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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2379	Press
397-328	Mis.
Dated 16-8-	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

P.A.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th August 1865.*

No. 397. Read the following Petition from the late Temporary Overseer Abboy Naidu, Mount:—

Prays for employment on the permanent strength of the Public Works Department. (Here enter 8th August 1865.)

No. 398. ORDER THEREON, 16th August 1865, No. 2,379.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 46.

The Government are unable to modify their Order No. 1,453, dated 30th May 1865. There is, however, no objection to Abboy Naidu's employment on the *extra* Establishment, on such salary as the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division may consider him to be deserving of.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To Abboy Naidu, with Plans.
To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

34
Ans address for your Memorial

To Abbot Naidu late temporary
 overseer of Govt. of Cochin
 Street Parithiacum

Mount

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE
SIR W. DENISON, K. C. B., GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
MADRAS.

The humble Memorial of the late Temporary Overseer ABBAY NAIDU, of the Horse Artillery Line, Mount Range, Public Works Department.

HUMBLY SHOWETH,

That your Memorialist has come in possession, with a copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, P. W. D. dated 30th May 1865, No. 1453, with reference to the recommendation of Col. A. J. M. Boileau, R. E., Superintending Engineer 4th Division, on his behalf, that, "The Government regret, that Abboy Naidu's want of acquaintance with the English, precludes his entertainment on the permanent strength of the Department P. W."

2. That your Memorialist feels exceedingly sorry how Government have arrived to the above conclusion; though in fact he is not so perfect in it, yet his explanations of Plans, Estimates and other particulars of works, &c., entrusted to him for transaction have been carried out in that language, which have been not only always understood clearly, but gave full satisfaction to his superiors; the object of Government in introducing rules, for examination, is apparently, to secure for the service, efficient and scientific men; and your Memorialist submits that whatever may be his short-comings in English, his testified practical knowledge, as Builder, Draftsman, and Estimate-maker, are incontestably borne, testimony to, by Messrs. R. Kennedy, and W. Fraser, C.E., and Major H. N. D. Prendergast, (v. c.) R. E., Captain H. T. Rogers, R. E., and others; that as a demonstrative proof, of this fact, your Memorialist will only recall to your remembrance, the perusal of once more his different testimonials, herein enclosed; and particularly those of Mr. R. Kennedy, dated 6th February 1862 and 19th April 1864.

3. That the above referred, your Memorialist humbly thinks, will satisfactorily establish, his perfection, as Builder, Draftsman, and Estimate-maker; and in addition to such opinion, he begs to append, that Captain H. T. Rogers, R. E., says that; "He has been found unequal*;" hence his services, have been appreciated by all the Gentlemen under whom he came successively, to discharge his duties; moreover from the Proceedings of Government dated, 29th May 1865 No. 1159, it will be seen that Mr. W. Fraser, C. E., the present Special Executive Engineer, expressed, that he is not able

* Vide Letter No. 41 to the Suptg. Engineer 4th Division dated 20th May 1864.

to carry out, the water Project at Guindy Park, but concluding that if Abboy Naidu (your Memorialist) attached to the Guindy Park, be placed under his instructions, he might go on with it, during his (Mr. W. Fraser, C. E.,) absence; but Major H. N. D. Prendergast, (v. c.,) R. E., was unable to spare your Memorialist, being other-wise engaged on the important works, of the Horse Artillery Line, consequently, the work was transferred to Major H. N. D. Prendergast, (v. c.,) R. E., and certain portions of the work connected with it, have been brought to a close, under the Superintendence of your Memorialist.

4. That your Memorialist deems it, of the utmost importance to bring to notice here, of his accomplishing the difficult work about the Library-Room in the removal of the beams and pillars, there existing; when Col. C. A. Denison, inspected the building after the work was carried out, your Memorialist was recommended to a promotion. A Telegram was sent to that effect to His Excellency, then on the Hills, who then made enquires of his butler who was the Overseer, and said that it was not expected, the Library-Room could have been so desirably converted, that when His Excellency returned to Madras, this edifice was inspected and expressed his admiration and high appreciation, of your Memorialist's capacity.

5. That one and all the works of the most momentous and complicated nature, from 1857 up to the present date, have been executed by your Memorialist to the entire satisfaction of his superiors; he begs to state further, that innumerable persons, in the different Districts, formerly employed, as Maistries and Sub-Overseers in the Department have been promoted to Overseers on the organization of the D. P. W., they are entrusted with works of highest importance, which they have completed to the full satisfaction to their superiors, though they were greatly ignorant in English than your Memorialist, who therefore infers that English is not indispensably required, as to constitute qualification of a Maistry or Overseer; a perfect acquaintance with the art of building, being the only recommendation; in which respect, your Memorialist is fully supported, as one possessing "An excellent practical knowledge of building in all its branches and his high attainments, as a draftsman, render him very superior to the average of Overseers."

- * No. 1. Govt. House 3rd Story.
 " 2. Main Guard.
 " 3. Armoury Shop
 " 4. Gun House.
 " 5. Tool House.
 " 6. Gun Powder Magazine.
 " 7. Military Canteen.
 " 8. Married men's quarters.
 " 9. Lady Denison's room.
 " 10. Section of Powder Magazine.
 " 11. Gunner's House.

6. That for the inspection of His Excellency in Council Your Memorialist begs to forward herewith, the Plans, as per numbers noted in the margin*; that it is scarcely requisite, to solicit attention to them, as they will at once satisfy His Excellency in Council that they are prepared exactly on the English principles.

7. Your Memorialist was on various occasions, recommended by his superiors for a permanent employment, but was not succeeded; the amount of

works performed by him for the last 4 years comes to Rs. 126,000 as pointed out in the margin.† It is therefore indeed a source of infinite pain, to his feelings, that the mere inferential conclusion, of a "want of acquaintance with English," should now deprive him of his admission, in the service of Government; and that he firmly believes a Government so distinguished, for its justice and liberality, as the British Administration, will over-rule the objection by a reconsideration of his peculiar case.

8. The last and the most painful, which your Memorialist begs to lay before His Excellency in Council, is your Memorialist's services being dispensed with from 8th June 1865; without any provision whatever after having served in the Department for more than 9 years, as may be understood from the annexed Copy of the following order, given by Major H. N. D. Prendergast, (v. c.,) R. E.

"No. 91, Official Memo. Under instructions from Government No. 1347 dated 17th May 1865, received with the Superintending Engineer's Memo. No. 286 dated 20th May 1865, Overseer Abboy Naidu is informed that his services is dispensed with from the 8th June 1865."

Under these circumstances herein set forth, your Memorialist entreats sanction, for the enlistment of his name on the permanent strength of the D. P. W. as a special case.

For which he shall as in duty bound,

EVER PRAY.

Mount
8th August 1865

Abboy Naidu
Late Temporary Overseer

FROM
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
E. C. CANAL.

TO
THE ACTING DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MADRAS.

SIR,

2. I have now a man Acting as a Maistry at Homes Gardens' who is eminently fitted for such an Appointment. He is an excellent draftsman; and is thoroughly up to the work of the kind, that has to be done, viz., altering and embellishing houses; and although he is not a member of the Department, I would strongly recommend his appointment unless a man equally suitable, should be available. You have seen a specimen of his drawing in the work now under execution for Guindy, and he has got on with the building of Guard Rooms and Cutcherry and Homes Garden, with a rapidity, I have not seen equalled.

3. As to Superintending the work, I would as in duty bound, do all in my power so far as my other duties would permit. It is right, I should state, however that I know little or nothing of house Architecture, and decoration, having had to do only, with buildings for Machinery; consequently some one experienced in such work, would do it much better.

E. C. CANAL OFFICE,
ADYAR.
6th February 1862.

E. C. CANAL OFFICE,
RED HILLS,
8th June 1864.

I have the honor,
(Signed) R. KENNEDY,
Executive Engineer 3rd Class.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) W. FRASER, C. E.
Special Executive Engineer.

Abboy at present Overseer at Guindy, is the best native builder and draftsman combined, I have yet met with; and his work at Government House, Guindy Park, has been highly approved of. He is a Master of drawing and estimating, and is well skilled in directing labour. He worked under me about a couple of years, and I have been much interested in his progress. Since, I hope he will attain the position his abilities entitle him to

(Signed) R. KENNEDY,
Special Executive Engineer.

E. C. CANAL OFFICE,
VICTORIA HOTEL,
19th April, 1864.

No. 41.

TO

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

4th Division.

SIR,

With regard to the Extra Establishment required, to carry out the execution of the R. D. Project, I have the honor in the first place to suggest, that not only to ensure the successful execution of these works, but for the good of the Department generally, the services of Maistry Abboy Naidu, be secured by the only certain means, viz, by bringing him on to the permanent strength of the Department as a Taluq Overseer. His qualifications are special, viz, those of builder, and are therefore eminently suited, to the work of this Range of which, by far the greatest proportion, consists of execution of repairs to buildings (Military and Civil), I have no hesitation in saying, that in the constructions of and designing of buildings, very fair Overseers in the Department will be found unequal.

(True Copy.)

I have the honor,

(Signed) H. T. ROGERS,
Mount.

20th May 1864.

No. 93.

TO

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
4th Division.

SIR,

2. The merits of Abboy Naidu, have been set forth in Captain Roger's letter No. 41, dated 20th May 1864. I have much pleasure, in testifying his imminent qualifications for the Post of Taluq Overseer; he has never been on the permanent strength of the D. P. W., but has long been employed, as a Maistry, at Guindy; for fear of losing so able a man, it is necessary to keep up his pay, whether the work is going on or not; and this pay has to be charged in the next bills sent in.

3. Abboy Naidu was first employed by Mr. Kennedy, about 3 years ago, he does not remember the date, and the Records I believe are in the Canal Office. In February 1862, he was transferred to this Range, with a very handsome testimonial from Mr. R. Kennedy, and has since then, been employed at Guindy in building and all sorts of works, in addition to his duties there. He is now employed in the Battery Line's project mentioned above, and I shall consider it a matter for congratulation, if he can be placed on the permanent Establishment of the D. P. W. and retained in this Range.

MOUNT,

(Signed) H. N. D. PRENDERGAST, (v. c.) R. E.
Executive Engineer, Mount.

23rd June 1864

No. 92.

TO

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
4th Division.

SIR,

Abboy Naidu, now employed on the new Horse Artillery Lines project, has long been in the District, is an excellent man, and I should strongly recommend, his being placed on the permanent Establishment of the Department of Public Works, as Taluq Overseer of the Mount Range instead of Nairain Auchary.

(True Copy.)

I have the honor,

(Signed) H. N. D. PRENDERGAST, (v. c.) R. E.
Executive Engineer, Mount.

23rd June, 1864.

Abboy Naidu at present a temporary Overseer, employed in the Mount Range, has applied to me for a Certificate, to support his application, for permanent employment in the Department of Public Works. I have no hesitation in complying with his request, and can certify from personal knowledge, that he is thoroughly acquainted with every branch of building, and is one of the neatest and best draftsman I have ever met.

He has often applied and been strongly supported, by his superiors for permanent employment, but has not yet succeeded in obtaining it, owing to his ignorance of English language. I consider that if the rule regarding Examination conducted in English, can be relaxed as a special case, it should be relaxed in this case, not only on account of Abboy Naidu's great claims, but for the good of the Department itself, for I am perfectly certain that even taking his ignorance of English into account, his excellent practical knowledge of building, in all its branches, and his high attainments as a draftsman, render him very much superior to the average of Overseers.

(Signed) H. T. ROGERS, CAPTAIN, R. E.,
Acting Principal of the C. E. College.

CHEPAUCK,
5th May, 1865.

1865
No. 2379
The 23rd Aug 1865

from the late Com
Henry Pearson
Ally, London
Ally, London

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1865
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meant on the re
of the D. H. Dec.

2379-162 Aug 1865

With a note

2379
The Government are un

able to modify their order
No 1453, dated 30th May 1865

There is however, no objection

to Albany Vincent's employ-
ment on the Reche Lateral

ment on such railway as
the department in question

of the 4th Dec^r may consider
him to be deservin of

2379-162 Aug 1865

Ally, London

5 Aug 1865

2379-162 Aug 1865