

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 165

DATED 31-1-98.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Considering that Mr M. E. Couch-
man has not made out a case
for a special re-examination
in Canase translation by the
Higher Standard Test.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
fo	43	Pub	19-1-94				

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 268



From The Principal,
Board of Examiners,
Madras.

No. 1020.

Dated 19th January 1898.

Received 20

Registered 24

Enclosures Four

Spare copies

Ref. asked for 24/1/98
24/1/98

SUBJECT.

Submitting with
remarks letter from
Mr. Couchman, Iles,
protesting against the
passage in Canarese
given for translation
for the Higher Standard
examination held in
January 1898

Order

Proceedings of the Board
of Examiners, Madras.

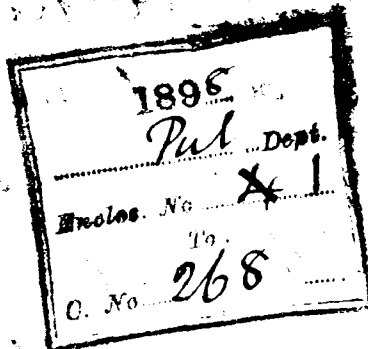
Read letters from Mr. K.
Couchman, Acting Assistant
Secretary to Government, date
5th and 6th January 1898.

N^o 990 Dated 10 January 1898

The prescribed test is that
the candidate should be able to
translate from the Vernacular
language into English with accuracy
a printed passage in narrative style.
The passage selected is from a collection
of stories called the Kathasarangram
which is the usual text book for
beginners.

The construction of the
sentences is for the most part clear
and simple. There are some substan-
tives which a candidate should be
excused for not knowing, but nearly
every verb and most of the substan-
tives are in daily use.

The following literal
translation committing a few hard



and indicating them by
showing that the complaint that
passage is of undue difficulty
must be admitted.

The King's son quickly cooking
aving caused to do, having eaten
red black () handkerchief,
having girt silk chog (jacket)
having put on country sandals,
having put on in his hand, (Kattan
aue) having held, of Kalyana puram,
Koriba chetti, belonging to, clerk, saying,
having stated, sweet smelling, oils,
) Camphor, sulphur, etc. etc.,
articles, in bags, and leather bottles,
having filled, a thousand and six,
hire, bullocks, having procured,
them all, having laden
evening, when it had become,
a Jaman (3 hours), at the time, to
the burning ground, he went. The
thousand and six, bullocks, to
the necks, which were tied, of the
bells, "gana gana", at the sound,
having assembled, as they were
coming, who are these, at such a
time, who came? For coming here
there is no order, having taken the
road, go, having said () the
watchmen, obstruction, making,
the King's son () "In accordance

Of a strange
place, the
hired men,
the road,
having mind,
not seeing,
came.
Do not
mind it,
having said,
However
much
although
he persuaded
they not
having
heard,
he being
angry
(exclaimed)

(omitted
by clerical
mistake)

H.C.
19-1-38

with the order given by me
from foreign countries, samam
(merchandise) I have brought.
Do you not see, I, (am) he who
is called Danapala chetti, who
has become, dear, to the master.
In the morning, to the King, having
told, fitting, prayas chita (punia
mant) I will cause to do. These
bags, bottles, all, in this fire,
put, having said, to the hired
men, order, on his giving, they,
oil bottles, on the fire, on putting,
thereof, for the flame, near, not
being able to stand, the watchmen
far, having run and gone, having
stood, were looking. He, the watch
man, having looked at, "Good,
you fellow, in () a knot, you
should
have put. To the back, oil, you
should
have rubbed. Tomorrow to all
your houses () I will cause
to do. To your head, it came,
saying, having turned back, he
went."

2 The President regrets that
Mr. Bouchman did not attempt the
translation, but is unable to comply
with the request that he should
"he set another paper.

(True Extract)

To
M. E. Bouchman Esqr, Secy

Secretary

18/1
N A D N OF
January 18.

To

The Honourable the Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

Through the P R E S I D E N T.
Board of Examiners.

Sir,

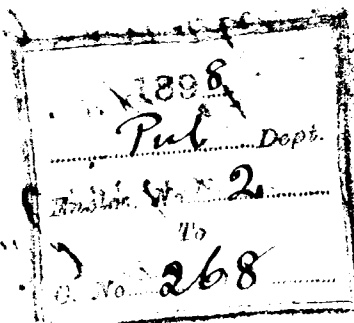
I have the honour to forward in original ^{letter} from the President, Board of Examiners, No. 990, dated January ^{10th} 1898 and to request the favour of your obtaining the orders of Government on the following point :-

2. The circumstances under which I addressed the President in the letters quoted by him were as follows:-

The passage set in the Canarese ^{translation} paper in the recent examination of assistants, held on January 3rd and following days, was taken from a collection of stories known as the Katha Sungraha. This, I have subsequently ascertained, is one of the books prescribed for preparation for the High Proficiency Test. As stated in my 1st letter to the President I was quite unable to make any sense out of the passage. There were many words in it with which I was unfamiliar, and the subject matter itself was obscure and unintelligible to me, as I had never read the book. Being, therefore, unable to translate any portion of it intelligibly, I addressed the President, Board of Examiners, to this effect, at the same time adding that it appeared to me that the passage was in a somewhat difficult style.

3. Subsequently, on going through the passage with a Munshi I found that my suspicions were correct; the passage is in a classical style, taken from a book prescribed for the High Proficiency Examination. I accordingly again addressed the President submitting the following points for his

consideration



Rule 50.4
the I.C.S. Manual

Standard :- High Standard,
(a) Paragraph 22, Division B.2.(a) & (b) of the Indian Civil Service Manual lays down that the passages to be set for translation into and from the vernacular are to be in a narrative style, and "similar". The first paper, that for translation into Canarese, was on ~~the~~ agricultural topics. The second, to which I objected, is from some classical legend, the subject of which, I am still unable to make out even from the translation.

(b) The passage was too difficult, to be set as an "unseen".
The book is prescribed for preparation in the High Proficiency Test. *Vide para 50-I of the 2nd manual - page 13*

(c) The style was antique.

(d) The style was quite unlike that of the papers set on the same day for translation from Tamil & Malayalam.

4. The President in his reply is silent as to points (a) (c) & (d) and in regard to (b) says that "nearly every verb, and most of the substantives are in daily use". I have marked in the paper shown to me personally by the President on January 7th those words which, to the best of my memory, I have never seen or heard in South Canara. On this point I had submitted that even admitting that the passage was not from a classical ^{book} work (which is not the case) there were wide differences in the dialects spoken in Canara and in Mysore.

5. My main contention is that apart from the question whether the words are or are not in daily use in South Canara, on which point I defer to the opinion of the President, the passage is of a nature which is not contemplated in the Indian Civil Service Manual. If I am right in this view, the passage was set under a misconception as to the meaning of paragraph 35 of the Manual. My reason for putting my case before Government is that in 1895, when I appeared for the Higher Standard in Canarese, the District Board who conducted my examination in Mangalore expressed themselves fully satisfied with the Viva Voce part of the examination i.e. conversation ^{and} reading of ² ~~ur~~ies. I was, therefore, somewhat surprised to be informed that I had failed. As I was on the eve of proceeding on leave

to

to Europe I did not trouble to inquire in what branch of examination I had failed. On the present occasion I have again failed, simply because the paper set for translation was of an entirely different nature from that which I had been led to expect from a study of the Indian Civil Service Manual. My present wish is to be informed clearly what sort of a language test the examination was intended to be. My reasons for thinking that the passage set at the last examination was set under a misconception as to the meaning of paragraph 35 of the Indian Civil Service Manual are as follows:

6. When the syllabus for the examination of assistants was revised in 1894 the language parts of the examinations were made more difficult. Paragraph 35 of the Indian Civil Service Manual reads as follows:-

"The standard of tests in translation and conversation in the first language shall be as high as that required for the High Proficiency Examination. The general scope of this portion of the examination is indicated in Rule 22 supra and, in regard to translation the rules are sufficiently explicit"

In paragraph 22 Division B Sub section 2. (a) & (b) the test is defined as follows:-

" 2. Translation

(a) From the vernacular language into English with accuracy a printed passage in narrative style.

(b) From English into the vernacular language a similar passage in like manner"

Turning to the translation test for the High Proficiency I find that in Canarese there are four parts :-

I. Constructing with readiness & accuracy from

- (1) Katha Sungraha.
- (2) Jaimini Bharata.
- (3) Karnata Bharata

II. Translating into English, with accuracy, a passage in narrative style, not taken from the test books.

III. Translating with accuracy of idiom and neatness of expression, into the language in which the examination

*Vide flags A in
fo. 43 of 94 and B
in fo. 275 of 93*

*Rule 50 3 CB
Manual.*

*Note
not translating*

nation is held, an English paper in narrative style.

IV. Translating in like manner a paper of English sentences.

7. Now in the Higher Standard Examination no books are prescribed, as they are in test I of the High Proficiency Examination as ^{quoted} above. These books are in the literary style; their preparation is a task of some difficulty and involves considerable expense on Munshis, and it is well known that it is chiefly on this account that so few candidates appear for the High Proficiency test.

Again, the High Proficiency test involves no reading of manuscripts in the vernacular and is clearly intended to be a test of scholarship in the language rather than a practical test. On the other hand I had, up to the present time imagined that the Higher Standard was a practical test: that a fair familiarity with the language spoken and written in official life would be sufficient for the purposes of the examination.

8. To sum up; I have been debarred from showing what practical knowledge I have of the language spoken and written in the district in which nearly all my service has been spent, on account of my inability to translate as an "unseen" a passage taken from a classical book of legends. When the President refers to the Katha Sungraha as "the usual ^{for preparation} text book for beginners", as no books are prescribed in the syllabus of the Higher Standard Examination, ^{all} ~~that~~ that I can conclude is that without an extensive course of reading in classical Canarese, a mere knowledge of the spoken & written language of the day will avail a candidate nothing towards passing the Higher Standard. I may add that no candidate has passed the Higher Standard in Canarese since the test was revised in 1894.

I submit therefore that the passage in question was set under a misapprehension as to the meaning of paragraph 35 of the Indian Civil Service Manual. If such passages, taken from the books prescribed for the High Proficiency test, are legitimate for the Higher Standard Examination, then the latter examination will be considerably harder than the former, because

(1)

(1) Candidates will be liable to have passages

these vernacular classics set them as "unseen". This is not done in the High Proficiency.

(2) Candidates for the High Proficiency test are not required to read vernacular manuscripts. Yet this is the most difficult part of the Higher Standard Examination. In other words, the question on which I solicit the orders of Government is whether, when the rules were revised in 1894, the language test was designed as a practical test, or as a test of scholarship. Under the present system a candidate who fails to get the minimum in the translation is not afforded a chance of showing his knowledge of the spoken & written language. The practical part of the examination is subordinated to the theoretical.

9. If Government should accept this view, that the Higher Standard test was intended as a practical test, and therefore rule that the paper objected to by me was improper, I would respectfully point out that in view of the loss which I shall sustain if not allowed to appear again for the examination till July next, and the inconvenience which I should experience in attending that examination in Madras from up-country, my first request to the President, Board of Examiners, that the Board should give me another paper, was not an unreasonable one.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

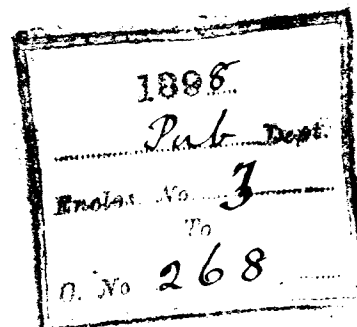
Your most obedient servant,

M. R. Conchman.

ag. asst. Sec. to Govt.

18.1.98.

Through the President,
Board of Examiners,
Madras.



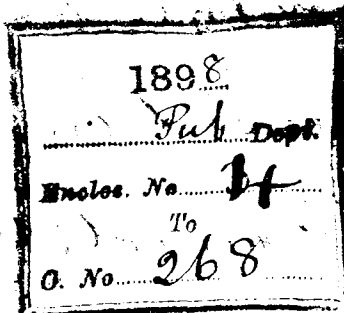
A.

120
19-1 88-

I have read Mr Co
letter complaining of the
difficulties of the passage
set for translation into
English. Mangalore is
my native place and
I have spent a great
part of my life in South
Canara. In the passage
which I selected there
is no obsolete word, nor
any archaic or difficult
form of construction.
There is only one verb
'Javari' (having rubbed)
which is not in common
daily use in South Cana
and amongst the
nouns the word 'lacc
edged' and the Jutha
form of Amasani (be
ing ground) are the
only ones which a European
who has been studying

to know. The construction of the sentences differs in no respect from the narrative style used in early modern Canarese prose.

19th June 1898 } S. Mangeshkar
Canarese Translator to Govt.



Forwarded

2. The President in his private capacity will be very glad if Government sees fit to give Mr. Bonchman another chance to pass his examination, but officially it would be a dereliction of duty to suffer Government to suppose that Mr. Bonchman's complaint of the undue difficulty of the selected passage has any foundation.
3. Mr. Bonchman alleges that the passage is taken from some classical legend, in an antique style widely different from that used in South Canara, and which cannot be translated by a person fairly familiar with the language spoken and written in official life. As a fact the passage is taken from
Part

compiled by the Reverend Mr. D. Anderson, a Wesleyan Missionary, for the special use of European students. The stories average about $\frac{1}{2}$ pages each, and the passage selected is taken from the 49th story and the 78th page of the book. The President furnished Mr. Conchuan with a word-for-word translation of the passage, but as Mr. Conchuan states that even that does not enable him to make out what it is about, the following free translation is given to enable Government to judge for itself of the complaint that the passage is antique in style, obscure and too difficult.

"The King's son having quickly caused a meal to be cooked, and having eaten, girt himself with a

loincloth, put on a silk and country sandals, took a red whip in his hand, and giving himself out to be the gomashtak of Horiba Chitti of Kal yana-puram, filled sacks and leather bottles with sweet smelling oils, (arti) camphor, sulphur et cetera, hired a great number of bullocks and having laden them all, proceeded to the burning ground about three hours after dark. The numerous bullocks were approaching, with tinkling bells tied to their necks, the watchmen of the burning ground stopped them saying "Who are these who come at such a time? There is no permission for coming here. Be to the road and be off."

Thereupon

have brought goods from foreign
countries for the marriage of Vidya
nagar in accordance with the
master's order. Can't you see that
I am Danapala Chetti the master's
favourite? The hired men having
missed the road have come here
by mistake. Don't prevent us."
However much he persuaded they
would not listen, and thereupon
becoming angry (and crying)
"Tomorrow morning I will tell
the King and get you properly
punished", he ordered the hired
men (saying) "Take all the
sacks and bottles and cast them
into this fire". On their throwing
the bottles of oil into the fire, the
watchmen not being able to stand
near the blaze thereof, ran and
stood

stood at a distance. He and
the watchmen said "Good you feel
Tie a knot in the corner of your
cloths. Rub oil on your backs -
Tomorrow I will cause all your
houses to be confiscated. It has
come on your head: so saying he
turned back and departed."

4. The following are the words
which Mr. Couchman has under-
lined as unknown to him.

1. Kari = black (common)
2. Jarikambiya = lace-edged
3. patte = silk (common)
4. Choge = a jacket
5. Joda = a pair of sandals
6. Matte = having feet on
7. Chadi = whip (common)
8. Nariba Chetti = proper name
9. arti-Napura = camphor
10. Buddali = a leather bottle

1. *saṁvāraṁ* = one thousand and six
2. **herisi* = having laden
3. *jāva* = a watch (3 hours)
4. *Koralu* = a neck (very common)
5. **masana* = burning ground
corruption of *śmasāna*
6. *Vidyā māyārū* = girl's name
7. *prīyaṁ* = one who is dear (common)
8. *Danapāla chetti* = proper name
9. **odambadesida* = past participle
of the verb "to persuade"
10. *prāyaścita* = atonement
11. *urī* = flame (common)
12. **seraṅṅ* = corner of a cloth
13. *savari* = having rubbed
14. **muttu gōla* = confiscation
- The President has marked
with a cross eight words which
he thinks it excusable that an
examinee should not know; but
given that the examinee knew
as

(as he says) all the words
passage except the above 24,
is surprising that he should
have been unable to discover
the drift of the passage, and much
more so that he should have
been unable, as stated in his
first letter to the President,
"to translate even a single sentence
of the paper". It is really going
too far to urge that there is any-
thing classical, antique or obscure
in such sentences as "he went to
the burning ground a watch after
it had become evening", "who are
these who come at such a time?"
For coming here there is no order
"Keep to the road and go", or in severe
others of which Mr. Conchuan
represents that he knew the mean-
ing of every word, and of which
the construction is perfectly
perspicuous

frank and simple

Mr Couchman asks whether the language test was designed as a practical test, or as a test of scholarship. The President entirely demurs to the assumption that an educated man, accustomed to the study of language, can diligently study a foreign language for some years without acquiring a certain amount of scholarship; but in truth the paper set does not warrant Mr Couchman in raising the issue to which he seeks an answer. It is out of place to dignify with the name of scholarship the ability to translate into English an easy story in ordinary prose in which there are not half a dozen words which

consulted the Canarese
later to Government, w.
the paper, and his opinion
expressed in a separate m
herewith enclosed and mar

Office of the Board of Examiners, H. M. Gintak
Madras 19th January 1898. } President

To

The Honble the Chief Secretary
to Government.

Enclosure A. Memo from M. R. S.
Mangesh Rao, Canarese
Translator to Government
dated 19th January 1898.

Enclosure B. Paper set in Canarese of
the Higher Standard trans.
January 1898, marked by

C. No. 258

(3) HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

(1) THE HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.

(2) THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

SUBJECT.

Mr. Couchman's request for
= examination in Canada

FOR ORDERS.

*Cub
26.1.98*

after Mr. Couchman's
Please read the like
translation of the passage
complained of, the
of the Canadian Examiner
and the President, & Mr.
Couchman's very full com
in forwarding Mr. Couch
letter.

There can I think be only
conclusion - namely that
passage was by no means
too difficult for the
Standard, and
Couchman was
the mark. It
made out no
spec

I quite agree

RS LG

28/1/98 28/1/98

You are in a position to express a personal
opinion on the question whether the passage
was too difficult or not. But, if the
examination is intended merely to test
the knowledge an officer may possess of
the language and such words

The primary report contains
which would seldom be required.
and that some measure of the
excellence to which it is expected
to pass the higher standard.
the opinions of the Members.

A-4 H
30.1.98

[G
24
1,0 0-18-9-97.

Public DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:--

Again G.O., No.	, dated	189 .
Again G.O., No.	, dated	189 .
Current No. 268	of 1898, dated 19. Jan'y	, from The President, B. of Examiners.
" "	" 189 , "	" "
" "	" 189 , "	" "

C.S.

165

ORDER. No 152 dated 31-1-98
ind

The Govt. does not consider
that Mr. Couchman has made
out a case for a special re-exam-
ination

/From Orders/

Cmb.
31. 1. 98

MA 31. 1. 98

Despd { The Preside. Board of Examiners (9/10)
1-2-98 { M. E. Couchman Esq. 2. CB (10/10)

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETTO.

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

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- Q = Copy heading only