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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 10-11-59

G.O. No.	2626	Press Mis.
116-117 Dated	9-11-	1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department,
for the month of November 1859.*

No. 116. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 3rd October 1859, No. 5706.

With reference to the orders of Government noted in the margin, approving of the recommendation of the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, for abolishing the system of taking apprentices in the districts; I have the honor to request the favor of your bringing the following remarks under the consideration of Government; and to report, that, pending the result of this reference, I defer communicating to the District Engineers the order referred to.

No. 2222 15th September 1859. paragraph 10.
1 Circular No. 27.
1 Summary of replies.

2. On the receipt of Captain Winscom's letter, suggesting the discontinuance of apprentices in the districts, and that the money allowed for their maintenance should be appropriated, for improving the position, and encouraging the most deserving students in the college; I addressed a circular to all District Engineers, of which a copy is enclosed, calling for their opinions on this measure, prior to my offering any suggestion thereon to Government. Their replies, have just now been all received, and a summary of them is enclosed. From a perusal thereof, it will be perceived that many District Engineers are opposed to the plan recommended by the Principal Civil Engineering College; and among the number are officers, whose standing and experience gives considerable weight to their opinions; and I beg to add, that, for the following reasons, all of which are assigned by one or more District Engineers, I am myself in favor of the system of maintaining apprentices in the districts being continued; but under a set of rules, (some of them new) to be hereafter detailed.

3. I consider that the system advocated by the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, would in a great measure tend to prevent the youths of distant telugu and tamil districts, obtaining admission into the department, and would lead to the admission of an undue proportion of young men from Madras and its neighbourhood, in consequence of the reluctance of this class of persons to isolate themselves early in life from their homes: and to bring themselves forward as candidates at a competitive examination.

4. I quite agree with the District Engineers of Ganjam, Nellore, Godavari division, Coimbatore, and Trichinopoly, that there are many advantages attending the old plan by which the apprentices are in a manner under practical instruction; and I am of opinion, that young men receiving this training, combined with the theoretical knowledge required, to entitle them to a certificate of qualification as Assistant or Sub Overseers; are better calculated to become efficient members of the subordinate grades; than those, entirely without practical knowledge, though their theoretical professional attainment may be of a higher order.

5. I would, therefore, recommend the old establishment of district apprentices being continued, under the following rules, which are, for the most part, the original suggestions of the District Engineer of Coimbatore, who has entered very fully into the subject, apparently after careful consideration.

I. That all vacancies for apprentices shall be filled up after a public examination, under the immediate direction of the District Engineer; in order to secure a certain extent of education prior to entertainment. Vide clause xi.

II. That one month's clear notice of this examination shall be given in the district gazette or by other means made as public as possible.

III. That the most distinguished candidates at the examination shall, if in all other respects unobjectionable, get the vacant situation, provided he comes up to the test.

IV. That the District Engineer shall, until after the examination, as far as practicable, scrupulously avoid becoming acquainted with the names, the family connection, the religion or caste, of the candidates.

V. That, after the examination, and before entertainment, the candidate shall furnish a medical certificate in the prescribed form, and one of general character to the satisfaction of the District Engineer.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of November 1859.*

VI. That the District Engineers shall be prohibited from employing apprentices in their offices to such an extent as will interfere with their learning their business; but that their occasional employment as clerks and accountants is unobjectionable.

VII. That the District Engineers shall be required to examine the apprentices once a year, and to recommend for discharge; any, who through idleness or want of ability, do not make proper progress in qualifying.

VIII. That an apprentice failing to pass the prescribed examination, for assistant or Sub-Overseer at the end of his term of apprenticeship, 4 years; shall be discharged: though he will be eligible for appointment as a draughtsman, estimate-maker, accountant, &c., on passing the examination laid down for those classes.

IX. That an apprentice having passed as assistant or Sub-Overseer shall have his stipend continued, until he can be provided, on a vacancy occurring, with a situation.

X. That these rules shall not prevent an apprentice, who is able and desirous of doing so, from entering the Civil Engineering College, for the purpose of qualifying there as assistant or Sub-Overseer.

XI. The examination to be passed by candidates shall be the same as that decided upon for testing soldiers for entry into the college, viz. an acquaintance with the four simple and compound rules of arithmetic, proportion, vulgar and decimal fractions, and the extraction of the square root, with ability to write English from dictation, with tolerable accuracy and compose an English letter.

6. In the event of the Government approving of this recommendation and the adoption of the rules as above, it would be only fair towards the apprentices, who were recently dismissed at the recommendation of the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, as being unlikely to prove useful men in the situations of assistant or Sub-Overseers, that all who can furnish medical certificates and satisfactory evidence to general character, shall be re-entertained, if recommended by District Engineers, and shall be afforded a further opportunity of qualifying for permanent service.

Summary of replies from District Engineers to Circular No. XXVII of 1859-60, relative to discontinuing apprentices in the districts and appropriating their stipends to the Civil Engineering College.

GANJAM.

Considers the present system ought not to be abolished: thinks there are more opportunities in the districts, than at the college, for acquiring knowledge of surveying, levelling, road-making, bridge and house building: thinks the system of compelling apprentices to study at the college is hard and discouraging.

VIZAGAPATAM.

Fully approves of Captain Winscom's proposal.

GODAVERI.

Considers that there are certain cases; as the railway workshops, and those of Kistnah and Godaveri division, where apprentices can be trained in mechanical engineering to much greater advantage than at the college in Madras.

Rajahmundry.
Masulipatam.

This training will provide a most important branch of artificers and afterwards of foremen and supervisors so much wanted: that they ought not to be excluded from the department in favor of the college scholars.

KISTNAH GUNTOOR.

Considers the proposal of the Principal wrong to dismiss the apprentices because their capacities for learning have not come up to the standard of the Principal: and inexpedient because the system is to fill the department with Europeans and highly crammed tamil boys to the prejudice of the telugu youth. Thinks the present system, of filling all Sub-Overseerships, falls very hard on many hard-working men who, though not scholars; are, from experience, perfectly capable of preparing materials, controlling workmen, and executing even considerable works, and who can now only be employed as temporary servants.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of November 1859.*

NELLORE.

Thinks it beneficial that the apprentices should learn their duties practically in the districts: doubts if the course of study at Madras, will fit young men for immediate charge of the duties of an assistant Overseer. Would much prefer his subordinates being young men such as his own apprentices with 3 or 4 years practical experience in the district, to those of high theoretical attainments, without any practical knowledge.

CUDDAPAH.

Cordially approves of the proposal of the Principal Civil Engineering College, but thinks the claims of apprentices who have been some time at the college, should be taken into consideration, and that they should not be discharged, unless altogether deficient in natural ability.

BELLARY.

Found the apprentices very useful, and objects to their removal from the district. Does not approve of the proposal of the Principal; considers the apprentices should not have been ordered down to Madras; but have been examined in their own districts. Finds, that from the present system, the old useful class of maistries, men of experience, natural ability, shrewdness, and intelligence, are disappearing: and in their place will come the clever brahmin, learned theoretically, but who will not touch a spade or a trowel.

KARNUL.

Considers that the system proposed is calculated to fill the lower grades, Department Public Works, with men of a low standard of abilities, and superficial knowledge, possessing few of the requisites for a useful and efficient Sub-Overseer.

CHINGLEPUT.

Sees no objection to the course proposed by the Principal.

NORTH ARCOT.

Thinks the system proposed will be beneficial to the Civil Engineering College: and has no objections to urge to the proposal.

SOUTH ARCOT.

Has no objection to urge to the proposal of the Principal Civil Engineering College.

TANJORE.

Deems the abolition of apprentices inexpedient: because, if judiciously selected after education in the provincial schools, and they should be eventually unable to pass the examination for subordinate grades of Department Public Works, they may at any rate pass the uncovenanted service examination, and become accountants or estimate-makers. And even if unable to pass any examination at all, a well trained apprentice, may, with advantage, be employed as a temporary servant. They are of great use in the District Engineer's office: and that they have not come up to the required standard, he attributes to their being entertained at too early an age.

TRICHINOPOLY.

Considers the measure proposed unjust to the district candidates: thinks that hitherto they have been too often relatives or friends of the writers, &c., but that the new rules of examination will prevent this. If the apprentices, now in the college, are such; and fail to pass: they should be sent back. He is not an advocate for educating apprentices in the Civil Engineering College; prefers teaching lads himself; and combining practice with theory; but thinks that District Engineers should have power to dismiss an apprentice who proved idle or deficient. Considers the plan proposed by the Principal calculated to furnish only Madras boys.

MADURA.

Considers the present system of apprentices might be abolished, but would retain the practice of District Engineers being allowed to bring forward young men, who pass the test of the Principal Civil Engineering College, circulated with proceedings on 25th May 1859. Their introduction by the District Engineer, gives them confidence, without which they would shrink from subjecting themselves to the difficulties and expenses attendant on going to the Presidency for a competitive examination—and consequently none but sons of residents, at or near Madras, would be appointed.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of November 1859.*

TINNEVELLY.

Considers the entertainment of apprentices as at present of little use: their pay is too small for them to march about much to the works. District Engineers and Executive Officers have little leisure to teach them; and their time is generally occupied in copying letters, reports, &c.

COIMBATORE.

Would approve of proposal: if, after qualifying theoretically at the college, their instruction was continued practically in the districts; until, by vacancies, they were absorbed into the department. But would rather advocate retaining the system of apprentices, modified by new rules, to correct defects by greater care in selection; fair examination in regard to education, and character; provision for a regular course of study; periodical examination of progress; requirement of obligation to continue serving in the department; right to demand a certificate of qualification for permanent employment, after passing the examination, &c. The practice of having apprentices in the district will secure men afterwards familiar with the district, which is of great importance.

SALEM.

Concurs in the proposal of the Principal Civil Engineering College.

CANARA.

Does not consider that the plan proposed by the Principal will tend to improve the race of Sub-Overseers; sees no reason why men trained in the district should not pass the same examination as the college students. He has one instance in his office now of an apprentice, having obtained a certificate of Sub-Overseer from the Principal Civil Engineering College. Each District has its peculiarities; and these men can best be trained for the duties they will afterwards be called on to perform; and it gives the District Engineer the opportunity of fully knowing the capabilities of all his subordinates. Views the summary discharge of the apprentices as a hardship.

MALABAR.

Thinks the existing rules for examination are such that apprentices will not be likely to get into the department, or office establishments, unless they pass through the college; and would limit the number of apprentices to such as the college can accommodate.

No. 117.

ORDER THEREON, 9th November 1859, No. 2626.

1. In this letter the Chief Engineer submits remarks on the order of Government approving of the recommendation of the Principal of the Civil Engineering College that the practice of taking apprentices in the districts should be abolished. Colonel Bell states that many of the District Engineers are averse to the proposed measure; and he expresses his own opinion to the same effect, on the ground that Captain Winscom's plan would exclude youths of distant districts from the department, and would lead to the admission of an undue proportion of young men from Madras and its vicinity; he therefore advocates a recurrence to the system of taking apprentices, but under certain rules which he details.

2. The Government admit the force of the objections stated by Colonel Bell against the plan of making a Central College at the Presidency, the chief means of training men for the subordinate branch of the department; but they observe that the alternative system was condemned after ample trial. They entertain strong doubts as to the efficiency of any system of education and training, which depends for success on the attention and supervision of officers whose main duty is of a totally different character, and who can but rarely be expected to feel much interest in the instruction of youth. Before coming to a final decision however, the Government desire to give full consideration to the matter; and they will be glad to receive any suggestions that Colonel Bell may have to offer as to the means of obviating the cause of inefficiency above noticed as attaching to the plan of provincial training. In reporting on this subject, it will be proper that the Chief Engineer should notice the probable number of subordinate servants to be yearly required, and the ability of the Presidency College to supply that number.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

Govt. Litho. Press of Central Office of P. W.
Fort St. George, 11th June 1859.

N^o XXVII of 1859-60.

Circular.

Memorandum.

1 With reference to the Notification at page 1124 of the Gazette of the 3rd of June 1859, the Principal of the Civil Engineering College has addressed the Chief Engineer on the subject of the present system of entertaining stipendiary apprentices in the Districts, observing that the School will no longer admit the established number of these apprentices, 54, its own number being limited to 40, of whom 20 are to be European Soldiers, and others should be paying students.

2 The Principal, considering also that the apprentices have been found, for the most part, very deficient in natural ability, advises the abolition of the system of entertainment for the purpose of applying the stipends to augmenting those of the more deserving school pupils.

3 Should this be done, District Candidates for admission to the School, and eventual employment in the Department, will still be obtained under the system of examination established in para: 3 of the Notification.

4 Before deciding upon the proper course to be recommended to Government, the Chief Engineer wishes to have the opinion of the District Engineers as to the expediency of the measure recommended by the Principal; the result of which, if it is adopted, will be, that there will be no longer any apprentices at their disposal, and that many, if not most of those now entertained will be discharged.

5 The District Engineers will understand from the terms of the Notification and from the foregoing remarks that if the apprentices are retained, they cannot, except a limited number,

number, be educated at the School, and that therefore there will be small probability that those who have not this advantage, will obtain admission to the permanent Department. But they might still find employment as temporary servants, even if they could not qualify themselves in the Districts.--

J. A. Bell *Lieut. Colonel,*
Chief Engineer.

To
All District Engineers.--

9
Central Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 3^d October 1859.

N^o 5706

From, *For the Chief Engineer.*
The Chief Engineer.
To, *The Secretary to Government.*
The Secretary to Government.
Public Works-Department.

Sir,

With reference to the orders of Government noted in the margin, approving of the recommendation of the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, for abolishing the system of taking Apprentices in the Districts; I have the honor to request the favor, of your bringing the following remarks under the consideration of Government; and to report, that, pending the result of this reference, I defer communicating to the District Engineers the order referred to.

2.
N^o 324. 6th June 1859. On the receipt of Captain Winscom's letter, suggesting the discontinuance of Apprentices in the Districts, and that the money allowed for their maintenance should be appropriated, for improving the position, and

N^o 2222. 15th September 1859. para 10.

Encl. 2
1 Circular No 27.
1 Comm. No 10.

1859 the last month

Enclosure 2 in a letter from
The Chief Engineer to the Secretary
to Government, the last month 1859.
N^o 5706

0002582/59

Circular N^o XXVII

4th June 1859.

and encouraging the most deserving students in the College; I addressed a circular to all District Engineers, of which a copy is enclosed, calling for their opinions on this measure prior to my offering any suggestion thereon to Government. Their replies have just now been all received, and a summary of them is enclosed. From a perusal thereof it will be perceived that many District Engineers are opposed to the plan recommended by the Principal Civil Engineering College; and among the number are Officers, whose standing and experience gives considerable weight to their opinions; and I beg to add, that, for the following reasons, all of which are assigned by one or more District Engineers, I am myself in favor of the system of maintaining Apprentices in the Districts being continued; but under a set of rules (some of them new) to be hereafter detailed.

3. I consider that the system advocated by the Principal of the Civil Engineering College would in a great measure tend to prevent the youths of distant Telugu and Tamil Districts obtaining admission into the Department, and would lead to the admission of an undue proportion of young

11
young men from Madras and its neighbourhood, in consequence of the reluctance of this class of persons to isolate themselves early in life from their homes: and to bring themselves forward as Candidates at a Competitive Examination.

4. I quite agree with the District Engineers of Ganjam, Nellore, Godavery Division, Coimbatore & Trichinopoly, that there are many advantages attending the old plan by which the Apprentices are in a manner under practical instruction; and I am of opinion, that young men receiving this training, combined with the theoretical knowledge required, to entitle them to a Certificate of qualification as Assistant or Sub Overseers, are better calculated to become efficient Members of the Subordinate Grades; than those, entirely without practical knowledge, though their theoretical professional attainment may be of a higher order.

5. I would therefore recommend the old Establishment of District Apprentices being continued, under the following rules, which are, for the most part, the original suggestions of the District Engineer of Coimbatore who has entered very fully into the subject, apparently after careful consideration

consideration.

- I That all vacancies for Apprentices shall be filled up after a public Examination, under the immediate direction of the District Engineer, in order to secure a certain extent of education prior to entertainment. Vide Clause XI.
- II That one month's clear notice of this examination shall be given in the District Gazette or by other means made as public as possible.
- III That the most distinguished Candidates at the Examination shall, if in all other respects unobjectionable, get the vacant situation, provided he comes up to the test.
- IV That the District Engineer shall, until after the examination, as far as practicable, scrupulously avoid becoming acquainted with the names, the family connection, the Religion or Caste, of the Candidates.
- V That, after the Examination, and before entertainment, the Candidate shall furnish a Medical Certificate in the prescribed form, and one of general character to the satisfaction of the District Engineer.
- VI That the District Engineer shall be prohibited from employing Apprentices in their

- their Offices to such an extent as will interfere with their learning their business; but that their occasional employment as Clerks and Accountants is unobjectionable.
- VII That the District Engineers shall be required to examine the Apprentices once a year, and to recommend for Discharge; any, who through idleness or want of ability, do not make proper progress in qualifying.
 - VIII That an Apprentice failing to pass the prescribed examination, for Assistant or Sub Overseer at the end of his term of Apprenticeship. 4 years, shall be discharged; though he will be eligible for appointment as a Draughtsman, Estimate maker, Accountant, &c., on passing the examination laid down for those classes.
 - IX That an Apprentice having passed as Assistant or Sub Overseer shall have his stipend continued, until he can be provided, on a vacancy occurring, with a situation.
 - X That these rules shall not prevent an Apprentice, who is able and desirous of doing so, from entering the Civil Engineering College, for the purpose of qualifying there as Assistant or Sub

Sub Overseer.

XI The Examination to be passed by Candidate shall be the same as that decided upon for testing soldiers for entry into the College, viz^t an acquaintance with the four simple and compound Rules of Arithmetic, proportion, vulgar and Decimal fractions and the extraction of the Square Root, with ability to write English from dictation with tolerable accuracy and compose an English letter.

b. In the event of the Government approving of this recommendation and the adoption of the rules as above, it would be only fair towards the Apprentices, who were recently dismissed at the recommendation of the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, as being unlikely to prove useful men in the situations of Assistant or Sub Overseers, that all who can furnish Medical Certificates and satisfactory evidence to general character, shall be re-entertained, if recommended by District Engineers, and shall be afforded

afforded a further opportunity of qualifying for permanent service.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

M. L. Lott
Chief Engineer

Central Office of P.M.
Fort Saint George }
3^d October 1859. }

Captain
App^t to the Chief, Engr^s

By James M. Smith

W.

Considers the measure proposed unjust to the District Candidates. Thinks that hitherto they have been too often relatives or friends of the writers &c, but that the new rules of examination will prevent this. If the apprentices, now in the college, are such, and fail to pass: they should be sent back. He is not an advocate for educating apprentices in the civil Engineering college; prefers teaching less himself; and combining practice with theory: but thinks that District Engineer should have power to dismiss an apprentice who proved idle or deficient. Considers the plan proposed by the Principal calculated to furnish only clerical boys.

Tichingopoly

10/10

Madura

Considers the present system of apprentices might be abolished. but would retain the practice of District Engineers being allowed to bring forward young men, who pass the test of the Principal Civil Engineering College circulated with Proceedings on 25th May 1859. Their introduction by the District Engineer gives them confidence without which they would shrink from subjecting themselves to the difficulties and expenses attendant on going to the Presidency for a competitive examination. and consequently more boys of Parents at or near Madras would be appointed.

Sincerely

P. H. M. 16: 10/10/59. 10/10/59

10/10/59. 10/10/59. 10/10/59

from the Chief Engineer
to the Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept.

Letter 3 } October 1859.
Recd. 3 }
No. 700

Enclosure 2

Submitted for consideration
and approval certain rules
proposed generally to the
regulations made by several
District Engineers in the
regard to the entertainment
of apprentices in the
District.

No. 116.

Sub. C.
C. 21 October 1859. 10/10/59
C. 5/10/59

Considers the entertainment of apprentices as at present of little use: their pay is too small for them to mangle about much to the work. District Engineers and Executive Officers have little leisure to teach them: and their time is generally occupied in copying letters reports &c. —

Would approve of proposal if, after qualifying theoretically at the College, their instruction was continued practically in the Districts; until, by vacancies, they were absorbed into the Department. But would rather advocate retaining the system of apprentices, modified by new rules, to correct defects by greater care in selection; fair examination in regard to education, and character; provision for a regular course of study; periodical examinations of progress; Requirement of obligation to continue serving in the Department; Right to demand a Certificate of qualification for permanent employment after passing the examination &c. The practice of having apprentices in the District will secure men afterwards familiar with the District, which is of great importance

Salem

17
Summary of replies from District Engineers to Circular No. XXVII of 1859/60 relative to discontinuing Apprentices in the Districts and appropriating their stipends to the Civil Engineering College. —

(Ponniam)

Considers the present system ought not to be abolished: thinks there are more opportunities in the Districts than at the College, for acquiring knowledge of surveying, levelling, Road making, bridge and house building: thinks the system of compelling apprentices to study at the College is hard and discouraging. —

(Vizadapatam)

Fully approves of Captain Winscom's proposal. —

(Godavery)

Rajahmundry
Masulipatam

Considers that there are certain cases, as the Railway Workshops, and those of Krishna and Godavery Division, where apprentices can be trained in mechanical Engineering to much greater advantage than at the College in Masulipatam. This training will provide a most important branch of Artificers and afterwards of foremen and Supervisors so much wanted: that they ought not to be excluded from the

the Department in favor of the College scholars.

Considers the proposal of the *Kistia* *Puntoon*

Principal wrong to dismiss the apprentices because their capacities for learning have not come up to the standards of the Principal: and inexpedient because the system is to fill the Department with Europeans and highly crammed Tamil boys to the prejudice of the Celoogo youth. Thinks the present system of filling all sub Overseerships, falls very hard on many hard working men who though not Scholars, are, from experience, perfectly capable of preparing materials, controlling workmen, and executing even considerable works. And who can now only be employed as temporary servants.

Thinks it beneficial that the apprentices

should learn their duties practically in the District. Doubts if the course of study at Madras will fit young men for immediate charge of the duties of an Assistant Overseer. Would much prefer his subordinates being young men such as his own apprentices with 3 or 4 years practical experience in the District to those of high theoretical attainments without any practical knowledge.

Cuddapah

Cuddapah.

19
Cradially approves of the proposal of the Principal Civil Engineering College. but thinks the claims of apprentices who have been some time at the College should be taken into consideration and that they should not be discharged unless altogether deficient in natural ability.

Bellary

Found the apprentices very useful, and objects to their removal from the District. Does not approve of the proposal of the Principal; Considers the apprentices should not have been ordered down to Madras, but have been examined in their own districts. Finds that from the present system, the old useful class of Maistries men of experience, natural ability, shrewdness, and intelligence, are disappearing. And in their place will come the clever Brahmin, learned theoretically, but who will not touch a spade or a Trowell.

Kurnool.

Considers that the system proposed is calculated to fill the lower grades D.P.W. with men, of a low standard of abilities, and superficial knowledge, possessing few of the requisites for useful and efficient sub Overseers.

Chingleput

See no objection to the course proposed
by the Principal. —

Thinks the system proposed will be
beneficial to the Civil Engineering College and has no
objections to urge to the proposal. —

It has no objection to urge to the
proposal of the Principal Civil Engineering
College

Deems the abolition of apprentices
unexpedient: because, if judiciously selected after
education in the Provincial Schools, and they should
be eventually unable to pass the examination for
Subordinate grades of D.P.W., they may at any rate
pass the unexaminated service examination, and
become Accountants or Estimate makers. And even if
unable to pass any examination at all, a well trained
apprentice may, with advantage, be employed as a
temporary servant. They are of great use in the District
Engineer's Office: and that they have not come up to the
required standard. He attributes to their being entertained
at too early an age. —

Chief Clerk

North Arch

South Arch

Tanjore

Salem

Canara

23
Concurs in the proposal of the
Principal Civil Engineering College. —

Does not consider that the Plan
proposed by the Principal will tend to improve
the race of Sub Overseers. Sees no reason why
men trained in the District should not have the
same examinations as the College students. He has
one instance in his Office now of an apprentice
having obtained a Certificate of Sub Overseer from
the Principal Civil Engineering College. Each District
has its peculiarities; and these men can best be
trained for the duties they will afterwards be called
on to perform; and it gives the District Engineer
the opportunity of fully knowing the capabilities of
all his subordinates. Views the summary discharge
of the Apprentices as a hardship.

Malabar

Thinks the existing rules for
examination are such that Apprentices will not
be likely to get into the Department, or Office
Establishments unless they pass through the
College: and would limit the number of Apprentices
to

to such as the College can accommodate. -

Central Office of P.W.

Fort Saint George

3rd October 1855.

A. L. L. Lieut Colonel
Chief Engineer

10. 11. 17

Summary of replies from
District Engineer of Madras
of 1859/60 relative to the
Apprenticeship in the
Civil Engineering College

1859/60

Enclosure 1, in a letter from
the District Engineer to the Secretary
to Government, dated 17th July 1859
at No. 3 P.O. to the Secretary to
Government

10. 11. 17

Public Works Dept.
No. 17

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the October 1859

Read the following
letter from the Chief Engr.

Submits for consideration
and approval certain rules
prepared agreeably to the sug-
gestions made by several
District Engineers with regard
to the entertainment of appren-
tices in the Districts.

P. In this letter the
Chief Engineer submits
remarks ~~on~~ the
order of Government ap-
proving of the recommend-
ation of the Principal
of the Civil Engineering
College for abolishing the
practice of entertaining apprentices
for instruction under the District
Engineers. Colonel Bell
states that many of the
District Engineers ~~are~~
are

10. 11. 17
12. 11. 17
13. 11. 17
14. 11. 17
15. 11. 17
16. 11. 17
17. 11. 17
18. 11. 17
19. 11. 17
20. 11. 17

2. The Government admits the force of ~~the~~
~~an~~ ~~idea~~ of the
stated by Col. Hall arising from the
objections which may be
brought against the
idea of making a Central
College at the Presidency, as ~~stated~~
the chief means of train-
ing men for the subor-
dinate

29

Subordinate branch of
the Department, but ~~on~~
the whole, they consider
that the advantages of
that course predominate
over those offered by the
opposite system of ~~instruction~~^{giving}
~~stands to~~ pupils to be
trained under the
local Engineer officers.
They must therefore de-
cline to accede to the
present recommendation,
but they will be ready
to give full consideration
to any suggestions that
may be offered by
Colonel Bell for di-
minishing the evils which
he points out in the
Central College system,
either by supplying or
augmented means of
practical instruction
and

cause of inefficiency alone
~~early on. Truly however~~
regards as attaching to the
~~the management under the~~
plan of provincial
training. In reporting on



~~Crescent -
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c 25th October R 31st R 2nd Nov C 5th R 8th

Public Works Dept
31

No 2626
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 9th November 1859.

Read the following
Letter from the Chief Engineer.

Submits for consideration
and approval certain rules
prepared agreeably to the sug-
-gestions made by several
District Engineers with regard
to the entertainment of appren-
-tices in the Districts.

Part 1. In this letter
 the Chief Engineer submits
 remarks on the order of
 Government approving
 of the recommendation
 of the Principal of the
 Civil Engineering College
 — that — the practice
 of taking apprentices
 in the District should
 be


 M. G. Ball

be abolished. Colonel
Bell states that many of
the District Engineers are
averse to the proposed mea-
sure; and he expresses his
own opinion to the same
effect, on the ground that
Captain Winscomb's plan
would exclude youths of
distant districts from the
department, and would
lead to the admission of
an undue proportion of
young men from Madras
and its vicinity; he there-
fore advocates a recurrence
to the system of taking ap-
prentices, but under cer-
tain rules which he details.

The Government
admit the force of the objec-
tions stated by Colonel
Bell against the plan
of making a Central College
at the Presidency, the
chief

chief means of training
men for the subordinate
branch of the Department;
~~but~~ they observe that the alter-
native system ^{was} ~~has~~ been
condemned after ample
trial. They entertain
strong doubts as to the
efficiency of any system
of education and training,
which depends for success
on the attention and
supervision of Officers
whose main duty is of
a totally different charac-
ter, and who can but
rarely be expected to feel
much interest in the
instruction of youths.
Before coming to a final
decision however, the Govt
desire to give full con-
sideration to the matter,
and they will be glad
to receive any suggestions
that

that Colonel Bell may have
to offer as to the means of
frustrating the cause of
inefficiency above noticed
as attaching to the plan
of provincial training.
In reporting on this sub-
ject, it will be proper
that the Chief Engineer
should notice the probable
number of subordinate
servants to be nearly re-
quired, and the ability
of the Presidency College
to supply that number.

JA

Copies.
To The Chief Engineer C.P. 10

Public Works 1859 Deptth
Pro. of Govt 10th Nov.

No 2626.

Pro. of the Madras Govtth
D^g 9th Nov. / 59.

From the Chief Secy^r D^g 13th
April / 60 C^g 919 in R^o 11th May
No 977.

Special Commission
Observing that the
system of taking apprentices
in the Districts was condemned
after ample trial.