

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1272

Press
Mis.

290.291

Dated

27-6-1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th June 1861.*

No. 290. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military
Department, dated 20th June 1861, No. 2,124 :—

*Requesting to communicate to Captain Priestley
the letter from the Inspector General of
Ordnance and Magazines protesting against
the measure of transferring Artizans trained
and qualified in the Ordnance Department to
the Survey Department.*

(Vide Military Proceedings, 20th June 1861,
Nos. 379—381.)

No. 291. ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1861, No. 1,272.

Ordered to be communicated to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey with reference to his
letter, dated 18th May 1861, No. 506.

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

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Dept.

Referring a letter from the Superintendent Revenue Survey, applying for the services of six Ordnance Artificers for appointment as Surveyors. } Here enter 1st June 1861, No. 1133.

Referred to the Inspector General of Ordnance for early report.
4th June 1861.

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, 13th June 1861, No. 41; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

With reference to the communication from Captain Priestley, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, recorded in Proceedings of Government, in the Revenue Department, No. 1133, dated 1st June 1861, forwarded to me for report.

I beg first to state, that the number of Carnatic Ordnance Artificers at present withdrawn

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, No. 750, dated 23rd February 1858, paragraph 3. from the Ordnance, for service in other Departments, is greatly in excess of the proportion authorised;—but,
"Not more than 10 per cent., shall be allowed to be employed away from the Company and still continuing to be borne on the Establishment."

irrespective of this, there are other and grave reasons for now discontinuing a system, which is as costly, as, since the formation of the Engineering College, it is unnecessary, and unreasonable.

2. I will endeavour, briefly, to place before Government, the grounds on which this assertion is based.

3. Government is aware that the Carnatic Ordnance Company is composed of men, who, in the first instance, taken at an early age as Pupils, are, at the cost of the State, educated, clothed, boarded and taught trades in the Gun Carriage Manufactory, for the express and special purpose of securing, for that important Establishment, a body of skilled Artificers.

4. The period that elapses before the Pupil is transferred to the Ordnance Company as an Artizan, is not less than five years;—and the cost of each Pupil during this time, averages something under 3,000 Rupees. The Pupil, when transferred to the Carnatic Ordnance Company, joins it as a skilled Carpenter, Smith, or Turner, and then is supposed, by the superior character of his labour, to make a return for the expense of his training.

5. When, therefore, a Carnatic Ordnance Artificer is transferred to the Revenue Survey, the whole of this costly special training as a Mechanic, is utterly ignored and lost to the State; and not this only, for, as on the withdrawal of a Carnatic Ordnance Artificer for the Survey Department, another Pupil is entertained in the Gun Carriage Manufactory in his place, the same education, and the same Mechanical training, for five years, have again to be gone through at the same public expense; nor does the cost of the measure end here,—for, under the authority

Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 1467, dated 27th April 1858. quoted in the margin, a native workman is entertained in the Gun Carriage Establishment at 21 Rupees a month, to perform the Ordnance

work of the withdrawn Artificer attached to the Survey, and this monthly charge continues, until the Pupil, after five years, is ready to take the absent Artificer's place. I am not therefore overstating the case, when I inform Government, that, for every Artificer transferred to the Revenue Survey, a charge of not less than 6,000 Rupees falls on the Ordnance Department; that is, an unnecessary charge to that amount falls on the State.

6. It is necessary here that I report to Government, that 18 Ordnance Artificers are now, under Captain Priestley's orders, attached to the Revenue Survey. That Officer, Government will observe, has received the most liberal consideration from the Ordnance Department.

Skilled Carpenters	10	Skilled Turner	1
" Smiths	3	" Armourers	4

7. I have used the terms *unnecessary* and *unreasonable*, as applied to this system of transfer of skilled Mechanics to a Revenue Survey:—unreasonable, because it seems an unintelligible proceeding to teach a man at great cost a trade, Carpenter, or Smith, for a special purpose, and then, because in the course of his general education he has picked up a smattering of Surveying, to ignore his special training, and make a Surveyor of him; and this is certainly unnecessary, because the Surveying class attached to the Engineering College, affords to Captain Priestley, the perfect means of obtaining employes for the Revenue Survey at one twentieth part of the cost of an Ordnance Artificer.

8. Many months since I personally communicated these views to Captain Priestley, and urged on that Officer the necessity of himself making some provision for the supply of young men for his Department, and suggested to him, that, the Engineering College would afford him the most ample means of meeting the requirements of the Survey; but, so long as Ordnance Artificers can be obtained on simple requisitions, no steps will, I apprehend, be taken to accomplish this object.

9. Captain Priestley states that equally efficient Surveyors cannot be obtained at the rates paid to the Carnatic Ordnance Artificers—true, if Captain Priestley refers to the mere Pay the man receives; but, if the total cost of the Artificer to Government be taken into consideration, there cannot be a graver misapprehension, than his remark implies.

10. Captain Priestley also informs Government that the Carnatic Ordnance Artificers do not seek other service as the five trained Surveyors alluded to have done—certainly not; for the Ordnance Artificers are enlisted men, and Government, when taking them as ignorant Boys for the purpose of educating and making them skilful workmen, justly stipulates for a given number of years' service; they can therefore only serve, where they are permitted, by authority, to serve.

11. In the above explanation, I have placed before Government my reasons for declining to transfer Ordnance Artificers to the Revenue Survey,—I now beg further to submit that the transfers in question act injuriously on the morale of the Carnatic Ordnance Company. An evil effect is caused by the facility of finding lighter and more remunerative employment out of the Ordnance Workshops; and men after having been temporarily employed on higher rates of Pay in other Departments, invariably return to Ordnance duties dissatisfied with their proper position and prospects. It disturbs a Company of trained Mechanics to have their thoughts and hopes turned away from their legitimate work in another and wholly foreign direction. Carpenters and Smiths can scarcely work cheerfully in the Gun Carriage Yard, when they see their Comrades taken away on the greatly increased Pay of the Survey Department.

12. Before the Establishment of the Engineering College, there may have been some grounds for these transfers; but now there would appear none.

13. I am so impressed with the importance of arriving at a decision on this question, that I venture to hope that Government will instruct Captain Priestley to adopt measures for training a body of Revenue Surveyors in the Surveying Class attached to the Engineering College; and I respectfully beg that a reference on this question may be made to Colonel Sir Arthur Cotton, and the Principal of the Engineering College.

14. I regret that Captain Priestley should have considered it necessary to refer to the case of Artificer Yates, whose services were applied for by the Commissioner at Nagpore through Government: in this instance, the Commissioner had no other means of obtaining the assistance he urgently needed for the Public works; but still, in this, as in all other cases, I yielded a most reluctant consent to the application.

ORDER, No. 2124, 20th June 1861.

The Governor in Council quite agrees with the views expressed by Colonel Simpson in the foregoing letter, which will be communicated to Captain Priestley, through the Revenue Department.

2. His Excellency is further of opinion, that it is unfair and unjust to the Ordnance Department, to deprive them of Artizans properly trained and qualified at the expense of the Government, merely because such Artizans may be better qualified than others for the Survey work.

3. Captain Priestley must have recourse to the Engineering College and train men for himself.

(True Extract.)

St. M. Marshall
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department. *With 10 spare Copies*
" Inspector General of Ordnance.
" Principal Civil Engineering College.
" Adjutant General, for information.

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

Dec 1881

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H. Y. August 27th C.M. 1924

To: Madam Justice
18th June 1964 C.W.G.57.

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Dec 10 1892*

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