

ConfidentialFile. No.
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28th July

30.

My dear Stapleton,

I have had a number of talks with you on the situation and have more than once put before you a suggestion which I should like now to put on paper, as a possible way of tiding over part of the period between this and the Pujah Holidays. It is a suggestion which, in my opinion, ought to be considered if any conference is held by H. E. with the representatives of the Department, the University and the Colleges. Let me say first that I am fully in sympathy with H. E.'s attempt to resist picketing by means of the police, but I am looking for the moment at the general situation. It seems to me that the present condition of affairs cannot be allowed to continue for another eight weeks, and yet I see no sign of any change, nor is there anything to indicate that the Vice-Chancellor does not intend to drag on for two months more, as he has been dragging on for the last month. With the exception of St. Xaviers the private colleges are, to all intents and purposes, closed, or they are attempting to work under conditions which make useful work impossible. The same applies to the Post-graduate classes. I believe they are quite deserted. Here matters are better, but I never know from one day to the next what new device will be adopted, and I have had such convincing proofs of the ease with which the students of this College allow their emotions to be played on, that I regard the situation as anything but satisfactory.

The suggestion is, therefore, that part of the Pujah Holidays instead of being tacked on to the Pujahs proper should be placed in front of them, so that the University and the colleges might be closed either during the greater part of August, reopen again for a few weeks in September when things

things may have improved and closed with other Government offices for the 12 days of the Pujahs proper i. e. I understand from the 27th September to the 8th of October, or ⁽²⁾ close from about the beginning of September to the 8th of October which at least would make the period ahead of us less impossibly long.

If the University and the private colleges adopted this programme, we presumably should follow suit, since such a large proportion of our staff are post graduate lecturers and we cannot, therefore, have an entirely different programme of holidays from the University. Moreover, we should be placed in an impossible position if we were left high and dry with all the other colleges closed.

It may be objected that the University and the private colleges will thus be admitting defeat, but everybody knows that they have been defeated and have put up no resistance and therefore I do not see any harm in admitting it. At the Principal's conference, 2 or 3 weeks ago, it was agreed that the colleges should try to carry on, but no serious attempt has been made by most of them to do so and it seems to me high time that that decision was reconsidered. I understand the colleges as well as the University get considerable grants from Government and Government therefore may fairly claim to have a say in their arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

H. E. Stapleton
28/7

H. E. Stapleton, Esq., M.A., B.Sc.(Oxon)

D. P. I. Bengal.

ConfidentialCalcutta 28th July 28th

My dear Dash,

I send herewith copy of a letter just received from Barrow giving his views on a proposal that he has, 2 or 3 times, urged should be one of the subjects of a Conference between the leading officers of the Education Department and the University, the Conference it is suggested being presided over by His Excellency. Barrow points out that instead of taking active steps to combat the picketing, the private colleges have done nothing to implement their resolution to keep open and suggests that this period of stress should be shortened by arranging that the colleges and University should close, e.g. a month earlier this year, and open possibly on October 9th.

2. One difficulty is that we do not know when this trouble is going to cease: picketing may stop any time, e.g. Dr. Bridge of St. Paul's College (which has probably suffered more than any other College) has just reported to me by phone that there is not a single picketer at his place to-day and that classes are again full and work going on normally. If this is going to be the case generally, it is obviously no use making any proposal to close earlier than usual.

3. A further matter for consideration is who is to be the Vice Chancellor after August 6th. If it is Dr. Urquhart, no change in policy against picketers can be expected and possibly he would be glad to acquiesce in Barrow's suggestion: but if there is a change in the Vice Chancellor, there may also be - as there should be - a change in University policy, and active steps taken, e.g. by disciplinary penalties, to bring the students back to work.

4. In any case, if there is a change in the Vice Chancellorship the new Vice-Chancellor would also probably welcome the

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idea of a Conference as suggested, before he takes steps to convene another meeting of Principals and I would therefore suggest that, if H.M. agrees, copy of Barrow's letter and this one of mine may be submitted to His Excellency and the proposal for a Conference endorsed.

Yours sincerely,

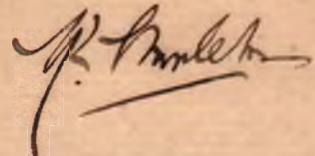
H. E. Stapleton

A. J. Dash. Esq., M.A., I.C.S.

Secretary, Education Department.

Memo No. 4142

Copy forwarded to Mr. J.R. Barrow for information with reference to his D.O. No. 235(Con) dated the 28th July 1930.



Calcutta
July 28th 1930.

Director of Public Instruction,
Bengal.