

"junior's owing to his failure?

"to pass the vernacular tests

"entitling him to promotion.

"The question of allowing him

"to resume his original position

"will be kept in view as

"opportunity offers."

Wt

13.5.85

Cd.

18.5.85

B.N. 1187 W of 20 May 1885

Wt
20.5

To

Mr W.C. de Morgan,

thru' J.E. II Wiele D

(extract from order 705)

Cu

Id
2095

13.5.85

N^o 1187. W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 20th May/85.

READ the following

Letter from Mr. W. C. de Morgan (N^o. of April 29th 1885)

Note by the Chief Eng^r P. W. D. (N^o. of May 7th ")

The Government concur
in the views expressed in the
Chief Engineer's note, which will
be recorded for future guidance.

2. The following reply will
be sent to Mr. de Morgan:—

"Mr. de Morgan will be
informed that, by G.O. N^o 26056
of 17th October 1879, he was
restored to the position he
lost in November 1878, and
that since then he has been
superseded by several of his

Madras 29 85
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From

W. C. de Morgan

Assistant Engineer 1st Grade

To

The Chief Engineer

Public Works Department.

Sir,

I have the honor respectfully
to submit the following representation,
hoping that it may meet with your
favorable consideration.

In 1877, on account of circumstances
which happened in the Vizagapatam
District, I was reduced from
Second to Third Grade Assistant
Engineer, and placed at the
bottom of the list.

The reason of my reduction was
not communicated to me, nor was
I called upon for any explanation.

The punishment then inflicted has
afflicted, and will continue to afflict

the whole of my career, and
the amount of my pension.

Before Major Wood R.E. died,
he told me personally that he
considered his Report on the matter
too harshly worded. At that
time however, I had hardly
realized the extent to which I
would be affected by the reduction,
and partly from that reason,
and partly from a feeling of irritation
that I was not called upon

for any explanation, or
informed of the reason of my reduction,
I neglected to open the subject.

Time and experience, have however
taught me the folly of the course
I took; and I trust that it is
not now too late to request
that my case be reconsidered,
and that I be reinstated in my

former position, so that I may
have an equal chance of pension
and promotion with my contemporaries.
I think, I may say, that since
my reduction, those under whom
I have served have had no
cause to complain of my work.

As I am now married, and have
have recently suffered heavy
pecuniary losses, the results of
my former misconduct are daily
becoming more serious. But however
grave my error was, I beg to
submit that it happened at the
commencement of my career, and
when I was comparatively inex-
perienced; and that the
punishment I have already
suffered by loss of pay, promotion
and prestige, is sufficient to
expiate it.

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Letter for
Note by

READ the following:—

Letter from Mr. W. C. deMorgan of April 29th 1885.

FOR ORDERS.

In the letter quoted above, Mr. W. C. deMorgan, Assistant Engineer 1st grade, applies to be restored to the position on the Gradation list of the Dept. which he has lost under the following circumstances:—

In November 1878, Mr. deMorgan was reduced from 2^d to 3^d grade Assistant Engineer for neglect of duty—vide papers recorded with G.O. No. 4461 W of 22^d November 1878.

He regained his ^{former} position in the 2^d grade in October 1879, since which he has been—

Under the above circumstances, I most respectfully beg, that you will be good enough to take the matter into your favorable consideration, and so fit to reinstate me in my former position.

As I have not yet been able to join my circle, I submit this direct instead of through the Superintending Engineer.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

W. C. deMorgan

Assistant Engineer 1st grade.

C. & Co. 3227 720. 10. 79
No 292 " 24. 10. 79
Memo " 3373 " 8-11-79
C. & Co. 224 " 20-1-80
Memo No 835 " 12-3-80
C. & Co. 214 614 " 22-11-78
" 4462 " 22-11-78
B. No 2608 " 17-10-79
C. & Co. 2010. 30-8-81.

off. 17/4

Q. 30-4-83

imposed on my several of his

superseded by several of his juniors, owing to his failure to pass the vernacular tests entitling him to promotion.

The required test was passed on the 15th January 1882, but meanwhile 17 junior officers, who qualified before him, were promoted in ordinary course over his head.

The question arises as to what extent the supersession of an Assistant Engineer for failing to pass qualifying examinations should be held to affect his subsequent career after he has passed.

Hitherto, Assistant Engineers passing the tests before their seniors and being promoted to the 1st grade, have maintained their positions assigned on promotion. But it seems

FOR ORDERS.

+ according to the present practice, it may not improbably happen that ~~over~~ a junior officer, perhaps from natural facility for acquiring languages, perhaps from having more leisure for study, — perhaps from having been examined by a lenient Committee, — may permanently supersede a senior officer, a better Engineer than himself, but who has not had time or opportunity to pass the qualifying test.

open to doubt whether the arrangement⁺ is an equitable one; seeing that a few months delay in passing an examination at the beginning of an officer's career may thus, notwithstanding subsequent good service, throw back several years his promotion to the higher grades.

The Chief Engineer is disposed to think that an Assistant Engineer who fails to pass a qualifying examination in time, and is thereby superseded by one or more of his juniors, should generally be allowed to resume his previous position when he does pass. To rule that he should be permanently superseded would apparently be to inflict a penalty far

out of proportion to the
offence.

A general expression of
the views of Government
on the question is now
solicited.

In Mr. de Morgan's case,
I am of opinion that he has
already suffered severely
in proportion to his offence,
and my recommendation
is that he be allowed to
resume his original
position, as opportunity
offers. He has quite
recently been selected for
the important & responsible
charge of the Guderada
Division, in the District.

Memorandum

7.5.85

I fully concur.

See

8/5/85

R.S. 24/5.38/5. Cui 8/5.



N.B.
His original place appears
to have been immediately
above W.J. P. Davidson.

To E.I. for favour of
his opinion.