Scott. II-48—23,368—9-2-20.

Law (1921) Department.

(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 34

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Conference----Fifth Visvakarma Mahajana--Madura--Resolutions recorded

Edn 29074
4-10-20

P.S. 4—1,500—8-2-19.

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, MADRAS.

2

2 -OCT 1920

Memo. No. 795-P

Transferred to the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department, for favour of disposal.

ENCLOSURES:
6

(By order of His Excellency the Governor.)

Madras.

The 30. 9. 1920

Private Secretary.

No.12, Ramanuja Ayyar Street,
Washermanpet, Madras, N.E.
29th September 1920.

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR
30 SEP 1920
MADRAS

3

From,

T.M.Mukkanachariar,
President,
Visvakarma Conference Central Committee,
Madras.

To

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras,
Government [illegible] House; Ootacamund.

REGISTRY DEPARTMENT
2-OCT 1920
GOVT. OF MADRAS

Sir,

In forwarding for perusal an extract of the resolutions passed at the Fifth Visvakarma Mahajana Conference held in Madura under the presidency of Mr.N.Duraivelachariar, B.A. on the 21st and 22n August 1920, I am to request you to invite His Excellency's kind attention to the II, XI, XII and XIII resolutions. The usual memorial(~~copy enclosed~~) embodying the resolutions of the Conferences upon which, judging from past experience no action is likely to be taken, has been forwarded separately to the Home Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Not yet received in H. Deptt.

The Visvakarmas form an important industrial community in South India with a population at present of about 13 lakhs. They correspond to what are called in European countries the "artisan classes". The report of the Indian Industrial Commission issued in 1918 bears ample testimony to the past industrial greatness of the community whose members were engaged in producing not only arms, weapons and implements of domestic and industrial uses, but carved stone wood and ivory, wrought metal, jewellery and other articles of luxury, often of exquisite workmanship and high artistic value, The unrestricted foreign competition of machine made goods the withdrawal of royal and ecclesiastical patronage, the impoverished condition of the community brought about by a gradual decline in their trade emoluments and the backward state of education resulting from their impecunious circumstances are among the chief causes that have contributed to the fall in their social and economic condition. Mr.R.W.Ewbank, I.C.S. writing on the subject of Indian handicrafts says " The preservation of its handicrafts is essential to the well being of India. They embody traditions handed down from the remote past and knit into the very texture of national life". Mr.E.B.Havell who was for some years Superintendent of the School of Arts,Madras, writes " It is really of greater importance that India with the help of traditional industrial organisation which she still possess should show the world how a prosperous system of handicrafts may be built up in ~~connection~~ conjunction with agriculture, than it is to show how she could add some crores of rupees to her income by the method of western commercialism". Sir George Birdwood writing on "Machinery and handicrafts in India" says " Ifowing to the operation of certain economic causes,machinery were to be gradually introduced into India for the manufacture of its great traditional handicrafts, there would ensue an industrial revolution which, if not directed by an intelligent and instructed public opinion and the general prevalence of refined taste, would inevitably throw the traditional arts of the country into the same confusion of principles and of their practical application to the objects of daily necessity, which has for three generations been the destruction of decorative art and of middle class taste in England and North western Wurope and the United States of America". Chapter XVII of the Industrial Commission Report relating to Cottage Industries brings out the fact clearly that the interests of the community require special protection.

His Excellency's keen interest in the future industrial development and the economic progress of the country is well known and the second resolution passed at the Conference was based on the full conviction that His Excellency would be graciously pleased to view with sympathy the hard case of this large and useful community and grant the prayers asked for so that their interests might be safeguarded in the future administration of the country.

The community feel that because they have no representatives of their own at present in the Municipal councils,Local boards and the Provincial Legislative Council, their grievances are left unredressed. The necessary facilities that should be accorded to the boys of the community in educational and industrial institutions in the present backward state of the community are now denied to them, as

4 5

the heads of department and the local bodies concerned, are not sufficiently impressed with the importance and necessity of for granting the facilities. His Excellency would readily see that this serious grievance affecting a whole community who once occupied a position of industrial eminence in the country can be set right only by the existence of proper representatives on the various bodies referred to above.

There is another serious grievance to which the Government have unwittingly subjected this large and useful community. In their order of the Public Department No.659 dated 26·6·13 it has been directed that the caste designation of the community should be spelt as 'Asari' a meaningless term, instead of as "Achari", which designation is appropriate to them by law and custom. The protests made by the community have so far proved ineffective. The community feel that if they had their proper representative in the Legislative Council, this injustice would never have been done to them, in view of the strict policy of neutrality observed by Government in matters affecting the social and religious customs and practices of the various communities in this country.

Q

In the present backward state of the community in point of wealth and education, it is not possible for the members of the community to secure seats on the local bodies and in the Legislative Council, through the open door of election. It was, therefore, resolved at the Conference to request Government to nominate suitable representatives of the community to the Municipal Councils, Local boards and the Provincial Legislative Council, to safeguard the interests of this large industrial community.

A

May I ask you to place the matter before His Excellency for his gracious consideration and obtain favourable orders, for which kind act, a whole community would feel grateful.

I enclose, for reference, copies of a memorandum that was prepared for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, as also copy of a communication addressed to the Franchise Committee.

Awaiting the favour of a few lines in reply,

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,

T. M. Mukkanachari.

EXTRACT OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTH VISVAKARMA MAHAJANA CONFERENCE HELD AT MADURA ON 21ST AND 22ND AUGUST 1920.

I. Resolution :-

This Conference of the Visvakarma community of South India begs to convey to Government the unshaken faith and entire confidence of these very important industrialists and in the Indian entire and to express their deep devotion and loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty George V our beloved Emperor.

II. Resolution :-

This Conference of the Artisan community of South India the pioneers of all industries, whose numerical strength is about 13 lakhs begs to express their abiding faith in the administration of His Excellency Lord Willingdon, Governor of Madras and prays that His Excellency may be so pleased as to evince some interest towards this important community by affording them facilities for their educational and industrial advancement and also allot by nomination some seats for them in the Municipal Councils, Taluk and District Boards of the Presidency and the legislative Council as has been graciously done in cases of other backward communities.

x x x x x

V. Resolution :-

This Conference respectfully notes with regret the fact that the Government of Madras have not taken due notice of the important resolutions adopted at the previous Conferences and presses for an early consideration of the same.

x x x x x

XI. Resolution :-

This Conference while repeating its respectful but emphatic protest conveyed in the resolutions adopted at the present Conferences regarding the unwarranted intereference of the Government with the timehonoured caste title of the community 'Achari' prays for the cancellation of the order without further delay in view of the strong feeling prevailing among the members of the community in the matter.

para 6 of the letter on p 49/50 59
26.5.1943
②

XII. Resolution :-

This Conference resolves that in order to safeguard the interest of those industrialists in view of their importance and usefulness to the country at large and their numerical strength, the Government may be pleased to exercise its power of nominating some deserving members of the community as members of municipal councils and local boards in this Presidency as has been done in the case of other backward communities.

x x x x x

11

XIII. Resolution :-

This Conference respectfully begs of Government that they should be pleased to reserve two of the nominated seats in the Local Legislative Council for the members of this large community residing in South India and also begs to suggest for the present the names of the following gentlemen as likely to serve the best the interest of the community.

Mr.N.Duraivelachariar,B.A. of Madras.

Mr.C.Subramanyachariar,B.A.L.T., of Salem.

Enclosure No. 1.

Madras, 10th December 1918.

To

The President and Members

OF

The Franchise Committee.

SIRS,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Visvakarma Mahajana Conference, South India, I beg to submit the following representation for your favourable consideration. The Visvakarmas form an important industrial community in South India, with a population of 10,17,465 according to the last census. The report of the Indian Industrial Commission recently issued, bears testimony to the past industrial greatness of the community whose members were engaged in producing not only arms, weapons and implements of domestic and industrial uses, but carved stone, wood and ivory, wrought metal, jewellery and other articles of luxury, often of exquisite workmanship and high artistic value. It should, however, be pointed out that the unrestricted foreign competition of machine-made goods, the withdrawal of Royal and Ecclesiastical patronage, and the resultant impoverished condition and backward state of education of this great community which comprises the whole of what in European countries are called the artisan classes, have led to a great decline in its status and in social and economic condition. As so well emphasised in Chapter XVII of the Industrial Commission Report relating to the cottage industries, the interests of the community require special protection. Attention is invited in this connection to the opinion of Mr. R. B. Ewbank, an eminent Bombay civilian, on the subject of Indian handicrafts. "The preservation of its handicrafts is essential to the well being of India. They embody traditions handed down from the remote past and knit into the very texture of National life."

Since it is so essential to revive the traditional industrial eminence which the community had occupied in the past, to preserve its ancient handicrafts which would form an important factor in the future industrial development of the country, and to improve the present neglected condition of the community, to enable it to contribute to the future economic progress of the country, it is submitted that at least in the Provincial Legislative Councils, the progress and well-being of this economically and industrially important community should be specially protected by adequate and suitable methods of representation

Having explained the necessity and importance of the representation of the community in the Provincial Legislative Assembly, a few words may be necessary to explain how the representation may be given effect to. The several classes constituting the Visvakarma community such as gold-smith, brass-smith, copper-smith, black-smith, carpenter, wood-carver, stone-worker etc., form a homogeneous whole, so that in the formation of electorates there will be absolutely no difficulty on the ground of sub-divisions of castes, or diversity of territorial interests. It is, however, suggested that in view of the impoverished condition of the community, the general minimum qualification of the voter may be made as low as possible. It is thought that the granting of this concession would result in a fairly large electorate considering the numerical strength of the community.

The following scheme is submitted for the constitution of the Provincial Legislative Assembly :—

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Proposed strength ...	150
Nominated members ...	25
General election on a territorial basis ...	65
Mohamadans	18
Depressed classes ...	10
English trade and commerce including planters and miners	6
Indian trade and commerce	4
Artizan classes. { *Weavers & dyers 3 Smiths & carpenters 3* }	6
Indian Christian community	4
Landlords and Zemindars	6
Uriyas and Agency tracts	2
Corporation	2
University	2
	150

Territorial electorate.	
Ganjam	3
Vizagapatam	3
Godavari	3
Krishna	3
Guntur	2
Nellore	3
Cuddapah	3
Kurnool	3
Bellary	3
Anantapur	3
Chittoor	2
Chingleput	3
N. Arcot	2
S. Arcot	3
Tanjore	3
Trichinopoly	3
Madura	3
Ramnad	2
Tinnevelly	3
Salem	3
Coimbatore	3
Malabar	3
S. Canara	2
Niligris	1
Total	65

The scheme is designed to meet all the requirements of this Presidency. The number of seats allotted for nomination and for the representation of the Mohamadan Community is in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. The seats assigned for election on the territorial basis provide for the adequate representation of the interests of the various Districts. It is submitted that in filling up these seats the franchise would be widened to the fullest possible extent. With regard to the number of seats assigned for the representation of other interests, the relative claims have been carefully weighed and the minimum number has been noted for each interest.

It is hoped that the representation made on behalf of an important industrial community like the Visvakarma community will receive due attention at the hands of the Franchise Committee whose recommendation to His Majesty's Government in the matter will be almost final. As no further opportunity will be accorded for urging the case of an industrial class like ours upon the attention of Government, the responsibility of settling the future economic condition of a large class of His Majesty's subjects, who once occupied a position of industrial eminence in the country, will entirely rest with you.

A copy of the memorandum on the subject prepared for the information of the Secretary of State and H. E. the Viceroy is also submitted for the perusal of the Committee.

As Vice-President of the Committee, I am authorised to tender evidence before you on any point which may require elucidation in connection with the above representation.

I beg to remain,

Sirs,

Your most obedient servant,

N Duraivelachari B.A.

Vice-President,

Visvakarma Mahajana Conference Committee,
MADRAS.

PRINTED AT THE INDIA PRINTING WORKS, MADRAS

Enclosure No. 2.

Memorandum explaining the importance and the necessity of safe-guarding the interests of the Artizan Community of South India in any scheme of reforms that may be formulated by the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

The Visvakarma Mahajana Conference movement was organised by the Artizan classes of South India for improving the material condition of the community. Prior to its organisation there were a number of local institutions attending to purely local wants. The Conference movement which was started in 1915 affiliated the other institutions as branches carrying out the objects of the central body.

The first Conference was held in Kumbakonam, the second in Tanjore and the third in Trichinopoly. The resolutions passed at each Conference were communicated to the Local Government and their help sought towards the amelioration of the community wherever necessary. It is not known what steps the Local Government have taken to remedy the grievances brought to their notice. But the delay in passing orders brings out one serious defect clearly *i.e.*, the absence of representatives of the community in the Municipal Councils, the Local Boards and the Provincial Legislative Council, who can take a real interest in the matter and move the Government to action.

The Central Committee of the Conference have therefore deemed it proper to avail themselves of this opportunity to represent to His Excellency the Viceroy and the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India a few important details with regard to the traditional industrial eminence which the community had occupied in the past, its present neglected condition, and the imperative necessity to preserve its ancient handicrafts, and the integrity of the community as a factor in the future economic progress of the country. The Central Committee have therefore quoted in this connection the weighty opinions of some distinguished writers who can speak with authority on the industrial uplift of India. The views of these eminent men with regard to the remedies that should be adopted for the amelioration of the Artizan class and the general improvement of the arts and the industries of the country, deserve special attention.

Visvakarmas, the descendants of Visvakarma, the Divine Architect, form an important industrial community in South India with a population of 10,17465. The members of the community were and are the master-builders of the land. The awe-inspiring temples and the mighty and beautiful palaces are their works. The exquisite workmanship displayed in a wealth of gods and horsed warriors, in stone work, metal work and ivory carving, bear ample testimony to their artistic and industrial greatness.

Though the community can still boast of master-builders and clever artists here and there, it should be admitted as a patent fact that there is a considerable decline in the status of the workmen and in their industry. The causes are not far to seek. The unrestricted foreign competition of machine-made goods resulting in the import of cheap metal, wooden and earthen wares and glass utensils, the withdrawal of royal and ecclesiastical patronage due to the imbibing by the Indian Artistocracy of purely western tastes and customs, the impoverished condition of the community brought about by a gradual decline in their trade emoluments, and the backward state of education resulting from their impecunious circumstances, are among the chief causes that account for the industrial degeneration of the community. At the present day the rural artizan has to depend upon the village money lender and merchant who insists on the sale of manufactured articles through his own shop at a rate which just covers the expenses of manufacture. Thus circumstanced, the artizan is without any prospect of bettering his condition.

The preservation and development of the handicrafts of India is a matter of vital importance to the national well-being. Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy, the most rational exponent of Hinduism and its ideals, believes and believes rightly, that nations are made by artists and poets, and not by traders and politicians. "It is for us," he further says, "to show that industrial production can be organised on socialistic lines without converting the whole world into groups of state-owned factories. It is for us to show that great and lively cities can be built and beautiful things made in them without the pollution of the air by smoke or the poisoning of the river by chemicals; for us to show that man can be the master and not slave of the mechanism he himself has created." Mr. E. B. Havell who was for a long time the Superintendent of the School of Arts in Madras and thus well acquainted with the arts and handicrafts of South India, writes, "It is of really greater importance that India with the help of the great traditional industrial organisation which she still possesses, should show the world how a prosperous system of handicraft may be built up in conjunction with agriculture, than it is to show how she could add some crores of rupees to her income by the method of Western Commercialism." Mr. R. B. Ewbank, an eminent Bombay civilian, writes in unmistakable terms, "that the preservation of its ancient handicrafts is essential to the well-being of India. They embody traditions handed down from the remote past and knit into the very texture of national life. They so exactly reflect national temperament and meet popular needs that domestic life would be poorer and less vivid for their disappearance. . . . . A state cannot but be the richer for a citizen who is a skilful and honest workman delighting in his own handicraft and can ill afford to exchange him for the ordinary mill hand enslaved by a mechanical and soulless routine.".

It thus becomes the paramount duty alike of the state and the craftsman to tackle the problem of preserving the indigenous industries and find out an effective solution. The remedies to arrest the decay and degeneration of the handicrafts and to enable the hereditary artizan to take his proper place in the industrial regeneration of the country which is bound to come

after this great world-war, are education and organisation. Education, then, is the panacea for all evils to which artizans and others are subject. The children of the artizans should be taught not only the three R's to do business with the money-lenders and retail agents, but also they should be taught to welcome and use every labour-saving machine to their special craft. To rescue the craftsman from the greedy hand of the village usurer, co-operation is the only remedy that has been found successful. "The only practical method" says a distinguished civilian "is the organisation of co-operative societies on the Raiffeison model which have proved so remarkably successful among the agriculturists. Organisations on these lines, correlated with the technical revival which in several provinces the Directors of Industries are trying to promote, cannot fail before long to arrest the decay which has already set in."

The time, therefore, has now come for the Provincial Governments to enter the field of industry and to solve the great industrial problem not so much by establishing power-mills and encouraging grandiose commercial schemes, as by giving a lead which shall once for all set the greatest crafts of the country beyond the fear of an unnecessary extinction. It is a matter for regret that the establishment of technical and industrial schools for the community out of Municipal revenues, as contemplated under sections 118, 224, of the Madras District Municipalities Act, has been grievously neglected by the Municipal bodies. All these grievances, evils and neglect make an overwhelmingly strong case to show that redress can be effected by Government only through the help and with the advice of the chosen representatives of the Artizan class. Hence the utility, the necessity and the expediency of the adequate representation of the Artizan community on the Municipal Councils, Local Boards and the Provincial Legislative Council.

India Printing Works, Madras.

Enclo. No. 3.

VISVAKARMA MAHAJANA CONFERENCE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICE,
32, SEKKADY STREET,
KUMBAKONAM.

Dated, ... *November, 1917.*

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
HOME DEPARTMENT,
Fort Saint George, Madras.

SIR,

I respectfully beg to submit on behalf of the Central Committee of the Visvakarma Mahajana Conference, the resolutions passed at the third annual session of the Conference held at Trichinopoly on the 26th, 27th and 28th May 1917 under the presidency of MR. NAMASIVOYAM SIVAKOLUNDU ACHARIAR, Proctor, Supreme Court, Jaffna, for favour of consideration and necessary orders.

The Conference was attended by over 800 delegates and as many visitors, from all parts of South India; and the various resolutions brought before them for consideration were discussed fully and intelligently which showed the keen interest evinced by them towards the advancement of the community.

The first resolution on the agenda, the resolution of Loyalty to Government and speedy success to the British Arms in the present War was adopted amidst much enthusiasm. So was the resolution expressing the readiness of the members of the community to join the Government Ammunition factories and workshops of the province.

It is with no small amount of regret the Conference noted the absence of remedy by Government to the grievances of the community regarding the revival and development of the Industries pertaining to the community and spread of general and industrial education among its members on the lines set forth in the memorials of preceding years and the committee fervently hope that the resolutions adopted at this Conference on the same subject will be attended with beneficial results.

It will be observed from the XI resolution that the Conference is solicitous about the help of the local Co-operative Registrar in organising small Co-operative Societies among the members of the community to improve the cottage industries pertaining to the community or allied thereto. In this connection the committee regret to state that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has not chosen to help the committe till now in spite of a special invitation to him to kindly attend the Conference and give the necessary advice. A similar request was made to the Director of Industries inviting him to attend the Conference and suggest by way of advice practical measures for the improvement of the industries of the community but, he was not able to comply with the request on the score of military duty which detained him in Madras at that time. The Committtee confidently hope that the Government be pleased to issue necessary instructions directing the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to bestow on this community as much attention as is bestowed by him on the other communities such as weavers etc., with regard to the formation of Co-operative Societies.

With reference to the XII resolution adopted at the Conference the Committee pray that Government will issue early instructions to the Director of Industries to institute necessary enquiries regarding the drawbacks and disabilities of the community brought to the notice of the Industrial Commission by the representatives of the community during their sittings at Madras in the early part of the year.

The Conference deplored the continued neglect shown by the Local Boards and Municipalities towards the spread of both Technical and General Education in their respective areas for the advancement of an industrial class like the VIsvakarma community and resolved to again request Government to take speedy action in the matter, in view of the fact that the Government of India is anxious at the present juncture to investigate and improve Indian industries

Another serious matter which the Conference discussed with great concern and strong feeling, was the order of the Government of Madras that the caste designation of the community should be spelt as 'Asari' and not as 'Achari' as was spelt from time immemorial. As already pointed out, 'Asari' is a meaningless and ungrammatical term and the enforcement of that title by the Government upon the community without first obtaining their opinion on the matter is being construed as a distinct violation of the policy of neutrality observed by Government in matters affecting the social and religious customs and privileges of the various communities in the country. The Committee pray that this pressing grievance of an ancient and large community in this Presidency should be redressed without further delay. In this connection it was pointed out at the Conference that the title 'Achari' was being used by 98 per cent of the members of the Visvakarma community as their birthright, the rest using the title of 'Pathars'; whereas the brahmanic title 'Chari' was in use among a small body of 'Vaishnavas' and 'Mathvas' more as a matter of fancy. The majority of these two sects of brahmins use the term 'Iyengar' and 'Row'. It was also printed out at the Conference that the Government by their attitude in this matter evinced undue solicitude for the claims of a small minority to a title assumed more out of fancy and totally ignored the strong and long standing claims of a whole community six times the number.

In concluding the committee respectfully trust that the Government will be pleased to deal with the questions submitted to their consideration favourably and will thus safeguard the interests of a large community who form the industrial backbone of the country. I beg to add that I am desired by the Committee to submit copies of Reports of the Proceedings of the 2 Conferences held at Kumbakonam and Tanjore for perusal and record.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
G. KRISHNASWAMI ACHARI,
General Secretary.

V. K PRESS, MADRAS.

Resolutions adopted at the Third Visvakarma Mahajana Conference.

Held at TRICHINOPOLY on 26th, 27th & 28th May 1917.

I. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference begs to convey to Government the profound loyalty of the community to the British Raj and prays that the Great War which is still carried on be brought to a speedy and successful end and that great glory attend on His Most Gracious Majesty George the V, our beloved Sovereign.

II. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference of the Visvakarma community of South India begs to convey its condolence to His Excellency Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India and Her Excellency Lady Chelmsford in the irrepairable loss sustained by them in the heroic death of their beloved son at the front.

III. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference of the Artisan community of South India begs to offer their humble services in connection with the present great war and begs to convey the readiness of its members to help the Government by joining the Government Ammunition Factories and Workshops of the province in large numbers should their services be needed owing to the exigencies of the situation.

IV. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference again prays that the Government may in view of the impoverished condition of the community and the decay of their Arts and Industries caused by powerful and unfair competition, be pleased to order the admission of Visvakarma youths into Secondary Schools and Colleges of the Presidency on half fees

V. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference of the Industrialists of South India agains begs of Government that they will be pleased to take the necessary steps for the early establishment of Industrial Schools in some select centres of South India, wherein the Visvakarma youths may be trained in the Industries pertaining to the community or allied thereto, on improved scientific methods and necessary stipends awarded to deserving students.

VI RESOLUTION:—

This Conference, while reiterating the importance of inherent advantages derived from hereditary occupation in the selection of students for receiving Technical and Architectural training in foreign countries begs of Government to select youths of the Visvakarma community who have received Secondary education, the rules requiring the possession of academic distinction being relaxed in their case.

VII. RESOLUTION:—

This Conference resolves to undertake to start at an early date schools of its own in select centres, wherein the youths of the community may receive general, industrial, architectural and religious education in the same institution.

VIII. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference resolves to appoint a committee consisting of select gentlemen with powers to add to their number for the purpose of collecting funds to carry out the objects of the foregoing resolution.

IX. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference again resolves that the members of the community should give their children both boys and girls compulsory primary education and that no parent or guardian shall take his children or ward into his profession before 12 years of age and that the Branch Committees shall see to the enforcement of this resolution.

X. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference resolves that with a view to give elementary education to the illiterate adults and youngsters engaged in their profession, immediate steps be taken for starting night schools wherever necessary.

XI. RESOLUTION :—

The Conference resolves to request the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies to help the Conference Central Committee with efforts to start Co-operative Societies among the members of the community in different centres for the improvement of local industries pertaining to the community or allied thereto.

XII. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference resolves to solicit the help of the Director of Industries in this Presidency in the matter of necessary enquiries being instituted regarding the present condition of the Visvakarma community—the pioneers of Industries—both as regards their industries and education and to take steps for improving their condition.

XIII. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference prays that the Indian Industrial Commission under the Presidency of Sir Thomas Holland—may bestow earnest attention on the various drawbacks and disabilities of this large industrial community of South India, duly brought to the notice of the Commission at their sittings at Madras by the two chosen representatives of their community in their evidences and suggest to the authorities practical steps for industrial advancement of the community on modern lines.

XIV. RESOLUTION :—

The Conference again prays that all Municipal Councils and Local Boards of South India may be pleased to open Technical and Industrial schools, out of their revenue as contemplated by the legislatures, wherein Visvakarma youths may receive both general and industrial education side by side.

XV. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference while reiterating the emphatic protest conveyed in the resolutions adopted at the previous Conferences regarding the undesirable interference of the Government with the time honoured caste designation of the community "Achari", prays for the cancellation of the order without further delay in view of the strong feeling prevailing among the members of the community on the matter.

XVI. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference resolves that the Central Committee should form an expert Sub-Committee to make necessary researches regarding the community in general and the caste designation in particular and prepare at an early date a memorandum for general information.

XVII. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference again resolves that the members of the community should strictly observe the religious rites and other ceremonials as laid down in their scriptures.

XVIII. RESOLUTION :—

This Conference resolves that the Central Committee should take immediate steps for strengthening the constitution of the Advisory Boards pertaining to Education, Industry and Religion.

V. K. PRESS, MADRAS.

Dept
return
to me
SB

DESPATCHED
20 OCT. 1920
SB

Copied
20/10/20

Home (Edn.) Dept
Letter - to 290 / 20.10.20

14

The President,
Visvakarma Conference
Central Committee,
Madras.

Sir,

I am directed to ~~ackno~~ acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 29th September 1920, forwarding an extract of the resolutions passed at the fifth Visvakarma Mahajana Conference held at Madura on the 21st & 22nd August 1920.

I have &c,

SK
18.10.20.

AK
19/10/20

19.10.20

Home (Edn.) Dep

C No. 2907A. From the President, Viswakar
Confce., d 29.9.20.

Subject. Requesting that representatives of the Community may be given seats in the Legis. Council

---

A draft acknowledgment is submitt

2. The memorialist requests that representatives of the Viswakarma community may be given seats in local boards, municipal Council & in the Legislative Council. These requests are for consideration in the LSG & ~~[illegible]~~ Reforms Depts. The ~~current~~ file may be ~~[illegible]~~ sent to ~~[illegible]~~ those departments. Home (Mis) and Rev (Spl) are concerned with resolutions XI and II respectively

SR
18.10.20

NS
18.10.20

Home (Mis)
Rev (Spl)
LSG
Reforms

CR
19.10.20

Home (Mis) no

Econ no 2907A-1
22.10.20

Home (Mis) Dept.

Home (Mis) 4630
22.10.20

This Dept. is concerned with Resolution No XI regarding the spelling of the Caste title "Asari"

RAG
23.10.20

No. 8

Flag (J)

No action seems to be necessary in this Dept. (Vide G.O. No 282 Home (Mis) of 3-11-16) the file may be passed on to Revenue (Spl) U.O.

CA
28/10/20

29/10/20

1[illegible] NOV 1920
SPECIAL DEPARTMENT

27.10.20

27.10.20

Rev Spl

Home (Mis) 4630-1
29. 10. 20.

No 2150-II
1. 11. 20

Rev.-(Spl) Dept

at p. 4. c.f.

(J)

To U.S.

We are concerned with Resolution II. There are facilities for the educational and industrial advancement of the community at the Madras Industrial Institute & the School of Arts, Madras. & the members of the community can also avail themselves of the large number of scholarships ~~recently~~ for industrial education recently sanctioned by Govt. Perhaps a copy of the Resn. may be sent to the D.I. for any action which he may consider necessary.

3.11.20

If so the draft O.M. 17 below is for approval. After issue of the O.M. the file may be sent to L & M. u.o.

~~S~~
Lms
4.11.20

WP
3.11.20

CU
3.11.20

For reque for action

LofG.

JG
4.11

Repus 2150 IV/20-1

L & M. u. o.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT. • REGISTRAR •
5 NOV 1920

2638 Leg

CUB
5/11

CUB
6-11-20. For Supdt Legn.

This seems to be a paper for L & M. Vide the note Educn. Dept & the marginal entries on page 1.

CUB
8-11-20. Mr. Sundara Sastri

Please transfer this current to Law. CG
8/11/20

Regr. says that this Regn. Sho. deal with in the first instance.
CG
8/11

(9)

L & M (Lg.) Dept.

Questions connected with the representation of various communities on the Legislative Council were considered in 1919 by the Franchise Committee. Papers on the subject were then dealt with in the Public (Reforms) Dept.

2) Please see A on page 3 of current file. Out of 25 -x- nominated seats on the Legve. Council, not more than 19 may be officials. There will be therefore at least 6 nominated seats but these are reserved for Panchamas and the inhabitants of

-x-
29 - 4
(Vide rule 3(3) on p 25 of the rules) (9) (The maximum number of executive Council members)

backward tracts. So, the question of giving the Viswakarma Community a nominated seat on the Council can be considered only if more than six nominated seats are thrown open to non-officials. Some time before the nominations are taken up, the point may perhaps be put before the P.S.G. for consideration by His Excellency. In the meantime the remarks of the Public (Reforms) Dept (to whom the paper has been marked by Home, Edn.) may perhaps be invited.

CUB
10.11-20.

(Through L & M)

JS

The Memorialist requests that deserving members of the Community may be appointed to Munl. Cls. & local boards by the Govt. Under Secn. 7 of the Madras Distt. Munies. Act regard shd. be had to the representation of Muhammadans & other minorities in making nominations to Ml. Cls. Collrs. who submit nominations will doubtless bring to notice cases of deserving persons of this Community, if their nomination to the Council is necessary. ~~In the case of~~ As regards local boards, the Govt. appoint persons only to the Distt. Bds., & Presidents of Distt. Bds. may be expected to recommend similarly deserving persons of the community to Govt. No action seems to be necessary on resoln XII.

Yes.
B.R.R.
18/12

[illegible]
15/12/20

To ~~Reforms, u.o.~~

To Leg. Secn.

This should have been sent to Reforms direct.

3/12/20

Reforms

LOM u.o. 2638-1 Leg
3-12-20

p. 6. C.F.

Returned with thanks.

The request of the Madras Visvakarma Conference Central Committee for the nomination of their representatives to the Legislative Council has been noted.

(B.U)

P.S.G.
18-12-20.

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF MADRAS
-3 JAN 1921
HOME DEPARTMENT

Sp to Home u.o.
S. (Home)

Recd.
CUB
22-12-20

Legislative Dept.

The case may now be returned u.o. to the Home (Education) Dept.

23.12.20

CUB
22-12-20

Law (Edn.) dept. u.o.

23/12

Recd. at 2/30 P.M.
23/12

JAN 1921
OF MADRAS

6

JD Home (Edn) Dept

None of the depts consulted have thought it necessary to take action on any of the resolutions (& the P.S.G. has noted the ~~expert~~). The papers have at this stage, simply to be recorded. Perhaps ~~this~~ it will facilitate future reference if all such communications are recorded in one dept, viz., Home (Mis) Dept where it is usual to do so.

Yes
CR
4.1.21

AW
2/1/21

CR
4.1.21
5

My
5/1/21

Mis 7/101

Home (Edn) A.
28 A-7
5.1.21

Misc No. 61
5.1.21.

-5. JAN. 1921

~~Home (Mis) Dept~~

For Gen Reqr.

The papers may be recorded
Ge G.O. 34 (Edn) 11.1.21
Mis

CR
11/1/21

Abstract

Conference - Fifth Visvakarma Mahajana ~~Conference~~, Madura, resolutions recorded.

CAR.
7.1.21

8.1.21

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed
} 192 .

READ AGAIN G.O. No. , DATED 192 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.