

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

1908.

Enclosures

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order
page no. 7

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G.O., No. 399, 22nd May 1908.

College of Engineering, Madras.

Stating that candidates who have passed the examination prescribed for the old Surveyor class of the — will be considered qualified for appointment as sub-overseers and surveyors in the Public Works Department; and requesting the Commissioner for Government Examinations to submit a draft of the necessary alterations to be made in the Public Service notification.

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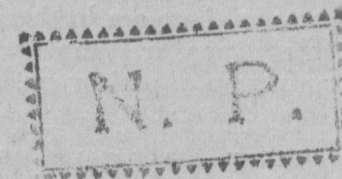
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from Lieut.-Colonel W. M. ELLIS, R.E., Superintending Engineer, II Circle.

To—the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Dated—Bezawada, the 3rd January 1908.

No.—592 W.

I have the honour to bring to your notice what appears to be an oversight in the rules for examination which applicants for appointments must have passed to qualify for appointment as surveyors published in G.O., No. 757, Educational, dated 21st December 1904, communicated in Chief Engineer's Memorandum No. 778-C., dated 4th February 1905. In these rules the qualification for the post of surveyor is noted as the Sub-Overseer's and Surveyor's test, College of Engineering, Madras.

This test I understand was introduced in 1897 and previous to this there was a test known as Surveyor's test in the same College which then constituted the qualifying test for surveyors. This test is now not considered as qualifying for surveyors' appointments.

Thus we have cases of men who have passed the very test laid down by Government as qualifying for surveyors' posts prior to 1897 now excluded from employment as surveyor on the ground that they have not passed a test which was not introduced until after they had left the College of Engineering and were too old for readmission.

The cases of surveyors stand in the matter of alteration of Examination rules on a somewhat different plane to other cases as there are in the Public Works Department no permanent surveyors and these men are employed by the job and their services are dispensed with on the termination of each work.

In most cases where the standard of qualifying examination is altered there is an inference that if by the date of alteration the persons qualified under previous rules have not got a *permanent appointment* it is because they are below average efficiency. This inference is not justified in the case of surveyors and I think therefore in the case of such men the pass of the old Surveyors' test should be included in the test qualifying for appointment as surveyors.

II

Office-note—from H. E. CLERK, Esq., Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To—the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Dated—the 9th January 1908.

No.—162.

In the Public Service notification the Sub-Overseer and Surveyor test of the College of Engineering, Madras, has been prescribed as a qualifying test for the appointments of sub-overseers, surveyors and river conservancy inspectors. Thus men who have passed the old Surveyor test have been shut out of these appointments, though they passed the examination in force at the time they passed out of the College. I am not aware of the precise difference between the two examinations, but any possible superiority in the later test is more than compensated for by the experience gained in practical work by the older men who are, according to present rules, debarred from employment because they have not passed a test which was not in existence at the time they were in the College.

2. The appointment of surveyor is from its nature a temporary one and the rules as they stand preclude the employment of the most experienced men available. It is therefore requested that Government in the Educational Department may be asked to include the old as well as the present Surveyors' test as a qualification for the posts of sub-overseer and surveyor.

III

Letter—from the Officer in charge of the Cauvery Reservoir project.

To—the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch).

Dated—the 7th January 1908.

No.—407.

With reference to your No. 14, dated (18th) January 1908, I have the honour to report that the want of surveyors was advertised in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and as a result, all the passed applicants, viz. two who sent in applications, have been appointed, and exemptions for three others who have passed the old Surveyors' test have been applied for.

These men will be appointed in anticipation of the above sanction. There are plenty of applications from men who have passed the old Surveyors' test, and these are generally men with considerable practical experience, and a general exemption in their favour would obviate these frequent applications for exemption.

Endorsement No. 219, dated 13th January 1908.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, for information in continuation of this office-note No. 162, dated 9th January 1908.

H. E. CLERK,
Ag. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Order—No. 399, Educational, dated 22nd May 1908.

Candidates who have passed the examination prescribed for the old Surveyor class of the College of Engineering, Madras, will be considered qualified for appointment as sub-overseers and surveyors in the Public Works Department.

2. The Commissioner for Government Examinations will be requested to submit a draft of the necessary alterations to be made in the Public Service notification.

(True Extract.)

C. A. SOUTER,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner for Government Examinations.

„ Director of Public Instruction.

„ Public Works Department.

Editors' Table (order only).

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 399, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
22ND MAY 1903.

[SUBJECT.—*Old Surveyor's Test.*]

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

From the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, dated 3rd January 1908, No. 592.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation,	„ 9th	„	„	162.
„ „ „	„ 13th	„	„	219.

Prior to 1897 there was a course of study in the College of Engineering, Madras, the object of which was “to make each student a practical surveyor.” The students undergoing the course were formed into a “Surveyor class” and were taught all that was necessary to make them Surveyors. Students who successfully completed the course were eligible for appointment as surveyors in the Public Works Department.

2. The revised syllabus introduced with effect from January 1897, abolished the above “Surveyor classes” but introduced instead a “Sub-overseer and Surveyor class.” The new course taught besides Surveying, Engineering also. The object of the change was “to meet the full demand of the Public Works Department for trained lower subordinates fitted to carry out satisfactorily the minor details of work devolving on upper subordinates.”

3. The revised Public Service notification approved in G.O., No. 757, Educational, dated 4th December 1904, and amended subsequently has prescribed the Sub-overseer and Surveyor course as qualifying for appointment as Sub-overseers, Surveyors and River Conservancy Inspectors.

4. The question recently arose whether an old surveyor certificate was sufficient in place of the new Sub-overseer and Surveyor certificate for appointment on the irrigation conservancy and lower subordinate establishment. The Chief Engineer (Mr. J. P. Davidson) considered that the practical experience in work possessed by the men who had passed the old “Surveyor's test” was a better qualification than the possession of the new Sub-overseer certificate. The Educational Department, however, was of the opinion that the practical experience in question might, if long, form a ground for exemption from the new test, but that for appointment to a post for which the later test is prescribed a person who possesses a certificate relating to the former test alone, would have to be specially exempted.

5. There is also a recent case in which a man who had passed the old Surveyor's test applied for a post on the temporary upper subordinate establishment. The present Chief Engineer was not willing to relax the Educational rules in his favour but recommended that the man might be permitted to appear for the Sub-overseer and Surveyor's test without keeping the College terms. This recommendation is now under consideration in the Educational Department.

6. The cases, so far considered, relate to regular appointments in the Public Works Department, such as *Overseers, Sub-overseers and River Conservancy Inspectors.*

7. The Superintending Engineer, II Circle (Lieut.-Col. W. M. Ellis), and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation (Mr. H. E. Clerk) both now request that for appointments as "Surveyors" the old surveyor's test might be considered as sufficiently qualifying. Their reasons are clearly given in their respective communications in the current file. The old course was the very one prescribed by Government as qualifying for surveyor's posts and the men who had undergone it were too old for readmission to the College of Engineering to undergo the new course. There are no permanent surveyors in the Public Works Department, but these men are employed by the job and their services are dispensed with on the termination of each work. If, therefore, they had not secured any permanent appointment by the time the new Educational rules came into force it could not be inferred that it was due to their want of efficiency. Any superiority in the later test is more than compensated for, by the experience gained in practical work by the older men, but such men are under the rules precluded from re-appointment as they have not passed the later test. *The Department thus loses the services of the most experienced men available.*

8. In the above circumstances and in view of the fact that the later course does not appear to teach more of surveying than the older one, Educational may, perhaps, be requested, to recognise the old surveyor's test as sufficiently qualifying for the appointment of surveyor.

9. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation also recommends that the above concession may be extended to the appointment of "Sub-overseer." This question, it will be seen, has already been considered and Educational was not prepared to grant a general rule as proposed. There seems to be no reason, now, to reopen the question.

R. KRISHNAMACHARI—4-3-08.

Submitted; both the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation make out a strong case for the men who have only passed the Surveyor's test. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation goes even further, and recommends that men who have passed in old Surveyor's test should be eligible as Surveyors and Sub-overseers.

The men referred to have all had ten years' practical experience; in that time the best of them, who are the men wanted in the Public Works Department, have all picked up quite enough practical knowledge for the post of Sub-overseer. Probably many of them could have passed the test when they left the College. If men who have passed the new test are better in any individual cases when a selection has to be made, no doubt the better man would be taken on; but it is by no means certain that the man who has passed the new test is as useful a man as the more experienced man who has passed the obsolete test.

A. G. ROMILLY—6-3-08.

It may be taken to be a fact that there exists a considerable number of experienced surveyors who have not passed the new test and who are better qualified to do surveyor's work than less experienced men who have passed the new test. I understand that it would be in accordance with the intentions of Government to pass orders of exemption to enable such men to be employed but at present separate orders have to be passed in each case. This leads to delay and correspondence which might be avoided if a general exemption order could be passed which would not interfere with the present Educational policy.

The old Surveyor class would appear to have been abolished in 1897; so it seems probable that the class of men qualified by this old test will die out in the course of a few years. I would submit for the consideration of Educational whether a general order permitting the employment as surveyors of men who have passed the old Surveyor's test, would not be to the advantage of Government.

F. J. WILSON—27-4-08.

To the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

We have allowed the old Surveyor's test to count as qualifying for Local Fund Sub-overseer's appointments. Please link that file. If the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, considers that the old Surveyor's test will suffice also for Sub-overseers in Public Works Department, Educational need not object.

How does the scale of pay for Sub-overseers, etc., Public Works Department compare with that prescribed for Local funds?

H. D. TAYLOR—1-5-08.

The Local and Municipal Department file in which the certificate of the old Surveyor class of the College of Engineering has been recognized as qualifying for Local Fund Sub-overseer's appointment has been linked as ordered.

2. The scale of pay of Sub-overseers in the Public Works Department compares as follows with that prescribed for Local Fund Sub-overseers:—

Sub-overseers, Public Works Department.		Sub-overseers, Local Fund Service.	
First Grade	* 50-10-70	† 50-4-70	
Second Grade	* 35-5-45	† 40-2-50	
Third Grade	* 25-5-35	† 30-2-40	
* Quinquennial increments.		† Biennial increments.	

—vide G.O., No. 1675 L., dated 18th November 1907.

T.K.—2-5-08.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—2-5-08.

The scales given above show that the Local Fund and Public Works Department men are about equal in standing. If Public Works Department think that the old test is enough, Educational may agree.

C. A. SOUTER—4-5-08.

H. D. TAYLOR—5-5-08.

I have no objection to Public Works Department proposals.

M. H[AMMICK]—11-5-08.

Proposals approved.

A. L[AWLEY]—12-5-08.

The order had better issue in Educational I think. Draft please. Public Works Department should accept.

C. A. SOUTER—13-5-08.

A draft is submitted for approval; if approved it may be sent to the Public Works Department for acceptance.

T.K.—13-5-08.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—13-5-08.

C. A. SOUTER—14-5-08.

To the Public Works Department.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Accepted in Public Works Department.

R. PARSONS.

P. HAWKINS—20-5-08.

To the Educational Department.

No. 399, EDUCATIONAL, 22ND MAY 1908.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Issue.

C. A. SOUTER—22-5-08.

[G.O., No. 399, Educational, dated 22nd May 1908.]

Stock Form No. 141.
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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No. 216

ENCLOSURES. { Plans No.
Others No.Received 190
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Subject. *Subsidiary*

Old Surveyors Test
Recommending that the — may be
included in the test qualifying for
appointment as Surveyors.

No. 592 W

Station *Bezvada*, Dated the *3 January* 1908.From (Name) *Lieut., Col., W. M. Ellis, R. E.*(Designation) *Superintending Engineer II Circle.*

To *The Chief Engineer*
The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
 Public Works Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice what appears to be an oversight in the rules for examination which applicants for appointments must have passed to qualify for appointment as Surveyors published in G.O., No. 757-Educational dated 21-12-04 communicated Chief Engineer's Memo No. 778-C, 4-2-05. In these rules the qualification for the post of Surveyor is noted as the Sub-overseer's and Surveyor's test College of Engineering, Madras.

This test I understand was introduced in 1897 and pre-

-- P.W.S