M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 320 Press Mis.

150-151

Dated 11. 3 19 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 16th March 1863.

No. 150. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st October 1862, No. 7,211 :—

Read the following letter from D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Acting Collector and Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th October 1862, No. 855.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the Board's Circular, Miscellaneous, No. 6,144, circulating for early report certain extracts from the Proceedings of Government, and from a letter of the Director of Public Instruction, regarding the training and education of Minors, Wards of the Board of Revenue, or sons of living Zemindars.

2. There are two Minors, Wards of the Board of Revenue, in this District. One is the Minor of Chemudu, the other of Cassimcottah. Young Chemudu is reading in our English school here; he is a dull boy, still in his rudimentals, and it would be quite useless to place him under the ferule of so accomplished a scholar as Professor Bowers of the Presidency College. Besides which, his means are extremely limited. We are clearing his Estate of a heavy mortgage, and cannot afford him a larger allowance for his maintenance than Rupees 80 a month.

3. The other, the Cassimcottah Minor will attain his majority next year. He has lately left the school, but he has a private tutor, and in addition attends my office daily for three or four hours, to learn how to manage the Estate he is so shortly to come into. In my Jummabundy Report I recommended that he be put into possession at once. He has a competent Dewan at hand in his maternal grand-father, the pensioned Head Accountant of this District. His net income is 14,871 a year; he was first put to school at Rajahmundry, then here to our Anglo-Vernacular Hindoo school, the same at which young Chemudu is now studying.

4. Besides the two Wards just mentioned, we have just four and twenty Zemindars or proprietors, who, I think, may be divided into three classes of equal numbers, viz., well off, pretty well off, and desperately poor or involved. I have carefully but quietly inquired, and I find that out of the whole of their family circles, there are a dozen boys of school-going age. Three of these lads belong to the poorest class, five to the middle class, and four to the highest. I think we may at once keep out of view all but the highest class; some of these, but very rarely any of the others, are at great pains with the education of their children, and have been known to make considerable sacrifices in respect alike of local prejudice and paternal feeling, in securing to their sons a thorough English course of training.

5. The four school-going boys, sons of parents of the highest class, whom I now refer to, are, two of them, the sons of the Rajah of Vizianagram, and two of one of our remote hill chieftains. The latter has declined all endeavours made to induce him to send his children as far, even as Vizagapatam; while the former, and Mr. Godi Surya Narayana Rao, deceased, the proprietor of the Nakkapilli Estate, are examples of an opposite state of feeling.

6. The Rajah of Vizianagram, the largest landed proprietor in the Northern Sirkars, had himself the advantage of an English education, and when Sir Alexander Grant was here, as Inspector of Schools, some three years ago, the Rajah eagerly embraced that gentleman's offer to procure for his sons the services of a graduate of one of the English Universities. Mr. Carlyle arrived in due course, and the two young boys are now under his very efficient training.

7. But let me state what was done by the Nakkapilli proprietor, at a time when education for India had been hardly heard of, at a time anterior to the establishment of the late High School at Madras, at a time when schools in the Provinces were entirely unknown. This gentleman, then, sent his two sons, one to Calcutta to the Hindu College, the other to Madras, to be under the tuition of Mr. Taylor the Astronomer, for a period of eight and ten years respectively, during the whole of which time neither of the boys once re-visited his home. They were step-brothers, and had both lost their mothers in infancy, so that the father had no maternal opposition to encounter. Both lads lived to return; one died after giving great and extraordinary promise of future eminence as a Savan. The other survives in Mr. Gajapati Rao of this place. He is foremost in promoting every good work, calculated to assist the social progress of his countrymen, and it is not too much to say that the culture of English by the Godi family of Vizagapatam has given the first powerful stimulus to the growth of civilization in this province.

8. I have been very particular in inquiring how these two youths lived, while at the two Presidencies, pursuing their studies. I find that each went down in the charge of a relative of mature years, with a suitable retinue of servants, and hiring a house in the Hindu quarter of the town, settled down quietly in it, going daily backwards and forwards to the College or tutor for instruction.

9. And this, I am confident, is the only plan on which wealthy Hindu noblemen will consent to allow their sons out of their sight. The moment I read Mr. Arbuthnot's proposal that "a house might be taken for the purpose in the neighbourhood of the Presidency College, "in *which the Professor and the Minors should reside*," I was satisfied that Native opinion had not been freely consulted, or such a proposition would never have been broached. Out of our twenty-six Zemindars and proprietors, four, including the Cassimcottah Minor, are Brahmins; four are Kshatriyas, one a Vaisya, five Sudras, three Velama Doras, and six Konda Rajputs, the last two classes being generally considered (not in the least, of course, by themselves) as *spurious* Kshatriyas. Now, no Brahmin or Kshatriya will break bread or touch water in a Sudra's house; how then young men of these various haughty and exclusive classes are to live together under the same roof with an English Professor and his family is, *to me, inexplicable*. Nearly every boy would require a separate cook and water carrier. Brahmins of different religions will not partake of food cooked by the same hand; of our two Kshatriya families, two are descended from the Suns, and two unfortunately from the Moon, which causes the same difficulty. It exists indeed throughout, and to crown all, one corner of the compound at least must be set aside for the pariah cook and maty boys of the head of the establishments.

10. I affirm that the scheme, as at present projected, is utterly unfeasible; nor can I conceive any modification of it, *on its present basis*, which would not be equally so. And I am convinced that a general invitation to Zemindars in the provinces to avail themselves of it for their children would be attended with very disastrous results. All the old sleeping suspicions of the object of Government in promoting English education would be instantly aroused, and the good cause would be thrown back, amongst this important class, for years. The same resentment would be kindled amongst them, on witnessing any compulsory measures adopted in this direction, by the Board of Revenue towards their Wards. Let us leave well alone. Rome was not built in a day, nor will the prejudices, religious and social, of the proudest and most illiterate aristocracy in the world, pass away in a day. Much is being done by the Zemindars themselves; much by the cautious proceedings of the Board in the discharge of their anxious duties as a Court of Wards. But if this project be not immediately withdrawn, all will prove lost ground.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to their Proceedings dated 19th August 1862, No. 1,755, Revenue Department, paragraphs 13 to 15.

2. Mr. Carmichael states facts which tend to strengthen the Board's opinion of the impracticability of the scheme proposed, and of the far larger amount of good that may be effected by local efforts, which have not hitherto been wanting.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 151. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1863, No. 520.

Transferred to the Educational Department.

(Signed.) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Jv. 520.

Transferred to the Educational Dept.

L.R.C.

16th March 1863.

Copies to the Educational Dept. Office
16th March 1863.

Rev 1862. Department.

No. 3065

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 31*st October* 1862.
Despatched.
Received.

No. 7,211.

Submitting for the information of Government a report from the Acting Collector and Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam, on the education of the minors under the Court of Wards, with the Board's remarks on the subject.