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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	115	Press
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Dated	18-10-1872	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 25. Resolution of Government, dated 7th October 1872, No. 288.

In August last year the attention of the several Local Governments was drawn by the Government of India to the unsatisfactory condition of the Mahomedan population of India as regards education, and to the disadvantages under which they consequently labour as compared with other classes of the community who avail themselves of the instruction offered in the colleges and schools which are supported or aided by the State. The subject was referred to the Director of Public Instruction and subsequently to the Senate of the University. The reply of the former authority was not encouraging. After stating the difficulties which beset the question of Mahomedan education, he expressed himself in the following terms: "On the whole, then, I am of opinion that it is not practicable at present for this department to do much more than it is doing for the education of Mussulmans. Besides the ordinary Government Institutions to which they with all others are admissible, there are two schools specially maintained for them and for them alone; moreover, when the present increased scales of fees were sanctioned by the Government, as an encouragement to Mussulmans they were expressly exempted from the operation of the new scales."

2. The question whether more encouragement might not be given in the University course to Arabic and Persian Literature is still under the consideration of the Senate of the University; but, whatever may be the decision on this point, it is not to be expected that much practical good will result from it, unless some better provision can be made than at present exists for the elementary instruction of the Mahomedans; and here the Governor in Council differs from the conclusion at which the Director of Public Instruction has arrived. It cannot be said that the ordinary Government Colleges and Schools which Mr. Powell describes as institutions to which Mahomedans with all others are admissible are in fact, as at present arranged, suitable places of instruction for Mahomedan youths. In the lower schools and classes in which instruction is imparted mainly through the medium of a vernacular language, that vernacular is invariably a Hindoo language, and in such schools and classes Mahomedans are in consequence placed at so great a disadvantage that the wonder is, not that the Mahomedan element in the schools is so small, but that it exists at all. The schools in fact are organized, and the scheme of instruction is framed with exclusive reference to Hindoos. Except in the case of the Madrissa-i-Azam and the Preparatory School at Mylapoor, the Mahomedan section of the population is practically ignored in the educational arrangements at present in force in the Government Schools. The same remarks are applicable to the great majority of the aided schools. This is a state of things which, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, ought not to be permitted to continue, nor can the Government consider the difficulties in the way of its removal to be so great as the Director of Public Instruction appears to regard them. The true remedy would seem to lie in establishing and encouraging the establishment of elementary and middle class schools and corresponding classes in existing schools in which instruction should be given by Mahomedan Teachers and in the Hindoostani

language, in those subjects which are ordinarily taught through the medium of a Hindoo vernacular language; schools and classes which as regards the Mahomedan branch of the population would serve the purpose, which as regards the Hindoos is served by the Government Taluq Schools and other schools and classes of a corresponding grade. The views of the Government on this subject coincide with those expressed by the late Acting Director of Public Instruction, Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, in a recent letter in which he remarks that "there are obvious reasons which render it necessary that Mahomedans should be taught in separate schools and classes up to a certain extent, as there is much which can only be learned and explained through the medium of the vernacular, but when they pass under the charge of European and East Indian Masters, and receive all instruction through the medium of English, they rather gain than lose by being associated with Hindoo boys in their studies." The Governor in Council accordingly directs that the Director of Public Instruction will, without delay, take steps with a view to the establishment of elementary schools at Arcot and Ellore, and corresponding classes in the existing schools at the principal centres of the Mahomedan population such as Trichinopoly, Cuddapah, Kurnool, and perhaps Mangalore, in which instruction will be given in the Hindoostani language, and Mahomedan boys may thus acquire such a knowledge of the English language and of the elementary branches of instruction as will qualify them for admission into the higher classes of the Zillah and Provincial Schools and other similar institutions. In issuing these instructions, the Governor in Council has not overlooked the statement made in the letter already referred to from the Director of Public Instruction that qualified teachers and appropriate text-books are not available. In regard to teachers, the Government can hardly suppose that it will not be in the power of the Director to procure a sufficient number of competent teachers for at least a few of the projected schools and classes, but if, as is probably the case, the supply of qualified persons is very scanty, arrangements should be made, without loss of time, for training Mahomedan teachers. Of Hindoostani text-books, the supply in this Presidency is undoubtedly very small, but there are a few elementary school books in that language, and there can be no difficulty in preparing others or procuring them from the other Presidencies. These, however, are matters of detail which will require to be carefully considered and reported on by the Director of Public Instruction.

3. In accordance with the recommendation recently made by Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, the Governor in Council has sanctioned the transfer of the higher classes of the Madrissa to the Junior Department of the Presidency College—an arrangement which, it is confidently expected, will lead to beneficial results. The Government will be prepared to consider favourably any recommendations which the Director of Public Instruction may submit for the provision of instruction in the Persian language in any of the higher schools in which either now or hereafter there may be a sufficient number of Mahomedan pupils to justify the expense. The transfer of the classes referred to to the Presidency College will, of course, include such provision.

4. Closely connected with the question of Mahomedan education is that of the employment of Mahomedans in the public service, which of late years has diminished to a remarkable extent. It appears from the annexed table that, out of 485 persons (of whom 417 are Hindoos) holding the higher subordinate appointments in the Judicial and Revenue Departments in this Presidency, only nineteen are Mahomedans.

TABLE A.
showing the proportion of Mahomedans employed in the upper grades of the Uncovenanted Civil Service.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Designation of Appointment.	Hindoos.	Mahomedans.	Others.	Total.
Principal Sadr Amins on salaries of Rupees 500 ...	10	None.	2	12
District Munsifs on salaries from Rupees 200 to Rupees 300...	87	6	17	110
Total...	97	6	19	122

REVENUE AND MAGISTERIAL DEPARTMENTS.

Designation of Appointment.	Hindoos.	Mahomedans.	Others.	Total.
Deputy Collectors and Magistrates on salaries ranging from Rupees 250 to Rupees 600 ...	31	2	17	50
Tahsildars ...	143	4	9	156
Sub-Magistrates ...	146	7	4	157
Total...	320	13	30	363
Judicial Department do. ...	97	6	19	122
Grand Total...	417	19	49	485

no doubt in part attributable to the fact that the Mahomedan law and the languages in which it is contained have given place to a system of law framed by the British Indian Legislature and contained in English books; but it is in a great measure to be ascribed to the failure of the Mahomedans to take advantage of the education which is offered to, and which is now demanded from, all candidates for admission into, and for advancement in, the public service. For the reasons already given it must be admitted that this failure has not entirely arisen from a disinclination on the part of the Mahomedans to avail themselves of the education offered by the State. It is in some measure attributable to the omission of suitable provision for Mahomedans in our present educational system; but, after making all due allowance for the disadvantage at which this class of the community has been placed in the matter of education, the fact remains that they have not availed themselves of the opportunities which have been open to them to the extent which might reasonably have been expected. At the Presidency Town at all events the educational wants of the Mahomedans have been well-provided for of late years. During the last thirteen or fourteen years the Madrissa-i-Azam and the Harris School, both institutions established for the exclusive benefit of Mahomedans, have furnished the Mahomedan youth of the Capital with the means of obtaining a good school educa-

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7th October 1872.*

tion, and of fitting themselves for the prosecution of those higher studies which are followed in the Presidency College. But, notwithstanding these advantages, only one Mahomedan student has evinced sufficient persistence in his studies to obtain the degree of Bachelor of Arts; and that only in the present year. In the list of successful candidates at the Special Test Examination, which are prescribed for all but the lowest appointments in the Uncovenanted Civil Service, the number of Mahomedans is lamentably small.

5. One of the reasons assigned for this failure of the Mahomedans to qualify themselves for public employment is an alleged impression that the Government and its officers are disinclined to employ Mahomedans, whether qualified or not, in the public service. It is the earnest desire of the Governor in Council that this impression, if it exists, should be dispelled in the most speedy and convincing manner by the employment, as opportunity offers, of a fair proportion of those Mahomedans who may have passed the prescribed tests of qualification, and by the promotion, according to their merits, of those who are already employed, and with this view he resolves to commend the subject to the attention of the Heads of the various Departments and Offices both at the Presidency and in the Provinces, in the full confidence that they will cordially co-operate with the Government in removing the impression above alluded to. In thus drawing the attention of the Officers of Government to the claims of the Mahomedans to a share in appointments in the public service, His Excellency in Council desires to guard against the motives and policy of the Government being in any way misunderstood. It is not the desire of the Government that any special favour or indulgence should be manifested towards any particular class or section of the community. Their object is to treat all Her Majesty's subjects on principles of strict justice and equality, and it is only because the particular class to which reference is made in these Proceedings is believed to labour at present under practical disabilities, which place them at a disadvantage in comparison with their fellow-subjects, that the Governor in Council has deemed it proper to call attention to their case. Whether the measures which it is proposed to carry out for improving the educational and social condition of this section of the population shall be attended with success, must depend in a great measure upon the extent to which the Mahomedans profit by the means placed at their disposal.

(True Extract.)

C. J. Allen
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

To

Revenue Department for information and for communication to subordinate officers.

Exd. J. Wright.

18/5/81
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EDUCATIONAL.

To

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION,
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Dated October, 7th.

Recd. *18*

Encl.

G. O., 7th October 1872, No. 288.

OCTOBER.

No 25.

115-18 Oct 1872

Passing orders with reference to the unsatisfactory condition of the Mahomedan population of India as regards education, and the adoption of certain remedial measures.

11/15 *Comm. to the Secy of the Govt. of India*
for the Secy of the Govt. of India
and the Secy of the Govt. of India
15 Oct 72