

I kindly request not to mention in public that the information stated herein was divulged by me.

Until the expiration of a period of 3 weeks upon my arrival to take over the custody of the resident students, at the request of the former Principal, I conducted an investigation into the situation that prevailed earlier at the school and the hostel, without first accepting the post. I handed over a written report to the Principal based upon the information gathered by me after speaking to the villagers, past pupils and retired servants. After the Principal had acceded to my requests, I accepted the post.

Although several factors substantiated by facts may be adduced as reasons that contributed to the school falling into the present position that it is now placed in, I shall confine myself only to 2 of such factors.

- (1) Labour Management
- (2) Forestation Project

- (1) This school has a good staff providing the labour force, which no other establishment has. But the labour provided by them has not been utilized for economic development. There is no daily duty chart given for any member of the minor staff. Therefore there is a wastage of labour for which payment is being made. If correctly calculated, this does not amount to at least 3 hours of work out of a work shift of 08 hours. This fact is one of the main obstacles in the progress of the establishment.

In the past fruits were cultivated. There had been productions related to the growing of fruits. There had also been horticulture. The waste water from washing the cattle sheds is being fed into these flower plants by these servants. Today this water flows out through the drains. Vegetables needed by the establishment was cultivated. I cultivated vegetables for its grandeur for mental development and for the protection of health and some members of the staff severely criticized me at staff meetings. Therefore what prevails in this establishment is to criticize the person who is doing something whilst not doing anything.

- (2) Protection of the environment and Forestation Project- after my arrival here, trees were felled and sold on three occasions. However, all these three occasions obsolete procedure were followed. Large trees located in several places were cut and sold. These trees which had been planted by our ancestors as wind belts were cut in this manner and the area is now barren. In 1998 there was a cyclone lasting for about 24 hours that swept across the Uva Province and the Government provided relief, to the people affected thereby. But with God's help the trees in this school premises were not affected. The only damage caused was to the roof of the building situated in the playground. The roof of building was blown away because the building was unprotected. By reason of the cutting of the large trees that were located at the entrance,

the dignified look that existed, when entering the establishment is now no more. By reasons of the cutting of trees at several places the trees located in the surrounding areas were also affected. Proper re-plantation of trees so that the trees can be put into economic use, is not possible. So what ought to be done is to cut and completely remove trees in a selected allotment of land and replant trees in that allotment.

By haphazardly cutting down the trees the beauty of the environment has been destroyed. The branches of the cypress tree at the main gate has been cut and the tree now has the shape of a skeleton. When I made inquiries into this matter, I was informed that the branches were cut as a precaution for the wind. The branches of the mango trees in front of the class rooms were also cut.

By doing so, the provision of shelter, scenic beauty and production have all been lost. Upon inquiries been made, in respect thereof, I was told that the branches were cut because the students were throwing stones. Is this the action that should be taken? What ought to have been done was the disciplinary control of the students. During Dr.Hayman's time the trees were full of fruits and Mrs.Hayman was used to go with her servant, pluck the fruits and distribute them among the students. Anything remaining was used in the production of Jam. The land area in which the trees had been cut down is now shrub and an allotment of land 9 acres in extent is barren. Therefore, it is expedient to undertake a forestation project in such land.

This should be done in a systematic way by selecting trees suitable for the up country dry zone. Trees such as Eucalyptus, Cypress, Vycro, Turpentine are suitable for this area, and I believe that there are certain types of trees that grow fast. Instructions may be obtained in this regard from the Forest Conservation Department. According to my studies about 600 plants can be planted in an acre and by cutting down 200 trees therefore 4-5 years and put in to economic use. This would provide space for the other trees to grow. Once again after about 6-7 years another 100 may be cut down and put in to economic use. The remaining 300 trees may be allowed to grow for about 20 years and then put in to economic use.

A tree grown in this manner would provide about 75 cubic feet of Timber and a cubic foot is valued at about Rs.300/-in the market. Accordingly, an income of Rs.6,750,000/- can be obtained from an acre. Even if this amounts to several lakhs, it could be considered as a high profit. Prior to this too, two harvests have been obtained. Therefore, an income of ten billion rupees from an acre can be obtained.

Such projects undertaken by the Forest Conservation Department can be seen along the Gurutalawa- Welimada road and if necessary a good understanding can be had by visiting these projects.

