

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 223

Dated 6 - 3 - 97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Directing the Supt. Govt. Press to inform
Mr. P. H. A. Asst. Supt. that the Govt. does not
desire to avail itself of his services after the
expiration of his present engagement

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
fo	293	Pnl	19-3-97				
C no	1793	of 97	fo 1429-30				
and	1903	897	1-11-97				
			10-6-97				

Confidential

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 635

CHIEF SECRETARY
15-FEB 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

From

Order No. 223 & 6. March 97

The Superintendent
Government Press
Madras

No. 685

The Supr. Govt.
Press, will inform Mr.
F. Pritchard, Asst
Supt, that the Govt. does
not desire to avail itself
of his services after the
expiration of his present
engagement.

Dated 12th February 1897

Received 15

Registered 16

Enclosures one

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submits Mr Pritchard's
application for re-engagement,
with an office note regarding
his services during the past
5 years.

Steps for filling up the vacancy.
from orders

F.S.B.

6.3.97.

6/3/97

Supr. Govt Press

6/3/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government Press,
Print Buildings,
Madras.

January 13th, 1897

From Mr. J. Fitchard,
Asst. Superintendent, Government Press

To
The Honourable Mr. J. F. Price, C.S.I.
Chief Secretary to Government.
(Through the Superintendent, Government Press)

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that my agreement with the Madras Government for employment as Assistant Superintendent of the Government Press will expire on the 31st March next.

I am desirous of continuing in the service of Government, and shall be obliged if Government will inform me if my services may be continued.

I have reason to believe that the Superintendent of the Press is satisfied as to the manner in which I have discharged my duties, and to my conduct during the time I have been under him.

I have the honour to remain
Yr. most obedient servant
J. Fitchard.

CURRENT No. 635

No. 635. Mr. J. P. Pritchard, Superintendent,
 Supt. Govt. Press, Allahabad.
 Dated 12th February 1897.
 The following is the substance of the
 Office Note, No. 2276, dated 12th Feb. 1897.
 In forwarding the accompanying
 letter from Mr. J. P. Pritchard, Supt.
 Superintendent, dated 13th January
 1897, soliciting his re-engagement
 after the 31st March next, as the
 five years agreement entered
 into with him will expire on
 that date, the Supt. Govt. Press
 regrets to state that he cannot,
 in the interests of Government,
 recommend a continuance of
 Mr. Pritchard's services, as he
 has not given entire satisfaction
 in his work, and is unfitted
 to perform the work required from
 the Deputy Superintendent, and
 Superintendent in the event of
 unavoidable absence or absence
 from Mr. Pritchard, came out
 from England in September 1887
 on a five years agreement to the
 post of Deputy Superintendent
 in the Lawrence Bazaar Press,
 and in February 1895 his services
 were dispensed with owing to
 certain changes in that press.
 He then secured an appointment
 as printer in the Allahabad Mail
 office. See office note, No. 2276.

dated 17th July 1890, the Dept. solicited, on the recommendation of Mr. Brown, the best type, that as practical printer should be obtained from England to give him relief from continually looking to technical details which as practical assistant will have to give moderately, in either or composing department about the machine department which is minute required work and the machines are being worked by steam power & better portion of work & of labour office notes & the provision for their recommendation was included in paras 4 and 5 of the same office note (No. 70 Public, dated 12th September 1890) and a practical printer was obtained from England, but Mr. Pritchard was appointed as the Deputy by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India after reference to the Hon. Government (No. 40, 1029 Public, 22nd December 1891, and No. 73 Public, 1st January 1892) and as a result of his appointment the Superintendent put Mr. Pritchard in charge of the Pressing department of the press, and directed him to attend at 9 a.m. as that had might do to that portion of the Secretariat work which is usually

received about 7 p.m. and later on the previous evening, and the delay with urgent work, some of which is required by more or less on the following days, leading to complaints received it was found that the Asst. Secy. was not attending in usual before 10 a.m., and work was consequently hindered and it was also indicated by his attendance at 9 a.m. to ensure that the daily work was more promptly commenced by the employees. However the Superintendent missed out visiting the Assistant Secy. Branch Press, and went to the press at 9.30 a.m. and before 10 a.m. for special work, the Asst. Secy. was not present, and work was made on those particular occasions. After frequent soundings in March 1890, the Superintendent opened a time book for the Asst. Secy. and the Secy. which is still maintained, about 10 a.m. attendance is only a little better. One of the reasons for securing a practical printer as Asst. Secy. was to improve the press and machine work, and as a clause was inserted in the office order making it a part of his work when he joined the press, but nothing

has been done by him & his
Mr. Britchard has
no training in conducting work
in a large press. He has been in
England, and during his five
years there has failed to
grasp the administrative
for cooperating and turning out
his work. He has not grasped
the details of giving instructions
to reporters regarding the progress
or prospects of business for
work, and he has no ability
to foresee what will be the result
of the press judging of the
work going on. He has, therefore,
he has no other tact or capacity
to manage a business of this kind.
He is frequently showing differences
with the press, which the Supt.
has to settle. And there have
been complaints against him
that he has not been impartial
as he should be, and the Supt.
has spoken to him on several occasions
on the subject & advised him to
be pointing out these defects,
the Superintendent must state
that Mr. Britchard values the
work of the contributors satisfactorily
and according to his capacity has
been doing his best with the work
he has. In the presence of business
no record has been kept of cases
which prove these defects, and the
following are stated to illustrate

the attention to details which the
Superintendent has to give to
prevent mistakes and failures
arising with the Secretariat
work. The Superintendent has
which is a vital matter
against papers for the Legislative
Council is completed & the work
copied to the printers a few days
in advance of the paper the printing
the questions only to be asked by
Hon. Members, with other business
of the meeting & all more serious
thereof. Supt. had the agenda
papers with revisions to be given
by members of Government, ready
for despatch to Editors, & was
fortunately it was noticed
and the Government were
told the annoyance of seeing
their answers published in
the newspapers a few days before
they were to be delivered in
and on Sunday the 7th
instant, I attended officers to
get the agenda paper printed
as desired by the Chief Secretary.
On Monday afternoon the 8th,
I received a telephone message
from the Chief Secretary stating
that printing work in connection
with Legislative questions must
be done that night, and papers
would be sent out as soon as possible.
I sent this message to the Supt.,
and I arranged for

was to work late. I did not
intend leaving the prison until
I had seen the work to the end.
I expected him to be an expert
work later on the agenda paper
without saying anything. I
was surprised to learn at half
past 6 that he had left the prison
about half past 5, and that
consequently he had to remain
until 10 p.m. to examine the
proof being ready for the
Legislative Council at 10 p.m.
morning. He did not say
anything to him about leaving
without saying anything regarding the
telephone conversation with him,
and enquiring why he did not
consider it his duty to work
later to ensure no further with
the agenda paper, as there were
only 10 hours between receipt
of proof and the Council meeting.
He replied that he had covered
the prison and had heard
that the paper was printed
that night, and that he did
not think it was necessary for
him to stay for it, after
informing those two persons.
The Superintendent submit
that the services of an officer
are not of much value when
he does not give the attention
required on exceptional occasions,
and when he does not give

the Superintendent the relief from details
of work by a staff of four or five
at the end of his
first year the Supt. informed
the Chief Secretary verbally that
Mr. Pritchard had disappointed
him in many respects, and
cited as one, not the end of
the second year the Supt. was
reported that there was a slight
improvement, and it was hoped
that he could be given by a
longer experience with the work,
and was evidently trying to
do his best. In 1910, Mr. Pritchard did
not submit his application for
re-engagement in October last,
and knowing that he had inherited
some property, the Supt. thought
he intended leaving the service
at the end of his agreement, and
deferred the consideration of a
successor until the Chief Secretary
returned from leave. On enquiring
of Mr. Pritchard last month
whether he intended applying
for a re-engagement, or intended
retiring, he put forward the
accompanying letter in which
the Government are
pleased to re-engage Mr. Pritchard,
the Supt. submits that he is
not fit for the higher appointments
of Deputy Supt. and Supt.
In the event of the appointment

of Deputy Supt. becoming vacant,
the Supt. considers Mr. Pritchard
would not be able to conduct the
Book, Gazette, Job, and Land
departments with the efficiency
which is required for those
classes of work; the whole
onus of attending to various
departmental, and technical
details would be thrown upon
the Supt. which under present
conditions it is not possible
for him to attend to.

In the event Mr. Pritchard
not being re-engaged,
the Supt. will at once address
Government regarding his
successor.

R. Hill
Superintendent

The Chief Secretary
to Government.

...

...

It is being settled
that he should
be the
Bureau.
When it is then
can be sent up.

S.
19/2/97

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 603

From Henry George Skene Bay
2nd and 3rd Print
Carlton.

Order

Dated 9th
Received 12th } February 97.
Registered 13th
Enclosures 2
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Requesting favorable
Consideration of his ap-
plication for a probable
vacancy of an assistant
ship which may shortly
occur in the East Press, &c.

Copies of Testimonials, &c.

13, Bishopsgate Avenue,
London, E.C. 2, February 28, 1889

Having had Henry G. Loeen under my charge for upwards of six years, during which time he has become well versed in the general routine of a commercial printing office, I can with confidence testify to his ability and to the faithful discharge of his duties.

(20) John Baldwin,
Overseer.

17, Great St. Helens, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C. 2, March, 1888.

This is to certify that Henry George Loeen has served his apprenticeship with me and is now within six months of the expiration of the seven years term.

He has been quick to learn and prompt to apply his knowledge: he has had a good all-round experience in a jobbing office, and although his duties have chiefly lain in the Composing Room, he has acquired, I believe some knowledge of the work of the Press Room.

His readiness to acquire is the result of a good general education which he brings to bear on the various departments of work around him. He keeps his eyes and ears well open for fresh ideas, shows a real interest in his work, being painstaking and assiduous.

It gives me great pleasure to record this testimony in his favour.

(20) Henry Loeen

[This Gentleman is second cousin to the Applicant]

Govt. Printing Office, Ceylon,
Colombo, 31st Sept. 1892.

Mrs. Henry J. Skeen, my cousin, has very
efficiently filled the post of Second Assistant
in this office since July, 1888.

In that capacity he has acted chiefly as
Superintendent of the Machine and Press
Department to which is attached a small foundry,
and has had the direct management of some
60 men and boys.

Though trained primarily to "case" (that is,
as a compositor) he turned his attention to some
extent to machine work before he left England
and having an enthusiasm for machinery
has since developed a proficiency rare in
one not actually brought up to that branch,
and very valuable to a printer.

With the experience gained in this
establishment where all description of Govt.
work including railway ticket and Stamp
printing are turned out, and where typesetting,
stereotyping, roller making, and book
binding are carried on, I consider him well
qualified for such an appointment as that
of Superintendent of the Govt. Printing Office
for which he is an applicant.

(2) Geo. J. A. Skeen,
Govt. Printer, Ceylon.

[Written when I was an applicant for the
post mentioned. Promotion in the Straits
Service alone prevented me from obtaining
the position.]

No. 514526 Colonial Secretary's Office, Ceylon,
Colombo, November 21, 1892.

Colonial Secretary, Cyprus.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of October 11th, 1892, No. 1781/90 and
to inform you that Mrs. Skeen the 2nd
Assistant Government Printer of this Colony
has been informed as therein desired.

2. As regards the last paragraph of your
letter desiring for some information as to
Mrs. Skeen's character and qualification I am
to state that Mrs. Skeen has been employed
in the Government Printing Office since
July, 1888, chiefly as Superintendent of the
Machine and Press Department. In this capacity
he has the management of 60 to 70 hands
and has under his control the actual
printing works in addition to the stereotyping,
typesetting, railway ticket, and line ruling
branches, and since July, 1892, during the
absence on leave to England of the Govt.
Printer he has also supervised the Jobwork
Department.

3. The Acting Government Printer states
that with such a varied and practical
experience in an office where every
description of Government and much private
work is undertaken, Mrs. Skeen is qualified
to fill the post he seeks under your Government.

I forward herewith a letter addressed
to you by Mrs. Skeen together with copies of
the testimonials referred to therein.

I am, Sir,

(2) W. J. Taylor,

Acting Colonial Secretary, Ceylon on the request
of the Secretary to Government, Cyprus. The temporary
holder of the printing, however, has been conferred.

I have inserted an extract from a letter
dated March 31, 1896, written on the
order of His Excellency Sir West Ridgeway in
answer to a recommendation made in favour
of the two Assistants in this office by the
Government Printer. Though the memorandum
intimated the recommendation could not be
approved, the following remark was added:
"But His Excellency has heard with
pleasure of the good service rendered
by Messrs H. Skeen and H. B. Bottle
during the Government Printer's absence
on leave."

By order
W. J. J. Tharburn,
for Colonial Secretary."

I also insert extracts from the Reports
annually submitted to Government by the
Government Printer for the years noted.

On the year 1888:-

"The post of second Assistant was
filled by the appointment in England
of Mr. H. B. Skeen, who assumed duties
in July."

"The changes led to a slight redis-
tribution of work: Mr. Bottle as Superin-
tendent of the composing branch,
Mr. H. B. Skeen's charge being the Machine
Department with which the Printing
branch and Stereotype Foundry are
connected. To both my acknowledgments
are due for the ability with which their branches
are managed and for the success which meets
their endeavours to prevent arrears of work."

On the year 1890:-

"On March 2 I proceeded to England,
on three months' privilege leave but the
detention already alluded to, followed by
a short extension on half pay, postponed
my resumption of duties till August 27.
The greatest pressure on the staff
occurred during my absence, and it was
gratifying to find on my return that
the work had been very energetically
carried on by Mr. H. B. Bottle who acted
as Government Printer and whose efforts
were well seconded by Mr. H. B. Skeen,
my second assistant and their subordinate
officers, and that while the current work
was up to date, arrears of long standing
had been worked off."

On the year 1891:-

"To my assistants Messrs H. B. Bottle
and H. B. Skeen my acknowledgments
for zealous work are due."

On the year 1893:-

"In conclusion, it is my pleasing duty
to record my acknowledgments to my
assistants and subordinate officers generally
for their zealous co-operation in all efforts
to secure economical working and to
extend the usefulness of the establishment
in new directions."

On the year 1894:-

"This led to a slight redistribution of
work, Mr. H. B. Skeen taking over, in addition
to the Superintendence of the Machine Depart-

"the whole of the jobwork."

"To both acknowledgment is due for
"the ability with which their branches have
"been managed, and for the success which
"has attended their efforts to work economically
"and prevent any serious accumulation
"of arrears."

On the year 1895:-

"The redistribution of the duties of the
"superior staff as recorded in last year's
"report, in consequence of the absence of
"the head of the office worked satisfactorily
"and to ensure Mr. L. L. L. and Mr. Richards
"special acknowledgment is due for the
"zeal displayed in the discharge of their
"increased duties, and for the success which
"attended their efforts to secure economical
"results and to extend the usefulness of
"the establishment in new directions. I
"am also indebted to the Heads of the
"various Branches for the smooth working
"of the office during the eighteen months
"in the quality and quantity of the work
"produced. Credit is due to the staff generally
"for the exertions put forth to give satisfaction
"and to maintain the reputation of the Department."

Extract from letter dated June 22, 1896.

From Secretary, Central Station Commission, Colombo
to the Govt. Printer.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for the proofs of
Central Station Report received yesterday.

but a single additional correction was
necessary and Mr. Hodson has gone away
to India with a very high opinion of the
reliable and expeditious manner in which
the work of your Department is carried on.

(Rd.) J. A. Nylis.

True Copy

Henry Allen
19/2/97

Government Printing Office,
Colombo, May 21, 1896.

Your Excellency,

I trust my temerity in addressing you in quest of employment under the Madras Government may be pardoned when I advance as my plea for leniency the poor salary and as poor prospects which are obtainable in the printing establishment of the Ceylon Government.

Promotion is at a standstill in this office - the deadlock is due to the members of the superior staff being almost of an age, and salaries paid, with the exception of that of the head of the Department, being almost of an equal amount.

My London training (an apprenticeship of seven years in a thorough and up to date city office) supplemented by eight years' experience of Government work and requirements in this, one of the most efficient of colonial Government Printing Offices - (the high class and expensive nature of its output being familiar to you, and which, I trust, you have been good enough in the past to note with appreciation) - now, I respectfully submit, suitable for a position, if available, under the Government of your new colony, where a larger field and increased scope would be a welcome exchange even if no higher emolument than that which I now enjoy, were obtainable.

I earnestly solicit your kind perusal of copies of testimonials, credentials, extracts,

which I have ~~been~~ forwarded for
same opportunity. Praying that the writer
may receive the considerable notice and
assistance which you are known to vouchsafe
to all those whose desire is, with help to help
themselves.

I have, ~~as~~
(ad) Henry Eke
2nd East Kent Printer

To His Excellency,
Sir Arthur Hamilton Havelock, G. C. B. & G.,
Governor of Madras,

Government House,
Ootacamund.

3rd June, 1896.

Dear Sir,
I am desired by His Excellency Sir
Arthur Havelock to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 21st May and to
inform you that His Excellency has made
inquiries as to the possibility of finding
you an appointment here. He regrets to
say, however, that there is no prospect
of any immediate employment, but should
a vacancy occur your request will be borne
in mind.

Yours truly
(ad) H. A. Stewart.

Mr. H. G. Eke.

CURRENT NO 503 12

Government Printing Office,
with no printing - Colombo - Feb 9, 1897.

CHIEF SECRETARY
12-FEB-1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Sir, I have the honor to address you on the subject of a probable vacancy of an Assistantship, which I am informed may shortly occur, in the Government Press, Madras, and to submit my candidature for the same

2. In support of the above I beg to forward copy of a letter to Mr A. C. Maselock, G. O. M. S., dated May 21, 1896, and of his reply thereto dated June 8, 1896, drawing your kind attention to the promise held out in the latter, & soliciting a considerate & careful perusal of both, & of the testimonials referred to, which I again put up for convenience of reference.

3. Further, from the Ceylon Civil List of 1897, I reproduce my record of service under this Government, which runs as follows:-

Henry George Skeen. Born June 14, 1867.
Second Assistant to the Government Printer, Rs. 2,500.
6 June 1888 Second Assistant to the Government Printer
6 July 1888 Assumed duties on arrival
3 Mar. 1890 Acting Assistant Government Printer
27 Aug. 1890 Ceased to act as Assistant Government Printer
1 Nov. 1892 Acting Assistant Government Printer
17 May 1893 Ceased to act as Assistant Government Printer
18 Dec. 1893 'On half pay leave
23 Jan. 1894 Resumed duties on return from leave
7 Aug. 1894 Acting Assistant Government Printer
17 Feb. 1896 Ceased to act as Assistant Government Printer

The Hon.
J. F. Price, C.S.D.,
Chief Secretary to Govt.
Madras.

except what measurement I am 30 years
of age & married, I am qualified for the
position applied for both in experience
& practical ability; I can make myself
fairly well understood colloquially, in
German, & am thoroughly acclimated to
our weather & people, & I have the highest
recommendations of the highest authorities
in the country. I am, Sir, your obedient servant
Blanche L. Roberts

2nd Gen. Lord Rind,
Capt.

[The page contains several lines of extremely faint, illegible handwriting.]

1. 1. The first
 2. 2. The second
 3. 3. The third
 4. 4. The fourth
 5. 5. The fifth
 6. 6. The sixth
 7. 7. The seventh
 8. 8. The eighth
 9. 9. The ninth
 10. 10. The tenth
 11. 11. The eleventh
 12. 12. The twelfth
 13. 13. The thirteenth
 14. 14. The fourteenth
 15. 15. The fifteenth
 16. 16. The sixteenth
 17. 17. The seventeenth
 18. 18. The eighteenth
 19. 19. The nineteenth
 20. 20. The twentieth
 21. 21. The twenty-first
 22. 22. The twenty-second
 23. 23. The twenty-third
 24. 24. The twenty-fourth
 25. 25. The twenty-fifth
 26. 26. The twenty-sixth
 27. 27. The twenty-seventh
 28. 28. The twenty-eighth
 29. 29. The twenty-ninth
 30. 30. The thirtieth
 31. 31. The thirty-first
 32. 32. The thirty-second
 33. 33. The thirty-third
 34. 34. The thirty-fourth
 35. 35. The thirty-fifth
 36. 36. The thirty-sixth
 37. 37. The thirty-seventh
 38. 38. The thirty-eighth
 39. 39. The thirty-ninth
 40. 40. The fortieth
 41. 41. The forty-first
 42. 42. The forty-second
 43. 43. The forty-third
 44. 44. The forty-fourth
 45. 45. The forty-fifth
 46. 46. The forty-sixth
 47. 47. The forty-seventh
 48. 48. The forty-eighth
 49. 49. The forty-ninth
 50. 50. The fiftieth
 51. 51. The fifty-first
 52. 52. The fifty-second
 53. 53. The fifty-third
 54. 54. The fifty-fourth
 55. 55. The fifty-fifth
 56. 56. The fifty-sixth
 57. 57. The fifty-seventh
 58. 58. The fifty-eighth
 59. 59. The fifty-ninth
 60. 60. The sixtieth
 61. 61. The sixty-first
 62. 62. The sixty-second
 63. 63. The sixty-third
 64. 64. The sixty-fourth
 65. 65. The sixty-fifth
 66. 66. The sixty-sixth
 67. 67. The sixty-seventh
 68. 68. The sixty-eighth
 69. 69. The sixty-ninth
 70. 70. The seventieth
 71. 71. The seventy-first
 72. 72. The seventy-second
 73. 73. The seventy-third
 74. 74. The seventy-fourth
 75. 75. The seventy-fifth
 76. 76. The seventy-sixth
 77. 77. The seventy-seventh
 78. 78. The seventy-eighth
 79. 79. The seventy-ninth
 80. 80. The eightieth
 81. 81. The eighty-first
 82. 82. The eighty-second
 83. 83. The eighty-third
 84. 84. The eighty-fourth
 85. 85. The eighty-fifth
 86. 86. The eighty-sixth
 87. 87. The eighty-seventh
 88. 88. The eighty-eighth
 89. 89. The eighty-ninth
 90. 90. The ninetieth
 91. 91. The ninety-first
 92. 92. The ninety-second
 93. 93. The ninety-third
 94. 94. The ninety-fourth
 95. 95. The ninety-fifth
 96. 96. The ninety-sixth
 97. 97. The ninety-seventh
 98. 98. The ninety-eighth
 99. 99. The ninety-ninth
 100. 100. The hundredth

Government Printing Office,
Colombo, Ceylon, 1897.

Sir,
In forwarding the enclosed copy of a letter written by you at the instance of His Excellency Sir A. E. Baselock, G.C.M.G., in which a promise has been held out to the undersigned that his name will be borne in mind should a vacancy occur in the superior staff of the Madras Press, and as I am informed there is a probability of such occurring during the next few weeks, may I beg of you to kindly re-submit the matter for His Excellency's re-consideration, so to invite a reference to the Colonial Secretary's Office, Ceylon, for Credentials as to Character & Qualifications, should my application be entertained.

* Put up.
1/1/97
22/1/97

2. My letter of May 2, 1896, to His Excellency (to which I would again beg to draw your kind attention) covered copies of testimonials, &c., and in a communication of even date (Feb 9, 1897) to the Hon. J. F. Price, C.S.G. I have submitted an additional copy of the same for convenience of reference, accompanied with a formal application for the pending vacancy.

A. A. Stuart, Esq.,
P.O. to H.E. Sir A. E. Baselock, G.C.M.G.,

3.

Copy of letter referred to.

Government House,
Cotacumana,
June 3, 1896.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th May & to inform you that His Excellency has made inquiries as to the possibility of finding you an appointment here. He regrets to learn, however, that there is no prospect of any immediate employment, but should a vacancy occur your request will be borne in mind.

Yours truly,
(Sd.) W. A. Stewart.

W. A. Stewart.

True copy - Henry Green.

11)
The Printing Office, Bangalore
Colonio, May 24, 1906
Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst. in relation to the question of the salary of the members of the Government Printing Office. I have the honor to inform you that the Government Printing Office is a department of the Government of the Madras Presidency. The salary of the members of the Government Printing Office is fixed by the Government of the Madras Presidency. I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the Madras Presidency has decided to increase the salary of the members of the Government Printing Office. I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the Madras Presidency has decided to increase the salary of the members of the Government Printing Office.

2. Promotion is at a standstill in this Office on the whole due to the members of the superior staff being almost of an age & salary paid, with the exception of that of the head of the Department, being almost of an equal amount.

3. My London training (an apprenticeship of seven years in a thorough & up-to-date City Office), supplemented by eight years experience of Government work & requirements in this one of the most efficient of Colonial Government Printing Offices (the high-class & expedition nature of its output being familiar to you, & which, Sir, you have been good enough in the past to note with appreciation) —

Appreciation) - I respectfully
submit, suitable for a position, if
available, under the Government
you now control, where a larger
field & increased scope would be
a welcome exchange, even if no
higher emolument than that which
I now enjoy (£2,400 per annum)
were obtainable.

I earnestly submit
your kind personal copies of
testimonial, which I
have forwarded per same opportunity -
& praying that the writer may
receive the Considerate notice &
assistance which you are known
to vouchsafe to all those whose
desire is, with help, to help them-
selves, in I am sure, in the

have the honor to be
Your Excellency's obedient, humble servant,

Henry George Stearns
I have the honor to be
Yours faithfully,
Henry George Stearns

To His Excellency
Sir Arthur Chibbald Bavelock, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Madras.

Copies of Testimonials, &c.

13, Bishopsgate Avenue,
London, E. C.
February 22, 1888.

Having had Henry G. Stearns, under my charge
for upwards of ten years, during which time he has been well
versed in the general routine of a commercial printing office,
I can with confidence testify to his ability and to the faithful
discharge of his duties.

Wm. John Balderson,
Proprietor.

Works: - Phoenix Printing Office
13, Bishopsgate Avenue - 17, Great St. Helens, Bishopsgate
London, March, 1888
E. C.

This is to certify that Henry George Stearns has served
his apprenticeship with me & is now within six months of the
expiration of the seven years term.

He has been quick to learn & prompt to apply his
knowledge; he has had a good all-round experience in a
jobbing office, and although his duties have chiefly lain in the
composing room, he has acquired, I believe, some knowledge
of the work of the Press Room.

His readiness to acquire is the result of a good general
education which he brings to bear on the various departments of
work around him. He keeps his eyes & ears well open for fresh
ideas, shows a real interest in his work, being painstaking
and assiduous.

I give me great pleasure to record this testimony in
his favour.

Wm. John Balderson

[This Gentleman is second cousin to the Applicant]

Govt. Printing Office, Ceylon.
Colombo, 21st Sept. 1892.

Mr. Henry G. Steen, my cousin, has very efficiently filled the post of second Assistant in this office since July, 1888.

In that capacity he has acted chiefly as Superintendent of the Machine and Press Department to which is attached a small foundry, and has had the direct management of some 60 men and boys.

Though trained primarily to "cast" (that is, as a compositor) he turned his attention to some extent to machine work before he left England and having an enthusiasm for machinery has since developed a proficiency rare in one not actually brought up to that branch and very valuable to a printer.

With the experience gained in this establishment where all descriptions of Govt. work including railway ticket & stamp printing are turned out, and where type casting, stereotyping, roller-making, and book-binding, are carried on, I consider him well qualified for such an appointment as that of Superintendent of the Govt. Printing Office at Perak for which he is an applicant.

Yrs. Geo. L. Steen
Govt. Printer, Ceylon

[Written when I was an applicant for the post mentioned. Promotions in the Public Service alone prevented me from obtaining the post.]

N^o 014521

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Ceylon,
Colombo, November 21, 1892.

Colonial Secretary, Cyprus.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 11th, 1892, No 1781/95 & to inform you that Mr. Steen the 2nd Assistant Government Printer of this Colony has been informed as therein desired.

2. As regards the last paragraph of your letter, desiring for some information as to Mr. Steen's character & qualification I am to state that Mr. Steen has been employed in the Government Printing Office since July, 1888, chiefly as Superintendent of the Machine & Press Dept. In this capacity he has the Management of 60 to 70 hands & has under his control the actual printing works in addition to the stereotyping, typesetting, railway ticket, & line ruling branches, & since July, 1892, during the absence on leave to England of the Government Printer he has also supervised the job work Dept.

3. The Acting Govt. Printer states that with such a varied & practical experience in an office where every description of Government, & much private work is undertaken, Mr. Steen is qualified to fill the post he seeks under your Government.

4. I forward herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Steen together with copies of the testimonials referred to therein.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant
W. J. Taylor
Acting Colonial Secretary

[Forwarded by the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, on the request of the Secretary to Government, Cyprus. The temporary holder of the position has, however, since been confirmed.]

I here insert an extract from a memorandum, dated March 31, 1896 written on the order of His Excellency Sir West Ridgeway, in answer to a recommendation made in favour of the two Assistants in this Office by the Government Printer, but, though the memorandum intimates the recommendation could not be approved the following remarks^{was} added:-

"But His Excellency has heard with pleasure of the good service rendered by Messrs H. G. Screen & H. R. Richard during the Govt. Printer's absence on leave."

By Order

190/ J. J. Thorburn
for Colonial Secy.

I also insert extracts from the Report annually submitted to Government by the Government Printer, for the years noted.

On the year 1888:-

"The post of second Assistant was filled by the appointment in England of Mr. H. G. Screen, who assumed duties on July."

"The changes led to a slight redistribution of work."

"Mr. Colke as superintendent of the composing branch, Mr. H. G. Screen's charge being the Machine Department, with which the Printing Branch & Stereotype Foundry are connected. To both my acknowledgements are due for the ability with which their branches are managed & for the success which meets their endeavours to prevent arrears of work."

On the year 1890:-

"On March 2 I proceeded to England on three months privilege leave but the detention already alluded to, followed by a short extension on half pay, postponed my resumption of duties till August 27. The greatest pressure on the Staff occurred during my absence, & it was gratifying to find on my

return

"return that the work had been very energetically carried on by Mr. H. G. Colke who acted as Government Printer & whose efforts were well seconded by Mr. H. G. Screen, my second Assistant, & their subordinate officers, & that while the current work was up to date, arrears of long standing had been worked off."

On the year 1891:-

"To my Assistant, Messrs H. G. Colke & H. G. Screen, my acknowledgements for zealous work are due."

On the year 1893:-

"Disappointed as I am with the generality of the compositions, I am glad to report that a very marked improvement has taken place in recent years in the capacity of the machine men & pressmen."

"The room, which is 130 ft. long by 47 ft. wide, has been fitted with 21 puntraks, which, being made for the office of available materials, cost only one super each. These by an ingenious contrivance of Mr. H. G. Screen were connected with the Machine room shaft, & have been at work from early this year. The slight of these puntraks swaying to & fro with the regularity of a pendulum is certainly a novel one in a Printing Office, but their action conduces practically without any expense, to the comfort of the men to whom the head of the press room was at times most trying."

"In conclusion, it is my pleasing duty to record my acknowledgements to my Assistant, & subordinate officers generally for their zealous co-operation in all efforts to secure economical working & to extend the usefulness of the establishment in new directions."

On the year 1894:-

"This led to a slight re-distribution of work."

Mr

"Mr. H. Stearns taking over, in addition to the
"superintendence of the Machine Department, the
"whole of the Jobwork, ...

"To both acknowledgements is due for the ability
"with which their branches have been managed, &
"for the success which has attended their efforts to
"work economically & prevent any serious accumu-
"lation of arrears."

"The year 1895 :-

"The redistribution of the duties of the superior
"Staff, as recorded in last year's report, in consequence
"of the absence of the Head of the Office worked
"satisfactorily, and to Messrs H. Stearns and H. Richards
"special acknowledgements is due for the zeal &
"displayed in the discharge of their increased duties
"and for the success which attended their efforts to
"secure economical results and to extend the useful-
"ness of the establishment in new directions. I am
"also indebted to the Heads of the various Branches
"for the smooth working of the Office during the
"eighteen months the Government Printer has been
"on leave, and for the excellent results obtained
"both in the quality and quantity of the work
"produced. Credit is due to the staff generally
"for the exertions put forth to give satisfaction and
"to maintain the reputation of the Department."

True Copy
Wm. Stearns.
20/5/96.

A

Government Printer

Hackers

4th March 1877.

Dear Mr. Linn,

In reply to your L. C.
of yesterday, I have no one in
the press to recommend for promo-
-tion to the post of Assistant Supr.,
and I know of no one outside with
the needed qualifications.

I should prefer that Govt.
obtains a man from England who
has served an apprenticeship, and
has had some experience in a
large printing office. It should

LM

not be difficult for the India Office to secure a good man who has also passed the Technical Examⁿ of South Kensington. The practice ^{since 1869} of obtaining the Deputy Supts. through the India Office has been satisfactory to Govt. -

2. Two applications for possible vacancies were registered last year. One, that of Mr H. G. Skeen, Sub Asst. Govt. Printer, Ceylon, was forwarded by Mr H. A. Stuart, then Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor; and the other was received from the Chief Secretarial - from Mr D. L. Munro, now Supt. of Job Printing in the "Times of India" office, Bombay, and later

Supr. of Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co's. Printing Office, Calcutta.

3. Of course I know nothing personally of either of these men, but from what I have heard Mr Skeen has not had a practical apprenticeship, and a varied experience. His application in May 1896 did not give full particulars.

Mr Munro has served an apprenticeship, has had an experience in several offices in England, and in two offices in India, and has taken a Second Honours Certificate in Typography. His testimonials appear to be satisfactory.

4. If it is considered desirable
to fill up the appointment by a
printer already in the East, I
think it might perhaps be better
to advertise the vacancy, to obtain
a number of applications to select
from.

Yours truly

R. Hill

[G.
74
6,000-13-8-98.

NOTE FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

The order has issued.
The papers are resubmitted
in reference to Mr. note that
the C.S. should advise as to a
successor to Mr. Pritchard.

18
8/1/97

2512
8.3.97

I saw Mr. Hill
and have taken
steps accordingly.
9/3/97

2512

10/3/97.

17/12/97 e 24/2

R 24/2/97 R 573

G.
26
1,000-14-12-96.

Public DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 635

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

SUBJECT.

Mr. Pritchard, Asst. Supt.
Govt. Press.

FOR ORDERS.

Under the Cir^{cs} stated by the
C.S., Mr. Pritchard's ~~services~~
should not be re-engaged -
The C.S. should consider & report
whether a successor can be found
locally or must be had out from
home.

17/12/97 JG
17/12/97

I think the engagement with Mr. Pritchard should
be allowed to end at the close of its term.

The C.S.'s attention is called to the D.O. from
Mr. Hill, in which A, and advice as to a
successor.

9.14
4.3.97

Mr. Pritchard, Asst. Supt.
Govt. Press whose agreement
expires on the 31st March next
requests that his services may
be continued.

The pay of the Asst. Supt.
which was originally Rs. 300
per mensem was in 1891
increased to Rs 300-25-350
and the Secretary of State was
requested to secure the serv.
of a practical printer (Despatch
No. 16 of 22 Sept. 1891).

The India office select
three candidates - one of the
being Mr. Pritchard - and
placed them ~~semi~~ officially
before His Govt. with the
remark that Mr. Pritchard
appeared to be the best of

5B
97
Mr. Hill spoke brief about the
Affair and Mr. Hill had that had
which never made a point
know his recent conduct with
agreed to the work committee with bringing
at the meeting to the question asked as
Hearley Committee for to show that the
opinion expressed by Mr. Hill was correct.
He was in the business of making
and had a note been for what he
Hill had himself a senior contract time
which have occurred

IN G.O., No. 59

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.