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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1313	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	21. 9.	1876 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 219. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th August 1876, No. 2,060 :—

Read the following letter from Colonel R. M. MACDONALD, Director of Public Instruction, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, (through the Board of Revenue,) dated Madras, 12th July 1876, No. 1,959 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit the following remarks with reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 642, of the 18th May 1876, regarding the acquirement by school-masters of a fair knowledge of practical Agriculture to enable them to make elementary agricultural instruction a part of the curriculum in all elementary rural schools.

2. The teachers of elementary rural schools in this country as a general rule know no language except the vernacular, and as there are many vernacular languages in this Presidency, they must be taught in Mofussil schools and not in the Sydapet School where the medium of instruction is English.

3. The Madras Normal School is an institution for training graduates, First Arts men and Matriculates. These men are not intended to be teachers in elementary schools, but in Higher-class middle-class and Normal Schools. In this respect the institution differs entirely from the Normal Training Establishment in Dublin. Nevertheless it seems desirable that the pupils of the Madras Normal School should go for instruction to the Sydapet School of Agriculture. Some of them may become masters in schools in which Agriculture will be taught. Others many as Deputy Inspectors, have to examine schools in which Agriculture will form a part of the curriculum. Mr. Robertson accordingly proposes that they shall attend the Agricultural Lectures on Mondays and Thursdays, and also, the weekly Agricultural field class. To suit their convenience he recommends that the Agricultural Lecture on Monday shall be delivered from 4 to 5 P. M. instead of in the morning. This will bring the lecture and the field class together, and the time table can be adjusted by transposing the lectures on Agriculture and Zoology on Mondays. He states, however that until permanent buildings are erected, he cannot find accommodation for more than twelve or fourteen Normal Students, so that all the students, of the Normal School will not come under instruction. Another difficulty arises from the comparatively short period during which the Normal Students remain in the Normal School. The period of training for a graduate is six months, for the others under a year. It is therefore to be apprehended that the knowledge acquired will be slight and superficial, but at present this is all that seems feasible.

4. Mr. Robertson observes that the railway between Madras and Sydapet will be open soon and that an allowance should be given to the students to meet their railway fare. In the event of the line not being opened before the session begins, an omnibus can be obtained from Messrs. Waller and Co.'s for Rupees 7 a day. Sanction is requested for this charge.

5. The question of establishing Elementary Normal Schools in every district is now under the consideration of Government. An elementary course of Agriculture might form a part of the curriculum of these schools.

6. And in order that the teachers trained in these Elementary Normal Schools should have some motive for teaching this subject in their schools, I have provided in the Draft Rules now under the consideration of Government that grants

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st September 1876.*

shall be given for pupils passing in this subject. I have also suggested in paragraph 19 of my letter, No. 1,339, of the 8th June 1875, that Mr. Robertson shall prepare an Agricultural class-book for the use of these schools.

Government Order, No. 642, of the 18th May 1876, has been circulated among all officers of the Educational Department, and also among the managers of aided schools. The question of giving grants to Agricultural Schools is one which will be deserving of considerations, if applications are received for the establishment of such schools.

8. My correspondence with Mr. Robertson and the Inspector of Normal Schools is enclosed for reference if required.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 8. — Original Correspondence.

REFERRING to paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 18th May 1876, No. 642, the Director of Public Instruction submits certain proposals regarding the attendance of Normal Students at the Agricultural College. Colonel Macdonald's letter will be laid before Government.

2. The Board approve the proposal that a limited number of students of the Normal School be permitted to attend lectures at the Agricultural College and, in case the trains of the railway should not run at convenient hours, recommend that a conveyance be hired for the purpose of taking the students to and from Sydapet.

3. Colonel Macdonald points out an obvious difficulty, viz. that the young men who attend the Normal School are not likely to be brought into contact with the agricultural classes, but the same objection applies to the whole scheme of high class agricultural education. The cultivating classes as a rule are entirely uneducated and absolutely incapable of receiving the instruction which is to be imparted at Sydapet; the prospect of the success of the institution is in the expectation that those who attend the lectures will turn their attention to the practice of agriculture and impart in a practical manner the knowledge which they may acquire to the actual cultivators of the soil. The institution is an experimental one, and will require much patient watching if it is to be turned to good account.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 19A. MINUTE BY THE HON. SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

I AM satisfied that every exertion should be made—difficulties notwithstanding—to render agriculture a part of the curriculum of all schools in this country in the manner now pursued in Ireland with no small success. I have circulated a description of the plans there followed taken from the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal of 1875.

2. Amongst an agricultural population like ours, our object should be to raise this art and pursuit in popular estimation, and direct the attention of the educated and intelligent classes to this all-important object and more especially show that it is a science to which Government attach great value.

3. Every Normal School teacher should receive instruction so far as may be procurable on the subject, and be urged to teach its A B C to his bucolic scholars.

No. 2,060.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE dated 14th August 1876.

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REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September, 21st.

G.O., 21st September 1876, No. 1,313.

SEPTEMBER.
No. 219-220.

Sanctioning as an experimental measure Colonel Macdonald's proposals regarding attendance of Normal Students at the

No. 3515

From

Per Mr. J. J. Lewis

Dated

14th Aug. 1876

1876

FOR ORDERS.

Minute

I am satisfied that every exertion should be made - difficulties notwithstanding - to render agriculture a part of the curriculum of all schools in this country in the manner now pursued in Ireland with no small success. I have circulated a description of the plans there followed taken from the Royal Agricultural Society's

7. Government Order, No. 642, of the 18th May 1876, has been circulated among all officers of the Educational Department, and also among the managers of aided schools. The question of giving grants to Agricultural schools is one which will be deserving of consideration, if applications are received for the establishment of such schools.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with eight original enclosures, to be returned.

Copy to the Director of Public Instruction.

" to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Agricultural College.—Submitting to Government with Board's observations, proposals of Director of Public Instruction regarding attendance of Normal Students at —.

AUGUST.
No. 2,060.

Received

26th Aug.

Recd. 10th. at 10.10.1876

PROCEEDINGS, 14TH AUGUST 1876, No. 2,060.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1876.

No. 3515
Per: 1876 - 20th

Society's Journal
of 1878

Amongst an
agricultural population like ours
our object should be
to raise the art and
pursuit in popular
education & direct
the attention of the
educated & intelligent
classes to this all
important object and
more especially show
that it is a science
to which governments
attach great value.

Every normal
school teacher should
receive instruction
so far as may be
procureable

Have no objection to
submitting the experiment
to the Committee

Feb 17/9

procureable in the
subject and he urged
to teach its A. B. C.
This better scholars.

I would sanction
Colonel Macdonald's
proposal & express
a hope that he will
keep this important
subject before his
Department.

28/8/90

I w. sanction. [M]
Macdonald's proposal
as an experiment - I

think it is early yet
to contemplate any large
extension of agricultural
training - Much will be
done in the future in the
Department of Agriculture
by the Department of Agriculture
M.L.

FOR ORDERS.

୧୦/୩/୩

Order
Col. Macdonald's
proposals are sanctioned
as an experimental
measure.

21 September 1876

Ind. app. N. 2. of new l. 2. app. 14. B. app. 2. 4. Oct.
Edmunt. Sep. 17. 14. Oct.

Sub to his face 13:45 R 18:45
C-28: Aug/16 R 4:45