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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 324 Press / Mis.

13-14

Dated 1 2 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st February 1867.

No. 13. Read the following letter from the Director of Public Instruction, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 17th January 1867, No. 107:—

1. In connection with Order of Government No. 368 of the 12th December 1866, I have the honor to submit a letter from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, drawn up by that Officer after consultation with Colonel Carpendale, who, from the positions he has occupied in Command of the Sappers and in charge of the College, is peculiarly qualified to speak upon the questions referred to in the papers on which the Order of Government was based.

2. The subject is not one on which I am competent to offer an opinion: I shall, therefore, only remark that I feel very doubtful whether a knowledge of Mensuration, an easy though no doubt an important practical branch of Engineering knowledge, should be required of candidates for admission into the Civil Engineering College.

From the Principal Civil Engineering College, to the Director of Public Instruction, dated Madras, 10th January 1867, No. 672.

1. In reply to your Memorandum forwarding Proceedings of Madras Government in Military and Public Works Departments, dated respectively 28th November and 4th December 1866, I have the honor to append the following remarks which I have drawn up after consultation with Colonel Carpendale, R. E., who having filled the appointments of Commandant of Sappers and Principal Civil Engineering College, was perhaps better fitted than any other Officer, to form a sound opinion on the subject.

2. I do not consider it necessary to maintain a body of Royal Engineer Soldiers in India, as a nursery for the upper Subordinate Grade of the Public Works Department, equally good men being readily obtainable from the other branches of the service; but as a small number of European Non-Commissioned Officers of Royal Engineers ought to be maintained in case of active service, it is desirable that they should (if qualified), be employed in the Public Works Department, in time of peace.

3. To this end, all the men of the Royal Engineers despatched to India should be well conducted and well educated; if some of them are skilled artizans, so much the better; and before leaving Chatham they should pass an examination in the following subject:—

English Reading and Writing.
Arithmetic as far as Vulgar and Decimal Fractions.
Elementary Mensuration.

(To entitle a Candidate to a Certificate of having passed, he should obtain one-third the minimum number of marks for *each* paper and half of the whole).

4. This is the existing test for admission into the Second Department of the Thomason College at Roorkee, and contains one subject (Mensuration) in excess of the Madras Civil Engineering College Test; but I consider this subject so essential to an Overseer, that I strongly recommend its forming part of the test for Candidates in England, and shall hereafter propose that it be introduced in the examinations for admission into this College next Session.

5. The strength of the Skeleton Engineer Company for the Madras Presidency I would limit to eighteen, all Sergeants and Corporals.

6. I gather from the terms of the Military Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, dated 24th July 1866, that it is intended that the men of the Royal Engineers, who shall have passed the examination above detailed, shall, on arrival in India, be *at once* appointed to the Civil Engineering College or Public Works Department. I do not, however, think this desirable, and in some cases it would be impracticable to admit them at once into the College, for

there might not be Barrack accommodation, and they might arrive late in a Session when their admission would disturb the regular course of studies.

7. I would, therefore, recommend that on arrival they join the Head Quarter of the Sappers and Miners, and remain there for one or one-and-a-half year, under Command of one of the Royal Engineer Officers attached to the Corps, Subordinate of course to the Cammandant of Sappers. During this time their Military instruction would not only be kept up, but they would be advancing in education, so as to fit them for the Civil Engineering College course of study, and more especially might acquire a knowledge of one of the vernacular languages of the country. After this period of Military duty they should be available for admission into the Civil Engineering College without further examination, and should join only at the beginning of a Session.

8. On passing out of the College and being appointed to the Public Works Department, I propose that they should be removed from the Engineer Company and brought on the Unattached List as is done with all men from other branches of the service, their places in the Skeleton Royal Engineer Company being filled by men from England, so that in this way the number of Royal Engineer Non-Commissioned Officers with the Skeleton Company would vary from six or nine to eighteen, which is quite sufficient.

9. These men in the Public Works Department who prove unfit could be remanded to Military duty in the Royal Engineer Company at Head Quarters of Sappers, but if unsuited for the nature of this employment in this country, they could be drafted to one of the Companies out of India.

10. On the transfer of Royal Engineer Non-Commissioned Officers from Military duty to the Public Works Department, there should be a distinct understanding that in time of war they are liable to be remanded to their more legitimate duty as Soldiers: and past experience of thirty years shows that the number required to accompany the Native Sappers on active service would never be so great as to cause any inconvenience to the Public Works Department, indeed it is more than probable that the number remaining in the Skeleton Company would usually be found sufficient to meet all demands.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
26th January 1867.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, 1st February 1867, No. 324.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 3.

Communicated to the Military Department with reference to the Orders in that Department, No. 4,149, dated the 28th November 1866.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Military Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

(3)

No. 107.

From

E. B. POWELL, Esq.
Director of Public Instruction.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

In connexion with Order of Government, No. 368 of the 12th December 1866, I have the honor to submit a letter from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, drawn up by that Officer after consultation with Colonel Carpendale, who, from the positions he has occupied in command of the Sappers and in charge of the College, is peculiarly qualified to speak upon the questions referred to in the Papers on which the Order of Government was based.

2. The subject is not one on which I am competent to offer an opinion: I shall therefore only remark that I feel very doubtful whether a knowledge of mensuration, an easy though no doubt an important practical branch of Engineering knowledge, should be required of candidates for admission into the Civil Engineering College.

Office of the Director
Public Instruction,
MADRAS, *17th January* 1867.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Director of Public Instruction.

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13 Dec 1866 12-13

No. 324

Communicated to the Military Department with reference to the orders in that Department No 4149, dated the 28th November 1866—

To The Military Dep[t]

Fort St George
1st Feby 1867

Recd 2/2/67

Transmitted to the Military Department.
By Command &c
Fort St George
28th January 1867.
Chief Secretary.

No 13-14

Recd 2 Feb 1867 Despatch
Engineering and Military
Public Department
From Consultation 27 February
The Director of Public Instruction.
To
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George.

Dated 17th January 1867.
Received 21 —
Dec 28th —
No. 107.
With one Enclosure
No.

No 23.

Sending letter from the Principal Civil Engineering College on the subject of maintaining a body of Royal Engineer Soldiers in India.

No 324 - 1st Feby 1867

Transmitted