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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	698	Press / Mis.
1—2		
Dated	1—4—	1875.

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
1st April 1875.

Local Funds—Education.

Read the following papers:—

No. 1. From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, Coimbatore, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 10th March 1875, No. 5.

I have the honor to suggest, for the consideration of Government, that orders may be issued for the earlier inspection of schools which obtain Result Grants, in order that the Local Fund Board may be in a position to exercise some check on the large expenditure of public money so apportioned.

2. I am (5th instant) in present receipt of a bundle of certifying memoranda of fifty-eight schools in different places, having date the 3rd instant, and of a copy of the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction to his subordinates, who are desired to see that payments are actually drawn before the commencement of the Easter vacation.

3. I have, therefore, the certificate of an officer drawing Rupees 175 a-month to memoranda on which Rupees 1,267 must be immediately paid within three weeks.

4. It is impossible for me to exercise any check on his disbursement, uncountersigned by the Inspector of Schools.

5. Some Rupees 14,000 of our Local Fund money is paid away in this manner, and in more than one district or circle doubts have occurred whether the Result Grant System does not open a door to possible irregularities.

6. That irregularities, from want of supervision, formerly existed seemed pretty evident when it was the practice of Inspecting Village Schoolmasters to assemble schools from different villages in one place to suit their personal convenience, and when schools seemed to be inspected when in easily accessible and favorable localities, and when the remote Collegal Taluq of this district had never seen the Inspector or his Deputy; and the only efficient proposal for its improvement comes from a Missionary of Mysore, whose attention had been drawn to this untried field of usefulness by the Commissioner of Mysore Division.

7. Looking to the antecedents of the Department as regards control, inspection, and distribution of education, I would feel more confidence in passing the memoranda certificates for payment if my Division Officers, Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors had had an opportunity of being present at the examinations, on which so great an amount of public money depends; and this manifestly cannot be the case when I am asked to pay for fifty-eight schools already examined in different places within a period of three weeks.

8. It is true that the certifying memoranda have the signature of the Director of Public Instruction at Madras, but this from the nature of things must be a mere formality, and no real check, and must involve that officer in an excessive amount of writing his name.

9. I think it would be a better arrangement if examinations for Results Grants commenced with the official year, and if a Taluqwar list were sent to the President in good time, in order that he might send it to the local officers, who might then be present at the examinations.

10. In no other Department is money paid without some greater check which may or may not be exercised. For instance, in road repair, there are the measurements of the material made by the Range Officer before the Contractor is paid, which the local Superintending Engineer is understood to check; and at any rate, if the work is inefficient, the badness of the road becomes evident to travellers, and calls attention to the extent of repair. This is the nearest analogy to the case of Village Elementary Schools, for which the sum of Rupees 14,000 is paid annually out of Local Funds.

11. As a system I have grave doubts of the expediency of the Result Grant System—leading to cram, very difficult to be fairly adjudged, and with open doors for irregularities.

12. It leads also to speculation in teaching; boys are collected in order that a schoolmaster may earn a livelihood by grants, and sometimes the established schools are underbid by the nominal fees exacted.

13. Better, I think, would be the Inspection Report on established schools, where notable defects might lead to the removal of incompetent teachers. There would be more "in evidence" than there is in the Result Grant System; but, at all events, I leave Government to judge what check the President can maintain over a system on which he must make payment, without time to gather assurance of a proper check having been exercised.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction for his remarks.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
13th March 1875.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 1-A. From E. B. POWELL, Esq., M.A., C.S.I., Director of Public Instruction, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 18th March 1875, No. 590.

I have the honor to return letter, No. 5, of the 10th instant, from the President of the Coimbatore Local Fund Board, referred to me for remarks.

2. I observe that, while other subjects are discussed in the letter, the object of it is stated to be to request that instructions may be issued for the earlier inspection of Results Schools, in order that Local Fund Boards may exercise some check on the expenditure of public money in Results Grants.

3. I have only lately pointed out to several Examining Officers that, owing to their not having distributed the work of examining schools pretty evenly over the last six or eight months of the official year, they have at last been pressed for time and have sent in large numbers of certifying memoranda only a little before the close of the year, thus causing great inconvenience; and I have requested that a better distribution of work may be made hereafter. I do not think much more can be done; but it certainly would be well that the call for a better distribution o. examining work should proceed from Government instead of from myself. I need scarcely point out that it was only fitting I should require Examining Officers to finish their work sufficiently early to allow the expenditure on grants in the year to be met from the provision for the year.

4. While of opinion that an improvement can be made in the work of examining by commencing that work earlier and spreading it more equally over the different months, I must remark that in some cases the matter cannot be dealt with in a perfectly satisfactory manner. A Deputy Inspector must not keep moving backwards and forwards, but must take the schools in groups, otherwise he would waste both his time and the Government money in travelling. Also, as a school must have worked on for a certain time before it is entitled to a grant, it would be injurious to the progress of education for a Deputy Inspector to make an early visit to a locality in which several schools would not be eligible for examination till a later period.

5. It is undoubtedly desirable that the Revenue Officials should see Examining Officers at their work; but I presume examinations should be held at times suitable to the schools, and it may be doubted if Tahsildars would be able to follow Deputy Inspectors about.

6. I do not understand what Mr. Wedderburn means when he writes in paragraph 7, "Looking at the antecedents of the Department as regards control, inspection, &c.;" but it certainly appears to me that the language may have the effect of producing an unfavorable impression on the minds of Educational Officers, as implying that there were grounds for their being regarded with suspicion by the Collector of Coimbatore.

7. I imagine it is not necessary for me to notice the other points introduced into Mr. Wedderburn's communication.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1875, No. 698.

The Director's letter will be communicated to the President of the Coimbatore Local Funds.

2. The Director will impress on all Examining Officers the importance which the Government attaches to the early submission of their Inspection Reports. The papers will also be communicated to the Presidents of all Local Fund Boards in view to the Boards recording any practical suggestions on the subject that they may have to offer.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To all Presidents of Local Fund Boards.
,, the Director of Public Instruction.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Wright.

Coimbatore Local Fund Board
Office 10th March 1875.

No. 5

From,

A. Wedderburn, Esquire,
President of the Local Fund Board
Coimbatore.

To,

The Honorable W. Hudleston,
Chief Secretary to Government
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to suggest for the consideration of Government that orders may be issued for the earlier inspection of Schools, which obtain result grants, in order that the Local Fund Board may be in a position to exercise some check on the large expenditure of public money so apportioned -

2- I am (5th Instant) in present receipt of a bundle of certifying memoranda of 58 schools in different places, having date the 3rd Instant, and

Govt. of [1875] Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

ALL PRESIDENTS OF LOCAL FUND BOARDS, &c., &c., &c.,

Dated April 1st.
Issued
Recd.

No. 546

G.O., 1st April 1875, No. 693.

APRIL.
Nos. 1-2.

Local Funds, Schools.—Director's remarks on letter from the President of the Local Fund Board, Coimbatore, suggesting the earlier inspection of schools which obtain Results Grants, communicated; and the Director instructed to impress on all Examining Officers the importance which the Government attaches to the early submission of their Inspection Reports. The papers also communicated to the Presidents of all Local Fund Boards, in view to the Boards recording any practical suggestions on the subject that they may have to offer.

and of a copy of the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction to his subordinates, who are desired to see that paymnents are actually drawn before the commencement of the Easter Vacation -

3- I have therefore the certificate of an officer drawing Rs. 175 a month to memoranda on which Rs. 1,267 must be immediately paid within 3 weeks -

4- It is impofsible for me to exercise any check on this disbursement uncountersigned by the Inspector of schools -

5- Some Rs. 14,000 of our Local Fund money is paid away in this manner, and in more than one District or circle, doubts have occurred, whether the result grant System does not open a door to pofsible irregularities -

6- That irregularities from want of supervision, formerly existed seemed

pretty evident when it was the practice of inspecting Village school Masters to asemble schools from different Villages in one place to suit their personal convenience, and when schools seemed to be inspected when in easily accefsible, and favourable localities, and when the remote collegal Taluq of this District, had never seen the Inspector, or his Deputy - and the only efficient proposal for its improvement comes from a missionary of Mysore, whose attention had been drawn to this untried field of usefulnefs by the Commifsioner of Mysore Division -

7- Looking to the antecedents of the Department as regards control, inspection, and distribution of education, - I would feel more confidence in passing the memoranda certificates for payment, if my Division officers,

Tahsildars, and Revenue Inspectors had had an opportunity of being present at the examinations, on which so great an amount of public money depends - and this manifestly cannot be the case when I am asked to pay for 58 schools, already examined, in different places, - within a period of 3 weeks -

8- It is true that the certifying memorandum have the signature of the Director of Public Instruction at Madras, but, this from the nature of things, must be a mere formality, and no real check - and must involve that officer in an excessive amount of writing his name -

9- I think it would be a better arrangement if examinations for Results Grants commenced with the official year, and if a taluqwar list were sent to the President in good time,

in order that he might send it to the local officers, who might then be present at the examinations -

10- In no other department is money paid without some greater check, which may, or may not, be exercised - For instance, in road repair, there are the measurements of the material, made by the Range officer, before the contractor is paid, which the Local Superintending Engineer is understood to check - and at any rate, if the work is inefficient, the badness of the road becomes evident to travellers, and calls attention to the extent of repair - This is the nearest analogy to the case of Village elementary schools, for which the sum of Rs. 14,000 is paid annually, out of Local Funds. -

11- As a system, I have grave doubts of the expediency of the Result grant system - leading to cram; very difficult

difficult to be fairly adjudged,— and
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12— It leads also to speculation
in teaching— boys are collected in order
that a school master may earn a
livelihood by grants, and sometimes the
established schools are under bid,—
by the nominal fees exacted—

13— Better, I think, would be ÷
the Inspection report on established ÷
schools, where notable defects might lead
to the removal of incompetent teachers—
There would be more "in evidence" ÷
than there is, in the result grant ÷
system; but, at all events, I leave ÷
Government to judge what check,
the President, can maintain over a ÷
system, on which he must make pay-
-ment, without time to gather assurance,
of a proper check having been exercised—

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obt " Servant.

Alexander
President—

No. 590.

From

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to return letter No. 5, of the 10th instant, from the President of the Coimbatore Local Fund Board, referred to me for remarks.

2. I observe that, while other subjects are discussed in the letter, the object of it is stated to be to request that instructions may be issued for the earlier inspection of Results schools, in order that Local Fund Boards may exercise some check on the expenditure of public money in Results grants.

3. I have only lately pointed out to several examining officers that, owing to their not having distributed the work of examining schools pretty evenly over the last six or eight months of the official year, they have at last been pressed for time and have sent in large numbers of Certifying Memoranda only a little before the close of the year, thus causing great inconvenience ; and I have requested that a better distribution of work may be made hereafter. I do not think much more can be done ; but it certainly would be well that the call for a better distribution of examining work should proceed from Government instead of from myself. I need scarcely point out that it was only fitting I should require examining officers to finish their work sufficiently early to allow the expenditure on grants in the year to be met from the provision for the year.

4. While of opinion that an improvement can be made in the work of examining by commencing that work earlier and spreading it more equally over the different months, I must remark that in some cases the matter cannot be dealt with in a perfectly satisfactory manner. A Deputy Inspector must not keep moving backwards and forwards, but must take the schools in groups, otherwise he would waste both his time and the Government money in travelling. Also, as a school must have worked on for a certain time before it is entitled to a grant, it would be injurious to the progress of education for a Deputy Inspector to make an early visit to a locality in which several schools would not be eligible for examination till a later period.

5. It is undoubtedly desirable that the Revenue officials should see examining officers at their work ; but I presume examinations should be held at times suitable to the schools, and it may be doubted if Tahsildars would be able to follow Deputy Inspectors about.

6. I do not understand what Mr. Wedderburn means when he writes in para. 7,—"Looking at the antecedents of the Department as regards control, inspection, &c.," ; but it certainly appears to me that the language may have the effect of producing an unfavorable impression on the minds of educational officers, as implying that there were grounds for their being regarded with suspicion by the Collector of Coimbatore.

7. I imagine it is not necessary for me to notice the other points introduced into Mr. Wedderburn's communication.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction,
MADRAS, 18*th March* 1875.

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

Director of Public Instruction.

Financial Department
(Local Funds) Section

1875.

From

The Director of Public Instruction,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort Saint George.

Dated 18th March 1875.

Received 20. — —

Read Rec. 6/7 1875.

No. 590.

Papers rec'd. 546

No. 686

Returning with remarks letter from the President of Coimbatore suggesting the earlier inspection of schools which obtain Results grants.

Draft Letter
With cover.