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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 370

Press
Mis.

714-15

Dated 31

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1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st January 1870.*

No. 714. Read the following letter from the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 21st January 1870, No. 2,430 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit copy of a letter, dated the 10th ultimo, addressed to me by Supervisor Mr. Seton, and asking for the consideration of his claims for promotion to Warrant rank.

1 Copy of Mr. Seton's letter.
1 Extract Service Register.
1 Recommendation Roll.

2. Mr. Seton represents that he is at present liable to be superseded in Military rank by Serjeants who may complete fifteen years' general service before him, and that such Serjeants, by virtue of entering the rank of Sub-Conductor first, will hereafter, in the ordinary course, pass over him also in the Departmental list by becoming Assistant Engineers when they attain the rank of Deputy Assistant Commissary with an Honorary Commission. Thus Mr. Seton shows that he gains no advantage from meritorious conduct and rapid rise in the Departmental grades, but that, whereas, Overseers may be promoted to Sub-Conductor in the next few months immediately on completion of fifteen years' service; he, a 1st-class Supervisor, may find that all vacancies are filled up at the date of his completing fifteen years' service, and may, therefore, have to wait an indefinite period for his promotion.

Mr. Seton also considers that if the Warrant Officers of the Public Works Department had been kept up to their full numerical strength, he would have been promoted to act as Sub-Conductor some time ago, and thus have maintained his position.

3. The conditions for promotion to Warrant rank require fifteen years' total service, including five years' service as a Serjeant and respectable character and attainments. Serjeant Seton has been eight and a half years a Serjeant, but his total service is not more than fourteen and a half years reckoned up to the 1st February 1870; he has been nine years employed in the Public Works Department, and for the last five and three-fourth years has held the rank of Supervisor.

It appears to me that Mr. Seton's case is somewhat an exceptional one; for I do not find on the list any other Serjeant who has risen in the same way in the Departmental list above his contemporaries, and it seems hard, too, that he should have no other prospect but of being superseded both in the Department and in Military rank by men whom he has up to this time so far passed by in Departmental rank.

4. I would, therefore, recommend for consideration whether there would be objection to Serjeant Seton being appointed to act as Sub-Conductor, previous to the date when his fifteen years' service expire, viz., the 1st August 1870; or otherwise, I would venture to make a suggestion that, when promotions are about to be made to fill vacancies, a place might be reserved for a time to enable a Serjeant, otherwise eligible, to complete the service qualifying for promotion.

5. Serjeant Seton has been a very short time only in this division, and I have, therefore, little personal knowledge of his general character; but I enclose the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st January 1870.*

Extract of Service Register, and also a Recommendation Roll, in case the question of promotion is favourably received, for disposal in the Military Department.

No. 715.

ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1870, No. 370.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 63.

THE Government see nothing in Serjeant Seton's case to warrant any departure from the rule which requires that a Non-Commissioned Officer in the Public Works Department should have fifteen years' service in the Army before he can be considered as eligible for advancement to the Warrant grades.

Vide page 10 of Army List.

2. As there are at present six vacancies in the grade of Sub-Conductor the Superintending Engineers will furnish to the Adjutant-General a list of the names of the Serjeants employed in their respective divisions who may be qualified under the rules for promotion.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
To all other Superintending Engineers.
To the Military Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No. 16 of 1869/70

*Camp. Periaundum,
10th December 1869.*

From,

M^r. C. Seton

1st Class Supervisor P.W.

To,

*Captain J. H. S. Prendergast R.E.,
Officiating Superintending Engineer,
8th Division*

Sir,

*I very respectfully beg to submit
for your favorable Consideration, the following
observations with regard to my military
advancement to the Warrant Grade in
the Department of Public Works. —*

*2. At present there are 5 Vacancies
in the P.W.D. for the rank of Sub-Conductor
and it was never intended by Government
when framing the order requiring 15 years
Military Service, as a qualification for
promotion to the Warrant Grade, that*

the Senior Subordinates of this Department should be passed over for Military promotion by others more recently entertained; simply because they had not Completed 15 years service, but yet could reckon 9 or 10 years service in the Department, and were otherwise eligible. —

3. My personal position and Claims to immediate promotion may be thus defined. —

1st I shall have actually Completed 15 years Military service by the 1st of August next. —

2nd I have held the rank of Sergeant since the 15th of July 1861; and have thus Completed very nearly 8½ years service in that grade; a far greater length than is required under present rules, and in this respect my
claims

Claim is superior to any one now in the Department. —

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3^{rdly} That I draw a Consolidated salary of Rupees 200 per mensem, and my promotion will not entail any expense to Government, or at any rate very little, and in this respect also, my claim to promotion is superior to any one else now in the Department. —

4^{thly} That between this date and the 1st of next August, my juniors in the Department both in rank, and Departmental service, will in some instances be promoted to the Warrant Grade, before me, merely because they will have Completed 15 years service a few months in advance, and it may so happen that all the present vacancies may be filled up by my juniors, and possibly I may be debarred from filling one of the existing vacancies altogether.

5th That promotions in the Military ranks being made by seniority, I will ultimately by a late order of the Supreme Government be superseded in this Department by my present juniors, both in rank and Departmental service; that Departmental promotion is obtained by merit; and it is manifestly unjust my position gained by meritorious Conduct, should be prejudiced by my juniors having a few months more Military service, and placed in a superior position to me, merely on that account. —

It is necessary I should illustrate the manner in which my future prospects in the Department have been already prejudiced, by the promotion of my juniors in Departmental rank to the grade of Sub Conductor. —

Sub

Sub Conductor Chodny, although a longer service in the Department than it is in the Department my junior, by 26 grades; not having advanced above the rank of Overseer; whereas my own merit have held the rank of 1st Class Supervisor for upwards of 2 years; but by his promotion to Sub Conductor before me, he will obtain in course of time an Honorary Commission, and will at once become my superior in the Department, not by merit, but by the order of the Supreme Government referred to above, which order I regret I am unable to quote, but it directs the Officers immediate promotion to the rank of Assistant Engineer on his succeeding to a Commission.

Sub Conductor Grenez entered the

the Department are aware after me, he has not yet attained to my Departmental rank, but having more Military service, he will eventually become my Departmental Superior, not by merit, but by the operation of the order of the Supreme Government referred to above.

Sub Conductor Jack also has not attained to a rank above that of Overseer, and although employed in the Department before me, still he left it for some times, and I do not think he has altogether a great length of Departmental service, yet he will also ultimately become my Departmental Superior, by mere length of service and not by merit.

5. Further had the Warrant Officers of this Department been kept up to the full strength as obtains in the Commissariat and Ordnance Department, I respectfully submit

submit. I would have been promoted to an acting vacancy 11 or 15 years ago, and would have maintained my proper position, and senior to the Warrant Officers referred to above, owing to my superior Departmental rank.

6. It is almost superfluous to add, if the rule of 15 years Military service, is rigidly adhered to, in my case, the intentions of Government repeatedly declared of making promotion in this Department by merit only are negatived, and I will therefore thank you to be good enough, to request the Military Department to lay my case before Government as a special case, and I respectfully beg you will be good enough to support this appeal with a favorable recommendation to the Commander in Chief of this Presidency through the

the proper Channel. —

Thos. W. H.

/Signed/ Charles Seton.

Supervisor. D. P. W.

(True Copy)

Amos S. S. & Capt. R.

Off. Superintending Engineer
8th Division

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Enclosure N: 1 is a Letter from
the Officiating Superintending
Engineer S: Division dated
21st January 1870
N: 2430

To The Secretary to Govt
Madras

N: 308/70.

Copy of Mr. Seton's
Letter N: 15, dated 10th
December 1869.

N: 2430 Madras
21st January 1870.
From,

Captain H. L. Prendergast R.E.,
Officiating Superintending Engineer
S: Division

To
Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government D. P. S.
Madras

Enclosures 3
1 Copy of Mr. Seton's
Letter.
1 Extract Service
Register
1 Recommendation
Roll.

I have the honor to submit
Copy of a Letter dated the 10th Ultimo,
addressed to me by Supervisor Mr.
Seton, and asking for the Consideration
of his Claims for promotion to Warrant
rank.

2. Mr. Seton represents, that he is
at present liable to be superseded in
Military rank, by Serjeants, who may
complete 15 years general service before
him: and that such Serjeants, by virtue
of entering the rank of Sub Conductors
first

first, will hereafter in the ordinary Course, pass over him also in the Departmental list, by becoming Assistant Engineers, when they attain the rank of Deputy Assistant Commissary with an Honorary Commission. Thus Mr. Seton shows that he gains no advantage from meritorious Conduct and rapid rise in the Departmental Grades; but that whereas Overseers may be promoted to Sub Conductor in the next few months immediately on Completion of 15 years service; he, as 1st Class Supervisor, may find that all vacancies are filled up, at the date of his Completing 15 years Service, and may therefore have to wait an indefinite period, for his promotion.

promotion.

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Mr. Seton also Considers that if the Warrant Officers of the P.W. Department, had been kept up to their full numerical strength, he would have been promoted to act as Sub Conductor, some time ago, and thus have maintained his position. —

3. The Conditions for promotion to Warrant rank, require 15 years total service, including 5 years service as a Sergeant and respectable Character and attainments. Sergeant Seton has been 8½ years a Sergeant, but his total service is not more than 14½ years reckoned up to the 1st February 1870. — he has been 9 years employed in the P.W. Department, and for the last 5¾ years has held the rank of Supervisor.

Supervisor.

It appears to me that Mr. Seton's Case is somewhat an exceptional one; for I do not find on the List, any other Sergeant, who has risen in the same way in the Departmental list above his Co-temporaries; and it seems hard too, that he should have no other prospect but of being superseded both in the Department and in Military rank, by men whom he has up to this time, so far passed by in Departmental rank.

4. I would therefore recommend for Consideration, whether there would be objection to Sergeant Seton being appointed to act as Sub Conductor; previous to the date when his 15 years' Service

Service, expire, viz^t the 1st August 1870, or otherwise, I would venture to make a suggestion, that when promotions are about to be made to fill vacancies, a place might be reserved for a time to enable a Sergeant, otherwise eligible, to complete the service qualifying for promotion.

5. Sergeant Seton has been a very short time only in this Division; and I have therefore little personal knowledge of his general Character, but I enclose the Extract of Service Register, and also a Recommendation roll, in case the question of promo-

tion

tion is favorably received, for disposal
in the Military Department.

I have &c
Newbern post. Captain R.E.
Off^r Superintending Engineer
S^t Division.

11

Wm. 1700 Clerk
The High Court of Admiralty
1700

Wm. 1700 Clerk
The High Court of Admiralty
1700

Wm. 1700 Clerk
The High Court of Admiralty
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Wm. 1700 Clerk
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Wm. 1700 Clerk
The High Court of Admiralty
1700

Wm. 1700

Wm. 1700 Clerk

Roll of Sergeant's employed in the S. Division in the Public Works Department
 good subscriptions to the rank of Sergeant Office in the Public Works Department
 13
 Copies to which
 subsequent, prior to
 employment in the
 Public Works Department
 Name and Name
 Date of
 Enlistment
 Date of promotion
 to the rank of
 Sergeant
 Date of appoint-
 ment in the Dept.
 Public Works
 Present Rank
 in the Dept.
 Public Works
 Remarks as to Character
 respectability of Conduct
 general fitness for promotion
 the Public Works Department

All studies for the National
 recorded in the Bureau Register
 from 1855 to 1867.

some Captains and some
Major Palmer, Lieutenant
Colonel Bennett; and Captain
Parker.

Amsterdam
Café de la Paix
Paris

Maduro
St. Domingo

Providence, 11th of a Letter
from the Boarding School's
Anglo-Sax Division, dated

Feb 23
Lithomarge 1850

Wm. D. Smith
The Secretary to Congress
Washington

Feb 200/70.

Copy of Mr. Sedgwick's
Service Acquirement

Public Works Department.

No 370

14

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 31st Jan'y/70.

Read the following.

From The Offg. Superintg. Engrs
8th Division

The Government see nothing in Sergeant Sison's case to warrant any departure from the rule which requires that a Non Commissioned Officer in the Public Works Department, should have 15 years service in the Army before he can be considered as eligible for advancement to the Warrant grades -

As there are at present 6 vacancies in
vide para 10 of Army List

Enclosure No. 3 in a letter from the Offg. Engrs to the Division dated 21st January 1890.

1890/1

By Order of the Secy to Govt.

Madras.

pp. 207/70

Recommendation Roll
Information to the rank
of 2nd Division Officer.

Enclosure

in the grade of Sub
Conductor the Super
Engineers will furnish
to the Adjutant General
a list of the names
of the Sergeants employed
in their respective Divisions
who may be qualified
under the rules for
promotion.

10-2
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To
The S. Eng 6th Div
All other S. Engs
15- .. Miley Dept
Sept 2/2/70

S-C trail Sept 4 by 20 Sept 4/2/70

Cue 300

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engrs.
S. E. Division

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 3

G. O. 3/25 Jan 1870, No. 370

Nos. 711-715

Sctm. Serjeant. Supr Refug
orders on the letter from
the Supr Engrs of the S. E. Div.
relative to the claims of Supr
Serjeant Sctm for advance
in rank & pension & gratuity.