

Governor,

Samaria.  
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I beg to draw your attention to the following in connection with Government Schools:-

A. PROPAGANDA AGAINST GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS:

I. That propaganda exists.

You are aware of the fact that there is a national school here in Nablus, the Najah School. From an educational point of view I consider this to be a privilege for Nablus as it is clear that the Education Department cannot yet cope with the Nablus boys. There is however a certain unpleasant feature about this school which lies in the fact that the Executive Committee is actually making a secret propaganda against Government Schools, with <sup>a</sup>view to disreputing them and disturbing discipline in them. This is due to the following:

a. A desire for competitions.

This is natural and very useful if done in a clean and open manner.

Their lack of desire to this sort of competition was however proved when they refused to participate in the sports held on the Agricultural Show.

b. A belief that Government Schools tend to turn out traitors to the nation, through Government influence.

c. A desire to prove by means of disturbance in schools, that the Government intentions towards education are bad. Schools are in a disturbed state, also that the Government is not efficient enough.

As a whole I am inclined to believe that the motives underlying such an antagonistic propaganda are analogous to motives which encourage disturbing Public Security.

2. Some methods used:

a. The assistance of some of the personnel on the Government teaching staff. At present the Assistant Head-



master of the Secondary School, Zaki Tamimi is on the Execution Committee of the Najah School. He is also on the "Disciplinary Council of the Government School", and as much I understand that he helps boys escape punishment which they deserve.

I believe this is a very important point to notice whenever appointments are made. I do not think a person should be allowed to serve two masters.

- b. By circulating unpleasant ideas about Government Schools.
- c. By being very lenient themselves in order to attract the sympathy of ignorant parents who do not understand the value of good discipline and by remarking that they give better treatment to boys.
- d. The Education Committee assists in spreading this adverse propaganda. This assistance of theirs carries a considerable amount of weight as they are supposed to be the authorities on the matter.

3. Effects of this anti-propaganda:

- 1. Notwithstanding the fees charged by the Najah School the children of all the important people in the town including children of Education Committee go to it instead of going to Government Schools. This is not due to a different standard of Education.
- 2. The chief people of the town lose real interest in Government Schools and do not care to assist whenever assistance is required. On the contrary they are inclined to favour disreputing Government School.
- 3. The discipline of the schools is more or less effected.

It is completely against my natural desire that I should take this attitude toward a national establishment. I do not however do it with the purpose of recommending any



adverse action against this establishment; which would at any rate be illegal. I only wish to point out that it is absolutely necessary that Government should defend itself by taking such action as would bring about improvement in her schools.

B. DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS:

It is a generally recognised fact that there are no boys in Palestine who have as bad manners as the boys in Nablus. Now when it is remembered that the best elements of this bad lot go to the Najah School, one will easily know what sort of boys to expect in the Government School. As a matter of fact they are not much different to those whose bad manners in the streets had to be checked by a Governor's orders.

From this everyone will realise the difficulty of keeping proper discipline in Nablus Schools, which is only possible by hard rules strictly adhered to.

The following factors work against proper discipline in Government School.

- a. The antagonistic propaganda of the Najah School.
- b. The attitude of the Assistant Headmaster, Zaki Eff. Tamimi who, besides being interested in the Najah School is a rival of the Headmaster Afif Eff. Atout and secretly works against him. He had hoped to be Headmaster himself.
- c. The attitude of the District Inspector of Education who for the sake of applying parents sometimes managed in some way or other to prevent the execution of the decisions of the Disciplinary Council in regard to punishments.
- d. School intrigues: See "C".

C. SCHOOL INTRIGUES:

The teachers of Girls Primary School complain rightly or wrongly of favourism in both grading and treatment. This naturally decreases their interest in the work. They suspect the District Inspector of Education to be at the root of it all. He is also said to support the girls over their teachers.



D. EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The position of this body is rather queer.

1. The Government has not invested it with any power, and the members are aware of this.
2. The people however think that they are omnipotent in educational matters. The members are aware of this also.
3. The members themselves feel entitled to have power.
4. They are shy to say publicly that they have no power.
5. They consider that the Governor himself has no power and do not therefore consider it worth while to apply to him if necessary.
6. The majority of the members are not sufficiently qualified as to be able to advise on educational matters pure and simple.

These feelings undoubtedly cause some friction.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Abolishing the Education Committee.
2. Employing teachers who are not inhabitants of Nablus.
3. Prohibiting connections with other establishments.
4. All adverse reports against the teachers to be communicated to persons concerned as well as the Governor.
5. Teachers should be allowed to complain to Governor who should be empowered to investigate.
6. All decisions of Disciplinary Council to be recorded and notified to Governor for information.
7. Decisions not executed to be also notified to Governor.
8. It should be made difficult for people to demand appointment of certain persons except for very special reasons.

Nablus.  
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