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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2529 W	Press.
B.P. No.	<u>65</u> W	Mis.
	2530	
Dated	17.10.1881	~~197~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

2529
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

17th October 1881, No. 2529 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper :—

No. 64. From A. B. SAMPSON, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (General,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 23rd September 1881, No. 1251 G.

I AM directed in this letter to address the Government of Madras on the personal matters which form the subject of paragraphs 19—36 of your letter No. 1697 W., dated 9th July.

2. After inspection of Appendix C, the Governor-General in Council is satisfied that promotion has been slow in the Madras Engineer Establishment, and that there is no ground on the score of too rapid promotion following the increase of establishment sanctioned in my letter No. 1,250 G, of this date, for the transfer of officers from other Provinces.

3. In regard to the proposed reappointment of Mr. Norris, who retired from the service under the terms of Resolution of the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 2,079, dated 31st July 1879, a telegram was issued to the Government of Madras on 27th July in which it was said "No Europeans can be appointed to the Engineer Establishment. The orders of the Secretary of State are stringent, make no pledges," and in reply the Government of India was assured, in a telegram of the 29th July, that these instructions had been noted. It was afterwards observed in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, that Mr. Norris's appointment had been notified on the 2nd August, and an explanation was called for, which was received in your letter No. 2010 W., dated 15th August. It is said that after full consideration by the Government of Madras the terms of the telegram of the 27th July were not held to apply to Mr. Norris. If, as may be inferred, there was any doubt on the subject, inquiry should have been made by telegraph. I am now to say explicitly that Mr. Norris's permanent appointment cannot be sanctioned. There is no objection to his temporary employment to fill a vacancy on the terms of Public Works Department Resolution Nos. 1115-34 G., dated 24th August.

4. Nor can the permanent appointment of Mr. Wilks be approved, but there is no objection to his temporary employment to fill a vacancy, subject to one month's notice of discharge.

5. The Government of India is still unable to approve of the promotion of Civil Upper Subordinates to the Engineer staff.

6. I am to repeat that the Secretary of State has strictly forbidden the appointment, to the Engineer Establishment, of any but Natives and Officers of Royal Engineers, without His Lordship's previous sanction, and by the term Native, as His Lordship's orders at present stand, is meant a person of pure Asiatic parentage.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 17th October 1881, No. 2529 W.

RECORDED.

2. The Secretary of State will be addressed in regard to the reappointment of Mr. Norris.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" W. R. Norris, Esq.
" Wilks, Esq.

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE EXAMINER OF PUBLIC WORKS
ACCOUNTS.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated October, 17th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 17th October 1881, No. 2529 W.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 64-65.

Appointment of Messrs. Norris and Wilks,
and promotion of Civil Upper Subordinates
to the Engineer Establishment. — Remarks of
the Government of India on the — recorded;
and the Secretary of State addressed on the
reappointment of Mr. Norris.

GOVT.
OF MADRAS. }

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{ P. W.
DEPT.

SECRETARY.

Chepauk,

30th Sep.

1881.

OFFICE NOTE.

To

W

From India Lw
1251 J. 2 23rd
Sep.

There occurs nothing
in this letter calling for
note from me. — The
Norris' appointment will
I could be continued as
"Temporary" for the present.
It will however be
necessary to inform him
of the fact —

D. W.

Norris must be
shown as temporary
but before intimating
this to him must
first be instructed
please

Att

2/10/81

D. W.

All communications
should be addressed
to the Secretary.

No. 1257 G.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General

To,
The Secy. to the Govt. of Madras
P. W. Deptt.

Simla, 23rd September 1881.

Sir,

I am directed in this letter
to address the Govt. of Madras
on the personal matters which
form the subject of paragraphs
19 - 36 of your letter No. 1697 W
dated 9th July. -

2. After inspection of Ap-
pendix C, the Govr. General in
Council is satisfied that pro-
motion has been slow in the
Madras Engineer Establishment,
and that there is no ground
on the score of too rapid pro-
motion following the increase
of

of Establishment sanctioned in my letter No. 1250 of this date, for the transfer of officers from other Provinces...

3. In regard to the proposed reappointment of Mr. Norris, who retired from the service under the terms of Resolution of the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 2079 dated 31st July 1879, a telegram was issued to the Govt. of Madras on 27th July in which it was said: "No Europeans can be appointed to the Engineer Establishment." The orders of the Secretary of State are stringent. Make no "pledges," and in reply the Govt. of India was assured, in a telegram of the 29th July, that these instructions had been noted... It was afterwards observed

Copy sent
to Mr. Norris
at 605

observed in the Fort St. George Gazette that Mr. Norris's appointment had been notified on the 2nd August, and an explanation was called for, which was received in your letter No. 2010 of dated 15th August... It is said that after full consideration by the Govt. of Madras the terms of the telegram of the 27th July were not held to apply to Mr. Norris. If, as may be inferred, there was any doubt on the subject, enquiry should have been made by telegraph. I am now to say explicitly that Mr. Norris's permanent appointment cannot be sanctioned. There is no objection to his temporary employment to fill a vacancy on the terms of

Q. 6. 20 2289. 23. 5. 81 orig.
" " 2343W. 22. 9. 81. 20

C. No. 5575

Recd. 29th Sept/81

Recd 3. 45 pm
29/9/81

Q. 6. 38. 9

Ans 3. 10. 81

Q. 30. 9. 81 M. 15. 10. 81

N^o 2529W PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 17th Octr 1881.

Read the following:—

The Government } (H. B. N^o 1351 of 3. Sept/81)
of India

Recorded.

2. The Secretary of State
will be addressed in
regard to the reappoint-
ment of Mr. Harris.

[Signature]

6/10/81

Examiner P. H. Accounts ✓

M. R. Harris Esq. ✓

W. H. Esq. ✓

R. S.

2/11/81

Cards

A. J. B. 1881

No. 65. 2530 W 1/17/10/82 P. H. D. 2/3

To,

The Right Honorable
the Secretary of State
for India.

My Lord Marquis.

In forwarding for
your Lordship's informa-

tion a copy of the ac-

companied letter from

the Government of India

No. 1351 S, dated 23rd

September 1881, we have

the honor to invite

special consideration

of the following circum-

stances connected with

Mr. D. B. C. Harris' re-

-admission

-appointment to the

S. D.

With regard to my attention
of the draft. I do not think
that Mr. Harris means that
the report of the discrepancy
was a fabrication. What I
understand him to say is that
he relied on Mr. Carter's report
of materials at site. & that
the report from the Int. Officers
of discrepancy & reached Mr. C.
The Mr. C. absence or leave was

R. S.

at first. I his office
was not seen by him
the after his removal
from P. W. D.

CL 38.9

Ap. 15. 10. 81

P. D. Despatch.

2. On the 9th September last the Government of India called by telegram for explanation regarding Mr. Morris' reappointment to the Engineer Establishment, a complete list of which had been laid before that Government in connection with the revised scale then under disposal. This demand was met by the explanation

thus afforded in our P. D. Secretary's letter No. 2010 & dated 15th August 1881, in which reference was also invited to a previous communication

of

of the 9th July 1881, No. 1697 &

3. He now beg to add ²⁸⁹/₂ further for your Lordships' information that Mr. Morris was ^{not} ~~at~~ one of those officers whose services were dispensed with on reduction of Establishment late in 1879, but forfeited his appointment at a subsequent period under the circumstances stated in S.O. 6th February 1880, No. 243 & forwarded for your Lordships' information under cover of our Despatch No. 8 dated Fort St. George 7th February 1880.

4. Mr. Morris asked for and obtained furlough

for two years in the middle of
1879, some unavoidable
delay occurred in sending
an officer to relieve him
of his Division and
without seeking formal
permission, he handed
over charge to an Officer
Subordinate, took steamer
to Europe, and left
without giving explana-
tions as to works in
progress. On a subsequent
inspection of one of
these especially by the
Super Engineer the report
was such as to cause
Mr. Morris' conduct
to be viewed in the very
unfavorable light
recorded in the above
quoted Proceedings
of

1879 23/10
of this Government.
5. As the reduction
of Establishment made
in 1877 did not meet
fully with the demands
made by the Govern-
ment of India, ad-
vantage was taken
of the opportunity
to call on Mr. Morris
to retire under the terms
of the Government
of India Resolution
of the 31st July 1877, & 2077.
6. After ten months
he came back to this
country in ^{at} first
in the position of
Local Land Engineer
Muzra Division, sub-
sequently however
obtaining the better

post of Local Land
Engineer, North West.
When occupying the
latter position it came
to the knowledge of
Govt. that Mr. Harris
in quitting India by
steamer suddenly as
above stated had
done so in the anxiety
to save the life of a
member of his family -
and that the statements
of the Superintendence
on which the Govt.
had mainly formed
their decision to dis-
pense with Mr. Harris'
services were based on
a document which

a man in fact no
responsibility properly
rested in the matter
in question. He was
in fact required by the
Govt. to return under a
misapprehension of
facts.

18 21/2
though vouched for by a
subordinate (since then
retired) and accepted
accurate by Mr. Harris. While
as genuine documents and
the report establishing its accuracy seems
never to have been seen
by Mr. Harris - and was
in fact a fabrication.
to blame whatever
attached to the ^{whole} reports
of the Superintendence
in the matter. Mr. Harris
who had only performed
his duty in bringing
so far as he became aware of them
the facts to the
knowledge of Govt.,
but the result as
above stated was very
unfortunate for Mr.
Harris.
8. Mr. Harris when
afforded an opportunity

of explaining his conduct
cleared his character to
the satisfaction of
a Govt. - and as he ~~was~~
of a well trained Irrigation
officer of considerable
experience in this Presi-
dency, we felt that
both in justice to him
and in the interests
of the Public Service,
we could not do other-
wise, when an oppor-
tunity of enlarging
the Establishment re-
cently occurred, and
when officers with
irrigation experience
were specially needed,
than re-instate him

189 25/2
in the position, which
he forfeited under cir-
cumstances above stated.

7. We have the honor
to request therefore that
Mr. Karri's reappoint-
ment, which, under
the orders of the Govt.
of India, has been de-
clared to be temporary
only, may now be
confirmed by your
Lordship.

PC/100
2-11-81

AM

7/10/81

10-1-76 ✓
16-4-12

C. No. 5575.

Gobt. of (1881) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

*only slip sent to be
in Dept. 17/10/81
18-10-81*

G. O. 17th Oct 1881, No. 2529 W

Nos. 65 to 66
65
2530 W

*Appointment of Messrs. Norris
& Wilks, and promotion of
Civil Upper Subordinates to
the Engineer Estab^t. - Remarks
of the Govt of India on
the — recorded, and the
Secy. of State addressed
on the reappointment of Mr.
Norris.*

*Requesting confirmation
to the re-appointment of
Mr. Norris to the P.W. Dept.
Sd/- in receipt of Keyr.*