(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 14

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 7/89

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

(19)

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

அரசாணை எண்.
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 834-1835 அச்சகம் பிலவகை

நாள் : 10. 7. 1889 108.

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

ஆவண. கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

TO

His Excellency the Right Honorable
Sir Richard Assheton Cross
Viscount Cross, G.C.B, P.C, D.C.L, LL.D.

HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

The Memorial of COLONEL H. M. VIBART, R.E. *Superintending Engineer, 1st Class, Department, Public Works, Madras.*

That the object of this Memorial is to obtain that justice which has been denied him by the Government of Madras and India. To pray that he may be appointed Chief Engineer, Department, Public Works, Madras or granted Special Leave.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

That your Memorialist having been superseded in an appointment (Chief Engineer for Irrigation) which became vacant owing to Colonel Hasted going on special leave, and which he had every reason to expect would be conferred on him, he applied for, and obtained six months special leave under the Civil Leave Rules, as he was indisposed to serve under an officer so much his junior in the Department as Mr. Walch.

Your Memorialist was in hopes that Colonel Hasted would return in six months and in that case he would have avoided the necessity of serving under his Juniors.

In January last, your Memorialist submitted a memorial to the Viceroy appealing against his supersession and asking for two years Special Leave. Before your Memorialist received a reply to this Memorial he heard that Colonel Hasted would not return, and that Colonel Mead R.E. who had been acting for him also intended to go on leave with no intention of returning, and that it was contemplated to appoint Mr. Walch, Chief Engineer, 1st Class, while Lieutenant Colonel Drake-Brockman was to be appointed Chief Engineer 2nd Class, again excluding your Memorialist.

Your Memorialist at once despatched (on 22nd March last) a Memorial to His Excellency the Governor of Madras asking to be appointed Chief Engineer and that if the Government were unwilling to do this they would allow him Special Leave.

Previous to leaving England your Memorialist received no reply to his memorial (indeed up to date your Memorialist has not been favored with a reply to his memorial addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Madras) so on the 19th of April your Memorialist left England to return to duty. He reached Bombay on 5th of May (within the period of his leave) and at once left for Madras where he received a reply dated 14th March to his memorial to the Viceroy, refusing him both his requests.

Your Memorialist likewise learnt that he had been transferred from the 5th Circle at Madras to the post of Superintending Engineer at Coimbatore. Having proceeded to Coimbatore your Memorialist took over charge of the 4th Circle on the 13th of May. On the 18th of May your Memorialist wrote to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras requesting that he might be granted a private interview. Your Memorialist's reasons for requiring the interview were, that he was quite at a loss to understand his second supersession by an officer so far his Junior as Lieutenant Colonel Drake-Brockman, who has only within the last few months been promoted Superintending Engineer. Your Memorialist considered that the Government must have some misunderstanding regarding your Memorialist which would be set right if a private interview was accorded him.

His Excellency the Governor granted him this interview, but declined to enlighten him on the reasons which had actuated the Government, and your Memorialist therefore still remains in ignorance of the causes, which guided the Government in their choice of a second Junior to his exclusion. Your Memorialist is the Senior of the Superintending Engineers and considering this to be the case, that he has never before been superseded and that he has served with credit in the Department for nearly thirty years, he thinks that he has deserved more consideration, that at least he should be informed of the grounds of the disapproval of the Government so that he might have an opportunity of explaining anything which may have been alledged against him. Your Memorialist has endeavoured to obtain this justice, but failure has been the result so he can only rely on an appeal to your Excellency.

Your Memorialist has always done his duty to the best of his ability and the fact of his having attained the rank of Superintending Engineer 1st Class without ever having been superseded surely shows, that at any rate he has rendered good service to the Government. The rules of the department doubtless state that seniority is not in itself sufficient grounds on which claim for promotion can be based, although it must in any case have considerable weight, but the rules further state that the advancement of Juniors should only take place in cases where the Juniors have rendered exceptional service.

Your Memorialist in this case has been superseded by an officer who cannot be said to have done any exceptional service. The Officer in question until within the last few months has not even been a Superintending Engineer and he cannot in that time have given grounds for supposing that he is qualified as an

Alex. F. Dibart
Col. R.E.
1st July/89.

1834-1875

administrator for the post of Chief Engineer in a superior degree to your Memorialist who has for many years past carried on the duties of Superintending Engineer with so much credit that at any rate he has not been superseded. Your Memorialist is convinced that he has far greater claims to the appointment of Chief Engineer than the Officer who was appointed in last March and he can besides see no sufficient grounds for his supersession, by Mr. Walch who was so much Junior to him.

Your Memorialist does not under the circumstances detailed above consider that he has been provided with an appointment suitable to his position and services, and he feels most reluctant to serve under his juniors.

He considers that he has been treated with great injustice and he can only account for it by supposing that some unfavourable report has been made to Government regarding him (perhaps by Colonel Hasted) the tenor of which he is quite ignorant of.

Under the Queen's regulations your Memorialist believes that every Military Officer is entitled to have a verbatim copy of any unfavorable report and he prays that the Madras Government may be called on to produce this report (if it exists) so that your Memorialist may be enabled to vindicate himself from the aspersions presumedly cast on his conduct or character.

Your Memorialist humbly begs that he may be granted the justice which has been denied him by the Madras Government and that if it is now deemed undesirable to appoint him Chief Engineer he may at least be spared the mortification of serving under two of his juniors when he had every reason to expect that the post of Chief Engineer would be conferred on him. A copy of your Memorialist's services is attached to this Memorial from which it will be seen that your Memorialist has served in various capacities in the department with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the Government for nearly thirty years. At the beginning of October your Memorialist will be entitled to one year's furlough and he prays that in addition to this furlough six months special leave may be granted to him. Your Memorialist will then have served thirty five years and will then be in a position to retire from the service.

Your Memorialist begs leave to draw attention to letter No. 756 of 14th March 1889 from the Government of India to the Government of Madras which states that "His Excellency the Governor in Council has doubtless exercised his powers properly in selecting Mr. Walch for the post of Chief Engineer for Irrigation."

Your Memorialist desires most respectfully to point out that the disposal of the complaint in this way can hardly be considered a satisfactory answer to your Memorialist's grievance viz., that he has been superseded by an Officer greatly his Junior in the Department without due and sufficient reasons.

The appointments of Mr. Walch (as Chief Engineer 1st Class) and Lieutentant Colonel Drake-Brockman (as Chief Engineer 2nd Class) are acting ones and have been so arranged for the purpose of enabling the Madras Government to put in Colonel Pennycuick as Chief Engineer sometime hence.

Colonel Pennycuick is and always has been Junior to your Memorialist and your Memorialist does not consider it right that (in order to secure the post of

Chief Engineer for his Junior at some future time) two others of his Juniors should fill the appointments to the exclusion of your Memorialist who has great claims to the post of Chief Engineer.

Your Memorialist respectfully requests that this matter may be fully enquired into and that even if your Excellency should find it undesirable at this date to place Your Memorialist in what he considers his proper position at the head of the Department he may at least be allowed special leave and your Memorialist will ever pray.

H. M. Vibart
Col. R.E.
Supt Eng. 1st Class
Madras

Postacommd
1st July 1889

Services of Colonel H. M. Vibart, R.E.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 1ST CLASS.

Entered the service of the Honorable E. I. Company in December 1857.

Arrived in India 30th November 1859 shortly after he was placed under the orders of the District Engineer, Coimbatore.

In 1861 he was appointed to Tinnevelly where he was employed on the important Irrigation works of that District.

In 1863 he was transferred to the Kistna; here he remained 5 years working on the great irrigation works of that River. During this period he visited the important Godavery work on several occasions.

In 1868 he went on leave to England, whilst at home in 1869 he visited Engineering works in Italy under the auspices of the Government. He spent 2 months on this tour, and during that time visited all the principal Irrigation works in the North of Italy as well as other great reclamation works in Tuscany.

In 1866 while on Privilege leave he visited the Ganges and Baree Doab Canals. Returning to India in January 1871 he was again posted to the Kistna, where in addition to the ordinary work of a Division he prepared the completion plans and estimates for the western Delta of that District. These plans &c., being of considerable magnitude.

In 1872 he suffered from a return of the illness he had had in 1868 (Iritis) and the then Chief Engineer (General G. W. Walker R.E.) for this reason posted him to Bangalore.

Here he remained till 1878 during which time he was employed on military works including the water supply scheme for the British troops at that station.

Early in 1878 he was transferred to Madura by order of the Governor (the Duke of Buckingham) for special charge of the restoration of Tirumal Naich's Palace.

After remaining there some 5 months and bringing matters into proper working order he went to his permanent post as District Engineer Trichinopoly.

After 9 months in this District he was directed to proceed to Madras to act as Under Secretary to Government Irrigation Department, but only held that office 3 months as owing to the illness of the late Major Herbert Wood, R.E., he was appointed acting Superintending Engineer of the circle combining Madras, Chengleput, North and South Arcot and the Buckingham Canal.

During the short time he was under Secretary he collected a great deal of information required for the purpose of drawing up financial papers regarding the Irrigation works in the Godavery, Kistna, Tanjore, Nellore, and Tinnevelly Districts. These papers had been called for by the Government of India.

While acting Superintending Engineer at Madras he made a careful inspection of the Buckingham Canal (by order of the Government) and sent in a full report.

In 1880 he was appointed Superintendent of works in charge of Madras and Bangalore and this appointment he retained till he went home in 1881.

During this time he corresponded with the Chief Engineer direct, and in fact for 10 years he has practically held the post of a Superintending Engineer.

He returned from England in 1884 and was at once appointed to be Superintending Engineer 3rd circle comprising Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts, an extensive charge including the important Kurnool Canal nearly 200 miles in length.

In May 1887 he was transferred to charge of 5th circle which includes Madras and Bangalore as well as the Irrigation Districts of Chengleput, North and South Arcot.

This appointment he held till October 1888 when what he considers his unmerited supersession by a Junior Officer (Mr. Walch) induced him to obtain 6 months special leave and to send in a memorial to the Viceroy with the view of protesting against being passed over.

While at Bangalore and Madras he employed himself (in addition to his work as Executive Engineer) in writing a Military History of the Madras Engineers and Sappers which was published by Messrs. Allen & Co., in 2 Volumes in 1882/83 when he was on furlough.

The Madras Government took 50 copies of this work and the Government of India 25, while other Local Governments took a few more.

HENRY M. VIBART,
COLONEL, R.E.

Henry M Vibart
Col RE

1st July/89

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
1 JUL 89
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MADRAS

From
Colonel Henry M. Vibart RE
Superintending Engineer 1st Class.

To The Secretary to the Government
of Madras
Public Works Department

No 634 dated 1889

Sir,

Statement of services.

I have the honor herewith to submit a Memorial* to the Right Hon'ble Viscount Cross G.C.B. Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, which I request may be forwarded at the earliest opportunity for favorable consideration —

For the sake of convenience three copies of the Memorial with Enclosure are forwarded —

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

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Henry M Vibart
Col RE
Supt Engr 1st Class

Recommd
1st July/1889

1834-1835

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Cir 6287 -

C/ Nº enclosed pp

4/VII

Nº 562 d/ 15.IV.89

" 888 W d/ 25.3.89

" 457.8 W d/ 16.2.89

" 3322 W d/ 19.10.88

" 3613 C d/ 24.9.88

" 691 D d/ 19.9.88

" 834 W d/ 13.3.88

" 2846 W d/ 22.10.87

Vo D / saw Rear file - C/

8.VII

O.S. 96.VI

Nº 1884 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 19th July 1888

1634 - 1835 READ the following

Letter from Colonel H.M. Vibart R.E. (H.E. Nº 4 d/ July 1. 1889)

Ordered that

the Memorial be

transmitted through the

Government of India.

To Col H.M. Vibart R.E.
S.E. IV Circle.

(H.E. Nº 1935 W d/ 10-7-89)

To,

The Secretary to the

Government of India, PWD.

HEL
6 July

C
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Sir,

I am directed to

forward, herewith, a memorial

to the Rt Hon the Secy of State

for India, dated 1st July 1881,
from Colonel H. M. Vibart
R.E., Suptg Engineer 1st
class, praying that he may
be appointed Chief Engineer
P.W.D., or granted special
leave for six months in
addition to the one year's
furlough to which he will
be eligible in October next.

2. As regards the first
request, His Excellency
the Governor in Council
has no recommendation
to make. He has not
deemed it desirable
in the public interests
to select Colonel Vibart
for the position of Chief
Engineer of the P.W. Dept.,
and ~~but~~ has in ~~the selection~~
in that rank which have occurred
~~of the direction~~ tested
made the arrangements which
~~in hand~~ and

he considered best for the public
~~officer who may be considered~~
service
~~better qualified for~~
~~the post.~~ 1/4 34 76 35

3. In respect to the
special leave applied
for by Colonel Vibart,
His Excellency in Council
has no objection to the
grant of the indulgence,
should the Govt of India
be disposed to sanction
it.

4. I am to add that
Col. Vibart's Memorial
to the Govt of India was
transmitted Colonel Mead's
with my letter
No. 458 W dd 16 Feby 81,
and was disposed of

(Cant)

~~The Hon'ble H. E. Stokes, C.S.I.~~
H. E. the Governor

(439)

in your letter of the 14th
March 89 No 756.

Note.

This Memorial has been received since circulating Colonel Nibart's letter of the 28th May (linked file) and as the request for special leave must now in any case go before the Government of India, it is proposed to deal with it as suggested in para 3 of the draft.

It will be seen that the former request, denied by the Govt of India was for 2 years special leave. The present application is for 6 months special leave only.

Pneds
4.7.89

Pneds
4.7.89

7

R.S. Oct 96-VI
11-8-6 11-89