I 22/9

Educational (189) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 631

Dated 19-9-99

INDEXED.

21-21

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording, with remarks, the report of the D. P. I. on the ~~alleged~~ subject of the alleged decadence of the Kumbakonam College.

F 22/9

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[G/24 .]
100 -14-2-98.

Ed. DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

~~Current~~ Do (Public dept) No. 727 of 1898, dated 7th Oct , from the P. S.

" " " 189 , " , "

" " " 189 , " , "

~~ORDER.~~ D.M. No 10: d/ 25.10.98.

With reference to the enclosed extracts from the address presented to H. E. the Governor by the residents of Kumbakonam and from his reply thereto; the D.P.I is requested to be good enough to submit a report on the subject of the alleged decadence of the Kumbakonam College.

23 10 98

22-10-98. 23/10/98

Note. Please see pp 56 & 60 of the file of addresses & replies below - pages marked with red tape.

To The D.P.I.
with extracts referred to

Copied & desp. 25/10/98 25.10.98

Educational (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1606

N

To lie over till the printed copies of H. E. the Governor's tour addresses referred to are ~~issued~~ ~~from the Press~~ received.

ade
11/1/99

Memo 10/98

Ed. Clerk [illegible] 9597

when? [illegible] this lie over for Clear
ade
10/1/99

Copy
1058-9/98

DESPATCHED
9 DEC 1898

7.7.R.
10-1-99

Please see on 10/25-10-98 Flag C.
The address is necessary for the consideration of the question.
T.R.
10.1.99

Order

From The Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

No. 13908

Dated 9th December 1898.

Received
Registered } 10—12—98

Enclosures nil.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting a report on the subject of the alleged decadence of the Kumbakonam College with reference to memorandum No. 10 of 25th October 1898.

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

The Director of Public
Instruction,
Madras

December 1898

subject of the
alleged decadence of
the Kumbakonam College

Cl CURRENT No. 1606

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction,
Madras, 9th December 1898.

No. 13908

From

The Honorable Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.SC., LL.D.,
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras,

To

The Secretary to Government,
Educational Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to Memorandum No 10, dated 25th October last, I have the honour to submit the following report on the subject of the alleged decadence of the Kumbakonam College.

2. The allegation made by the residents of Kumbakonam regarding the Kumbakonam College is, no doubt, true so far as the numerical strength of the College is concerned, as will be seen from the following statement showing the number on the rolls of the several College classes during the past six years, and also at the beginning and end of the decade 1882

Class	1881-82	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96	1896-97	1897-98
Senior B.A.class	22	38	34	61	61	46	42	22
Junior B.A.class	53	28	60	31	23	22	13	21
Senior F.A.class	97	99	84	65	62	40	59	70
Junior F.A.class	98	83	49	40	23	61	58	46
Total	270	248	227	197	169	169	172	159
No from the Tanjore District	250	223	203			164	146	145

In 1881-82 the number of students on the rolls of the College classes rose to the highest figure on record, viz, 270 and the institution reached, as it were, the zenith of its prosperity. During the decade ending with 1891-92, there were considerable fluctuations in the strength of the College, and the number of students on the rolls at one time, dwindled down to 209. This depression was however only temporary, and by the close of 1891-92 the strength had risen again to 248. Since then, there has been a steady decline and on the 31st March last there were only 159 students on the rolls, this being the lowest number on record. Various circumstances have led to this decline, but before explaining these, I would make a few remaks regarding the staff of the College and its work, so far as this can be tested by the results of the public examinations.

3. The late Mr. W.A.Porter and Rao Bahadur T.Gopala Rau, the two distinguished educationists referred to, in the address presented to His Excellency by the residents of Kumbakonam, severed their connection with the College in June 1879 and August 1883 respectively. Since then the office of ~~the~~ Principal has till very recently, been filled by a European. It was only from March 1897 that the College was placed under a native Principal, and even this was only a temporary arrangement necessitated by some members of the Indian Educational Service, including the permanent Principal, having been absent on furlough. This arrangement has just ceased, and a European graduate has again been placed at the head of the institution. The staff of Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers consists entirely of native graduates, who are mostly specialists, and who have had considerable experience in teaching college classes. Judging from their qualifications and service and also from the results of the University Examinations recorded in the various reports on the College, it may be inferred that the members of the staff have been discharging their duties efficiently, and His Excellency's statement made in the course of his reply to the address presented to him that the College "is possessed of a full and able staff" is quite true. It is also true that the [illegible] is fairly furnished with [illegible] equipment and furniture might be improved a little. The causes of the decadence of the College must therefore be sought elsewhere, and these I now proceed to explain.

4. The first and the most potent of these causes is, as rightly surmised by His Excellency, the springing up of ~~the~~ two other educational institutions in the neighbouring district of Trichinopoly, viz, Saint Joseph's College and the S.P.G. College, which not only cut off the supply of students from ~~this~~ Trichinopoly and other adjoining districts, but attracted students from the district of Tanjore itself. As the Fee Notification has left it entirely at the discretion of the managers of aided institutions to levy whatever fees they like, the authorities of the two colleges in Trichinopoly levy fees which are much lower than the standard rates laid down in the Fee Regulations; and, further, they increase the attractiveness of these colleges, by granting free scholarships, which is not allowed in institutions under public management. The consequence is, that students belonging to the poorer classes, as well as those belonging to the lower middle classes join the Trichinopoly Colleges in preference to the Kumbakonam College.

5. The second cause is the growing popularity and attractiveness of the first grade colleges in the Presidency town. Well-to-do students are drawn to these colleges by the attractiveness of city life, by the wide range of the optional subjects for the teaching of which provision is made, and by the reputation which the Madras Colleges have, of being provided with better appliances for the teaching of physical and natural science. The Kumbakonam College is without any provision for the teaching of physical and natural sciences. Prior to the year 1881-82, only one of the three optional subjects, then prescribed for the B.A. degree Examination, used to be taught, viz, Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and the two B.A. classes together had only 49 students on the rolls on the 31st March 188[illegible]. Logic and Moral Philosophy and Physical Science were introduced early in 1882 and 1883 respectively and [illegible]quently the number of students in the two B.A. classes toge[illegible] on the 31st March 1882 and 1883 was 75 and 77 respectively, as against 49 in 1881. On the introduction of the new curricula for the B.A. degree examination in 1886, a new section was opened for the benefit of those students who wished to take up History and Political Economy.

Thus from 1886 to 1890 as many as four optional subjects were taught in the College, viz Mathematics, Physics, Mental and Moral Science and History, against one, viz. Mathematics, up to 1881. This accounts for the fact that the College showed no signs of decadence during the decade ending with 1891-92. In 1890 one of the optional subjects, viz. Physics, was abolished and, consequently, the number of students in the B.A. classes on the 31st March 1890 was only 58 as against 74 on the correspnnding date in 1889. As rightly remarked by Mr. Bilderbeck in his report on the College for 1889-90, the abolition of the Science Classes was a serious blow to the prestige of the college. But this could not be helped. The appointment of a Professor of Physics in the Presidency College rendered the abolition of the Science lectureship in the Kumbakonam College an absolute necessity, on financial grounds. Of the three subjects which remained, Mental and Moral Science had to be given up in 1897 temporarily, owing to the paucity of students taking up that subject, and hence there are at present only two optional subjects taught, viz. Mathematics and History.

6. The third cause was the introduction of the new scheme relating to the Matriculation Examination in 1892, which seriously affected the strength of the F.A. classes in the Kumbakonam College as well as in the other colleges in the Presidency.

7. The fourth cause is the presence of a large number of natives of the Tanjore district in the town of Madras who are in the service of Government or are engaged in the learned professions. These generally prefer to send their sons and other relations to the Colleges in Madras in order that they may avoid the expense of keeping up a separate establishment in their native district. This partly accounts for the large number of Tanjore students in the Colleges in Madras, who might otherwise have attended the Kumbakonam College.

8. From the preceding paragraphs, it will be seen, that the failure of the Kumbakonam College to keep up its former reputation as "the Cambridge of ~~the~~ Southern India", so far as is evidenced by the steady decline in the number of students on its rolls, is, mainly due to circumstances over which Government and the College staff have no control. I am also inclined to think that a change ~~which~~ has come over public opinion in Kumbakonam, Since the days of Mr. Porter and Rao Bahadur Gopala Rau, and that this has something to do with it. During the time of these two distinguished educationists, the standard by which the work done in the College was judged by the residents of Kumbakonam was not so high as it is now. The present generation who have had the benefit of Western Culture and who have received their education from Mr. Porter and Rao Bahadur Gopala Rau, are naturally more critical in their estimate of the local College as it is now, than in their estimate of it in the days of their own teachers. I venture to say, without meaning any disrespect to the memory of the two former Principals, that the circumstances which have led to the decline of the College are such that even they, had they continued in service, would have failed to keep up the former strength and reputation of the institution.

9. The residents of Kumbakonam say that "their countrymen would gladly send their sons to a secular institution in preference to mission institutions" and request, therefore, that such steps be taken as may bring the Kumbakonam College up again to the position it occupied in the past. To this I would only repeat what His Excellency has already said, viz, that the remedy is in their own hands. If they really value the Kumbakonam College and the secular education they get there, more than they value the education imparted in mission institutions, they must make up their minds rather to pay the higher fees levied in the Kumbakonam College," in order to secure the advantages to which they profess to attach importance, than to save a little money and lose them". As a matter of fact, they prefer to save a little money by sending their sons to the cheaper mission institutions, and allow the College they profess to value so much to decline.

10. As regardstheir contention that their district has a special claim for favourable consideration in the matter of higher education, and that "the Kumbakonam College, being the only secular College under departmental management for the whole of the populous tract to the South of Madras, deserves to be kept up in a state of efficiency", I would point out that their district receives its due share of funds at the disposal of the Department. I would also refer Government to the figures recorded in the last two reports on

Public Instruction, from which Government will see how much the Kumbakonam College benefits the people of Tanjore and how little it benefits the students belonging to the other districts of the Presidency. It therefore rests with the people of Tanjore to see that the numerical strength and the financial condition of the College improve. If this indifference on the part of the residents of Tanjore to the welfare of an institution, which benefits them so much, continue, Government will hardly be justified in maintaining the College. From the marginal statement it will be seen that the net cost to Government on account of the College during the past seven years is, on an average, over a quarter of lakh of rupees per year. It was in view of this heavy cost and of the limited sphere within which the usefulness of the College is circumscribed, that I wrote to some of the influential residents of Kumbakonam in 1896, inquiring whether any local Committee or body would be prepared to take over the management of the institution. The reply I received was not encouraging, and as Government did not agree with me in my views regarding the transfer of the Mangalore College to a local committee, I abandoned the idea altogether.

	Net cost Rs.
1891-92	24478
1892-93	24564
1893-94	27813
1894-95	27619
1895-96	30061
1896-97	33600
1897-98	21803

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

D Duncan

Director of Public Instruction.

Exd
7. Rs

[G./9]
1,000—11-8-98.

GR

(189) Department.

D. O. No. 67 A

From Dr. Duncan

D. O.

No.

Dated 29-5-99

Received
Registered } 31-5-99

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding the views of Messrs. Bilderbeck & Stone on the question of the decadence of the Kumbakonam College.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

D.O.

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT 30-MAY-1899

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION MADRAS 30 MAY 1899

Ootacamund.
26th May 1899.

Put up with former file
30/5/99

Dear Mr Duncan.

I have to reply to your D.O. of the 21st inst.

I think it must be admitted that the Kumbakonam College does not retain its former prestige in view of (1) the fact that a large number of students from the Tanjore District prefer for one reason or another to read in other Colleges, & (2) the fact that the College has not been particularly successful in recent years in the University examinations.

Many reasons may be offered & have been offered in explanation of its so called decadence, but I do not propose to enter into all these here, as the official statements regarding the work & position of the College are not accessible to me & as it is extremely probable that the adequacy & pertinence of some of these reasons would not be generally admitted. I shall confine myself to a few practical suggestions in view to the improvement of the present state of things.

In the first place, it is my opinion that the College has greatly suffered in recent years on account of the uncertainty that hangs over its future. For many years past there has been a belief among the people of the Tanjore District that it is the intention of Government to withdraw from the direct management of the College, & I wish to emphasize the fact that this uncertainty as to the future of the College is calculated to impair its efficiency, more especially by exercising a blighting influence on the work & aspirations of the members of the College Staff who can hardly be expected to identify their own interests with the interests of the College & to throw all their energy into the advancement of its prosperity. On the one hand, it may be in the interests of a sound educational policy - viewed in relation to the wants of the Presidency as a whole - that Government should withdraw from the responsibility of maintaining a College at Kumbakonam; on the other hand, there may be, & no doubt are, special reasons why Government should continue direct management of the College. This is a question on which Government should make a clear & an early declaration o its policy. If Government has no immediate intention of withdrawing fro the direct management of the College, I think it would be well if this were clearly & authoritatively stated & if the stability of the College were guarantee for a definite term of years.

In the second place, there can be no doubt that the prestige of the College was greatly injured when, some years ago, Government decided on abolishing the Science chair in the College, closing the Science classes & transfering the apparatus in the laboratory to the Presidency College. This measu was without doubt necessary in the interests of departmental administration, more especially in view of the higher claims of the Presidency College, but all the same it damaged the prestige of the Kumbakonam College & to some extent provided grounds for the belief mentioned in the preceding paragraph. I respectfully submit my opinion that, if it is proposed to retain the College for some years, the introduction of Science teaching would be a step in the right direction. Many reasons of a general or special nature might be advanced in support of the proposal, but it is not open to me to deal with these. I recommend this course solely on the ground that it will greatly increase the usefulness & efficiency of the College & contribute largely to the restoration of some of its lost prestige. In this connection, I would remark that the adoption of this suggestion

(1) would not involve a heavy permanent addition to the charges, for the Science classes might take the place of the classes in Logic & Morals-classes which, on an average of several years, have not been particularly strong & which I do not think are required at Kumbakonam.

(2) would enable Government to utilize the services of Mr Rungachariar a Science man who is now on the Staff of the College.)

In the third place, the School Fee Notification has to some extent prejudiced a College which possesses no special characteristics that give it an exceptional strength of position by prescribing comparatively high rates of fee for students reading in the College. Much may be said in favour of the policy of free-trade underlying the Notification, but it is obvious that, when high standard rates are leviable in the case of Government Colleges while aided institutions are a liberty to charge what fees they please, the latter, in order to attract students, will under the former & also one another, & that this tendency must continue so long as Gove grants are assigned to aided Colleges without any reference to the act

[illegible]

Instruction, it fell to my lot to write a considerable portion of the Administration Report for the quinquennium 1892-1897, & I pointed ou in this Report that while, during the quinquennium, the fees from Government institutions had considerably risen, the fees payable in aided Colleg had considerably fallen in amount. In plain language this result mea that the State has been called upon to support institutions which are unwilli to do what they can to help themselves, & which by endeavouring to underbid one another, exercise a demoralizing influence on parents & students. In these circumstances, Government institutions, exceptional cases aside, cannot participate to the same extent as aided institutions in any expansion that might take place in the number of students who seek the higher education. In the particular case of the Kumbakonam College, the rates of fee leviable are slightly lower than the rates obtaining in the Presidency College, & are considerably higher - or were so a year or two ago - than those in the Christian College, though the high prestige of these colleges place them above all suspicion of competition with the Kumbakonam College. As a matter of fact, the latter College is in competition with three colleges situated on the line of the S. I. Railway, & I have it on good authority that the fees charged in two of these colleges is about one sixth of the rates at Kumbakonam. If it is remembered that the cost of board & lodging for a student in Kumbakonam is about the same as in Trichinopoly & Tanjore, it can easily be understood why parents of students in the Tanjore District - religious prejudices notwithstanding - prefer to send their sons to more distant missionary Colleges. If Government is prepared to retain the Kumbakonam College & at the same time is not prepared to make any changes in the Grant-in-Aid Code, then it seems to me that the only course open to Government is to sanction a substantial reduction in the rates of fee leviable in the College. As this reduction will in all probability be followed by a considerable increase in the numerical strength of the College, the total of fee receipts will hardly be affected.

I think I have shown that the Kumbakonam College is severely handicapped by the comparatively high rates of fee obtaining in it, tho possibly it may be deemed unwise to lower these rates of fee. In this alternative, I beg permission to throw out the suggestion that it might be possible so to modify the terms of the Grant-in-Aid Code as to make it incumbent on Aided Colleges to raise their rates of fee.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I have not considered it

necessa

necessary to consider any proposals to improve the College by strengthening the Staff, more especially by the appointment of a European Vice-Principal, as such proposals, in view of financial exigencies, seem to me to be outside the limits of the practicable.

I am,

yours truly

J. B. Bilderbeck

D. O.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction,

Ootacamund ~~Madras,~~ 29 May 1899.

My dear Hammick

With reference to your D. O. of the 9th inst. I enclose letters from Mr. Bilderbeck & Mr. Stone, giving their views regarding the decadence of the Kumbakonam College.

Truly yours

D Duncan

D. O.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE,
RAJAHMUNDRY,
22nd May 1899.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
23 MAY. 1899
MADRAS

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
30 MAY 1899
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Dear Dr Duncan

Put up with former file
30 v 99

I suppose there is no reasonable doubt that the competition of other colleges has caused Kumbakonam to lose both in numbers and importance since the time of Mr Porter. I think how-

of the Lectureship in Physical Science
was more than recovered in my time.
I do not know whether in recent
years the competition of other colleges has grown
more acute. The only important fact I can
remember about them is the retirement of
Mr Dodson from the S.P.C.K. College Trichinopoly
which I should imagine may have weakened it.
It is not only in lowness of fees that these
colleges compete with Kumbakonam, but
by the provision of cheap board and lodging
arrangements, and the offer of scholarships
and help from poor funds. This latter I be-
lieve is a special feature of St Joseph's.

ever you will find that while I was there there was a steady gain in numbers and on the whole in efficiency as far as that can be judged by the results in the University Examinations. I remember especially that the decline in the strength of the BA classes due to the abolition

The competition of Madras colleges is of course also felt severely in Kumbakonam. I daresay this is more acute since the S.I.R. so much improved its train service shortly before I left. Roughly speaking I should say that the better off residents send their sons to Madras and, that the more able of the poorer ~~and more~~ boys go to Tanjore and Trichinopoly leaving those of moderate means and ability for the college.

As far as I know the Staff is at present about equal to what it was in my time, except for the loss, of course inevitable, of Mr Seshaya whose local influence did a good deal for the college. At the same time it cannot be doubted that the want of a European principal, able to teach English with success, must always tell against the college.

No doubt the Governor's argument that the people do not appreciate the advantages of the College sufficiently to make them pay the higher rate of fees is correct. But I imagine the answer to it that the residents might be expected to make – viz "Prove that the advantages offered at present by the College are worth the higher fees. (one advantage of course being its "secular" character)" would be a little difficult to meet.

As I presume that you are considering means by which the prosperity of the College may be restored. perhaps I may remark that two things in particular have helped the aided institutions in competing with it. The abolition of the Physical Science lectureship and of free scholarships. The restoration of the former would be very expensive and would prejudicially affect the Presidency College. but has been pretty continuous since I left.

If this is not the case I should say that the petitioners criticism of its present condition is ~~was~~ as empty and stereotyped as their references to the Cambridge of Southern India and the palmy days of Messrs Porter and Stalton. Is it not the case that during the principalship of the latter gentleman the College was in a by no means satisfactory state?

Yours sincerely

J H Stone

I have never been able to understand why a reasonable proportion of free scholarships should not be granted on the results of ~~a~~ competitive examinations limited to candidates of proved poverty.

I have had to write without reference to papers and have assumed that the falling off in the strength of the college

E/& L. Dept.
1,000—11-2-99.

NOTE FOR THE A. S.

The file re. the decadence of the Kumbakonam college is submitted. H.M. says in his note that the opinion of the Hon. Mr Stuart should be obtained when he comes back from England. It is supposed that the file should lie over till then

Secy for orders
TB
2/6/99

ak
2/6/99

Gov. wait till Mr Stuart returns & then send to him through D. D. for Report

Office note
ak
7/6

G.
9
1,000—11-8-98.

Edl (1899) Department.

D. O. No. 76

From Dr. Duncan
D. P. I.

D. O.

No.

Dated 15-8-99

Received } 22-8-99
Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding the views of the Hon'ble Mr C. H. Stuart on the question of the decadence of the Kumbakonam College

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

D. O.

The Presidency College,

Madras, Aug 14. 1899.

My dear Duncan,

It is so long since I was at Kumbakonam that I am hardly able to speak with any authority on the subject of the College. It is not very clear what is meant by the "decadence" of the College. I believe the results of the teaching as tested by the University Examinations are still good. I suppose what is meant is that the number of students has seriously decreased in the last ten years or so. The petitioners say that their "Countrymen would gladly send their sons to a secular institution in preference to mission institutions whenever possible." There is nothing to prevent them doing so now, and if that is all they want, the remedy, as H. E. the Governor said in his reply, is in their own hands. But if it is true, as I am informed, that the fees in the neighbouring Colleges vary from about Rs 4 a term at St Joseph's College Trichinopoly to about Rs 20 a term in Tanjore then I do not wonder that parents send their sons to these cheaper Colleges, where the education given is alm as good, rather than to Kumbakonam where the fees are over Rs 4 a term. If an Englis Principal were again placed at the head of the College, and kept there, I believe the numbers would go up; but no great increase can be expected unless the fees at Kumbakon

are made approximately equal to those at Tanjore & Trichinopoly, either by lowering those at Kumbakonam or by insisting on higher fees at the other places. But the alteration of the fee regulations is a large question & I take it that I am not expected to suggest remedies.

I suppose there is no chance of getting any public body with sufficient funds to take over the Kumbakonam College bodily. That would be the best thing to do with it if it could be done, but it would mean many lakhs of rupees & the patriotic Hindu will hardly rise to it.

Yours sincerely

G H Stuart

D.O.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction,

Madras, 15 Aug 1899.

Put w/ papers

My dear Hammick

With reference to Mr. Weir's D.O. dated 25th ult asking me to ascertain Mr. Stuart's views on the question of the decadence of the Kumbakonam College, I beg to enclose the reply just received.

Truly yours

D Duncan

[E. & L. / 1]
500—19-11-98.

1

Educational DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings :—

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Again G.O , No. , dated 189 .
Current No. 1606 of 1898, dated 9th Dec. , from the D.P.I
" " " 189 , " " "
" " " 189 , " " "

Note

Recirculated to H.M. with reference to the note of H.E. perhaps the best plan would be to send a D.O. to Dr. Duncan asking him to obtain Messrs Bredenbeck's & Stone's opinions. I am aware Mr Stuart knows a good deal about the matter as he was head of the College for some time — but he has gone to England for the Vacation. Page 711 of the book herewith submitted.

{H.M. & H.E.

3.5.99.

Ask him when he comes back. The other replies will hardly come in before the end of the vacation. Pages 718 & 719 of do.

M.A. 8.5.99.

FOR ORDERS

In their address presented to His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of His Excellency's visit to Kumbakonam in 1898, the residents of Kumbakonam brought to notice that the local College had not been able in recent years to maintain its high position and prayed that steps might be taken to bring it up again to the position it occupied in the past. In reply His Excellency promised that their representations would be enquired into and that the necessary measures would be taken to remedy matters if it was found that there were any removable causes for the alleged decadence of the College. In memo No 10 dt 10th October 1898 (e) a report was called for on the subject from the D.P.I and the [illegible] his reply. He states that the allegation is true so far as the numerical strength is concerned, there having been a steady fall in it from 270 in 1881-82 to 248 in 1891-92 & 159 in 1897-98. He thinks however that this is not due to any fault on the part of the staff but to the following causes:–

(1) The establishment of two Colleges in the neighbouring district of Trichinopoly in which fees are levied at rates much lower than the standard rates and in which free scholarships are granted

(2) The growing popularity & attractiveness of the first grade Colleges in the Presidency town in which provision is made for the teaching of a wide range of optional subjects and in which better appliances are provided for the teaching of physical & natural Science. (In the Kumbakonam College only two optional subjects – mathematics & History – are now taught)

(3) The introduction of the new scheme relating to the Matriculation Examination which seriously affected the strength of the F.A. classes &

What scheme is referred to?
AE
12/4/99

Please see para 66 page 64 of the Report on Public Instruction for 1896-97 & for the Quinquennium 1892-93 to 1896-97
F.B.
P.S.
12/4/99

(4) The presence of a large number of natives of the Tanjore Dist. in the Town of Madras, and in the learned professions or as Govt. servants. These prefer to send their sons and other relations to the College in Madras.

For these reasons the D.P.I. thinks that the decadence of the Kumbakonam College is due to circumstances over which Govt. and the College staff have no control and it is submitted that this opinion may be accepted and the current simply recorded.

The D.P.I. also states that the district of Tanjore receives its due share of the funds at the disposal of the Educational Depart. and that the net cost of the College amounting to about a quarter of a lakh of rupees a year is already very high.

Secy.

The letter of the D.P.I. may be recorded with the remark that Govt. agrees with the Director's views & a copy of the order & letter sent to the Residents of Kumbakonam.

AE
13/4/99

21.iv.99

I agree generally with the D.P.I. & with the proposed G.O.

If the people of Tanjore do not avail themselves of the College it will be a question as to whether the College should continue to be maintained by Govt.

With ref. to para 9. of the letter of the D.P.I. I think there is little doubt that the abolition of the fee notifn. under which all Govt. aided institutions were required to levy fees not less than a fixed minimum is at the bottom of much of the falling off in the Kumbha College. I have asked the Rev. Dr. Miller to let me have his views on this important matter. The change has worked great mischief in inducing schools to compete against one another by constant reductions of fees, and it will have to be [illegible]idered whether the advantage of freedom to ~~in the~~ levy ~~of~~

fees however small, in Govt aided institutions, outweigh the drawbacks.

ASA 24.4.99

~~I have no doubt that in the causes stated by the Director the falling off in numbers at the Kumbakonam College is in part [illegible]. But, it is possible there may be other and removable causes to which the Director may not be alive. As my Hon. Colleague does not object, I should like to know the views on the question held by Mr Bilderbeck and by Mr Stone, who both of them have recently been Principals at the College.~~

~~I await, with interest, the further conclusions on the rates of fees, which the Hon. Mr [illegible] may form, on the receipt of Dr Miller's opinion.~~

~~[illegible] 2.5.99~~

Certainly
ASA.

* Dr Miller has not yet written. The present D.P.I. is strongly in favour of the present system. Under the old fee system he says there was constant falsification of school registers.

ASA 8.8.99

Secy

As ordered by H.E. & Hon. the views of Messrs Stone, Bilderbeck & Stuart on the Question of the decadence of the Kumbakonam [illegible] of the [illegible] have been obtained and are [illegible]mitted. ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] in the [illegible]

[L. & M.]
500—4-3-99.

~~Local and Municipal~~ Edl Department.

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Current No. of 189 , dated from the
Current No. of 189 , dated from the

Recirculated to Hon. with reference to note below —

[illegible] 31.viii.99

Hon & H.E. to Govr

SUBJECT

FOR ORDERS.

What has been done with the Rev. Dr Miller's letter some about the fee system. Was it not sent to the D.P.I. for his remarks & has any reply been received.

ASA 29.8.99.

Nothing is known in the Office about any letter from Dr Miller. I do not remember ~~to have~~ to have seen any such letter & there is no record of any such letter in the Office.

[illegible] 31.viii.99

~~[illegible]~~

[illegible] asked Dr.

With reference to H.E.'s note within, the D.O.s from Messrs Stone, Stuart & Bilderbeck are submitted with regard to the Kumbakonam College. They do not throw much more light on the matter. The following are the points with reference to which the College at Kumbakonam is handicapped in its competition with other Schools.

(a). Higher fees. The fees at Kumb[akonam] appear to average about R 40 per term compared with — from Rs 4 to R 2[illegible] at other competing Mission Colleges.

(b) The want for some time of a European Principal —

(c) The abolition of the Professor of Physical Science.

(d)

(e). The uncertainty of the future of the College. There seems to be a feeling abroad that the school may be closed before long & this has a bad effect on pupils & teachers.

Mr. Bilderbeck suggests an arrangement by which Physical Science might be taught by a native Professor (Rungachariar) suggesting that the teaching of Moral Science & Logic be given up as this subject attracts few pupils.

This suggestion might be considered by the D.P.I.

The new Hostel will get rid part of the difficulty as to cheap rent & lodging.

The real difficulty, however, arises from the greater cost of Education [at] the Govt College and there is [no] way apparently of getting over [this] except by an alteration of the notification which was submitted [and could] not be carried out except by

of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

and in the learned [illegible]

A.S.H.

Yes. This is the root of the matter

A.S.H.

On the whole it is submitted that the G.O. originally suggested might issue & at the same time the D.P.I.'s attention might be drawn to Mr. Bilderbeck's suggestion as to Physical Science teaching.

After all the Hindus of Tanjore really want a Hindu College and considering the wealth of Tanjore, they might be expected to provide for one of their own. As it is the Government spends over a quarter of lakh per annum on ~~teaching~~ giving the sons of richer classes in Tanjore a College Education.

28. viii. 99

The fee question is a large & complicated one. It will be discussed by the D.P.I. in his next annual report — vide his note attached.

Meanwhile I think this file may be disposed of [b]y recording it & sending a copy of the G.O. & the D.P.I.'s letter C. No. 1606 to the Residents of Kumbhakonam. The suggestion on the opposite page has [to] be considered by the D.P.I.

D. O.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction,

Madras, 6 Aug 1899.

My dear Arundel

About Dr Miller's letter on the fee question. It was agreed that I should deal with it when I was writing that part of my annual report which touches on the matter.

I sent out a special circular calling for detailed information. This has for the most part come in & I hope to dispose of the matter in about two or three weeks from now.

Truly yours

D Drummer

[L. & M.]
500—4-2-99.

Educational
~~LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL~~ DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 .
Again G.O., No. dated 189 .
Current No. 1606 of 189 , dated 9th Dec 98 , from D.P.I.
" " , 189 , " , "
" " , 189 , " , "

His Excellency the Governor.

Issue.
JM
19.ix.99.

A.E.H.
18.9.99

ORDER. 631 dated 19/9/99
Mis

Recorded.

2. A copy of the letter from the Director of Public Instruction will be communicated to the Residents of Kumbakonam.

3. The Director will no doubt consider the suggestion that has been made by Mr. Bilderbeck that the teaching of Moral Science & Logic at the Kumbakonam College should be replaced by the teaching of Physical Science.

JM
10.ix.99

To
The D.P.I. 9 to
" Collector of Tanj

T 22/9

b31 Ed 19/9/97

Recorded.

2. A copy of the letter from the Director of Public Instruction will be communicated to the Principal of Kumbakonam.

3. The Director will be asked to consider the suggestion that has been made by the Government that the teaching of Natural Science & Physics at the Kumbakonam College be replaced by the teaching of Physical Science.

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} 189 .

D. 21/9 (L: DPI)

25/9 G.O. (matter)

G.O., No. DATED

89 ,

No.

C. No.

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