

(1) Number of pages 26
 (2) Date of repair 27 1 80
 (3) Initials of the Referencer lems

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1028	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26-4-1880	197-

A.H

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1028

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

26th April 1880, No. 1,028 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper:—

No. 41. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Fort St. George, 12th April 1880, No. 836.

From Colonel R. M. MACDONALD, Director of Public Instruction, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 6th April 1880, No. 1,401.

I HAVE the honor to submit a letter, No. 1 C, of the 5th instant, from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, suggesting the expediency of certain measures being taken to dispel doubts as to the stability of the Civil Engineering College and to provide employment for deserving men trained in that Institution.

2. The rumours referred to by Lieutenant Love are calculated to seriously injure the College, and unless there is some foundation for them, they should, I think, be authoritatively contradicted.

3. The suggestions contained in paragraph 4 seem to me deserving of the attention of Government in the Public Works Department.

From Lieutenant H. D. LOVE, R.E., Principal, Civil Engineering College, to the Director of Public Instruction, dated Chepauk, 5th April 1880, No. 1 C.

I HAVE the honor to report that the number of applicants for admission to the Civil Engineering College for the Session commencing in August next is likely to be smaller than usual, and that it may be anticipated that the cost of individual education will be correspondingly increased.

2. The causes of the diminished popularity of the Institution I believe to be those which follow:—

(a.) A very general impression which first made its appearance on the news of the re-organisation of the Public Works Department becoming public, and which has since been steadily increasing, that the College is about to be abolished. It is well known that groundless convictions occasionally take hold of the native mind, and that it is with difficulty they are removed; but in the present instance the ideas of the community have received the support of a portion of the local press.

(b.) An opinion, which is to some extent well-founded, that, owing to recent reductions in the Public Works Department, and to the method adopted to fill vacancies therein, a successful College course will be of indefinitely small value in providing eventual employment.

(c.) A belief, for which I understand some cause exists, that through the influence of friends, appointments on works under the control of Local Fund Boards may be obtained for individuals who have not studied at the Civil Engineering College.

3. Although the vigour of these opinions will probably diminish with the lapse of time, I have the honor to inquire whether you consider it desirable to take any steps to remove them more speedily, in order that the services of the establishment of the College may be utilised to the fullest extent during the ensuing Session, and that the cause of education may be promoted.

4. Should you do so, the following suggestions are submitted:—

(a.) It has been frequently pointed out in the College annual Reports and elsewhere that the present system of appointing passed students of the College to the Public Works Department is a haphazard one, and that success in gaining employment depends more on the importuning of superior officers and on interest with subordinate officers than it does on merit. No great harm to the department may result from this method of selection, as the men have taken College certificates, and are not likely to become a source of discredit to their employer, but they are not the best men obtainable; and I contend that it is not fair to the College, to the Public Works Department, or to the community in general, that the best men should not be utilised in the department for which they are specially trained. If all first appointments to the subordinate establishments of the Public Works Department were made by the Chief Engineer, in communication with the Principal of the College, and if it were made known that although appointments cannot be guaranteed to any passed students, yet that the most distinguished will in future be selected to fill all vacancies which occur (those persons whose services have recently been dispensed with being, when desirable, first provided for), I am convinced that the efficiency of the Public Works Department, and both the efficiency and the popularity of the College would be considerably increased.

(b.) Although the Public Works Department has published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* a list of persons recommended for employment under Local Fund Boards, yet, as those Boards may not be acquainted with the conditions of subordinate service in the Public Works Department, they might be advised to give employment as Supervisors, Overseers, Surveyors, and Draftsmen only to individuals who hold Civil Engineering College certificates; and be recommended to communicate with the Principal of that Institution before employing men who, though holding certificates, have not previously served in the Public Works Department.

If these recommendations were carried out by the Boards, the total demand from them and from the Public Works Department together for passed students would probably approximate closely to the demand from the department in past years. The College numbers would not fall off, emulation would be stimulated; and the efficiency of the department and of the Local Fund agency would be undoubtedly augmented.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1880, No. 1,028 W.

NOTWITHSTANDING the altered circumstance of the Public Works Department and the reductions which have lately been made in the establishment, the Government have no reason to anticipate any sensible falling off in the demand for qualified and trained men merely because much of the work formerly devolving on the department has now been transferred to the Local Fund Boards.

2. Several men holding College certificates who have lately been employed in the Public Works Department, and others in the employment of South Indian Railway, have been thrown out of employment, and as their re-engagement in positions suitable to their respective qualification is much to be desired, it is not improbable that some decrease may be experienced in the number of candidates for admission to the Civil Engineering College during the next session. In the opinion of Government such temporary diminution is not however to be regretted.

3. One of the proposals brought forward by the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, that first appointment of subordinates to the Public Works Department should be made by the Chief instead of by the Superintending Engineers, has already been met by the provisions of paragraph 184 of the new Public Works Code.

4. As regards the other proposals, that Local Fund Boards may be advised to give employment only to individuals who hold Engineering College certificates, &c., His Grace the Governor in Council considers it very essential that men fully qualified by education and character should alone be employed for the execution of work under

Local Fund Boards as in the Public Works Department, and that the desirability of attending strictly to this should be impressed on the Presidents of the several Boards, although the Government do not doubt that those officers are alive to the importance of the matter.

5. In conclusion it appears desirable to place on record that the Government have every desire to foster the interests of the Civil Engineering College to the extent that may be compatible with the demands for professionally trained men; to do more would only be productive of useless outlay on the part of the State, and of discontent on the part of passed candidates for whom no employment can be found.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To Superintending Engineers and Superintendents of Works.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Educational Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Gobt. of (1880) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS
AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF WORKS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 26th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 26th April 1880, No. 1,028 W.

APRIL
Nos. 41-42.

Civil Engineering College, Madras.—Pass-
ing orders on letters from the Principal —
and the Director of Public Instruction
regarding the rumour that the — is shortly
to be closed.

N^o 1401.

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction,
Madras. 6th April 1880.

From,

1028
The Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

To,

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a letter, No. 12
of the 5th instant, from the Principal of the
Civil Engineering College, suggesting the expedi-
ency of certain measures being taken to dispel
doubts as to the stability of the Civil Engineering
College and to provide employment for deserving
men trained in that institution.

2. The rumours referred to by Lieutenant
Love are calculated to seriously injure the College,
and unless there is some foundation for them,
they should, I think, be authoritatively contradicted.

3. The suggestions contained in Para 4
seem to me deserving of the attention of
Government in the Public Works Department.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedt. servant,
R. M. Munnick
Director of Public Instruction

P.W.D.
12 APR 80

N.P.

No. 16. 1028
From
The Principal,
Civil Engineering College,
Madras.

To The Director of
Public Instruction,
Madras.

Chennai, 5th April 1880.

Sir,
I have the honour to report
that the number of applicants
for a diploma to the Civil Engineering
College for the Session commencing
in August next is likely to be smaller
than usual, and that it may be
anticipated that the cost of individual
Education will be correspondingly
increased.

2. The causes of the diminished
popularity of the Institution, I
believe to be those which follow:-

(a) a very general impression
which first made its appearance on

Transmitted to the P.W.D.
J. J. Williams
12th April 1880.
Chief Secretary

1880

Submitted with
separate letter from the
Principal, Civil Engineering
College regarding the existing
rumour that the College
will shortly be closed.

Dated 14 April 1880
Recd 1st May 1880
better see me.

7 APR 80
R.D.
The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Madras
Public Instruction
Section

Encl (1880/88) 1
From Civil Eng College
The Director of
Public Instruction
Madras

29/4 R.D. 1880

29.4.80
25.4.80

the news of the reorganization of the Public Works Department. becoming public, and which has since been steadily increasing, that the College is about to be abolished. It is well known that prejudiced convictions occasionally take hold of the native mind, and that it is with difficulty they are removed; but in the present instance the ideas of the Community have received the support of a portion of the local Press.

(b) An opinion, which is to some extent well founded, that, owing to recent reductions in the Public Works Department, and to the method adopted to fill vacancies therein, a successful College Course will be of indefinitely small value in providing eventual employment.

(c) a belief, for which I understand some cause exists, that through the influence of friends, appointments to work under the control of Local Fund Boards may be obtained for individuals who have not studied at the Civil Engineering College.

3. Although the vigour of these opinions will probably diminish with the lapse of time, I have the honour to enquire whether you consider it desirable to take any steps to remove them more speedily, in order that the services of the Establishment of the College may be utilized to the fullest extent during the ensuing Session, and ^{that} the cause of education may be promoted.

4. Should you do so, the following suggestions are submitted:

(a) It has been frequently pointed out in the College Annual Reports and elsewhere, that the present system of appointing passed students of the College to the Public Works Department is a haphazard one, and that success in gaining employment depends more on the importuning of Superior Officers, and on interest with subordinate officers than it does on merit. No great harm to the Department may result from this method of selection,

as the men have taken College Certificates, and are not likely to become a source of discredit to their employer, but they are not the best men obtainable; and I contend that it is not fair to the College, to the Public Works Department, or to the Community in general that the best men should not be utilized in the Department for which they are specially trained.

If all first appointments to the Subordinate Establishment of the Public Works Department were made by the Chief Engineer in communication with the Principal of the College; and if it were made known that although appointments cannot be guaranteed to any passed students, yet that the most distinguished will in future be selected to fill all vacancies which occur (those persons whose services have recently been dispensed with being, when desirable, first provided for), I am convinced that the Efficiency

of the Public Works Department, and both the Efficiency and the popularity of the College would be considerably increased.

(b) Although the Public Works Department has published in the Fort Saint George Gazette a list of persons recommended for employment under Local Fund Boards, yet, as those Boards may not be acquainted with the conditions of Subordinate Service in the Public Works Department, they might be advised to give employment as Supervisors, Overseers, Surveyors and Draftsmen only to individuals who hold Civil Engineering College Certificates; and be recommended to communicate with the Principal of that Institution before employing men who, though holding certificates, have not previously served in the Public Works Department.

If these Recommendations were carried out by the Boards, the total demand from them and from the Public Works Department together

for passed students would probably approximate closely to the demand from the Department in past years. The College numbers would not fall off, emulation would be stimulated, and the efficiency of the Department and of the Local Fund Agency would be undoubtedly augmented.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,
Edw. Davis Love. Secy to H. E.

Principal

1038

Endorsement of the Educational Department
No 836, dated 12th April 1880, in letter from
the Director of Public Instruction dated
dated 6th April 1880.

FOR ORDERS.

It is observed that
one of the proposals
made by Lieutenant Lane,
(para. 400) namely that
first appointment of
subordinate to the
Department should in
all cases be made by the
Chief Engineer instead
of by Super. Engineers,
has been carried out in
the new edition of the
P.D. Code.

I have before me
the P.D. Code & find
that as to their
first appointment of
subordinate to the
Department should in
all cases be made by the
Chief Engineer instead
of by Super. Engineers,
has been carried out in
the new edition of the
P.D. Code.

I think more than
has pointed
out the merits
of their service
is a disadvantage
in view of the
fact that it is a right
qualification for the
position.

P.W.D.

12 APR 80

No 836

From

The Municipal

C. & C. College

Prakas

The Director of

Public Instruction

Prakas

Dated 5th April 1880

No 836

Submitting the suggestion

in order that the necessary

steps may be taken to

remove the objectionable

entrances by the community

that the kind Engineering

College is about to be

closed.

A. E. C. 1880

FOR ORDERS.

2. It must however be observed that (there are a large number of men holding College certificates who have already been employed in the Department either permanently or during the famine, and who have been thrown out of employ by reduction or by the cessation of their temporary employment) and these must necessarily be employed in preference to those who may hereafter obtain certificates.

2. Increases the number of subordinates having lately been reduced from

time however the
 handwriting specimens
 are stored with
 qualified men working
 from the F. W. S. & I
 think it better
 his chambers & do
 anything calculated
 to raise expectations
 in the minds of
 attending students
 of empty! I am
 what a liberty
 I have taken.

I think that on
the contrary it
is rather advisable
to give measures

for advancing the total
cost of the Ch. folk.
to the Standard
instead of supply
probable demands
for it. it seems now
to be much in excess.
I think the Ch. S.
Ch. conference to the
S. S. S. S. to this
objection view.
S.



2074

No. 111
 Society we can
 through the Power
 of L. F. M. assist

243 to 144, the average
annual number of new
appointments will be
reduced, at the very time
when there is an unusual
number of claimants for
employment, so that
during the next few
years at least the
number of newly passed
students who can receive
employment will be
very small.

4. With regard to appointments under Local Land Boards this Department has no power; but the undersigned has more than

[illegible]

Secy. of Government
P. H. D.
S.

CH.

100

1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from
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1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from

Notwithstanding the
altered circumstances
of the P.W. Dept. and
the reductions which
have lately been made
by the Government have no
reason to anticipate
any falling off in the
demand for qualified
& trained men
merely because much of
the work formerly de-
volving on the ship has
now been transferred to
the Local F.B.

2. Several men holding
College certificates who
have lately been employed
in the P.W. Dept. and others
in the employment of

1028 N

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1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from
1028 N 11 miles from

1028 N 11 miles from

Native Indian Railway
have been thrown out
of employment and
as their recruitment
in positions suitable
to their respective
Qualification is much
to be desired, it is
not improbable that
some ^{decrease} ~~falling off~~ may
be experienced in the
number of candidates
for admission to the
C.E. College during the
next session - In the
opinion of Government
such temporary diminu-
-ution is not ^{however} to be regretted

3. One of the proposals
brought forward by the
Principal of the C.E.
College that first
Appointment of sub-
-ordinates to the P.W.D.
should be made by
the Chief instead of

by the Subordinate Engineer
has already been met
by the provisions of
para 184 of the new
P.W. Code.

4. As regards the other
proposals that L.F.B.
may be advised to
give employment to
only to individuals who
hold Engineering College
Certificates &c. As far
the Government in Council
considers it very essential
that men fully qualified
by education and character
should alone be employed
for the execution of work
under Local Funds ^{Boards} as in
the P.W.D. and that
the desirability of studying
strictly to this should
be impressed on the
Presidents of the Local
Boards altho' they do not

Doubt that these Officers
are fully alive to the
importance of the matter.

5. In conclusion it appears
desirable to place on
record that the Govt.

have any desire to
foster the interests of
the Civil Engineering
College to the extent
that may be compatible
with the demands for
professionally trained
men; to do more would
only be productive of
wasteful outlay on the part
of the State, and of
discontent on the part
of passed candidates
in whom no employment
can be found

Att

24.4.80

So
S. E. & Supt of Harb.
Fint. Dept. 5
Board of Revenue 150
Educational Dept. 30

[Ct & Financial D. 30
— Educational
— 150

During the year
for R. Dr. the total
amount but the 50,000
has been for the
1878-79 in the 1878-79

11-6-13

Govt. of (1880) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 25th April 1880, No. 1028 W.

Hon. Mr. C. G. College - Madras.

Passing orders on letter
from the Principal —
and the Director Public
Instruction regarding
the answer that the
— is shortly to be closed.

35/2