

(1) Number of pages 4(2) Date of repair 7. 8. 1965

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	112	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	16. 4. 1872	195 .

Not to be folded, or roughly handled

No. 11. Read the following letter from the Director of Public Instruction, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 20th January 1872, No. 89:—

I have the honour to state that, with a view to discuss various matters of importance, I thought it expedient to summon the Inspectors of Schools to Madras, and that accordingly those gentlemen held daily sittings at my office during five days in last week. The chief subjects brought forward were the following; the revision of the Results Grants Rules, the revision of the Salary Grants Rules, the revision of the scheme of studies in Government Schools, and the determination of a precise line of demarcation between Lower Class and Middle Class Schools.

2. I propose some time hence to take up the first three subjects, and shall now confine myself to the last-named one. I may mention that the Hon. A. J. Arbuthnot was good enough at my request to preside during the discussion of the last of the four subjects, and that, along with the point immediately before the meeting, other matters relating to the working of the Local Funds Act were brought forward and discussed. I think it right to observe that, beside the important work accomplished in regard to the four heads above specified, I consider much indirect advantage not easy to be particularized must result from the intercommunication between the Inspectors of Schools themselves, and between the Inspectors and the Head of the Educational Department; and it appears to me that it will be well from time to time, as matters for discussion arise, to hold meetings similar to that under notice.

3. For several months I have felt the necessity of a clear line being laid down separating Lower Class from Middle Class Schools. The nomenclature of the classes was adopted several years ago by order of the Government of India, but no rule was laid down for distinguishing the classes; practically the matter was left to the discretion of the Inspectors, and these officers did not follow any clear and uniform plan of action. This was not of much consequence so long as the grants to all schools were paid from the same source; but now that Lower Class Schools are to be aided from Local Funds, and Middle and Higher Class ones from Provincial Funds, the matter becomes of very great importance.

4. The Resolution finally passed on the subject at the meeting was to the following effect; but I may observe that the Inspectors were not unanimous:—

RESOLUTION.

In the opinion of the meeting, the standard of Lower Class Schools should not rise above the third standard of the scheme for Results grants omitting English.

5. It certainly appears on a general view that English should not enter into a Lower Class education for Natives; but, inasmuch as the abstract question cannot be considered alone, and regard must be had to the system of State aid newly introduced, according to which Lower Class Schools are to receive grants from Local and Higher Schools from Provincial Funds, the question assumes a more complicated character.

6. Taking the Statistical Tables appended to the Report on Public Instruction for 1870-71 now before Government, I find that, out of 55,835 pupils in Lower Class Boys' schools in that year, 4,529 studied English; these lads were no doubt scattered in twos and threes through a large number of schools. If then the third standard of the Results' system, omitting English, were adopted as the limit of

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4th April 1872.

instruction in a Lower Class School, all the institutions, through which the 4,529 boys above spoken of were distributed, would be removed from the Lower to the Middle Class, and the grants to such schools, instead of being paid from Local Funds, would be thrown upon Provincial Funds already overburdened. Moreover every Elementary Vernacular School reading up to the third Results' standard would, by the introduction of a little English utterly worthless if not injurious, though no doubt attractive in the circumstances of the country, become a Middle Class School and draw aid from Provincial Funds.

7. It has been urged that by excluding from the Lower Class, Elementary Schools teaching any English whatever, a desirable check will be given to the introduction of English into such schools, as Government will have no funds to meet the demand for grants. It seems to me, however, that it would be better to adopt the entire third results standard, including English, as the limiting standard for a Lower Class School, and to leave it to Local Funds Boards to settle whether they will or will not give grants to such Lower Class Schools as teach English. I am inclined to think that a check to the demand for a more smattering of English which exists in several places would be better applied by a Board familiar with the localities in question, if that body is a really efficient one, than by the Educational Department.

8. In the above circumstances I beg to recommend that the third results standard, inclusive and not exclusive of English, be laid down as the limit of instruction for a Lower Class School.

9. It would clearly be most inexpedient to allow a school ranking in the Lower Class one year to get a position in the Middle Class in the following year owing to a mere accident, such as passing one or two boys for the fourth standard. I think, therefore, that, if the third results standard is approved as the limit of Lower Class education, it should be laid down that the accidental passing of two or three boys for the fourth standard is not to suffice to raise a school from the Lower to the Middle Class. In doubtful cases I would suggest that reference should be made to the Director of Public Instruction, and that his decision should be binding upon Local Funds Boards. If some step of this nature is not taken, the Budget Estimates for grants as well as the classificatory statistics of education will be thrown into confusion.

10. As the precise distinction between Lower and Middle Class Schools should be notified widely some time before the commencement of 1872-73, in which year the new classification of schools will have to be adopted, I request that early orders may be passed upon this letter.

No. 12.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1872, No. 94.

The Government agree in the view taken by the Director of Public Instruction.

(True Extract.)

D. G. James
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction,
"Revenue Department."
Exd. J. Wright.

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Revenue Dept.
7-1213.

Cont. of 1872 *March*

EDUCATIONAL.

To
THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION

Dated April, 4th.

Recd. *6/10*

Encl.

G. O. 4th April 1872. No. 94.

APRIL.

Nos. 11-12.

Shon & H. V. Lister

St. J. K. P. B.

Concurring in the view taken by the Director in
respect to the determination of a precise line of
demarcation between Lower Class and Middle Class
Schools.

Lot 1000

11-112.

Admission Com. 1872 April 17/24