

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From H. B. GRIGG, Esq., M.A., Director of Public Instruction, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 23rd September 1884, No. 6975.

I have the honor to submit five copies of the twenty-fourth report of the Lawrence Asylum at Ootacamund, together with the report of the Inspector of Schools, 6th division, dated 26th August 1884.

2. The number in the Boys' Asylum was 302 on the 31st March 1884, inclusive of one boy sick at the Civil Orphan Asylum, Madras, against 307 at the beginning of the year. There were 46 admissions and 58 departures against 42 and 48 respectively in the preceding year. The highest number reached during the year was 315. This was low compared with former years, and must, I think, be attributed to the short-service system introduced into the army, but no information regarding the classes to which the parents belong is given in the report to support an unqualified opinion on the point. As the question is of great importance to the future of the asylum, I have already in my letter, No. 5797-A, dated 21st August 1884, advised that steps should be taken to ascertain accurately how far the change in system of service in the British army and the improvement of Army schools are likely to affect the supply of pupils. In this connection, I would point out that the number of children under 8 years is one-third less than in 1879-80. It is to be noted that pupils are now admitted immediately on application.

3. The list of departures again presents some not altogether satisfactory features, though no boy is entered as having been expelled, but of the 58 departures, explanation is only given in regard to 51 pupils, so that, I presume, the remaining seven pupils should be added to those removed "for no particular cause or reason." Five did not return after the holidays, six were returned to their parents being overage, and eight were removed for no particular cause or reason. It would have been well if some information regarding all these boys had been obtained. I would suggest that the Committee's remarks regarding the few enlistments should be brought to the notice of the Military department. All the lads joining the Telegraph department were sent to serve in other provinces. The number of pupils who obtained certain employment was six, which equals the number returned to their parents as overage. Absolute orphans seem to form a very small portion of the number on the rolls, for there were only 30 (the same figure as last year), while both parents of 79 boys were living against 86 in 1882-83. I presume that the fee income of Rs. 1,497 was received chiefly on account of these children. The fatherless boys numbered 141 and the motherless 52. Of the entire number 23 were Roman Catholics. The bulk of the children were of mixed parentage, there having been 228 Eurasians to 74 Europeans. The number of Europeans is rather greater than it was four years ago, due probably to selection of boys entirely according to the Lawrence Asylum rules, by which arrangement the Native army has lost, in great measure, the benefits which the old Military Asylum secured for it before the amalgamation. The 17 boys over 16 years of age were, with the

exception of two, who were engaged as pupil teachers, connected with the telegraph class. As usual, instruction in Telegraphy was successfully carried on. The band instruction seems to have been very satisfactory.

4. There were three gymnastic classes. In number I three boys were removed by order of the medical officer, and one other was removed as he had been made a day-worker. The class met from 16th January to 20th April 1883, and during this period, though there was no increase in weight taking one lb. as the standard, the boys increased in size. Their ages varied from 10 years and 4 months to 13 years and 4 months. Number II class was composed of boys from 11 years to 15 years and 8 months, and the class met from the 24th April to the 19th August 1883. Here there was increase in weight with four exceptions and increase in size with three partial exceptions. The number III class was composed of boys from 9 years and 6 months to 15 years and 1 month. The class met from 20th August to 13th December 1883, and here also there was increase in weight (some times considerable) with one exception and in size with exceptions three partial and one entire. This shows that gymnastic instruction was beneficial. In submitting the report for the previous year I expressed myself as disapproving of the system pursued. It appears from the report under notice that the class has been increased to 45 since January last. This with three months' instruction to each class would give 180 boys trained for the year against apparently 45 in the preceding year. This is so far satisfactory. The Inspector, in a special report sent in with reference to paragraph 4 of G.O., Educational, No. 785, dated the 28th November 1883, makes suggestions with the object of training 200 boys per year. I shall deal with the point in sending up the special report. The gymnasium apparatus is stated to be in good working order, but the gymnasium remains unaltered. Plans and estimates, however, it appears, are before Government.

5. In the Tailors' shop there are three day-workers who attend from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 2-30 to 5 P.M. They are learning to work with the sewing machine. Two boys are reported as having made fair progress, while *nil* is entered against the remaining one though he seems to have joined in January 1883. The other two joined in July of that year. All are over 15 years of age. Sixteen boys are entered as afternoon workers attending from 2-30 to 5 P.M., and they make up simple articles in the shape of wearing-apparel, &c. The progress of these boys is reported to be fair. Two of these half-timers are over 16 years of age, and had been two years in the class. Of the eight over 15 years, five had joined the class in January last, and all the five boys under 15 had joined also in that month. Considering the unartistic character of the instruction received by these boys, it seems to me that the class serves no directly educational purpose, but appears to be maintained for reasons unconnected with the individual interests of the lads; for, since the foundation of the asylum, apparently not a single lad has become a tailor by profession. Under Carpenters and Smiths shops, one boy, as usual, is stated to be working the stationary steam-engine, for pumping water for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours daily, and to have made "fair progress." It will thus be seen that no industrial education proper at all is being given, although a fair proportion of lads are taught to labor with their hands, which is in itself an excellent discipline. I propose in sending up the Inspector's special report to revert to this subject. Four boys are detailed every week as kitchen orderlies and 56 others are employed daily out of school hours as dining-room orderlies, scrubbers, &c.

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and more attractive, this end is not likely to be effected." A liberal grant was made by the Committee for the purchase of new and instructive magic lantern slides. The asylum possesses two lanterns, one of which is said to be a very superior instrument.

8. The need for a hospital is repeated, stress being laid on an outbreak of measles which took place during the year, when nearly one hundred boys were attacked, of whom two died, but under the orders of the Government of India one cannot be provided. I observe, however, that the deposit balance—Rs. 20,000—to the credit of the asylum should suffice for the erection of a plain but suitable building. Hopes were entertained that some minor improvements suggested by the Consulting Physician might be effected before long. The new latrines were expected shortly to be finished.

9. A donation of Rs. 10 was received from Major Sandes. Special gifts were also received for the annual distribution of prizes held on the 24th September 1883.

10. The examinations for the Telegraph department were very successful, the failures being four only. The Chief Superintendent recommended that three of the boys who failed should be removed as they were not likely to qualify. One boy had lost an eye and was therefore disqualified for Government service, but he obtained employment as a signaller on the Madras Railway. The results at the Middle school, Lower Fourth Comparative and Upper Primary examinations were decidedly good and very creditable to the teachers concerned. The Special Upper Primary examination however was almost a complete failure only one out of ten sent up having passed and that in the second class. One of the pupil teachers passed a very creditable examination for the fourth grade of accountant in the Public Works department. Since the submission of the report he has been engaged as a draughtsman in the Quartermaster General's office. The prizes given were numerous and consisted of various useful articles; very few of the prizes were books. Money prizes respectively of Rs. 40 and 20 were given by Dr. Brandis and Colonel Sankey, and they were awarded for neatness and tidiness.

11. The total receipts were Rs. 1,04,325-0-6, and the total expenditure was Rs. 1,00,919-9-8. The balance at the close of the year was Rs. 17,582, against Rs. 14,176 at the beginning, exclusive in each case of the sum of Rs. 20,000 placed in deposit during 1882-83. The latter was in excess of that of the previous year by Rs. 3,164-8-5, and the excess is attributed to the items, education, household, sanitation, workshops, and miscellaneous, explanation being given in each case. The charges seem to have been unavoidable. The average cost per boy was Rs. 265, against Rs. 257, last year, but yet under the average for six years which was Rs. 266.

12. The gain in the Tailors' shop is put down at Rs. 532-15-2, the mode of calculation being the one usually adopted in the reports. In G.O., dated 21st August 1883, No. 555, Educational, the Government approved of my suggestion that the actual market value of the work done should be taken as the value in the accounts of the asylum. The report suggests what is considered an apparently more correct method, that is "to take the cost of the establishment as the actual value of the labor employed and to attach to this a list of the articles made during the year and valued at rates obtained from any well-known local firm." This, it is added, will show at a glance whether it is profitable or not to keep up a tailoring establishment. As the valuation of the work done last year by the master-tailor of a well-known European firm is nearly double of that of a native-tailor, which to my mind is the true index of local value of articles required by such an institution as an asylum, the arrangement proposed by the Committee would probably result in a far more favorable balance sheet than if the valuation were made as far as possible according to local rates, *i.e.*, rates for which the Committee could obtain the supplies from a contractor. But the upkeep of the establishment, if it is to be justified, must be justified from an educational point of view. Here the return seems to be *nil*, for the establishment does not train tailors, whilst *per contra* the lads whose time is taken for tailoring really obtain no equitable *quid pro quo* for the loss of time which might be devoted to acquiring knowledge of a calling which could support them in after-life. Is this compensated by a nominal gain of a few hundred rupees to a great institution costing nearly a lakh of

rupees annually? The gain in the carpenters' and smiths' shops is put down at Rs. 205-6-0. Some excellent work seems to have been turned out in these shops, but the share of the boys in the execution of it does not appear.

13. The memorandum of farm operations is satisfactory in so far that the expenditure, according to the statement given, was Rs. 3,384-0-4, and the returns Rs. 3,983-1-6. If the boys take part in the operations, the fact has not been stated.

14. *Female Branch*.—There were 59 children on the rolls in place of 57 at the beginning of the year. Ten children left for satisfactory reasons. As noticed last year, the number of European children is the largest, there being 45 of them to 14 Eurasians. Eleven children were orphans, 25 were fatherless, 14 were motherless, and 9 had both parents living. Seven children were Roman Catholics. The ages of the children ranged from between 5 and 6 to between 15 and 16. There were 6 children above 16.

15. The total receipts were Rs. 19,096-8-5 and the total expenditure Rs. 16,829-11-6. The cost per girl was Rs. 285, against Rs. 258 the previous year. The average cost for six years was Rs. 269. Satisfactory reasons are given for the excess.

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20. The report contains several interesting statements giving the following information carried back in some cases to the foundation of the asylum. Reasons for departure. Causes of death. Nationality, with receipts and expenditure and average cost per child up to 31st March 1872. Same information separately for boys and girls from 1st April 1872.

21. The medical report shows that the institutions did not enjoy their usual comparative immunity from sickness. One hundred boys and 24 girls were attacked with measles, and two boys died. Altogether there were 198 admissions into hospital, 44 being Europeans and 154 Eurasians. In the Girls' Asylum the admissions were 43. All needful precautions seem to have been taken to preserve the health of the children.

22. The Inspector's report is included in the printed report now sent. The results of his examination were generally satisfactory, but I trust the Committee will act on his suggestion to remove the cheerless character of the rooms in the Boys' Asylums by hanging pictures and diagrams on the walls.

ORDER—dated 27th October 1884, No. 669, Educational.

The annual report on the Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum for the year 1883-84 shows that the number of boys in the asylum was 302 on the 31st March 1884, against 307 at the beginning of the year. There were 46 admissions and 58 departures, but of the latter 7 boys are not accounted for in any way. This needs explanation.

2. The change in the system of service in the British army has apparently affected the supply of pupils, the highest number reached during the year being 315, which is low compared with former years. This point was adverted to in connection with the proposed admission of the children of volunteers, the papers on which subject have

been referred for the orders of the Government of India. There were only three enlistments during the year. The Committee's remarks on this head will be referred to the Military department for consideration.

3. The training in the telegraph classes was satisfactory, while the band instruction is very favorably reported on. Greater attention was also paid to the gymnastic exercises of the boys.

4. No appreciable improvement is perceptible in the industrial training given in the asylum. The Director proposes, however, in submitting the Inspector's special report, to revert to this subject—one of the utmost importance as affecting the future interests of the boys.

5. There was a very virulent outbreak of measles in the asylum, a hundred boys having been attacked, two of whom died. With regard to the need for a hospital it is observed that an estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,700, for improving the hospital and nursery dormitories, was recently sanctioned in the Public Works department G.O., dated 25th September 1884, No. 2370.

6. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,04,325-0-6 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,00,919-9-8. The average cost per boy was Rs. 265 against Rs. 257 in the previous year.

7. *Female Branch*.—In this branch there were 12 admissions and 10 departures during the year, leaving 59 on the rolls on the 31st March 1884. None of the girls who left obtained employment.

8. The total receipts were Rs. 19,096-8-5 and the charge Rs. 16,829-11-6. The cost per girl was Rs. 285 against Rs. 258 in the previous year.

9. The results of the public examinations (with the exception of the Special Upper Primary in the Male Asylum) were very satisfactory.

10. The thanks of His Excellency in Council are due to the Committee for their services during the year.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,  
Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

„ Committee of Management of the Lawrence Asylum.  
„ Public Works department.  
„ Military department.

Exd. J. Wright.

order thereon N<sup>o</sup> 2802 Waf  
8 November/84

Communicated  
to the Suptg. Engr.  
IV circle.

True extract  
Sgt J.S.S.  
W.

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.  
EDUCATIONAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 27th October 1884, No. 669.

B. N<sup>o</sup> 2802 Waf 8 November/84

OCTOBER.

Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum.

Reviewing the annual report of the — for  
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S.E. IV circle.

With order

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4. There were three gymnastic classes. In number 1 three boys were removed by order of the medical officer, and one other was removed as he had been made a day-worker. The class met from 16th January to 20th April 1883, and during this period, though there was no increase in weight taking one lb. as the standard, the boys increased in size. Their ages varied from 10 years and 4 months to 13 years and 4 months. Number II class was composed of boys from 11 years to 15 years and 8 months, and the class met from the 24th April to the 19th August 1883. Here there was increase in weight with four exceptions and increase in size with three partial exceptions. The number III class was composed of boys from 9 years and 6 months to 15 years and 1 month. The class met from 20th August to 13th December 1883, and here also there was increase in weight (some times considerable) with one exception and in size with exceptions three partial and one entire. This shows that gymnastic instruction was beneficial. In submitting the report for the previous year I expressed myself as disapproving of the system pursued. It appears from the report under notice that the class has been increased to 45 since January last. This with three months' instruction to each class would give 180 boys trained for the year against apparently 45 in the preceding year. This is so far satisfactory. The Inspector, in a special report sent in with reference to paragraph 4 of G.O., Educational, No. 785, dated the 28th November 1883, makes suggestions with the object of training 200 boys per year. I shall deal with the point in sending up the special report. The gymnasium apparatus is stated to be in good working order, but the gymnasium remains unaltered. Plans and estimates, however, it appears, are before Government.

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4. No appreciable improvement is perceptible in the industrial training given in the asylum. The Director proposes, however, in submitting the Inspector's special report, to revert to this subject—one of the utmost importance as affecting the future interests of the boys.

5. There was a very virulent outbreak of measles in the asylum, a hundred boys having been attacked, two of whom died. With regard to the need for a hospital it is observed that an estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,700, for improving the hospital and nursery dormitories, was recently sanctioned in the Public Works department G.O., dated 25th September 1884, No. 2370.

6. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,04,325-0-6 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,00,919-9-8. The average cost per boy was Rs. 265 against Rs. 257 in the previous year.

7. *Female Branch.*—In this branch there were 12 admissions and 10 departures during the year, leaving 59 on the rolls on the 31st March 1884. None of the girls who left obtained employment.

8. The total receipts were Rs. 19,096-8-5 and the charge Rs. 16,829-11-6. The cost per girl was Rs. 285 against Rs. 258 in the previous year.

9. The results of the public examinations (with the exception of the Special Upper Primary in the Male Asylum) were very satisfactory.

10. The thanks of His Excellency in Council are due to the Committee for their services during the year.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,  
Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.  
" Committee of Management of the Lawrence Asylum.  
" Public Works department.  
" Military department.

Exd. J. Wright.

order thereon N<sup>o</sup> 2802 Waj  
8<sup>th</sup> Nov/84

Communicated to  
the Suptg. Engineer  
IV. Circle.

True Extract  
for J. S. W

Govt. of (1884) Madras.  
EDUCATIONAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 27th October 1884, No. 669.

B. N<sup>o</sup> 2802 Waj 8<sup>th</sup> Nov/84

OCTOBER.

Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum.

Reviewing the annual report of the — for  
1883-84.

S. E. IV circle.

With order