(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair 29-3-1985

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	1491	Press. / Mis.
Dated	12-9-1878	197

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Archives 1—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th September 1878, No. 1,491.

Read the following paper :—

No. 149. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th August 1878, No. 2,247.

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent of Government Farms, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 4th July 1878, No. 593 :—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 832, of the 5th of June last, I have the honor to solicit that the standards and regulations suggested in my letter, No. 201, of the 4th of March, printed with the Proceedings of the Board, No. 940, of the 9th of April, may be sanctioned for application to the students now on the roll of the institution. These young men had many disadvantages to contend with that future students are not likely to have to encounter, and the enterprising manner in which they came forward and joined the newly-formed institution at a time when its existence even for a period only long enough to secure them a full course of instruction was a matter of some doubt entitles them, I venture to think, to every consideration that can justly be granted.

2. As I have before stated, I should be very sorry indeed if too low an educational standard was adopted, but I cannot lose sight of the fact that the standards which we may reasonably be expected to reach after the institution is properly equipped and fully organized would be too high in the present circumstances of the institution.

3. To apply the higher standards suggested in the Government Order—now nearly two years ago—would ruin the prospects of many deserving students who have striven hard and with success to make up for the deficiencies of their work in the earlier sessions of the institution.

4. If higher standards are to be prescribed, I think that the sum total of marks in a session for the first-class certificate might be fixed at 60 per cent. as suggested, but for the second-class certificate I consider 40 per cent. is sufficiently high. As I have before pointed out, 40 per cent. of the sum total of marks is the standard adopted in the Engineering College for an Overseer's certificate. It will be much better that we should adopt moderately high standards in the beginning of our work and to raise them afterwards if necessary than to follow an opposite course. If the foregoing proposals are approved, I would strongly urge that effect should be given to them only from the beginning of the *next* winter session.

5. I am afraid that I did not state with sufficient clearness my proposals regarding the special examinations (*vide* clause 4 of paragraph 2 of my letter before quoted). The full course of training it must be remembered extends over three years or six sessions, in every one of which the student must obtain the prescribed number of marks, or be his unable to proceed further with any hope of obtaining a certificate.

6. In each session at least six different subjects are taught, and on the average in a session each subject has three examinations. A student may in a session pass with great credit in five of the subjects, and from illness or other circumstances might fail in the sixth, which might possibly be in his third year (after he had creditably passed probably seventy or eighty examinations), and without a regulation such as that I suggested, that student would be ineligible to proceed farther for a certificate, and his two years of study would be to him as much waste time as far as any documentary evidence could be produced by him to the contrary, even though his general career in the institution might have been highly creditable. It was to avoid such cases of hardship that I suggested that a student who might fail to get the full marks prescribed for a subject in a session and who nevertheless obtained a certain

percentage of the sum total of marks for all the subjects should be entitled in the following session to a special examination in the subject in which he failed—of course in addition to the examination prescribed for that session. The suggestion is in accordance with the practice adopted at the Royal Agricultural College and at other institutions where the *whole* of the examinations held during the whole course of training count in determining the final position of the student.

7. The system we have adopted in regard to examinations is one specially calculated to discourage cram, as no student who does not work steadily *throughout the whole three years of training* can possibly secure a certificate, for *the results of all* (*probably over* 100) *examinations held during the three years* are, as has before been noticed, brought to account in determining the position of each student at the end of the course of training, a very different arrangement to that under which a student's position is determined by the marks he may obtain at the sessional examinations; under such a system the student may be idle throughout nearly the whole of the session and by hard work near the end of the session may cram sufficient information to secure a moderately good position at the examination.

IN G.O., dated 5th June 1878, No. 832, the Government referred for reconsideration Mr. Robertson's proposals as to the standards to be prescribed for agricultural certificates with the suggestion—

(1) that the sum total of marks should be fixed at 60 per cent. for a first-class certificate and at 50 per cent. for a second-class certificate;
(2) that in the exercise of his discretion it should not be competent to the Superintendent to award any certificate when 50 per cent. of the sum total of marks had not been obtained; and,
(3) that there should be no special examination in a single subject.

paragraphs 1 to [illegible] dated 4th March, No. 201, may be sanctioned for application to [illegible] the roll of the institution.

3. In paragraph 4 he expresses his willingness to have the standard for a first-class certificate raised to 60 per cent. for students enrolled hereafter, but would keep that for a second-class certificate at 40 per cent., and in paragraph 6 he gives a full explanation of his reasons for thinking it advisable to allow a special examination under certain circumstances.

4. The Board consider that Mr. Robertson's proposals may be accepted.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 150. ORDER THEREON, 12th September 1878, No. 1,491.

Miscellaneous.

His Grace the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the arrangement proposed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Educational Department.

Exd. F. R. Bentleman.

7. The system we have adopted in regard to examinations is one specially calculated to discourage cram, as no student who does not work steadily *throughout the whole three years of training* can possibly secure a certificate; for *the results of all* (*probably over* 100) *examinations held during the three years* are, as has before been noticed, brought to account in determining the position of each student at the end of the course of training, a very different arrangement to that under which a student's position is determined by the marks he may obtain *at the* sessional examinations; under such a system the student may be idle throughout nearly the whole of the session and by hard work near the end of the session may cram sufficient information to secure a moderately good position at the examination.

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(1) that the sum total of marks should be fixed at 60 per cent. for a first-class certificate and at 50 *per cent.* for a second-class certificate;

(2) that in the exercise of his discretion it should *not* be competent to the Superintendent to award any certificate when 50 per cent. of the sum total of marks had *not* been obtained; and,

(3) that there should be no special examination in a single subject.

2. In the letter above recorded Mr. Robertson, for the reasons adduced in paragraphs 1 to 3, *solicits* that the standards and regulations suggested in his letter, dated 4th March, No. 201, may be sanctioned for application to the students now on the roll of the institution.

3. In paragraph 4 he expresses his willingness to have the standard [illegible] class certificate raised to 60 per cent. for students [illegible] that for a second-class certificate at 40 per cent., and in paragraph 5 he gives a explanation of his reasons for thinking it advisable to allow a special examination under certain circumstances.

4. The Board consider that Mr. Robertson's proposals may be accepted.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Encl. J. W. Fischer.

Agricultural Certificates.—Forwarding opinions thereon.

Proceedings, 19th August 1878, No. 2947.

Read the proposals of Superintendent of Government Farms as to the standards to be prescribed for agricultural certificates.

Read the letter from the Board of Revenue, No. 3506, dated 12th August 1878.

Ordered that the standards and regulations suggested in the letter from the Superintendent of Government Farms, dated 4th March 1878, No. 201, be sanctioned for application to the students now on the roll of the institution.

(True Extract.)

(Sd.) [illegible]
Secretary to Government.

To
The Superintendent of Government Farms.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
1878.

AUGUST.
No. 2947.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3506

From, Board of Revenue

Dated 12th August 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

FOR ORDERS.

MADRAS.

SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

August 21st,
1878.

Sir,

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Board of Revenue, a copy of the undermentioned paper, noting the subject thereof.

Letter from the Collector of Nellore, 12th August 1878, No. 2887.

Application for the grant of a piece of land in Kovur Village, Kovur Taluk, for the purpose of erecting a Choultry.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
[illegible]
Secretary to Government.

To
The Secretary,
Board of Revenue.

AUGUST.

No. 2887.

Certificates—Expressing opinion as to the fitness of Superintendent of Government Choultries to be recommended.