

D.O. No. 106

Department of Public Instruction,
Bengal,

Calcutta, the 16th Jany., 1937.

Confidential.

Telegraphic Address:
Instruction.

My dear Khan Bahadur,

I received by this morning's post a copy of the latest number of the Dacca Collegiate School Magazine. As a rule I do not read these productions with great care, but a few months ago an amazing article (by a Headmaster who had been in England two years and at Harrow School for one day) on "Public Schools of England" opened my eyes to the possibilities of great danger.

2. Now I do not know who is responsible for the eight first pages of this number (I am returning the copy for your delectation) but they are a disgrace. I suppose the form and content of them - a hotchpotch of unrelated facts - is a reflection of the lust for "General Knowledge" (as it is called) which sweeps Bengal to-day, but at any rate one ought to be able to expect that one of Bengal's most important Government High Schools could present its facts in idiomatic English and see that its facts were correct. But there is hardly a line without a blemish and we are calmly informed that America's latest telescope has a lense 200 feet wide and that the speed of the 'Queen Mary' is 3063 knots! And what can one think of a master who makes a "Critical study" of a book like the Prisoner of Zenda. It is a splendid romance and I reread it very frequently - but a critical analysis! (I see also that the normal blood temperatures of a horse and a sparrow are enough to shrivel them up in a fraction of time!)

3. I shall be glad if you will look into this and find out who is responsible and put matters right. I am afraid I shall have to send a copy of this letter to other inspectors: this means that your school is singled out for drastic criticism, but I think it deserves it.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. J. M. Bottomley.

Khan Bahadur Abul Hashem Khan Choudhuri,
Inspector of Schools,
Dacca Division.

Memo: No. 412-4

Confidential.

Copy forwarded to B. M. Sen, Esq., I.E.S., Principal,
Presidency College, Calcutta,

with a request that he will take immediate steps to see that school magazines are well edited and correctly brought out.

Calcutta,
The 16th Jany. 1937.

Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Spare copy

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