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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3381	Press
2087-206	~~Mis.~~
Dated 11 — 11 —	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

23/12/12

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th November 1865.*

No. 205. Read the following Proceedings of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, Public Works Department, (Establishment), dated Simla, 16th October 1865, No. 1,662 E:—

Transfer of Royal Engineer Officers from Madras and Bombay.

READ—

Extract from Proceedings in the Military Department, No. 325, dated 8th April 1865, with enclosures.

Letter from Government of Madras to Secretary of State, No. 26, dated 11th April 1865.

Extract from Proceedings in the Military Department, No. 706, dated 17th April 1865, with enclosures.

Extract from Proceedings in the Military Department, No. 353, dated 31st May 1865, with enclosures.

Read again—

Public Works Department Resolution 152E, dated 14th April 1864.

Public Works Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 30, dated 14th April 1864.

Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 37, dated 30th July 1864.

Public Works Department Resolution 1,234E, dated 23rd November 1864.

Letter from Military Department, No. 960, dated 20th January 1865, with enclosure.

Office Memorandum from Military Department, No. 613, dated 13th February 1865.

Office Memorandum to Military Department, No. 304E, dated 13th February 1865.

Docket from Military Department, No. 692, dated 14th February 1865.

OBSERVATIONS.—In April 1864, the attention of the Secretary of State was drawn by the Government of India to the large and continually increasing proportion which the Civil bore to the Military element in the Engineer Establishment of the Public Works Department in the territories under the more immediate control of that Government, and to the comparatively large number of Military Engineers employed under the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

2. The opinion of the Governor General in Council was then expressed to the effect that the distribution of the Officers of Royal Engineers among the several Governments should be proportioned to the aggregate number of Public Works appointments under each, and His Excellency in Council proposed that the Civil and Military Engineers should in future be sent out to the various Presidencies in such proportion as would lead eventually to a similar constitution of the Public Works Department under the Governments of India, Madras, and Bombay.

3. The views of the Government of India were concurred in generally by the Secretary of State, who however considered it desirable to adjust more rapidly than was proposed, the existing disparity in the proportions of the Civil and Military elements in various parts of India, and to effect this end suggested that the Governments of Madras and Bombay should be called upon to place at the disposal of the Government of India, as soon as it could be done without inconvenience, a small number of Engineer Officers, receiving in exchange a similar number of Civil Engineers.

4. In accordance with the opinion thus expressed, the Governments of Madras and Bombay were requested to make arrangements for the transfer of four

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th November 1865.*

Engineer Officers to Bengal, and to favor the Government of India with an opinion as to the most convenient method of effecting a total transfer as per margin.*

* Madras, 30.
Bombay, 24.

5. Before any reply was received to these calls, a special demand arose for Engineer Officers in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, to replace those withdrawn from the Public Works Department in those Provinces for field service in Bhootan, and a further request was in consequence sent to the Madras Government by telegraph, to transfer four Captains and four Subalterns if possible, without delay, for service under the Government of India.

6. The Government of Madras now represents its inability to comply with the requisition of the Government of India even to the extent of the four Officers, whose immediate transfer was, in the first instance, requested; two Officers only, a Captain and a Subaltern, being now transferred.

7. It is urged that a greater number cannot be spared without serious inconvenience to the Public Works Department of that Presidency; that the transfer from Bengal of an equal number of Civil Engineers from the territories under the immediate control of the Government of India would not compensate for the withdrawal of Officers of Royal Engineers, conversant with the peculiar works of the Madras Presidency, and the languages in use there; that great difficulty would be experienced in procuring the services of other Military Officers from the Local Army or Staff Corps of that Presidency; and that the number of Engineer Officers now in the Madras Presidency is inadequate to the proper performance of the duties of the Public Works Department.

8. The Military Department under the Government of Bombay expresses an opinion to the effect that Officers formerly of the Bombay Engineers are not properly liable to transfer to the Bengal Presidency without their own consent, but has no objection to the transfer of four Officers, who may volunteer to serve under the Government of India.

9. The Public Works Department of that Presidency, however, states that no Officers can be spared for transfer, and that there is no prospect of any becoming available, without causing great embarrassment to the Public Works Department under the Bombay Government.

RESOLUTION.—10. His Excellency the Governor General in Council having considered the replies now received, is of opinion that the immediate transfer of Royal Engineer Officers to the Public Works Department under the Government of India would be attended with considerable inconvenience to the Department under the Governments of Madras and Bombay, and is unwilling in consequence to press this portion of the proposal.

11. The equalization of the proportion of the Civil and Military elements of the Public Works Departments under the three Governments is, however, in the opinion of His Excellency in Council, most desirable, and every endeavour should be made to accomplish this by the more gradual process originally proposed by the Government of India.

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12. The Governor General in Council trusts that the Governments of Madras and Bombay will give to the Officers of Royal Engineers serving under them every opportunity for transfer, especially in cases of return from furlough.

13. With the cordial co-operation of those Governments, His Excellency in Council does not doubt that a gradual equalization will thus be effected without inconvenience or difficulties of any sort.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the above Resolution be sent to the Military Department for information, and to the Governments of Madras and Bombay for information and guidance.

Ordered also that these Proceedings be specially reported to the Secretary of State.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Colonel, R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India, P. W. D.

No. 206. ORDER THEREON, 11th November 1865, No. 3,381.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 15.

Communicated to the Military Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Military Department.

No. 1662E

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
INDIA IN COUNCIL.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT;
Simla, the 16th October 1865.

Establishment.

Transfer of Royal Engineer Officers from Madras and Bombay.

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*Mr J 1865 & the
Price of 4000 5th Nov 1865
10/14/2003*

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Establishment.

To

209 3381

From

Secy. to the Govt. of India,
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

*Communicated
to the Military Department*

No.

Dated 16th October 1865.

Received 21 "

Recd 7/11/

*Spink & George,
11th Nov 1865*

To the Military Department

209 3381-15 Nov 1865

Transfer of Royal Engineer Officers from Madras
and Bombay.

With an order

209 3381-206

209 3381-15 Nov 1865

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