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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 324 Press / Mis.

57-61

Dated 4-2- 1875.

13/14

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
4th February 1875.

Local Funds—Education.

Read the following papers:—

No. 57. 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, 15th January 1875, No. 80.

Referring to G. O., Financial Department, No. 2099, of the 15th December last, I have the ho or to observe that I cannot find on record in this Office G. O., of 22nd July 1 1213; but I beg to remark that, in my letter, No. 944, of the 4th June which G. O., Financial Department, No. 987, of the 12th idem was passed, I reported upon "the advisability of admitting dancing girls to boys' or mixed schools." The following is what I said:—

"*Paragraph* 4.—There are some questions which should not be mooted till the consideration of them becomes a matter of necessity: that regarding the admission of dancing girls into aided schools seems to me to belong to this class. While the tone of Hindu feeling is such that the parents of other children do not raise any objection to the admission of such girls, I do not see that the Educational Department is called upon to make an inquiry into the private affairs of the pupils. In many cases, I doubt not such inquiries would prove ineffectual, as the managers or teachers of the schools would have an interest in withholding the truth."

The opinion I then expressed is the one I entertain now.

Nos. 58—60. * * *

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, 4th February 1875, No. 234.

The Government are of opinion that the consideration of the question has *now* become a necessity, and all Collectors will be called upon to report, after consultation with the leading Native gentlemen of their districts, on the desirability of excluding children of the dancing-girl class from girls' or mixed schools, supported or aided from public funds.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, All Collectors.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Financial Department.

No. 75

From the Director of Public Instruction

Dated 15 January 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

Subject - Admission of dancing girls to Local Fund Schools

The previous opinion quoted by the Director was given in connection with aided girls' schools.

The present reference was regarding Local Fund boys' and mixed schools.

It would appear however that the Director considers that dancing girls may be admitted to any school whatever, so long as the practice is not opposed to the time of Hindu feeling.

See Separate Minute 29/1

Let it be so 29/1

Govt. of [1875] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 4th.

Read.

Read.

G.O., 4th February 1875, No. 234.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 57—61.

Girls' or Mixed Schools.—The several Collectors requested to report, after consultation with the leading Native gentlemen of their districts, on the desirability of excluding children of the dancing-girl class from such of these schools as are supported or aided from public funds.

4R.

No. 80

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
MADRAS, 15th January 1875.

From

E. B. POWELL, Esq.,
Director of Public Instruction.

To

The Actg. Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

SIR,

Referring to Government Order, Financial Department, No. 2099 of the 15th December last I have the honor to observe that I cannot find on record in this office Government Order of 22nd July 1874, No. 1213; but I beg to remark that, in my letter No. 944 of the 4th June 1874, on which G. O. Financial Department, No. 987 of the 12th idem was passed, I reported upon "the advisability of admitting dancing girls to boys' or mixed schools." The following is what I said:—

"Para 4. There are some questions which "cannot be resolved till the consi"deration of them becomes a matter of "necessity: that regarding the admission "of dancing girls into aided schools seems "to me to belong to this class. While the "tone of Hindu feeling is such that the parents

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"any objection to the admission of such
"girls, I do not see that the Educational
"Department is called upon to make
"an inquiry into the private affairs of
"the pupils. In many cases, I think
"not, such inquiries would prove in-
"effectual, as the managers or teachers
"of the schools would have an interest
"in withholding the truth." The opinion
I then expressed is the one I entertain
now. -

No 358 - 60 I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servt,

J. H. Powell
Director of Public Instruction

Gov. M.D.

No. 58. MINUTE by the HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I., dated 21st January 1875.

I ~~unhesitatingly charge~~ Mr. Powell ~~with being~~ ignorant of the feelings of the better classes of Hindu parents, when he ventures to lead Government by inference to believe that they are so reckless of the morality of their female children as to ~~be heedless~~ about their forming intimacies, during years of early purity, with the future prostitutes and procuresses of the town in which they live—with children who come from lewd exercises in the morning to school and return to learn lewd, brothel minstrelsy amongst their practising sisters of maturer and fouler life at midday and in the night.

~~2. I read with a sense of shame the thing between inverted commas in this letter under consideration.~~

3. The truth is that the exposure to foul friendship at our ~~mixed~~ schools—whether aided or State—is one of the deep-seated objections to their use by respectable and wise parents. I have had a large ~~mixed~~ girl school under my personal care at one time of my life, and do not hesitate to say that the brothel children kept away many who ought to have been there, and their parents were right, for even at school these initiated infants are far on in foul education.

4. I claim for the Hindus a sounder interpretation of their feeling and morals than Mr. Powell's. I venture to suggest a reference of the papers to a Committee of the respectable natives of this place whose response I would await. I have spoken to many on the matter and never received but one reply. I would ask, too, their opinion of admitting brothel children into their boys' schools.

W. ROBINSON.

No. 59. MINUTE by the RIGHT HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT, dated 24th January 1875.

This is a very difficult as well as a very important question, and we have not before us information such as to enable us to decide it. I must observe, with reference to the Hon. Mr. Robinson's remarks, that the Government has expressed its concurrence with the Director of Public Instruction in the opinion which he now cites—so far as *girls'* schools are concerned (G.O., 12th June 1874)—that is to say, we are committed to the view that no inseparable objection is felt by Hindus to the education of dancing girls in girls' schools. No doubt the case may be different as regards *boys'* schools. And as regards these, I should first wish to know to what extent dancing girls are *now* educated in boys' or mixed schools.

HOBART.

No. 60. MINUTE by the HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I., dated 29th January 1875.

I have not the least doubt that the admission of dancing girls into schools is very unwelcome to the general community. How can it be otherwise? These children are irrevocably devoted to a life of prostitution and trained accordingly from earliest infancy. There is no secret about the matter, and no reticense or shame. How can we suppose that parents of any respectability, or having any regard for their children, can be indifferent to their association with such a class at the most impressionable period of life. Moreover, intercourse with the children in school means contact or probability of contact with their relatives or attendants outside. Even if the respectable classes are indifferent, we surely ought not to foster and perpetuate such indifference.

2. If there be any doubt on the question of feeling, we can easily consult some of our leading Native gentlemen privately.

3. The Pagoda Trustees can easily arrange for the education of the dancing-girl class separately; and we can give aid in the unobjectionable form of results grants, which for girls are very liberal.

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J. D. SIM.

Fmil. Dept.

No 58. —

58

Minute

I undertake to charge Mr. Powell with being ~~allowed with~~ ignorant of the feelings of the better classes of Hindoo parents, when he ventures to lead Government by inference to believe that they are so reckless of the morality of their female children as to be heedless about their forming intimacies during years of early purity with the future prostitutes & procuresses of

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I have spoken to many
on the matter and
never received but
one reply. I would
ask for their opinion
of admitting brothel
children into their
Boys' Schools

21/1 JRobinson

Mr Roberts — I suppose
this case will come before
the Committee of the
Privy Council on Education
& I should be glad to
know your opinion
as to the propriety
of allowing girls
of brothel keepers
to attend Schools
in connection with
the Privy Council
Education Committee
Yours truly
J. Robinson

No 59. This is a very difficult as well as a very important question, and we have not before us sufficient such as would enable us to decide the I must observe, with respect to the Head Teacher's remarks, that the Govt has refused this to concurrence with the Recommendation in the opinion which he now cites — so far as girls schools are concerned. (See 12 June 74/1 — that is to say, we are committed to the view that no insuperable objection is felt by Guardians to the education of dancing girls in Girls Schools. No doubt the case of different as regards Boys Schools. And as regards these — I shall first wish to know — to what extent dancing girls are now educated in boys or mixed schools. Robert 24/1

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Finl Dept

Prov. 4 Feby 75

No 60. —

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or shame. How can we rob
for that parent of any re
- spectability or having any
regard for their children can
be indifferent & their as.
sociation with such a class
of the most unfortunate
period of life - How can
we encourage in the children
in school means contact or
probability of contact with them

dature or attendant with the
view of the subject all classes
ages in different, we ought
kindly to foster & cherish
such indifference -

It is known to any Pupil
in the first term of teaching we
can easily conduct home
of our lessons Nature follows
principle.

The Pupils or Teacher can
easily arrange for the ad-
vantage of the dancing pil classes
separately - and we can pre

and in the undertaking
form of Results pamphlets —
which for pubs are very
liberal.

L. O. Lan

29-1 ~ refer to all Colleges consult
Centinghame - underwrite to
Enclose from St Gaudens Est

I can only say - don't do
anything - private - the more
work & publicity & it is done
the more work & national
the respectable 22-1

Govt. of {187 } Madras.

X Jud V

Local Funds – Education

G. O. 6 Feby 1875 – No. 234

Nos. 57-61

Girls or Mixed Schools. The several Collrs requested to report, after con-
-sultn with the leading Gentle-
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