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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

J. W DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	739 W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated 19. 3 - 1881		197.

V. S. M

Not to be folded or roughly handled

All communications
should be addressed
to the Secretary.

No. 3456
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
GENERAL

To,

The Secretary to the Government of Madras
Public Works Department.

Fort William 1st March 1881.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 305 A.M.
of 3rd February 1881, suggesting that Civil
Upper Subordinates may be promoted to the
grade of Assistant Engineers in the same
way as Military Subordinates are promoted
to that rank on obtaining Honorary
Commissions, I am directed to state that
this promotion is conferred on Military
subordinates to avoid the incongruity
of a commissioned Officer serving
as a subordinate. No such reason
exists.

exists in regard to Civil Upper Subordinates and the Government of India is not in a position at present to accept the recommendation of the Govt of Madras.

2 Referring to para: 4 of your letter I am to observe that though ordinarily the Government of India would not desire to interfere with the Madras Government in regard to making appointments to the Engineer Establishment, yet under existing circumstances when a large number of Engineers is still due from Cooper's Hill, the Governor General in Council desires that no appointments by promotion from the subordinate classes or by direct appointment may be made to the Engineer Establishment beyond Officers of Royal Engineers and the one appointment which under certain

Conditions

133
conditions it is understood is guaranteed annually to the Civil Engineering College at Madras, without previous reference to the Govt of India.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant,

W. Lawrence

Under Secy. to the Govt of India.

-Stuntly been recognized
(men like Sub Engineer
Ottmann and Ellis
for instance) felt aggrieved
that military men of
lower capacity and
service were frequently
promoted over their
heads — It is quite
true that all Civil
Subordinates were just
consequent of this con-
dition of service when
they entered the Dept.
and they have been
told so whenever they
submitted their claims
for promotion — but
I cannot think the
prevalence is always
to be disposed of in
this way, as that it
is politic to go on
ignoring what seems
to be just claims

13
So long as the staff
was comparatively
young claims of this kind
were few, and even then
as many as well known
to the members of staff.
Some promotions of an
analogous character were
made — but now many
men like the two I
have mentioned have
after a long & honorable
career worked their
way up to the top of
the (higher subordinate)
ladders.

Men of this type are
the backbone of the
class, and a little
treatment, merely to put
them on a level with
their more fortunate
military "conspirators" will
I must submit be a
sound policy —

I beg no answers will

to advocate too
virtue promotion the
Subordinates as such but
too often turn their
heads, and do mischief;
but when a man has
worked steadily through
all the exposure, temptation,
and trials, to which our
Subordinates more probably
than any others are ex-
posed, and comes out
with clean hands, an
unblemished reputation
and good professional attain-
ments & experience, I
cannot but think that
a small bonum like that
of an honorary Ass't Engineer
should be granted
at the close of his career
I do not know whether the
Govt. considers the merit of
such instances to be
to the Govt?

Para 2 of the Govt of India letter merely confirms
the ruling lately sent also - The guarantee of a place
to the C.E. College was this time made to be
contingent on the existence of a full vacancy in
the class

7/1/81

Public Works Dept.

No. 7378 of 17th March/81. 737

To
The Secretary to the
Government of India
P.W.D.

Sir
In reply to your letter No.
3456 of 1st instant, I am
directed to state that the
reasons for the grant of the
rank of Assistant Engineer
to warrant officers holding
honorary Commissions are
fully understood, and the
necessity for it appreciated
by this Government.

2. But the fact remains
that the grant of this rank
not unfrequently involves the
supercession by a military
subordinate of one or more
civil subordinates fully his
equals, and even his super-
iors in professional and
social qualifications, and
that the frequent recurrence
of such supercession is left
and in the opinion of the
Right Honorable the Governor

in Council rightly felt, by the whole body of Civil Subordinates, as a very real grievance.

3. As matters now stand every military subordinate may look forward to a reasonable prospect of entry into the engineering class of the department as a reward for good conduct and devotion to his duties. A civil subordinate has no such prospect except as a contingency so remote ~~that it may be~~ ^{practically} ~~entirely~~ ^{out of} of consideration.

4. It is no doubt true that all civil subordinates were fully cognizant of this fact when they accepted employment in the Department, but the Right Honorable the Governor in Council does not consider that a grievance can be legitimately disposed of by this argument, or that as to dispose of it would be politic.

5. Men of the stamp whom it is now wished to benefit are the very backbone of the subordinate class, and

by their example to their juniors as well as by their own work render invaluable service to the State. 13?

6. Such men should it is considered have some better prospect than the certainty of supersession by military men of their own class, and the grant of the rank of Assistant Engineer, limited in the manner proposed in my letter of the 3rd ultimo (No 305 A.W.), does not appear too high a reward for long and faithful service.

I am therefore to ^{express a} ~~hope~~ ^{hope} that the Government of India ~~may be disposed to~~ ^{will} reconsider their decision upon this question.

8. The instructions contained in para 2 of your letter under reply will be attended to; their principle is in accordance with the views expressed in paras 4 and 5 of my No 305 A.W. of 3rd ultimo.

Done
17-3-81

[Signature]

14.3.81

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Box 7394917 March 19

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