

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT

File No.	Page
Dated	By

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 25. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 19th February 1858, No. 7508.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 243, dated the 11th February 1858, which contains a communication from the Bombay Government, forwarding an "Extract from a Statement of marks obtained by the Candidates for the Public Works Department examined on the 8th December 1857, agreeably to the Test laid down in the Government Notification of the 23rd June 1856, Camp Poonah, 19th December 1857," and to recommend that the same scale of acquirement on the same subjects, and the same Maximum and Minimum number of marks, be allotted in all future examinations in Madras with the exception that 100 be made the Maximum and 30 the Minimum number for the "adjustment and use of the Theodolite" instead of 400 as a Maximum, and 80 as a Minimum; and also that publicity be given to the decision of Government, as a general ignorance prevails respecting, not only the standard, but the nature of the qualifications to be Tested in Candidates for Public Works employment.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, No. 540; dated 25th March 1858.

Para. 1. In the Bengal Notification of the 17th June 1856, Rules were laid down applicable to all branches of the Public Works Department in the Lieutenant Governorships and local administrations subordinate to the Government of India. Amongst these Rules were the Tests to be passed by parties seeking employment in the different grades of the Public Works Department, viz. paras. 29 to 74 under the head of "Qualifications, Appointments and Promotions."

2. On the 23rd September 1856, this Government appointed a Committee to prepare a scale of Tests for the Public Works Department of this Presidency; and in directing the attention of the Committee to the Bengal Rules of the 17th June as their guide, the Government particularly remarked that the Rules for Madras should be more definite, "prescribing exactly the Tests to be passed."

3. The report of the Committee was enclosed in the Chief Engineer's letter of the 19th March 1857, and this, with other papers on the same subject, received consideration in Extract Minutes Consultation 23rd June 1857, No. 1213. In that letter the Chief Engineer informed the Government that he had been in communication with the authorities in Bombay, Poonah, and Calcutta, and with the Principal of the Thomason College at Roorkee, and that he had furnished the Director of Public Instruction with the information he had obtained from Roorkee.

4. The Roorkee papers were laid before Government in the letter from the Director of Public Instruction, dated 6th April 1857, which forms one of the papers considered by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 23rd June 1857. It is only necessary to refer to the letter from the Principal of the Roorkee College as throwing some light on the question now before Government, Major MacLagan, in reference to the injunctions of this Government to the Madras Committee that the Rules should be more definite, observes as follows:

"The practical defect of the Rules laid down in the Notification, of the Supreme Government of 17th June last, is, as observed by the Madras Government, the want of a sufficiently definite detail of the proficiency to be required. The vagueness in the Tests there prescribed was, as I am informed in a private communication from the Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department intentional. There being at the time only one Examiner according to those Rules (there are now only two, the Principal of the Roorkee and Calcutta Colleges) it was thought advisable to leave the details to him, in order that he might, as far as possible, assimilate the test applied to outside Candidates with the proficiency required of the College Students. The interpretation which I have given to the tests there prescribed will be seen from the accompanying specimens of examinations which I have set since the new Rules came into operation. A comparison of examinations is now about to be made with the Principal of the Calcutta College with the view of establishing uniformity of practice in the tests prescribed by the two institutions."

exactly

5. The course of study laid down in the Roorkee College in November 1856, or after the Public Works Notification of the Bengal Government, indicates the full number of marks to be attained in the different branches of study, which are particularized with much minuteness.

6. In para. 5 of Extract Minutes Consultation 23rd June 1857, No. 1213, this Government considered that the Rules laid down by the Calcutta Committee for "qualifications, appointments, and promotions," answered all the requirements of this Presidency, and they resolved accordingly to adopt, with certain modifications, the Notification of the Government of India in this respect. No allusion was made to the marks to be attained in each branch of study.

7. In the letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings, the Chief Engineer recommends that the Test of marks allotted in Bombay to the several subjects to be taken up by Candidate, for employment in the Public Works Department should, with a slight modification, be adopted at Madras. The Government are not at present in a position to meet this requisition, or to decide the number of marks that should be assigned to the different subjects. They resolve therefore to refer the matter for the opinion of the Principal of the Madras Engineering College, and to request that Officer, after consulting the correspondence to which allusion has been made to frame a scale for the purpose and submit it for the orders of Government.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Central Office of Public Works
Fort St. George 19 February 1858

N^o 7508.

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation N^o 243 dated the 11th February 1858, which contains a communication from the Bombay Government forwarding an Extract from a Statement of marks obtained by the Candidate dates for the Public Works Department examined on the 8th December 1857, agreeably to the Test laid down in the Government Notification of the 23rd June 1857, Camp No. 19th December 1857, and to recommend that the same scale of acquirement on the same subjects, and the same Maximum and Minimum number of marks, be allotted in all future examinations in Madras with the exception that 100 be made the maximum

exactly

maximum and 30 the minimum number for
the "adjustment and use of the theodolite" in-
stead of 400 as a maximum, and 80 as a
minimum; and also that publicity be given to
the decision of Government, as a general igno-
rance prevails respecting, not only the standard,
but the nature of the qualifications to be
tested in candidates for Public Works employment.

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George }
19th February 1858.
L. S. S. S.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant.

W. A. S. S. S. Colonel
Chief Engineer.

P. 540 P. 11 D

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 25th March 1858.

Read the following letter from the Chief Eng^r.
(Here enter 19th February 1858. 487/505)

P. 1. In the Bengal Notification of the 17th June 1856, Rules were laid down applicable to all branches of the Public Works Department in the Lieutenant-Governorships and local administrations subordinate to the Government of India. Amongst these rules were the tests to be raised by parties seeking employment in the different grades of the Public Works Department, viz. paras 29 to 74 under the heads of "Qualifications, appointments and Promotions".

2. On the 23rd September 1856 this Government appointed a Committee to prepare a scale of tests for the Public Works Department of this Presidency; and in directing the attention of the Committee to the Bengal Rules of the 17th June as their guide, the Government particularly remarked that the Rules for Madras should be more definite, "prescribing exactly

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exactly the tests to be passed

3 The Report of the Committee was enclosed in the Chief Engineer's letter of the 19th March 1857, and this, with other papers on the same subject, received consideration in Extract Minutes and Consultation 23rd June 1857, p. 1213. In that letter the Chief Engineer informed the Government that he had been in communication with the authorities in Darnbury, Dornak, ^{and} Calcutta, and with the Principal of the Thomason College at Roorkhee, and that he had furnished the Director of Public Instruction with the information he had obtained from Roorkhee.

4 The Roorkhee papers were laid before Government in the letter from the Director of Public Instruction dated 6th April 1857, which ^{forms one of the papers} considered by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 23rd June 1857. It is only necessary to refer to the letter from the Principals of the Roorkhee College as throwing some light

light on the question now before Gov^{ty}. Major Macleagan, in reference to the instructions of this Government to the Madras Committee that the Rules should be more definite, observes as follows.

"The practical defect of the Rules laid down in the notification of the Supreme Government of 17th June last, is, as observed by the Madras Gov^{ty}, the want of a sufficiently definite detail of the proficiency to be required. The vagueness in the tests there prescribed was, as I am informed in a private communication from the Secy^{to} to Government in the Public Works Dept^{ty}, intentional. There being, at the time only one Examiner according to those rules (there are now only two, the Principals of the Roorkhee and Calcutta Colleges) it was thought advisable to leave the details to him, in order, that he might, as far as possible, assimilate the tests applied to outside candidates with the proficiency

proficiency required of the students.
The interpretation which I have given
to the tests there prescribed will be seen
from the accompanying specimens of
examinations which I have set since
the new rules came into operation.
A comparison of examinations is now
about to be made with the Principal
of the Calcutta College with the view
of establishing uniformity of ^{practice} ~~practice~~
in the tests prescribed by the two in-
stitutions.

5. The Course of Study laid down
in the Roorkhee College in November
1856, or after the Public Works Notification
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the full number of months to be attained
in the different branches of study, &
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much minuteness.

6. In para 5 of Extract Minutes
Consultation 23rd June 1857 No 1213, the
Government considered that the Rules
laid down by the Calcutta Committee
for

for "qualifications, appointments,
promotions," answered all the re-
quirements of the Presidency, and
resolved accordingly to adopt
certain modifications, the Notifi-
cation of the Government of India
in this respect. No allusion is
made to the marks to be attained
in each branch of study.

In the letter recorded at
the head of these Proceedings the
Chief Engineer recommends that
the test of marks allotted in
^{the several subjects to be taken up by}
Bombay to be consolidated for ex-
amination in the Public Works Depart-
ment, with a slight modifica-
tion, be adopted at Madras. The
Governments are not at present
in a position to meet this re-
quisition, or to decide the number
of marks that should be as-
signed to the different subjects. The

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for the opinion of the Principal of
the Madras Engineering College,
and to request that officer, after
consulting the correspondence to which
allusion has been made,
to frame a scale for the purpose
and submit it for the orders of
Government.

B. J.

1 Copy to the Chief Secy.
Dist. 26

1 - Mr. of the M. E. College
with copy of the

Public Works 1868 D. 504
Dy to Comr: Mr. Harcourt

No. 540
Extract from the office
Dated 25th March 1868
From the Prin^l of the Madras Eng^g
College D/14 to S. 1868 C. 50870.
In Com: 11 May

Observing that Government
are not at present in a
position to meet the requisition
or to decide the number of marks
that should be assigned to the
different subjects, and ordering
that the matter may be referred
for the opinion of the Principals
of the Madras Engineering College
and requesting him to frame a
scale for the purpose, and submit
it for the orders of Government.

No. 25426

C. 124 March 28 1868