

EDUCATION.



OCTOBER.

File $\frac{9.8}{1}$

Nos. 37-40.

Free-Studentships at the Presidency College.

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FREE STUDENTSHIPS AT THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE.

[Nos. 37-39].

[FILE $\frac{98}{1}$ 5.]

No. 117T, dated Darjeeling, the 28th September 1910.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. G. W. KÜCHLER, M.A., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

I HAVE the honour to invite reference to Government letter No. 3689, dated 10th August 1908, authorizing me to grant free-studentships up to an annual limit of 12 in the case of the Presidency College and of 6 in the case of other Government Colleges.

2. I now forward, for the consideration of Government, a copy of a letter No. 1174, dated the 12th August 1910, from the Principal of the Presidency College, in which he represents that the limit fixed for that College, namely, 12, as against 6 at other Government Colleges is not in reasonable proportion to the respective enrolments. He therefore puts forward the following alternative proposals:—

- (1) That free-studentships in colleges should be granted proportionately to numbers as is done in schools, and that the proportion for colleges should be 3 per cent.
- (2) That the number fixed as the limit for Presidency College should be raised to 30.

3. While I am in agreement with Mr. James that the number of free-studentships admissible may, in view of the large numbers studying at the Presidency College be somewhat increased, I cannot recommend either that so large a number as 30 should be sanctioned, or that the number should be determined by a mathematical calculation from the enrolment. It is a question of a superior limit and I am of opinion that this limit may be reasonably fixed at 18. The analogy of schools does not hold. Collegiate education is always a luxury, while school education is more or less a necessity.

4. Moreover, the privilege of the grant of free-studentships in colleges is one that is peculiarly liable to abuse, and it is necessary to emphasise once more that a free-studentship should not be given merely because the applicant happens to be poor. If the conditions laid down in this office Circular No. 155, dated the 25th November, a copy of which is annexed hereto for the information of Government, are scrupulously adhered to 18 should well suffice as a superior limit.

5. In these circumstances, I would only recommend that Government be pleased, with effect from the date of their order, to raise the limit of free-studentships fixed for the Presidency College from 12 to 18.

No. 1174, dated Calcutta, the 12th August 1910.

From—H. R. JAMES, Esq., M.A., Principal, Presidency College, Calcutta,
To—The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

I HAVE the honour to refer you to your No. 15242 of 17th August 1908, conveying the sanction of Government to the grant of free-studentships at this and other Government Colleges, and I ask your consideration of the question whether the limit fixed at your suggestion for Presidency College, namely 12 as against 6 at other Government colleges, is in reasonable proportion to the greater number of students at this college.

2. I desire in the first place to acknowledge the great boon this concession of free-studentships has already been. It has enabled the college to bring relief to a number of students, whose efforts to struggle against and overcome adverse circumstances were most deserving of sympathy. It has been a pleasure to afford to such students the relief which this concession of Government has placed within reach, and I beg to record my personal thanks and the thanks of the college to you and to Government for the benefit. Only at this college, owing to our very large numbers, it does not prove sufficient to meet all the cases which have full claim on the grounds recognized as legitimate. I do not think that

at the time the recommendations of your letter No. 13900 of July the 28th, 1908, were made, the great disproportion between the numbers at this college and the numbers at other Government colleges (three or four or five times as great) was quite clearly in view.

Owing to the very great accession of numbers in the last two years, that disproportion is even greater now. The number recently recognized by the Governing Body as our limit is 850, but unless graduate admissions are limited (which is not as yet desirable) this must be raised to 900, since the 850 was based on a rough estimate of 200 for M. A. and M. Sc. classes, whereas the actual total this year is 258 and, as far as one can forecast, is not likely to lessen in future years. The number of free studentships sanctioned is 12. I need not point to the contrast between this number and 900 (actual present numbers 972) as it is obvious. If it is compared with the six granted to Patna, Cuttack, Hooghly and Krishnagar, it will be seen that the relative benefit conferred on Presidency College is strikingly less than that conferred on the smaller colleges.

It may be urged that the Presidency College is an expensive college, intended for well-to-do students and students of exceptional ability who win scholarships. This is true but only one side of the truth. There are, as I know only too well, also many poor students at Presidency College, and poor students who, through their ardent desire for education and willingness to face privation, have good claims to be there. Moreover, it may reasonably be urged that the most advanced stage of education rather specially needs this subvention, and that as so large a proportion of our students are reading for the M. A. and M. Sc. degrees, greater rather than less help should be extended to Presidency College. I submit that 12 would not be an unduly lavish limit for free-studentships to M. A. and M. Sc. students alone.

I beg in conclusion to offer alternative suggestions—

- (1) That free-studentships in colleges should be granted proportionately to numbers as is done in schools* and that the proportion for colleges should be 3 per cent.
- (2) That the number fixed as the limit for Presidency College should be raised to 30.

* Where it is 5 per cent.

Circular No. 155, dated Calcutta, the 25th November 1909.

From—H. R. JAMES, Esq., M.A., Offg. Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

To—All Principals of Government Arts Colleges, including the Lady Principal of the Bethune College, Calcutta.

I HAVE the honour to invite reference to the Government letter No. 3689, dated 10th August 1909, on the subject of the grant of free-studentships in Government Colleges, copies of which were forwarded to you with this office Nos. 15242-15248, dated, 17th August 1909. To remove certain misconceptions that seem to have arisen in regard to the meaning and application of the orders it has become necessary to issue definite instructions in the matter.

2. The intention of Government seems to be that the full number of free-studentships at any one time should be limited to twelve at the Presidency and six at each of the other Government Colleges, not that free-studentships for the whole period of an academic course should be annually awarded up to these limits. This will be definitely secured by making the grant in each case for only a year at a time, and requiring on the expiry of the year an application for continuance. The continuance should of course depend upon good conduct and satisfactory progress in study.

3. These free-studentships are not to be treated like so many minor scholarships meant to help poor and deserving students generally; they are primarily intended as a reserve to meet cases of special and peculiar hardship which arise from time to time through sudden calamity, like the death of a father or a sudden loss of fortune. They may also, however, be given in other circumstances of poverty to students of outstanding merit, who would otherwise be precluded from undertaking or continuing a University course.

Each case should be presented in such detail as to afford materials for a judgment. The Principals of colleges in recommending a free-studentship, are, therefore, requested to submit to this office a statement as to:—

- (1) the number of students on the rolls already in enjoyment of the privilege;
- (2) the circumstances of the application. It should be clearly brought out whether the occasion for the grant is such a calamity as is contemplated in the preceding paragraph, or a conjunction of poverty and outstanding merit. The Principal should satisfy himself as to the facts of each case and in reporting should state that he has done so;
- (3) in all cases in which the student has previously paid college fees, the reason why he should not continue to do so;
- (4) when the application is for a free-studentship to enable a student who has passed the Intermediate or Bachelorship Examination to proceed to the Bachelorship or Mastership, the exceptional success on which the recommendation is based;

- (5) the reasons for the student electing to prosecute or continue his study in a Government College (which is generally the most expensive) in preference to a private institution;
- (6) whether he has the means of maintaining himself in other respects if his college fees are remitted.

[No. 40.]

[FILE $\frac{9-S}{1}$ 6.]

No. 2063T.—G., dated Darjeeling, the 22nd October 1910.

From—J. G. CUMMING, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department,

To—The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 117T., dated the 23rd September 1910, regarding the grant of free studentships at the Presidency College.

2. Mr. James represents that owing to the very great increase in the number of students attending the Presidency College during the last two years, the annual limit of 12 free-studentships sanctioned in Government order No. 3689, dated the 10th August 1908, is not in reasonable proportion to the enrolment. He therefore puts forward the following alternative proposals for consideration. Either—

- (1) that free-studentships in colleges should be granted proportionately to numbers as is done in schools and that the proportion for colleges, should be 3 per cent., or,
- (2) that the number fixed as the limit for the Presidency College should be raised to 30.

3. While you agree with Mr. James that the number of free-studentships admissible in the Presidency College, should, in view of the large numbers studying in the college, be somewhat increased, you are not prepared to accept either of Mr. James's proposals without modification. Your conclusion is that the number of free-studentships should be raised from 12 to 18.

4. I am to say that in the opinion of Government, Mr. James has not made out a case for any increase in the number of free-studentships at the Presidency College. He has in particular failed to show that, owing to the limitation at present imposed, specified cases of hardship have actually arisen. The orders of the Government of India are that free-studentships should not, as a general rule, be given in Government colleges, and in delegating to you the power to sanction such scholarships up to an annual limit of 12 in the case of the Presidency College, it was enjoined that the free-studentships should only be granted after a careful scrutiny of all the circumstances attending each particular case, and that the maximum should not be worked up to as a matter of course. Apart from the increase in the number of students attending the college, which does not afford any very safe criterion on which to estimate the number of free-studentships required, no reasons have been adduced which would appear to justify a revision of the orders of 1908. The limit of 12 free-studentships should therefore be retained.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

EDUCATION.

[FILE $\frac{9-8}{1}$.]

K -W.—A PROCEEDINGS FOR OCTOBER 1910, Nos. 37—40.

Free-studentships at the Presidency College.

[Nos. 37-39.] Letter from the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, No. 117T., dated the 28th September 1910.

RESOLUTION No. 19, of the Simla Conference discouraged the grant of free-studentships in Government Colleges. The reasons for which free-studentships were sanctioned up to an annual limit of 12 in the case of the Presidency College and of six in those of the other Government colleges, were given in Director of Public Instruction's No. 13900, dated the 29th July 1908, and discussed in page 1 of the notes to A Proceedings August 1908, Education file $\frac{98}{1}$, Nos. 36-37. The proposal now made is that the maximum may be raised to 18 in the case of the Presidency College.

S. N. S. G.—3-10-1910.

This relates to a proposal to raise the limit of free-studentships in the Presidency College from 12 to 18.

Owing to the very great accession of numbers of students in the last two years, Mr. James, in his letter No. 1174, dated the 12th August 1910, has suggested two alternative proposals:—

- (1) That free-studentships in colleges should be granted proportionately to numbers as is done in schools and that the proportion for colleges should be 3 per cent ;
- (2) That the number fixed as the limit for the Presidency College should be raised to 30.

The Director of Public Instruction has modified Mr. James's proposals and recommends that the number of free-studentships in the Presidency College should be raised from 12 to 18.

In their Resolution No. 19, the Simla Educational Conference recommended that free-studentships should, as a general rule, not be given in Government Colleges and should be kept within narrow limits within aided institutions, and this view was endorsed by the Government of India in paragraph 8 of their letter No. 468, dated the 6th November 1901. The opinion was based on some theoretical objection to competition between Government and private Colleges. Notwithstanding the above decision, the Director of Public Instruction was authorized in Government order No 3689, dated the 10th August 1908, to grant free-studentships up to an annual limit of 12 in the case of the Presidency College, and of six in the other Government Colleges, and in doing so we told him that this delegation of power was made on the distinct understanding that the figures, 12 for the Presidency College and six for the other Government Colleges, are maximum which must not be worked up to as a matter of course, and that no free-studentship is to be granted unless a careful examination of all the circumstances show that it is fully justified. Sir Andrew Fraser also desired that the necessity for moderation should be strongly impressed on the Director of Public Instruction.

It may also be mentioned in this connection that the Presidency College already enjoys the privilege of granting partial remission of tuition fees up to the limit of 12 in the case of Government scholars and other deserving students.

If, however, it be decided to raise the number of free-studentships from 12 to 18 in the Presidency College, the Financial Department will have to be consulted as the charge will recur annually.

H. G. D.—5-10-1910.

C. E.—6-10-1910.

SECRETARY—

The office note fully explains the case. Director of Public Instruction's proposal to raise the limit of free-studentships for Presidency College from 12 to 18 may be sanctioned with the consent of Financial Department.

H. A. F. LINDSAY—10-10-1910.

W. L. GOURLAY—11-10-1910.

SECRETARY—

I do not think that any case for the increase of the maximum has been made out.

India in 1901 agreed with the Conference that no free studentships should be given in Government colleges. We departed from that ruling in 1908, but saved our consciences

by saying that the free-studentships must be given in moderation and in two years an increase is asked for.

E. L. TANNER—11-10-1910.

I DON'T think Mr. James makes out his case ; he puts it entirely on the proportionate number. It would be necessary to show that owing to the limitation cases of hardship have actually arisen. It would be better I think to keep the limit and have the Director of Public Instruction to come up on each occasion of excess.

H. L. STEPHENSON—12-10-1910.

SECRETARY—

In paragraph 8 of Home Department letter No. 468, dated the 6th November 1901, the Government of India endorsed the recommendation made in paragraph 19 of the resolutions of the Simla Educational Conference of that year, to the effect that free-studentships should not, as a rule, be given in Government colleges and should be kept within narrow limits in aided institutions. Subsequently, however, on a reference from the Director of Public Instruction, it was decided in Government order No. 3689, dated the 10th August 1908, that the Director of Public Instruction might be given a certain amount of discretion in the grant of free-studentships up to an annual limit of 12 in the case of the Presidency College and of 6 in the case of other Government Colleges. In paragraph 2 of this Government order, it was observed that the delegation was made only on the distinct understanding that the maxima should not be worked up to as a mere matter of course and that no grant of free-studentships should be made except after careful scrutiny of all the circumstances of each particular case. The Director of Public Instruction in his letter No. 117T., dated the 28th September 1910, forwards a letter No. 1174, dated the 12th August 1910, from the Principal, Presidency College, in which Mr. James points out that, owing to the considerable increase which has occurred during recent years in the number of students attending his college, the maximum of 12 free-studentships is not sufficient. He proposes either :—

- (1) that free-studentships in colleges should be granted proportionately to numbers as is done in schools and that the proportion of colleges should be 3 per cent., or else
- (2) that the number fixed as the limit for Presidency College should be raised to 30.

The Director of Public Instruction agrees that the maximum should be increased, but considers 30 excessive and suggests 18.

The Financial Department, who have been consulted, remind us that the orders of August 1908 insisted that free-studentships should be given in moderation and that 2 years is a very short period within which to apply for an increase. Financial Secretary observes in his note, dated the 12th October, that the increase in the number of students is not a sufficient justification for increasing the maximum number of free studentships, and that Mr. James has entirely failed to show that owing to the present limitation cases of hardship have actually arisen.

In view of the opinion recorded by the Financial Department and of the precise instructions contained in Government order No. 3689, dated the 10th August 1908, that the maximum of 12 should not be worked up to as a mere matter of course, the Director of Public Instruction should, perhaps, be informed that Government does not see its way to accepting his recommendation in the matter.

A draft is submitted.

H. A. F. LINDSAY—19-10-1910.

HIS HONOUR—

The facts of the present reference from the Director of Public Instruction are given in the note of the Under-Secretary. I recommend that the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction to increase free-studentships in the Presidency College from 12 to 18 should not be accepted, on the grounds that (1) the existing orders granting a delegation to the Director of Public Instruction of powers to grant free-studentships up to 12 in the Presidency College were passed only in 1908 ; and (2) there is no proof of hardship. The Director of Public Instruction, it will be noted, asks for 18, while the Principal of the Presidency College asks for as many as 30.

2. The number 12 for the Presidency College was Mr. Küchler's own suggestion in 1908. Further, the Educational Conference of 1901 went so far as to recommend in paragraph 19 of their Resolution, that free-studentships should, as a general rule, not be given at all in Government Colleges and should be kept within narrow limits in aided institutions. This recommendation was itself an amplification of the principle laid down in 1884 that institutions maintained from public funds should refrain from undue competition with aided schools by means of charging lower fees.

3. A draft for approval is submitted.

J. G. CUMMING—20-10-1910.

I AGREE.

E. N. B[AKER].—21-10-1910.

[No. 40.] O. I. No. 2063T.—J., dated the 22nd October 1910.

B. S. Press—18 1-1911—3704C—20—G. A.

REFERENCE TO FORMER CASES.

EDN. FILE $\frac{9-S}{1}$, A PROCEEDINGS FOR NOVEMBER 1908, Nos. 47-49

" " $\frac{9-S}{1}$ " " AUGUST 1908, Nos. 36-37.

" " $\frac{10-O}{7}$ " " JANUARY 1903, Nos. 12-14.

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REFERENCE TO LATER CASES.

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Office notes (printed).