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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1865	Press / Mis.
145-146.		145-146
Dated	24-9-	1875.

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
21st September 1875.

Local Funds—Schools.

No. 145. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August 1875, No. 2443:—

Read the following letter from E. THOMPSON, Esq., Acting Director of Public Instruction, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George dated Madras, 23rd July 1875, No. 1,716 (through the Revenue Board):—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the orders of Government, an application from the President of the Local Fund Boards of Salem for permission to open certain middle-class schools in the Salem District.

2. Looking at the amounts of salary proposed for the masters in these schools, I should be disposed to doubt whether teachers could be obtained able to raise the projected schools to anything like a real middle-class standard, but, probably, it is not necessary to discuss details, as the Order of Government of the 4th June, No. 1,208, appears applicable to this case also, and, if so, the consideration of the opening of these schools must be deferred for the present.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, Salem, to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated Salem, 17th June 1875, No. 781.

I HAVE the honor to enclose an extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Salem Circle, under date the 23rd April last, and to request that the same may be submitted, with your recommendation, for the favorable consideration and orders of the Board of Revenue and Government. A copy of Mr. Caldwell's letter as well as the scheme of schools referred to in the extract are also sent herewith.

2. In their scheme of education for the Circle recorded in G.O., No. 1,834, dated 27th October last, the Local Board proposed to establish four classes of schools, *viz.*:—

(1.) Schools on the results system (3rd standard);
(2.) Schools on the combined system of fixed salaries and results grants (3rd standard);
(3.) Schools on the salary system (4th standard);
(4.) Anglo-Vernacular or taluq schools;

but Government, acting on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, who were opposed to the scheme as a whole, sanctioned schools of Classes I. and II. and disallowed those of III. and IV. The present application is for the establishment of schools of Class III., as detailed in the scheme.

3. The subject of organizing, under the direct management of Local Fund Boards, schools of a higher class than those for which sanction was accorded in the above Government order in a few places, the size, population, and the general importance of which demanded the measure, has long engaged the attention of the Board, and after being discussed at several meetings was finally disposed of in April last. The Board anticipate no valid objection to the step they have proposed after great consideration, except the one based on the general principle laid down for guidance, *viz.*, that Local Fund Boards should confine their attention to fostering elementary education only, and that schools of a higher standard are out of their province. But in practice this argument will be found to fail, as in the case of the numerous middle-class schools under the management of municipal bodies, who, like the Local Fund Boards, are subject to the restriction prescribed. When the advantages of the institutions come to be considered, the places enumerated in the scheme should, the Board consider, have the privilege extended to them which has

been so advantageously conferred on municipal towns, for there is no doubt that the schools now proposed, if opened, will do great service to the localities where they are placed, especially so as schools of a similar standard and footing were established in some of these places and after existing for a time either disappeared or were abolished. One of the chief causes of their failure lay, as you are aware, in their management, which signally failed, and this element of failure will have no place in the case of schools established under the management of Local Fund Boards, for the staff entertained under their control will watch their progress; and the schools instead of languishing under inefficient management will become thriving institutions. Mr. Caldwell's letter is so full on this subject that it is needless for me to say more.

4. In a financial point of view there can be no objection, for so far as the Local Fund Boards are concerned the schools are inexpensive, as a moiety of the charges will be met from the Provincial Funds, and the other half will be met from school fees, which will thus reduce the Board's cost of the school to a sum much less than that which the Board will have to lay out in the maintenance of a lower-class school. This being so, I have every hope that you will second the Board's proposition.

5. It only remains for me to review briefly the particulars of the schools entered in the scheme. Nos. 1—6 were entered in Class III. of the original scheme, and the staff proposed for them is the same as that provided in it. Utengherry, which appeared under Class IV. of the original scheme, has now been included in the present list, as the Board, on reconsideration, are of opinion that a vernacular school of a high standard is all that is required there. To these has been added Yercaud under the Resolution of the Board under date the 29th May last, copy of which is enclosed for your information. In this school English will be the vernacular taught, and the teacher's pay has, in consideration of the peculiar circumstances of the locality, been fixed at Rupees 25; a peon on Rupees 5 and Rupees 2 for contingent charges are allowed. Building and furniture are extra.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From E. C. CALDWELL, Esq., Inspector of Schools, Fourth Division, to the President of the Local Fund Board, Trichinopoly, dated Salem, 13th January 1875, No. 69.

I HAVE the honor, as requested by your endorsement on the letter of Mr. Lewis Moore, Head Assistant Collector of Trichinopoly, of the 16th ultimo, No. 531, submitting a scheme for the establishment of Local Fund Board Schools in the Trichinopoly Circle, to offer the following remarks.

2. As regards paragraphs 4 and 5 of Mr. Moore's letter, I concur in the proposal which he appears to have put forward, that the Board should take over the management of several middle-class aided schools with grants-in-aid as at present, and I cannot but think that, if the question at issue with regard to these schools were presented to the Board of Revenue in a correct light, they would arrive at the same conclusion with regard to them.

3. Among the first of the schools of the kind established in this part of the country was the town school at Combaconum, which owes, as I believe, its origin to me. After experience, and I believe in view of the success which attended this school from the first, the establishment of grant-in-aid schools under native management was pressed forward by the Director of Public Instruction in all parts of the division, as I thought at the time with indiscriminating zeal, and each addition to the Inspecting Staff was accompanied with an injunction that the new Deputy Inspector should give his attention to the opening of grant-in-aid schools. Hence the number of these schools which came into existence some years ago, several of which still remain.

4. I pointed at the time to inherent defects in the constitution of these schools, which have led very generally after a period of varied prosperity to their extinction or decline. The chief of these defects, as I then showed, lie in their management; and the failure of the schools to satisfy the wants of the people and their consequent decline, as noticed by the Revenue Board, which is clearly traceable to the want of confidence between the managers and the people, would

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
21*st September* 1875.

disappear under the management of the Local Fund Board. While, therefore, concurring again with Mr. Moore, that if nothing is done to alter the system at present pursued in these schools it would be advisable to withdraw all grants from them at once, I still would urge that another representation should be made on the subject to Government before such a step is definitively taken. I would deprecate the idea that with all their defects these schools are, or ever have been, useless. Though they may not have realized all that they would have been capable of under a better regulated system, they did good service in their day, and those that still survive continue to supply to a limited extent the wants of the communities in the midst of which they are placed. The grant-in-aid system has generally worked well under management commanding the confidence of the people, as in the cases generally of the large Mission schools under European management; the Combaconum town school above mentioned and others under competent native management; and I would more particularly instance here several middle-class schools under Municipal Boards, as the town schools of Salem, on the footing proposed for schools of similar constitution and standing under the Local Fund Board.

5. It might well be urged that the principle thus admitted and found to work beneficially under the Municipal Boards might, with like advantage, be extended to the operations of the Local Fund Boards. But the point to which I would more particularly direct attention in this connection, as that chiefly touched by the Revenue Board, is the question of the separation of middle and lower-class education. On this point the Government would appear to have arrived at a definite conclusion, and have pronounced that while they retain the charge of the higher and middle-class education the charge of the lower-class education should devolve on the Local Boards. The justice of the principle involved in this conclusion will, I believe, be generally recognized, and, in any case, the principle enunciated by Government must have weight in the consideration of any question into which it enters. The point, then, for consideration is as to its application, and here the chief difficulty would seem to lie in the endeavors which have been made to draw a sharp line of demarcation between the middle and lower-class schools—a problem which, in my view, is not only not capable of satisfactory solution, but is also, for other reasons, not the one which it is the most profitable to consider.

6. It will scarcely be questioned that in all the existing middle-class schools, both Government and aided, provision is made to a large extent for lower as well as for middle-class education; and between the schools that fall clearly within the respective provinces of Government and of the Local Boards, there will be found several that hold an intermediate position, occupying, as it were, a kind of debatable ground and containing within them the elements of both lower and middle-class schools. In this category I would include generally the existing so-called middle-class aided schools which the Boards of Salem and Trichinopoly proposed to take over with consent from their present managers, and others of similar standing which they proposed to institute, to supply to some extent the deficiency of Government taluq schools where such institutions are wanting, but do not exist.

I may note in this connection that in the Trichinopoly Circle for five taluqs and four sub-taluqs there is but one Government taluq school; and in the Salem Circle, for six taluqs and six sub-taluqs there are but two Government schools of the middle class including the Anglo-Vernacular School at Tripatore. Thus, for twenty-one taluqs and sub-taluqs in the two Circles there are but three Government middle-class schools.

But to return, on the principle laid down by Government it would seem reasonable that the charge of such schools as those now under consideration should be shared between Government and the Local Boards, and here the grant-in-aid system would come into operation naturally and beneficially. Viewed in this light, and having regard to the precedents already established in the case of the Municipal middle-class schools, I cannot think that the Revenue Board would oppose the adoption or institution of such schools also by the Local Fund Boards, the Boards providing for a share of their cost in consideration of the lower-class element contained in them, and receiving grants from Provincial Funds for the middle-class education which they would impart.

Instead of seeking to narrow the interval between the fields of operation of Government and the Local Boards to a hard abrupt line, the tendency and the principal feature of this scheme, it will be seen, is rather to give extension, as it were, to an intermediate and common ground in which the operations of both would blend, as it would seem reasonable that they should in one harmonious whole.

* * * *

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
President.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Extract from Proceedings of Local Fund Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.—Statement.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. The Local Board, Salem Circle, ask for reconsideration of the order which prohibited them from establishing or taking over middle-class schools, salary grants on the usual scale being allowed by Government. They wish to establish eight such schools costing Rupees 2,736, of which Rupees 1,368 is to be paid by Government. It is not stated how many of the schools are now in existence.

3. There seems no reason why this exceptional arrangement should be allowed. The President is in error in stating that it has been very generally sanctioned in Municipalities. The Acting Director of Public Instruction states that the salaries are insufficient, and quotes a recent very decided order of Government ruling that expenditure from Local Funds is to be confined to lower-class education.

4. The Board are decidedly of opinion that the present proposals should be disallowed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 146. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1875, No. 1865.

The Governor in Council agrees with the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue, with two enclosures returned.
,, Acting Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

(True Copies and Extracts.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department,
with two original enclosures, to be returned.

Copy to the Director of Public Instruction.
" to the President of the Local Fund Boards, Salem District.

Exd. W. H. French.

Financial Department
(Local Funds. Schools)

1875.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 31ST AUGUST 1875, No. 2,443.

Dept. 9 Sept. 75

Encl. 2

Received 11 Sept. 75 - N. 2113.

AUGUST.

No. 2,443.

Middle-Class Schools—in Salem Circle.—Letter from Director of Public Instruction, forwarding application of Local Fund Board for reconsideration of the order prohibiting them from establishing or taking over —, salary grant on the usual scale being allowed by Government, submitted to Government. Opinion expressed that the proposals should be disallowed.

With ...

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 21st.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 21st September 1875, No. 1865.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 145-146.

Local Funds—Schools.—Proposal of the Local Fund Board, Salem Circle, for the establishment of eight middle-class schools, disallowed.

Govt. of Madras. 1875

Judl

G. O. 21st Sept. 1875. No. 1865

Nos. 145—146.

Local Funds - Schools -

Proposal of the Local Fund Board, Salem Circle, for the establishment of eight middle-Class Schools, disallowed.