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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 798 Press Mis.

218-211

Dated 10—3 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th March 1866.

No. 210. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department :—

Communicating orders of the Government of India on certain correspondence relative to the disposal of Officers of the Staff Corps when removed from their appointments. } (Here enter 5th March 1866, No. 849.)

No. 211. ORDER THEREON, 10th March 1866, No. 798.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 16. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Extract of a letter from the Government of India, Military Department, Simla, 31st August 1865, No. 377; to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

Paragraph 5. In future when removing an officer from a Staff appointment for misconduct, we will at the time decide, in accordance with the terms of the 7th paragraph of your despatch, whether he is or is not to be employed again; but we must again point out that any undue stringency in this direction, will operate very unfavorably with respect to officers entering the Staff Corps, as there is a natural dread of giving up all the privileges of the British or Local Services to enter a Corps where a single false step of a not very grave character may entail professional ruin.

6. In the 10th paragraph of your despatch it is observed, that where an officer proves himself unfitted for the particular position in which he has been placed, it can seldom be necessary to remove him until an opportunity offers, for transferring him to some office or position for which he is well fitted.

7. We would submit, that there are few situations in India from which an officer, who once shows a manifest unfitness for its duties, should not be at once removed. We cannot think it would be right to retain an officer in his post under such circumstances, and perhaps thereby cause injury to the public interests, because an opportunity did not present itself of providing for him elsewhere. It is to be recollected that not only young officers, but also at times those of mature standing and holding very responsible posts, prove themselves unfitted to continue in them. In such cases, the public good seems to demand their immediate removal, quite irrespective of any considerations as to the manner in which the officer concerned may be hereafter employed, or as to the claims he has established to consideration by previous approved service.

8. We would also point out, that the nomination to appointments rests with various authorities, by which a further difficulty is occasioned in obtaining re-employment for officers removed from appointments, as authorities unacquainted with an officer's merits are unwilling to employ him under their orders, when all they know of him is that he was removed for inefficiency from a previous appointment, though possibly he may be in reality well fitted for some situation in their gift.

9. We are, therefore, of opinion, that it is only in cases of grave misconduct that officers should be at once placed on the half pay or pension list, and that they should not be so punished when their removal was occasioned by comparatively trifling offences. In such cases, the deprivation of Staff pay and loss of the time passed without employ as staff service, seem sufficient punishments, though of course, if the officer makes no effort to obtain or prove himself worthy of further employment, he may without injustice be eventually removed from the effective list.

10. In the foregoing arguments we have not referred especially to Military offences provided for in the Articles of War, but rather to those departmental faults and defects which render officers unfitted for particular employments. Where officers offend against the Articles of War, we think their offence should be dealt with under these Articles, and their punishment or acquittal take place in accordance therewith.

From the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, India Office, London, 8th November 1865, No. 326; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council.

I have considered in Council your letter, dated 31st August 1865, No. 377, containing some

observations upon the subject of my despatch of the 17th March, No. 81, *viz*, the disposal of officers of the Staff Corps removed from their appointments.

2. The system which you propose to adopt in regard to officers so situated, appears to me to be in accordance with the general principles laid down in that despatch, and has therefore my approval.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT, THE 9TH FEBRUARY 1866.

No. 316.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, Military Department, for information and future guidance, with reference to this Department communication, No. 39, dated 4th September 1865.

(By order.)

(Signed) B. E. BACON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Offg. Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER, No. 849, 5th March 1866.

Communicated to the Commander-in-Chief, with reference to previous correspondence.

(True Extract.)

Major General,
Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
,, Controller of Military Accounts.
,, Military Accountant.
,, Examiner Pay Department.
,, Examiner of Claims.
,, Public Department,.....
,, Revenue ,, ...
,, Public Works Department, } for information.

Extd. J. E. Cashart.

P W 1866 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. for March
A° 966
Pro: of the Madras Govt.
in the Military Dept.

Dep 5th
Recd 8th } March 1866

A° 849

No. 798 — 10th March 1866.
Communicating orders of the Govt. of India on certain correspondence relative to the disposal of officers of the Staff Corps, when removed from their appointments —
With an order

Fort St George
10th March 1866 }

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List

Enclosure.

No. 798

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