M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-8-37.

(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair 21-4-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.
Cec/573/58

G.O. No. 538 Press
Mis.
21.22
Dated 1 — 3 — 1858.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 15th March 1859.

No. 21. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 17th February 1859, No. 7975.

SIR,

I learn from the orders of Government, No. 381 of the 15th Instant, that without any communication with myself, to whom, our relative positions being had in regard, so small a measure of customary courtesy might seem due, and apparently without full, or perhaps any inquiry of his own, the principal of the Civil Engineering College, Captain Winscom, has reported to Government that Peeragoundah has been appointed an Assistant Overseer of the D. P. W., in contravention of the orders of Government of the 7th May 1858.

2. On referring to the rule said to have been violated, as given in page 845, of the Fort Saint George Gazette, I am so unfortunate as to be unable to discern its relevancy to the appointment of Peeragounda to be an Assistant Overseer of P. W.

3. Apparently the order in question bears exclusive reference to that unfortunate class of men who, through the pressing exigencies of the State, having been summarily dismissed from their employment in the D. P. W., were prohibited from re-employment, whatever their claims, or howsoever valuble their practical experience and efficiency in the management, direction and control of Native labor, unless during their performance of Military duties, and whilst subject to all the vicissitudes of Regimental life, they shall have qualified themselves to obtain a Certificate from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College.

4. When Captain Winscom has had recourse to so extreme a measure as to accuse an Officer so greatly his senior in rank and standing as myself of direct violation of regulation, I lose confidence in my position, secure and impregnable as it seemed, and as it still appears to me to be. But I really do altogether fail to see in what manner the nomination of Peragounda to be an Assistant Overseer is a breach of any of the orders by which it is my duty to be guided.

5. Peeragounda (see page 31 of last printed List of D. P. W.,) entered the service on the 3rd November 1839, or more than 19 years ago, and in what manner his late well merited preferment has become a grievance to the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, I cannot so much as conjecture.

6. I venture to trouble the Government with Extracts from the last Confidential Reports regarding Peragounda, and beg leave to add, that on finding the Northern Circle to be entitled by rotation to promotion, and it was only on remarking how completly Peeragounda's claims were corroborated by the local Officers, under whom he serves, that I admitted his name in the usual Recommendation Roll, submitted for the approval of higher authority.

7. I have rarely, perhaps never, been more perplexed than by finding that one of the functions of my Office, apparently easy of discharge, is liable to be objected to by a very junior Officer to myself, direct to Government and without any more reference to the Head of the Department, than when he made his application of the 20th March 1858, which surely could not have been injured, whilst it certainly might have been more carefully digested and matured, if before proposing so sweeping a condition, in many cases virtually prohibitive, he had taken pains to inform himself of its unavoidable action in individual cases.

8. My embarrassment is curiously increased on the present occasion by the scrutiny into which I have been led of the appointments recommended during the late incumbency of my locum tenens, Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford, and if Captain Winscom is to perform the Office of censor on the Chief Engineer's conformity to the orders of Government, it is certainly unintelligible why Peeragounda, who has never left the Department, should be objected to, whilst no whisper appears to have been raised against the following nominations, none of whom would seem to have qualified, either under para. 17, of Notification I of 23rd June 1857, or of 7th May 1858, viz.

M. Rungiah, vice Kennedy, 14th September 1858.
O. W. Palmer, Acting, vice Vardon, 9th November.
L. Cahill, vice Ryan, 3rd December.
H. Webb, vice Kennedy, 21st December.

Rungiah, Palmer and Webb, being like Peeragounda, members of the lower Subordinate Establishment, only that Palmer *was* one of the remanded men, and coming therefore under the rule of 7th May 1858; whilst as to Cahill, he had left the Department many years ago, for employment in the Straits, yet the laudable jealousy of the Principal for certificated fitness appears to be on the alert, only when vigilance is uncalled for and to slumber when scrutiny would seem to have been wholesome.

9. To conclude, para. 1 of Extract Minutes Consultation, 1741, of 27th August, expressly acquaints Major Lawford, that he had misread the orders of Government, as to qualifications which were only demanded from those "not in the Department." Notification No. 1., of 23rd June 1857, never has been applied to existing incumbents, and even such paras. as V & VI, of Notification 2, which have an avowed prospective action, have not been hitherto enforced in a single instance, I believe, and I know not but that I am amenable myself to the censure of Government for my own adoption of measures for carrying out orders so stringent and precise. As however the casting of doubts upon my correct discharge of duty whether by so junior an Officer, as Captain Winscom, or by others, is calculated to greatly impede and obstruct arrangements in themselves as unobjectionable, as I trust Peeragounda's has been shown to be, perhaps I shall not be deemed to seek a too large measure of support from the Government, if I respectfully solicit that the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, may be instructed to confer with me either personally or by letter, *before* taking up the time of Government by protests against arrangements in the D. P. W., especially as in the very case under consideration, for any thing Captain Winscom knew to the contrary, Peeragounda, might have been promoted under para. 42, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council having been pleased to dispense with all conditions.

Extracts from Confidential Reports of 1857-1858.

1857.

Peeragounda is a clever Maistry, zealous and willing in the discharge of his duties, is a sturdy, robust and healthy man.

1858.

Peeragounda has been employed for many years in the District—is a hard working and zealous man, particularly useful in superintending any masonry work.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, No. 538; dated 11th March 1859.

Orders will be passed respecting Peeragounda's promotion, when the general question of the application of the order of June 23rd, 1857, to persons already in the Department shall have been decided.

2. With reference to the tone of complaint assumed by Colonel Faber in this letter, when writing of that from the Superintendent of the Engineering College, the Governor in Council must remark that it is wholly out of place and unsuitable. Captain Winscom wrote that letter not as a member of the Corps of Engineers at all, but as Principal of the Engineering College. He acted quite correctly in addressing Government direct; and there is no reason whatever why his correspondence should pass through the Chief Engineer.

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

Central Office of P. W.
Fort St. George
17th February 1859.

No 7975

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Public

Sir,

I learn from the order of Government, No 381 of the 15th Instant, that without any communication with myself, to whom, our relative positions being had in regard, to Encl: 1 to enable a measure of customary courtesy might have due, & apparently without fault, or perhaps any inquiry of his own, the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, Capt. Winscom, has reported to Government that Peeragounda has been appointed an Asst. Overseer of the D. P. W. in Contravention of the orders of Government of the 7th May 1858.

2. On referring to the rules said to have been violated, as given in Page 845 of the Fort St. George Gazette, I am so unfortunate as to be amenable to

to discern the Relevancy to the appointment of Peragunda to be an Asst. Overseer of C. W.

3. Apparently the order in question bears exclusive reference to that unfortunate class of men who, through the pressing exigencies of the State, having been summarily dismissed from their employment and the D.W., were prohibited from re-employment, whatever their claims, or however valuable their practical experience & efficiency in the management, direction & Control of native labor, unless during their performance of military duties & whilst subject to all the vicissitudes of regimental life, they shall have qualified themselves to obtain a Certificate from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College.

4. When Capt. Vincent has had recourse to so extreme a measure as to accuse an Officer so greatly his senior in rank & standing as myself of direct violation of Regulations, I have Confidence in my position, secure & unsingnable as it seemed, & as it still appears to me to be. But I really do altogether fail to see in what manner the nomination of Peragunda to be an Asst. Overseer is a breach of any of the orders by which in any duty

to

to be guided.

5. Peragunda's own page 13 of last furnished list of D.W.'s entered the Service on the 3 Nov. 1839, or more than 19 years ago, & in what manner his Capt. has settled precedence between his seniors as grievance to the Principal of the Civil Engineering College; I cannot so much as Conjecture.

6. I venture to trouble the Government with Extracts from the last Confidential Reports regarding Peragunda & beg leave to add that on finishing the Northern Circle he was entitled by rotation to promotion & it was only on remarking how Conspicuously Peragunda's claims were corroborated by the Local Officers under whom he served, that I admitted his name in the usual Recommendation Roll submitted for the approval of higher authority.

7. I have surely, perhaps never, been more perplexed than by finding that one of the functions of my office, apparently easy of discharge, is liable to be objected to by a very junior Officer to myself, direct to Govt. & without any more reference to the Head of the Department, than where he made

his

his application of the 20th March 1858 which surely could not have been rejected, whilst it certainly might have been more carefully digested & matured, if before proposing to annexing a Condition, in many Cases virtually prohibitive, he had taken pains to inform himself of its unavoidable action in individual Cases.

8. My embarrassment is extremely increased on the present occasion by the scrutiny into which I have been led of the appointments recommended during the late incumbency of my lamented Seniors, Lt Col. Lawford, & of Capt. Vansomer to be performing the Office of Censor on the Chief Engineers Conformity to the orders of Government, it is certainly unintelligible why Peragounda, who has never left the Department, should be objected to, whilst no objection appears to have been raised against the following nominations, none of whom would seem to have qualified either under Para. 17 of Notification 1 of 23d June 1857 or of 7th May 1858, viz.

Lt. Plunkett vice Kennedy 4th Sept. 1858

Lt. Plunkett vice Ryan 3d Dec.
Lt. Cahill vice Kennedy 21st Dec.

Plunkett, Palmer & Webb, being like Peragounda members of the Lower Subordinate Establishment, only that Palmer was one of the Remanded men, & Cunny therefore under the rule of 7th May 1858; whilst as to Cahill, he had left the Department many years ago for employment in the Straits, yet the laudable jealousy of the Principal for certificated fitness appears to rest on the alert only when vigilance is uncalled for & to slumber when scrutiny would seem to have been wholesome.

9. To conclude, Para 1, of C in C 1711 of 27th August expressly acquaints Major Lawford that he had misread the orders of Govt. as to qualifications which were only demanded from those "not in the Department". Notification No 1 of 23d June 1857 never has been applied to existing incumbents, & even such paras. as V & VI of Notification 2, which have an armed prospective action, have not been hitherto enforced in a single instance I believe, & I know not but that I am amenable myself to the Censure

of Govt. for my own adoption of measures for carrying out orders so stringent & precise. As however the Casting of doubts upon my Correct discharge of duty whether by so junior an Officer as Capt.n Wincomm, by others, is Calculated so greatly unfriendly to abstract arrangements in themselves as unobjectionable as I trust Paragraph 42 has been shown to be, perhaps I shall not be deemed so acting as too large measure of support from the Government if I respectfully solicit that the Principal of the Civil Engineering College may be instructed to Confer with me either personally or by letter, before taking up the time of Government by protests against arrangements in the D. of W., especially as in the very Case under Consideration, for any thing Capt.n Wincomm knows to the Contrary, Paragraph 42 might have been promoted under para: 42, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council having been pleased to dispense with all Conditions.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed.t Servant
A. Taber Col.
Chief Engineer

Central Office of W.
Fort St. George
17th February 1857.

Cons: 15th February 59 No. 6061.

DM 1859 Department
Do to Cons: 15th March.
No. 383

From,
The Chief Engineer

To,
The Secretary
to Government Public

Dated 17
Rec'd. 17 } February 1859.

No. 1975

Enc: 1

Affording the explanation called for regarding the appointment of Purugounda as Sub Overseer.

S&Est. 538. 11th March 59.

No. 21.

C24 15th Feby 59 8 March

S-Nº 5380 P.W.D

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 11th ~~February~~ March 1859.

Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer

(Here enter 19th Feby/59 at 7975)

Orders will be
passed respecting Peera-
goundas promotion
when the general ques-
tion of the application
of the order of June 23rd
1857 to persons ~~in~~ already in the De-
partment shall have
been decided.

2. With reference
to the tone of complaint
assumed by Colonel
Faber in this letter,
when writing of that
letter from the

Enclosure in a letter from the Chief Engineer.
No. Pub circular
Establishments

Dated 19th February 1859.
Rec'd

Ans 19/2/59

Extract from confidential
Register of 1857 and 1858.

Superintendent of the
Engineering College
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] the Governor in
Council mustre.
= mark that it is
wholly out of place
and unsuitable. Capt.
= Lain Winscom wrote
that letter not as a
Member of the Corps
of Engineers at all, but
as Principal of the En.
= gineering College. He
acted quite correctly
in addressing Government
direct, and there is no
reason whatever why
his correspondence
should pass through
the Chief Engineer.

10 Dupuis to Hue Asst Engr Dist 12th
Dy Off Civ & Mr. Engrs