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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

27th June 1881, No. 3472.

Native Languages.

Read the following papers :—

No. 456. *Memorandum from Brigadier-General GODFREY CLERK, Officiating Adjutant-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 17th January 1881, No. 25.*

Submitted for the consideration of Government.

From Surgeon-General W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., C.I.E., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Adjutant-General; dated Fort St. George, 29th December 1880, No. 568.

I have the honor to report, for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's information, that the ruling in Madras General Orders, para. 2682 (page 475), and in Government of India Orders, Madras G.O., No. 240, of 19th January 1872, relative to the grant of moonshee allowance to military Hospital Apprentices who pass examinations in the vernacular languages, has been set aside by the Accountant-General, Madras, under the authority of some unpublished orders in the Financial Department.

2. Two military Hospital Apprentices who are studying in the Medical College have recently passed the higher standard examination in Tamil, and their claims for the moonshee allowance have been submitted to the Accountant-General through my office on the usual certificate, as required by Madras General Orders, that the Apprentices were not Natives of India, and that they had not resided ten years in India since entrance into the service. The Accountant-General refuses to accept such a certificate, and will not pass the allowance to any apprentice who has resided more than ten years in India. The reward has been hitherto passed to military medical subordinates of the warrant grade without question, and on reference to the Army List, I see that 112 warrant officers have been encouraged to qualify in the vernaculars, by passing the higher or lower standard, since the rules came into force.

3. The ruling of the Financial Department, which is unauthorized so far as our general regulations of the army are concerned, will exclude nearly every military Hospital Apprentice from gaining a reward for careful and accurate study of the vernacular languages. Our candidates for the warrant grade of the Medical Department are nearly all the children of Europeans and Eurasians born in India, and consequently are in excess of ten years' residence in the country when they are attested for military service.

4. The Madras Accountant-General, in his letter, No. 3208, of 4th August 1879, has made an incorrect representation of the facts. He states that the Eurasian population of South India learn Tamil as their mother tongue, whereas as a matter of fact it is a common subject of complaint in every school and educational institution, that East Indians habitually ignore the means of instruction in vernacular languages, their only knowledge of them being the low colloquial phrases picked up from Native servants, and as a rule they are completely ignorant of the grammatical construction of the languages, and are unable to read and write in them.

5. In my opinion, the extension of the rewards for passing in Native languages to Hospital Apprentices of the military class was a wise and liberal concession on the part of the Government of India. Already it has encouraged a better acquaintance with Native languages amongst the warrant ranks of medical officers in this Presidency, and the refusal to grant moonshee allowance will fall particularly hard on young men who, on the faith of existing General Orders, have spent time and money in preparing themselves for the several standards of examination.

6. Should His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief concur with me in opinion that it would be inexpedient to introduce a new ruling which would deprive Hospital Apprentices born in India of the advantages of the moonshee allowance, I trust His Excellency will be pleased to submit the question to Government and Government of India with his support. Under any circumstances, if a new ruling is introduced, I contend that it ought to be published in General

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Orders, and that it should not be made applicable to men who in good faith have already complied with the terms of existing orders.

7. I trust, however, that the Government of India, under proper representation, may be pleased to declare the present ruling of the Account Department to be unauthorized, and that instead of discouraging vernacular studies on the part of warrant medical officers, it may be clearly and unmistakably laid down that all members who pass the required standards within ten years of attestation or enlistment may be entitled to the specified rewards.

8. Correspondence with the Accountant-General is enclosed for information.

No. 457. *To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated 28th January 1881, No. 542.*

No. 458. *From Colonel G. CHESNEY, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, Madras; dated Simla, 14th May 1881, No. 436-S.D.*

Native Languages.

I am desired to acknowledge receipt of your docket, No. 542, dated 28th January 1881, submitting a question raised by the Surgeon-General, Madras, and the local Civil Account Department, whether the term "actual service in India" used in Government General Order, No. 734 of 1864, should be held to mean the whole period passed in the country, or only the period of service in India, with reference to the claims of certain Hospital Apprentices to moonshee allowance for passing in the vernacular languages.

2. In reply, I am to state that the Government of India consider the term in question should be interpreted to mean the period of service in India only, irrespective of the period of residence; and in this view the claims referred to should be admitted, provided that the claimants have not exceeded the prescribed period of service and are not actual Natives of the country in the sense of belonging to Native society.

No. 459. ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1881, No. 3472.

Ordered that the reply of the Government of India be communicated to the Provincial Commander-in-Chief and Departments concerned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant-General.

- „ Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Madras.
- „ Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
- „ Controller of Military Accounts.
- „ Public Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of 118811 Madras

MILITARY.

To

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
AC, AC, &c.

Dated June, 27th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 27th June 1881, No. 3472.

JUNE.

Nos. 456-459.

Communicating letter from the Government of India, explaining the term "actual service in India" used in G.O.G.G., No. 734 of 1881 regarding the grant of moonshee allowance to Hospital Apprentices.

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6. Should His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief concur with me in opinion that it would be inexpedient to introduce a new ruling which would deprive Hospital Apprentices born in India of the advantages of the moonshee allowance, I trust His Excellency will be pleased to submit the question to Government and Government of India with his support. Under any circumstances, if a new ruling is introduced, I contend that it ought to be published in General

Orders, and that it should not be made applicable to men who in good faith have already complied with the terms of existing orders.

7. I trust, however, that the Government of India, under proper representation, may be pleased to declare the present ruling of the Account Department to be unauthorized, and that instead of discouraging vernacular studies on the part of warrant medical officers, it may be clearly and unmistakably laid down that all members who pass the required standards within ten years of attestation or enlistment may be entitled to the specified rewards.

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Edw. A. Reith.

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MILITARY.

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Issued

Encl.

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G.O., 27th June 1881. No. 3472.

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L. Pubk 1263/11

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„	Controller of Military Accounts.	
„	Public Department.	

Exd. A. Raitt.

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Order 8 July 1881 No. 7

forwarded
GHC

Order 1051/Dep 6
(Medical)

Cent. of Health
MILITARY

To
THE ADJ. GEN. MILITARY
8-2-81
BY G. C. No. 9/8

7/7/81
The Adjt. Gen. Mil.
Sd/-
18/

Dated June, 27th.

Is sent

Per

June 6
G.O. 27th June 1881

CURRENT No. 1369

JUNE.
Nos. 456-459.

1250
12/7/81
Sd/-

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with order