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EXP. VOL.

PROCEEDINGS

17695

OF THE HON'BLE

Minister of the Government of Bengal

DURING

JULY 1907.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Contents.

MISCELLANEOUS—General

EDUCATION

ECCLIASTICAL.

EMIGRATION.



BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS

Y.

Not for sale.

REMOVAL OF THE COMMERCIAL CLASSES FROM THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE TO THE BUSINESS QUARTER OF THE TOWN.

[Nos. 221-23.]

[File  $\frac{4-0}{17}$  3].

No.  $\frac{Bn.}{D. 11. 2000}$ , dated Calcutta, the 9th November 1906.

Memo. by—J. O. E. BRANSON, Esq., Accountant-General, Bengal.

THE undermentioned document is submitted to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, with the following remarks.  
The reappropriation proposed is admissible.

No. 14414, dated Calcutta, the 3rd November 1906.

From—A. EARLY, Esq., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department  
(through the Accountant-General, Bengal).

I HAVE the honour to address Government as regards a proposal to remove the Commercial classes, which are at present held at the Presidency College, Calcutta, from that College to the business quarter of Calcutta. The history of these classes is given in my letter No. 14413, dated the 3rd November 1906, in which I have recommended their retention. It is unnecessary for me therefore on the present occasion to recapitulate what I have said in that letter.

2. These classes have from the first been carried on in certain class-rooms in the Presidency College. This arrangement was in the first instance necessary because the classes were started on a very small scale and with an incomplete staff, and the teaching had therefore to be imparted partly by members of the Presidency College staff. Since, however, the issue of Government letter No. 946, dated the 20th February 1905, in which a complete staff was sanctioned for these classes, the teaching is quite independent of and separate from that of the ordinary Presidency College students, except in so far as the Principal of the Presidency College is at present in general charge of the work of the Commercial classes.

3. The arrangement referred to in the last paragraph has not proved to be beneficial either to the Presidency College or to the Commercial classes. Only three class-rooms could be spared for the Commercial classes, and, though these are quite inadequate for the proper working of the classes in question, their surrender has proved most detrimental to the working of the Arts classes. The Commission which recently inspected Colleges in Calcutta commented in strong terms on the overcrowding of the Presidency College rooms, which they pointed out was partly due to the recent addition to the College of the Commercial classes. On general grounds also they objected to the teaching of such subjects as Type-writing and Book-keeping in the Presidency College, and they concluded by stating that in their opinion these classes should have found a home anywhere rather than at "the highest seat of liberal education in Bengal."

4. The Commercial classes moreover have been handicapped, not only by lack of space, but also by being located at some little distance from the business quarter of the City. The evening classes are held mainly for the benefit of clerks who are employed either in business houses or in Government offices, and the distance of the Presidency College from the business quarter of the City makes attendance at these lectures almost impossible for a man who has to work long hours in an office. The evening lectures cannot begin later than at 6-30 P.M., and thus the punctual attendance on the part of the clerks employed in offices is a practical impossibility, unless the Commercial school is within easy reach. Mr. F. H. Stewart of Messrs. Gladstone, Wyllie & Co., the lecturer on English in the evening classes, states that a decidedly better attendance at these classes would be secured if they were held nearer to the business quarter of the town.

5. Again, in the same way as the Commission which inspected Colleges objected to the inclusion of Commercial instruction in the Presidency College as being inimical to the prestige of the institution as a seat of liberal education, so persons interested in Commercial education feel that the Commercial classes suffer considerably by being a mere adjunct to the Presidency College. The Commercial Course Advisory and Examination Board has expressed itself

strongly on this point. It knows that the Commercial classes cannot be expected to rank in the eyes of the Principal of the Presidency College as of equal importance with the University classes, and feels that the former are not likely to attract the amount of attention which they deserve. Again, it is fully conscious that under present conditions the youth of Bengal regards University education, whatever the aim with which or the conditions under which it is prescribed, as being infinitely superior to any course of instruction which Commercial classes can afford. The Board feels therefore that the present proximity of the two courses of instruction tends to accentuate the impression that Commercial instruction is in itself inferior, while it suspects that the fact that this instruction is given at the Presidency College tends to deter persons who do not want to give their sons a University education of any kind from sending them to these classes. The Board maintains that there is room both for University and for Commercial education, and wishes emphatically to discourage the view that the latter is only intended for those who have failed at the former.

6. For all these reasons I am strongly of the opinion that the Commercial classes should be transferred from the Presidency College without delay. With this end in view, I instructed the Principal of the College to submit definite proposals for the removal of the classes to suitable rented premises. The Principal in consultation with Mr. Chapman, the Professor in charge of the Commercial classes, has now submitted proposals for installing the classes in some rooms at Nos. 300-303, Bow Bazar Street. In these premises there is a large flat which was originally built for a Commercial school. This flat the landlord is willing to let in various portions, and the rooms which I propose to take for the Commercial classes are those shown in the annexed plan, except that portion which is marked "dewelling-house. The rent of these rooms is Rs. 350 a month, inclusive of taxes; and the landlord is willing to put up electric fans and electric lights, charging rent according to the number of fans and lights installed. It is estimated that the extra sum to be added to the rent on account of the use of fans and lights will be about Rs. 40 a month, while the charge for the electric current is estimated as likely to cost, at the utmost, Rs. 40 a month.

7. The additional establishment which the classes will require when they are established in Bow Bazar will be—

- (a) a clerk on Rs. 30 a month,
- (b) a durwan on Rs. 10 a month, and
- (c) a sweeper on Rs. 5 a month.

There are two bearers at the Presidency College, the employment of whom was specially sanctioned for the Commercial classes. These bearers will be transferred with the classes. I suggest also that, as the classes have at present no library of their own, an annual allotment of Rs. 300 should be made for this purpose.

8. The additional cost consequent upon the removal of the Commercial classes to Nos. 300-303, Bow Bazar Street, will therefore be as follows—

	Monthly.	Yearly.
	Ra.	Rs.
Rent, including rent for fans and lights	390	4,680
Electric current	40	480
Library	25	300
Clerk	30	360
Durwan	10	120
Sweeper	5	60
Total	500	6,000

I request that I may be allowed to include this additional expenditure (Rs. 6,000 a year) in my budget for 1907-08.

9. The landlord is prepared to grant a five years' lease of the premises under consideration; and, in order to enable the classes to start work in them in January 1907, I recommend that the rooms under consideration should be taken on a lease for that period, with effect from the 1st December 1906. It is estimated that the cost of removal will be Rs. 100, and that it will be necessary to spend about Rs. 2,000, in order to provide furniture for the rooms. Beyond type-writers and tables for them, the Commercial classes have at

present practically no furniture of their own. As indicated above, the classes have no library of their own, and it is desirable that a sum of Rs. 300 should be placed at their disposal for the purchase of books during the current year. Thus the charges to be met during the current year will be as follow:—

	Rs.
Rent for three months, including rent for fans and lights	1,170
Electric current for three months	120
Clerk	90
Durwan	30
Sweeper	15
Removal charges	100
Furniture	2,000
Library	300
Total	3,825

This sum can be met from the lump grant of Rs. 2,97,200 for primary education and new educational schemes. In my letter No. 138T., dated the 21st May 1906, I suggested that the sum of Rs. 33,919 should be re-appropriated from this allotment towards the purchase of "Cleveland House" at Bhagalpur. As it has been decided not to purchase "Cleveland House" at present, this sum will not now be required. A re-appropriation statement is submitted, and I request that the sanction of Government may be accorded to this expenditure during the current year.

10. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which I have consulted, has expressed itself in favour of the removal of the Commercial classes from the Presidency College and their location in the proposed premises in Bow Bazar. The Bengal National Chamber of Commerce has also been addressed, but has not yet favoured me with its views, although more than a month has elapsed since my letter was issued. Several reminders have been sent, but without result. This body not infrequently fails to answer letters, and there seems to be no reason why this case should be delayed any longer for want of a reply.

11. Finally, I request that orders may be passed on this reference with as little delay as possible. Unless we can give a definite answer to the landlord soon, the rooms in Nos. 300-303, Bow Bazar, will probably be let to some one else. These rooms are very suitable, and, if they are lost to us, it is quite probable that suitable rooms in the business quarter of the town will not be procurable for a very long time.

12. I request that the plan of the rooms sent herewith may be returned when no longer required.

*Re-appropriation Statement to meet additional Charges on account of the removal of the Commercial Classes of the Presidency College from the College building.*

Major, minor and detailed heads under which the charge falls.	Budget grant for the detailed head under which the charge falls.	Amount of extra charge.	RE-APPROPRIATION PROPOSED BY THE OFFICER MAKING THE APPLICATION OUT OF GRANTS AT HIS DISPOSAL.		RE-APPROPRIATION PROPOSED BY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OUT OF GRANTS UNDER HIS CONTROL.			RE-APPROPRIATION SUGGESTED BY ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL.			
			Heads under which savings will be effected.	Amount.	Office or offices in which savings will be effected.	Heads to be reduced.	Amounts.	Major head out of the savings of which the extra charge may be met.	Budget estimate.	Expenditure up to last completed account being for month.	Anticipated savings at the end of the year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
23.—EDUCATION. 1906-07. Arts Colleges. Establishment—"Provision for the Commercial class."	Rs. 95,400	Rs. 3,825	.....	.....	Budget estimates of the Education Department for 1906-07.	Lump provision for primary education and for provision for new educational scheme (budget grant Rs. 2,97,200).	3,825				

CALCUTTA,  
The 3rd November 1906.

A. EARLE,  
Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

[No. 224.]

[FILE 4-C  
17 4.]

No. 809, dated Calcutta, the 18th February 1907.

From—T. W. RICHARDSON, Esq., Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Genl. Dept.,  
To—The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

WITH reference to your letter No. 14414, dated the 3rd November 1906, I am directed to say that, in the circumstances explained, the Lieutenant-Governor sanctions the removal of the Commercial classes now held at the Presidency College to the business quarter of the town, and their installation in the premises Nos. 300-303, Bow Bazar Street, certain rooms being taken for the purpose on a lease for a period of five years at a rent of Rs. 350 a month inclusive of taxes.

	Monthly.	Yearly.	
	Rs.	Rs.	
Rent for rooms ...	350	4,200	ture of Rs. 6,000 on account of the additional establishment and the other charges shown in the margin, besides an initial expenditure of Rs. 100 for the removal of the classes and Rs. 2,000 for the purchase of furniture. I am to convey sanction to this expenditure, and to say that the charge for the current year will be met by re-appropriation from
" " fans and lights ...	40	480	
Electric current ...	40	480	
Library ...	25	300	
Clerk ...	30	360	
Durwan ...	10	120	
Sweeper ...	5	60	
	500	6,000	

savings in the lump grant of Rs. 2,97,200 provided in the Education Budget for primary education and new educational schemes.

3. The plan received with your letter is herewith returned.

No. 810.

COPY, together with a copy of the re-appropriation statement, forwarded to the Financial Department of this Government for information and for favour of communication to the Accountant-General, Bengal.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

W. S. MILNE,

*Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

CALCUTTA,

*The 18th February 1907.*