

Notes made by Members of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica on the Draft Letter of their Chairman (actually sent to the Colonial Secretary on 7th August 1901) circulated amongst the members of the Board, at the suggestion of the Hon. Sydney Olivier.

Taking into consideration the past services of the Secretary I am in favour of a renewal of his engagement - in the hope that ere long the Govt. may be in a position to increase the grant to the funds of the Institute.

(signed) Archibald Munro,
-6/7/01.

I much regret to have overlooked this and unduly detained it. I have suggested a few alterations in the draft, but there is much of it in which I do not feel able to concur: as I am of opinion that a fitting person to take charge of the whole Institute - including the Museum - could be found for from £300 to £400 a year and that the Institute of Jamaica is not able to make full use of a gentleman of Mr. Cundall's qualifications. And, from the other point of view I do not think the Colonial Reserve can afford to go on paying a salary for the services rendered or promised to be rendered to the Island by the Institute as at present.

Signed S. O.
24.7

I cordially concur in the tenour of the proposed letter, but desire to add that a careful examination into the character of the services rendered by Mr. Cundall to the Island in connection with the Institute would, in my opinion, show that a

still stronger statement of their value would be just. Through Mr Fundall's labours the original purposes of the Institute have been very largely gained and a sound preparation on right-lines made for much-needed aggressive work when the funds at the disposal of the Board warrant - this.

(signed) William Gillies
27. 7. 01.

I approve of the draft with the suggested changes and should be glad if Mr Gillies will rewrite the part about Mr Fundall's services.

(signed) W Sumner
29/7/01

As Mr Sumner informed me by letter of the note preceding this, I asked to be allowed to re-read the proposed letter, and I have now made some suggested changes in it which I hope may be considered improvements.

(signed) William Gillies
1. 8. 10.

My personal observation and experience for the number of years during which Mr Fundall has assisted the Board as the secretary and librarian of the Institute, warrant me in endorsing every word contained in the foregoing draft letter, in commendation of his very able, useful and valuable services. I quite concur in the recommendation that he be re-appointed, and in the reasons advanced for asking His Excellency the Governor to favourably consider the suggestion. In these days of liberal generous state aid

and support to like institutions, visitors coming to Jamaica, as so many are now doing from the United States, and as do many more will be doing from England and other parts, both the facilities offering by the new steamship lines, will expect to find at the very threshold of the chief Town and seat of Government at a place bearing the inspiring and suggestive title of "The Institute of Jamaica for the Encouragement of Literature, Science and Art" something more than a mere accumulation of books and museum objects, in charge of a common caretaker, who could not properly be in touch with them and their requirements. For this reason, the letter should, in my opinion, end at the words - "The Governors should be relieved from the attempt to produce results with entirely inadequate means".

(signed) Henry Sandroy

26th July 1901.

I think that the Secretary & Librarian should be actually, as he is practically, a member of the civil service, and that the law should be amended to that extent. It is ~~very~~ difficult to deal with a virtual civil servant who is not entitled to pension, when circumstances, age or otherwise, render it desirable that he should resign. I should therefore like to substitute for "for another term or permanently" the words "as a civil servant". I would suggest the insertion of the words "and scientific", after "similar literary". I would omit the whole of the last paragraph, commencing "The Board is aware".

The reduction of the vote already made has lessened

the work of the Librarian, and I think it would be well to indicate in the letter that the Board would expect him, if re-appointed, to take up some definite work in connection with his past studies, such as a history of Jamaica of about the length of Gardner's. Mr Fundall has an immense amount of information which has been accumulating during the past 10½ years, & this ought to be made accessible to the public in some form, either in a continuation of the Journal, or in a history. If Mr Fundall leaves Jamaica, all this knowledge which has been gained in the service of the country will be practically lost. Moreover there will be no one who can take his place, whatever salary may be offered.

Rather than part with Mr Fundall, if there must be further reduction, I should advise ~~that~~ not buying any more books or periodicals, until the Revenue is in better and more prosperous condition.

(signed) W. Fawcett

29.7.1.

Jamaica Domestic Telegraph

Mr (Lawman) [redacted] 2nd Dec. 1901
It is my duty before leaving the [redacted] to record with the Board of the Institute that, though I had no part in the deliberations of its last November meeting, and in the division by which it decided to retain the services of Mr Fundall, I agree substantially with this action. My letter is imperative under the fact that the newspapers, how misinformed I know not, but they speak as being well-informed, assert positively that the action of the Board was when sifted the act of its act of its minority and in opposition to the known opinion of the majority of its members. This is certainly not true. Emphatically I am of opinion that the meeting adopted the best course. That is, the opponents

of the Board's action would substitute for the Board's present - and long continued Policy is little less than its complete subversal. A more careful preliminary enquiry might perhaps have led to a more perfect - understanding of the Board's position. The Board at its reconstitution undertook a line of action wh. had at the time the approbation of the public, press, & executive & government - & has continued it - to this day, and as permitted. In the present - arraignment, public, press, & executive of that day, shd. stand in doct. with the Board.

Rickleness does not become a Board like that of the Institute of Jamaica.

I am, Mr Chairman

yr obedient servant

(signed)

J. W. Planters. $\frac{1}{2}$