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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1833 Press Mis.

1874-85

Dated 12-7- 1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 184. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 20th June 1871, No. 928 :—

In continuation of my letter No. 734, of the 6th instant, I have the honour to point out that during the interval between Assistant Engineer Mr. O. A. Haynes' departure from the Dindigul Range, and the arrival of Assistant Engineer Mr. H. Lyon, appointed from Nellore to the Madura District, *vide Fort St. George Gazette* of the 13th idem, Overseer Serjeant J. Hamilton, who is in temporary charge of the range, is subjected to considerable expense; and to solicit therefore that he may be promoted to the rank of Supervisor, or at least that he may be permitted to draw the allowances of a Supervisor for the period during which he remains in charge.

2. There are few Supervisors in the department and still fewer Overseers, I should imagine, who have had equally good means of acquiring practical knowledge, and who have the professional attainments of Serjeant Hamilton. I have recently inspected several of the roads in his talook, and I have no hesitation in expressing my unqualified approval of them. Indeed, in original conformation and in the systematic mode of maintenance, they surpass all the imperial roads in the division, and they most satisfactorily disprove what might otherwise be thought to be the case, judging from the rude and shapeless and almost impassable tracks of the Revenue Department, styled District Roads, that road-making is a lost art in the Madura District, and I consider that Serjeant Hamilton has fairly earned his promotion to the grade of Supervisor.

3. To fix the pay of an Overseer at a certain sum, whether the incumbent be a European or a Native, is manifestly to remunerate them very unequally. Individually it is very hard on the European, and departmentally it is unjust to the Government, who, for a finished description of work, are paying the same price as they do for an inferior and frequently worthless article.

4. It must be conceded that, in this country, a European Serjeant conducting the duties and on the pay of an Overseer is not altogether in an enviable position. He has to get over a great deal of country, and visit village after village where not a single house is open to him, nor word nor sign of welcome even offered him. On the contrary, in some places, the Natamgar will not hesitate to withhold supplies, even the very necessaries of life, and consider that by so doing he is performing a meritorious act, while the Serjeant, at his head-quarter's station, is fortunate if he finds any single family of his own position with whom to associate. He is thus subjected to many of the expenses which, although they may fall lightly on other Europeans on superior pay, tax him very heavily. And I would venture to suggest, therefore, as worthy of the consideration of the Government, whether after a short probation, a Serjeant of Engineers should not be ruled to be entitled to the pay and allowances of a Supervisor.

5. In this recommendation there is one point on which I wish to lay particular stress, and that is the temptations to which an underpaid subordinate is subjected in this country. It may be said that, if a man is determined to be dishonest, no amount of pay will deter him from his malpractices. But I cannot

consider that this disposes of the question. We are taught to pray that we ourselves may not be led into temptation; and surely we are bound, therefore, to take every precaution that we do not deliberately place others, especially our European subordinates, in so perilous a position.

No. 185. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1871, No. 1,833.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 24.

THE Government are glad to receive so satisfactory a report on Serjeant Hamilton's attainments and to learn that he has given such satisfaction by the efficient manner in which he has discharged his duties as an Overseer, and his claims to promotion will receive the earliest consideration that is consistent with due regard to those of other deserving men.

2. The Government regret that they are unable to award Serjeant Hamilton any pecuniary recompense for the period he has been in charge of a range, as acting appointments among upper subordinates is prohibited; but His Excellency in Council will hope to be able to reward the Overseer by earlier promotion than would otherwise have probably fallen to him and his fitness for which the temporary charge of a range has given him an opportunity of showing.

3. The Government are not prepared to entertain the proposals in paragraph 4.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 928

Madura
20th June 1871

From

Lieut. Col. C A Roberts RE
Acty Superintg Engineer 8th Div.

To

Colonel J Carpendale RE
Secretary to Government &c.

Sir.

In continuation of my letter No 784 of the 6th Instant I have the honor to point out that during the interval between Assistant Engineer Mr O. A. Haynes departure from the Dindigul Range and the arrival of Assistant Engineer Mr H. Lyon appointed from Nellore to the Madura District vide Fort Saint George Gazette of the 13th idem, Overseer Serjeant J Hamilton who is in temporary charge of the Range is subjected to considerable expenses; and to solicit therefore that he may be promoted to the rank of Supervisor

or at least that he may be permitted to draw the allowances of a Supervisor for the period during which he remains in charge.

2 There are few Supervisors in the Department and while fewer Overseers, I should imagine, who have had equally good means of acquiring practical knowledge and who have the professional attainments of Serjeant Hamilton. I have recently inspected several of the roads in his Taluk, and I have no hesitation in expressing my unqualified approval of them. Indeed in original conformation and in the systematic mode of maintenance, they surpass all the Imperial roads in the Division and they most satisfactorily disprove what might otherwise be thought to be the case, judging from the rude and shapeless and almost impossible tracks of the Revenue Department, styled District Roads.

that road-making is a lost art in the Madura District, and I consider that Serjeant Hamilton has fairly earned his promotion to the grade of Supervisor.

3 To fix the pay of an Overseer at a certain sum, whether the incumbent be a European or a Native, is manifestly to remunerate them very unequally. Individually it is very hard on the European, and Departmentally it is unjust to the Government, who for a finished description of work are paying the same price as they do for an inferior and frequently worthless article.

4 It must be conceded that in this country a European Serjeant conducting the duties and on the pay of an Overseer is not altogether in an enviable position. He has to get over a great deal of country and visit

village after village where not a single house is open to him, nor word nor sign of welcome even offered him. On the contrary, in some places, the Natamgar will not hesitate to withhold supplies, even the very necessaries of life, and consider that by so doing he is performing a meritorious act, while the Serjeant at his Head Quarters' station, is fortunate if he finds any single family of his own position with whom to associate. He is thus subjected to many of the expenses which although they may fall lightly on other Europeans on superior pay, tax him very heavily. And I would venture to suggest therefore as worthy of the consideration of the Government whether, after a short probation, a Serjeant of Engineers should not be ruled to be entitled to the pay and allowances of a Supervisor.

5 In this recommendation there is one point on which I wish to lay particular stress and that is the temptations to which an under-paid subordinate is subjected in this country. It may be said that if a man is determined to be dishonest no amount of pay will deter him from his malpractices. But I cannot consider that this disposes of the question. We are taught to pray that we ourselves may not be led into temptation; and surely we are bound therefore to take every precaution that we do not deliberately place others, especially our European subordinates, in so perilous a position.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
Richd. Robert Lieut. Bd. &c
Ag. Superintg. Engineer 8 Dr

P.W. Dept. 91

No. 1833.

Procedings of the Executive Council
Mauritius the 12th July 1871.
Read the following
Minute of the Governor

Minute of the Governor dated 8th August 1870.

The Government are
glad to record an initiative
step of this kind in which
Hamilton obtained the
Queen's Gratification by the
civil satisfaction with which
efficient manner his attended
to the duties assigned him
and his claims to promo-
tion will be received the
Govt will be considerations
earliest consideration with
that is convenient with
due regard to those of
other deserving men.
(Sd)

No. 1871

65 July/71 R. 7

Pub 20 June/71 pp 361-362

P.W. 1871 Dept
Registered for Outs 2926.
From The Asst. Supt. Engineer
8th Division
To, The Secretary to Govt
D.P.W
Mauritius

Dated 20th
Received 23rd June 1871.

Brings to the notice of
Govt the high opinion enter-
-tained by him of the
works executed by Serjeant
Hamilton & recommends
that he be promoted to
the rank of Supervisor.

No. 1833 - 12 July/71

The Government
regret that they are
unable to award Sergeant
Hamilton any pecuniary
recompense for the period
he has been in charge
of a Range as acting
appointments among
upper Subordinates is
prohibited but His
Excellency in Council
will hope to be able to
reward the Overseer by
earlier promotion than
would otherwise have
probably fallen to him
and his fitness for which
the temporary charge of a
Range has given him
an opportunity of showing.

The Government are

not

11th 5

not prepared to entertain
the proposals in Para 4.

L. 30 6.

17

No. 1 The Deputy Engineer
8. Dec.

Depd. 13/7/71.

Govt of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS;

To The Actg Superintending Engr
8th Circle

Dated

Rcd.

G. O. 12th July No. 1833.

Nos. 184 & 185

Sd/- [illegible]

Sd/- [illegible]

Sd/- [illegible]