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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 3-5-59

G.O. No.	<i>1009</i>	Press Mis. ☒
<i>20-21</i> Dated	<i>30.6.</i>	<i>1859.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

AD
16.5.58

No. 20. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 6th April 1859, No. 9630.

In conformity to the instructions contained in para. 2 of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 729 of 28th March 1859, I do myself the honor to request that you will have the goodness to solicit the early consideration of His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council towards the Government Gazette Extraordinary of the 18th July 1857, and to the provisions therein contained for the future reduced strength of the Engineer Establishment of the Department of Public Works.

2. The large excision of 25 per cent called for by the exigencies of the Indian Government was only to be met by duly proportioning the several reductions in each of the three primary divisions of the Establishment to each other, and to the aggregate result of a professional body competent to the efficient discharge of its important duties.

3. With this principle as a leading guide it was recommended that the number of Assistants 32 should be reduced to 21, and that the 14 Supernumerary Assistants retained on the strength of Department Public Works by the special authority of para. 16 of the G. O. G. of 3rd February 1857, should be reduced to 11.

4. Both the claims and the attainments of the Supernumerary Assistants were nearly if not altogether on a par with those of the permanent Class, and therefore, whilst proposing a decrease which should produce the financial relief demanded, the very utmost care was taken to retain a total numerical strength of the Engineer Establishment of the professional body, which should suffice alike for keeping up the Departmental organization, and for maintaining the Public Works of Irrigation and Communication in a state of efficiency.

5. For these purposes it was deemed essentially necessary to have 32 Assistant Engineers at disposal to be composed of 21 out of the Permanent, and 11 out of the Supernumerary Class; and in making the reductions every endeavour was made that those eliminated should be Commissioned Officers, and that those whose only means of livelihood depended on continued professional employment should be preferentially retained.

6. If however, when the detailed scheme for effecting a saving of 25 per cent was placed before Government, it had been intimated that it was intended to wholly suppress the Supernumerary Class and thus to reduce the Subordinate or Assistant Grade from a strength of 46 (namely, 32 and 14) to one of 21, it would have been the immediate and obvious duty of the Official Head of the Department Public Works to recast the scheme so as to obtain the economy required in some other manner, less likely to compromise and cripple the usefulness and efficiency of the whole professional body.

7. So completely however was it believed that the reduced strength exhibited in the Government Gazette of the 18th July 1857, was final, that a corresponding distribution table was drawn up on the 24th Idem, and this allotment was not only accepted and authorized by the Government at the time; but the scale therein laid down for each District has been repeatedly recognized and referred to since, and further, whenever nonconformity with that standard has been detected, the Chief Engineer has been censured for such deviation, however unavoidable it may often have been from the process of constant absorption tacitly going forward.

8. Under the firm belief however, that it is the intention and even the understanding of the Government of India, that the strength of the Subordinate Grade of the Engineer Establishment in the Madras Presidency consists of an aggregate of 32, of whom 10 are to be Probationers, and further with the experience now gained that the Public Works in the Mofussil cannot be done justice to unless the strength shewn in the Gazette of 18th July 1857, be faithfully maintained, I respectfully solicit that His Excellency the Governor's early and favorable consideration may be given to the subject of duly regulating the strength of the Engineer Establishment D. P. W. in the Madras Presidency on its reduced scale.

No. 21. ORDER THEREON, 30th April 1859, No. 1009.

The Governor in Council has carefully considered all the correspondence which passed between this Government and that of India on the subject of the formation of the Establishment

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
from 30th April to 3rd May 1859.

of the Public Works Department and he finds nothing to indicate on the part of the former an intention that the Probationary Assistant Engineers should be extra to the fixed number of Assistant Engineers; still less can he find that either Government intended that there should be a permanent class of "Supernumeraries" in the Department. If Colonel Bell should be of opinion that this decision renders it expedient to reconsider the formation of the reduced Establishment sanctioned on the 18th July 1857, the Governor in Council will be prepared to consider any suggestions on that subject that he may wish to offer.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

N^o 20 Madras Government

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N^o 9380

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George.

6th April 1859.

From The Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government
D.P.W.

Sir

Public

In conformity to the instructions contained in para 2 of Orders of Gov N^o 729 of 28th March 1859, I do myself the honor to request that you will have the goodness to solicit the early consideration of His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council towards the Government Gazette Extraordinary of the 17th July 1857 and to the provisions therein contained for the future reduced strength of the Engineer Establishment of the Department of Public Works.

2. The large excision of 25% called for by the exigencies of the Indian

Indian Government was only to be met by duly proportioning the several reductions in each of the three primary divisions of the Establishment to each other, and to the aggregate result of a professional body competent to the efficient discharge of its important duties.

3. With this principle as a leading guide it was recommended that the number of Assistants 32 should be reduced to 21, and that the 14 Supernumerary Assistants retained in the strength of the D.W. by the Special Authority of Para 16 of the G.O.G. of 4th February 1857, should be reduced to 11.

4. Both the claims and the attainments of the Supernumerary Assistants were nearly if not altogether on a par with those of the permanent Class, and therefore whilst proposing a decrease which should produce the financial relief demanded, the very utmost care was taken

taken to retain a total numerical strength of the Engineer Establishment of the professional body, which should suffice alike for keeping up the departmental organisation, and for maintaining the Public Works of irrigation and communication in a state of efficiency.

5. For these purposes it was deemed essentially necessary to have 32 Assistant Engineers at disposal to be composed of 21 out of the permanent, and 11 out of the supernumerary Class, and in making the reductions every endeavour was made that those eliminated should be Commissioned Officers, and that those whose only means of livelihood depended on continued professional employment should be preferentially retained.

6. If however when the detailed scheme for effecting a saving of 25% was placed before Government, it had been intimated that

that it was intended to wholly suppress the Supernumerary Class and thus to reduce the subordinate or Assistant Grade from a strength of 46 (namely 32 and 14) to one of 21, it would have been the immediate and obvious duty of the Official Secret of the D.P.W. to recast the Schemes so as to obtain the economy required in some other manner, less likely to compromise and cripple the usefulness and efficiency of the whole professional body.

So completely however was it believed that the reduced strength exhibited in the Government Gazette of the 17th July 1857 was final, that a corresponding distribution table was drawn up on the 24th Idem, and this allotment was not only accepted and authorized by the Government at the time; but the scale therein laid down for each District has been repeatedly recognized and referred to since,

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and further, whenever nonconformity with that standard has been detected the Chief Engineer has been censured for such deviation, however unavoidable it may often have been from the process of constant absorption tacitly going forward.

Under the firm belief however that it is the intention and even the understanding of the Govt of India that the strength of the subordinate grade of the Engineer Establishment in the Madras Presidency consists of an aggregate of 32, of whom 10 are to be Probationers, and further with the experience now gained that the P.W. in the Mofussil cannot be done justice to unless the strength shown in the Gazette of 17th July 1857 be faithfully maintained, I respectfully solicit that His Excellency the Governor

early

Public Works Dept

No 1009

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 30th April 1859.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer.

Per enter 6th April 1859/119589

The Governor in Council has carefully considered all the correspondence which passed between Her Govt and that of India on the subject of the formation of the Establishment of the Public Works Department and he finds nothing to indicate on the part of the former an intention that the Probationary Assistant Engineers should be extra

✓
C. G.
H.
M. W.

Cons 1st April 59 No 9697

2097-1859 Depnate
Cons 3rd May
No 8381

From
the Chief Engineer.
to
the Secretary to Govt.
D. W.

To Govt. 6th
Received 7th April 1859.

Chg 300

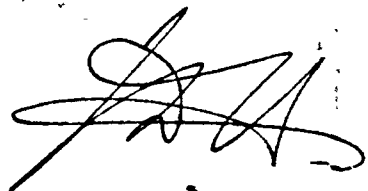
Submits the applications received for in Case 2 of the kind of Cons No 729 dated 28th March respectively the numerous & showing of the Joint Assistant Quarter the Probationary class of the 8th on its reduced

21 April 1859

No 20 111

60th May 30th April 1859

to the fixed number of Assistant
Engineers; still left can be
found that either Government
intended that there should
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of "Supernumeraries" in
the Department. If Colonel
Bell should be of opinion
that this decision renders
it expedient to reconsider
the formation of the re-
duced Establishment
sanctioned on the 18th July
1857, the Governor in Council
will be prepared to con-
sider any suggestion
on that subject that he
may wish to offer.



10 Copies to the Chief Engr. Distd 2nd

Dr. Cons. 1st April 1859. 90th.
Public Works 1859 Dept.
Cons. Eng.

To 1859.

Geo: of the Madras Govt.

27th 30th April 1859.

From the Chief Eng. 28th 31st
June/59 At Rs 566 and.

From the Chief Eng. 28th 31st
July 1859 & Oct. 1859 in Eng.

5.9

Government are

prepared to consider any

suggestions that will be

made to offer on the terms

now offered & to be

at the disposal of the Public

Works Department.

10000001

21 April 1859