

My dear Gordon,

I am very anxious to get back to normal conditions and I have some reason to believe that the B. P. S. A. are finding it difficult to keep up picketing and would be glad to stop if they could find an excuse. In fact, I have information which leads me to think that if all the police were withdrawn, picketing would cease after perhaps a couple of days' not very serious annoyance.

I have decided to try the experiment, and the sooner the better. Would you, therefore, kindly withdraw all the police without exception, both from inside and outside the compound, after today, Monday? I should prefer not even to have a sergeant with a motor bicycle in sight, as I do not wish to give the picketers any excuse for asserting that the College is still guarded.

Another point: The picketing ordinance is in force and it may be, if there is some confusion near the College gate, the police may think it necessary to interfere on their own account. I should be grateful, however, if a blind eye could be turned to this for a couple of days, unless there should be a real disturbance.

Yours sincerely,



A. D. Gordon, Esq.

Dy. Commissioner of Police,  
Northern Division.

Confidential

From

J. R. Barrow, Esq., M. A., I. E. S.

Offg. Principal, Presidency College.

To

The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Dated Calcutta, the 26th September 1930.

24 - October

Sir,

With reference to your confidential circular No. 31 C dated the 21st August 1930, I have the honour to say that for a large part of the period under review i. e. the quarter ending 31st August 1930 daily reports were submitted to you regarding the condition of affairs in this College together with statement of attendance.

2. I may now briefly summarise the events of July and August :

The College opened immediately after the arrest of the Nehrus, father and son. For the first fortnight of July nothing of interest took place, though the Commissioner of Police had on his own initiative stationed a European sergeant with a motor bicycle in the neighbourhood of the College. I believe that the presence of this sergeant with its tacit threat of police interference acted for a time as a deterrent. About the middle of July, however, the associations that were trying to stop all educational work, possibly excited by their easy victory over the University in the matter of the Law examinations, decided to turn their attention to the Presidency College. H. E. the Governor gave strict orders that the College was on no account to be closed so long as any student desired to attend and laid it down that, if the Principal considered that he could not deal with picketers without police assistance, he must take advantage of such assistance and give the police a free hand. Accordingly, for about 6 weeks from the middle of July to the end of August the College was guarded by police, and except on a few occasions when some special event occurred to

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to excite the students, work proceeded steadily with normal attendance. Our most difficult week was from the 14th to the 19th July. From the experiences of that week it became evident that the entry of the police into the College to remove or arrest picketers caused violent excitement among the students. This raised a difficult problem, since the students would not lift a finger to assert their own freedom of action or to remove picketers themselves. They did not, however, resent the removal of picketers by the staff. Obviously the staff could only be called upon to remove picketers in very exceptional cases. *The* extraordinary position was thus created that the merest handful of 3 or 4 picketers entering the College could disorganise the work of the whole place, and had the tactics of the picketers been more skilful, they could have caused us infinitely more trouble than they actually did. Generally speaking, however, their line of action was shown by the end of the week mentioned. Except on 2 or 3 subsequent occasions when small groups of picketers made their way in, they confined themselves to sending batches of satyagrahis prostrate themselves at the main gate and court arrest by the police without resistance. On the first occasion on which this was done, the 16th July, the police used their canes and a violent commotion was excited inside the College. Subsequently ~~the~~ police <sup>had</sup> ~~ordered~~ <sup>not</sup> to use force on satyagrahis who merely courted arrest and the arrest of these batches which proceeded daily very soon lost its novelty and attracted no attention. At first as many as 7 or 8 batches came to be arrested daily. Towards the end of August the supply evidently diminished and only 1 or 2 batches arrived on each day.

From the beginning of August, following a serious disturbance which had resulted from the arrest of 3 picketers inside the College, I considered it necessary to take stringent measures to prevent, if possible, the entry of any outsiders into the College. This task was rendered particularly difficult by the large numbers in the College, the fact that the session had recently begun and the faces of many students ~~were~~ still unfa-

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unfamiliar, and the difficulty of distinguishing picketers from our students by their dress or general appearance. All the gates were closed except one of the collapsible gates in the laboratory, and a number of professors took their stations inside in order to scrutinise those who entered. The arrangements were apparently successful, since we were not troubled by the entry of any further batches of picketers. They entailed a great deal of wearisome work for the professors, most of whom very cheerfully undertook this addition to their ordinary labours. I would specially mention <sup>The</sup> following for the unwearying help which they have given me throughout the session :

Mr. H. K. Banerji

Mr. S. C. Majumdar

Rai H. C. De Bahadur

Mr. B. K. Sen

Mr. K. N. Chakravarty

Mr. D. K. Majumdar

Mr. C. C. Bhattacherji

Mr. K. C. Chakravarty and

Mr. A. Mitra.

Special mention should also be made of Mr. D. Chattoraj who with his assistants, Mr. S. C. Sen of the Physiology Department and Mr. S. C. Sen, the Physical Instructor, went through a period of great and continuous strain and was very successful in keeping the Hostel quiet.

I have not mentioned the heads of the Science Departments, but it was hardly possible for them to give me so much of their personal help as other members of the staff, since they had their laboratories to attend to. ~~which~~

The extra work entailed by the abnormal conditions also fell ~~more~~ heavily on certain members of the Ministerial staff. In particular, Babu Ramranjan Majumdar, the Steward, was extremely hard-worked and did his work very well. The Head Clerk and

and Maulvi Abdul Latif, the Record Clerk, also deserve mention.

At the end of August the police were dispensed with.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. A. M. 27/9  
Principal, Presidency College.