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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1354 (W) Press
B.P. No. - Mis.

Dated 31-5-1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st May 1876.*

No. 523. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 15th May 1876, No. 752 :—

From Colonel R. M. MACDONALD, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the Honorable W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 10th May 1876, No. 1,259.

I HAVE the honor in submitting the accompanying letter, No. 56 C of the 9th instant, from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, to express a hope that Government will be pleased to reconsider their Order in the Public Works Department, No. 1,075 of the 29th April 1876.

2. The unsatisfactory position of the College Department of the Civil Engineering College owing to the small prospect of employment which the students had before them, was prominently brought to the notice of Lord Napier at one of the anniversaries of the College by Mr. Powell, and the result was the appointment of a Committee, who recommended that three appointments as Probationary Assistant Engineers should be annually given to those students who might attain the most distinguished positions in the list of Bachelors of Civil Engineering

3. Government in paragraph 2 of their Order, No. 1,237 of the 14th May 1872, approved of the regulations drawn up by the Committee, but determined that only one appointment should be made annually instead of three. More than this they thought they could not do, as provision had to be made for the employment of certain Royal Engineer Officers and Students from Cooper's Hill College.

4. This was understood to be a distinct pledge that one appointment would be given annually in the manner recommended by the Committee. It was referred to as such in the Public Instruction Report of the year, and at various anniversaries which have been held since, and there is very little doubt that the offer of this valuable prize has largely contributed to the marked improvement which has taken place in the number and qualifications of the students now entering the Senior Department of the College.

5. It so happens that the young man who had reason to expect this appointment this year is the most distinguished student who has ever passed out of the College, and I have no doubt that he entered the College and worked his way through the course in the full assurance that if he succeeded in fulfilling the conditions named the reward promised would be given. To a person so situated the withholding of the prize can scarcely appear in any other light than that of a breach of faith.

6. It is possible that the meaning of the Government Order may have been misunderstood. If an error has been committed on this point, I am primarily responsible for it, as I wrote the Report for 1871-72 referred to by Colonel Rogers. In G.O., No. 1,075, of the 29th April 1876, reference is made to paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 1,237, of the 14th May 1872, but no reference is made to paragraph 2. But the whole question turns upon paragraph 2 and not upon paragraph 6. Colonel Rogers has not asked Government to find immediate employment for all who have passed examinations for higher grades than that of Overseer. All that he has asked is for one Probationary Assistant Engineer's appointment for a person who has fulfilled the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st May 1876.*

From Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. ROGERS, R.E., Principal, Civil Engineering College, to Colonel R. M. MACDONALD, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated 9th May 1876, No. 56 C.

I HAVE the honor to forward G.O., No. 1,075, Public Works Department, dated 29th April last, and memorandum No. 744, of the 29th idem, from the Chief Engineer.

2. The Government Order states that I am quite mistaken in supposing that by G.O., No. 1,237, Public Works Department, of the 14th May 1872, the Government ever pledged themselves to find immediate employment for all who may pass for higher grades than that of Overseer, and that, in consequence of recent arrivals from England having rendered the Public Works Establishment above its full strength, it is not possible at present to entertain any Probationary Assistant Engineer. With reference to this Order the Chief Engineer, in his memorandum No. 744, offers to Ragavah Charriar, the student who graduated in the first-class as a B.C.E. at the recent University Examination, a position among the higher subordinates.

3. Whatever may have been the meaning intended to be given by the Government to their Order, No. 1,237 of 14th May 1872, and especially to that of paragraph 6 which, in their Order, No. 1,075 of the 29th April 1876, they state, shows that they never intended their order to be a guarantee of immediate employment as Probationary Assistant Engineers to those duly qualified, the Government themselves have distinctly permitted it to be alluded to as a guarantee in the Annual Report of Public Instruction for 1871-72, published with their Order No. 298, Educational Department, dated 2nd October 1873. In that Report the Director of Public Instruction, in his remarks regarding the Civil Engineering College (page 25), states that "the Government have recently guaranteed one appointment annually to the Senior Department.

4. Moreover, the interpretation as thus given, or tacitly assented to, by the Government itself, to their Order, was pointedly alluded to at the anniversary of the Civil Engineering College on the 30th May 1872, in my Annual Report of the College, read before the Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot, one of the Members of Council, who presided on that occasion. Since then the order has been referred to on every successive anniversary as an inducement to the natives of the higher classes to study in the Senior Department of the College.

5. It is possible that Government may have intended, in paragraph 6 of the Government Order, to guard against committing themselves to the appointment of one student of the College annually to the Engineering branch of the Public Works Department, without regard to any changes in the department, which might make such a measure undesirable or impossible. Still this paragraph was, I believe, always understood to refer only to those of the Second Department who, under the changes sanctioned by that Government Order, might obtain certificates for the grade of "Supervisor" instead of for that of "Overseer," for which rank alone certificates of qualification had been previously obtainable.

6. Be this as it may, if the present candidate who has just completed his studies at the College, at considerable cost of time and money, and who, by his abilities and industry, has won at the University the highest position ever yet obtained in the faculty of Engineering, and has done this in the certain expectation of obtaining employment in the upper branch of the Public Works Department, is to be told that, as a reward for his remarkably successful College career, he is to obtain, not the appointment he had so long held in view as the aim of all his labor and all his sacrifice, but that he is only to be placed among the subordinates of the department, it cannot, I think, be denied that he will have the right to say that he has been unjustly treated.

7. Not only Ragavah Charriar, but all those who are now studying at the College for the purpose of competing for the appointment of Probationary Assistant Engineer, will have the right to say that they have been induced to enter the College by hopes of preferment held out to them which were not to be fulfilled; and it is to be feared that they and their friends, and indeed the whole native community, who could not but have felt the greatest satisfaction in hearing that the Government had consented to give them a share in the administration of the Public Works Department, will consider that the Order of the 29th April has inflicted a wrong upon them.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st May 1876.*

8. I beg that you will lay this matter before the Government, and I trust that when they see the light in which the original order has been authoritatively and frequently interpreted and always regarded, they will so modify their Order of the 29th April as not, without due notice, to deprive any of the College Students of well-merited reward, or the native community at large of a privilege to which they attach a high value, and the loss of which would create serious discontent.

9. With regard to paragraph 2 of G.O. of the 29th April, I cannot understand how the absence of vacancies among Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers prevents the appointment of Ragavah Charriar as a Probationary Assistant Engineer. The single student who qualified under the G.O. of the 15th May 1872, and was appointed a Probationary Assistant Engineer, has been promoted to Assistant Engineer, and there are therefore now no Probationary Assistant Engineers. The grades above that of Probationary Assistant Engineer being full would be a reason for delaying promotion to those grades, but not for appointing candidates to a lower grade in which there are vacancies.

10. In urging the claims of Ragavah Charriar, I think that it should be pointed out that it would be only simple justice to him to put him on the same footing as his less distinguished predecessor, and that his appointment to the Public Works Department should have retrospective effect.

TRANSFERRED to the Department of Public Works for disposal.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 524.

ORDER THEREON, 31st May 1876, No. 1,354.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 44.

THE Director of Public Instruction was not warranted in stating in his Report for 1871-72 that the Government had unconditionally guaranteed one Engineer appointment annually to the Senior Department of the Civil Engineering College.

2. The final paragraph of G.O., No. 1,237 of 14th May 1872, unmistakably imposed a condition which should not have been overlooked, viz., the occurrence of vacancies in the limited establishment of the Department of Public Works on which appointments out of the College must depend.

3. T. Ragavah Charriar will be appointed as a Probationary Assistant Engineer on the occurrence of the first vacancy.

(True Extract)

Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Educational Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

From

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Madras.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor in submitting the accompanying letter, No. 56 C of the 9th instant, from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College to express a hope that Government will be pleased to reconsider their order in the Public Works Department, No. 1075 of the 29th April 1876.

2. The unsatisfactory position of the College Department of the Civil Engineering College owing to the small prospect of employment which the students had before them, was prominently brought to the notice of Lord Napier at one of the anniversaries of the College by Mr. Powell, and the result was the appointment of a Committee, who recommended that three appointments as Probationary Assistant Engineers should be annually given to those students who might attain the most distinguished positions in the list of Bachelors of Civil Engineering.

3. Government in para. 2 of their order, No. 1237 of the 14th May 1872 approved of the regulations drawn up by the Committee, but determined that only one appointment should be made annually instead of three. More than this they thought they could not do, as provision had to be made for the employment of certain Royal Engineer Officers and students from Cooper's Hill College.

4. This was understood to be a distinct pledge that one appointment would be given annually in the manner recommended by the Committee. It was referred to as such in the Public Instruction Report of the year, and at various anniversaries which have been held since, and there is very little doubt that the offer of this valuable prize has largely contributed to the marked improvement which has taken place in the number and qualifications of the students now entering the senior department of the College.

5. It so happens that the young man who had reason to expect this appointment this year is the most distinguished student who has ever passed out of the College, and I have no doubt that he entered the College and worked his way through the course in the full assurance that if he succeeded in fulfilling the conditions named, the reward promised would be given. To a person so situated the withholding of the prize can scarcely appear in any other light than that of a breach of faith.

6. It is possible that the meaning of the Government Order may have been misunderstood. If an error has been committed on this point, I am primarily responsible for it, as I wrote the report for 1871-72 referred to by Colonel Rogers. In Government Order, No. 1075 of the 29th April 1876 reference is made to para. 6 of Government Order, No. 1237 of the 14th May 1872, but no reference is made to para. 2. But the whole question turns upon para. 2 and not upon para. 6. Colonel Rogers has not asked Government to find immediate employment for all who have passed examinations for higher grades than that of Overseer. All that he has asked is for one Probationary Assistant Engineer's appointment for a person who has fulfilled the conditions laid down in para. 2.

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction,
MADRAS, 10th May 1876.

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

R. M. Macdonell

Director of Public Instruction.

P. W. 1876 Department

8937

From

The Educational Dept.

Dated 15th May } 1876.
Received 2nd June }

Letter: No 752

Sol. 20. 20. 73. 1876.
14th May 1876.
29 April 6-10 752.

As Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

From
The Director of Public Instruction.

Received 10th May 1876.

No. 1259.
Enclosure.

Submitting the claims of T. T.
Ragavachari, B. A., B. C. E., to the ap-
pointment of Probationary Assistant
Engineer.

14523

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

Read the following:—

1259 of 10th May 1876

The Director of Public Instruction was not warranted in stating in his Report for 1871-72 that the Government had unconditionally guaranteed one Engineer appointment annually to the Senior Department of the Civil Engineering College.

I say - all these orders with the greatest reluctance. I think we are not behaving handsomely. I should like to sketch a point in the case of this ^{our} successful candidate & openly avow the condition of things for the future & see what effect it has on the Senior Dept.

wh. probably will become unoccupancy. I have the in the hands of my colleagues being in minority N.E.

I have no objection

The final para of G.O. No. 1237 of 14th May 1872 applied to all these ~~indes~~ ^{indes} in the pre-
ceding para, and +

unmistakably

Recd. 26.5.76 (22.5.76)
Cir. 22.5.76 (22.5.76)
P. W. 1876 37 May 1876

Received 10th May 1876.
14523

[illegible]

No. 1354 Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the *31st May 1916*
 READ the following:—

From
The Director of Public Instruction } H.E. No 1259 dated
thru the Educational Dept. } 10th May. 1876.

The Director of Public Instruction was not warranted in stating in his Report for 1871-72 that the Government had unconditionally guaranteed one Engineer's appointment annually to the Senior Department of the Civil Engineering College.

The

The final para of G.O. No. 1237
of 12th May 1872 unmistakably
imposed a condition which
should not have been over-
looked viz. the occurrence
of vacancies in the limited
Establishment of the Depart-
ment of Public Works on
which appointments out
of the College must depend.
3. I. Ragavah Chavay
will be appointed as a
Probationary Assistant
Engineer on the occurrence
of the first vacancy.

N^o 523/24

To The,
Educational Department

2-5-96.

3937/VH

Govt. of Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

The Educational Dept.

Date

To

From

10.51 May 1357

No.

12-1-96

Engineering College
at Madras

J. T. Razawachari - B.A.

B.C.P.

Appointing

as a probationary

Asst. Engr. in the absence

of the first vacancy &

remarking on the question

of granting an Engr. of

appointment annually to