# Educational (1898) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 608

DATED 29-9-98

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Law College, Madras

Recording, with remarks, report on the working of the —— during 1897-98.

## BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |

## FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |

# Government {1898} of Madras.

## EDUCATIONAL.

*Recd.*
*Regd.* } 1898.
*Enclosures*
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**G.O., No. 608, 29th September 1898.**

**SEPTEMBER.**

**Law College, Madras.**

Recording, with remarks, report on the working of the — during 1897-98.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

From Hon'ble Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 18th July 1898, No. 7713.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a copy of my Proceedings, No. 6762, dated 20th June 1898, reviewing the report on the working of the Law College during 1897–98.

Enclosure.

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, dated 20th June 1898, No. 6762.

From R. A. NELSON, Esq., Principal, Law College, to the Director of Public Instruction, No. 88, dated Madras, 1st May 1898.

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the working of the Law College for 1897–98.

*Staff.*—During the autumn term of 1897, Mr. J. G. Smith, the junior Professor, took leave, and the first assistant Professor, M.R.Ry. K. Narayana Rau, was appointed in his place, the remaining assistant Professors being moved up to fill the vacancies and M.R.Ry. T. Rangachariyar appointed sixth assistant Professor. During the present term, M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur C. Ramachandra Rau Sahib, the senior Professor, did not wish to serve owing to private affairs, and the vacancy was filled up by the junior Professor Mr. J. G. Smith, the first assistant Professor being again made junior Professor. The remaining assistant Professors were also promoted, and the consequent vacancy in the sixth assistant professorship was again filled by M.R.Ry. T. Rangachariyar.

2. *Accommodation.*—During the year under review, the new college buildings were completed, and a sum of Rs. 23,987 has been sanctioned by Government for furnishing the same (*vide* G.O., No. 736, Educational, dated 13th December 1897). The contract was entrusted to Messrs. C. Bhashyam & Co. (*vide* your Proceedings, No. 13981, dated 15th December 1897) and considerable progress has been made with the work. It is to be hoped that the next term will see the college established in its new quarters.

3. *The College Council.*—There was no change in the constitution of the College Council; but, as reported to you in my letter, No. 35, dated 23rd February 1898, Mr. H. G. Wedderburn is in Europe and is not likely to return to Madras. There were only two meetings during the financial year, there being nothing to call for further meetings. The first was held on the 23rd April 1897, at which the Council recommended the arrangement of the staff for the autumn term referred to above. It also desired to re-invite your attention to the need of an increase in the staff and improvements in the terms of the appointments, as already proposed (*vide* my letter, No. 43, dated 24th April 1897, and paragraph 2 of my report for 1896–97).

At the second meeting held on 3rd December 1897, the Council recommended the appointment of the then existing staff for 1898, but that Mr. J. G. Smith be re-appointed junior Professor, and that, if M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur C. Ramachandra Rau Sahib wished not to serve during the spring term, the rest of the staff be moved up (*vide* my letter, No. 145, dated 6th December 1897).



4. *Numbers.*—The number of students on the college rolls on the 31st March 1898 and 1897, respectively, was as follows:—

| | 1897–98. | 1896–97. |
|---|---|---|
| Third (Senior) B.L. class | 229 | 191 |
| Second (Intermediate) B.L. class | 128 | 246 |
| First (Junior) B.L. class | 204 | 152 |
| Pleadership class | 51 | 31 |
| Total | 612 | 620 |

These figures show a decrease of *eight* from the figures of 1896–97. It will be observed that this arises from the unusual smallness of the second (intermediate) B.L. class of this year, the junior class of last year (*vide* paragraph 3 of my report for 1896–97). The new junior B.L. class of this year shows an increase of 52 over that of last year, and the Pleadership class has increased by 20 and is the biggest Pleadership class the college has had since admission thereto was restricted to graduates in Arts.

The number of students arranged by classes of the community is as follows. The totals for 1896–97 are appended for the sake of comparison:—

| Classes of community. | Third B.L. class | Second B.L. class. | First B.L. class. | Pleadership class. | Total, 1897–98. | Total, 1896–97. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Europeans and Eurasians | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | 4 | 2 |
| Native Christians | 14 | 5 | 11 | 1 | 31 | 27 |
| Muhammadans | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Brahmans | 167 | 84 | 139 | 41 | 431 | 446 |
| Non-Brahman Hindus | 44 | 36 | 52 | 8 | 140 | 138 |
| Others (Parsis) | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 229 | 128 | 204 | 51 | 612 | 620 |

Europeans and Eurasians, Native Christians and Non-Brahman Hindus show increases. The system of half-fees for Muhammadans has seemingly, so far, failed to attract them to the study of Law, and Brahmans show a still further decrease on the large decrease that occurred last year, viz., from 539 in 1895–96 to 446 in 1896–97.

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

| Districts or provinces. | B.L. classes. III. | B.L. classes. II. | B.L. classes. I. | Pleadership class. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ganjám | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 13 |
| Vizagapatam | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 13 |
| Gódávari | 7 | 7 | 13 | 4 | 31 |
| Kistna | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 18 |
| Nellore | 7 | 4 | 3 | .. | 14 |
| Cuddapah | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Anantapur | 4 | .. | 2 | .. | 6 |
| Bellary | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| Madras | 19 | 31 | 14 | 3 | 67 |
| Chingleput | 8 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 21 |
| North Arcot | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 23 |
| South Arcot | 8 | 4 | 3 | .. | 15 |
| Tanjore | 49 | 14 | 44 | 5 | 112 |
| Trichinopoly | 11 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 26 |
| Madura | 16 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 37 |
| Tinnevelly | 16 | 7 | 11 | .. | 34 |
| Coimbatore | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Salem | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 12 |
| South Canara | 5 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 20 |
| Malabar | 29 | 19 | 16 | 6 | 70 |
| Travancore | 1 | .. | 3 | .. | 4 |
| Cochin | .. | .. | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Mysore | 11 | 11 | 19 | .. | 41 |
| Coorg | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Ceylon | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 |
| Nilgiris | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Pudukkóttai | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Hyderabad | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 |
| Bombay | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Total | 229 | 128 | 204 | 51 | 612 |

5. *Examination Results*—(*a*) University Law Examinations :—

| — | | Applied. | Appeared. | Passed. I. | Passed. II. | Passed. III. | Total. | Percentage. | Percentage, 1896-97. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| First Examination in Law, May 1897. | From III B.L. class. | 120 | 116 | .. | 14 | 24 | 38 | 32·7 | 21·5 |
| | ,, II ,, .. | 132 | 129 | 1 | 13 | 22 | 36 | 27·9 | |
| | For the Presidency .. | 534 | 491 | 1 | 34 | 94 | 129 | 26·2 | 19·0 |
| B.L. Degree Examination, January 1898. | From the Law College. | 36 | 35 | .. | 4 | 6 | 10 | 28·5 | 28·4 |
| | For the Presidency .. | 239 | 232 | .. | 7 | 51 | 58 | 25·0 | 25 |

(*b*) Pleadership Examination, 1898 :—

| — | Number sent up. | Passed. First grade. | Passed. Second grade | Total. | Percentage. | Percentage, 1897. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| From the Law College .. .. .. | 24 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 29·1 | .. |
| For the Presidency .. .. .. | 130 | 3 | 33 | 36 | 27·7 | .. |

From the above it will be seen that, as regards the First Examination in Law, the percentage of passes shows a great increase over that of 1897, the percentage of III (32·7) and II (27·9) classes taken together amounting to 30·2 as against 21·5 for 1896. The results of the B.L. Examination do not, however, show a similar increase, but it is satisfactory to note that the percentage of successful candidates from the college in 1897, viz., 28·4 (as against 26·22 in 1896), was maintained.

It will be observed that only 36 students of the III (Senior) B.L. class of 1897 applied for this examination, though the strength of this class on 31st March 1897 was 191. Of these, however, only 56 were qualified to appear, having passed the First Examination in Law. Of these, only 18 had passed that examination at the proper time in their three years' course, *i.e.*, in 1896. The remaining 38 passed only in 1897, that is to say, only eight months before the B.L. Examination. On examining the class in the subjects of the forthcoming B.L. Examination, it was found that of the 56 qualified students, 15 displayed such hopeless ignorance of the subjects that I withheld their certificates, and of these fifteen it may be noted that no less than fourteen had only passed the First Examination in Law in the previous May. It may be added that of the ten successful candidates in the B.L. Examination, seven had passed the First Examination in Law at the proper time and three only in 1897.

This is an illustration of what is taking place, with slight variations, every year in the college, and what will continue to take place so long as the present system continues, the evils of which are transparent. The University requires a three-term course of study for the First Examination in Law. The students for that course come to the college when about two-thirds of the first term have expired. By working at hard pressure, the subjects for this examination may be got through (though not, in my opinion, adequately) in three terms. Under the present conditions, this is simply an impossibility; a large percentage of failures must, therefore, be expected, and those cannot, I think, in fairness be charged to the college. But the great evil which, so far as I can see, vitiates the whole system of legal education in Madras, is allowing the failed candidates to proceed with their studies for the B.L. Examination. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole B.L. course of study is thereby reduced to a farce. Thus, to take the case of the course of study for the B.L. Examination of 1898. In July 1896 operations commenced with a class of nominally 191 B.L. students. In reality there were only 18 *bonâ fide* B.L. students. The remainder, or rather the whole class save these few, were devoting all their time and study to the F.L. subjects and listened with a not unnatural languid interest or boredom during lecture hours to a Professor's disquisitions on totally different subjects, which have



no practical interest for them, belonging as they do to an examination of the dim and uncertain future. The anomaly becomes more glaring as the time for the F.L. Examination in May 1897 approaches, and any spark of interest in the subjects of the B.L. Examination that there may have been is extinguished, save in the breasts of the eighteen. The climax is reached in the third and last term of these students' "B.L. course." Of the class of 191, no less than 135 (191 less 56) have been twice defeated in the F.L. lists, and the B.L. Examination is for them still further removed. The body of successful F.L. candidates in May 1897—38 in number—are striving to do in some five months what is no easy matter to do in eighteen. The class, as a whole, is sickened and dispirited with the whole business, feelings which are possibly not unshared by its teachers.

It seems to me that so long as this state of things prevails, the Law College cannot be held responsible for the failures of its students in the B.L. Examination. It is the existing system, which unfortunately the college is called upon to give effect to, which is responsible, and if the results at the examination are considered unsatisfactory, I am afraid there is no chance of real improvement until the evils of the existing system are eradicated and the college thus given a fair chance.

6. *Library.*—The present number of volumes in the library is 1,404 as against 1,322 last year. Of the new additions, six were added to the lending library and 76 to the consulting library. Of the latter number, 23 are the latest editions of standard works, the editions they replaced being transferred to the lending section.

*Use of Library.*

| — | Number of consultations. 1897-98. | Number of consultations. 1896-97. | Number of books lent. 1897-98. | Number of books lent. 1896-97. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Students .. .. .. .. | 2,506 | 3,120 | 1,713 | 1,479 |
| Staff .. .. .. .. | 152 | 112 | *Nil.* | *Nil.* |
| Total .. | 2,658 | 3,232 | 17,113 | 1,479 |

The fall in the number of consultations is due to the fall in the strength of the college, but the increase in the lending library is due to the reduction of the period for which a student is allowed to have a book from a fortnight to one week.

An addendum to the catalogue comprising all the volumes added during 1896–97 and 1897–98 has been printed and incorporated with the catalogue.

7. *Occupation of Students.*—The following table expresses the results of a special return called for from students last month :—

| — | Employed. | Not employed. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| III (Senior) B.L. class .. .. .. .. | 51 | 178 | 229 |
| II (Intermediate) B.L. class .. .. .. .. | 22 | 106 | 128 |
| I (Junior) B.L. class .. .. .. .. .. | 32 | 172 | 204 |
| Pleadership class .. .. .. .. .. .. | 13 | 38 | 51 |
| Total .. | 118 | 494 | 612 |

8. *Scholarships*—(i) *Morehead Law Scholarship.*—The holder of the scholarship is P. G. Rama Aiyar, who stood highest in the last First Examination in Law held in May 1897. He is the only candidate whose name appeared in the first class.

(ii) *College Scholarships under Rule XI.*—A. Chakrapani continues to hold one of them and Muhammad Ali has been recommended for the other scholarship (*vide* my letter, No. 50, dated 30th March 1898).

9. *Financial.*—The following table shows the receipts and expenditure for 1897–98 as compared with 1896–97 :—

| — | Receipts. | Expenditure. | Net profit. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. |
| 1896–97 .. .. .. .. | 65,854 1 6 | 42,644 4 3 | 23,209 13 3 |
| 1897–98 .. .. .. .. | 59,435 10 0 | 50,959 8 4 | 8,476 1 8 |

The decrease of over Rs. 6,400 in income was due to the large decrease in the strength of the junior class in 1897, which on joining numbered only 152 (as against 273 in 1895–96) and has gradually fallen to 128. The decrease in income consequent thereon was, however, largely lessened by the increase in the numbers of the junior and Pleadership classes of this year. The increase of Rs. 8,315–4–0 in expenditure over the figures of 1896–97 is due to the expenditure of Rs. 12,000 of the furniture grant referred to in paragraph 2 of this report. Otherwise, the net profit on the institution to Government for 1897–98 would have been only Rs. 2,733–11–7 (Rs. 23,209–13–3—8,476–1–8—12,000) less than in the previous year.

10. My thanks are due to the members of the staff, all of whom have greatly assisted me in the working of the college.

**Proceedings No. 6762 of 1898.**

The only important events of the year were the completion of the new college buildings and the arrangements made for furnishing them.

2. *Staff.*—There were only two changes in the staff during the year. Mr. J. G. Smith and M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur C. Ramachandra Rau Sahib took leave during the second term of 1897 and the first term of 1898, respectively, and the vacancy thus caused was filled by the gradual promotion of the Assistant Professors and of the Junior Professor on the staff, M.R.Ry. T. Rangachariyar, B.A., B.L., having been appointed to the last place. The full complement of the sanctioned staff continued to work the whole year.

3. *Accommodation.*—The new college buildings have been completed and estimates have also been sanctioned for the required furniture. The Director is glad to note that the contractors are pushing on the work with all possible speed and that the next term will see the college established in the new premises.

4. *Library.*—Eighty-two volumes were added to the library during the year ; but better use should have been made of it by the students. The Principal will do well to issue a revised catalogue brought up to date in order to facilitate reference and to enhance the usefulness of the library.

5. *Strength and attendance.*—The annexed statement compares the strength of the several classes of the college at the close of the last two years :—

| — | Senior B.L. class. | Intermediate B.L. class. | Junior B.L. class. | Pleadership class. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31st March 1897 .. .. .. .. .. | 191 | 246 | 152 | 31 | 620 |
| ,, 1898 .. .. .. .. .. | 229 | 128 | 204 | 51 | 612 |

On the 31st March 1897, the strength stood at 620 and on the 31st March last it fell to 612. This decrease is due to the fact that, owing to the large number of failures in the English Language division of the B.A. Examination of January 1897,



the first or Junior B.L. class of 1897 contained only 152 students, and in consequence the second or intermediate B.L. class of 1898 had only 128 students. The increase in the strength of the Pleadership class is gratifying. The classification of students according to the classes of the community presents no marked fluctuations. But the gradual decrease in the number of Muhammadans from eight on 31st March 1895 to seven in 1896, six in 1897 and five in 1898 only tends to show, as rightly pointed out by the Principal, that even the system of half fees and the award of special scholarships have failed to attract this class of the community to the study of law. The particulars given in the report in regard to the districts from which the students are drawn show that Tanjore, as usual, takes the lead, while Malabar comes next, closely followed by Madras ; Nilgiris occupies the last place, and Kurnool is the only district not represented. The Director again doubts the accuracy of the figures given in paragraph 7 of the report regarding the occupation of the students. In his letter, No. 1, dated 5th January last, the Principal mentioned it as one of the reasons for the disparity between the number of students in the senior and the intermediate classes and the number actually appearing for the Law Examinations, that a very large majority of the students have some form of employment or other, not necessarily Government service, to occupy them during the best hours of the day ; and he stated that the figures given in the annual reports were misleading. In Proceedings, No. 2094, dated 2nd March 1898, the Principal was requested to see that perfectly accurate figures were collected ; but the figures given in paragraph 7, according to which only 118 out of the 612 students are returned as employed, do not appear to be reliable, though the Principal says that a special return was called for from the students. If they are reliable, his statement that a very large majority of the students have some form of employment or other, and his explanation based on that statement cannot be accepted.

6. *Examinations.*—For the First Examination in Law of May 1897, 245 students appeared direct from the college, and of these 74 passed—an improvement on the previous year, the percentage having risen from 21·5 to 30. The students who went up for the examination at the close of their fifth term of study fared better than those who went up at the close of the third term. Apparently, the instruction received by the students during the first three terms has to be supplemented by a year's private study in most cases. At the B.L. Examination, the percentage passed was almost the same as in the previous year, 10 having passed out of 35 entrants against 25 out of 88, though the strength of the senior B.L. class at the time of examination was as high as 191. To explain the disparity between the number of students on the rolls and the number actually appearing at and the number passing the B.L. Examination, the Principal gives three main reasons : first, the late admission to the first class, second, the absence of a provision in the rules prohibiting those who have not passed the First Examination in Law from continuing their studies further, and third, the fact that a very great majority of the students have some form of employment or other. The third reason is not borne out by the figures given in paragraph 7. The first and second have formed the subject of much correspondence. The first difficulty would be to some extent overcome if the B.A. Examination were held in December instead of January. Government will again be addressed in view to removing the second difficulty.

For the Pleadership Examination held in February last, 24 students appeared direct from the college, but only seven passed with one for the first grade.

7. *College Council.*—There was no change in the constitution of the Council. Mr. H. G. Wedderburn who has left Madras not having resigned his seat, no one has yet been appointed in his place. Two meetings of the Council were held during the year to consider the appointment of the staff for the two terms of the year.

8. *Finance.*—In consequence of the fall in the strength, there was a fall also in the fee-income from Rs. 65,854 during 1896–97 to Rs. 59,436 during 1897–98. The charges, including scholarships, but excluding the expenditure of Rs. 12,000 on furniture to the new buildings, aggregated Rs. 38,960 as against Rs. 42,644, and the year thus closed with a surplus balance of Rs. 20,476 in its favour.

9. *General.*—No information is given in the report as to what steps have been taken to bring out the college calendar. In Proceedings, No. 2094, dated 2nd March

1898, the Principal was informed that the issue of the calendar need not be delayed till the removal of the college to the new buildings. He is requested to report when it will be issued.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) D. DUNCAN,
*Director of Public Instruction.*

To the Principal, Law College, with ten spare copies.
„ Principals of other Government Colleges.
„ Inspectors of Schools.
„ the President, College Council, with spare copies.
„ the Honourable the Chief Justice, with C.L.
„ the „ the Advocate-General, with C.L.
„ the Government, with C.L.

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Order—No. 608, Educational, dated 29th September 1898.

Recorded with the following remarks:—

(1) The further decrease in the strength of the college has been satisfactorily explained.

(2) The results of the University Examinations compare favourably with those of the previous year, though they have not materially improved. The percentage of passes at the Pleadership Examination fell from nearly 48 to 29, but no explanation has been furnished for this great falling off.

(3) The college should be removed to its new premises at an early date.

(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

# Educational (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 921

736/97
850/98
678/97
138/97
69/96
167/96

*From* The Dir of Pub. Instn
Bombay

*Order*

No. 773

*Dated* 18th July 1898.
*Received* 20/7/98
*Registered* 20/7/98
*Enclosures* Nil.
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SUBJECT.

Forwarding a copy of Prof. reviewing the report on the working of the Law College during 1897-98.

DESPATCHED
19 JUL 1898

## BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 736 Misc | Edn | 13-12-97 |
| | 678 Misc | — " — | 25-11-97 |
| | 138 Misc | — " — | 6-3-97 |
| | 169 Misc | — " — | 26-3-96 |
| | 69 Misc | — " — | 5-2-96 |
| | 850 Sec | — " — | 28-10-95 |

## FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[ G / 24 ]
1,000-18-9-97.

Ed DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings :--

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .

Current No. 921 of 1898, dated 18th July , from the D.P.I.

" " " 189 , " , "

" " " 189 , " , "

ORDER. No 608 of 29-9-98
P. S.

Recorded with the following remarks :-

(1) The further decrease in the Strength of the College has been satisfactorily explained.

(2) The results of the University Examinations compare favourably with those of the previous year though they have not materially improved. The percentage of passes at the Pleadership Examination fell from nearly 48 to 29 but no explanation has been furnished for this great falling-off.

(3) The College should be removed to its new premises at an early date. H.L. 29-9-98

28.9.98

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How to yonget
Comparative
as
please see
note attached
WB
17-9-98

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Editors' Table

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