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Government of Madras

Public DEPARTMENT

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5 NOV 84

To
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
JOHN WODEHOUSE, EARL OF KIMBERLEY,
HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR INDIA,
London.

1. That, in common with their countrymen in other parts of India, your Memorialists have learned with deep regret, and disappointment, your refusal to accede to the request recently made by a deputation of English and Indian gentlemen, to raise the age of the candidates for the Indian Civil Service Competitive Examination.

2. The Parliamentary Act of 1833 removed all the disqualification of the natives of this country, to hold any office, place or employment in Her Majesty's Service, arising from caste, creed or color. The intentions of that Act have received unqualified praise from many eminent statesmen subsequently; and Her Majesty was gracious enough to announce to Her Indian subjects in 1858, that no distinction of caste, color or creed would be held as a disqualification of Her subjects, to hold any office in the State, provided they be otherwise qualified.

3. Your Memorialists are deeply grateful for these pledges and assurances and for what has hitherto been done to give effect to them.

4. Your Memorialists, however, feel bound to invite your Lordship's attention to the feeling of dissatisfaction that the reduction of the maximum limit of age from 21 to 19, made in 1876, has created among the native community of India, and more especially among the educated section of it.

5. Whether the introduction of this change has affected the character of the Civil Service, we do not pretend to be able to decide, but it was disapproved at that time by several persons whose opinions were entitled to weight.

Lord Northbrook consulted the opinions of the Civil Servants, then in service in India, on this particular point, and he summarised them thus:

"Taking the more junior Civil Servants, I find that of the men who came out to India, in and after the year 1861, only eleven out of fifty-three wished the age lowered. The opinions of most of the junior men are almost unanimous. Out of 26 who came out in and after 1870, only two recommended a reduction of the age, fifteen would have the present limit (21 years) and nine would raise the maximum." Lord Northbrook himself was of opinion that "whatever small advantage might possibly result from men coming to India a year younger than now, would be only bought by the lowering of the standard of education which must follow from reducing the higher limit, and by great discouragement to University education, which such a change would involve." Other distinguished men such as Professors Jowett and Newmen, H. H. Risley, Esq., C. S., Sir Charles Turner, A. C. Bainbridge, Esq., C. S., Walter Wren, Esq., and others of

special authority on the subject, have agreed in the opinion of Lord Northbrook quoted above.

6. One main reason urged in favour of the reduction of the age (vide *London Times*, April 4) was, to give the selected candidates a chance of passing two years together at an English University before going out to take up their new duties in India. But from actual facts and from the encouragement that has been thought necessary to hold out to selected candidates to persuade them to undergo a longer probationary term henceforth, it appears that the object that was had in view has not been realised. The following remarks recently made by Mr. Oscar Browning, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, at the recent International Conference on Education are in point:—

"It might be said that the experiment of using the University for the education of Civil Servants was being tried, to some extent by the residence of selected Indian Civil Servants at one of the two Universities. He did not know if the experiment was considered a success by the authorities of the India Office, but it certainly did not receive a fair chance. The lines of reading laid down by the Civil Service Commissioners for these students were so narrow and cramping that those who followed them were excluded from the main stream of University life. In scarcely any instance did they attend the same lectures as other undergraduates. Consequently they had, as a body, made no mark on the Colleges to which they had attached themselves or on the University at large. With a few notable exceptions they had not been distinguished intellectually or socially, they had gained no scholarships or prizes, and had taken no permanent share in those departments of public undergraduate life which had so often given the most valuable part of their training to English statesmen."

It appears evident, therefore, that the advantages of a University training are to be secured not by reducing the limit of age. On the other hand when it extended to 23, there were more University men among the annual recruits to the Indian Civil Service than laterly after the reduction of the limit to 19.

7. Your Memorialists also beg permission to observe that, considering the comparatively large powers with which the Civil Servants are invested almost immediately after their arrival in the country, it is desirable that they should have, by that time, reached an age, when some mental ripeness and maturity of character, and general knowledge of men and things, will be guaranteed; but as D. C. Ibbetson, Esq., M. A., C. S., observes "men who pass at 17 or 18 are often unfavourably distinguished by a mental rawness and immaturity of character, and by being minutely instructed rather than highly educated." Your Memorialists may also add their own impression testifying to the correctness of Mr. Ibbetson's opinion.

8. Your Memorialists also observe that, the successive reduction in the maximum limit of age, has been followed by a proportionate reduction in the number of competitors for the Examination. In 1869 the number was 323, in 1879, 327, but in 1881 and 1882 it was 182 and 147 respectively.

9. When the period available for competition was from 17 to 23 years of age, candidates found it possible to appear for the Examination four times, with obvious results advantageous to the general education of the candidates.

10. Your Memorialists deplore another result of the change, even more than they do those mentioned above. The present limit of 19 years has practically shut out the natives of India from Covenanted Civil Service. This result is so patent that Lord Lytton looked upon it as tantamount to closing the Competitive Examination by Law, and the Judges of the High Court of Calcutta, characterised the class of Native Covenanted Civillians as a "rapidly diminishing class." The fact that Indian youths are compelled to undertake a journey to England for the mere chance of passing the Examination is prohibitive enough in effect. From 1866 to 1878 both inclusive when the limit of age was 21, only ten native gentlemen were able to pass the Examination, a result by no means satisfactory when the improvement in general education of the country, which has taken place since the establishment of Universities, is considered. But the reduction of age to 19 has reduced the chances of native addition to the Civil Service still further.

11. The present maximum limit of 19 years fixed for the Indian Civil Service is in striking contrast to the maximum of 24 fixed for the Civil Service of Ceylon, Hongkong and the Straits Settlements.

12. Your Memorialists need hardly remind Your Lordship of the unanimous opinion, which men of all parties have expressed, as to the extreme desirability of associating Englishmen and Natives in the administration of the Indian Empire. Fifty years have elapsed since the Crown, Parliament, and the late Court of Directors declared that "no native of India, shall, by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent, colour or any of them, be disqualified from holding any place, office, or employment under the Government of India;" and this decision, generous and statesmenlike as it was, received further weight from the declaration of Her Majesty the Queen Empress in 1858. But how far this generous and statesmenlike decision has had practical effect given to it, will be seen from the fact that during the fifty years that have elapsed since natives were first pronounced eligible for any place in the public service, not more than twelve native gentlemen have obtained admission into the Covenanted Civil Service. The fact is, as Lord Lytton said speaking at the Convocation of the Calcutta University, "the promises and pledges of the English nation have remained inadequately redeemed."

13. Your Memorialists have also to point out that it is no compensation whatever to native youths, whose prospect of distinction in the service of the State, has thus been minimised in this direction,—that they have the new Statutory Civil Service, which will eventually absorb one-sixth of the Civil Service. Because, in the first place, a service consisting of men appointed by nomination can never be equal to another Service to which appointments are made after a severe competitive test. The nature of the appointments made under the rules of this Statutory Service is described by Mr. William Wordsworth, Professor of Logic and Mental Philosophy in the College of Bombay, a high authority on questions affecting Indian educated youths, in the following terms:—

"It is clear, therefore, unless, we are to lose all credit for good faith and sincerity of purpose, that this patronage service must be remodelled or abolished. The people now selected are in reality representatives as little of the aristocracy as

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of the intelligence of the country. They are members of respectable families who happen to enjoy the favour of some elevated official—a Secretary to Government, a Member of Council, or Police Commissioner. In this Presidency, a College education and a University degree appear to be regarded as positive disqualifications for selection. A young man of independent character and high talents cannot now hope to enter the Civil Service by competition, and he has generally no wish to enter it by the back door of favour."

14. In the second place the Statutory Service has avowedly a lower status than the Covenanted Civil Service; certain high appointments open to the latter, not being open to the nominees under the rules of the former. Indeed the position which the authors of the new Service evidently intended to assign to it, is plain from the following words taken from the Despatch to the Secretary of State: "The difficulty, indeed the utter impossibility of getting European officers of position and education to serve cheerfully and successively in subordination to natives of India, is one which, whatever may be thought of it from an abstract point of view, no one with personal experience of India, will underestimate. In regard to the executive work of a District, this difficulty is, we do not hesitate to say, practically insuperable. So long as natives can obtain admission to the Covenanted Service by competition, this difficulty will be liable to arrive." The only meaning that can be put upon this passage appears to your Memorialists to be that Statutory Service which was intended to obviate the difficulty adverted to in the above extract and which was to be exclusively taken up by natives, was to be given a position subordinate to that of the Covenanted Service to which thenceforth Europeans alone were to be appointed. It is preposterous to say that such a service intended as an emblem of the political inferiority of the natives can have any weight in reckoning the consequences, moral and politic, that have ensued from the recent change in the regulations of the Competitive Civil Service Examination, against which your Memorialists respectfully remonstrate in this memorial.

15. It is clear that these regulations are disapproved by an influential section of the English public. The *London Daily News* said in 1879, "the history of the relation of the Indian people to the Indian Civil Service is not creditable to English statesmanship." Mr. John Bright said "probably from 1,000 to 1,200 persons (from England) have had comfortably honourable and well paid places provided for them, followed by considerable pensions, but the Indian has been systematically and, I maintain, purposely, excluded." The present Prime Minister said while in the Opposition in 1879: "There is the question of the Civil Service. I think it is difficult to resist the force of those arguments urged in behalf of the Indian people and by the Indians themselves."

16. Your Memorialists pray that, for the reasons stated above and considering the political and administrative interests of the empire, your Lordship will be pleased to reconsider your recent decision and direct that the maximum limit of age for competition for the Indian Civil Service Examination be raised to twenty-three, which was the limit chosen by the Committee presided over by Lord Macaulay in 1853.

And your Memorialists shall in duty-bound ever pray.

*Subscribed to remain in the
Signed P. Ramjee in the
Place
at 392/1879*

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And your Memorialists shall in duty bound ever pray.

Recd 3926/84

From

P. Rangiah Naidu
President
Mahajana Sabha
Madras.

66

The Acting Under-Secretary
to Government
Public Department
Madras.

Sir,

In accordance with your official memorandum, dated 5th Instant, I have the honor to send 2 more copies of the Sabha's Memorial to the Secretary of State on the Civil Service question.

I have the honor to remain,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Mahajana Sabha
Office
Madras
5th November 1884

P. Rangiah Naidu

President

5
RECEIVED
5 NOV 84

Public/1884/Deptt

From

The President
Mahajana Sabha

No.

Dated 5th

Received 5th

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Forwarding 2 more
copies of the Mahajana
Sabha's memorial to the
Secy of State on the Civil
Service question.

For

From

P. Rungiah Naidu
President Maha Jana Sabha
Madras

To

The Chief Secretary
to the Government of
Madras

Sir

I beg to send herewith 3 copies of the Memo-
rial adopted at a meeting of the members of the Maha-
jana Sabha Madras on the Civil Service question and
request you will be good enough to forward them to the
Secretary of State for India at your earliest convenience.

I have the honor to remain

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Rungiah Naidu

President

8th October 1884

Public
 1884
 1884

From

P. Rangiah Nayudu
 Presb. India Press
 Madras

By 81 Oct 1884.
 1/9 Oct 1884
 Enc: 3

Encs: 3 copies
 of a memorial on the
 Census of 1881, and
 requesting that they may be
 sent on to the Secy. of State for India.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

What is the rule about
 enclosing an opinion
 from the Council
 1884

with the
 letter be forwarded
 to the Rt. Hon. the
 Secretary of State for
 India.
 of H.T.

J. Rangiah Nayudu

and 12-11-84

No. 26.

The Rt. Hon. the Secy. of
 State for India.
 My Lord,
 We have the
 honor to forward

7
This being a matter
entirely for his private
use we do not understand
that we are called on to
supply any of them or to
supply the original
manuscript.

John M. Lange
11 November 1884

16

7-20-86/1005

Public

DISPATCHED

4 NOV 1914

BY C.O. NO 2357 (his)

R11
21-7-19

Hon Mr Director
Hon Mr Governor

7/10