M.R.O. 1—25,300—29-11-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public (Misc.) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1123 Press Mis.

Dated 7-7 1933

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 48. Read the following letter from Major R. STRACHEY, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, the 21st May 1858, No. 2292.

SIR,

The attention of the Government of India having been lately drawn to the 6th paragraph of the order of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, No. 1213, of 23rd June last, I am directed to explain, that the scope of the 55th para. of the Public Works Notification, by the Government of India, No. 117, dated 17th June 1856, by which the periods of service in the upper subordinate Department in the Bengal Presidency, after which promotions may be made on the score of seniority and good conduct only, would appear to have been somewhat misunderstood by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council of Madras.

2. The object of the Government of India was to secure encouragement to the exercise of professional ability and executive good management. If the promotions were to go by seniority and good conduct only, all men against whom no acts of ill conduct had been recorded, would be promoted when it came to their turn. Under such a system, the acquisition of superior professional attainments and success in professional management, would receive no encouragement, but any man who behaved well would be advanced in turn, though he might be of very little use as a departmental subordinate.

3. On the other hand, the Government of India did not wish entirely to set aside the claims to consideration on the score of long service and ordinary good conduct. It was therefore decided that in exceptional cases, such claims should be admitted, that is, in the cases only of men who had served the long periods mentioned in the Notification.

4. In all other cases, full scope is allowed to the Government to select according to the professional qualifications of the subordinates. It is of course not intended to promote any one whose conduct has been bad, nor to overlook seniority in those cases where professional qualifications are nearly equal. But mere seniority and good conduct are considered as giving no claim to promotion till after the periods of service specified.

5. It is evident, that the longer these periods are made, the fewer there will be who can claim promotion on the ground of good conduct and seniority alone; and therefore, the more cases will there be in which the Government will be able to confer promotion as a reward for efficient professional service. The long periods commented on by the Madras Government were fixed with the view of making the latter cases the rule and the former the exception. But the periods have been so much shortened in the Notification in the Public Works Department of the Madras Presidency, that it is feared, that the promotion by mere seniority will come to be the rule, and that relatively few cases will be left in which the Government will be able to give that advancement which should be given to superior professional merit.

— ———

No. 49. ORDER THEREON, No. 1323; dated 9th July 1858.

Referred to the Officiating Chief Engineer for his opinion and report, with reference to para. 26 of the Notification dated 23rd June 1857, No. 1.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

№ 2292

From

Major R. Strachey

Officiating Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

H. Forbes Esquire

Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated the 21st May 1853

Public Works Deptt.
Public

Sir

The attention of the Government of India having been lately drawn to the 6th paragraph of the order of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department № 1213 of 23rd June last, I am directed to explain that the scope of the 55th Para: of the Public Works Notification, by the Government of India, № 114, dated 14th June 1856, by which the periods of service in the upper subordinate Department in the Bengal Presidency, after which promotions may be made on the score of seniority and good conduct only would appear to have been somewhat mis-understood by the Right Honorable the Governor [illegible] in Council of Madras:-

2. The object of the Government of India was to secure encouragement to the exercise of professional ability and executive good

good management. If the promotions were to go by seniority and good conduct only, all men against whom no acts of ill conduct had been recorded, would be promoted when it came to their turn. Under such a system, the acquisition of superior professional attainments and success in professional management, would receive no encouragement, but any man who behaved well would be advanced in turn, though he might be of very little use as a departmental subordinate.

3. On the other hand, the Government of India did not wish entirely to set aside the claims to consideration on the score of long service and ordinary good conduct. It was therefore decided that in exceptional cases, such claims should be admitted, that is, in the cases only of men who had served the long periods mentioned in the Notification.

4. In all other cases, full scope is allowed to the Government to select according to the professional qualifications of the subordinates. It is of course not intended to promote any one whose conduct has been bad, nor to overlook seniority in those cases where professional qualifications are nearly equal. But mere seniority and good conduct are considered as giving no claim to promotion till after the periods

periods of service specified.

5. It is evident that the longer these periods are made, the fewer there will be who can claim promotion on the ground of good conduct and seniority alone; and therefore the more cases will there be in which the Government will be able to confer promotion as a reward for efficient professional service. The long periods commented on by the Madras Government were fixed with the view of making the latter cases the rule and the former the exception. But the periods have been so much shortened in the Notification in the Public Works Department of the Madras Presidency, that it is feared that the promotion by mere seniority will come to be the rule, and that relatively few cases will be left in which the Government will be able to give that advancement which should be given to superior Professional merit.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant

For Williams
The 21st May 1858

N Maltby Maj
Offg Secy to the Govt of India

No.

Comm: 23d June /57 No 90 to 98.
" 15th July /58 " 7243.

Public Works 1858 Dept.
L.D. to Govt 9th July /58
No 1207

No. 1323.

From the Offg. Secy.
to the Govt. of India

Dated 21st May
Rec'd June 4 — 1858
Con. No. 1323. 9th July 1858.
No. 2292.

Stating that the scale of the 55th para of the Public Works Notification by the Government of India, No 114, dated 17th June 1856, by which the periods of service in the Subordinate Departments in the Bengal Presidency, which determine the grades of Executive Engineers, may be made on the score of meritorious and good conduct only, would appear to have been somewhat misunderstood by the Government of Madras, and pointing out that the object of the Government of India was to secure encouragement to the exercise of professional ability and superior good management; and observing that the periods have been so much shortened in the Notification of the Madras Presidency that it is feared few cases will be left to give the advancement contemplated to subordinate professional merit. — With an Order.

No 48 to 49.

Referred to the Chief Engr for his opinion and report, with reference to para 26 of the Notification dated 23d June 1857, No 1.

Fort St. George
9th July 1858 —

W.H.B.
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To Offg Secy to the Govt of India Pub. Dept

23 June No 28 to 29 Rec'd