1. Number of pieces 1-10
2. Date of repair. 3-8-37
3. Initials of Repairer

M.R.O. 1—82,400—22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1323 Press Mis.

31-32

Dated 7—7—18 37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 31. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Camp Salem, 27th June 1857, No. 165.

SIR,

The Chief Engineer having declined to forward an appeal I addressed through him to Government on the subject of the Revised List of the Madras Department Public Works, on the ground that it was prepared in conformity to that of Bengal. I have the honor to request you will do me the favor to lay before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council this my representation of the injury I sustain by the new system of arrangement.

2. In their orders of the 27th January 1857, Para. 17 Government declared "that the "Public Works Establishment should like the Commissariat Establishment be formed into a "gradation List" (as now published)" independent of the location assigned to the Officers com- "posing it, the formation in this list depending on the merits of the individual, Seniority being "considered only one claim and not the rule for promotion."

3. This declaration clearly guarantees to the individuals composing the strength of the Department at that date the positions they then held, although by no means ensuring their advancement, and it was not expected that any other order of classification would be established.

4. The present list however is framed on totally different principles and not only ignores all gradation by merit in the several ranks, but seems to rank the Officers and Subordinates in alphabetical order, as the figures in the first column are quite unnecessary and deceptive if no gradation is established.

5. If such an organization existed in any other Department of the service there would be less reason for complaint but I am under the belief that the arrangement is as unprecedented as it was unexpected, and am persuaded that the effect will be most injurious by depriving the Officers of one great incentive to exertion and devotion to the service in the hope of their names standing high in the Departmental list.

6. This hope I believe would form a stronger motive to good conduct with the generality of Officers than the mere desire of obtaining higher pay, and it seems to me worthy of the serious consideration of Government how far it is desirable to weaken in any degree the honorable emulation of men whose lives must often be passed in privation and loneliness.

7. In my own case my name stood first of my grade, and is now last, but no one can tell what station I actually hold, and I feel that I am deprived of an advantage which the Government once conferred on me.

8. In the other grades the only persons whose merit and consequent promotion are known, are those who act in higher appointments, and the rest are entirely deprived of the reward of long and faithful service.

9. I hope that this appeal may be favorably received by the Right Honorable the Governor, and that I may not finally lose the honorable position in which His Lordship was pleased to place me after thirty years of continued and for the most part arduous employment.

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, No. 1323; dated 9th July 1857.

The system under which the list of the Public Works Department was lately published in alphabetical order, was adopted by Government after mature consideration, and there is nothing in the letter above recorded to lead them to re-consider the measure.

2. The Government are of opinion that it must be sufficiently obvious to Major Lawford that the arrangement of the list has nothing to do with Departmental qualifications, and that the position he now holds in the list is not necessarily a sign of the relative place in the estimation of Government, which he holds among the Superintending Engineers.

3. This Extract will be communicated to Major Lawford by the Chief Engineer.

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

No. 165.

Superintending Engineer's Office
Southern Circle
Camp Salem 27th June 1857.

From,

Major C. Lawford,
Superintending Engineer
Southern Circle.

To,

The Secretary to Government
P. W. D.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

The Chief Engineer having declined to forward an appeal I addressed through him to Government on the subject of the Revised List of the Madras Department of Public Works, on the ground that it was prepared in Conformity to that of Bengal, I have the honor to request you will do me the favor to lay before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council this my representation of the injury I sustain by the New System of arrangement.

2. In their orders of the 27th January 1857 Para 17 Government declared "that the Public "Works Establishment should like the Commissa"riat Establishment be formed into a gradation "List "(as now published)" independent of the "location assigned to the Officers composing it, "the formation in this list depending on the "merits of the individual Seniority being consi"dered only one claim and not the rule for "promotion".

3. This declaration clearly guarantees to

to the individuals composing the strength of the Department at that date the positions they then held, although by no means ensuring their advancement, and it was not expected that any other order of classification would be established.

4. The present list however is framed on totally different principles and not only ignores all gradation by merit in the several ranks, but seems to rank the officers and subordinates in alphabetical order, as the figures in the first column are quite unnecessary and deceptive if no gradation is established.

5. If such an organization existed in any other Department of the Service there would be less reason for complaint but I am under the belief that the arrangement is as unprecedented as it was unexpected, and am persuaded that the effect will be most injurious by depriving the Officers of one great incentive to exertion and devotion to the service in the hope of their names standing high in the Departmental List.

6. This hope I believe would form a stronger motive to good conduct with the generality of officers than the mere desire of obtaining higher pay, and it seems to me worthy of the serious consideration of Government how far it is desirable to weaken in any degree the honorable emulation of men whose lives must often be passed in privation and loneliness.

7. In my own case my name stood first of my grade, and is now last, but no one can tell what station I actually hold, and I feel that I am deprived of an advantage which the Government once conferred on me.

8. In the other grades the only persons whose merit and consequent promotion are known, are those who act in higher appointments, and the rest are entirely deprived of the reward of long and faithful service.

9. I hope that this appeal may be favorably received by the Right Honorable the Governor, and that I may not finally lose the honorable position in which His Lordship was pleased to place me after thirty years of continued and for the most part arduous employment.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.

Superintending Engineer's
Office Southern Circle
Camp Salem, 27th
June 1857.

L Thompson Major
Superintending Engineer
Southern Circle

P.W.D.

No. 1323

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 9th July 1857

Read the following
letter from the Su-
-perintending Engi-
-neer, Southern
circle.

(Here enter 27th June/57
No 165.)

The system under
which the list of the
Public Works Depart.t
was lately published
in alphabetical or-
der, was adopted
by Government after
mature consideration,

Extract Minutes of Consultation
Dated the 9th July 1857
Rec.d 11th Ditto
Read
Letter from Supdg. Engr. Southern Circle
No 165 dated 27th June 1857
Forwarding list of Public Works
Ordered
That the Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.
Government be requested to
Furnish Copies

Dated 27th June
Received 7th July } 1857.

No. 1323. 9th July

Application Government
Agreement Arrangements
adopted in the Revised
List of the Officers of the
Madras Department of
Public Works.

Ex 3 July 21st

and there is nothing in the letter above recorded to lead them to reconsider the measure.

The Govt are of opinion that it must be sufficiently obvious to Major Lawford that the arrangement of the list has nothing to do with departmental qualifications, and that the position he now holds in the list is not necessarily a sign of the relative place in the estimation of Govt which he holds

holds among the superintending Engineers.

This Extract will be communicated to Major Lawford by the Chief Engineer

[signature]

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. Dist 10

Public Works 1857 — Extract
Mins to Govt 14th July

No 1223.

Extract Mins of Govt
Dy 30th July 57.

Observing that it must be sufficiently obvious to Major Lawford, that the arrangement of the List of the Officers of the Madras Dept. P.W. has nothing to do with Departmental qualifications, & that this Extract be communicated to Major Lawford by the Chief Engineer.

C3 July 57