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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT. ✓

G.O. No. 3844

Press
Mis. ✓

46-47

Dated 4-12-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

17

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th December 1866.*

No. 46. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Communicating Orders of the Government of
India, transmitting certain correspondence
relative to the provision of Engineer Soldiers } (Here enter 28th November 1866, No. 4,149.)
for India.

No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1866, No. 3,844.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 3.

Communicated to the Director of
Public Instruction, through the Edu-
cational Department, and to the Super-
intending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Educational Department.

Superintending Engineers.

Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Simla, 6th October 1866, No. 52; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

Letter to Secy. of State, No. 438, dated 21st Oct. 1865.
No. 525, dated

22nd Dec. 1865, and enclosures.
Letter from Secy. of State, No. 114, dated 24th July 1866, and enclosures.
Communications to Public Works Dept and Adjutant Genl., Nos. 50 and 51, dated 6th Oct. 1866

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council and for guidance, transcript of the correspondence marginally noted, relating to the provision of Engineer Soldiers for service in India.

Military Despatch from the Government of India, Simla, 21st October 1865, No. 438; to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

We have given long and careful attention, both in the Public Works and in the Military Departments, to the question of employing Royal Engineers permanently in India, as well as to the various points which have, from time to time, been brought under our consideration, affecting the supply of duly qualified men for employment in the subordinate grades of the Department of Public Works, and the British Non-Commissioned grades of the Native Sappers and Miners.

2. The late Commander-in-Chief entertained a decided opinion that some Companies of Royal Engineers should be maintained in India, whose strength should never be allowed to fall below seventy-five rank and file a Company. His Excellency's arguments in favor of this measure will be found in the enclosures to this despatch. We are, however, unable to concur in them, and in support of our view, we beg to refer you to the opinion expressed by His Excellency Sir William Mansfield, as to the comparative inutility of Royal Engineers in this country, except during a cold weather campaign. The conditions of service in India vary so widely from those of all other parts of Her Majesty's dominions in which Royal Engineers are permanently employed, that we feel confident their employment, permanently in India, would be attended with no sufficiently advantageous result to make the experiment worth trying.

3. Under the new organization lately sanctioned by you, the Corps of Native Sappers and Miners, we entertain no doubt, will be found competent to the performance of any duty it is likely to be called on to perform, while the increase to the number of Officers to be attached to the Corps will insure a fair supply of purely Military Engineer Officers for Field service, without rendering it necessary to draw so largely as heretofore on the Public Works Department, for the requirements of active service.

4. Colonel Strachey, our late Secretary in the Public Works Department, also advocated the permanent employment of a fixed number of Companies of Royal Engineers in India, chiefly, however, with the object of at all times securing a source whence to draw the men required for employment in the subordinate grades of the Public Works Department, the demand being estimated to be sixty a year.

5. We think it would be a waste of the Royal Engineers to have five or six Companies of that Corps quartered permanently in this country, to attain an object which may be secured without the expense which must inevitably attend the maintenance and reliefs of these Companies.

6. Here the services of such men are, as has been already observed, wanted primarily for the Public Works Department, and secondarily for the Native Corps of Sappers and Miners at the three Presidencies—in both instances as Overseers, never as actual workmen; for even those attached to the Sappers and Miners are employed in supervising and instructing, not in the actual performance of the labour of various kinds which devolves on those Corps.

7. Naturally, we look to the Royal Engineers as the first source of supply for the subordinate grades of the Public Works Department, because from the constitution of the Corps, the class of men enlisted, and the schooling and training they subsequently go through, it offers the best chance of supplying the class required.

8. But we must of necessity agree with you in thinking that a great waste of men and money would be caused if Engineer Soldiers are sent out before it has been ascertained that their qualifications are such as shall insure their admission into, and their passage through, the Civil Engineering Colleges of the different Presidencies. It would, we may add, be an equal waste of money and men to send out those who are not fitted for the superior position which they must hold, in order to be useful with a Native Corps of Sappers and Miners.

9. The conclusion we arrive at therefore is, that to be useful in India, the men detailed from the Royal Engineers, must be picked men of good character and of superior intelligence and acquirements. Men may be of great utility in the rank and file of the Royal Engineers as employed in England and the Colonies, who would prove altogether useless and thrown away in India, and it is certainly not worth the while of Government to bring out and periodically relieve five or six Companies, in order to have the opportunity of selecting from them, leisurely, such good and intelligent men as wish for more permanent service in India. There is, moreover, an additional and very strong reason why we should not desire to bring Royal Engineer Companies to India, for the sole purpose of selecting men from them for detached employment, which is, that the remainder of the British Army serving in India, furnishes a large and valuable field for selection, which it would be in the highest degree inexpedient to close.

10. One reason urged in favor of the employment of Royal Engineers under their Company organization is, that in the event of a man of the Corps proving from any cause unfit for detached employment, he can be at once remanded to his Corps. This object will, we believe, be sufficiently attained by adopting the suggestion contained in the two last paragraphs of the letter, No. 648 of 9th August 1865, from the Adjutant General.

11. We now venture to offer the following suggestions for your consideration, as appearing to us those most likely to effect the object we have in view:—

1st.—That candidates for the skeleton Companies proposed to be formed in India, shall be volunteers from the Royal Engineers or the Royal Artillery.

2nd.—That the candidates be required to pass an adequate examination, such as to insure their fitness for employment in the Department of Public Works, and their entrance into the Civil Engineering Colleges.

3rd.—That the candidate be of good character, not above twenty-five years of age, and that he give fair promise of being ultimately equal to separate responsibility.

4th.—That preference be given to candidates from the Royal Engineers, but that source failing, that candidates be taken from the Royal Artillery, on the condition that if they pass the required examination, they enter the Royal Engineers with a view to being posted to the skeleton Companies in India.

5th.—That every candidate who passes the examination for the Public Works Department, if a Private, should receive the rank of Corporal, and if a Corporal, that of Serjeant simultaneously with his appointment to the Public Works Department.

6th.—That the Commander-in-Chief's suggestions already adverted to, that skeleton Companies be formed in the three Presidencies, be adopted,—the Companies being commanded in Bengal by the Principal of the Thomason College, the actual charge of the Company being exercised by one of the Officers under him. A similar arrangement might be made for the command and charge of the skeleton Companies at Madras and Bombay.

7th.—That no lower grade than Serjeant be attached to a Company of Native Sappers and Miners; that four be attached to each Company, being drawn from the skeleton Company; that of these four, one be Staff Serjeant or Serjeant Instructor, and when the Company is detached from Head Quarters, one be Acting Quarter Master Serjeant.

12. With regard to the second suggestion, we would remark that the nature of the examination to be at present passed for admission to the Thomason College, and subsequently for a certificate of competency, will be found among the enclosures. On this point, however, we propose to address you in the Public Works Department, should it hereafter appear that the tests are considered too severe.

13. We request to be favored with your early opinion on the foregoing suggestions. Doubtless, they will require amplification on several points of detail, but we would submit that if generally accepted and sanctioned, such points may readily be met and settled as they arise, either here or in England.

Military Despatch from the Government of India, Fort William, 22nd December 1865, No. 535; to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

In continuation of our despatch No. 438, dated 21st October last, on the subject of the provision of men of the Royal Engineers for service in India, we have the honor to forward a further communication from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, conveying suggestions in modification of the proposals submitted in our despatch of the 21st October.

2. You will perceive that His Excellency recommends that the skeleton Company of Royal Engineers shall be commanded by the Officer Commanding the Sappers and Miners, and not, as we before recommended, by the Principal of the Thomason College. To this modification of our original proposal we have no objection to offer, the question being in a great degree one of internal economy.

3. In the meantime, we have requested the Commander-in-Chief, pending the receipt of your reply to our former despatch, to arrange as above proposed for the reception at Sapper Head Quarters of the twenty-nine men of Royal Engineers who arrived in the *Hydaspes* on the 9th instant.

4. The other questions contained in His Excellency's note will be dealt with hereafter, but we have deemed it right to lose no time in submitting the abovementioned point for your consideration.

From the Officiating Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Benares, 20th November 1865, No. 24C; to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

In the course of the Commander-in-Chief's present tour of inspection, His Excellency recently visited Roorkee.

2. Sir William Mansfield took the opportunity of having a lengthened consultation with the Principal of the Thomason College, Major Medley and Major Maunsell, Commanding Sappers and Miners, with regard to the question of Royal Engineers and their education for the Public Works in this country, which had been lately before Government.

3. I have the honor, by His Excellency's desire, to forward a note taken by His Excellency of the conversation referred to, in which the views of the two Officers are recorded.

4. In continuation of this office letter, No. 648 of 9th August 1865, His Excellency now invites the attention of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council to the suggestions contained in the enclosed paper.

5. It will be observed that both Major Medley and Major Maunsell give excellent reasons for recommending the formation of a Royal Engineer Company, which shall be distinct from the Thomason College, and under the Military command of an Officer unconnected with that institution.

6. This is a modification of the proposal referred to in my predecessor's letter of the 9th August last, which proceeded from the idea that it would be more convenient to the Principal of the Thomason College, to have such Military command himself.

7. Major Medley is, however, so clear on the point that the character of the Thomason College as a Civil institution, however much devoted to the education of Military men, should not be interfered with, and such good reason is shewn both by him and Major Maunsell for having a Military body proper, to which ill-conducted or ignorant men might be remandable, that His Excellency has no hesitation in giving his support to the proposals of those Officers.

8. It must be mentioned, however, that these proposals involve a certain modification of principle as compared with the practice which has been pursued with regard to the last two drafts of Royal Engineers sent to Roorkee, under the orders of the Secretary of State for India.

9. Thus, instead of being consigned as it were from Chatham to the Public Works Department in India, properly selected men should be sent out to the skeleton Engineer Company pro-

posed to be placed under the Commandant of Sappers and Miners in each Presidency, with a view to their entering the Department Public Works, where they should have passed the required examinations, and their services have been called for by Government.

10. In this manner the notion of a breach of faith with an incompetent or an idle man will be done away with, while a certain reserve of Military Engineers who may be unfit for the Public Works Department will be retained.

11. His Excellency thinks Major Maunsell's remarks, with respect to the training of British subordinates with the Sapper Companies before transferring them to the Public Works Department, much to the point and well worthy of consideration.

12. Finally, the Commander-in-Chief would desire to support the proposals contained in the accompanying paper in lieu of the recommendations contained in Colonel Haythorne's letter of 9th August last.

Note by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

When discussing the question involved in the education of subordinates for the Public Works Department in this Presidency, Major Medley, Principal of the Thomason College, expressed the following opinion:—

1st. That, of the men sent out from the Royal Engineers, many are not prepared for the course at the College.

2nd.—That some of them consider there has been what amounts to a breach of faith owing to their having been taken as volunteers at Chatham for the Public Works in India, the fact being that until they have passed the necessary examinations, they are alike precluded by rule from holding such appointments and incompetent to perform their duties.

3rd.—Out of every batch of men sent from Chatham, it is certain that a proportion will not pass out of the Thomason College, either on account of idleness or of misconduct, or of incapacity to study. The question arises what is to be done with these men when the year of tuition at the College has expired? Is there to be the premium on such idleness or misconduct, of returning to England, or in their own words "to their Regiments"?

2. They see that when men of the line who fail to pass at the College are dismissed, the latter revert to their own Regiments. This is what is asked by the men of the Royal Engineers referred to.

3. That which has been now described is taking place at this moment, that is to say, that certain men of the Royal Engineers, who have shewn a determination not to study, must be sent away from the College at the close of the examinations which are now proceeding.

4. The difficulty stated by Major Medley is considerable and important with regard to the questions lately before Government on the matter concerned, and to the suggestions of the Secretary of State with respect to the supply of men from the ranks of the Royal Engineers for the Department Public Works in India.

5. Major Medley further represents that the Thomason College being a Civil Institution, it would be inconvenient to affiliate a Military body to it. The Soldiers of the Royal Engineers should, in his opinion, be like any other Soldiers attached to the College, i. e., that they should be there only in the form of students there being some Regiments or Head Quarters in which all their Military business would be managed, and to which they should fall back if dismissed for either of the causes above mentioned, viz., idleness, misconduct or incapacity.

6. If therefore it be determined to have a Company of Royal Engineers in the Bengal Presidency from which to take men for the Thomason College, and ultimately the Public Works, he considers that that Company should be under the Officer Commanding the Sappers and Miners at Roorkee as a Military body. The men of the Royal Engineers would then be treated *quoad* the College like the men of the line, that is to say, they would be admitted as volunteers, the qualifications necessary for entrance to the College having been established according to present rules by previous examination.

7. It is considered, with regard to the especial duties required for subordinate Supervisors of Public Works and Sub-Engineers, the line affords as good a recruiting ground as the Companies of Royal Engineers; the latter may possess a knowledge of trades and arts, but the former have a knowledge of India. The Line Soldier looks forward to a great advancement in life which can only

follow on his success at the College. For the reasons above mentioned, the Royal Engineer Soldier does not consider that a favor is being shewn to him by being allowed to study there, and so qualify for the department which he imagined he was to enter immediately after arrival in the country.

8. It is important to note that besides sacrificing the objects of his ambition, the remand of the Line Soldier to his Regiment, that is to say to serve in the ranks in India, is a heavy penalty when he has once tasted the advantage of the superior style of existence he is admitted to as a student at the College. This is lost on the Royal Engineer, who comes as a privileged man to what he considers a right.

9. The conclusion, therefore, is that there should be no such privilege, but that the entrance of a Royal Engineer student to the College should, as above described, depend on his qualifications, he being remandable to a Military body in India if disqualified finally for the Public Works.

10. It is to be remarked that although no system has as yet been established, drafts of Royal Engineers are now sent out direct from Home to the Thomason College. Major Medley has received a communication from the Deputy Adjutant General, Royal Engineers, Horse Guards, announcing the coming of twenty-nine men, they being simply addressed to the Thomason College. It does not seem to be known at the Horse Guards that the Thomason College is an entirely Civil Institution, and that at all events at present Major Medley is without the means of enforcing discipline. The wants of a similar party which arrived last year have, in respect of clothing, been attended to by Major Maunsell, Commanding Sappers and Miners, whilst the men have been messed at the College as students. It is thus apparent that the whole business is rather in a tangled state, and that if some of the Royal Engineer students were inclined to give serious trouble, not inconsiderable difficulty would be experienced in dealing with them.

11. Major Medley has been requested to forward to the Adjutant General the names of such men who may not pass at the end of the present course, and to request instructions as to the manner in which they shall be disposed of.

12. He is of opinion that they should be placed under the command of the Officer Commanding Sappers and Miners, as being the first detachment of the Company of Royal Engineers to be placed under that Officer, if approved by Government. He thinks also that the body of recruits now enroute to join should also, in the first instance, be put under Major Maunsell, as forming a part of the said skeleton Company. They could then pursue their ordinary instruction in the form of Soldiers, till, on the opening of the next term, it should be determined how many of them may be fit to enter the College as students.

13. There is another reason for the above arrangement with regard to the recruits, viz., that Major Maunsell has barrack accommodation at his disposal, whereas that in the Thomason College will remain full till the close of the term ending with September 1866. The Engineer recruits now enroute cannot possibly arrive for some weeks after the commencement of the term, which begins on November 1st. The commencement of the term will not, however, interfere with the entertainment at the College of such of the recruits as may be so far advanced that they may be able to catch up the existing students.

14. Having thus heard all that Major Medley had to say on the subject, I proceeded to discuss it with Major Maunsell, Commandant of the Bengal Sappers and Miners, the Head Quarters of which Corps are permanently established at Roorkee.

15. He gave me to understand that without instructions, he had last year in his Military capacity come to the assistance of the Principal of the Thomason College.

16. Thus Major Maunsell provided for the working of the regulations in respect of the men concerned on account of their good conduct pay, clothing, &c., &c. Thus the Detachment of Royal Engineers, now at the Thomason College, are already prepared to regard him as the proper Military authority to which they would refer an account of their Military interests.

17. It seems therefore, in his opinion, to be only necessary to give official form by order to what Major Maunsell and Major Medley have already had recourse to for the advantage of the service.

18. Major Maunsell pointed out to me the advantages which, according to him, would result from such a course being adopted, as that which had been previously recommended by Major Medley, *vide* the early paragraphs of this paper.

19. Those advantages are,—

1st. The existence of a Military body proper, which the recruits coming from England would understand on their arrival.

2ndly. He requires no additional Officers to those belonging to his establishment on account of them.

3rdly. He would give the command of the Company to one of the Officers under his command.

4thly. He has at his disposal the necessary Regimental Staff for the wants both of correspondence, clothing and material of a Commandant of Royal Engineers.

5thly. The men under his command would not only keep up their Military instruction as Royal Engineers, but would be advancing in education, so as to fit them for the course of the Thomason College. In short, whilst under him, they would be, as it were, at a preparatory school in anticipation of going to the other institution.

6thly. This company would be the receptacle for men remanded from the Public Works or from the College, who belonging to the Royal Engineers might have shewn themselves to be unfit.

7thly. Major Maunsell pointed out that the number of British Non-Commissioned Officers, viz. six, now attached to each Company of Native Sappers, is very large, and that it might be an improvement to reduce that number to three, on the understanding that there was a small reserve available at the Head Quarters of the Corps. This want would be provided in the manner above sketched.

8thly. In his opinion, there is a signal advantage in accustoming British subordinates to Natives on the form of Soldiers in the first instance, according to the rules of discipline, they dare not ill-treat Soldiers. They thus get a habit of respecting the Native and of treating him fairly, whereas the contrary is very likely to be the case with rough Englishmen who are first brought into contact with the Natives as ordinary workmen or coolies.

20. The moral education of the British subordinate, with regard to his future career, would thus be undertaken by him in a favorable manner, for which facilities do not appear within the walls of the College.

9thly. Supposing the system to be admitted, the Non-Commissioned Officers for the Bengal Sappers and Miners would be furnished from the Company of Royal Engineers on the roll of which they would continue to be borne as supernumeraries, whatever their rank as Non-Commissioned Officers.

From the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 18th December 1865, No. 559; to the Officiating Adjutant General.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 24C, dated 20th November 1865, forwarding a note by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, regarding the mode of disposing of the drafts of Royal Engineers sent to this country.

2. In reply, I am to acquaint you that the Right Honorable the Secretary of State has been addressed in the sense of His Excellency's note, in respect to the skeleton Company of Royal Engineers being placed under the command of the Officer Commanding the Sappers and Miners.

3. Pending the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the reference, I am to request that you will move the Commander-in-Chief to issue any orders which may be necessary for placing under Major Maunsell's command the draft of Royal Engineers lately arrived in the *Hydaspes*, should His Excellency see no objection to the measure.

Military despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, India Office, London, 24th July 1866, No. 140; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council.

Your despatches, Nos. 438 and 535 of the 21st October and 22nd December 1865, respectively, relating to the provision of Engineer Soldiers for service in India, having been under my consideration in Council, were forwarded to the Horse Guards for the consideration of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, and I now forward, for your information, copy of a correspondence with the Horse Guards upon the subject.

2. You will observe that His Royal Highness concurs generally in the suggestions contained in the 11th paragraph of your despatch, No. 438 of the 21st October 1865.

3. The opinion expressed by His Royal Highness that the qualifying examination for admission to the Thomason College should certainly be passed at Chatham, is in accordance with that entertained by Her Majesty's Government, and which has already been communicated to you. I understand this to be the opinion of your Government, as expressed in the second clause of the 11th paragraph of your despatch.

4. His Royal Highness considers that the limitation to twenty-five years, as suggested in the third clause of that paragraph of your despatch, could hardly be complied with, and proposes in lieu thereof that paragraph 3 of the original scheme should be adhered to, and that candidates should have served not less than two years at the time of their embarkation, and have then not less than five years of unexpired contract, original or renewed.

5. With regard to the Companies of Royal Engineers which it is proposed to form in the several Presidencies, it appears from the papers forwarded with your despatch No. 535, of the 22nd December 1865, that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief concurs in certain proposals by Major Medley, the Principal of the Thomason College tending to the maintenance of a Company of Engineer Soldiers, from whom, as from other Military bodies, men might be selected for the Thomason College.

6. It would seem that the instructions of Her Majesty's Government upon this point have, however, been already made clear by Sir Charles Wood's despatch of the 8th August 1863, No. 287, and I desire that the object for which the formation of these skeleton Companies has been authorized may be distinctly made known to His Excellency, and that no difficulty may be permitted to arise in the appointment of the men of the Royal Engineers soon after their arrival, either to the Thomason College or to the Public Works Department.

7. His Royal Highness is of opinion that the command of the proposed skeleton Companies should be vested in a Second Captain of Royal Engineers, and dissents from your original proposal that they should be commanded by the Principal of the Thomason College.

8. It appears to me very desirable that one system in this respect should be followed in all three Presidencies, and that these companies should, as a portion of the Corps of Sappers and Miners, be placed under the Officers Commanding those Corps; and as it may not be always practicable to appoint an Officer of the rank of Second Captain to exercise the immediate command, I shall suggest to His Royal Highness that some Engineer Officer, if possible a Second Captain, from among those attached to the Corps of Sappers and Miners, shall be specially appointed in each Presidency by the Officer Commanding the Corps, to the command of the Company in question.

9. The whole of the men in the Royal Engineers serving in the several Presidencies will be borne on the strength of the several Companies, however and wherever they may be employed; periodical returns will be furnished to the Officer Commanding the Corps of Sappers and Miners from the Civil Departments in which the men may be employed, and reports and returns made to the Horse Guards through the Commander-in-Chief of each Presidency, as in the case of other branches of Her Majesty's Forces in India.

10. I shall suggest to His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief that the necessary order be issued for the formation of the three companies in question to be placed under the command of the Officer Commanding the Sappers and Miners.

11. In addition to the Officer in Command, a Pay Serjeant will be attached to each of these companies.

12. The records connected with the Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Royal Engineers serving in each Presidency are to be kept with these several Companies. Drafts on first arrival from England will be attached to them, pending their employment in the Public Works or other Department, and all Engineer Soldiers pronounced, for whatever cause, unfit for duty in any department under Government or as Non-Commissioned Officers with the Native Corps of Sappers and Miners, will also be attached to these Companies pending their transfer, as directed in Sir C. Wood's despatch of the 8th August 1863, to the Head Quarters of the Corps in England, or to some company out of India, but no Non-Commissioned Officer or Private, excepting the Pay Serjeant, is to be kept permanently attached to these companies.

From the Military Secretary, India Office, S. W., 2nd February 1866, No. ³⁰⁸/_{65H}; to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

With reference to my letter No. ³⁸²⁷/_{826H}, dated 20th December 1865, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, to forward, for the consideration of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, a further despatch from the Government of India, transmitting a communication from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, containing suggestions and modifications of the proposals contained in their previous despatch of the 21st October, which was forwarded to you with my letter of the 20th December.

2. Some of the suggestions contained in these papers are, His Royal Highness will observe, at variance with the instructions which have been already communicated to the Government of India, with reference to the admission of Engineer Soldiers to the Civil Engineering Colleges in India, upon examination passed in this country and the remand of unfit or ill conducted men to some Company of Engineers not in India.

3. Upon these points, Sir C. Wood adheres to the views expressed to the Government of India, in the several despatches dated the 8th August 1863, and 16th July and 8th August 1864.

4. With reference to the 10th paragraph of Sir William Mansfield's note, Sir C. Wood is of opinion that communications from the Deputy Adjutant General of Engineers, relative to men proceeding to India, should be addressed to the Commandants of Sappers at the several Presidencies.

From Major General W. F. FORSTER, Military Secretary, Horse Guards, S. W., 20th February 1866, Nos. ^{13,244}/₄₀; the Military Secretary, India Office.

With reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, ³⁰⁸/_{65H}, and previous correspondence on the subject of volunteers from the Royal Engineers for the Department of Public Works, &c., in India, I am directed, by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, to request you will be good enough to obtain the decision of the Secretary of State for India in Council, whether the examination of candidates at the Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham, prior to their embarkation for India, should not be considered sufficient to pass them direct into the Thomason College at Roorkee without any subsequent competitive examination, such having been the case with the detachment which left Chatham in August 1864. You will also be good enough to inform me if steps can be taken to apprise me of the actual number of vacancies that will exist at specified times (which should at least be nine months previously) at the Thomason College, in order to prevent the possibility of men of the Corps being sent in greater numbers than actually required.

From the Military Secretary, India Office, S. W., 8th March 1866, ⁶¹³/_{130H}; to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th February, inquiring whether the examination of candidates, at the Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham, prior to their embarkation for India should not be considered sufficient to pass them direct into the Thomason College at Roorkee without any subsequent competitive examination, and also whether steps can be taken to apprise you of the actual number of vacancies that will exist at specified times (which should at least be nine months previously) at the Thomason College, in order to prevent the possibility of men of the Corps being sent in greater numbers than actually required.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that Earl de Grey is of opinion that the examination to which volunteers for service in the Royal Engineers in India should be subjected in this country, should be such as to qualify them for admission to the several Government Civil Engineer Colleges in India, and that the Government of India were instructed to this effect in Sir C. Wood's despatch, No 226, dated 16th July 1864.

3. With regard to the number of men required annually at the several Presidencies in India, Earl de Grey proposes to instruct the several Governments to forward by the 1st August, in each year, a statement of the probable number of Engineer Soldiers that will be required in the course of the following year to fill vacancies on the establishment.

From Major General W. F. FORSTER, Military Secretary, Horse Guards, 19th March 1866; to the Under Secretary of State, India Office.

In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, No. ⁶¹³/_{130H}, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to acquaint you that his Royal Highness would be glad to be informed whether a reply has been received to the despatch from the Secretary of State for India in Council, dated 16th July 1864, No. 226, relative to the expediency of laying down a test to be passed by men of the Royal Engineers which would qualify them before leaving England, for direct admission to the several Engineering Colleges in India. This test is referred to in the 4th paragraph of your letter, dated 18th June 1864, and should the Government of India have reported thereon, His Royal Highness would be glad to see any papers which may have been received on the subject, with the view of fixing the standard upon which such examinations are to be based.

No. ¹⁶⁹⁵/_{362H}

From the Assistant Military Secretary, India Office, S. W., 16th April 1866, No. ⁹³³/_{206H}; to the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo, and to acquaint you in reply that no report has been received from the Government of India to the despatch of 16th July 1864, No. 226, but that a letter bearing on the subject referred to in that despatch is forwarded, for the information His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, in which it will be observed that theoretical geometry which was included in the test to be passed by European Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers, on their entrance into the Thomason College at Roorkee, has been dispensed with.

2. The nature of that test, as it hitherto stood, will be found in the accompanying extract from the Public Works Code, showing the qualifications necessary for admission into the College.

3. I am to request the return of the Public Works letter and of its enclosures.

From Major General W. F. FORSTER, Military Secretary, Horse Guards, 14th May 1866; to the Under Secretary of State, India Office.

With reference to your letter of the 16th ultimo, and its enclosures, herewith returned, I am directed by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to request you will observe to the Secretary of State for India in Council, that as no reply of State for India in Council, that as no reply

⁹³³/_{209H}

has yet been received from India, relative to the test to be passed by the men of the Royal Engineers before leaving England which would qualify them for direct admission into the several Engineering Colleges in that country or their arrival, instructions cannot be given as to the qualifications that should be required from such men of the Corps, as may now wish to volunteer for Indian service, neither can any arrangements be made with respect to their instruction and examination.

On perusing the enclosures of your letter, His Royal Highness observes that paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Resolution of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, dated 6th September 1865, authorize local Governments to dispense with the examination of upper subordinates before promoting them to the rank of Sub Engineer, and to admit men thoroughly trained in some practical branch of work to any appropriate grade of the upper or lower subordinate establishments, without requiring from them any test in theoretical knowledge. Under this arrangement, which is presumed to permit the appointment of skilled mechanics to the Public Works Department without passing through the Civil Colleges in India, there would be no difficulty in obtaining the services of very useful practical men from the Corps, if their duties in the Public Works Department, and the practical knowledge most needed, were clearly defined.

From the Military Secretary, India Office, S. W., 22nd June 1866, No. 1597
Secretary, Horse Guards.

I have received and laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council your letters, dated 14th and 29th May respectively, relating to the supply of Engineer Soldiers for employment in India, and am directed, with reference thereto, to forward, for the consideration of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, draft of a despatch which it is proposed to address to the Government of India, upon the subject.

2. With reference to the command of the skeleton Company of Engineers which it is proposed to form in each of the three Presidencies, I am to observe that Earl de Grey assumes that this Company will, in each case, be under the command of the Officer Commanding the Corps of Sappers and Miners, and as there may be difficulty in securing at all times the services of an Officer of the rank of 2nd Captain for the immediate command, he proposes to leave it to the local authorities to select one from among the Engineer Officers actually attached to the Corps of Sappers and Miners, a 2nd Captain, if possible, to exercise this command under the Commandant.

3. His Royal Highness will observe that it is proposed to call upon the Government of India for more precise information upon the subject of the tests to which these men should be subjected, and I am to suggest that in the meantime volunteers should be called for and subjected to the same examination as was adopted in the case of the men who went out in 1864 and 1865, with the modification proposed by the Government of India, as communicated to you in my letter of the 16th April last.

4. I am desired also to observe that the papers received from India with the despatch of the 21st October 1865, No. 438, which were forwarded with letter from this office, dated 20th December 1865, throw considerable light upon the examination which candidates for admission to the Thomason College of this class are required to pass.

5. The number of men of Royal Engineers required in the several Presidencies, according to the latest reports, is as follows:—

Bengal	25
Madras	10
Bombay	6

No. 50.

MINUTE OF COUNCIL.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT, SIMLA, 6TH OCTOBER 1866.

Read letter from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, No. 140, dated 21st July 1866, and enclosures, relating to the provision of Engineer Soldiers for service in India.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing be forwarded, with reference to previous correspondence, to the Public Works Department, for information, with a request that this Department may be furnished, as early as practicable, with full information as to the test to be passed by the men of the Royal Engineers before leaving England, which would qualify them for direct admission into the several Engineering Colleges in this country; also with a report on the proposal to admit skilled mechanics into the Public Works Department without passing through the College, together with any remarks considered necessary on the point referred to in paragraph 19 of the despatch.

(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 51.

Copy of the foregoing forwarded to the Adjutant General, for the information of the Commander-in-Chief and for guidance, with reference to the communications marginally cited, and with a request that His Excellency will cause orders to be issued to give effect to the instructions conveyed in the despatch.

By order,
(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER, No. 4149, 28th November 1866.

Communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for information and guidance—also to the Public Works Department.
(True Extract.)

M. M. M. M. M. Colonel,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
Public Works Department.
Controller of Military Accounts.

With 20 space copies.

Exd. A. W. Cooke.

9/2

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Communicated

to the Director of Public
Instruction, the the
School Dept, and the
Superintendent -

Spent at Quincy
the Dec 1886

to School Dept

to SS

to Controller

Sept 15 - Monday

85

17th 18th 19th
Pro: of Govt of India
A 4855

Pro: of the Madras Govt
in the Mil. Dep.

28 Nov/55
Recd 1st Dec/55.

A 4449

Communicating
orders of the Govt of
India transmitting
certain correspondence
relative to the provision
of Engineer Soldiers
for India.

A 46. 47.

no 13844 - 4th Dec/55