

Home (1917) Department.
Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1144

DATED 6. 11-17

[Despatch Abstract.]

Panchamas of South Kanara.

Recording notes prepared in connection with a depu-
tation to His Excellency the Governor ^{the} from ----- during His
Excellency's tour in that district.

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Papers of other departments.

Copy of demi-official from the T.E.Moir, Esq., C.I.E.,
I.C.S., ex Private Secretary to H. E. the Governor to the -
Honourable Mr. A. R. Knapp, I.C.S., Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, dated 6th October 1917.

I am to send you the enclosed papers which contains a list of the subjects which the South Kanara District Association propose to discuss with His Excellency at Mangalore, and to ask you kindly to let me have very brief notes on each of them not later than 11th instant. Please pass on the - ~~subjects which do not relate to your Department to the Depart~~ -ments concerned. Vibert has promised to send detailed - notes on these as quickly as possible. If there is likely - to be any delay by printing the Secretariat notes, they may be typewritten.

The deputation from the South Kanara District Association propose to discuss with His Excellency at Mangalore the following subjects:-

11. Elevation of Panchamas and other backward classes.

To under say.

The above extract may, it is submitted, be sent to the Home (Miss) Dept.

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X Elevation of Panchamas
and other backward classes.

Home (Misc.) Department.

Registrar.

The Panchamas of South Kanara are practically confined to the class ~~of~~ locally known as the Holeyas. According to the last Census, they number 46,507 males and 60,181 females or a total of 106,688, out of a total population of 578,088 for the whole district. During His Excellency's tour to the district in 1914, a deputation of Panchama inhabitants of the district waited upon His Excellency and represented their principal grievances which are briefly noticed below:-

(1) Mr. K. Ranga Rao of the Depressed Classes Mission on behalf of the Panchamas said that Panchama houses were scattered and that it was desirable that one meal a day should be provided for the children at school as they had a long way to go to school. He added that the rates of grant paid for Panchama ~~scholarship~~ pupils were not so high as those paid some years previously. As regards the question of providing a meal for Panchama pupils, it is submitted that a similar suggestion was made by the Reverend Andrew of Chingleput in 1914. It ~~was~~ was then found that assuming the cost of one meal to be six pies per head, the total cost per annum ~~would~~ ^{would} amount ^{to} nearly 5 lakhs. The suggestion was considered impracticable of adoption. The D.P.I. also noted that it was eminently a matter for philanthropic, rather than State, action.

As to grants, it was pointed out that the rates paid for Panchamas were double the ordinary rates and that under the new system of grants the maximum which a school could earn was certainly more than the maximum under the old system.

So 497 Pub. 18-4-13

1494 .. 20-4-14

875 Rev. 19-4-16

35 Sol. 11-1-15

Money taken from
the Census Dept. of
1911

Rs 50.53 to the
D.P.I. of Kanara
1914

pages 4, 15-9 notes
with fo. 875 Rev (R)
19-4-14

(2) The next request was that Panchamas should be admitted to caste schools. As to this, it was stated that a beginning had been made in certain training schools, where Panchamas were receiving training with caste pupils. His Excellency thought that the best plan would be to let public opinion on the subject develop and with the progress of ~~the~~ the Panchamas themselves, the aim desired would be reached, and that this way was more likely to be successful than that of attempting to force the experiment on caste schools. It was also remarked that it would be possible however to make trials in individual cases where there seemed some chance of success, and so help forward the object.

(3) Difficulty in starting elementary schools was next represented. The submission of plans properly prepared by a professional man was stated to be a matter of difficulty in outlying districts, ~~which~~ which had proved a great obstacle to schools being started.

To meet this difficulty, it was suggested that the Inspector's powers ~~to~~ ^{of} sanction limited to Rs.100 should be increased to Rs.500, so that the Inspector himself would be able to deal finally with most cases that might arise. As a result of this suggestion, the Government have in G.O.No.35, Education dated the 11th January 1915, authorised Inspectors to sanction grants ~~for~~ village school buildings up to Rs.250. The Grant-in-aid Code also states that the rules of procedure prescribed in regard ^{to} building grants in general need ^{not} be strictly enforced in the case of the village schools.

(4) The deputation next suggested that certain sums should be set apart in budget to be spent on Panchama education. Against this it was suggested that

Panchamas were not everywhere keen on education, and that if money were earmarked for Panchama Education, it might prove that some of it would be wasted. His Excellency remarked that ear-marking was not the most satisfactory way of securing attention to Panchama education and thought it was better to continue on the lines followed by such organizations as the Depressed Classes Mission and to endeavour to form public opinion than to make and enforce new rules to attain the purpose in view. His Excellency added that the object of securing the attention of Government to their needs could be secured if Presidents of Local Boards regularly dealt with the subject in their annual reports.

The following statement shows the number of Panchama pupils in public, secondary, and elementary schools in 1912-13 and 1915-16 in the Presidency as a whole and in the South Kanara district:-

	1912-13	1915-16
<u>Madras Presidency</u>		
Secondary schools	309	635
Elementary schools	77,439	110,346
<u>South Kanara</u>		
Secondary schools	Nil	Nil
Elementary schools	285	572

(5) The last subject that was mentioned was that of the difficulty experienced by the Panchamas owing to their not being allowed to use local wells in certain places. It was suggested that in such places a small reservoir should be attached to the wells to be kept full by a caste man from which Panchamas could draw water by means of taps. His

Excellency undertook that this should be done.

It may be added in conclusion that another chief grievance was their indebtedness brought about by land holders in consequence of a system of loan known as Barbuddy which every Panchama was forced to borrow, and which bound him to the landholder in perpetual servitude. On this the Collector remarked that he had issued a circular to the effect that the system was illegal and that any individual who levied barbuddy would be prosecuted. As a consequence of this ^{action} ~~order~~ the system would probably have disappeared ~~now~~ by now in a great measure.

It may be observed that the whole question of the amelioration of the Depresses classes, as to what has been hitherto done and what further can be done in this Presidency, is under the consideration of the Government at the request of the Govt. of India. The report of the Board of Revenue on the question is awaited.

M.D.R.
9-10-17.

P.deR.
9-10-17.

CR
10.10.17
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Specific suggestions are not put forward in this file. Some suggestions regarding education advanced elsewhere have been examined elsewhere.

I have nothing to say on this subject here except that the general question is pending examination waiting for a report from the Board of Revenue.

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cf. Home Dept letter
12.5.16 on MP 1-2 g
the MP- fledges (W)

This Home (ED)

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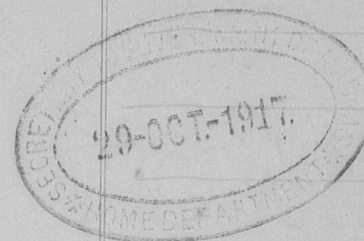
If the District Association will put forward definite suggestions, I shall examine them.

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10/10/17

Returned with thanks.

24-10-17



Home (this) Dept.

The papers may now be

order no. 1144 8 6.11.17

Recorded.

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2.11.17

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3.11.17

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When given for copying
When copied
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191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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