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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

2nd August 1880, No. 1,829 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following papers:—

No. 6. From Major D. H. TRAIL, R.E., Officiating Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 16th June 1880, No. 44 W.

In forwarding herewith for the orders of Government an extract of paragraph 3 from letter No. 10-C., dated 3rd May 1880, received from the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, inquiring whether, under the circumstances represented therein, the services of Mr. Hart during the period of his employment on the Harbour Works count towards pension, I have the honor to state as follows:—

- (a.) Mr. Hart was borne on the permanent strength of the establishment of this office as a Clerk doing duty as Accountant on Rs. 150 per mensem prior to his joining the Harbour Work's office. On the 23rd April 1877 he was allowed to take up the appointment of Storekeeper on those works by my predecessor, Major L. Conway-Gordon, R.E., under the condition specified in his letter, No. 66-X., dated 11th May 1877 (copy attached).
- (b.) In consequence of the reduction of establishment in the Account's Branch recently ordered by Government, Mr. Hart's services were dispensed with, and he was accordingly served with the usual notice of three months on the 5th March 1880 which expired on the 5th instant.
- (c.) The Superintendent now inquires whether Mr. Hart will be allowed to count the period of his employment on the Harbour Works towards pension, and as it is clear from Major Gordon's letter above alluded to that he was allowed to retain a lien on his substantive appointment in this office, I am of opinion that though he did not resume the duties of his substantive appointment in this office his case falls within the scope of Section 28 of the Civil Pension Code, and that therefore he is entitled to count his services on the Harbour Works up to the 5th June 1880, the date on which the notice given him will expire.

2. The favor of early orders of Government on the case is solicited.

Copy of an extract of paragraph 3 of letter from the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, to the Officiating Examiner of Public Works Accounts, dated 3rd May 1880, No. 10-C.

I HAVE already addressed you on the general question of service on this Government work counting for pension, and I now wish to state that I hope Mr. Hart's service since March 1877 on the Harbour Works will be reckoned as Government service; for most certainly all previous transactions have tended to point that his service would be so counted.

No. 6-A. From F. N. THOROWGOOD, Esq., M. LYST. C. E., Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 22nd June 1880, No. 23 W.

I HAVE the honor to state that I have recently had occasion to ask the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, whether service on the fixed "establishment" of these works counts as Government service for pension or gratuity, in the case of those who have had to pass an examination before entering the service and who provide themselves with service books during their employment here.

2. From correspondence by means of office notes between the Examiner's Office and the then Under Secretary in the Public Works Department in February 1877, I supposed that there was no doubt that (except in some cases of a particular nature) service on this establishment would count as Government service, and this view was shared by those of the office staff who had to qualify by means of examination before the Examiner would pass their pay.

3. In reply to my question the Examiner informs me that the Government of India have decided that "service on the Harbour Works is temporary, and as such cannot qualify for gratuity or pension." He also explains to me that qualifying examinations are necessary for temporary as well as for permanent establishments. He further points out that by G.O., No. 899, of 16th March 1877 (in which I applied for the exemption from examination of a Store Clerk) it was understood that the service was temporary. The question now therefore appears perfectly clear, and I am sorry that it was not made so clear in 1875 when the staff was first formed.

4. There are several cases of individuals on this staff upon whom the intelligence that service on this establishment counts for nothing seems to have fallen severely, and as the length of time for which the establishment was supposed to be required (four or five years) put it quite beyond the definition of "temporary" in the code, I never for a moment doubted that those individuals to whom I shall refer were serving for pension or gratuity, otherwise I should not have understood why they were less under my individual control than men on the works. My mistake, based in the first instance upon the correspondence in office notes referred to above, has I fear only served to aggravate the feelings of those subordinates who have appealed to me in this matter.

5. The first grievance that is felt is the following:—

By G.O., No. 2,374, of 13th December 1879, the limit of age for entering Government service is fixed at twenty-five years. Now it so happens that many on the establishment of this office have already passed that limit; but having had to keep service registers and being under all the rules for Government service in other offices they have believed that they were not, as it were, losing their chance of obtaining Government service while they were engaged on a Government work, and I confess I shared this belief on their behalf. But, as a matter of fact, these service books which the staff are bound to keep by G.O., No. 151, of 26th October 1876 (and which order I am told to see carried out) are treated as nothing when the matter of service really comes to be tested, and I shall refer to a case of a man who was on the fixed establishment of these works duly qualified for Government service, and who on presenting his service book at another office was told that it was of no value whatever. The consequence is that many members of this establishment are now barred admission to Government service by the order of 13th December 1879, as they have failed to enter that service before they were twenty-five years of age, although they believed that on being placed on the establishment of these large Government works they were practically entering Government service.

6. But there are individual cases to which I must refer more in detail. I will first take the case of the principal Surveyor on this staff, C. Ramasawmy Naidoo, who in May 1859 obtained a Draughtsman's certificate and became Head Draughtsman in Colonel Priestley's office on the Revenue Survey. He was in Government employ in various places until in 1875 he was told off to assist Mr. May here temporarily. He returned in February 1876 to the Revenue Survey office, but was transferred back to these works in July 1876, and he has been working satisfactorily (except by reason of

occasional illness) ever since. I can hardly think that the Government will deprive him of four years' service out of twenty-one years because those four years have been passed on the Madras Harbour Works, and I would venture to appeal on his behalf that his service may be taken as continuous.

7. Another case that I will venture to mention is that of a Writer named M. Govindoo Rajooloo Naidoo, who was for a time on this establishment, but whose services I dispensed with, as I wished to reduce the staff as much as I possibly could. I had nothing whatever against the man. He is now past twenty-five years of age and cannot obtain Government employ because no Government office will recognise his service book as being a sign of his having ever been in the service of Government. I think this is very hard on the man, as he joined this establishment under the firm conviction that he was entering Government service when he was forced to provide himself with a service book, which events have since proved to be useless.

8. I would also mention the case of Mr. J. Manuel, who came here from the Military Pay Examiner's office, believing that he was only transferred from one department to another. I think his service on this establishment might be reckoned in addition to the time he served with Military Pay Examiner.

9. I have been appealed to so strongly by those under me on the subject about which I am writing that I am constrained to place the matter at some length before Government; and the two points that I would specially call attention to are—

Firstly, that those who have joined this office from other Government employ should not lose the time spent on the works as though the service were in no way connected with Government; and

Secondly, that those who are qualified to serve on the regular establishment of these works after the age of twenty-five years may not be prevented from obtaining other Government employment on the ground that this is not to be reckoned as regular Government service.

No. 6-B. From the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, dated 19th July 1880, No. 67 W.

No. 6-C. Office Note to Examiner of Public Works Accounts, dated 25th June 1880, No. 315, and reply thereto, dated 24th July 1880, No. 333.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, 2nd August 1880, No. 1,829 W.

SERVICE on the Madras Harbour Works will in the case of men transferred to those works from permanent employment under Government count as service for pension and gratuity.

2. Such men will not (except by special agreement) retain any lien on the particular appointments they held previous to transfer, but the question of their re-employment will be considered (separately in each case) on the termination of their employment on the Harbour Works, of which due notice should be given by the Superintendent.

3. A list of men affected by this order, showing the appointments they held previous to transfer to the Harbour Works, will be submitted for the information of Government.

4. With regard to men who are precluded from obtaining employment under Government by reason of having been employed on the Harbour Works until over twenty-five years of age, no general rule can be laid down, but each case must be dealt with on its merits.

5. The Superintendent will submit a list of men so situated, showing in each case nature of employment, date of birth, of engagement on works, and of discharge therefrom (if yet discharged), with any remarks or recommendation he may desire to offer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.
1. Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Cont. of (1880) ~~General~~

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT, MADRAS
HARBOUR WORKS,

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Date August, 2nd.

Issued

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 2nd August 1880, No. 1,820 W.

AUGUST.

Nos. 6-7.

Services on the Madras Harbour Works.—
Passing orders regarding — counting
towards pension and gratuity.

W. G.