

Educational (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 700

DATED 7-12-97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording papers relating to the
subject of the identification
of candidates for public exami-
nations by finger impressions

T
7.12.97.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[Ed.]
500-29-7-96.

Educational (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 1104

470/96 ✓

From Madras University

Order

No. 944

Dated 8th
Received 10th
(at 1004)
Registered 12th } Sept: 96

Enclosures .

Spare copies. .

SUBJECT.

Communicating the
Resolution of the Syndicate
regarding the system of
identification by means
of finger prints as in-
-fructible .

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	• Date.
	470 hix	Edl	7-8-96
	4382/3	gwl	25/8/96
	4057/8	"	23/6/96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

University of Madras.

No. 944 OF 1896-1897.

SENATE HOUSE, 8th September 1896.

FROM

THE REGISTRAR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,

To

The Hon'ble the Chief Secretary to the
Government of Fort St George.

SIR,

With reference to G.O. No 470 dated 7th August 1896, communicating for consideration and report by the Syndicate G.O. No 1057 Judicial, dated 23rd June 1896 regarding the system of identification by means of finger prints, I am directed by the Syndicate to communicate to you the following resolution passed thereon by it at the meeting held on the 1st instant:

"Resolved that, in the opinion of the Syndicate, such a mode of identifying candidates for University examinations is impracticable and undesirable."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

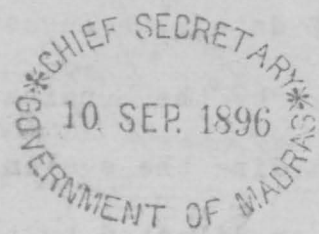
John Dutt
Registrar.

Educational

1896-1897.

FROM

THE REGISTRAR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS.



No. 944

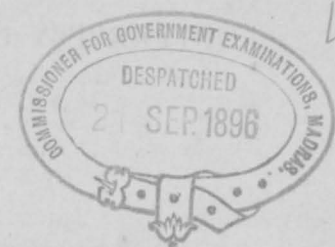
Dated 8th }
Received } September 1896.

SUBJECT.

*Communicating the
resolution of the
Syndicate regarding
the system of identification
by means of finger prints.*

Educational (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 1142



470/96

From

*The Commissioner
for Government Examinations,
Madras*

Order

No. 97
ID

Dated 21st September 1896.

Received 22-9-96

Registered 22

Enclosures —

Spare copies —

SUBJECT.

*Stating, with remarks, that he does
not consider that the system of iden-
tification by means of finger-prints
can, with advantage, be made use
of in connection with the examina-
tions under his control.*

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Current No. 1142

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
FOR GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS,
Madras, 21st September 1896.

No. $\frac{97}{1D}$

From

THE HON'BLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D.,
COMMISSIONER FOR GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS,
Madras,

To

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT,
Fort St. George.

SIR,

With reference to G.O. No. 470, dated 7th August 1896, Educational, I have the honour to state that I do not consider that the system of identification by means of finger prints can, with advantage, be made use of in connection with the examinations under my control. It is not easy to see how the system could be worked in the case of examinations for which thousands of candidates come up from all parts of the Presidency, but even if the system could be successfully employed, I am not sure that it would be right to treat all candidates as objects of suspicion. The few cases of false personation that occasionally occur

do

do not appear to me to justify the adoption of such
treatment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

J. Duncan
Commissioner.

hch

EDUCATIONAL
Local & Munl.

(1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 168

470/96



From

The Dir. of Pub. Instruction,
Madras.

Order.

No. 1092

hch
Dated 5 February 1897.

Received 9-2-97

Registered 10-2-97

Enclosures one

Spare copies nil.

SUBJECT.

Finger-prints:--Submitting his
views in connection with the intro-
-duction of the system for
purposes of identification.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Copy of letter from the Inspector of Schools, Northern Circle
to the Director of Public Instruction, No D/531 dated 23rd
September 1896.

With reference to your Proceedings No 9781 dated the
7th instant calling for my views on the question of the finger-
-print system of identification being introduced in connection
with public examinations, I have the honour to state that the
difficulty connected with the establishing and proper carrying
out of the system is against it, while the object to be secured
is hardly worth the trouble. In every Police or Registration office
the thing is possible because the number of persons in whose
cases finger-prints need be taken would be a few only presenting
themselves at the office day by day throughout the year. In the
case of public examinations numbers assemble from different and
widely distant places at an appointed centre for a fixed time
either a day or perhaps a week and no more. It would be impossible
therefore at the time of the examination to take the finger-prints
unless under special arrangements costly alike to Government
and to the parties concerned. It would therefore be necessary
that when the applications for entrance to examination are sent
the finger prints should be sent with perhaps on the application.
The best way to arrange for this would be that each school
sending in pupils to public examinations should have special
provision made for the purposes. This would need to be enforced
in the educational rules just as other matters regarding
building, furniture &c are enforced and grants would need to be
sanctioned for the requisite apparatus and perhaps also for a
special clerk to do the business of taking the finger prints
making the necessary records and for conducting necessary
correspondence &c. Other difficulties would arise also which need
not be entered upon. But in conclusion I would say that in the
education department above all others the introduction of a
system which implies criminality and natural depravity is not in
keeping with the higher and nobler aims that it ought consistently
to strive to inculcate. The signature of a candidate to an
application is quite a different thing and certainly does not call
to his mind when writing it the fact that he was thereby
affording a means to future identification. In the case of the

finger prints this would distinctly be the case and to all honest minds the coercion to such an act would be positively harmful.

(True copy)

J. Duncan

Director of Public Instr.

CURRENT No. 168

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras, 5th February 1897.

No. 1092

From

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

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras,

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local & Municipal Department.

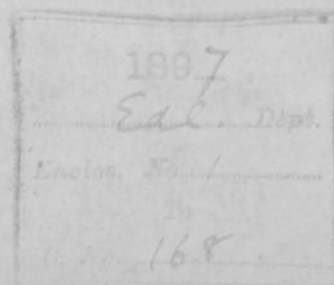
SIR,

With reference to G.O. No 470 Educational dated 7th August last, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

2. The question of introducing the system of identification by means of finger-prints in connection with public and competitive examinations was referred to the Principals of Colleges, Inspectors of Schools, Inspectresses of Girls' Schools and Assistant Inspectors of Schools for an expression of their views.

3. The Principals of the Presidency and Kumbakonam Colleges of the Law and Medical Colleges and Colleges of Engineering and Agriculture are not in favour of the introduction of the system. They consider that

- (1) in the first place, it is almost impracticable to introduce the system in view of the large number of candidates appearing for most of the public examinations held in this Presidency;
- (2) in the second place, even if this were possible, it would not be worth the trouble, heavy expense and waste of time the system would necessarily entail in view of the small number of cases of false personation, and
- (3) in the last place, even if it were advantageous, its use would be an imputation on the general integrity of candidates



presenting themselves for the public examinations. Mr. Bilderbeck

writes:-

"As regards the examinations of the University of Madras
I am opposed to the introduction of the measure on sentimental
as well as on practical grounds. Though every University very
properly takes special precautions to prevent the minor
frauds of cribbing and copying in the examination room, it
would I think be opposed to all that is noblest in University
life and feeling to introduce a measure which apparently takes
for granted that every candidate is a potential criminal
capable of committing or being a party to the graver frauds
of false personation and forgery. Any University that should
give its consent to the adoption of the measures proposed
would place itself in the humiliating position of acknowledging
the futility of its Educational work and would gratuitously
invite critics to point the finger of scorn."

Messrs. Middlemast and Hall have no objection to the system.

4. Of the four Inspectors Mr. Marsden has no opinion to offer.
Mr. Logan thinks that the system might with advantage be introduced;
M. P. Py. Nagoji Rau recommends that in cases in which false personation
at Examinations is suspected the finger prints of the suspected
candidates be taken; While Mr. Flanagan is opposed to the introduction
of the system. Copy of his letter is herewith submitted for
information. The other inspecting officers are equally divided for
and against the proposal.

5. The only examination under the direct control of the Depart-
ment is the Teacher's certificate Examination, and as over 2000
candidates appear for the examination all over the Presidency, I do
not consider it expedient to introduce the system in connection
with that examination. The Provincial Civil Service Examination is
held in Madras and the number of candidates is small and the system
might be introduced in connection with that examination. In fact the
finger prints of certain of the candidates were submitted to
Government along with the results of the last examination. The
Reformatory school, Chingleput, is a special institution and the
system should be introduced into the school and followed in the case
of all admissions. I am not in favour of the introduction of the
system

in connection with any other examination or institution.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. J. J.

Director of Public Instruction.

*But the difficulty
of identification
is not where there
are only 2000 candidates
it is where there are
10,000. That
the system is
valuable*

Identification by means of finger-prints.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

C. 26/11/7
R 2/12/87

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No.

of 189 , dated

from the

Current No.

of 189 , dated

from the

C. No. 1104X/1142896X
168897.

FOR ORDERS.

Office

But at pp. giving an account of the system & the mode of working it. There is the great waste of time & expense to which S.P. refers.

S.P. 15/1/87

An account of the system & the mode of working it is given in the enclosure to Mr. Hewitt's letter printed in G.O. no. 1057 Jud. D. 23rd June 1896 under cover of G.O. no. 470 Ed. D. 7th Aug. 1896.

Candidates for some of the public examinations assemble by thousands and it would therefore be impossible to take the finger prints of the candidates at the time of the examination. But if it is decided to take the

~~the candidates to the~~
~~list of his office with~~
~~his signature & it will~~
~~be dispensed with as the~~
~~certificates are now being~~

finger prints, special arrange-
ments will have to be made
and the expenditure of the
examinations will be greatly
enhanced. ^{thereby} This is the waste
of money referred to.

If the finger prints are to be
taken at every meeting of the
candidates (candidates meet
usually twice and sometimes
thrice in a day) then the
hours of examination should
be so arranged as to per-
mit of the finger prints being
taken before the actual time
for answering the papers
commences. This means an
extension of the examination
time ^{by} ~~for~~ two or three hours
a day & this is the waste of
time referred to.

WA
1912/1917

This has been going on
with me for a long time. I
did so mainly because I
was under the impression
that I had seen ⁱⁿ "Nature"
or some other scientific journal
a simplification of the

~~is possible, especially~~
~~with the use of special~~
~~arrangements~~
~~the work of the~~
~~department~~
~~the expense~~
~~the cost of the~~
~~the cost of the~~
~~the cost of the~~
~~the cost of the~~

process of taking the print
which would remove the objection
as to the ^{waste} ~~length~~ of time ~~lost~~
involved in taking the im-
pressions. I have made a
search since I returned to
Madras but have failed
to find any improved
or simpler process than
that described in the
papers in the file
as to the sentimental
objection, I don't attach any
importance to it. Means are
already taken to identify can-
didates, prevent spying
&c &c, and there is no sound
objection to adopting similar
if more effective measures. A
Dr. Hunter's body marks are
carefully recorded when he
becomes a prisoner to
check fraud: but that is
not recorded as any slur
on the character of the
individual Dr. Hunter who
submits to the process.
The main difficulty is
in the fact that apparently

impression should be taken under supervision - vide para 5 (3) of the memo. appended to Home Dept letter of 8 May 86 in P.O. 23/6/86 no 1058. An intelligent man should be able to make the required impression on a piece of paper without assistance: but schoolboys at the bulk of the ordinary candidates at the exams in question should not be trusted to do so. Even if they do, time to be occupied in teaching them the operation itself. But while there is this difficulty in requiring an impression at every exam: or on every exam paper.

1/12/1912
The system might be useful in the ^{initial} identification of candidates who come from a distance to be an important exam at a centre - e.g. candidates from the districts coming to Madras for the University degree exams. If the impression were taken on the first day of the exam.

FOR ORDERS.

This continued on is
workless. Lots of
about public
recognize the fact that there
are "potential criminals"
amongst the candidates.
But I am afraid the system
is impracticable.

JG
1/12/97

It would be some safeguard against substitution; as thereafter he would practically be identified as the same person throughout the whole exam. by the ordinary watchers. Locally the impression of comparison would be taken by a Hefte or Headmaster or Principal; or it could be taken afterwards should any fraud arise.

It is not necessary that every candidate's impression should be checked or verified. It would be enough to retain it for purposes of detection in the event of suspicion arising.

If the H.O. does not think that the system can be practically worked, the Sp. may be recorded & further developments awaited.
J. H. N. 1/12/97

Papers to be read in proceedings:--

Again G.O., No. 470 , dated 7th Aug. 1896.
 Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
 Current No. 1104 of 1896, dated 8th Sept. , from the Mad University
 " " 1142 " 1896, " 21st Sept. , " the C. S. E.
 " " 168 " 1897, " 5th Feb. , " the D. S. I.

ORDER.
mis

No. 700 & 7-12-97

Recorded.

(from order)

NA
4/12/97.

H. I
6 12 97

for the
on the pen
the exam.

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

189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189 .

DATED

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, BRING MEANT FOR DE-PATCH
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