

The Jaffna Organ.

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MONDAY

JULY 6,

1931

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**Forest Department
Advertisements.**

The Divisional Forest Officer, N. D. Jaffna, will sell by public auction at the depot on Tuesday July 14, 1931, at 9.30 a.m., the following timber as per notice of June 23, 1931.

100 Palo logs.
25 Sato logs.
2 Tons Ebony pieces with sawwood.
(approx.)

The notice appears in Government Gazette of June 26, 1931.

J. D. SARGENT,
Conservator of Forests.

Office of the Conservator of Forests,
Kandy, June 30, 1931.
G. 90, 6731.

The Hindu Organ.

JAFNA, MONDAY, JULY 6, 1931.

**INDIAN RURAL RE-
CONSTRUCTION.****I.**

THERE IS AT PRESENT IN INDIA A great awakening to the value and importance of improving the social and economic conditions of its rural population. Mahatma Gandhi in a recent article in the "Young India" has drawn attention of the various Congress organisations to this aspect of national work. Prior to this some admirable work has been done in certain rural areas to improve the conditions of rural life. But no systematic and comprehensive scheme has been put forward as the one published by Sir M. Visweswaraya in a pamphlet, extracts from which were published in the "Madras Hindu" of 30th ultimo. With the inauguration of the boycott movement in Jaffna interest has been created in this important subject of national work and a scheme of rural reconstruction has been adopted at a meeting of the Jaffna West Association, the proceedings of which are published elsewhere. We hope that other organisations in the Jaffna district will follow the example set by the Jaffna West Association. We propose to invite the attention of our readers to certain aspects of Sir Visweswaraya's scheme so that they may understand and appreciate the nature and principles of rural reconstruction.

Sir Visweswaraya's scheme is one that is adopted from a similar scheme in actual operation in certain parts of Japan. It concentrates attention on two important aspects of village reconstruction, namely, increase of production and improvement in the working efficiency of the villager. As pointed out in the pamphlet the difficulties which workers in this field of national activity have to face are almost similar in both countries. They suffer from the small size of the holding, over-population and indebtedness. But in India the impoverishment of the rural communities has been deepened by illiteracy, only nine per cent. of the population in India being literates. Small output of work, disproportionately small production, low earning power and poverty beyond any knowledge which Western nations have of it are some of the deplorable features of the present day rural life in India. According to the latest Census, India contains no less than 350 million inhabitants or about one-fifth of the entire population of the earth. Ninety per cent. of it resides in rural areas and seventy-three per cent. earns its living from agriculture. One-fourth of the entire population although capable of working, remains idle for the greater part of the year and among the remaining number also there is an alarming amount

of short employment. The result is that there is alarming poverty in the country which reacts adversely on national life and well-being.

In suggesting the agency required for the purpose and the methods that will have to be followed in putting it into operation, the writer of the pamphlet in question describes the organisation created in one of the model villages of Japan for village improvement. This association consists of the headmen of families in the area, or house masters as they are locally called. The responsibility of increasing production, occupations and its material prosperity rests generally with this association which meets twice a year in conference. At these conferences, questions pertaining to the wants and desires of the village in respect of production and occupations and to the funds and measures required to promote both were considered and discussed, and a programme of work and budget of expenditure were drawn up. The expenditure was met by contributions from the members of the Association (headmen of families), every farmer's family paying its share according to its estimated income or earning capacity.

At the conference every measure suggested for increase in production and income, whether from agriculture, subsidiary occupations, industries or service were carefully examined. Experienced leaders and businessmen who have studied the rural problems were invited from the neighbouring cities to advise the people how occupations might be multiplied, production increased and the prosperity of the village promoted. Lectures were delivered, discussions, fairs and exhibitions held and the conference was wound up by a visit to the village Shinto temple where divine blessings were invoked on the undertakings initiated by the association. It should be noted in this connection how temple worship forms an indispensable part of the programme of work in Jaffna and how divine help and guidance are sought for every rural activity.

The Association mentioned above has an executive body called the village council with an elected Chairman and a Vice-chairman who are the village chief and the school master respectively. It met once a month to give effect to the policies and programmes of the half-yearly conferences. The work is not monopolised by a single individual but it is distributed among the headmen of families on whose co-operation the whole scheme rests. A similar scheme for Indian village life is suggested by Sir M. Visweswaraya. We propose to deal with it in our next issue.

**Pandit Jawaharlal's Visit to
Jaffna****COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT OF
ACCOUNTS**

A copy of the statement of the income and expenditure in connection with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Jaffna in May last has been sent to us by the Secretaries of the Jawaharlal Reception Committee.

According to the statement, cash realised by subscriptions amounted to Rs. 822.40. Total expenditure incurred was Rs. 877.79. The balance required is Rs. 55.39 for which there is an amount of Rs. 60 promised subscriptions which have to be realised.

**Another Nomination Day
for Jaffna?**

The Political Correspondent of the Ceylon Independent says that another nomination day will be fixed for the Jaffna constituencies which have boycotted the State Council.

M. Sc. in Psychology.**MR. ARULNANDHY'S SUCCESS.**

Mr. K. S. Arulnandhy, Inspector of Schools, has obtained the M. Sc. degree in Psychology after two years' research under the personal guidance of Mr. Charles E. Spearman, Professor of Psychology of the London University.

He has returned from England and is now at Pt. Pedro and will leave for Kandy to assume duties.

N. P. Teachers' Association.**SECURITY OF TENURE**

A largely attended meeting of the Northern Province Teachers' Association was held at the Central College with Mr. J. V. Chelliah the President of the Association, in the chair.

Mr. J. W. Arudpragasam, Vice-Principal, Central College, moved the first resolution: "Whereas the interests of education demand the closest co-operation between the managers and teachers, the Northern Province Teachers' Association appeals to all the managers of schools in the Northern Province to recognise the claims of this Association to be an agency for the promotion of co-operation in the educational service, and in particular its claims to represent teachers in cases where differences between managers and teachers have to be reconciled."

Mr. Arudpragasam said that it was not possible to do successful work in education unless there was co-operation between principals, managers and teachers in schools. In the past the relations between managers and teachers was like the relation existing between Capital and Labour. The Manager tried to get the best out of the teacher and the teacher looked upon the manager as an enemy. The time when the teacher was looked upon as the private property of the manager was past.

Owing to the work of teachers' associations, a good deal of freedom had been achieved. The manager expected from the teacher efficiency and loyalty and the teachers looked to the manager to safeguard their interests. Of course mistakes were bound to occur. But if there was good feeling and understanding, the spirit of give and take, much could be achieved.

Mr. V. Vancolasinkam seconded the resolution. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. S. J. Gnanasegaram proposed the second resolution: "Whereas at a recent inquiry into the case of a discontinued teacher, the Director of Education has not allowed either a representative of this Association or the teacher concerned to be present, nor even informed either the Association or the teacher concerned of the nature of the charges against him, the Northern Province Teachers' Association records its considered opinion that this method of inquiry is altogether inadequate to protect the rights of teachers."

The mover said that every employer had a right to discontinue a man for either disloyalty or grave unprofessional misconduct or for thorough going inefficiency, but what they claimed was the right of the teacher to be heard and to be informed of the allegations brought against him. Not even the request of the Association to be informed of the charges which led to his dismissal was conceded. They would have been satisfied if either the teacher concerned or the deputation from the Association had been called to present the other side of the case, to put up a defence, or at least be permitted to know the causes for such an extreme step. That was a perilous position for the members of any profession to be placed in.

Mr. Coomas W. D. Alwis seconded the resolution.

The resolution was then carried.

Mr. V. Veerasingham, Principal, Manipay Hindu College, proposed the next resolution: "Whereas security of tenure is indispensable to building up in Ceylon an efficient and self-respecting teaching profession; and whereas therefore no teacher should be discontinued from service except for serious educational inefficiency or gross unprofessional conduct; and whereas cases have occurred where teachers were discontinued without sufficient reason, the Northern Province Teachers' Association requests the Government and the Director of Education to institute an Arbitration Board consisting of representatives of managers, teachers and the Department to inquire into and arbitrate in cases where teachers seek the intervention of the Board."

Mr. Veerasingham said that any work done with fear would not be successful. Teachers should be enabled to do their work without fear. That did not mean that they were out to protect the teacher who was not fit for the profession. They did not want misfits. Their profession would not be worthwhile if a principal or a manager or an inspector could spring a surprise on any one of them and say: "You are inefficient."

(Continued on column 3)

News & Notes.

Mr. N. E. Ernst has been appointed Commissioner of Stamps.

Mr. T. L. Villiers has been appointed a member of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour in place of Mr. Campbell Dudley, who has resigned.

Professor C. Suntheralingam of the University College, Colombo, has obtained ten months leave and will be proceeding to India shortly on a holiday.

A Press communique states that tickets for all seats in the members' galleries in the Council Chamber for the meetings of July 7 and 8 have already been issued. Owing to the unusual demand for seats and the limited accommodation available, it was impossible to issue more than three or four tickets to each Member of the Council who applied for tickets for his guests.

A group of American admirers of Mahatma Gandhi are going to England to meet him on his arrival in London, says the New York "Despatch". They are members of the Gandhi Fellowship, and will be headed by Kedarbath Das Gupta. They propose to sail on the "Olympic" on August 17th. Rev. Dr. Haynes Holmes who is on his way to Russia will join the party and deliver two addresses in London entitled "Gandhi and America" which Gandhiji himself have been invited to attend.

Mr. Vithalbhai Patel, whose health does not seem to have improved a great deal, intends going to America to lecture there at the same time as Mr. Winston Churchill, says the London correspondent of the *Hindustan Times*. The latter has accepted lecturing engagements on India in the autumn throughout the States. There is no doubt that advance organisations like the Liberal movements in America and the Foreign Policy Association will invite a person of Mr. Patel's eminence.

It is reported that Mahatma Gandhi has taken up the cause of a dismissed teacher, Mr. Shital Prashad, of the Meerut A. V. High School. He was dismissed from service by the Meerut Cantonment Board which manages the school, owing to his taking part in political activities during the civil disobedience movement. After the truce he was not reinstated in his post. The matter was referred to Gandhiji who has written a letter promising to take up the matter himself and direct the Government of India to ask the Meerut Cantonment Board to take the teacher back in the school.

**Nationalism among Postal
Employees.****INAUGURATION OF NATIONAL
DRESS MOVEMENT**

A little crowd of critical bystanders gathered outside the General Post Office this morning when nearly sixty per cent. of the Ceylonese employees of the Post Office came to work in khaddar, marking the inauguration of a movement to popularise national dress says "Times of Ceylon."

On enquiry, a "Times of Ceylon" representative learned that for about a year these "pioneers" will come to work in khaddar on Fridays only, to enable them to wear out their stock of European garments. Meanwhile they will refrain from buying further supplies of the latter. They hope to be able to wear khaddar daily at the end of a year.

Rural Reconstruction.

START MADE AT VADDUKODDAI

EFFECT OF THE BOYCOTT MOVEMENT.

A general meeting of the Jaffna West Association was held on the 1st instant at 6.30 p.m. at the Hindu English School, Vaddukoddai. Mr. W. Duraiswamy, presided. Mr. M. S. Rasaratham, delivered a lecture on "Rural Reconstruction".

The Chairman in his introductory remarks said that rural reconstruction was one of the very first problems they should consider. People felt the necessity for it. The present was not like the past when they could afford to talk and talk and then go away home. They were now living at a time when it was action, and not talk, that was required. If they acted with faith in themselves and along proper lines, success was assured to them. Success would bring honour and glory to them as well as to posterity. He had pleasure in calling upon Mr. Rasaratham to address the meeting.

Mr. Rasaratham said that last month they held a public meeting to consider what steps should be taken to solve the unemployment problem. That meeting had appointed a sub-committee, which was ready with its recommendations. They all knew how, without thunder and lightning they had had rain in Jaffna. One fine morning they heard of the boycott of the State Council. That boycott would have been impossible, if not for their leaders, one of whom was their Chairman. It was God's will that was done. Now it was for them to find out how the boycott movement would help them. They should not lose that God sent opportunity to analyse their situation and do the needful. Rural reconstruction was the most important work that lay ahead of them. They should bring back to the villages their lost happiness, contentment and solidarity. They could do that by embracing their age honoured principles of village life and social order. That did not mean they should live as their ancestors did 400 or 500 years ago. They have to apply those healthy and tried principles of the past village life at present and reconstruct their Society. It was the spirit of that glorious village life that was badly wanted now.

Ancient Village.

The speaker said that they should get an idea of what their ancient villages were like. If they wanted to know anything about ancient village life they could have it only from Jaffna. The planning of the village—the different streets and lanes for people of the various castes and occupations—and the arrangement in general were a distinct feature of a Jaffna village. They could not find such an arrangement, the neat compound system, even in India. One of the late Chief Justices of Ceylon when he visited Vaddukoddai, was so much struck by the silvery lakes and the dew bespangled fields, that he remarked that he could find a parallel for that only in the valleys of Ireland. Such was the beautiful get up of their villages. They should now try to model their villages on those principles.

The speaker then took a particular village, Vaddukoddai, to consider how they should set about the work of reconstructing their rural life. They should begin by studying its conditions; how people made money; how many fields there were; and how much crop they yielded and so on. They would find that Vaddukoddai was producing foodstuffs which was sufficient for them only for six or seven months. They had given up much of the gardening and had to buy vegetables from other villages. Their industries were only making carts, walking-sticks etc. Their income was from the F. M. S. by way of pensions, remittances from some of their men employed there, and also money made by some fishermen and masons. They did not derive any income worth the name (except from the Government service). Even that money was sent out of the country by purchasing foreign goods.

Give up all Luxuries.

If they wanted their village to be a self-sufficient and self-supporting one, they should see that their wealth did not go out of their village. They knew that wealth was a fleeting thing, but what they could do was to try to keep it with them for some longer period. They could achieve it in two ways. Firstly they must give up all luxuries. Motor cars was draining away a good portion of their wealth. Jewellery deprived them of the use of money. So their first step should be a negative one, giving up all that was detrimental to their country's economic prosperity.

Their second step should be the constructive one. They should have intense cultivation. All the supply of vegetables for their village should be found in their village itself, to effect which they must all take to gardening. Not a minute of their time should be wasted. Life was calculated by time. So every minute of their life they should do some work. Work should be the motto of their life.

Protection of the Cow

Next in importance was the protection of the cow. They must look after their cows with the utmost care and restore to it the great place it occupied in a family in the past. It was an unwise thing that they had given up the use of fresh milk with the advent of condensed milk and also of toddy. It was very essential that every home should own at least one cow and make full use of the milk. They would then find their home happy and wealthy, while toddy with its evils would bid good bye to many a home that had now become miserable. There were people who could not afford to buy a cow. It was in such cases arose the necessity for co-operative societies. For every 50 or 60 families in the village they should organise a co-operative society which would be a help every family to buy a cow, and also teach them the habits of thrift and economy.

The speaker then exhorted the audience to use their local products and boycott as many foreign goods as were possible. They had plenty of oil seeds in Jaffna such as olive, margoosa, coconut etc., from which they could extract oil for their lamps. They could then easily give up kerosene. Another important industry as a subsidiary to cultivation was spinning and weaving. Much of their time was spent in idling. Every one must use his idle hours for spinning. So it was necessary that in every compound they should grow cotton. Let them first begin with growing the necessary cotton. They could send some of their children to Tiruppur to learn spinning, weaving etc. and these children would be able to teach the whole village to spin and weave. If they had 200 or 300 spinners and weavers in the village, they could produce at least half the quantity of cotton required for it. Another important industry was the growing of fruit trees. Every compound should have fruit trees and every inch of ground should be made to give some produce or other. But he would tell them to eschew the use of cigarettes and tobacco which were injurious to health.

The speaker then dwelt at length on how large sums of money were indiscriminately wasted in building palatial houses. Each house on the average cost about Rs. 6,000 to 7,000. Besides they had cut down most of their valuable palmyrah and margoosa trees and had also raised the price of timber. It was not big houses they wanted but dwellings according to sanitary principles. An important work for their Association was to draw up plans for model houses that would cost less and at the same time hygienic. Health was the most important consideration in the building of houses. They should be able to have fresh air, good water and their houses should be kept clean. Thus they should look to the health of the whole village.

The speaker referred to the schools and said that at present there was nothing in common between the school and the home. Even the holidays given to children had no use or meaning for them. Holidays should be such as could be of use to the home, when the child could help his father in the field and in the garden. The holidays, therefore, should be changed to other periods. The system of education was entirely a wrong one. It was imposed upon a subject people by their foreign rulers.

Volunteers for Village Work

Education must be such as to enable a child to earn his living by some craft or other. The time allotted for literary education should be cut short and some time should be set apart for some manual training such as gardening etc. Every school must have a garden in which all the children should work. If that was done there would be no high cost in production of foodstuffs. The teacher and home should co-operate; the teacher should know all about a child and should mould the child's future. If the children were taught to work and made to understand the dignity of labour there was no need for Government employment. The ideal of village life should be such that all even the highly paid Civil Servant should be able to cultivate his garden. Girls should be taught domestic economy in schools and they should help men in making the home self-contained and happy. It was by reconstructing their village life on those lines, they could contribute to the general progress of the country.

Continued up.

Pearl Fishery

NEW BEDS DISCOVERED

Dr. Joseph Pearson, the Marine Biologist, in his Administration Report for last year, states:—

The usual Pearl-fishery inspection was made in the early part of the year, but it is regretted that there is no immediate prospect of a fishery. The inspection was, nevertheless, very important, and Lieut. Commander Pawsey was able to proceed with his detailed survey of the Pearl Banks area, which is producing very interesting results. One important result of this survey is the discovery and charting of large areas of potential pear ground which hitherto were unknown. In the old days, inspections were chiefly confined to the Obval and Mullavarattu groups of pears, and it is not unlikely that large beds of oysters flourished and died off without their existence having been known. The Twynam's Pear area, which was fished for the first time in 1925 was then considered to be a small patch of rock. Recent surveys have shown that the Twynam's area is a very extensive one.

It is impossible to survey all the potential pear ground in one year, and it is imperative, therefore, that annual surveys of the Pearl Banks should be made.

Continued.

their country. The question then arose how they should set about the task of village reconstruction. Let them take their village Vaddukoddai as a unit with a population of 7,000. They must have at least 80 volunteers from different parts of the village who could influence the people and instruct them as to what they should do. Those 80 volunteers would come together, study the village and devise ways and means of educating the people and create a public opinion for simple living. One or two volunteers will be in charge of a group of families and educate and organise those groups to carry out their general program of rural reconstruction. Service should be their motto. Their offerings to God should be work. Through the performance of dharma, they would have their salvation.

Mr. Thillainather moved the first resolution.

"The meeting of Jaffna West Association is of opinion that the people of Jaffna West should so shape their life and organise their homes that they avoid luxuries and use as far as possible indigenous articles."

Mr. R. J. Karier seconded carried.

Mr. N. Senathirajah moved.

"That the people of Jaffna West regard Agriculture as a national industry and call upon the people in the division to do everything possible to promote garden culture and paddy Culture in the villages by encouraging every land over to cultivate at least two lakchams of land with garden produce."

Mr. M. S. Rasaratham seconded carried.

Mr. Mylvaganam moved.

"That as cow protection is not only a sacred duty but also absolutely necessary for the promotion of sound health and economic life, every family should own not less than one milch cow and that steps should be taken to encourage the proper breed of cattle increase and improve the quantity and quality of milk."

Mr. Kanapathippillai seconded carried.

Mr. V. Thillainathapillai moved.

"In order to encourage thrift and to provide cheap credit this meeting is of opinion that Co-operative societies should be organised in localities where such societies do not exist at present."

Mr. K. Nallasekavampillai seconded carried.

Mr. S. Mutiah proposed:

"As spinning and weaving can be made a profitable subsidiary occupation that Cotton cultivation should be undertaken by every family and each member of the family should learn the art of spinning and weaving."

Mr. V. C. Kathiravelu seconded carried.

Mr. Sithambaramanathar proposed:

"That the indigenous oil seeds should be collected and the local oil should be used as far as possible in preference to Kerosene."

It was duly seconded and carried.

The following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That every school should be so organised as to make their scheme of Studies and training to be in harmony with the local agricultural and industrial needs and that each school should own a school garden and give practical training in garden culture and paddy culture to the pupils."

A committee of 80 volunteers was then appointed to study the village and to give effect to the resolutions passed.

With the Chairman's closing remarks and with a vote of thanks to the chair and the audience the meeting terminated.

The Malayan Ceylonese Association, Jaffna

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT KEERIMALAI

The second Annual General Meeting of the above Association was held on Friday the 26th June 1931 at 2 p.m. at Keerimalai.

Mr. W. W. Jayaratnam, Vice-President, took the chair in the unavoidable absence of the President, Dr. E. T. MacIntyre, and about 50 members were present.

Before the proceedings began vote of condolence were passed on the deaths of the following, viz:—

1. S. Sivasubramani of Ayasthokivilad
2. S. Navaratnam of Chankani
3. S. M. Arulampalam of Mallakam
- (1) The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.
- (2) The report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 1931 were passed.
- (3) Alteration to Rule No. 6 reducing subscriptions from Rs. 12/ per annum to Rs. 6/ per annum, for those whose pensions are more than Rs. 100/ per month, and Rs. 6/ to Rs. 4/ per annum for those under Rs. 100/ per month was passed.
- (4) The election of Office bearers resulted as follows:—

Mr. W. W. Jayaratnam	President
" E. C. Daniel	Vice President
" V. Ponnambalam	Hony. Secretary
" J. R. Velhanayagam	Asst. Secretary
" K. Supplah	Hony. Treasurer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Messrs S. K. Ariyaratnam, S. Appapillai, K. Chelliah, V. C. Kathiravelu, S. Mylvaganam, R. Mylvaganam, V. Nagalingam, V. Nallathambi, P. Narayanan, S. Navaratnam, P. Ramalingam, R. Sinnathambi, A. Thillainathar and E. M. Thiruchelvam.

HONY. AUDITORS

Messrs. A. D. Ponnambalam and K. Sinnathurai
An honorarium of Rs. 50/ to the Hony. Asst. Secretary was passed.

It was proposed to have a house at Keerimalai for the use of the members and other Malayan friends and a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. W. W. Jayaratnam, V. Ponnambalam, P. Narayanan, V. Nallathambi and K. Velanatham was appointed to make the necessary investigations and report to the General Committee.

Mr. S. Mylvaganam spoke on the advantages of the Mutual Provident Fund and appealed to all those present to induce their friends to join the Fund and bring it to a success. Immediately after his speech 10 Members were enrolled at the spot.

The meeting terminated at 8 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

—Cor.

N. P. Teachers' Association

(Continued from column 3)

Mr. A. M. K. Coomaraswamy, in seconding the resolution, emphasised the fact that in seeking the security of tenure of teachers there was really no clash of interests between them and those managers or principals whose purpose was educational efficiency.

Mr. O. Narayana Menon proposed and Mr. V. C. Kanagaratnam seconded. "That the Northern Province Teachers' Association requests (a) that all reports against any teacher, whether by an inspector or principal or manager, should be communicated to him soon after such report is made; (b) that the teacher or his representative should be allowed to be present at every enquiry in which the teacher is concerned; (c) that the faults for which a teacher can be discontinued be specified; (d) and that no teacher may be discontinued for any alleged natural inefficiency after a period of probation has passed."

Both resolutions were carried.
Mr. J. O. Hardy proposed: "The Association directs the Executive Council to set up a Council of Action which will inquire into cases of dissensions where the managers refuse to submit the matter to arbitration and, subject to the approval of the Association, take such legal and disciplinary action as may be necessary in the circumstances."

In moving the resolution Mr. Hardy also suggested the creation of a sustentation fund.
Mr. V. Balasundaram seconded.—Carried.

Colombo Teachers' Association

SYMPATHY WITH JAFFNA TEACHERS

At a meeting of the Committee of the Colombo Teachers' Association held last Wednesday, a letter from the Northern Province Teachers' Association on the subject of the discontinuance of a teacher was read. It was resolved to suggest the following alternatives:—

1. That the Colombo Teachers' Association is prepared to meet the parties with a view to settlement.
2. That in the event of legal action being taken by Northern Province Teachers' Association, the Colombo Teachers' Association is prepared to show its sympathy in a practical manner.
3. That the Colombo Teachers' Association is prepared to take up the matter with the Department of Education.

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