

N^o 61, dated 9th November 1876

From - The Secretary of State for India

To - The Government of India

I have received and considered in Council your Excellency's Despatch, Public Works, No 91, dated 29 June 1876, requesting my approval of certain rules which you propose for determining the relative seniority^{Estab^t} of the members of the Public Works^{Depart^t}, drawn from the Corps of Royal Engineers and the Royal Engineering College, respectively, for the purposes of promotion. -

2. The system which has hitherto prevailed in the Public Works Department has, as your Excellency's letter mentions, been essentially based on the principle that promotion should be dependent on professional merit, and not on seniority. The regulation of the advancement of Public Works Officers from one grade to another in the Department, as high as and including that of Superintending Engineers, has been left to the complete discretion of the Local Governments. It is only in the Establishments under the minor administration

administration that the Government of India continues to intervene, and even in these all action is based on the recommendations of the local heads of the administration.

3. The constitution of the Department has not changed in respect to the classes of Officers of which it is composed, in any important manner, for the last 15 or 20 years, and, as far as I am aware, no embarrassment has arisen from the absence of any rule upon the question which your letter discusses.

4. Having given this matter my best consideration, I have been led to the conclusion that it would not be expedient to issue rules ^{such} as you describe. I am of opinion that it would be injurious to the public service to give colour to the idea that in the Public Works Department seniority confers any right to promotion. Whenever any difference of merit is to be discerned among Officers whose experience qualifies them for promotion to any vacancy, it is by merit alone that the promotion should be

be determined. The cases in which no such guide is to be found will probably be so rare that a special rule for the regulation of them appears unnecessary.

W. J.

No. 762 G

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL.

All communications
should be addressed
to the Secretary.

Co

The Secy. to the Govt of Madras
Public Works Department

Simla 26th May 1882

Sir,

In reply to your letter No 12/13 W dated
13th Instant, I am directed to forward for the
information and guidance of the Government
of Madras a copy of a Despatch from the
Secretary of State No 61 dated 9th November 1876,
disapproving of the issue of any rules for
regulating the relative Seniority of Royal
Engineers and Civil Engineers.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

W. H. P. M.

Under Secy to the Govt of India

Document accompanying

Copys of Despatch from
Secretary of State No 61 dated
9th November 1876.

18.5.52 to 12/22

Malvern

19-6-74

Recd 1/6/82

Recd 1/6/82

No 1436 wd 8th June 1982

Recorded.

By



1.6.82

Att

3/6/82

18/1/86

18/1/86

Entd. in Receipt Reg.

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