

FOR WHAT PURPOSE.

Educational (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 879

Dated 15 Nov. 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

SOLDIER STUDENTS.

Communicating to the Director of Public Instruction Proceedings,
Public Works Department, on Proceedings, Educational Department, on the
question of shortening the course of training of -- in the Madras
College of Engineering.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[9]
36-34-95.

ORDINARY, MS.

Edel. DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 15-11-95

No. 879

INDEXED.

When given for copying. 15/11

[Despatch Abstract.]

Coming to the D. P. I.
Pres. P. W. D. on Pres.
Edel Dept. on the question
of shortening the course
of training of Soldier
Students in the
Madras College of
Engineering.

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No. MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—

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348/96
913/96.

No. 2666 W., 28TH OCTOBER 1895.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

READ—the following papers :—

No. 1045 D.

Note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

As regards the probationary period I am still of opinion that it should be abolished altogether, but taking into consideration the facts pointed out by the Director of Public Instruction and the Principal of the College of Engineering, I agree with those officers that the sudden abolition of this period might lead to difficulties, and am therefore prepared to support the proposals made in paragraph 7 of the former's letter No. 8189 of 31st July 1895 as the best solution of the question.

2. With regard to the practical course I consider, as I have already stated, that it should be reduced to one year, and that the manner in which that year is employed should be left absolutely at the discretion of the Chief Engineer.

3. What my successor's views upon the points may be I cannot say, but I am bound to say that for my own part I look upon time spent in workshop, for the great majority of men, as absolutely and entirely wasted.

4. Where a man has a distinct turn for mechanics, and is likely to take up mechanical engineering as a speciality, it may be worth while to put him to the workshop for the whole year of his practical course, and even after its completion, but the great majority of men not only have not this turn, but are not wanted to have it.

5. Their work will of necessity be in the direction of "Civil" as contrasted with "Mechanical" engineering, and their duties in the latter line will be confined to seeing that the driver of a portable engine keeps it clean and does not try to open a stiff-working cock with a crowbar.

6. Mr. Ashpitel's note deserves serious consideration, and as will be inferred from what has been already said, I concur in nearly the whole of it.

7. The last part of paragraph 5 of the note, by an upper subordinate attached to Mr. Ashpitel's, seems to propose that military promotion should be regulated by length of service, instead of by a fixed scale as at present, but the point is not very clear; the average periods of service are nothing like those stated, being, as nearly as I can calculate from the present list, as follows :—

	YEARS.
Sergeant to Sub-Conductor	11½
Sub-Conductor to Conductor	6
Conductor to Deputy Assistant Commissary	6
Deputy Assistant Commissary to Assistant Commissary	*1½
Assistant Commissary to Commissary	*1

* The numbers in these grades are too small to allow of the deduction of a trustworthy average.

8. Any alteration in the present system would require the sanction of the Government of India, and, in the interests of the Military subordinates themselves, I think it would be well to refrain from raising the question.

9. The rule by which Military subordinates join the department as first-grade overseers is absolutely indefensible in theory, and I was at one time strongly opposed to it; but I am bound to add that it works very well in practice and that increasing experience has lessened my objections to it; it is a rule made by the Government of India, who would not be likely to alter it without much stronger proof than can be given of the necessity for alteration.

OOTACAMUND,
24th September 1895.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

No. 1046 D.

Transferred to the Educational Department.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

24th September 1895.

G.O. No. 807, Educational, dated 7th October 1895.

Read—the following paper:—

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 31st July 1895, No. 8189.

Order—No. 807, Educational, dated 7th October 1895.

The Government agrees with the Director of Public Instruction in considering that the preliminary course of one year, which soldier students now undergo, should eventually be abolished and that the best method of attaining this end is to commence by reducing the probationary period to six months during 1896, 1897 and 1898 and thereafter to dispense with it entirely, simultaneously raising the standard of admission in order to secure that soldier students entering into the college possess sufficient general education to profit to the full by the theoretical course which forms the major part of their training.

2. As to the alterations which should be made in the entrance examination, the Government is of opinion that it should be modified so as to bring it into correspondence with the test which is prescribed for admission into the Thomason College. Tamil or Telugu should, however, be substituted for Hindustani in the list of subjects, and Elementary Algebra might, with advantage, be made compulsory instead of being optional.

3. With reference to the proposed reduction in length of practical course there is a general agreement that one year's training is sufficient, and the Government accepts Colonel Pennyquick's opinion that it should be left to the discretion of the Chief Engineer to decide in what manner each student should be employed during that year and considers it unnecessary to lay down any hard-and-fast rule requiring that a portion of the period should be spent upon works and the remainder in the workshop.

4. The suggestions contained in the enclosure to Mr. Ashpitel's note on the recruitment and prospects of Military subordinates in the Public Works Department generally commend themselves to Government. The question of taking action in view to give effect to them will be considered in the Public Works Department.

5. The Director of Public Instruction will be requested to embody the changes directed *supra* in paragraphs 1 to 3 in the revised rules.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. DAVIDSON,
for Chief Secretary.

ENCLOSURES.

Note on the recruitment and prospects of Military subordinates for the Public Works Department.

At present five military men are annually admitted to the College, and two appointments are guaranteed in the Public Works Department. These men spend one year on probation to study arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and a vernacular language, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years in the College, one year in workshops, and one year as apprentice overseers, when $5\frac{1}{2}$ years after they leave their regiments they are finally admitted in the Public Works Department.

2. Until a very recent date every military man who qualified at the College was given an appointment and men had thus a reasonable prospect of bettering their position. Under existing rules, with five admissions to the College and only two guaranteed appointments, a man may qualify but, owing to the limited number of appointments available, may have to revert to his regiment having wasted $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of his life and probably lost all military promotion during his absence. On rejoining his regiment he finds his previous juniors in rank his seniors and altogether his prospects are distinctly the worse for having attempted to join the Public Works Department.

3. To render the College more attractive and to make the penalty for failure to obtain a guaranteed appointment lighter, several courses appear to be possible—

- (a) To shorten the College course by abolishing the first year of probation.
- (b) To re-arrange the course of instruction in the College, so that men who fail to qualify can be remanded to their regiments without completing the course.
- (c) To shorten the time spent in workshops and as apprentice overseers.

4. To make the abolition of the year of probation possible, the existing method of recruitment should be altered. At present the existence of the Public Works Department is hardly known in the British Army and, when it is known, Commanding officers are averse to let good men leave the regiment. The knowledge necessary to enter the College is such that but few men who enlist are qualified and, unless they learn of the existence of the department at an early date in their career in India, they have not time to learn the necessary subjects. The existing meagre paragraph in the India Army Regulations requires therefore to be modified. The year of probation to a man who is already acquainted with the necessary subjects would merely mean a year of enforced idleness and in many cases habits of idleness are likely to be acquired which it is difficult to get rid of.

5. To render the prospect of service in the Public Works Department more attractive, the period now spent in preparation might be still further shortened by reducing the time spent in workshops, and as apprentice overseer to one year. After a man has once qualified for an appointment he might well be appointed an apprentice overseer at once and posted to workshops for six months and then employed for a further period of six months on works. The existing custom of keeping a man for two years with no responsibility and no obligation to do more work than is necessary to keep him out of trouble cannot be a good preface to employment in the department especially as, with the year of probation, out of a $5\frac{1}{2}$ years' course no less than three years are spent in possible idleness.

6. With the year of probation abolished with its attractive prospect of idleness for men who do not seriously intend to compete for appointments, the next step appears to be to provide means for weeding out men who are not likely to obtain an appointment and this can probably be done by arranging the groups of subjects so that at the end of two years those who have not qualified can be at once remanded to their regiments. It should not be difficult to arrange to hold all mathematical examinations at the end of the second year, as a man who at that advanced stage of his instruction has not learnt sufficient mathematics cannot be expected to study Hydraulics, Applied Mechanics, or Survey in an intelligent way. The holding of the mathematical examinations at an earlier stage of the College course might also be made possible, if the entrance examination be made stiffer and instruction in arithmetic and possibly in algebra and geometry be discontinued. To send back a number of disappointed men who have wasted $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of their life in competing for appointments in the Public Works Department must be disadvantageous as they are sure to point out the disadvantages and difficulties of student life and decry the prospects of passed men. They find out that the Commissariat, Ordnance and Barrack Departments are easy to enter and are fairly well paid, that promotion (military) is twice as rapid as in the Public Works Department, and that in the end the pensions are the same as in the Public Works Department.

7. A series of suggestions made by an upper subordinate in the Department of Public Works for promoting keener competition for appointments and for improving the military position of military men in the department are appended.

8. The following questions also appear to merit consideration:—

(1) Whether in the event of military students, in excess of the number for whom appointments are guaranteed, passing sufficiently high in the list, they can be allowed to enter the department in the place of civil students whom they have beaten in the examinations.

(2) Whether military students, who have passed with credit and for whom no appointments are available, can, in the event of the guaranteed appointments during the previous or succeeding years not being filled up, be appointed to the department though they have in the meantime been remanded to their regiments?

(3) Whether a list of military men, who have passed with credit and for whom no appointments are available, can be circulated to other provinces and departments in case their services are required elsewhere? In the Ordnance and other departments a man who has qualified at the College should be more useful than an unpassed man.

*Suggestions to promote keener competition for appointments in
Public Works Department.*

In addition to the paragraph in the India Army Regulations, posters to be put up in all regimental institutes once a year and pamphlets to be sent to Officers Commanding companies or troops on a regiment landing in India for the Madras Presidency.

2. Commanding officers to be requested by a paragraph in India Army Regulations to encourage men to compete for entrance to the College of Engineering.

3. The paragraph in India Army Regulations and the posters to show the degree of attainments required for passing the entrance examination.

(In a regiment first coming into India there are many men of about 20 years of age who are intelligent, but without educational attainments. If the paragraph stated that a 1st-class Army school certificate with Algebra and Euclid, as extra subjects, would enable a man to compete for entrance, those young men might be induced to commence at once and add to their knowledge year by year until at about 25 years of age they would be ready to compete.)

The candidate to have not less than two years' service.
The age limit to be abolished.

4. The paragraph to show that the length of the course is $2\frac{1}{2}$ years in College + 6 months in workshops + 1 year as apprentice overseer, a total of four years. (The probationary class to be done away with, the students to learn a language along with their other studies in the $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, and 6 months of the workshop course to be knocked off).

5. The paragraph to show that while a student for three years he will draw the pay and allowance of his rank plus Rs. 10 per mensem to cover extra cost of messing, and that while an apprentice he will draw the pay and allowances of his rank made up to Rs. 80 per mensem, and that at the end of the four years he will be appointed overseer in the Public Works Department and placed on the unattached list with the rank of Sub-Conductor; that his pay will then be, according to his civil rank:—

As overseer, supervisor, and so on.

That his civil promotion is in the hands of the Chief Engineer, and that Warrant officers in the Public Works Department are promoted in the following way:—

After serving as Sub-Conductor 14 years promoted Conductor.

Do. Conductor 10 years promoted Lieutenant.

Do. Lieutenant 5 do. Captain.

That after 24 years' service, 12 of which have been in the department, he can take the pension of his rank.

ORDER—No. 2666 W., dated 28th October 1895.

Communicated to officers of the Public Works Department.

2. The "Suggestions to promote keener competition for appointments in the Public Works Department" printed above will be referred to His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces for favour of opinion whether effect can be given to them. It having been decided to abolish the probationary year and to reduce the practical course to one year, the total period of training will be $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, i.e., $2\frac{1}{2}$ years in college and one year as apprentice overseer, not four years as stated in paragraph 4 of the "Suggestions." In paragraph 5 it is suggested that soldier students, on completion of their apprenticeship, should be appointed to the department in the rank of Sub-Conductor, and that subsequent promotions in the warrant grades should be regulated by length of service. It is not likely that the Government of India will sanction a change of this nature. At present permanent appointment to the department is made in the rank of Sergeant, and there is a fixed scale of 21 * warrants, promotions on which depend on vacancies.

* Deputy Commissary	...	...	1
Assistant Commissary	...	...	1
Deputy Assistant Commissaries	...	...	2
Conductors	...	...	7
Sub-Conductors	...	...	10
Total	...	...	21

the rank of Sub-Conductor, and that subsequent promotions in the warrant grades should be regulated by length of service. It is not likely that the Government of India will sanction a change of this nature. At present permanent appointment to the department is made in the rank of Sergeant, and there is a fixed scale of 21 *

warrants, promotions on which depend on vacancies.

(True Extract.)

C. M. Brissom.
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

- " Superintending Engineers.
- " the Consulting Architect to Government.
- " the Superintendent of Works, Periyar Project.
- " the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
- " the Educational Department.
- " His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, Madras.

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1895} Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

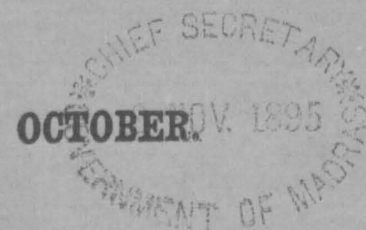
Dated October, 28th.

Recd.

8/11/95

Encl.

G.O. No. 2666 W., 28th Oct. 1895.



Soldier Students

Proceedings, Educational Department, passing orders on the question of shortening the course of training of — in the Madras College of Engineering, communicated to officers of the department, and the "Suggestions to promote keener competition for appointments in the Public Works Department" referred, with remarks, to His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces for favour of opinion whether effect can be given to them.

807: 7-10-95
613: 18-8-94

Order No. 879 d 15 M/95

Communicated to

the D.P. J.

W. S. J.

7/11/95

To The D.P. J. - sc
Recd. 18/11

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189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
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ENCLOSURES TO G. No

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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