M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair 20-9-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cac 15/8/59

G.O. No. 548 Press / Mis.

4041

Dated 12—3— 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

Read again letter from the Officiating Chief Engineer, dated 13th December 1858, and recorded in Diary to Consultation, 11th January 1859, No. 50.

No. 40. Read also the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 18th January 1859, No. 7113.

SIR,

I have the honor to acquaint the Government in reply to their orders, No. 50 of the 6th Instant, that whilst the Bengal Code is silent in respect to the precise point mooted in para. 1, yet that regarding para. 2 it is stated in the Bengal Code (chapter II, para. 45 page 252,) that all Europeans indiscriminately are required to possess a fair colloquial knowledge of the local vernacular wherever employed, whilst no course of observance is prescribed towards those who may have passed the examination *after* Departmental employment, of the standard laid down.

2. It would seem hence to be inferred that in point of fact no Subordinate is ever permanently confirmed in his Bengal appointment until he has the lingual attainments considered requisite for an effective discharge of duty.

3. Special instructions irrespective of the Bengal Code appear therefore, to be very necessary on this most important point, as to what is to be the future practice in the Madras Presidency, especially as it may be said (especially in reference to both the Covenanted Civil Engineers and Overseers, and the Uncovenanted Assistant Engineers appointed by Government in 1855) that the 14th para. of G. O. G. of 3rd February 1857, has been suffered to become practically a dead letter, enforced I believe in only a single case, to the exclusion of Captain Barber, one of our best and most experienced Executives.

4. It is to be added, however, that the Covenants contain no special penalty for prolonged vernacular ignorance, but the clause making obedience to the orders of Government imperative may, without overstrained interpretation, be held I think, to include conformity to the instructions of Government regarding languages. At the same time, the general scope of the entire instrument is to secure the receipt of a definite monthly sum.

5. To conclude, I am of opinion that whatever forbearance might have been suitable in the early infancy of the present final Departmental organization, has with lapse of time and years, ceased to be appropriate now, and that whether by additional encouragement on the one hand, or by enforcement of penalties on the other, the period has now arrived when the lingual non-qualifications which prevail at present shall be authoritatively denounced and punished, except in those few yet undeniable cases, where it may satisfactorily be shown, that from Native incapacity to public servants, otherwise excellent, progress is impracticable, notwithstanding *attentive* and *prolonged study* under skilful instructors in the vernacular.

No. 41. ORDER THEREON, No. 548; dated 12th March 1859.

Para. 1. In his letter of the 13th December 1858 the Officiating Chief Engineer reported that Assistant Supervisor Conran had passed a very creditable examination in Telugu, and requested " that the honorary letter might be affixed to his name in the Departmental list," enquiring at the same time whether the same course was to be followed in cases of a similar character. In reply Colonel Lawford was informed that in " this, as well as in all other matters " connected with the Public Works Department the course prescribed by the Bengal Code " should be followed," and he was requested to consult that Code for the information he sought.

2. In the letter recorded above the Chief Engineer reports that the Code is wholly silent on the precise point in question ; and it therefore remains for this Government to pass a decision on it. The Governor in Council has now given the subject consideration and he is of opinion that the honorary prefixes contemplated will be useful both as an inducement to study and also as evidence of the acquirements of individuals. He accordingly resolves to refer the subject to the Chief Engineer and Board of Examiners, who will jointly consider the details

and report to Government. The details to be considered will include the following points; what prefixes shall be given, for what languages, and what degrees of proficiency; how the acquirements to be so certified shall be ascertained; and whether and with what modifications the system shall extend to East Indians and Natives as well as to Europeans.

3. With reference to para. 1 of the letter under review, the Governor in Council has to observe that the passage from the Bengal Code there quoted does not refer at all to the classes now under consideration, but solely to Assistant Engineers, and to the Vernacular examination to be passed by those Officers before being promoted to the grade of Executive Engineer.

4. Adverting to para. 3 of the Chief Engineer's letter, the Governor in Council regrets to learn that the order there referred to on the subject of a knowledge of the Vernacular tongues has been so little attended to, a result for which he must remark Colonel Faber himself is one party chiefly responsible. The Chief Engineer will now be pleased to report to Government what Officers are now in the Department who have not complied with the requirements of that order.

January 27, 1857, No. 211, para. 15, published in a G. O. G. dated February 3rd, 1857.

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

3B

No 7113

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George 18th January 1859.

From.
The Chief Engineer
To.
The Secretary to Government
Department of Pub Works.

Sir

Public

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2 It would seem hence to be inferred that in point of fact no Subordinate is ever permanently confirmed in his Bengal appointment until he has the lingual attainments considered requisite for an effective discharge of duty.

3 Special instructions irrespective of the Bengal Code appear therefore to be very necessary on this most important point as to what is to be the future practice in the Madras Presidency, especially as it may be said (especially in reference to both the Covenanted Civil Engineers and Overseers, and the Uncovenanted Assistant Engineers appointed by Government in 1855) that the 11th Para of G.O.C.C. of 3d February 1857 has been suffered to become practically a dead letter, unheeded I believe in only a single case to the exclusion of Captain Barber one of our best and most experienced Executives.

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punished, except in those few yet unavoidable cases, where it may satisfactorily be shown, that from native incapacity to public servants, other wise excellent progress so impracticable, and with the laudable attention and prolonged study, under skilful instructors in the vernacular.

Fort St George. I have the honor to be
18th January 1859 Sir
Your most Obedient Servt.

Col. Colonel
Chief Engineer

P. W. D

No. 5481

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 12th March 1859

Read again letter from the Offg Chief Engineer, dated 13th December 1858, and recorded in Diary to Cons. 11th January 1859 No. 50.

Read also the following letter from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 18th January 1859 No. 7113)

P. In his letter of the 13th December 1858 the Offg Chief Engineer reported that Assistant Supervisor Conran had passed a very creditable examination in Telugu, and requested "that the honorary letter "might be affixed to his name

Cons. 11th January 1859 No. 50.
→ 12th March 1859 No. 5481.
Copy in a Let. to Bd.
Dated 15th November 1858.

Rec'd March 1859
By Ltr. to Bd. P.W. Branch
No. 113

From
The Chief Engineer
Fort St. George
Dated 13th December 1858
Rec'd 18" January 1859
No. 7113
P.W. Branch

To Inform the Board of Conservancy that Assistant Supervisor Conran has passed a very creditable examination in Telugu, and requests that the honorary letter might be affixed to his name in the Gazette.

Apd.

c2. Punch 110 #-

name in the departmental
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time whether the same
course was to be followed
in cases of a similar
character. In reply Co
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The Governor in Council
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the Chief Engineer's letter, the Governor in Council regrets to learn that the order therein referred to on the subject of a knowledge of the Vernacular tongues has been so little attended to, a result for which he must remark Colonel Faber himself is one party or chiefly responsible. The Chief Engr will now be pleased to report to Govt. what Officers are now in the Department who have not complied with the requirements of that order.—

Jan 27/57 N° 211 Para 15 published in a G.O.G dated 7th July 3/57.

To Secy to the Govt of India Dept. of Public Works

Chief Engr

Copy in a Ltr to Govt
Dated 1th November 1859 No. 59.

Public Works 1859 Dept.
Dy. to Govt: 15th March

No. 548.
Extract Mins: of Govt:
Dy. 12th March 60.

From the Chief Engr. 1/54 4th March
& No. 775 in Govt.

From the Chf. Engr. 2/15.
Sept. 62 Cor 2797

Passing orders on a letter
from the Offg. Chief Engineer report-
ing that the Assist. Supervisor
Curran had passed examination
in Telugoo, requesting that the
honorary letter might be affixed
to his name in the Departmental
List and enquiring whether the
same course was to be followed
in cases of a similar character.

No 40 to 41.