

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department;
26th October 1865.

No. 676. Read the following letter from Mr. Sub-Engineer A. Colquhoun :—

Submitting certain correspondence between himself and the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division, and soliciting that the affix of *Esquire* may be conceded to members of the Sub-Engineer Grades, and that they may be allowed a seat by their superiors when calling on official business.

(Here enter 19th October 1865, No. 192.)

No. 677. ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1865, No. 3,229.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 58.

1. Recorded with reference to G. O. No. 3,059, dated 14th October 1865.

2. Mr. Colquhoun will be informed that

the circumstances do not justify his addressing Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 157. Raiding Range Office No 4
Camp Mirady
21st September 1865.

From

A. Chapman Esq.

To Sub Engineer D.P.M., Raiding Range No 4.

Captain A. H. Mahony R.E.
Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division

Sir,
It was with considerable regret
I observed that in my salary and travelling
allowance bills for July last, received about
the latter end of August, from the Controller's
Office, the affix of "Esquire" to my name was
scraped out in red ink, and the prefix of "Mr."
substituted, an alteration which I can scarcely
imagine has had your sanction, for the correction
does not bear your or any initials, nor were similar
alterations made in any previous or subsequent
Official documents, while it was only in that
same month (July) you kindly submitted, at
my request, intact my letter No 64 dated 19th July
to Government, which was printed and embodied
in Proceedings No 2213 of 2nd August 1865.

2
As the former mode of address
is accorded to other Sub Engineers in this Presidency,
and to Officers of equivalent rank and position
in other branches of the Unconquered Service, I have

the

the honor respectfully to solicit the extension of
this privilege to me also.

It has been accorded to me by the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State, His Excellency the Vice Roy
of India, His Excellency Sir W. Denison, other
high Functionaries, by the late District Engineer
of Panjam, and Superintending Engineer 4th Division
I have also invariably adopted it in all official
communications with Colonel Orr Secretary to
Government P.W. which have been laid before
Government, and to which no exception was even
taken by that Officer or His Excellency in Council.
In also His letter, in addition to numerous
Returns, to your address without ever eliciting any
expressed disapproval.

3. Government having, in order No 842
dated 25 April 1861, recognized the distinction
drawn between Sub. Engineers and the inferior grades
of the Upper Subordinate Establishment I feel
assured it will not stigmatize one branch of the
Service by denying it privileges accorded to
other branches, as this course would tend to lower
the grade of Sub. Engineers in the estimation of their
Compeers in the Public Service.

4. As the rank of Sub. Engineer is
conferred by the Government in Council alone, it
should, per se, give us a status on a level
with Uncannanted Officers occupying the
positions of Deputy Collector, Principal Sudder Ameen
Inspecting Post Masters and Inspectors 1st Class
in the Telegraph Department, to whom is accorded
the

privilege now solicited, and which in some Divisions
is extended to us.

5. I have been bred and educated respectably
in Europe. My late Father was a highly esteemed
Commissioned Officer, I have brothers and relatives
holding Commissions in Her Majesty's Service and
I cannot suppose Government will require me to
surrender my status and claims to consideration
and courtesy on admission into the P.W. branch of
its Service. In my personal interviews with His
Excellency the Governor, Colonel Orr, and other
Officers of Government, I have been always treated
with that courtesy and consideration which is held
to be the due of Officers in my position, consequently
I confess I felt bitterly mortified when I received
the Bills above alluded to, after their circulation in
the Controllers and my Office, as they must have
subjected me to unmerited ridicule.

6. It is true we do not possess, as do
Deputy Collectors, the Special "Imprimatur" of
Government conferring the affix of "Engineer" but
neither do Assistant Engineers, Officers in the Revenue
Settlement, Post and Telegraph Departments, Police
Magistrates, Sudder Ameen yet these Officers are not
denied this privilege.

7. May you will not understand to dissent
to the prefix of "Mr." but as respectfully appealing
against the manner in which the affix of "Engineer"
was treated. I am only soliciting permission to
be placed on the same footing as my Compeers
in the P.W. and other Departments of the Public
Service.

8. While on this subject, I may also be allowed to invite your generous consideration of another matter, tending directly to humiliate me in the eyes of my subordinates and inferiors, and which has given me much pain - I alluded to my not being granted a seat when holding personal official intercourse with you. I have never yet been denied by any officer this privilege - Even the distinguished Head of the Government Sir, W. Denison; and the most respected Secretary to Government ^{of} in the P.M.D. have always treated me with the consideration and courtesy - To be now kept standing (at times in the Verandah) in presence of Persons and office clerks, is not only subjecting me to an indignity incompatible with the position I occupy, but most derogatory to myself.

9. Inspectors of Police, in fact every officer holding a position of respectability, are allowed a seat, and I should be wanting in self respect if I omitted, with every deference, to claim your consideration of this matter.

10. It is with much reluctance I have ventured into these matters in an official letter. I should have preferred the medium of a demi official communication, but as I am prohibited from employing this means of addressing you, no alternative is left but to adopt the only course open.

11. I venture to believe you will, on the representation of the facts adduced above, accord me

the same privileges hitherto conceded to me, and now accorded to Sub Engineers in other Divisions, as well as to uncommissioned officers of equivalent positions in other branches of the Public Service.

12. Should you however be pleased to consider that I am neither entitled to adopt the affix of "Esquire" or to expect a seat, I shall feel much obliged if you will kindly refer the matter to Government, together with this letter, for their generous consideration and decision.

I have the honor to be
Signed A. Colquhoun Sub Eng.
Raiding Range No. 4.

[True Copy]
A. Colquhoun Sub Engineer
Raiding Range No. 4.

N. 1263.

B.

Superintending Engineer's Office!
Camp Sahuaikankessa
29th September 1865.

Memorandum.

In reply to letter No. 157 of the 21st Inst.,
the Superintending Engineer informs Mr. Colquhoun
that he will, as requested, submit for the
decision of Government the question as to
whether Sub Engineers have any right to claim
that the title of "Engineer" be affixed to their
names; or to claim a seat when calling on
official business.

2. The Superintending Engineer himself
considers that Sub Engineers cannot claim
either privilege, as they are members of the
Lower Subordinate Establishment of the B.N.E.
which also includes Supervisors and Overseers,
but he has no objection to granting a seat to
Mr. Colquhoun in the same manner that he
usually grants a seat to Tahildars &c.

Signed / A. S. Mahabby Captain R.E.
Superintending Engineer
3rd Division

(True Copy)

A. Colquhoun Sub Engg.
Raidang Range No. 3

4/7/65

Sept 17/65
Railway Range Office No. 4.
Camp Lallah.
6 October 1865.

From
A. Colquhoun Esq.
Sub Engineer & P.M.
Railway Range No. 4.

To
Captain A. S. Molerly R.E.
Superintending Engineer
3rd Division

Sir
In reference to your Memo No. 1268 of
29th Ultimo, I have the honor to state, that I
did not act in my letter No. 157 of 21st Ult.
that a reference should be made to Engrs.
ment as to whether Sub Engineers have any
right to claim that the title of "Engine" be
affixed to their names.

I solicited that I may be allowed
the privilege in common with other Sub Engineers
and commissioned officers in the Public
Service. That it had been accorded to me
by the Head of the Government and other
officials and that to deprive me of it in the
manner complained of, was subjecting me
to unwarranted ridicule. In para 7 of my letter
I requested that may be distinctly understood
that

P. M. 17/7/65.

that I was not demurring to the propriety of
Mr. Hunt as respectfully appealing against
the manner in which the affair of Equine was
treated in two particular documents only.

It is quite true that Engineers are
members of the upper subordinate establish-
ment which includes Supervisors and
Overseers. but Government themselves have
drawn a distinction, and our appointments
unlike those of Supervisors and Overseers
are conferred by the Governor in Council
alone, and we stand at the head of the
subordinate Department.

I shall feel much obliged if you
will be so kind as to submit my letter of
of 2nd ult. to Government as solicited in
para 12. for it shows the entire facts of my
case so necessary for a decision *ex aequo et*
bono being arrived at.

I have the honor to be dear
Sirs,
Signed / A. Colquhoun Sub Engineer
Raiding Range Dist.

(True Copy)

A. Colquhoun Sub Engg
Raiding Range Dist.

No. 1385 of 1865/66.

From
The Superintending Engineer
3^d Division

To
The Sub Engineer in charge of
Raiding Range Dist.

Dated 11th } October 1865.
Recd. 13th }

Subject.

Refers to letter No 174 of 7th ult. points
out that in the Docket of letters No 157 of 31st
ult. Mr. Colquhoun has distinctly used
the word "Claim," does not see in what other
way the application could be sent to
Government, as if the privilege is accorded
to one Sub Engineer it must be granted
to all. Declines to submit to Government
Mr. Colquhoun's letter as the question to
be decided cannot refer to one person
but to the whole grade of Sub Engineers.

Signed / A. S. Molerly Capt. R.E.
Superintending Engineer
3^d Division

(True Copy)

A. Colquhoun Sub Engg
Raiding Range Dist.

192
Railway Range Office
Camp Astymadogo
19 October 1865

From
A. Colquhoun Esq
Sub Engineer R.E.
Railway Range
Colonel W. A. O. R.E.
Secretary for Government
Fort St. George

I trust I shall be pardoned for what may appear to be a breach of official etiquette in addressing you direct in a matter affecting me personally, but as the Superintending Engineer declines to submit certain correspondence which I have twice retreated may be laid before Government for their generous consideration and decision, I venture to believe that the course I have been thus very reluctantly compelled to adopt is as to avoid further humiliation and ridicule in consequence of Captain Moberly having recently
ordered

9/11/77/165

ordered that the affair of Equino; in all letters passing out of his office only is to be scored out - will be regarded as a sufficient plea.

2. On the 21st September 1865 I addressed the Superintending Engineer letter No 157, Copy enclosed soliciting the privilege of being allowed to adopt the affair of Equino; in Correspondence, and a seat when holding personal interviews, as these privileges are accorded to Sub Engineers in other Divisions and to Undersecretary Officers of equivalent rank and position in the Public Service; and which have also been extended to me hitherto - because I felt certain Government would not stigmatize this branch of its service by denying it privileges conferred upon other branches, as such a course would tend to lower the grade of Sub Engineers. I complained of the manner in which the affair of Equino; was treated in two documents only forwarded to the Controller's Office, while it was allowed to go up to Government in my letter No 64 dated 19th July 1865, and to remain intact in

L.S. No 2213.
21 August 1865.

* para 8 of No 157.

in every other official paper from this office since 18th June last, and I invited Captain Robert by generous considerations to the humiliation I was subjected in having to stand, at times, in the Verandah, among and in presence of miscellaneous inferiors, when having occasion to call on official business.

I also expressly stated in para 7 that I did not demand the prefix of "Mr," but respectfully appealed against the manner the affair of Equino; was treated in documents which had to traverse the Controller's and my offices.

* Copy enclosed B.

To this letter I received in reply Memo No 263 dated 29th September 1865, in which I am informed that a preference will, as requested, be made to Government as to "whether Sub Engineers have any right to claim that the title of Equino; be affixed to their names, or to claim a seat when calling on official business." As I did not prefer any request of this nature, for I never viewed it as a right to claim - but simply as a privilege and courtesy already accorded, I again

addressed

addressed the Superintending Engineer
No. 174 of 6th Div. and in conclusion asked
that my letter No. 187 of 24th Oct. may be
submitted to Government for decision.
Copy enclosed C.

4. In this communication I received
Docket No. 1388 dated 11th Inst. in which
the Superintending Engineer viewing the
question as affecting the entire grade of
Sub Engineers declines to submit my
letter to Government.
Copy enclosed D.

5. I now confidently leave it to Govern-
ment to decide, whether Sub Engineers be-
cause they are members of the Upper Subor-
dinate Establishment of the P.W.D. which
also includes Supervisors and Overseers
are not entitled to any consideration, and
are required to surrender all claims to privileges
accorded in some Divisions to them, and to
all other Disadvantaged Officers, whose ap-
pointments, like theirs, are conferred directly
by Government alone.

I admit in other Divisions Sub Engineers
have no cause for complaint, for of the
Civilian Sub Engineers in the Department
I find as many as they have been for years en-
joying these privileges - therefore I presume
there

there is no necessity to make any case a gen-
eral question in reference to the entire
Department.
6. Finally, I most respectfully crave
the generous consideration of Government
of the subject now before them, and their
pardon if I have erred in formulating the
directing questions, which perhaps might
have been otherwise arranged here.
It may be that a ruling of Government
is advisable for Sub Superintending
Engineers in some Divisions, acting in the
spirit of Government Order No. 842, dated 25th
April 1901, recognizing the distinction drawn
between Sub Engineers and the superior grade
of the Upper Subordinate Establishment, and
to accord certain privileges to their Sub
Engineers, the Superintending Engineer of
this Division is pleased to consider that, as
they are included in the same category as
Supervisors and Salary Overseers, they are
entitled to ~~the same~~ privileges. Consequently a Sub Engineer
transferred from another to this Division
must for a time enjoy the privileges he has been
interruptedly enjoying for years, and
submit to be treated as an inferior.
7. In the Mysore Police Department
the

the Inspector General has issued a special Circular instructing all Superintendents to grant their Inspectors seats, and to treat them with the consideration and in the case of Deputy Collectors, with the same as the Board of Directors, for the same reason in the R.R. considered as being inferior to rank, a special ruling as to the degree of consideration to be shown to them, obtained, and may not, for the same reason, similar ruling, so as to insure uniformity of treatment, he also intended to the Department.

I feel assured the entire grade of Sub-Engineers will be regarded with deep gratitude and honor, and the generous liberality of Government, which will place them on a par with other uncovenanted officers, receiving as they do, their appointments directly at its hands, and I am certain, with their able advocacy with Government on their behalf, for as the Head of our Department you will naturally feel happy in promoting the legitimate interests of, and securing a proper status for its subordinate members, who are second to none in point of respectability.

respectability, intelligence, fidelity and zeal to the state, - will ensure us the privileges now respectfully solicited.

I therefore commit the matter to your hands.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant,

A. C. G. L. H. - Sub-Engineer
Raiding Range No. 11 -

1871 1872
Hoy Good for 20
Nov 41779
M. H. H. H. H.

of Colquhoun

dated 19 Oct 1885
Re 225

84
1872

2033229 - 26 Oct 1885

in the morning when
overpowered by the
wind and the sky
up of the 3rd, and
finding that the effort
to secure more
incooled & more
of the 3rd, and
and that they may be
shown a boat by
the 3rd, and
calling on officers
business -

W. H. H. H.

2033229

Recorded with reference
to 9. 8. 1885 - dated 14. 4.
Oct 1885.

M. Colquhoun will
be informed that the
circumstances do not justify
his reporting for

2033229 - 26 Oct 1885

to the 3rd Division

2033229 - 26 Oct 1885