect to the number of their representatives on the rolls of the college. Of the 589 students in the B.L. classes, 104, or only 18 per cent., held some employment.

6. *Examinations.*—At the F.L. Examination, 265 candidates appeared direct from the college, but only 57, or 21.5 per cent., passed. This compares unfavourably with the results of the previous year, when 112 out of 225, or 50 per cent., passed the same examination. In reporting the numbers of students who appear for and pass the F.L. Examination, the Principal should in future distinguish those who appear for the examination at the end of a three-term course from those whose course of study has extended over a longer period.

The following table presents the strength of the Senior B.L. class and the results at the B.L. Examination for each of the five years ending 1896-97:—

Year.	Senior B. L. class.	Examined.	Passed.	Percentage.
1892-93	94	69	25	36.2
1893-94	88	63	15	23.8
1894-95	115	79	26	32.9
1895-96	156	61	16	26.2
1896-97	222	88	25	28.4

The results in 1896-97 show some improvement upon those of the year previous, but the percentage of passes at the recent B.L. Examination was actually lower than the average of the four preceding years, although the number of subjects taken up for the final examination under the reorganized curriculum is less than what was required under the superseded B.L. curriculum. Remarks as to the unsatisfactory character of the results at the University examinations are becoming stereotyped in the Director's review on the annual reports of the Law College; and almost equally stereotyped is the explanation of the Principal that the indifferent results, in great measure, are to be ascribed to the vagaries of examiners. That the college staff needs reorganization, in view to improving its efficiency, it must be admitted, is a very general opinion. That the methods and machinery of the examinations conducted by the University are capable of modification without essentially impairing their standards of efficiency is the belief of many. Reforms in both directions, in the opinion of the Acting Director, are not only necessary, but practicable. There is, however, another matter which calls for remark. The above table discloses the existence of a striking disparity between the number of students in the senior B.L. class—students, that is to say, who are in the third year of their course—and the number of students who appear for the B.L. Examination, and it will be observed that the difference is not confined to the years 1895-96, 1896-97, when it is to some extent to be accounted for by the fact, that during these years the Senior B.A. classes were full of men who, not having passed the F.L. Examination, were unable to appear for the B.L. Examination. In the facts underlying this disparity may possibly be found another circumstance, *i.e.*, the presence in the college of a large non-reading element, which contributes its share to the unsatisfactory character of the annual outturn. As the matter is one of considerable interest and may be of great importance to the determination of the lines of the future administration of the college, the Principal is requested to favour the Director with his views as to the significance of the disparity referred to.

Two Pledership examinations were held during the year, one in April 1896 in place of the Examination which should have been held in the February preceding, and the other in February 1897. At the former, 14 appeared from the college, of whom, eight passed, with two for the first grade; at the latter Examination, 23 appeared and 11 passed, all for the second grade.

7. *College Council.*—Three meetings of the council were held during the year. Several questions of importance were discussed at these meetings, but, as these have been separately dealt with from time to time, it is unnecessary to remark upon them in this review.

8. *Finance.*—In the margin is given a statement showing the receipts and charges of the institution for the past five years. The fall in the strength of the college led to a corresponding fall in the fee income in the financial year just closed, while the expenditure, including that on scholarships, shows a slight increase. However, there was a large net profit to Government amounting to Rs. 23,210, as against Rs. 25,926 in the previous year.

9. *General.*—It has not been stated in the report whether steps are being taken to bring out a college calendar as required in the last review. Mr. Nelson is requested to report on this point.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. B. BILDERBECK,
Ag. Director of Public Instruction.

To the Principal, Law College, with ten spare copies.
" Inspectors of Schools.
" President, College Council, with spare copies.
" Principals of other Government Colleges.
" Hon'ble Chief Justice, with C.L.
" Do. Advocate-General, with C.L.
" Government, with C.L.

ORDER—No. 678, Educational, dated 25th November 1897.

Recorded with the following remarks:—

(1) The fall in the strength of the college, the Director of Public Instruction is inclined to attribute to the large number of failures in the English Language division of the B.A. degree examination of January 1897. Article VIII (1) of the College Rules restricts admission into the college to candidates who have passed all the three divisions or the English and Science divisions of the B.A. degree examination.

(2) The results obtained at the University examinations were not satisfactory.

(3) The income from fees exceeded the expenditure of the college by Rupees 23,210.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction,
Editors' Table.

Educational (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 949

From

The Dir. of Pub. Instruction,
Madras.

Order.

No. 9742

Dated 16th August 1897.

Received 17 AUG. 1897.

Registered 17-8-97

Enclosures one.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting a copy of the
review of the report on the working
of the Law College, Madras during
1896-97.



BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	138 hui	Eol	6-3-97
	792-u	- "	28-12-96
	739-u	- "	26-11-96
	654-u	- "	22-10-96
	546-u	- "	16-9-96
	450-u	- "	24-7-96
	303-u	- "	18-5-96
	265-u	- "	28-4-96
	243-u	- "	13-4-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1645c - Eol - 26-3-96
 69 hui - " - 5-2-96
 766-u - " - 14-7-95
 850sc - " - 28-10-95
 634 hui - " - 28-8-94
 360 sc - " - 18-5-91

[G
24]
1,0 0-18-0-97.

Ed DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:--

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
 Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
 Current No. 949 of 1897, dated 16th Aug , from the D.P.I.
 " " " 189 " " " " " " " " " " " "

ORDER.
P.S.-

W. 678 & 25.11.97

Recorded with the

following remarks:—

(1) The fall in the strength of the college, ^{the D.P.I. is inclined to} attributed ~~to~~ to the ^{large no. of} failures in the English Language division of the B.A.-degree examination of January '97. ~~but the Govt. considers that it may also be due to the enforcement of Art VIII (1) of the College Rules which restricts admission into the College to candidates who have passed all the three divisions or the English and Science divisions of the B.A.-degree examinations.~~ ~~(2) Steps should be taken to enrich the library which now contains only 1322 vols.~~

(2) The results obtained at the University examinations

neither Prin. nor D.P.I.
give so strong an expression
of opinion as 'Solely' (as)

Foley D.

Go. 830 & 22nd Oct-95.

Res. Secy. 8/12

were not satisfactory.

(7) The income from fees exceeded the expenditure of the College by Rs 23,210.

118
15/11/97

Rs 1117

Note.

For the Co. on the report of the Law college for 1895-96, please see G.O. no. 576 Ed & 16th Sept-96, in the linked file - flag E.

To The D.P. 5) 2-12-97
Editor's table - given 2-12-97.

First copy sent to Press.

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READ AGAIN G.O. No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITO.

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