Number of pages 6

Date of Reference 6/7/37

M.R.O. 1—22 409—28-11-36

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 9-6-57

G.O. No. 1084 Press Mis.

Dated 6-6- 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 9th June 1857.

No. 58. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 1st June 1857, No. 825.

Sir,

It is now my duty with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 532, of the 17th April 1856, to report that of the two Officers in the Department Public Works, therein required to qualify in one of the languages of the country, within one year, namely Captain Barber 33rd Regiment N. I., and Lieutenant Clay, 3rd L. I.; only the latter Officer has succeeded in passing in Hindustani, agreeably to the standard prescribed in para. 23 G. O. C. C. No. 66 of the 19th October 1853.

2. Captain Barber, Executive Engineer North Arcot has lately been absent from his District on privilege leave, and hence the delay in making known to Government the results of the order of the 17th April 1856. The above Officer having now rejoined his duty, I am enabled to report that Captain Barber, has not qualified to the extent laid down by the Board of Examiners on the 6th August 1856, and it is unnecessary therefore to apply for a Committee to be assembled.

3. His Lordship in Council is probably aware that Captain Barber, joined his present appointment from the Trunk road Department in which he was justly considered to be a most valuable Officer by the late Superintendent. As an instance of the estimation in which he is now held and of the character of the Services he performs. I beg leave to solicit attention to the following transcript from the report of the District Engineer North Arcot for the month of March last, now passing through the Central office.

" The Agrarum Bridge works on Trunk road No. 1 under the Superintendence of Captain
" Barber, were most satisfactory and I must say the arch work of this bridge is the best piece
" of work I have ever seen in the country and does Captain Barber, great credit. All his bricks
" are stack bricks and of a superior quality. I witnessed the striking of the 5th Arch, bests
" centrings were used, and were struck and put up again for another Arch, in about 5 hours. The
" arch settled only about ⅛ of an inch. I hope very soon to hear all the arches are completed."

4. To the foregoing creditable notice by Lieutenant Mayne, and to the repeated assurances of Captain Johnston of the great practical experience and skill in the construction of works, the management of labourers and punctual keeping of accounts, by the Executive Engineer North Arcot, I must add my own testimony to the invariable satisfaction afforded by Captain Barber in the zeal, assiduity and success which have marked all his operations from the date of my own connexion with the Department Public Works.

5. It is not to be concluded that because the Executive Engineer has failed to Extract sufficient leisure from his out door occupations to attain the standard prescribed by the Board of examiners, he is therefore one of those professional Officers who, dependent on the offices of their own private servants or others for translations, are liable to be misled by erroneous renderings of what is stated. On the contrary, for all practical purposes of ordinary official routine, Captain Barber, is fully able to give his own orders in however ungrammatical a fashion, and to understand the purport of any common statement in Tamil and in Hindustani (in which latter he is an excellent colloquist, and has passed for a company which represents the Vernacular standard, little " te," or little " t.")

6. By para. 71 of the G. O. G. G. No. 117 of the 17th June 1856, it rests with the head of the Government to dispense " no special cases" with all examinations for members of the Department Public Works. The spirit of the orders of Government and of the Honorable Court is to exclude all Officers who may be unable to Communicate with the Native community in one or other of their own tongues; and by the letter thereof a defined standard of attainment has been laid down. His Lordship in Council will have observed from what I have already had the honor to state that Captain Barber so far from being incompetent to give his orders in a native language, he has practically as effective a knowledge of the Vernaculars as most of the Departmental Officers, and that he is equally at home in giving orders regarding works to the bricklayers and work people with other Officers who may have already passed before the Board of Examiners.

1 year
Lancaster Library

7. Under these circumstances, and in the belief on my own part that the removal of Captain Barber on the ground of alleged lingual disqualification, will be a great, and in its measure an irreparable loss to the D. P. W., I respectfully solicit the permission of His Lordship in Council to exempt Captain Barber from further examination and to permanently confirm this able and skilful executive Officer in his present appointment. I would further venture to recommend that "h" in Hindustani when conjoined to a colloquial knowledge of Telegoo or Tamil sufficient to give orders intelligibly in person (to be officially certified by the District Engineer) shall be allowed to protect Officers from removal, when, as in Captain Barber's case the professional qualifications are of an uncommonly favorable description.

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, No. 1084; dated 6th Jnne 1857.

In this letter, the Chief Engineer recommends that, in consequence of the high value he sets upon the services of Captain Barber in the Public Works Department, that Officer should be specially exempted from examination in the Native language, under a rule published to the Department in Bengal on the 17th of June 1856, which has not hitherto been made applicable to this Presidency.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council cannot consent to the Chief Engineer's proposal: there is nothing in Captain Barber's case that might not be pleaded by many other Officers in the Department, and the Government can allow of no exception from the rule which requires a knowledge of one vernacular language from every Executive Officer in the Department of Public Works.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

P. W. D.
3A
No. 1084
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 6th June 1857.
Read the following
letter from the Chief Engr

(Here enter 1st June /57 No. 825.)

In his letter the C.E. recommends
but in consequence
of the high value he
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2 The R. H. the Earle
cannot consent to
the Hon. Exp. Propo-
-sal - Even if nothing
in Captain Barker's
case but might not
be feasible to give any
other Officer in the
Dept. and subject
can allow of more
-ception from the rule
laid down, & there-
-by give rise to
-vious complaints
from every Officer
-like Officer in the
D. of O.S.

Public Works 1857 Dept.
D.o to Cons: 9th June.

No 1084.

Extract Minis: of Cons:
Dy 6th June 57.

Declining to accept the
Chief Engineer's recommenda-
=tion that Captain Barber
in the P. W. D. should be
specially exempted from
examination in the Native
language.

No 58 & 59.

2 June 125