

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1913.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O. No. 502, 4th June 1913.

Presidency College, Madras.

Addressing the Government of India with regard to the extension of the deputation of Mr. Stuart, Professor of Geology in the —, and enquiring of that Government whether the officer selected for the post might not be allowed to remain in the appointment for a longer term than three years, say, for six years.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from MURRAY STUART, Esq., D.Sc., F.G.S., F.C.S., Geological Survey of India, Professor of Geology, Presidency College.

To—the Director of Public Instruction (through the Principal, Presidency College).

Dated—the 28th March 1913.

I have the honour to inform you that the period of three years for which I was transferred to this post expires on 24th February 1914.

It would appear to me more convenient that I should finish the term's work and the examinations and be relieved by my successor on 29th June 1914, at the end of the vacation, and this would, I believe, be more convenient for the Geological Survey of India as it would give the officer coming down time to write a report on his field work before coming down and it would also prevent my returning to the survey at the very end of the field season.

I may add that I make a point of getting the vacation and I would *not* be willing to extend my time beyond the 24th February unless I get the vacation and am only relieved at the end of it.

I am bringing this matter up now so that the matter may be referred to the Geological Survey this recess (April—October) and either my successor nominated or a man asked for from the Secretary of State for India.

N. Ref. on Cur. No. 2785/13, dated 2nd May 1913.

Submitted to Government.

2. Mr. Stuart's request to be allowed to remain in the Presidency College till the end of the summer vacation of 1914 is recommended for the favourable consideration of Government.

A. G. BOURNE,

Director of Public Instruction.

Order—No. 502, Educational, dated 4th June 1913.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

W. FRANCIS,

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 503.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. W. FRANCIS, I.C.S.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Educational Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Dated Ootacamund, the 4th June 1913.

SIR,

I am directed to address the Government of India regarding the Professorship of Geology at the Presidency College, Madras.

2. Under the proposals sanctioned by the Secretary of State in his despatch No. 93, Public, dated the 5th August 1910, communicated with Home Department Endorsement No. 892, dated 29th August 1910, the professorship of Geology is filled by the deputation of an officer of the Geological Survey of India for a period of three years. The term of deputation of Mr. Murray Stuart, Assistant Superintendent in the Geological Survey, and the first professor appointed under the sanction, will expire in the ordinary course on the 25th February 1914. As the term of the college ends only on the 2nd April 1914, Mr. Stuart will not have completed the work of the term when his present deputation comes to a close, and after the end of the term Mr. Stuart will have examination papers to correct. His Excellency in Council considers that in these circumstances some extension of the period of Mr. Stuart's deputation is necessary in the interests of the college; and in his opinion such extension might be up to the close of the college summer vacation, i.e., up to 27th June 1914. I am accordingly to request that the extension of Mr. Stuart's deputation up to this date may be sanctioned.

3. I am next to ask that a successor to Mr. Stuart, who does not wish to continue in the post, may be appointed, and in this connection I am to enquire whether the officer selected may not be allowed to remain in the appointment for a longer term than three years, say, for six years. A professor with the limited tenure of three years has hardly the time to get acquainted with his students and the courses of study, much less to suggest improvements in the latter. Every year a fresh set of students for honours enter upon a three years' course the subjects of which do not

admit of being divided into three clearly-defined parts. A professor under existing conditions will be able to see only one out of the three sets through their full course and his successor will find himself with one set of students who have already done the first year of the course and another set who have done the first two years. In such circumstances he can do little to improve the courses of study while on the other hand only one set of students in every three complete their course without a change in their professor. His Excellency in Council is therefore of opinion that the present term of three years for the professor is inadequate and will be glad if the Geological Department can depute an officer for the longer term above indicated.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. FRANCIS,

Ag. Secretary to Government.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. Nos. 502-503, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 4TH JUNE 1913.

[*SUBJECT.—Extension of the period of deputation of Mr. Murray Stuart as Professor of Geology, Presidency College, Madras.*]

Demi-official—from J. H. STONE, Esq., M.A.

To—the Hon'ble Mr. LIONEL DAVIDSON, C.S.I., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—the 9th May 1913.

No.—75.

The term of Mr. Murray Stuart's deputation as Professor of Geology expires next year and he reverts to the Geological Survey of India at latest in July 1914. He is not willing for his deputation to be extended.

His place might be filled either by another deputation from the Geological Survey, or by an appointment from England. The first plan seems to be subject to the objection that under present conditions the man recruited is not likely to stay more than three years. He has consequently barely time to get acquainted with the students and the courses and if he finds the latter susceptible of improvement he is likely to vacate his post without having been able to move the University to amend them.

I therefore beg to suggest that Government should ascertain from the head of the Survey whether we are likely to get a man to stay longer than three years and that if not the Secretary of State should be asked to send out a man in the Indian Educational Service in the usual way.

Mr. Murray Stuart, Assistant Superintendent of the Geological Survey, was appointed Professor of Geology for a period of three years and he took over his duties in the college on the 25th February 1911. His term of engagement will therefore expire on the 25th February 1914. As he will not have completed the work of the term by this date, he requests that he may be permitted to finish the work for the term and to avail himself of the summer vacation of the college which lasts from 3rd April to the 27th June 1914. The G.O. No. 126, Educational, dated 12th February 1913. The Director of Public Instruction recommends that Mr. Stuart's requests may be granted. Submitted that the Government of India may be requested to extend the period of Mr. Stuart's deputation to the end of the vacation.

2. In this connection the Director of Public Instruction points out that the present system of appointing professors for limited periods of three years is open to objection and suggests that it should be ascertained from the Director of Geological Survey whether he would be able to select an officer who would stay longer than three years. If this is not possible he suggests that the Secretary of State may be moved to send out a man in the usual way. The suggestion to recruit the Professor of Geology from the Geological Survey and to restrict the term of appointment to three years was made by Sir Thomas Holland, Director of Special Inquiries and Reports, Board of Education, London, and it was accepted by this Government. The reasons for the suggestion are detailed in paragraph 4 of the letter on page 2 of notes to G.O. No. 545, Educational, dated 14th September 1910. As it is preferable to have as Professor one who has a practical knowledge of the subject,

the Government of India may, it is submitted, be requested to move the Director, Geological Survey, to send out one who will be willing to stay for more than three years.

S.K.—12-5-13.

Submitted that the request to continue Mr. Stuart's term of appointment up to 29th June 1914 may be accepted and application made to India in advance.

As regards the *general* question raised by Mr. Stone, it is submitted that for the reasons given by Sir Thomas Holland in paragraph 1 of his letter to India printed on page 2 of notes with G.O. No. 545, Educational, dated 14th September 1910, it seems preferable to appoint an officer who is in touch with *Indian* geology to directly recruiting one from home; and an officer of the former description can only be obtained from among the members of the Geological Survey Department. Apart from other considerations, the occasional shifting of officers may perhaps have the merit of rendering the instruction up to date. Mr. Stone does not say what he would consider as reasonable term for the officer as Professor. Before making any application to India this should be settled.

It may perhaps be useful to know in this connection what is being done in Calcutta. Sir Thomas Holland in paragraph 4 of his letter above referred to stated that the Professorship of Geology at the Calcutta Presidency College had been held by an officer of the Geological Survey and that though it was then only a part-time appointment, there was a proposal to convert the appointment a whole-time one. If the latter had been sanctioned, the conditions of appointment there may perhaps be of use in determining the present question.

C. RAMANUJACHARI—19-5-13.

As the appointment expires on 25th February and the term ends 2nd April, after which there will be examination papers to correct, *some* extension is necessary and this may as well be for the whole vacation as for part.

But I can see little force in Mr. Stone's arguments for a change in the method of recruitment. What we want is a man with Indian knowledge and the resources of the Geological Department to draw on, as Sir Thomas Holland says. If a Professor cannot learn up his students and his courses in three years, he must be pretty slow.

W. FRANCIS—19-5-13.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

I approved the scheme originally with a three year appointment but did not expect the man sent to want to leave after three years. A new man every three years will not be very satisfactory. Every year a set of honours students enters upon a three-year course so that any one Professor would only see one set out of three through their course. It is of course possibly good for students to sit under more than one teacher in a subject during their course but I doubt whether this would not prove a disability to Indian students. Further different men would deal differently with such a subject as Geology and one man might wish to devote for instance the first year of a course to quite different matters to what another man would. You can't split up the subject into A first year work B second-year work and C third-year work, A, B and C being well defined parts of the subject, and yet the man succeeding Mr. Stuart will have a class who have done A whatever that was under Mr. Stuart, another class who have similarly done Mr. Stuart's A and B and could only gradually change the system and would not have got very far with the change before in comes another man.

I cannot write a treatise on science teaching but it must be obvious that there are disadvantages in too frequent change of Professors.

Mr. Stone suggests asking the Survey whether they can hold out hopes of getting a man to stay longer than three years. I suggest this might be done.

Another *possibility* would be to place the tutorial work of a well-defined course in the hands of one Assistant Professor and get down a Professor if only for a year to give a general course which all three sets of students would attend—imbibe what they could and get the tutor to explain what they had missed. The tutor's duty would be to see that every student went over all parts of the full course during their three years.

I expect few men in the Survey are either "born" teachers or have even acquired the art of teaching and most even first-class men would teach better after they had been at it for a few years.

However all that is now proposed is to ask whether we cannot get a good man likely to stay for more than three years if satisfactory to us and if there is little hope to consider addressing the Secretary of State about a permanent Professor.

A. G. BOURNE—24-5-13.

His Excellency the Governor—

Submitted that the Geological Department may first be asked if they can give us some one who will stay longer than three years—for (say) six if possible.

W. FRANCIS—26-5-13.

P[ENTLAND]—28-5-13.

Draft please.

W. FRANCIS—29-5-13.

A draft letter to the Government of India is submitted for approval.

C.R.—31-5-13.

Approved.

W. FRANCIS—2-6-13.

[G.O. Nos. 502-503, Educational, dated 4th June 1913.]

C.No.1471, from the D.P.I., R.O.C.No.2785, dated 2-5-1913.

3P

ORDER :- No 502 Sd 24.6.13
P.S.

The Government of India will be addressed.

ca 31.5.13 *M*

To the D.P.I.

ES
14/6/13

Despatch
24.6.13

34 Despatches
on 24.6.13 to Sd. S. S. S. S.
R/S
24.6.13.

Page 3 *280* *545*
14-9-10 *(W)*

LETTER. No 503 Sd 24.6.13

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Department of Education.

Sir,

I am directed to address the Govt. of India ^{relying} on the subject of the Professorship of Geology ^{at} in the Presidency College, Madras.

2. Under the proposals sanctioned by the Secretary of State in his despatch -- No.95 Public, dated ^{the} 5th August 1910, communicated with Home Department Endorsement No.892 dated 29th August 1910, the professorship of Geology is filled by the deputation of an officer of the Geological Survey of India for a period of three years. The -- term of deputation of Mr. Murray Stuart, --

Assistant Superintendent in the Geological Survey, ~~now~~ ^{and} the first professor appointed under the sanction, will expire in the ordinary course on the 25th February 1914. As the term of the College ends only on the 2nd April 1914, Mr. Stuart will not have completed the work of the term when his ^{present} deputation comes to a close, and after the ~~termination~~ ^{end} of the ~~college~~ term Mr. Stuart will have examination papers to correct. His Excellency in Council considers that in these circumstances some extension of the period of Mr. Stuart's deputation is necessary in the interests of the college, and in his opinion ^{such extension} ~~it~~ might be up to the close of the college summer vacation, i.e., up to 27th June 1914. I am accordingly to request that the extension of Mr. Stuart's deputation up to this date may be sanctioned.

3. In connection with the appointment of a successor to Mr. Stuart as professor of ~~geology~~ ^{geology} I am to enquire whether the officer selected ^{may not} ~~can~~ be allowed to remain in the appointment for a longer term than three years, ^{say} ~~if~~ for six years ~~if possible~~. A professor with the limited tenure of three years has hardly ^{the} time to get acquainted with his students and the courses of study, and much less to suggest improvements in the latter. Every year a set of ^{fresh} students for honours ~~course~~ enters upon a three years' course the subjects of ~~study~~ ^{study} for which do not admit of being divided into three ^{clearly defined} ~~distinct~~ parts. A professor under existing conditions will

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5/6/10

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connection

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I have etc.

NC 1/6

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31.5.13

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