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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

*Public Works*

DEPARTMENT

|          |        |       |
|----------|--------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 2102.  | Press |
| B.P. No. |        | Mis.  |
| 347-349. |        |       |
| Dated    | 23. 8. | 1873. |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
23rd August 1873.*

Read the following letters :—

No. 377. From Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 25th July 1873, No. 1,729 :—

IN reference to G. O., 9th July 1873, No. 1,770, intimating that certain Rolls will be published, in the official *Gazette*, of students who have recently qualified as Supervisor, Overseers, etc., etc., etc., I have the honour to request information as to whether the Notification on page 1,612 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, of the 1st October 1872, alludes, or not, to a further medical certificate to be provided by these and other students equally certified to be duly qualified.

2. If so, and I say it with all respect, it appears to me to be making a mere skittle of a man, to set him up merely to knock him down again. What, I may ask, is the object of a student's going through a laborious course if, at the end of it, he is only to be informed that he is physically unfit for the post for which he has qualified at a great expenditure of time and money?

3. I have before me an application for the post of Taluq Overseer from a candidate who holds a qualification certificate from the Civil Engineering College, Madras, as B. C. E. I am precluded, however, from appointing him, inasmuch as the Civil Surgeon is not prepared to say, without testing his case for a certain period, whether or not the candidate is physically fit for the duties in question.

4. In England, as you are aware, there is but one medical test, viz., that which precedes the candidate's permission to compete for the Government service, and I submit that candidates having once earned certificates qualifying them for certain posts in the Government service, those certificates cannot fairly be subsequently barred, still less can they be vitiated by *ex post facto* legislation.

No. 378. From the same Officer, dated Madura, 31st July 1873, No. 1,799.

IN continuation of my letter No. 1,729, dated the 25th instant, I have the honour to inform you that as I have not asked, as I should have done, for the favour of an early reply to my letter above quoted, on the subject of filling up a vacancy in the grade of Overseer in this district, I shall feel much obliged by your obtaining the same at your early convenience.

No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 23rd August 1873, No. 2,102.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 24.

As applicants for admission to the Civil Engineering College are required to furnish certificates of physical fitness for the Public Works Department, students passing out of the College are necessarily exempt from the operation of the Rule referred to by the District Engineer, Madura; whose reference on the subject would appear to have been uncalled for. The phraseology in which it is worded is certainly out of order.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

*Secretary to Government.*

To the District Engineer, Madura.

„ Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

No 1729 District Engineer's Office  
Madras 25 July 1873

From

Lieutenant Colonel R. A. Roberts  
District Engineer  
Madras

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.  
Secretary to Government  
Madras

In reference to C.O. of 9th July 1873,  
No 1770, intimating that certain Stolls will  
be published in the Official Gazette of  
Students who have recently qualified as Superior  
Officers, &c. &c. &c. I have the honor  
to request information as to whether the  
Notification on Page 1612 of the Fort  
Saint George Gazette of the 1st October  
1872 alludes, or not, to a further Medical  
Certificate to be provided by these and other  
Students equally Certified to be duly qualified.

2. If so, and I say it with all respect, it appears to me to be making a mere shuttle of a man, to set him up merely to knock him down again. What I mean is the object of a Student's going through a laborious course, if at the end of it he is only to be informed that he is physically unfit for the post for which he has qualified at a great expenditure of time and money.

3. I have before me an application for the post of Palug Overseer from a candidate who holds a qualifications Certificate from the Civil Engineering College Madras, as B. C. E. I am precluded, however, from appointing him, in as much as the Civil Surgeon is not prepared to say without testing his case for a certain period, whether or not the Candidate is physically fit for the duties in question.

4. In England, as you are aware there is but one Medical test, viz. that which precedes the Candidate's permission to compete for the Government service, and I submit that Candidates having once earned Certificates qualifying them for certain posts in the Government service, those Certificates cannot fairly be subsequently barred, still less can they be vitiated by ex post facto legislation.

I have the honor to be  
Sir,  
Your Most Obedient Servant,  
Rica Roberts, Lieut. Col. R.  
District Engineer Madras

N: 1799. District Engineers Office.  
Madura. 31<sup>st</sup> July 1873.  
From, Lieutenant Colonel R. A. Roberts R.E.  
District Engineer  
Madura

To, Colonel C. W. Walker R.E.  
Secretary to Government. P. O. W.  
Madras.

Sir, In continuation of my letter N: 1729 dated the 25<sup>th</sup> Instant, I have the honor to inform you that as I have not asked, as I should have done, for the favor of an early reply to my letter above quoted, on the subject of filling up a vacancy in the grade of Overseer in this District, I shall feel much obliged by your obtaining the same, at your early convenience.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your Most Obedient Servant  
R. A. Roberts Lieut. Col. R.E.  
District Engineer Madura

P. M. 1873. 10. 11.  
The 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1873.

From. No. 4210.  
The District Engineer  
Madura.

To. The Secretary to Govt.  
P. O. W.  
Madras.

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 1873.  
Received - 28 - 11.

Notice information  
as to whether or  
further medical certificates  
to be provided by  
the Students recently  
qualified as Supervision  
Dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 1873.  
No. 2102-23. 11. 73.

200

N<sup>o</sup> 2102

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
under date the August/73

Read the following  
papers...  
From the Secy Madras (H E. N<sup>o</sup> 1729 of 25 July/73  
" " " " " H E. N<sup>o</sup> 1799 of 31 " " " "

To applicants  
for admission to the  
Civil Engineering  
College are <sup>required</sup> ~~expected~~  
to furnish certificates  
of physical fitness  
for the Public Works  
Department. Students  
passing out of the  
College are necessarily  
exempt from the

F.

11/11/99

From. H<sup>o</sup> 4003.

The District Engineer  
Madras.

The Secy to Govt.  
P. W. D.  
Madras.

Received 21 July 1873.

Informing that he pointed to  
Society under letter No 1721  
25th March on the subject of  
getting up a new way with  
grate of Governor for an  
early reply; and requests  
to obtain early orders of  
Govt in the subject.  
H<sup>o</sup> 2102.23 Aug 1873.

200 & 2102.23 Aug 1873

operation of the Rule  
 referred to by the  
 District Engineer Madras  
 whose reference  
 in the subject  
 would appear  
 to have been  
 recalled for.  
 The phraseology  
 in which it is  
 worded is cer-  
 tainly out of  
 order.

Chp  
 4210  
 4305  
 Govt. of 1873 Madras.  
 PUBLIC WORKS.

The District Engineer  
 Madras

Dated  
 Recd.  
 Sent.  
 G. O. 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 1878 No. 2102.

Nos. 377 @ 379

Civil Engineering College.  
 The District Engineer  
 Madras informed that  
 Certificates of physical  
 fitness for the Public Works  
 Dept. from students passed  
 out of the College are  
 unnecessary -

377-79