1. Number of pages. 20
2. Date of repair. 24/6/37
3. Initials of Reference. P

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 8 28.4.1857

G.O. No.	752	Press Mis.
11-12		
Dated	22-4-	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 11. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 4th March 1857.

Read the following letter from the Military Board; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 3rd March 1857, No. 324.

SIR,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Minutes of Consultation No. 404, of 7th February 1857, and with reference to para. 3, we have the honor to solicit Government to reconsider the principal therein laid down.

2. There is no one principal more generally inculcated by Government than this, that one Department of the state shall not in any way affect the efficiency at another Department, moreover that the servants of one branch shall not unnecessarily be drawn away by another branch, and although it is quite right that each branch should see to the efficiency of the agency employed and may be excused for trying to secure the most efficient agents for their duties, yet, when another branch of the state deems it necessary to appeal to Government for that protecting care which is impartially bestowed alike on all branches we trust we may fairly ask that Government will afford us that degree of protection for the efficiency of the Ordnance service which we solicited.

3. We have no desire whatever to prevent the Carnatic Ordnance Artificers from rising in the world; on the contrary we desire to see opening given wherein they may be benefitted, but we beg that Government will consider that the Ordnance Department belongs to the Military service, that its servants are as usual in the receipt of moderate pay; whereas many other branches of the Public service afford more favorable positions both as respects pay and other advantages than we can hold out.

4. Take the openings in the Public Works Department, and it will be found that there are situations of a very subordinate character giving to the holders larger monthly incomes than the best of our situations gives to the Carnatic Ordnance Artificers and the conclusions that if these are available without restriction we cannot expect to retain the services of men in the Ordnance branch, neither can we expect that the minds of youths will be devoted to those acquirements which hold out the least advantage.

5. This is no new question for the Government of India have pointed out that the salaries of Surveyors and Overseers far exceed those that can be reached by the Ordnance Artificers, and that the natural wish is for all to be Surveyors and none Artificers.

6. We must also beg Government to bear in mind that the efficiency of the army is more or less dependent on the skill of the Artificers, and that at no time ought this efficiency to be affected in any way, and least of all at the present time, and we are therefore anxious that Government should extend to us that aid which a controlling Department so much needs in preventing decay in efficiency where the influence of a powerful and well paid Department comes in contact with us.

7. We have had many reports of Light Field Carriages breaking down in a very unaccountable way, and at present we had under consideration the breaking down of 4 nearly new carriages at Trichinopoly, and without offering any opinion as to where the fault lies, yet it is incumbent on us to endeavour to secure the greatest amount of efficiency amongst our workmen.

8. The Government of India pointed out that a man who had competed to be a Surveyor, but failed therein, would make a very poor Ordnance Artificer if he had neglected to make himself a practical Artizan, and as our request to Government merely extended to this, that those who competed for the higher paid appointments should prove themselves qualified for the badly paid appointments for which they were primarily intended, the request was not unreasonable, it was right as this we deemed to be one way of giving effect to the principle that nothing should be spared to secure the Gun Carriage Manufactory against injury to its efficiency.

9. With regard to the remarks about paying for the discharge of these Artificers we may mention that at present youths are kept up for instruction between 3 and 5 years as student;

that their expenses during that period amount to between Rupees (600) six hundred, and Rupees (800) eight hundred, and all being chargeable to the Ordnance Department thereby raising the cost of every Military article we use in the service; as all the labor and expense borne by the Ordnance service must be lost if these men are withdrawn at the time when their labor becomes useful, we think that a just claim exists for asking for this money to be credited to the Ordnance service.

10. We ask Government to consider what the Chief Engineer would represent to Government if we were able so to arrange our department as to enable us to draw away as writers many of the most promising lads educated at the Survey school; now we think much writing would pass to prove the impolicy of any such expectation being held out where as we do not seek a prohibitory order against drawing away our Artificers, we merely ask that before being with drawn they shall prove themselves to be practical artizans, and that the expense borne by the Ordnance Department in educating them be transferred to the Department re-opening the services, and if in addition to these measures, the correspondence connected with the school at the Gun-Carriage Manufactory passed through this Board which controls the Department we are quite satisfied that the Government service would be benefitted.

11. We think that we ought not to conceal from Governmenet that we believe this clashing of Departments arises from an attempt to supply the means for performing the Public service from insufficient sources; at the present time we are deficient of one fourth of our Carnatic Ordnance Artificers for the Arsenals and the deficiency is very slowly if at all being supplied.

12. The fact is that there is so vast a want of practical artizans that many Establishments might be formed in different parts of the country, equal in strength to that of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, and at this very time we could form another establishment at the Presidency with 200 Forges at work and yet be unable to execute all the work on hand now it would be easy for Government to assign to their working establishments the duty of training up skilled workmen and skilled to any extent and in any branch of business that may be deemed useful to Government, but we must not conceal from Government that a Department for training Artizans has no connection with one for training Surveyors, and if any such training be necessary then special means must be given for imparting the special knowledge, and if these working establishments are intended to be self paying (and none should be otherwise) then a certain amount of charge must be separately exhibited for giving the special skill or knowledge so that Government may reduce the question to a very simple form, and that is at what rate of expenses killed persons can be supplied possessed of different degrees of skill and knowledge.

(Signed) ÆNEAS SHERRIFF Brigadier,
Commandant of Artillery.

(„) G. BALFOUR, Lt.-Colonel,
Stipendiary Member.

Referred to the Department Public Works.

By order

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
*Secretary to Governmen*t.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, No. 752; dated 22nd April 1857.

The object of the present reference from the Military Board appears to be to shew that Artificers of the Ordnance Department undergo a certain amount of training which makes them valuable Agents in the Military branch, and that if their services are made use of in the Public Works Department, the amount which they would have to pay to obtain their discharge from the Army, should be made good to the Ordnance service. The Board also again refer to the qualification to be considered necessary in a Carnatic Ordnance Artificer entering the Public Works Department.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 28th April 1857.

2. The Government have already in Extract Minutes Consultation, 4th February 1857, treated the question relating to the purchase of their discharge by Ordnance Artificers as one of a purely private nature, with which the Government has no concern, and having in the same resolution declared that the admission of Artificers in the Public Works Department was dependent on their qualification for efficient service in that Department, they do not see that any other orders are called for at present. The Public Works Department is as much the service of Government as the Ordnance Department, and if Artificers cannot be spared from the latter, an intimation to that effect will overcome any inconvenience that might otherwise be experienced from men being taken from one to the other branch.

3. Ordered that the above Resolution be communicated to the Military Department in reference to Extract Minutes Consultation in that Department, dated 4th March 1857, and that a copy of the same be forwarded to the Chief Engineer for his information.

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

Military Department

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Held at Calcutta the 2nd February 1857

Read the following letter

No 326

From

The Military Board,

To

The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Minutes of Consultation No 606 of 7th February 1857 and with reference to Para 3 we have the honor to solicit Government to reconsider the principle therein laid down.

2 There is no one principle more generally inculcated by Government than this, that in the Department of the state of the Military Service

the efficiency of another Department, moreover that the servants of one branch shall not unnecessarily be drawn away by another branch, and although it is quite right that each Branch should see to the efficiency of the Agency employed and may be excused for trying to secure the most efficient Agents for their duties, yet, when another Branch of the state deems it necessary to appeal to Government for that protecting care which is impartially bestowed alike on all Branches we trust we may fairly ask that Government will afford us that degree of protection for the efficiency of the Ordnance service which we solicited.

3 We have no desire whatever to prevent the Carnatic Ordnance Artificers from rising in the world; on the contrary we desire to see opening given wherein they may be benefitted, but we beg that Government

Government will consider that the Ordnance Department belongs to the Military service, that its servants are as essential in the receipt of moderate pay; whereas many other Branches of the Public service afford more favorable position both as regards pay and other advantages than we can hold out.

4 Take the openings in the Public Works Department, and it will be found that there are situations of a very subordinate character giving to the holders larger monthly incomes than the best of our situations gives to the covenanted ordnance artificers and the conclusion that if these are available without restriction we cannot expect to retain the services of men in the ordnance Branch, neither can we expect that the minds of youths will be devoted to those acquirements which hold out the least advantage.

This

5 This is no new question for the Government of India have decided out that the Salaries of Surveyors and overseers for special those that can be regulated by the ordnance Artificers, and that the method wish is for all to be Surveyors and none Artificers.

6 We must also beg Government to bear in mind that the efficiency of the Army is more or less dependent on the skill of the Artificers, and that at no time ought this efficiency to be affected in any way, and least of all at the present time, and we are therefore anxious that Government should extend to us that aid which a controlling Department so much needs in preventing decay in efficiency, where the influence of a powerful and well paid Department comes in contact with us.

7 We have had many reports of Light Field Carriages breaking down in use in a very

very unsatisfactory way, and at present we had considerable difficulty in the breaking down of the monopoly, and as to where the carriages by new Carriages at Trichinopoly are to be made, and the amount of offering any opinion thereon but it is incumbent on us to endeavour to secure the greatest amount of efficiency amongst our workmen

8 The Government of India point out that a man who had contracted to be a Surveyor but failed therein, would make a very poor ordnance artificer if he had neglected to make himself a practical artizan, and as our request to Government merely extended to this, that those who competed for the higher paid appointments should prove themselves qualified for the badly paid appointments for which they were primarily intended, the request was not unreasonable, it was right as this is deemed to be one way of giving effect to

the Public Works Department

to the principle that nothing should be spared
to secure the Guncarriage manufactory
against injury to its effi
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about paying for the [illegible] urge of these
artificers we may mo[illegible] w that at
present upwards are ne[illegible] sary for instruc
tion between 3 and 5 ye[illegible] as students,
that sum of persons during that period
amount to between Rupees 600 / six
hundred and Rupees 800 / eight Hund
dred, and all being ch[illegible] rgeable to
the ordnance Department thereby
raising the cost of ever[illegible] Military
article we use in the service, as all
the labor and expense borne by the
ordnance service must be the last of
these men are withdrawn at the
time when their labor becomes useful.
we think that a just claim exists
for asking for this money to be credited
to the ordnance service.

We

11

We ask Government to consi
der what the Bishop Engineer would represent to Government if we were able
so to arrange our department as to
enable us to draw away as workers
many of the most promising lads
educated at the Survey School; now
we think we could bring no stronger
proof the inferiority of any article
of pretensions being sold out whereas
we do not exert a prohibitory power
against drawing away our artifi
cers, we merely ask that before being
withdrawn they shall prove themse
selves to be practical artizans, and
that the expense borne by the Or
dnance Department in educating them
be transferred to the Department receiv
ing the services, and if in addition to
these measures, the correspondence
connected with the school at the Gun
carriage Manufactory passed through
the

this Board to elucidate connection the Department we are quite satisfied that the Government service would be benefitted.

11 We think that we ought not to conceal from Government that we believe this clashing of Departments arises from an attempt to supply the means for performing the Public service from insufficient sources; at the present time we are deficient of one fourth of our Carnatic Ordnance artificers for the Arsenals and the deficiency is very slowly if at all being supplied.

12 The fact is that there is so vast a want of Practical Artizans that so many establishments might be formed on different parts of the country, equal in strength to that of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, and at this very time we could form another establishment at the Presidency with 200 Lascars at work and yet be unable to

L. L. L.

to execute all the work on hand, now it would be easy for Government to appoint to their working Establishments the duty of training up skilled workmen and skilled to any extent and in any Branch of business that may be deemed useful to Government, but we must not conceal from Government that a department for training artizans has no connection with one for training Lascars, and if any such training be necessary then special means must be given for imparting the special Knowledge, and if these working establishments are intended to be self paying/paid none should be otherwise/then a certain amount of charge must be separately exhibited for giving the special Skill or Knowledge so that Government may reduce the question to a very simple form, and that is at what rate of expense skilled

Persons

Persons can be supplied respectively of different degrees of Skill and Knowledge.

Military Board Office
Fort St George
3d March 1857

Sir
I have &c
Sheriff Brigr
Board of Advy
G Balfour Lt Col
Stipendiary Member

Referred to the Department Public Works.

By Order
Sign'd C. A. Brownrigg
Secretary to Govt

To
The Department Public Works.

Mil C No 416 From the Chief Engr 8th Inst
Inclo 57 No 10552
Mil Cl 2nd October 1855 No 31732
" 6 Feby 1857 No 91792
" 3 Inst — 93794
Mily Depart Mil C No 404 8th Feby 57.

No 11.

Cy 4th April C R 15th

Public Works 1857 Depte
Dated Fort St George 28th April
No 457

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department

Dated 4th
Received 6th } March 1857.

S.E. No 702. 22nd April

Referring a Letter from the Mily Bd soliciting reconsideration of the Principle laid down in Para 3 of the Minutes Consn No 404 of 7th Feby 57, relative to Carnatic Ordnance Artificers being withdrawn by other & larger Depts before they have proved themselves to be practical Artificers suggesting that the Expense borne by the Ordnance Dept in educating them may be transferred to the Depts receiving their Services. —

Public Works Dept.

No. 752.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 22d April 1857.

Read the following
Extract from the Minutes
of Consultation in the Mili
tary Department.

(Received 31st March 1857.)

The object of the pre-
sent reference from the Mi-
litary Board appears to be that
Artificers of the Ordnance
Department undergo a cer-
tain Amount of training a-
which makes them valuable
Agents in the Military
branch, and that if their
services are made use of in
the Public Works Department,
the

the amount which they would have to pay to obtain their discharge from the Army, should be made good to the Ordnance Service. The Board also again refer to the qualifications to be considered necessary in a Carnatic Ordnance Artificer entering the Pub. Works Dept.

The Gov.t have already in extract Mins. Cons. 4th Feby 57 treated the question relating to the purchase of their discharges by Ordnance Artificers as one of a purely private nature with which the Government has no concern, and having in the same resolution declared that the admission of Artificers in the Public Works Department so as dependent on their qualification for efficient service in that Department, they do not see

see that any other Orders are called for at present: The Public Works Department is as much the service of Government as the Ordnance Department, and if Artificers cannot be spared from the latter Department an intimation to that effect will overcome any inconvenience that might otherwise be experienced from men being taken from one to the other branch.

Ordered that the above Resolution be communicated to the Military Department in reference to Extract Min. Cons. in that Department dated 5th March 1857 and that a Copy of the same be forwarded to the Chief Engineer for his information.

J R

9 Copies to the Chief Engr
Circ.r-35
3 — Ditty Copies.

Ordnance Works 1857 dept.
Do to 28th April

No 752.

Extract Minutes of Court
of 22d April 57.

Observing that as the question relative to the Ordnance Artificers superseding their discharge had already been treated as one of a purely superintendance nature, their admission in the D.O.W. was declared to be dependent on their qualification for efficient service in that Dept. Govt. do not see that any other orders are called for at present.

No 11412.

Ord. 1st April 1815. 71