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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1166	Press Mis.
Dated	19-8-1869	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

19th August 1869.

No. 150. Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George ; dated India Office, London, 15th July 1869, No. 18, (Public.)

The despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated the 22nd of February No. 5 of 1869, relative to the examinations passed on their arrival in India by Junior Civil Servants after an extended training in England, has been considered by me in Council.

2. In reply, I forward, herewith, an extract from a letter received on the subject of your despatch from the Civil

Dated 10th April 1869.

Service Commissioners, and have to

inform your Lordship in Council that I have requested the Commissioners to intimate to candidates that they will be liable to examination in the native languages on arrival in India.

Extract from a letter, received from the Civil Service Commissioners, dated 10th April 1869, in reply to a letter from the Under Secretary of State for India.

PARAGRAPH 5.—Passing to the despatch enclosed with your letter of the 23rd ultimo, the Commissioners observe that the Civil Servants, sent out to Madras under the new system, have not been found, on their first arrival in India, to possess a sufficient knowledge of the vernacular languages for the performance of official duties. While regretting this result, the Commissioners cannot find in it any matter of surprise. In the despatch which suggested the adoption of the system now in force, the probability of such a result was fully recognised by the Government of India. “Doubtless,” it was said, “young officers, if sent up the country on their first arrival, would not be fit for real work ; but that is equally the case under the present system. It is well-known that Junior Civil Servants find, on commencing such work, that their studies in the Presidency towns have not qualified them for their duties.” And the Commissioners have always been aware that there must be great difficulty in securing that even the ablest and most diligent candidates should acquire in this country that oral familiarity with the native languages of India which is to be desired. But they have understood that the system was adopted in the hope and belief that any unavoidable deficiency in this respect would be more than counterbalanced by that sound knowledge of the grammar of the several languages, and that proficiency in reading and writing them which, in the opinion of the highest authorities, both here and in India, can best be acquired in this country, and if the course of probationary training be regarded in this point of view, as intended to lay the foundation of future proficiency, the Commissioners cannot think that the results even in the Presidency of Madras, where the previously existing standard is understood to have been somewhat severer than in the other Presidencies, have been, on the whole, unsatisfactory. They observe with pleasure that the same view is expressed in the despatch now under consideration. “We think,” it is there said, “it would be premature to pronounce upon the working of the new system. For, although all the examinees have failed to approach the standard formerly prescribed for employment in the public service, six have since passed the examination, according to the lower standard, within seven months after their arrival ; and two of them, Messrs. Cumming and Johnson, have passed by the second standard, within thirteen months. This, in our opinion, is creditable to their assiduity and previous training.” It should be added in justice to the civilians to whom the despatch refers, that the circumstances under which the test was applied to them were very unfavourable, inasmuch as they were examined immediately on arrival without any time being given to them for preparation, while their performances were compared with those of persons who had been undergoing for many months a special preparation confined exclusively to the vernacular languages.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

19th August 1869.

6. It should further be noticed, as bearing on the general question, that the number of Civil Servants who have gone out to Madras during the last two years bears a small proportion to the whole number of those who have been trained; and that no unfavourable reports as to the working of the system have been received, so far as the Commissioners are aware, from either division of the large and important Presidency of Bengal.

But while seeing no reason for discouragement in the facts which have been communicated to them, the Commissioners are fully alive to the importance of encouraging and enforcing, to the greatest possible extent, the diligent study of the native languages. On this ground they rejected, at the final examination of last year, a candidate who failed in this respect, although in other respects he had acquitted himself with credit: and when, by your letter of the 6th November 1868, transmitting a memorial from this candidate, they were invited to consider whether any modifications in the system were desirable in order to meet such cases, they felt it their duty to reply that no amount of proficiency in other subjects ought, in their opinion, to be accepted as compensating for deficiency in this indispensable qualification.

8. The Commissioners have already, by special circular, called the attention of the candidates to the importance of this point; and they have endeavoured to impress it upon them by various measures which it is perhaps unnecessary to particularize: with the same object they propose henceforth, in accordance with the wishes of the Madras Government, to restrict very considerably the liberty which candidates have enjoyed of taking up additional languages; and they will not fail to take, from time to time, such further steps as experience may suggest to secure the end which they have in view.

9. In conclusion, I am to request that if His Grace the Secretary of State should decide to sanction the proposal made by the Governments of Madras and Bombay for the maintenance of an entrance examination in India, the Civil Service Commissioners may be informed of the fact, in order that it may be communicated at once to the candidates concerned, who, on the grounds

The Secretary, Civil Service Commission, to the Under Secretary of State, India Office, 4th February 1868.

stated in a previous letter, already referred to, have been led to expect that they would be appointed to active duties without undergoing any such examination.

No. 151. ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1869, No. 1166.

This despatch, and its enclosure, will be communicated to the Committee for the Examination of Assistants.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Committee for the Examination of Assistants.

Exd. J. Wright.

1st 8 52
+ 1st 4 10

My dear Carmichael
I have any ob-
ject in continuing the
exam: of assist^{ts} (Con-
stant) on first arrival
at head & hotkey
and is not kept up in
any other Presidency.
I remain Tharsas
The young man I wrote

Govt. of 1868 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To
THE COMMITTEE FOR THE
EXAMINATION OF ASSISTANTS.

Dated August, 1868.
Recd.
G. O., 10th August 1868, No. 1162.

AUGUST.
Nos. 150-151.

Communicating despatch from the Home
Government, and its enclosure, regarding the
examination of Junior Civil Servants in the Native
Languages on arrival in India.

Trunk & Hammers.
J. S. W.
D. W. S. W.

Public
No. 18.

9
India Office, London.
July 1869
My Lord.

1. The despatch of Your
Excellency in Council
dated the 22nd of February,
No. 5 of 1869, relative to the
examinations passed on
their arrival in India by
junior Civil Servants
after an extended
training in England, has
been considered by me in
Council.

2. In reply I forward
herewith an extract from
The Right Honourable a letter received on the
The Governor in Council Subject of your despatch
Fort St. George.

W. S. W.

dated 10th April 1869.

His Excellency

from the Civil Service
Commissioners and have
to inform your Lordship
in Council that I have
requested the Commissioners
to intimate to Candidates
that they will be liable
to examination in the
Native Languages - the
Arabic and Persian -
and in the English Language.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servant,

Robert Peel

not stated as the
it is desired that a statement should
be made of the progress of the
work of the Commission.

Recd 30 Aug 1869

N^o 2. Public
15. July 1869

The
Letter to Fort St. George
N^o 18.

No 1166 - 19 Aug 1869

This despatch and
its enclosure will be
communicated to the
Committee for the

With an order

Examination of Admitt.
-ants-

Forwarding an Extract
from a letter of the Civil
Service Commission on the subject
of the despatch of this Govt.
relative to the exams passed
on their arrival here of the
junior Civil Servants, and
also stating that the Commission
has requested to intimate to
Candidates that they will be liable to
exams in the Native Languages
(Decr 10th August 1869)

To the Com. & Govt. of the
C/ty sent to the Honble. Secy
Adm. Secy 13/8/69

No 4457.

Mr. Miller V. Brown
on this subject on the 10th Aug 1869

11. 11. 1869. 11. 11. 1869.

Public

To the Committee for the Examination
of Candidates.

Dated Aug. 28.

Recd.

1869.

G. O. 11. 11. 1869.

1869. 11. 11. 1869.

No. 150. 152.

Comm. Des. from the Home
Govt. and its Local Govts. re
regarding the Examination
of Junior Civil Servants
in the Native Languages
on arrival in India.