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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1612 Press Mis.-

1896-97 1896-97

Dated 25-9- 1896.

7/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 196. Read the following letter from E. B. POWELL, Esq., M.A., C.S.I., Director of Public Instruction, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 24th July 1874, No. 1263:—

I have the honor to make the following observations with reference to paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 231, of the 27th ultimo.

2. Paragraph 7 of my letter, No. 89, of the 20th January 1872, does not imply that I then thought English *ought* to be taught in Lower-class Schools; so far from such being the case, I agreed it was desirable in many instances to check the introduction of English into schools of that class. I remarked it would be well to leave Local Fund Boards to decide whether grants should or should not be given to Lower-class Schools teaching English; and I proposed to give this power to the Boards, as I considered they ought to be the best judges of the description of instruction required in each locality.

3. It must be borne in mind that in 1872 the question was merely to draw a line separating Lower from Middle-class Schools, with a view to expenditure in grants to the former being thrown upon local taxation; and it was decided to draw the line in connexion with the Standards for Results grants. According to these standards, which had been laid down some years previously, English was an extra branch of the third and fourth standards; and I urged that the line should be drawn so that a school coming up to the third standard, but not reaching the fourth, should be ranked in the lower class. I observed that, if the line were drawn at the third standard *excluding English*, "every elementary Vernacular School reading up to the third results standard would, by the introduction of a little English, utterly worthless if not injurious, though no doubt attractive in the circumstances of the country, become a Middle-class School and draw aid from Provincial Funds."

4. As to the propriety of preventing Lower-class Schools for Natives from getting grants for a smattering of English, I have now no doubt; I might have felt hesitation in 1872 if the question had been formally raised, but subsequent experience makes me feel none at this moment.

5. Lower-class Schools are for the masses, and the masses do not want a smattering of English. Even in the case of youths who may be supposed to aim at a decent knowledge of English, I consider care should be exercised not to encourage a large number to study the language. The fact of India belonging to England is itself an immense stimulus to Natives to study English in the hope of finding employment in connexion with some branch of the administration. At this time, what with those who succeed and those who fail in the University and Uncovenanted Civil Service Examinations, the country is becoming flooded in certain parts with young men who have obtained a moderate knowledge of English in the expectation of gaining a livelihood, but who discover too late that their qualifications are not capable of securing such employment as they seek. I believe it often happens that a youth who has passed one of the lower examinations, and who cannot either find means to continue his studies or obtain a post under Government, proceeds to open a Results School, not because there is a real demand for additional instruction, but to secure a temporary living. By appealing to influential persons and charging very small fees, he manages to get together some pupils,

and looks mainly to the grant for remuneration. He then teaches, not what is really suited to the circumstances of his scholars, in which case he would be doing good, but what he knows and what will "pay," including English among other things. If Lower-class Schools were to get nothing for teaching English, the masters would be compelled to improve the Vernacular instruction of their pupils, in order to secure as large a grant as possible; and this is evidently a result very much to be desired.

No. 197. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1874, No. 1612.

His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to defer passing orders on this letter until after receipt of the information called for in G.O., dated 1st June 1874, No. 940.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Dated September, 25th.

Read.

G.O., 25th September 1874, No. 1612.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 196-197.

Local Fund Schools.—Orders deferred on the Director's letter regarding the disallowance of grants for English in all schools belonging to the lower class until after the receipt of the information called for in G.O., dated 1st June 1874, No. 940.

Financial Department,

No. 1537.

From The Director of Public Instruction

Dated 24th July 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

I am decidedly in favor of English entering a part of the Programme of the Elementary Education - for the reasons I have given in former minutes - Of course there are many many cases in which it would be absurd

unless to open an English class.
but our principle should be
to encourage & foster the learning
of English - because it is
the language of the ruling
race - and because it
alone affords good & sound
education - Native literature
- ture is worthless or demoralising.

I. O. L.

I think that we must get a
position to decide this question. Since

7a

letter from Q^re, I remember Mr Ker called
for inform^n from the D. of P. I. as to
the appointments and salaries of
Teachers employed in Roman Class Schools.
Has this information been supplied?
I collect it, I feel unable to suggest
a further question. But as I have
before observed I have strong reliance
upon the belief that, even if the ratio
of the Catholic
out-come not great, we are
over-supplying elementary
educ^n, by adding to a system

No: 1263.

From

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

To

THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to make the following observations with reference to para. 6 of Government Order, No. 231 of the 27th ultimo.

2. Para. 7 of my letter, No. 89 of the 20th January 1872, does not imply that I then thought English *ought* to be taught in Lower class schools; so far from such being the case, I agreed it was desirable in many instances to check the introduction of English into schools of that class. I remarked it would be well to leave Local Fund Boards to decide whether grants should or should not be given to Lower class schools teaching English; and I proposed to give this power to the Boards, as I considered they ought to be the best judges of the description of instruction required in each locality.

3. It must be borne in mind that in 1872 the question was merely to draw a line separating Lower from Middle class schools, with a view to expenditure in grants to the former being thrown upon local taxation; and it was decided to draw the line in connexion with the Standards for Results' grants. According to these Standards, which had been laid down some years previously, English was an extra branch of the 3rd and 4th Standards; and I urged that the line should be drawn so that a school coming up to the 3rd Standard, but not reaching the 4th, should be ranked in the Lower class. I observed that, if the line were drawn at the 3rd Standard *excluding English*, "every elementary Vernacular school reading up to the 3rd Results' standard would, by the introduction of a little English, utterly worthless if not injurious, though no doubt attractive in the circumstances of the country, become a Middle class school and draw aid from Provincial Funds."

4. As to the propriety of preventing Lower class schools for Natives from getting grants for a smattering of English, I have now no doubt; I might have felt hesitation in 1872 if the question had been formally raised, but subsequent experience makes me feel none at this moment.

5. Lower class schools are for the masses, and the masses do not want a smattering of English. Even in the case of youths who may be supposed to aim at a decent knowledge of English, I consider care should be exercised not to encourage a large number to study the language. The fact of India belonging to England is itself an immense stimulus to Natives to study English in the hope of finding employment in connexion with some branch of the Administration. At this time, what with those who succeed and those who fail in the University and Uncovenanted Civil Service Examinations, the country is becoming flooded in certain parts with young men who have obtained a moderate knowledge of English in the expectation of gaining a livelihood, but who discover too late that their qualifications are not capable of securing such employment as they seek. I believe it often happens that a youth who has passed one of the lower examinations, and who cannot either find means to continue his studies or obtain a post under Government, proceeds to open a Results' school, not because there is a real demand for additional instruction, but to secure a temporary living. By appealing to influential persons and charging very small fees, he manages to get together some pupils, and looks mainly to the grant for remuneration. He then teaches, not what is really suited to the circumstances of his scholars, in which case

he would be doing good, but what he knows and what will "pay," including English among other things. If Lower class schools were to get nothing for teaching English, the masters would be compelled to improve the Vernacular instruction of their pupils, in order to secure as large a grant as possible ; and this is evidently a result very much to be desired.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction,
MADRAS, 24th *July* 1874.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Director of Public Instruction.

From
The Director of Public Instruction.
To
The Acting Chief Secretary to
Government,
Fort Saint George.

Dated 24th July 1874.
Received 27 ---

No. 1263.

No. 1537

Remarks with reference to Government Order, No. 231 of the 27th ultimo.

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial.

To

The Dir. of Pub. Instruction

Original sent to Govt
6/10/74

G. O. Sept 25., 1874, No. 1612.

Nos. 196. 7.

Local Fund Schools. Orders deferred on the Director's letter regarding the disallowance of grants for English in all schools belonging to the lower class until after the receipt of the information called for in G. O. of 1st June 1874 No. 940.