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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

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Press.
Mis.

Dated

13.12.1987

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

13TH DECEMBER 1887, No. 3394 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General
Establishment.

READ—the following letter from G. H. D. WALKER, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (General), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 29th November 1887, No. 2354 G.:—

It having been decided that officers of Royal Engineers who may elect for continuous service in India shall be subject to the Civil Leave Rules, it is necessary that such officers should report the dates of their embarkation and debarkation on going on and returning from leave in the same manner as other officers under Civil Leave Rules report such matters, in view to the preparation of leave certificates: I am to request that instructions may be issued accordingly.

ORDER—dated 13th December 1887, No. 3394 W., Public Works.

Communicated to officers concerned for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To Superintending Engineers.
To the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

END. J. Moses.
Spec. Copies

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1887) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 13th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th Dec. 1887, No. 3394 W.

DECEMBER.

Furlough

Letter from the Government of India requesting that instructions may be issued to officers of Royal Engineers who may elect for continuous service in India to report the dates of their embarkation and debarkation on going on and returning from leave, communicated to officers concerned.

12TH DECEMBER 1887, No. 3391 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

LETTER—from

COLONEL J. O. HASTED, R.E.,

Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Public Works Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, No. 2048 G., dated 14th October 1887, I am directed to say that this Government has carefully considered the proposals brought forward and desire to make the following remarks.

The truth of the first two points brought out by the note which accompanies your letter the Government readily admit, and a study of the Madras list for past years will show that the Government have, as a rule, exercised their right of selection in filling the administrative grades with a result which has certainly been advantageous to the public service. As regards the third point, I am to say that the expression "the selection being limited between certain periods of service" seems to refer to recent letters of the Government of India which, while laying down the rule that officers will be liable to be called upon to retire if they have not attained the rank of Superintending Engineer at fifty years of age, appear to imply that they will be retired. To this rule this Government do not entirely agree. While allowing that it is well to give the Government the power of retiring an officer not fitted for the duties of Superintending Engineer at the age of fifty, they are of opinion that the rule should not be made absolute, and that the Government, under which the officer is serving, should be left to judge whether it is desirable in the interests of the public service to retain the services of an officer above the age of fifty in the position of Executive Engineer.

The accuracy of the fourth point this Government recognises.

2. The proposals made in the 5th paragraph of your letter do not, I am to say, altogether commend themselves to this Government. As regards the first, the division is on the Madras list, practically made, at all events to this extent, that the Government are fully aware of the names of the officers who can never be appointed Superintending Engineers. Of those left in the first-grade of Executive Engineers, there are unquestionably able men who will be promoted as soon as opportunity occurs, but there are others, regarding whose fitness for the administrative grades there may not be the same certainty, and such men it is desirable to try as Officiating Superintending Engineers before finally deciding on their supersession. There is also, I am to observe, a very serious objection to creating a class of men who know they can never rise to a higher position. So long as the prizes of the service are thought to be within their reach men may be expected to do their best, but when the prospect of promotion ceases, it can only be expected that men will work perfunctorily and with as little trouble to themselves as possible. Of course this evil may exist to some extent in the case of the men now passed over, but it is minimised by adopting the principle of selection without making separate lists; and if only men who are well known in the department and whose superior ability is unquestionable are selected for

a vacancy in the Superintending Engineer grade, those who are superseded will often acknowledge the justice of the appointment.

3. There is also a further objection to dividing the First-grade Executive Engineers into two classes, if there is to be one list of the higher grades for the whole of India. Supposing the selection for Superintending Engineer to be made by seniority from A lists of the different provinces, it must often happen that a conspicuously able man will find a man of moderate ability preferred before him; while, if the selection is not made by seniority, a Local Government would be unable to enforce the claim of its best man, as the Government of India could not possibly form any opinion of the relative merits of the Executive Engineers on the lists of distant provinces, confidential reports not being comparable relatively.

4. The second and third proposals affect this Government only if they accept the invitation of the Government of India to join the confederation of other lists under the Government of India, which, I am to say, this Government is not at present prepared to do. There is an Executive Engineer, serving this Government, whose experience has been almost entirely of Military Works and Roads and Buildings; the circles in this Presidency all contain very important Irrigation works, and it is evident that an officer who has had no experience whatever of Irrigation works could not be placed in charge of them. The officer in question acknowledged his unfitness for promotion under these circumstances, and the Government, though unwilling on other grounds to supersede him, felt themselves bound to do so, without, of course, having in contemplation enforced retirement at the age of fifty. If the proposals of the Government of India were accepted, this Government might find themselves compelled to accept as Superintending Engineer an officer who might have been employed, the greater part, if not all, of his service on Military works, and also be entirely ignorant of the language, the character of the works, and the method of execution prevailing in this Presidency, which would be entirely different to what he was accustomed to. It appears to this Government that, if officers of the higher grades are to be transferable throughout India, it is absolutely necessary that, in the earlier years of their service, they should have served an apprenticeship in the Presidency to which they, in later life, are to be transferred. Railway works would form an exception to some extent, the character of such works being the same everywhere, but even in their case a Superintending Engineer who had a previous knowledge of the country and the language spoken would have a great advantage over a stranger.

5. While therefore fully acknowledging the block in promotion and the evils consequent thereon, this Government are of opinion that, for the present at all events, their selection of men for the administrative grades must be made from their own list, and be quite unrestricted, and they consider it is probable that, when the rules lately introduced regarding pension begin to affect the senior officers of the department, the flow of promotion may become more regular. If the remedy for the present state of affairs is to be found in amalgamation of the lists, this Government are of opinion that the amalgamation must be made in the junior as well as in the senior grades, but they are not prepared to say that such amalgamation will prove feasible, at all events for some time to come.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

FORT ST. GEORGE.
12th December 1887.

Encl. J. Moses.
Spars Copies

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GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1887) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 12th.

Read.

Encl.

12th Dec. 1887, No. 3391 W.

DECEMBER.

Engineer Establishment.

Reporting on the proposals of the Government of India regarding the promotion of the members of the — to the higher administrative posts of the department.

No. 2354 G.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL.

To

THE GOVERNMENTS OF MADRAS, BOMBAY, BENGAL, THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH, AND THE PUNJAB.
THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES, BURMA (UPPER AND LOWER), ASSAM AND COCHIN.
THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.
THE AGENTS TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR CENTRAL INDIA, RAJPUTANA AND BALUCHISTAN.
THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF MILITARY WORKS.
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAILWAYS.
THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR RAILWAYS, CALCUTTA, CENTRAL DIVISION AND LUCKNOW.
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELEGRAPHS IN INDIA.
THE DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF, INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH.
THE DIRECTOR, PERSIAN TELEGRAPH.
THE DIRECTOR, PERSIAN GULF TELEGRAPH.
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS, SIMLA IMPERIAL CIRCLE.

Fort William, November 29, 1887.

SIR,

It having been decided that Officers of Royal Engineers who may elect for continuous service in India shall be subject to the Civil Leave Rules, it is necessary that such Officers should report the dates of their embarkation and debarkation on going on and returning from leave in the same manner as other Officers under Civil Leave Rules report such matters, in view to the preparation of leave certificates: I am to request that instructions may be issued accordingly.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

J. M. Walker
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

*The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department.*

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/8

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1/17

No 33,744 dated 15th Dec 1897

Communicate to
to officers concerned
for information and
guidance.

W.M.
11/12/97

John
12/12/97

E. J. 1/10

19/12

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Superintendent Engineer
Examiner R. H. Account

10703³

PUBLIC WORKS

10/12

13 Dec 1871 33944

Furlough

Letter from the Govt of
India requesting that
instructions may be
issued to officers of Royal
Engineers who may be at
for continuous service
in India to report the
dates of their embarkation
& debarkation on going
on & returning from
leave, communicated
to officers concerned.

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