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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 585	Press / Mis.
Dated 20 Oct	18 11.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 20th October 1871.

No. 101. Read the following letter from E. B. POWELL, Esq., M.A., C.S.I., Director of Public Instruction, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 9th October 1871, No. 1785 :—

I have the honour to submit the enclosed letter, dated the 12th ultimo, No. 482, from the Acting Inspector of Schools, 2nd Division, for the orders of Government.

2. I should, first of all, mention that the Government Order, 26th July 1871, No. 1157, was not communicated to me, and that I obtained a copy, after the receipt of Mr. Boyle's letter, from the Government Office.

3. It will be seen that Mr. Boyle considers Local Funds' Boards will not be able to afford assistance to results' grants schools until they have been in an efficient condition for two consecutive years ; that the effect of Government Order, dated the 30th June 1871, No. 265, is to authorize the imposition of the house-tax in unions in which none but results' grants schools exist, and in which these schools have not fulfilled the qualification of efficiency for two years ; and that the term Government grant-in-aid in the proviso to Section 36 of the Local Funds' Act includes results' grant.

4. After careful examination of the Act, the Local Fund Rules, and the several orders of Government passed, I cannot but differ from Mr. Boyle in the whole of the three cases.

5. My own impressions are—

I. That Local Funds' Boards, without forming unions, and without imposing the house-tax, should pay results' grants to all lower-class schools, without reference to the period of their existence, provided they are declared eligible for grants by certifying Educational Officers.

II. That Local Funds' Boards may, only under the special authority of Government, form unions and impose the house-tax.

(*a.*) If a rate school under the late Madras Education Act exists in a locality.

(*b.*) If a salary grant school of the lower grade is in existence.

(*c.*) If the inhabitants, or other persons, determine to establish a salary grant school of the lower grade.

(*d.*) If the Government determine to do so.

(*e.*) If the Local Funds' Boards determine to take over, and make permanent, a results' grants school which has passed 30 per cent. of its pupils for two years consecutively.

(*f.*) If Local Funds' Boards find it necessary to reimburse themselves for outlay on ordinary results' grant schools, *i. e.*, those not coming under the two years' qualification.

III. That the phrase "a school supported by a Government grant-in-aid" in the proviso attached to Section 36 of the Act, does not include a results' grants school, inasmuch as results' grants are given on special occasions, under specified conditions, and to the masters of results' grants schools alone. The schools cannot be said to be supported by a Government grant-in-aid, which undoubtedly is the case in regard to schools receiving salary grants.

6. Referring to the action of the Cuddapah Board, as stated in paragraph 9 of Mr. Boyle's letter, I think it irregular that the union should have been formed and the house-tax imposed, first, without the special sanction of Government; and, secondly, for the support of ordinary results' grants schools.

7. Turning to the correspondence with the Gooty Board sent up by Mr. Boyle, I think the action of the Board wrong on the same points noticed against Cuddapah, and in the further particular that the masters are to have half their salaries paid them. If, as the President of the Local Board finally says, he proposes to take over two schools only, those qualified under Rule XI., I see no objection, thereupon, to the formation of the union and the imposition of the house-tax; but if, as may be clearly seen, the proposal is to involve suspension of payments to all other results' grants schools, I think the course to be pursued decidedly incorrect, and that the Board should be instructed, in taking over the two schools, to continue payments to the others.

8. Mr. Boyle, it will be seen, relies upon the Order of Government of the 30th June last, No. 265, and he considers that all grants to schools of the lower class are chargeable to local funds: so far I agree; but when he goes on to say, "that is, by levy of the house-tax," I think him incorrect. My reading of the order* in question is that local funds shall be charged with all grants to schools of the lower class, with the help of the house-tax if salary grant schools exist; without it, if there are none but results' grants schools.

* Paragraph 6.

9. I should point out, however, that the conclusions I have come to in regard to the maintenance of lower class results' grant schools from local funds, unaided by the house-tax, are, to a great extent, if not entirely, inferences. I think it advisable, if I am correct, or not, that a special ruling on the subject should be passed by Government.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 20th October 1871, No. 585.

The Government regret to find that the orders which have been issued on the subject of the provision for educational grants-in-aid have been so misunderstood.

2. G. O., No. 1157, dated 26th July 1871, was merely intended to resolve the doubt raised by the President of the Local Fund Board, South Arcot, whether the house-tax was to be levied to reimburse the local fund for results' grants. The President's impression that it was not was declared to be correct. Results' grants are to be paid from the allotments made from general local funds; and Rule XI. merely declares that, when under the operation of this system schools have attained a certain degree of improvement and stability, the Local Fund Boards are to propose to Government to establish them permanently, and on the Government determining to do so, and sanctioning the formation of unions, the levy of the house-tax becomes lawful. With Mr. Boyle's misconstruction of the rule the evils which he apprehends from its operation, vanish.

3. Mr. Powell is right in thinking that Local Fund Boards, without forming unions and without imposing the house-tax, are to pay from their general funds results' grants to lower-class schools which may qualify, without reference to the period of their existence. The amount of the allotment which is to be made for the purpose from general local funds should be made known to the certifying officers,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
20th October 1871.

and care should be taken by them, as well as by the Presidents and Local Fund Boards, by whom the expenditure is watched, that the budget provisions are not exceeded.

4. The conditions under which unions may be established are also correctly stated by the Director; but, with reference to the last condition (*f*), the Governor in Council deems it proper to observe that, as a general rule, the Government would not be prepared to sanction the imposition of the house-tax for the purpose therein specified, viz., to enable a Local Fund Board to make results' grants to schools not coming under the two years' qualification, or, as the Director puts it, to reimburse themselves for outlay so incurred. The intention of the Local Fund Rules is that all expenditure on results' grants should be defrayed out of the general local funds; but special cases may occur in districts where the demands on the general funds are heavy on which it may be deemed advisable to form unions and to impose the house-tax for the purpose of making results' grants to existing schools situated within such unions, and such cases on being specially reported the Government will be prepared to consider.

5. It will be gathered from the above that the Government do not agree in Mr. Powell's interpretation of the phrase "a school supported by a Government grant-in-aid." Indeed if that interpretation were correct, the condition (*f*) disapproved in the preceding paragraph of this order would be legally inadmissible.

6. The action of the Cuddapah Local Fund Board, if correctly reported, is altogether irregular, and the collection of the house-tax must be stopped at once pending sanction. The President will report immediately on the subject. The Director's remarks as to the Gooty schools are agreed in by Government, but orders are deferred until the receipt of the budgets.

7. His reading of G. O., 30th June 1871, is correct.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Wright.

Financial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following letter from the Director of Public Instruction, dated 9th October 1871, No. 1,785.

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from any fund by
which a Local
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for any deficiency
which may be found
to exist in any
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the house tax for
the purpose of meeting wholly

Director with the ex-
ception of (f). The
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tax for the purpose
there specified.

5. The Govt agree with
Mr. Powell in his in-
terpretation of the
phrase "a school sup-
ported by a Govt
grant in aid," but what-
ever interpretation be
put upon the phrase,
the Govt will, as above
stated, withhold their
sanction to the levy
of the house tax for
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6. The action of the Cuddapah local fund board, if correctly reported, is altogether irregular, and the collection of the house tax must be stopped at once pending sanction. The President will report immediately on the subject. The Director's remarks as to the Gooty schools are agreed in by Government, but orders are deferred until the receipt

grants of two kinds which it is stated both in such cases as being equally important, the former will be prepared for sanction.

5. It will be gathered from the above that the Government do not agree in the view taken by the Committee of the phrase "a school important to a village" should not be interpreted as meaning one in which the Native (?) element predominates, but rather one which is likely to be largely attended by the children of the village

Receipt of the budgets.

7. This reading of G.O. 30th June 1871, is correct.

H.C.

To.

The Director of Public Instruction
Board of Revenue
~~Secretary to the Local~~
~~Fund Board, Godavery.~~

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