

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rudra DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	439	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	27 ₁₀ -4-	1966.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12/36
2/1/66

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th April 1866.

Read the following papers :—

No. 130. Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated India Office, London, 2nd March 1866, No. 7.

I forward a copy of an address from the House of Commons to Her Majesty, on the subject of the mode of appointment to the Civil Service in India, and I have to request that you will submit a report, on behalf of your Government, to enable the necessary Return to be made to it.

East India Civil Service Examination.

Resolved that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, that she will be graciously pleased to give directions that there be laid before this House a Return from the Governments of Bengal and the other Presidencies in India, giving their opinions as to the efficiency of the present system, by which the Civil Service is recruited from this country, and whether they consider that the Service has been improved by the present mode of election by competitive examination.

Ordered that the said Address be presented to Her Majesty by such Members of this House as are of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council.

26th May 1865.

No. 131. MINUTE by the Honorable T. PYCROFT, dated 16th April 1866.

The House of Commons have presented an Address to Her Majesty, requesting that there may be laid before their House a Return from the Governments of Bengal and the other Presidencies in India, giving their opinions as to the efficiency of the present system by which the Civil Service is recruited from the United Kingdom, and whether they consider that the Service has been improved by the present mode of election by competitive examination.

2. The Right Honorable the Secretary of State, in his Despatch of the 2nd ultimo, has desired us to submit the required Report on behalf of our Government.

3. In 1863 I was requested by Sir C. E. Trevelyan, at that time Member of the Council of India, to give my opinion, in confidence, as to the practical result of the competitive system for recruiting the Indian Civil Service, as far it then had been evidenced in the men whom we had received at the Madras Presidency under it.

4. I then wrote as follows:—"My opinion of the Competition Civilians, as a body, as far as I have had an opportunity of forming a judgment is favorable. The six who have been for some time employed up-country are generally approved by the Officers under whom they are serving. Those at Madras, who are qualifying, or have just been pronounced qualified for the Public Service, have many of them passed their examinations in the Vernacular languages in a very short space of time; showing great diligence, and no small aptitude for the acquisition of Oriental dialects. They are in many instances, shy, retiring, and partly from their being absorbed in their studies, do not enter much into general society. They, therefore, perhaps want somewhat of the air and polish of Civilians of the old class."

"On the whole," I continued, "I am convinced that the men of the new order will furnish a larger supply of Public Servants fitted for the important offices which have to be filled from the Madras Civil Service than their predecessors did. I must add my conviction, founded on the experience of more than seven years, during which, as Chief Secretary, I was the confidential adviser of three successive Governors of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th April 1866.*

Madras in matters of Civil patronage; that the old system, or that by nomination, had, in this Presidency at least, broken down, and that although it did, no doubt, produce some able, and a few very able men, it did not furnish them in sufficient numbers to allow of the many highly important offices belonging to the Covenanted Civil Service being adequately provided for."

5. The preceding remarks were written in October 1863, when but a small number of the Competition Civilians had come out to this Presidency. My further acquaintance with them during the two and a half years which have since elapsed has not led me to change the opinion which I then expressed. I still think, that the present system of pure and open competition, although not without some drawbacks, and susceptible of improvement in some of its details, is yet, on the whole, decidedly superior to the former system, and the best that could be devised for filling the ranks of the Indian Civil Service.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT.

No. 132. MINUTE by the Honorable H. D. PHILLIPS, dated 24th April 1866.

I have no difficulty whatever in agreeing with Mr. Pycroft in the opinions he has above expressed, and I think they will form a correct and proper reply to the two Questions contained in the Resolution of the House of Commons which has been communicated to this Government.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS.

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 27th April 1866, No. 439.

Ordered that copies of the foregoing Minutes be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. H. Burne.

3+2
Despatch from R H H Secretary of State
for India 2 March 1866. Public Dept No 7

The House of Commons
have presented an address to H. Majesties, requesting that there may be laid before this House a return from the Govts. of Bengal and the other Presidencies in India, giving their opinions as to the efficiency of the present system by which the Civil Service is recruited. ^{the United Kingdom} and from this country and whether they consider that the Service has been improved by the present mode of election by competitive examination.

The R H H Secy of State in his Despatch

of the 2d allians has
decided as to the
requirement of it on
behalf of our fort.

In 1863 I was requested
by Sir C. Trevelyan, at
that time Member of
the Council of India to
write ~~in~~ ^{with} confidence
my opinion as to
the practical result of
a competitive system
for recruiting the Indian
Civil Service, as far as
it then had been con-
sidered in the manner
whom we had received
at the Madras Presiden-
cy under it.

I then wrote as
follows -

"My opinion of the
Competitive Civilian
as a body, as far as I
have had an opportu-
nity of forming a judgment
is in favour of the

by who have been for some
time employed at Com-
-ity are generally appro-
-ved by the Officers with
whom they are serving.
Those at Madras, who
are justifying a man
just been pronounced
qualified for the public
service, have many of
them, passed their exam-
-inations in the various
-enter languages in a
very short space of time;
showing great diligence,
and no small aptitude
for the acquisition of
Oriental dialects. They
are in many instances
very retiring, and, per-
-haps from their being ab-
-sented in their studies,
do not enter much
into general society.
They therefore perhaps
want somewhat of the
air and polish of ^{civilian} ~~many~~
of the old class."

"On the whole" I continue

"I am convinced that
the men of the new order
will furnish a larger
supply of Public Servants
fitted for the important
offices which have been
fitted from the Indian Civil
Service than this Presi-
-dency did. I must
add my conviction, form-
-ed on the experience of
more than eleven years,
during which, as Chief
Secretary, I was the
confidential adviser of
the successive Governors
of Madras in matters of
Civil Administration, that the
old system of that of
nomination had at
this Presidency at least
broken down; and that
altho' it did, no doubt,
produce some able &
a few very able men, it
did not furnish them
in sufficient numbers
to allow of the many
highly important
offices belonging to the
Commonwealth Civil Service."

Minute.

I have no difficulty
whatever in agreeing
with Mr. Fyfe in the
opinion he has above
expressed: and I think
they will form a correct
impression to the two
provisions contained in
the Resolution of the Hon.
Commissioner of the
Commonwealth Civil Service
to the effect that

24.4.66

W. D. D. D.

April 16. 1856

The preceding remarks
were written in Oct 1853,
when but a small num-
-ber of the Competition
Candidates had come
out to this Presidency.
My further acquaintance
with them during the
2½ years which have
since elapsed has
not led me to change
the opinion which I
then expressed. I
still think that the
-loss of power & open
competition, altho'
not without some
drawbacks and dis-
-advantages of impor-
-tance in some of
its details, is yet, on
the whole, a decidedly
superior to the former
system, and the best
that could be devised
for filling the ranks
of the Indian Civil
Service.

J. P. D. D.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers.

Des. from the Rt Honble the Secretary of State for India, 14th March 1866 No. 7.
 Minute by the Honble T. Pycroft 15th April No. 1.
 do do H. D. Phillips 24 do No. 2.

Order thereon of April 1866 No. 439.

Ordered that copies of the foregoing Minutes be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

[Signature]

Public Works Dept.

Letter to the Right Honble the Secy of State
 of 28th April 1866 No. 13

Minute by Honorable

T. Pycroft.

21st April 66 No. 491

Minute by the Honorable

H. D. Phillips

22nd April 66 No. 492.

Expressing their opinion on the making of the new system for recruiting the Indian Civil Service

319121

Letter to the Right
Honorable the Secy. of State
of 28th April 1866

Public 1866. Department.

No 439

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 27th April 1866.